

## **Ray Don Myers Interview**

Battery B, 313th Field Artillery Battalion

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Allen Van Osdol)* (MS Word Audio Transcript [NOT edited, just transcribed])

00:00:08 Speaker 2

My name is Alan Binodal and I'm interviewing Ray Don Myers for the Library of Congress's veterans History project with Senator Joe Donnelly's office.

00:00:20 Speaker 2

OK, January 29th, 2016 at Willbrook, Crawfordsville. You'd like to be called Don, don't you? All right, Sir. We have quite a few questions here.

00:00:28 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:00:40 Speaker 2

Do you?

00:00:42 Speaker 2

You remember being in World War 2, correct? Yeah. Yeah. World War Two. Yeah, and.

00:00:48 Speaker 2

Can remember quite a.

00:00:48 Speaker 2

Bit of that.

00:00:58 Speaker 4

Sure.

00:00:59 Speaker 3

Where? Where were you born?

00:01:02 Speaker 1

Ripley Jam ship.

00:01:06 Speaker 5

So a lot of the fireplace.

00:01:07 Speaker 1

Montgomery County and Montgomery County Ripper Township, Indiana.

00:01:11 Speaker 2

In Indiana, and when were you born?

00:01:15 Speaker 1

4/23/24.

00:01:18 Speaker 2

4/23/24 so you're still a young fella then?

00:01:26 Speaker 4

That I've been to.

00:01:28 Speaker 2

And who were your parents?

00:01:31 Speaker 1

Roy and Stella Myers.

00:01:35 Speaker 2

Roy and Stella. That's a pretty name. And you don't hear anybody called Stella anymore and.

00:01:46 Speaker 5

They.

00:01:46 Speaker 2

Lived here in.

00:01:48 Speaker 2

In Montgomery County, also, well, obviously, if you were born here. But yeah, you've lived here all your life. Yeah, we'll accept the army.

00:01:50 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:01:53 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:02:00 Speaker 2

Yeah, except for when you can now. Do you have any brothers or sisters? One brother 1 brother, Bob, Bob and.

00:02:11 Speaker 5

Like.

00:02:12 Speaker 2

Did he serve in the service any of the services?

00:02:15 Speaker 1

Yeah, but it was four years later.

00:02:20 Speaker 2

It's cooking.

00:02:21 Speaker 5

And I.

00:02:23 Speaker 1

Yeah, he was. He was drafted 4 years later.

00:02:26 Speaker 2

Four years after.

00:02:27 Speaker 2

You went in and what? When did you go in? When did you go?

00:02:28 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:02:33 Speaker 2

In.

00:02:35

And.

00:02:40 Speaker 1

4/23.

00:02:41 Speaker 1

What?

00:02:42 Speaker 7

No, that's your birthday. It was 41. It was in, like, August to 41.

00:02:44 Speaker 6

Oh, thank you.

00:02:49 Speaker 4

The guy from the top.

00:02:51 Speaker 1

I'll be damned if I can remember.

00:02:54 Speaker 1

When did I go in?

00:02:55 Speaker 7

It says on your.

00:02:56 Speaker 2

In 1941, did you go in in 1941?

00:02:56 Speaker 7

Hat for the work.

00:03:04 Speaker 5

My friend I was with.

00:03:04 Speaker 7

No, it had to be 42 because he didn't graduate from high school.

00:03:08 Speaker 1

I said. I said it was 43.

00:03:11 Speaker 7

42 I think 42.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

19.

00:03:15 Speaker 2

32, OK.

00:03:16 Speaker 1

I guess.

00:03:19 Speaker 2

All righty.

00:03:24 Speaker 2

What were you doing before you went into service? What did you do? What kind of work?

00:03:28

Hello.

00:03:29 Speaker 2

Did you do?

00:03:31 Speaker 2

You were in high.

00:03:31 Speaker 2

School.

00:03:32 Speaker 1

High school, yeah.

00:03:33 Speaker 2

And you got out of high school and went right into the.

00:03:36 Speaker 2

Army.

00:03:38 Speaker 1

Well.

00:03:38 Speaker 5

Needs aren't allowed to happen.

00:03:41 Speaker 1

Or about three months later.

00:03:44 Speaker 1

It took about 3 months for they got congratulations from Roosevelt.

00:03:47 Speaker 7

He went.

00:03:52 Speaker 2

OK.

00:03:54 Speaker 7

The Buchanan MI, and we're just that short.

00:03:58 Speaker 2

Ohh you you worked for a while for a few months before after high school before you went in the army.

00:04:05 Speaker 1

Then what?

00:04:06 Speaker 2

You went in, you went to work.

00:04:07 Speaker 2

For a little while.

00:04:09 Speaker 2

Yeah, just before you went into the army. OK. All right.

00:04:13 Speaker 1

No where to go to factory, but it's OK.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

Yeah, and.

00:04:18 Speaker 7

No, that didn't where you were.

00:04:22 Speaker 4

Don't.

00:04:23 Speaker 7

You went to Buchanan, MI.

00:04:23 Speaker 1

When I work for a green elevator, did you enlist or were you drafted? I guess I was drafted when?

Yeah, I was drafted. I got your drafted congratulations from Roseville.

00:04:30 Speaker 5

When it fired.

