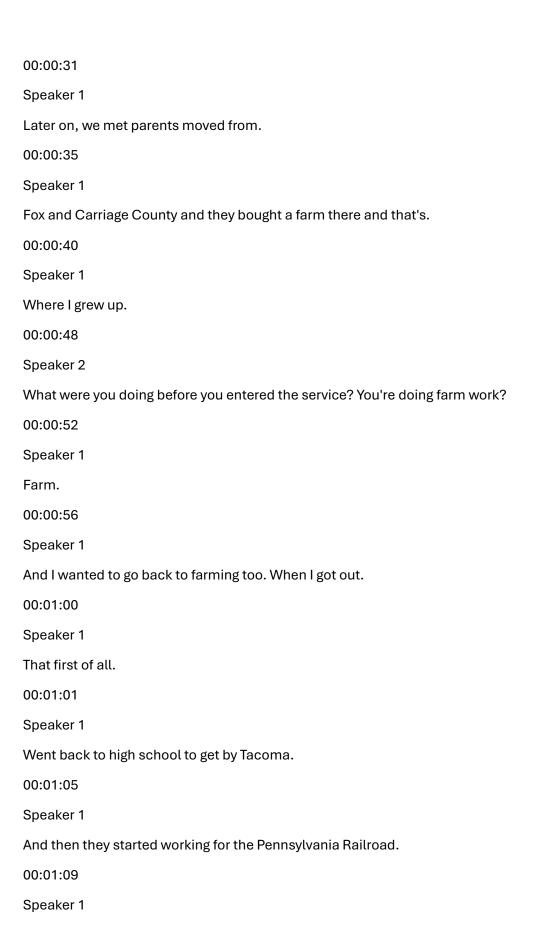
Paul D. Nelson Interview

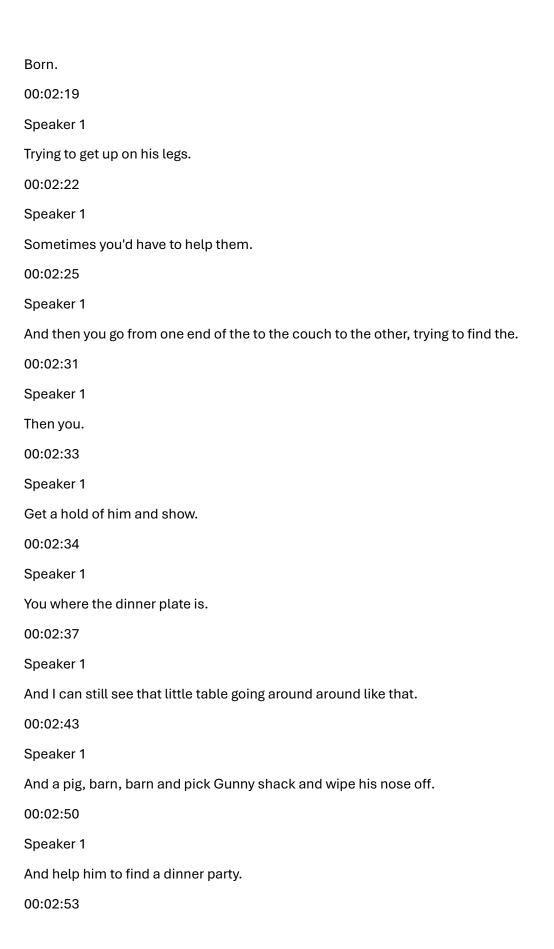
Company M, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Jeffrey E. Gearhart, Sarah Gutknecht (MS Word Audio Transcript [NOT edited, just transcribed])
Speaker 1
But don't ask me for permission back to him.
00:00:03
Speaker 1
OK.
00:00:05
Speaker 2
Yeah, that's true.
00:00:09
Speaker 1
You gotta go.
00:00:10
Speaker 1
MHM.
00:00:14
Speaker 2
Would you like to talk about where you were born?
00:00:19
Speaker 1
We're not firing.
00:00:24
Speaker 1
I'm too young. I didn't know much about it.
00:00:29
Speaker
OK.