00:04:31 Speaker 5

The gun.

00:04:36 Speaker 2

You address. Oh, OK. Well, did you get a letter from him? Is that what it was?

00:04:48 Speaker 1

Oh, I think so. Didn't have that. Yeah, yeah.

00:04:51 Speaker 2

You got a letter from Theodore Roosevelt congratulating you, yeah.

00:04:57 Speaker 2

All right.

00:05:02 Speaker 2

Why did you choose the army as opposed to the Navy or any other branch of service?

00:05:09 Speaker 1

Well, I didn't like the way.

00:05:13 Speaker 1

And I went through the line and the Marine looked at me and he said you too little because of your short stature. I didn't have much choice and I didn't like the water, so I chose the army.

00:05:27 Speaker 7

Yes.

00:05:30 Speaker 6

Well, that's great, yeah.

00:05:32 Speaker 7

OK.

00:05:35 Speaker 2

And.

00:05:35 Speaker 4

Sorry.

00:05:38 Speaker 2

When you went to training camp.

00:05:43 Speaker 4

This is.

00:05:44 Speaker 2

What happened then?

00:05:46 Speaker 1

Well, we're to Oklahoma Field artillery.

00:05:47

So.

00:05:53 Speaker 4

And I didn't realize.

00:05:55 Speaker 1

I don't know which.

00:05:59 Speaker 7

Send it to.

00:06:02 Speaker 7

Can you say?

00:06:03 Speaker 2

How long was your training camp? I call it boot camp, but how long was your training camp? Your basic training three months? And was there anything that?

00:06:09 Speaker 1

Three months? I think so.

00:06:17 Speaker 2

Special happen while you were in basic training. Anything that you can remember.

00:06:23 Speaker 2

Stands out.

00:06:25 Speaker 1

In Oklahoma, what I remember is that during dust storms.

00:06:29 Speaker 2

And dust storms.

00:06:32 Speaker 2

Did you guys, were you in a barracks or were we in tents? Were you in the barracks or in tents?

00:06:40 Speaker 1



Well, first we.

00:06:40 Speaker 4

Spell what?

00:06:41 Speaker 1

Were in then we were in derricks.

00:06:45 Speaker 1

The first step on that.

00:06:48 Speaker 1

And then they put us in the barracks.

00:06:49 Speaker 2

OK.

00:06:52 Speaker 2

Do you remember any of your instructors?

00:06:57 Speaker 1

Ohh.

00:06:57 Speaker 5

Sapper was actually any soldier.

00:06:59 Speaker 7

Not quite February 25.

00:07:02 Speaker 1

I remember that old first Sergeant, but I can't. I can't recall his name. OK. What kind of guy was he? What do you think of him? He's what he's like a bulldog. Like a bulldog.

00:07:05 Speaker 6

Send us a picture. Ohh.

00:07:17 Speaker 6

Did you?

00:07:19 Speaker 3

OK.

00:07:19 Speaker 1

They've been in the army. Women deserve to meet you. They, they both of them, been in the army for 20.

00:07:24 Speaker 1

Years.

00:07:25 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:07:26 Speaker 1

And they run the outfit today. We're it.

00:07:30 Speaker 4

OK.

00:07:33 Speaker 7

Might have that.

00:07:35 Speaker 2

Did you receive any specialized training?

00:07:38 Speaker 2

While you were there.

00:07:41 Speaker 1

Specialized training.

00:07:43 Speaker 2

You said you were alignment. Did they give you any special training for that?

00:07:46 Speaker 1

Oh yeah, well, I did for radio.

00:07:53 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:07:56 Speaker 5

3.

00:07:57 Speaker 1

I could do Morse code, but I could never get real fast at it, so they didn't keep me and then they put me in telephone and telephone. So they.

00:08:01 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:08:09 Speaker 1

Code.

00:08:09 Speaker 2

OK. But they they gave you some kind of training for that, though, didn't they? Yeah. Was that very difficult training? Yeah. Now you came to be pretty easy, huh? Is that? Did they tease you about being able to get up and down the poles, quick and stuff?

00:08:13 Speaker 1

Ohh.

00:08:14 Speaker 1

They.

00:08:19 Speaker 1

Yeah, it was pretty.

00:08:29 Speaker 1

OK.

00:08:31 Speaker 1

You had to be careful you didn't get.

00:08:32 Speaker 1

A splinter in.

00:08:33 Speaker 1

Your hand.

00:08:34 Speaker 1

Yeah. Oh.

00:08:38 Speaker 1

One time I was way up top of work and my spike come out of the pool and I knew better than to grab the pool because you get a handful of.

00:08:41 Speaker 4

The two.

00:08:51 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:08:52 Speaker 1

And they was were enclosed, they were pregnant. And I just let go and hit the ground, and they all laughed.

00:08:54

Lebanon.

00:08:59 Speaker 3

Of course.

00:09:02 Speaker 4

Of course, the mayor.

00:09:05 Speaker 1

I told myself I bet that's the first time they've left where those German prisoners. Japanese, Italian. What kind of prisoners were they?

00:09:09 Speaker 2

Yeah, long time.

00:09:19 Speaker 1

Layers.

00:09:21 Speaker 1

American well.

00:09:25 Speaker 5

Close.

00:09:27 Speaker 1

They were American, had the German prisoners. Yeah. They were mostly German and and Polish.

00:09:36 Speaker 1

It seemed like the Polish the Polish population they had them in everything.

00:09:43 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:09:45 Speaker 1

The Imperial Poles got we got beat around like Butch animals.

00:09:46 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:09:52 Speaker 2

The military. How did you adapt to military life?

00:09:57 Speaker 4

Watched.

00:10:02 Speaker 1

Ohh I got along.

00:10:05 Speaker 2

Do you have any?

00:10:06 Speaker 1

Well, I was a pretty good athlete, so I could take about anything if we.

00:10:09 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:10:13 Speaker 1

You put on you, you know? Yeah, I was physical fit. And I, I had played basketball, baseball and and all that was good physics.

00:10:14 Speaker 2

You're physically fit than that.

00:10:25 Speaker 1

Appreciate.

00:10:27 Speaker 2

And I was talking to your wife a little bit ago, Betty. And she said that you guys were married before you went into the army. That correct? No.

00:10:38 Speaker 7

No.

00:10:40 Speaker 7

After he was in the army.

00:10:43 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, I lived in.

00:10:46 Speaker 2

OK. But you were in the army?

00:10:48 Speaker 2

When you got.

00:10:48 Speaker 2

First year Oklahoma. So while you were gone.

00:10:50 Speaker 4

Yeah, it doesn't ask like live.

00:10:56 Speaker 2

To basic training and everything. Did you get a chance to call or besides writing letters? Did you get a chance to call on the telephone? Yeah.

00:11:09 Speaker 7

You wrote letters.

00:11:11 Speaker 7

I've still got yes, wrote letters.

00:11:12 Speaker 1

Did they ever call you? I don't know. I could.

00:11:18 Speaker 2

Yeah, she says that. She said that she still got your letters. Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's pretty neat. Yeah. Yeah.

00:11:22 Speaker 7

I got. I got that you sent me.

00:11:30 Speaker 7

In the top drawer that my kids.

00:11:31 Speaker 5

Like.

00:11:35 Speaker 2

Hey, you got quite a.

00:11:36 Speaker 2

Few.

00:11:37 Speaker 2

Grandkids and great grandkids and everything that would be something for them to look at sometime late.

00:11:38 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:11:43 Speaker 1

Oh yeah. Ohh yeah.

00:11:47 Speaker 2

Yeah, you tell them all those stories.

00:11:50 Speaker 2

You tell them your war stories.

00:11:53 Speaker 2

Do do you tell them your war stories? You talk to them about when you were in the Army very much.

00:11:56 Speaker 5

My mom.

00:12:00 Speaker 1

Ohh yeah yeah, and I didn't for a while, but now I didn't. Yeah, yeah.

00:12:07 Speaker 2

And was it all true? Was it all true? I know my dad made-up stories just for us kids.

00:12:13 Speaker 1

No, I didn't make that. No, sorry.

00:12:17 Speaker 1

I didn't have to.

00:12:18 Speaker 7

Yeah, yeah. History.

00:12:24 Speaker 5

No, I'll just.

00:12:25 Speaker 2

All right, where did you go? How did you get to Europe when you married?

00:12:35 Speaker 2

When they sent.

00:12:37 Speaker 2

On the Queen Mary. Oh, wow. That was probably a pretty nice ship, wasn't it? Five days? Yeah, five whole days.

00:12:38 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:12:45 Speaker 1

I mean getting with 10 blocks long.

00:12:49 Speaker 6

Wow.

00:12:50 Speaker 1

That was some boat. It was the second biggest boat in the world. I think at the time that was.

00:12:52 Speaker 5

OK.

00:12:55 Speaker 6

Yeah, yeah.

00:12:58

The room.

00:12:59 Speaker 1

10 bucks. That thing was a monster.

00:13:02 Speaker 2

Do you remember when you went over there? You remember what the date was or the month?

00:13:09 Speaker 5

And it wasn't like the ear exposed.

00:13:12 Speaker 1

I can't. I should know that.



00:13:15 Speaker 1

Now I can't recall what.

00:13:23 Speaker 5

But one.

00:13:25 Speaker 1

I I can't.

00:13:27 Speaker 4

Probably.

00:13:30 Speaker 7

We should have had all this written down.

00:13:32 Speaker 5

This 5.

00:13:35 Speaker 7

We did.

00:13:45 Speaker 1

6th of December but going over.

00:13:48

This is my.

00:13:49 Speaker 5

But I've had friends that.

00:13:51 Speaker 1

He would December soon. Yeah, with December.

00:13:54 Speaker 7

It probably was winter. It was cause I was in Pennsylvania with you for three months and then we went overseas.

00:14:06 Speaker 1

It took us.

00:14:07 Speaker 2

About six days, five days to get over there and took another day to get on there. Yeah. Did you? You went to England. You went to England? Yeah. Yeah. And how long were you there in England?

00:14:12 Speaker 1

Land.

00:14:18

Yes.

00:14:23 Speaker 1

Ohh.

00:14:26 Speaker 1

I think in about 3 months.

00:14:29 Speaker 7

Thank you, Sarah.

00:14:30 Speaker 5

OK, right.