And you from the Peggy for about 3 years and.
00:01:15
Speaker 1
Click that and start working for motor freaking industry.
00:01:18
Speaker 1
And then when they got married.
00:01:21
Speaker 1
You get married in July.
00:01:24
Speaker 1
The following spring.
00:01:26
Speaker 1
We went to the farm.
00:01:29
Speaker 1
And farmed in for five years.
00:01:32
Speaker 1
And I'm going to keep going, but I want to. I want to.
00:01:36
Speaker 1
I didn't want to rent anymore.
00:01:40
Speaker 1
And where my own friend.
00:01:42

Speaker 1
Mm-hmm.
00:01:44
Speaker 1
And it couldn't pick up enough money.
00:01:48
Speaker 1
I needed it next to \$8000 to sway it.
00:01:52
Speaker 1
My parents wouldn't help me. My bedroom he could have helped me, but he he wouldn't. He wouldn't get off of the farm, he said it was too much work. For what?
00:02:02
Speaker 1
You get out of it, you know.
00:02:04
Speaker 1
Singer Bush. You got to.
00:02:06
Speaker 1
Have a strong love for.
00:02:08
Speaker 1
Which I did it you know.
00:02:11
Speaker 1
It give me great joy to have.
00:02:16
Speaker 1



Speaker 1
I got, I got beat, beat and driving out.
00:02:55
Speaker 1
Of it, yeah.
00:02:56
Speaker 1
I got beat and driving it into working out in the field and see the coin.
00:03:01
Speaker 1
Just coming up out of the ground.
00:03:05
Speaker 1
That was that was to me, that was great.
00:03:11
Speaker 1
It also told me that the good Lord is helping not to go.
00:03:19
Speaker 1
And I'm going to keep doing it.
00:03:21
Speaker
Yeah.
00:03:22
Speaker 1
But I found a farm over by Plymouth.
00:03:27
Speaker 1

Had about 7 acres of land.

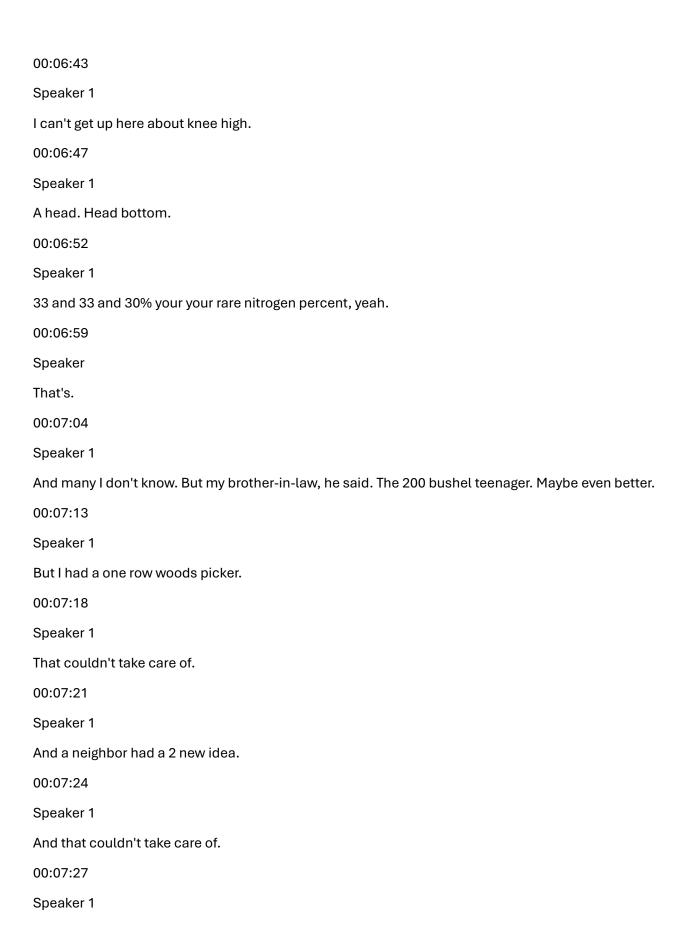
00:03:30
Speaker 1
And I wanted that part in the worse way.
00:03:34
Speaker 1
There's no house on it.
00:03:37
Speaker 1
Not much of a barn.
00:03:41
Speaker 1
They told my wife, I said we could buy a mobile home.
00:03:45
Speaker 1
Said and said beside.
00:03:47
Speaker 1
Get them made and time together and brought proof.
00:03:51
Speaker 1
Use one for bedrooms and the other for living room kitchen.
00:03:57
Speaker 1
That didn't work out.
00:04:00
Speaker 1
And I still have one that farm in the worst way.
00:04:06
Speaker 1