00:14:32 Speaker 1

Patton started his 3rd Army. Yeah, and he picked us up and started and we went in two days after that.

00:14:42

So.

00:14:42 Speaker 1

Utah beach.

00:14:45 Speaker 2

OK. Two days after D-Day. OK. And where did you go at Utah? That's where you went ashore at Utah? Yeah.

00:14:47 Speaker 1

Yeah, two days after that, the invasion, Utah beach.

00:14:55 Speaker 1

That's where we went in there. We went in on LST, he went in on high tide and low tide. We just ran everything out on the.

00:14:59 Speaker 5

So far I.

00:15:00 Speaker 4

Don't.

00:15:01

There's a.

00:15:08 Speaker 2

Beach. Yeah, yeah.

00:15:13 Speaker 2

Was there still?

00:15:16 Speaker 2

Combat action going on when you landed was there combat action going on when you landed?

00:15:23 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, it was going on.

00:15:31 Speaker 5

They will be getting involved.

00:15:34 Speaker 2

Do you have any specific memories of when you landed at Utah Beach?

00:15:43 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:15:47 Speaker 2

Anything that stands out in your mind.

00:15:48 Speaker 1

It was kind of amazing to me.

00:15:53 Speaker 1

Could Reno in high tide and in driving everything out on the beach and high tide and?

00:16:06 Speaker 1

Just after that, they had the seat, little breakthrough and you know.

00:16:10 Speaker 5

I see right here with you profoundly doing that, OK.

00:16:16 Speaker 5

Where the America was there and.

00:16:17 Speaker 1

Fine.

00:16:18 Speaker 1

Where did you go when you left Utah Beach? We went through that little breakthrough they had about a two months there or something.

00:16:34 Speaker 1

And they had a German army trapped against the ocean, and that two mile other Germans are trying to escape out of there.

00:16:44 Speaker 5

Die.

00:16:45 Speaker 1

They only killed about 2000.

00:16:48 Speaker 1

That was you said that field up there. You could walk across the two acre field and step on a German German.

00:16:52

So.

00:16:59 Speaker 2

Yeah, it's not touch the ground.

00:16:59 Speaker 1

They yeah, they slaughtered him. It wasn't nice.

00:17:02 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:17:06 Speaker 1

I know Eisenhower.

00:17:10 Speaker 1

And I think Patton.

00:17:12 Speaker 1

He said that the one time we cried.

00:17:18 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:17:19 Speaker 5

With a on top of water, the.

00:17:22 Speaker 6

Crops.

00:17:24 Speaker 4

Where?

00:17:24 Speaker 2

Well, there's. I'm sure there was a lot of guys that cried.

00:17:33 Speaker 2

And.

00:17:36 Speaker 2

At that time, when you after you landed, you had already become a telephone lineman now.

00:17:43 Speaker 1

Yeah, I I was radio, but they didn't need a radio, so they put me in the telephone.

00:17:47 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:17:50 Speaker 2

On the telephone. And did you have to set poles or did you just use trees? Or did you run the wires on the ground? How?

00:17:56 Speaker 3

No.

00:17:58 Speaker 2

Did you do?

00:17:59 Speaker 2

That.

00:18:01 Speaker 1

You you let him everywhere. I bring him up on the side of buildings. We usually leave them on the fence, right along the edge of the road.

00:18:06 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:18:08 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:18:15 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:18:17 Speaker 1

But I know one time.

00:18:21 Speaker 1

Business little town. They went up and attached the telephone line to the building and it's a window right there. And I thought well.

00:18:29 Speaker 1

And instead of coming back down, I'll just go down that window, go downstairs, step in that window. There, the lady in bed.

00:18:39 Speaker 1

So I hurried on downstairs.

00:18:45 Speaker 2

That gave her a thrill, I guess.

00:18:51 Speaker 4

That was in the gown in and out and.

00:18:56 Speaker 2

OK. We you mentioned that.

00:19:01 Speaker 2

When you were.

00:19:03 Speaker 2

When you went to Saint Low, the.

00:19:06 Speaker 6

OK, I'll give you.

00:19:07 Speaker 2

Went through. You were talking about a field full of dead Germans. How did that make you feel?

00:19:16 Speaker 5

The area that's exposed.

00:19:18 Speaker 6

Be the person.

00:19:18 Speaker 1

March.

00:19:20 Speaker 4

With the one cities.

00:19:20 Speaker 5

They do OK.

00:19:22 Speaker 1

I know.

00:19:25 Speaker 1

It didn't bother me one way or the other kind of that. Well, that's that's going to hurry up the end of.

00:19:33 Speaker 1

The war.

00:19:33 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:19:35 Speaker 1

Mean to me, that's what that's going to. Hurry up the end of it, maybe.

00:19:40 Speaker 5

Rocket.

00:19:43 Speaker 3

It was.

00:19:44 Speaker 7

You can take your hat off if your heads.

00:19:46 Speaker 7

From.

00:19:47 Speaker 7

Take your hat off if your head.

00:19:49 Speaker 7

'S hot.

00:19:49 Speaker 5

And they fire at the bank and we get this.

00:19:57 Speaker 2

OK. How did you stay in touch with your family while you were overseas? While you're in Europe, did you get a chance?

00:20:06 Speaker 1

They have these V nails.