That much land is is grown that you would of course you to have to treat.
00:04:11
Speaker 1
It for bugs.
00:04:13
Speaker 1
But.
00:04:14
Speaker 1
You could carve.
00:04:14
Speaker 1
It year after year.
00:04:18
Speaker 1
And the thing of it.
00:04:20
Speaker 1
ls.
00:04:23
Speaker 1
It was hardly ever black from moisture.
00:04:27
Speaker 1
Once it got up about two feet high.
00:04:29
Speaker 1
The bits will go down after that that moisture.
00:04:33

Speaker 1
If it had a fraternity.
00:04:36
Speaker 1
And.
00:04:39
Speaker 1
I knew that that land you could plant it.
00:04:43
Speaker 1
Two inches of stalks, 2 inches apart.
00:04:48
Speaker 1
But you got to pull it for later on.
00:04:51
Speaker 1
And clarity.
00:04:54
Speaker 1
And it would produce a corn.
00:04:59
Speaker 1
I knew later on when I went farm that I was on.
00:05:05
Speaker 1
That field was about 80 acres.
00:05:08
Speaker 1
Had been pastor for 50 years.

00:05:13
Speaker 1
And it made that each international tractor talk.
00:05:18
Speaker 1
And plan at the 214.
00:05:21
Speaker 1
In second gear.
00:05:25
Speaker 1
And sometimes you'd have to shift down the load here.
00:05:30
Speaker 1
With.
00:05:32
Speaker 1
Secretary.
00:05:34
Speaker 1
So before I plot it.
00:05:37
Speaker 1
The men lived there before me. I don't think he ever cleaned out of that barn.
00:05:44
Speaker 1
Will I get him put leisure in?
00:05:47
Speaker 1

020262424.
00:05:51
Speaker 1
And I had some bowl cabbages.
00:05:54
Speaker 1
And even muscle water when they come back in, they take their heads and but it makes it for measuring busted.
00:06:04
Speaker 1
And I know I couldn't look through the the planner.
00:06:09
Speaker 1
So I just shiver and so that you should on.
00:06:15
Speaker 1
He's better. When I was going out to bed.
00:06:18
Speaker 1
I cured that whole 8 acres with with that.
00:06:22
Speaker 1
And they planned their current close together.
00:06:27
Speaker 1
My neighbor was giving me the devil about way of kind of you said you cleaned up like you so know.
00:06:38
Speaker 1
But I just. I just listen. Listen to him with all his it done and.



00:07:31
Speaker 1
And that couldn't take care of it.
00:07:34
Speaker 1
Another neighbors, he had the two 2 girls.
00:07:38
Speaker 1
And John Deere.
00:07:40
Speaker 1
That he had to go and keep her gear.
00:07:45
Speaker 1
When he was a pregnant.
00:07:48
Speaker 1
That was before the.
00:07:51
Speaker 1
Picture shutters come out, you know.
00:07:54
Speaker 1
But.
00:07:59
Speaker 1
I thought I was the biggest guy that was and we getting that throne like that.
00:08:11

And the neighbor had a two row mounted international.

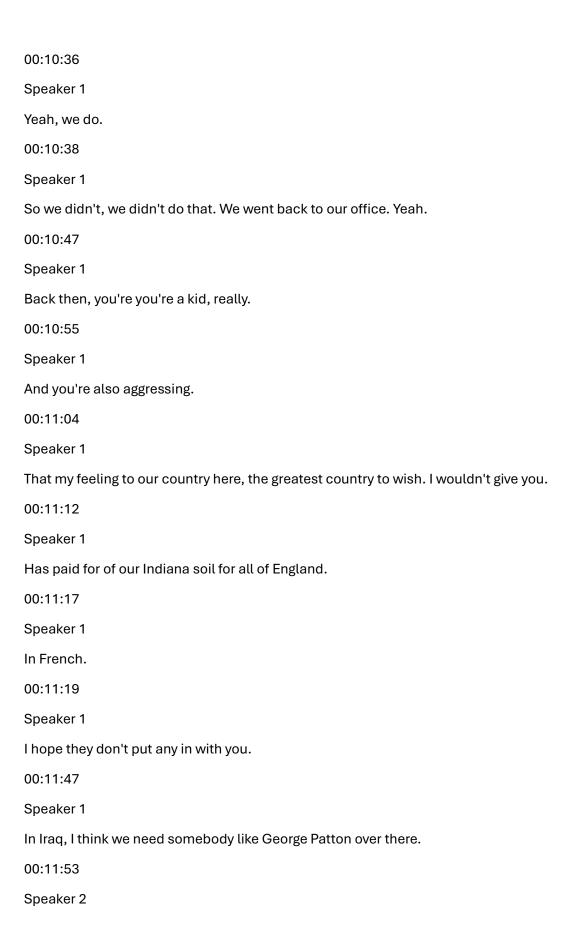
Speaker 2
How did you enter the enlistment?
00:08:15
Speaker 2
But how did you sign up for the military?
00:08:20
Speaker 2
Why did you? Why? Why what for well?
00:08:25
Speaker 1
In that neighborhood neighborhood there.
00:08:28
Speaker 1
Back in 1940.
00:08:31
Speaker 1
The draft came out.
00:08:34
Speaker 1
And everybody between the ages of 21 and 26 had to go and survey your.
00:08:41
Speaker 1
So.
00:08:43
Speaker 1
In late 1941, we were right after Pearl Harbor.
00:08:49
Speaker 1
Tell my folks that that want to go during the circus.