00:20:09 Speaker 2

Gmail, yeah.

00:20:13 Speaker 1

That's how we sent letters home. Did you get to write very often?

00:20:18 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, I get to write quite a.

00:20:22 Speaker 2

And what about receiving letters? Did you get very many letters? Did it take a while for them to catch?

00:20:28 Speaker 2

Up to you.

00:20:29 Speaker 1

Yeah, they, they, we, they got mayor to us quite a.

00:20:33 Speaker 1

Bit.

00:20:34 Speaker 2

Yeah, well, that's good.



00:20:35 Speaker 1

Not pretty good.

00:20:37 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:20:39 Speaker 1

But they what? Sent rebar.

00:20:44 Speaker 5

Basically that.

00:20:44 Speaker 7

Female. Yeah, I call them e-mail, but I think.

00:20:47 Speaker 2

Gmail. Yeah, right. Yeah. You didn't have to pay for postage or anything. And yeah, right. I know.

00:20:53 Speaker 7

Well.

00:20:53 Speaker 7

They got censored too.

00:21:02 Speaker 2

And what did you do when you're off duty for recreation when you got R&R?

00:21:11 Speaker 1

How do you mean among those troops?

00:21:14 Speaker 1

Ohh we we learn about everything.

00:21:17 Speaker 5

December.

00:21:18 Speaker 1

We we were.

00:21:22 Speaker 1

Volleyball was one of the things we like to do.

00:21:27 Speaker 1

And.

00:21:28 Speaker 5

So I was actually.

00:21:29 Speaker 1

We'd have softball games.

00:21:32 Speaker 1

And volleyball.

00:21:35 Speaker 1

And maybe soccer and oh, I ran track.

00:21:40 Speaker 7

Traffic.

00:21:43 Speaker 1

We had track meets and I brought Jim. Well, you're pretty athletic. Yeah, I had a a situation that I could build. Jump about 19 feet and the wind.

00:22:01 Speaker 1

For matching.

00:22:03 Speaker 1

And this win match I jumped at 19 feet and did this guy come up beside him and he went 21 feet. He was big 10 champion at Ohio State.

00:22:10 Speaker 2

Oh wow.

00:22:24 Speaker 2

Well, when you did, you're great.

00:22:28 Speaker 2

That was fun. I had turned. Now when you were doing all this, the broad jumping and the running and.

00:22:29 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:22:37 Speaker 2

That you didn't have special equipment over there, did you?

00:22:39 Speaker 1

No, no. We we were wearing combat shoes, yeah.

00:22:45 Speaker 1

Combat. She is them. Them. Where you couldn't wear them things out. I had a pair of them for a long time.

00:22:54 Speaker 2

You don't have any left, huh?

00:22:54 Speaker 1

They were. They were tough shoes.

00:22:57 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:23:03 Speaker 2

And where were you when the war ended up in?

00:23:11 Speaker 1

The edge of Austria there in the mountains, southern Germany, we went out of southern Germany into the.

00:23:22 Speaker 1

All string out when the war ended. Otterburn otterburn.

00:23:30 Speaker 1

Yeah, I have been.

00:23:32 Speaker 1

Austria.

00:23:34 Speaker 1

And they said ought to bring that belief. Yet I'd probably named after that. Yeah, that's where we were out of in Austria.

00:23:34

Yeah.

00:23:36 Speaker 2

Oh, is it?

00:23:39 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:23:45 Speaker 2

OK, a few minutes ago you told me that you had captured 9 Germans and captured 9 German and by yourself. Can you tell me a little more about that?

00:24:01 Speaker 1

Well.

00:24:04 Speaker 1

I happen to be awake. I don't think that.

00:24:08 Speaker 1

Well, maybe it's better your two. Would that be weak? And there was a great partner there and they had it camouflaged and you couldn't tell anybody in there. But I've seen this German stand out and stretched. You know you.

00:24:23 Speaker 1

Back then, strategy they had been.

00:24:30 Speaker 1

What?

00:24:30 Speaker 1

But.

00:24:32 Speaker 4

It was Tesla.

00:24:33 Speaker 1

I've seen him just come out and here.

00:24:36 Speaker 2

You said that one.

00:24:37 Speaker 1

Right over here for.

00:24:38 Speaker 1

You he he just come out and stretch, you know.

00:24:47 Speaker 1

My wife took him prisoner and I know that when he he kept pointing down and he had a 32 count.

00:24:55

The.

00:25:01 Speaker 1

Office.

00:25:01 Speaker 1

I mean it. It was really cool. Yeah. Just put the safety. Yeah. So it took it. Took you surprise them. And they didn't even have a chance to resist. Yeah, I was too. Well, yeah.

00:25:08 Speaker 3

I worked.

00:25:22 Speaker 1

Come out of that great harbor.

00:25:26 Speaker 2

But did your did your buddy go with?

00:25:28 Speaker 2

You. You said you woke him up, yeah.

00:25:28 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:25:31 Speaker 1

Chicken ready with me?

00:25:33 Speaker 2

And.

00:25:33 Speaker 2

Yeah. So you just captured the the two of you captured 9 Germans by yourselves. What did you have to do with them?

00:25:40 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:25:44 Speaker 1

No one made the mold. Stick your hands up and take care guns away from them. But they they camouflage the Great Harbor.

00:25:46 Speaker 2

You take them.

00:25:56 Speaker 1

I've seen one of them come out of there and stretch right over there.

00:25:59 Speaker 4

Right.

00:26:00 Speaker 7

OK, no.

00:26:00 Speaker 1

Got them. And in my village, come right after that.

00:26:04

Brown.

00:26:06 Speaker 2

Did you guys take them back to like headquarters or wherever the CP was?

00:26:10 Speaker 1

Will record the MP's and the MP's come pick them up.

00:26:13 Speaker 6

Oh, OK. Oh, OK, yeah.

00:26:17 Speaker 1

That's how that work.

00:26:19 Speaker 2

And did anybody congratulate you for?

00:26:21 Speaker 3

Doing your job.

00:26:25 Speaker 2

You know, doing a good job or. Well, yeah, I know that.

00:26:26 Speaker 1

Then.

00:26:31 Speaker 7

No.

00:26:36 Speaker 2

You may feel like it was just part of it, but that was in my mind that seems to be an act of heroism, you know, and.

00:26:43 Speaker 1

Yeah. It's just what had to be done, right? No questions asked. You just done it.

00:26:49 Speaker 7

Hey.

00:26:52 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:26:54 Speaker 2

OK.

00:26:56

Yeah.

00:26:56 Speaker 2

When you got ready to leave, you were in in Austria. And how did you get home? What did you what did you have to go through in order to get home?

00:27:01 Speaker 4

Gun stores.

00:27:07 Speaker 1

Well, the tickets to Lehar, France, better check in Czechoslovakia and and the.

00:27:14 Speaker 5

Actually proud.

00:27:20

Right.

00:27:24 Speaker 1

They give me a drivers license and I drove a truck home with eight guys. I think in it into Lahore and then in the harder we we lifted for the states.

00:27:30 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:27:39 Speaker 5

Still alive, but they didn't give.

00:27:42 Speaker 1

Where we were going to get on the aircraft carrier enterprise.

00:27:49 Speaker 1

But it got damaged on the channel.

00:27:54 Speaker 4

Yeah, 16.

00:27:54 Speaker 1

Liberty.

00:27:58 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:27:59

She.

00:28:02 Speaker 1

And then and then the carry got repaired and about halfway across, it just went by us like.

00:28:02 Speaker 2

It's a long time Liberty ship.

00:28:06 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:28:10 Speaker 2

Yeah, I can understand.

00:28:13 Speaker 1

Yeah, just that made it pretty mad. Yeah, they held us back. Yeah, I could have waited a few more days and been home days earlier.

00:28:24 Speaker 2

Yeah. So you went from Austria to Czechoslovakia, then to France, and then that's where you got on a liberty ship to come home. And what did you do? Was your wife waiting for you or anybody waiting for you?

00:28:25 Speaker 1

As.



00:28:38 Speaker 4

That have.

00:28:43 Speaker 2

When you first got back, did you go me into New York?

00:28:47 Speaker 2

Aware.

00:28:48 Speaker 7

I met to Indianapolis. That's all I know.

00:28:51 Speaker 2

Yeah. OK, where did? Where did your ship dock?

00:28:57 Speaker 1

Glen NY and I remember.

00:29:05 Speaker 1

Check cashing in and a T-bone steak and that that big. That's the first thing you said to cutting her hair. Hair cut first.

00:29:10

But.

00:29:18 Speaker 2

Oh yeah. Oh, really poor. They fed you. That's probably the first thing he'd seen in a long time, huh? That was probably the first stake you had seen in quite a while.

00:29:23 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:29:31 Speaker 1

Oh yeah. You know the best thing?

00:29:36 Speaker 1

Heart attack.

00:29:37 Speaker 1

Yeah, they had soft white bread and that was the best, yeah.

00:29:42 Speaker 1

The soft white red. I'm telling you that was.

00:29:47 Speaker 2

Did you ever run out of rations while you're over there?

00:29:51 Speaker 1

Where? Yeah.

00:29:54 Speaker 5

I realized.

00:29:56 Speaker 1

With the heavy darn hard chocolate bars, you always had that.

00:30:03 Speaker 1

But you better have a hammer if you're going to eat it.

00:30:07 Speaker 1

Because you couldn't break that thing. Yeah, yeah.

00:30:12 Speaker 1

There's a bigger square Chuck out of the rock.

00:30:14 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:30:16

Yeah.

00:30:21 Speaker 1

They were good.

00:30:25 Speaker 7

You can leave them.

00:30:25 Speaker 2

So you met, you met your family when you got back to Indianapolis, right?

00:30:31 Speaker 7

Just me.

00:30:32 Speaker 2

Just your wife.

00:30:34 Speaker 7

Just me. Like we didn't have any kids here.

00:30:38 Speaker 2

Did go ahead.

00:30:39 Speaker 4

Yep.

00:30:40 Speaker 7

Sort of.

00:30:41 Speaker 1

That was something.

00:30:45 Speaker 2

Now she's getting embarrassed. We won't go there. Did you have any trouble adjusting, readjusting to civilian life after being in?

00:30:55 Speaker 7

Yeah.