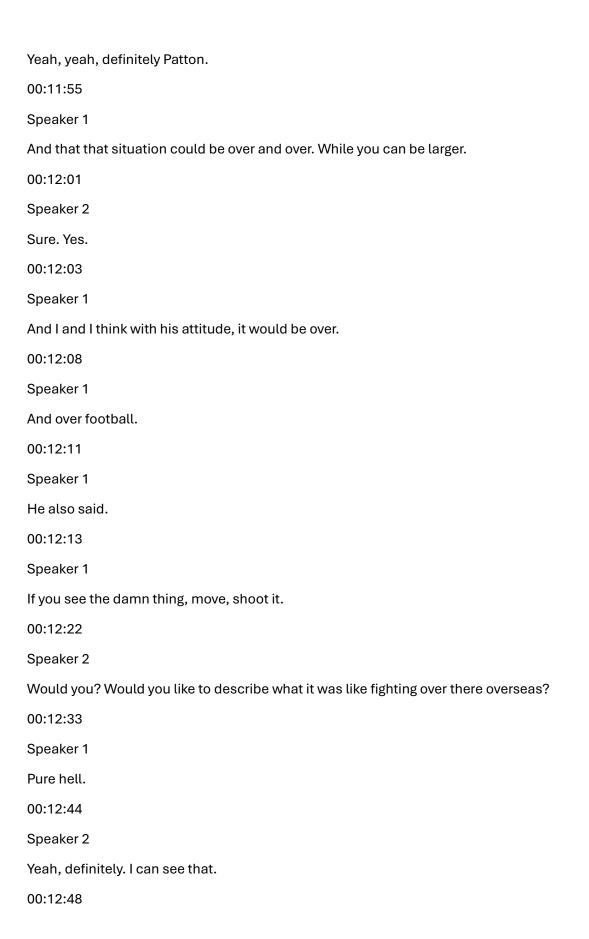
00:08:55
Speaker 1
And of course, I was a kid.
00:09:02
Speaker 1
I said we want to give The Jets help.
00:09:07
Speaker 1
Anyway.
00:09:10
Speaker 1
Dad said no need you here.
00:09:12
Speaker 1
To help run the farm.
00:09:16
Speaker 1
In one night.
00:09:19
Speaker 1
Supper table.
00:09:20
Speaker 1
That's it, bro.
00:09:22
Speaker 1
If you're that.
00:09:24