00:30:56 Speaker 7

Yes, you did remember smacking new ones.

00:31:00 Speaker 1

Terry's like.

00:31:02 Speaker 1

I never had a printer softball game, Crawfordville and a train down the road. He blew his breaking and I just flattened myself out on the ground.

00:31:14 Speaker 1

Like.

00:31:15 Speaker 1

It seemed like a shell coming in.

00:31:17 Speaker 6

Yes.

00:31:17 Speaker 2

Oh, is that right?

00:31:19 Speaker 1

This.

00:31:22 Speaker 2

That was just instinctive, wasn't it? Yeah, yeah.

00:31:24 Speaker 1

That it was just interesting.

00:31:29 Speaker 1

Yeah, things like that.

00:31:30 Speaker 2

Did you have other things? Did you have any bad dreams or anything like?

00:31:33 Speaker 1

I understand. No, I know.

00:31:34 Speaker 2

That that affected you.

00:31:39 Speaker 1

That any repercussion stuff outside of his memory, yeah.

00:31:51

Wow.

00:31:53 Speaker 2

Have you been in contact with any other fellows that you were over there with?

00:32:02 Speaker 1

The below died.

00:32:04 Speaker 1

Yeah, I used to, but I think they're all dead.

00:32:07 Speaker 4

I have administered for.

00:32:09 Speaker 7

As far as I.

00:32:10 Speaker 1

Know, I know I was one of the younger ones.

00:32:16 Speaker 1

And as far as I know all my but it is dead. How old are you now 91?

00:32:25 Speaker 2

91 years old.

00:32:26 Speaker 7

You'll be 92 in April.

00:32:28 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, that's right. You're a couple of days older.

00:32:31 Speaker 5

Than me, yeah.

00:32:36 Speaker 2

You were born on the 23rd and I was born on the 30th. Yeah. We're not going to count the years, so they don't count. OK.

00:32:43 Speaker 4

You know I'm.

00:32:49 Speaker 2

How do you feel that your wartime experiences have affected your life?

00:32:57 Speaker 1

I don't remember my it. Did you still have?

00:32:59 Speaker 1

Well.

00:33:07 Speaker 1

Flashbacks and memories of it. You know, even what 70 years later.

00:33:13 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:33:14 Speaker 1

Yeah, you still had flashbacks.

00:33:16

OK.

00:33:18 Speaker 5

Any suggestion?

00:33:20 Speaker 1

Because it was traumatic.

00:33:23 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:33:26 Speaker 1

Specially.

00:33:30 Speaker 1

Getting boned by German planes.

00:33:36 Speaker 1

That was scary.

00:33:39 Speaker 2

Do any of those memories?

00:33:44 Speaker 2

Evoke any emotions in you good, bad or otherwise.

00:33:48 Speaker 1

No, not much anymore.

00:33:51 Speaker 1

Don't bother me much anymore. It's been a long time ago. Yeah. Yeah, I kind of. I kind of lost. Lost all that. I got memories of it, but it's not like it used to be.

00:33:57 Speaker 2

Did you?

00:34:09 Speaker 5

Now you have like.

00:34:10 Speaker 4

All the more.

00:34:13 Speaker 7

You're thankful that we were in your home.

00:34:16 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:34:18 Speaker 2

And.

00:34:22 Speaker 4

And.

00:34:25 Speaker 2

If you could leave.

00:34:26 Speaker 2

A message for future generations about.

00:34:34 Speaker 2

Being a veteran about any of your experiences about being a veteran, what message would you like to leave?

00:34:35 Speaker 4

Part of my job.

00:34:43 Speaker 2

Them.

00:34:48 Speaker 4

Well.

00:34:53 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:34:54 Speaker 4

That's or not maybe.

00:34:57 Speaker 1

Just get rid of all the emotions you could.

00:35:01

I thought.

00:35:01 Speaker 1

Yeah, stop worrying about it.

00:35:06 Speaker 1

Which means over.

00:35:09 Speaker 1

And kind of get back to your.

00:35:13 Speaker 1

Old life.

00:35:15 Speaker 4

Talking.

00:35:15 Speaker 1

And get get that World War 2 stuff at a system, but you can't. It's there. Yeah, I'd like to hear of it. So some things still bother you a little bit, don't they?

00:35:29 Speaker 4

Come on here.

00:35:34 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:35:36 Speaker 5

You know, having different.

00:35:37 Speaker 1

That you feel pretty lucky you made it.

00:35:43 Speaker 1

Pretty much.

00:35:44 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:35:45

Yeah.

00:35:46 Speaker 6

Or other states.



00:35:47 Speaker 1

Because I had really experiencing.

00:35:53 Speaker 1

I would hear the rocks and I see any German planes come over and 39 and a German plane were a lot the same. But I seen that they got a different tail.

00:36:09 Speaker 1

I've seen that top playing turnover.

00:36:12 Speaker 1

And he came in and they had big middle shell with about 50 little antipersonnel bombs in it. It killed 15 people, or about maybe 100 yards from where I was.

00:36:30 Speaker 1

They hit a chemical motor outfit, but they missed me.

00:36:35 Speaker 1

And kill 15 people.

00:36:37 Speaker 4

Yes.

00:36:38 Speaker 1

If those.

00:36:42 Speaker 7

Go on, go and finish. But he's about done.

00:36:44 Speaker 2

Yeah, it was kind of hard to take. Well, let me ask you, and this is not on the list here of questions. But the question that.

00:36:57 Speaker 2

I would like to ask you personally.

00:37:01 Speaker 2

And that is what can I, as another veteran do to help you with your life as a veteran. Anything that I could do to help your memories? Anything I could do to.

00:37:14 Speaker 4

What?

00:37:20 Speaker 1

Ohh gosh.

00:37:22 Speaker 5

You and me.

00:37:23 Speaker 4

Burn.

00:37:26 Speaker 5

Who are you?

00:37:26 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:37:29 Speaker 5

Yeah.

00:37:35 Speaker 7

We're not. We're not hurting.

00:37:35 Speaker 1

And then.

00:37:39 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:37:42 Speaker 1

Just.

00:37:43 Speaker 5

Yeah.

00:37:44 Speaker 1

We're just going through the same thing and.

00:37:47 Speaker 4

My mother.

00:37:50 Speaker 1

Kinda makes us close together.

00:37:53 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's that's what I like. I want to be.

00:37:56 Speaker 2

Close.

00:37:56 Speaker 2

To especially you guys, and I told you when I first met you that you were my hero. Because you're a World War 2.

00:37:57 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:38:03 Speaker 2

Veteran.

00:38:04 Speaker 1

That to me, that.

00:38:06 Speaker 2

And I understand that and there's there's been times when a lot of us have been called heroes for various reasons, but I don't think there's anybody that's a veteran that considers themselves a hero.

00:38:07

Alright.

00:38:11

Hello.

00:38:20 Speaker 1

To me, it was just a job. Had to be.

00:38:22 Speaker 1

And and.

00:38:23 Speaker 6

Yeah.

00:38:26 Speaker 1

You prayed that you would make it.

00:38:30 Speaker 2

Yeah. Is there anything that you feel like we haven't covered here that you know you might want to bring out, you might anything you want to say?

00:38:44 Speaker 2

Now.

00:38:44 Speaker 4

My mother was most.

00:38:46 Speaker 1

Ohh cushion.

00:38:48 Speaker 7

He could talk.

00:38:53 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:38:55 Speaker 1

It's just.

00:38:56

Cooking.

00:38:58 Speaker 1

And there was going.

00:38:59 Speaker 1

To be wars and wars and.

00:39:03 Speaker 1

Every generation or so is going to get hooked up in it.

00:39:08 Speaker 1

You're going to lose a lot of boys.

00:39:10 Speaker 1

Beatles, my oldest brother. It just don't seem fair.

00:39:12 Speaker 1

Be wars and wars and.

00:39:21 Speaker 1

World in World War 2, Korea.

00:39:25 Speaker 5

And I told him.

00:39:27 Speaker 1

Why do we have to get into these blessed word?

00:39:31 Speaker 2

It's a good question.

00:39:33 Speaker 1

No, I just.

00:39:35 Speaker 2

We all have our own opinions.

00:39:38 Speaker 1

They can't. They can't do it diplomatically. They gotta fight. I just don't understand where they have to fight each other.

00:39:38 Speaker 2

I don't think anybody's got the ultimate.

00:39:47 Speaker 5

OK.

00:39:49 Speaker 1

Settled stuff.

00:39:54 Speaker 7

We're going to have to go because.

00:39:56 Speaker 4

I have to go home.

00:39:57 Speaker 2

OK. Well, I think we're done here.

00:40:01 Speaker 4

The other one that, Sir?

00:40:03 Speaker 2

Again, this is Alan Vanarsdall. I've been interviewing Don Myers for the Library of Congress veterans history.

00:40:15 Speaker 2

And Don, I want to shake your hand.

00:40:16

Yeah.

00:40:19 Speaker 2

I appreciate you coming. It was a pleasure to meet you.

00:40:20 Speaker 1

Yeah. OK.

00:40:23 Speaker 2

Sir.

00:40:24 Speaker 1

Yeah, glad to know you.

00:40:26 Speaker 2

And maybe we can go have dinner or something together sometime.

00:40:30 Speaker 6

All right. OK. Yeah. Yeah. Not a problem. Oh.

00:40:32 Speaker 7

When he gets out here.

00:40:36 Speaker 7

I have to leave at 3:30 and they will know where where I am is near.

00:40:42 Speaker 7

Yeah.

00:40:43 Speaker 2

Now it's 2:30 now. Almost. No, no, no, no, no, we're just fine. We're right. At 40 minutes, 10 minutes more than what we needed. Don't run up. Don't run off.

00:40:44 Speaker 7

Oh well, we got time. Did.

00:40:46 Speaker 7

I stop you too soon.

00:40:58 Speaker 3

Down.

00:40:58 Speaker 4

Here.

00:41:01 Speaker 4

Hey.

00:41:02 Speaker 2

You waiting, making you wait on me? I'll.

00:41:05 Speaker 3

Wait for you.

00:41:07 Speaker 4

He lives, he works around the house.

00:41:16 Speaker 4

There you go.

00:41:27 Speaker 4

We're also selling Maria.

00:41:29 Speaker 7

Thank you.

00:41:35 Speaker 6

Fairfield inn.