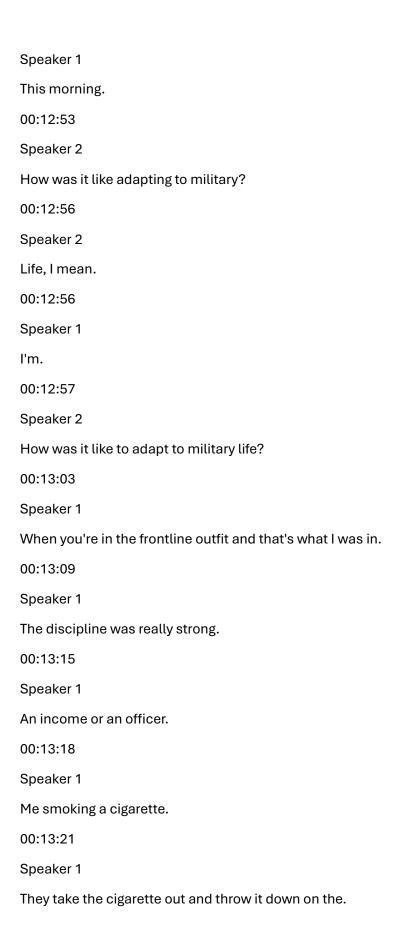
Speaker 1

Determined to go. Looks like you might have to go later on anyway. \\
00:09:28
Speaker 1
He said you want to go, alright.
00:09:32
Speaker 1
So I went up first to Chicago.
00:09:35
Speaker 1
To join the Navy.
00:09:37
Speaker 1
The Navy wouldn't take me.
00:09:41
Speaker 1
And then I came back home.
00:09:44
Speaker 1
And I went in to to get the Jack board.
00:09:48
Speaker 1
And volunteered for the army.
00:09:51
Speaker 1
I want to go with the signal cord.
00:09:54
Speaker 1
But he put me in the infantry instead.
00:09:57

Speaker 1
And I tried to get out of that several.
00:09:58
Speaker 1
Times, but never could.
00:10:03
Speaker 1
And we were maneuvers down in central Tennessee. Three of us went into a naval recruiting station.
00:10:12
Speaker 1
We had our four teams on.
00:10:16
Speaker 1
That officer.
00:10:20
Speaker 1
I don't know.
00:10:21
Speaker 1
It was a pretty sharp I think.
00:10:24
Speaker 1
Yeah, that is only said boy, we put.
00:10:28
Speaker 1
You in the Navy.
00:10:30
Speaker 1
If you're able from your army and you said you know what that means.







00:13:23
Speaker 1
Brown put just put it up to it.
00:13:27
Speaker 1
Tend to pick it up.
00:13:31
Speaker 1
First you had to pick it up.
00:13:32
Speaker 1
Hmm.
00:13:36
Speaker 1
That this time that felt like.
00:13:39
Speaker 1
Or rough and pack of money.
00:13:42
Speaker 1
But it never did.
00:13:46
Speaker 1
Another thing then the Sergeant will stick his head right in front of you.
00:13:53
Speaker 1
And say I can't hear you.
00:13:55
Speaker 1



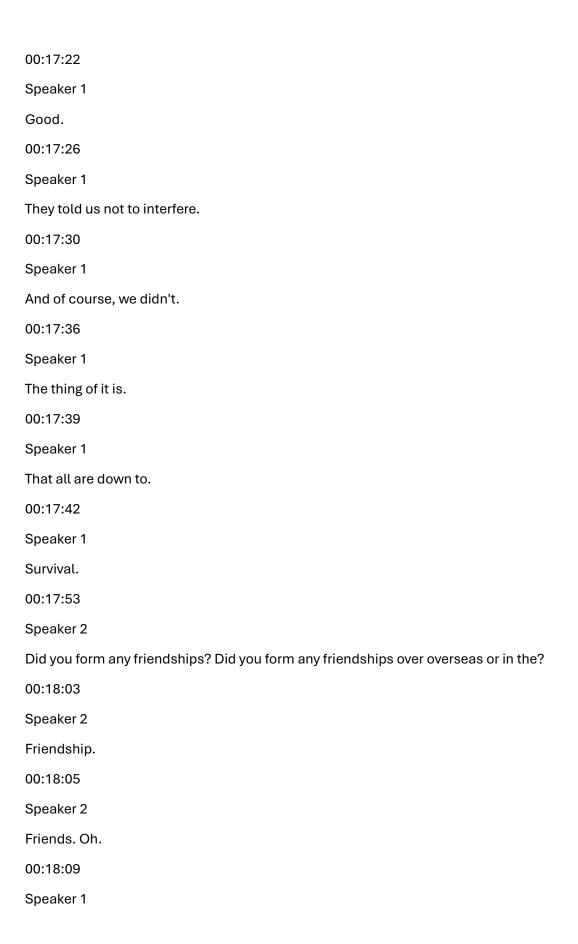
Speaker 1
That's that's a fact.
00:14:41
Speaker 2
Was there anything you witnessed there that you would like to share about?
00:14:56
Speaker 1
Lily gone into her town.
00:15:02
Speaker 1
And under the French towns ran the crossroad.
00:15:06
Speaker 1
There's a big church right there.
00:15:09
Speaker 1
And the tip was taking up learning here.
00:15:11
Speaker 1
I don't know.
00:15:13
Speaker 1
100 feet or so.
00:15:17
Speaker 1
And I recommend come back and report they don't Germans around.
00:15:25
Speaker 1

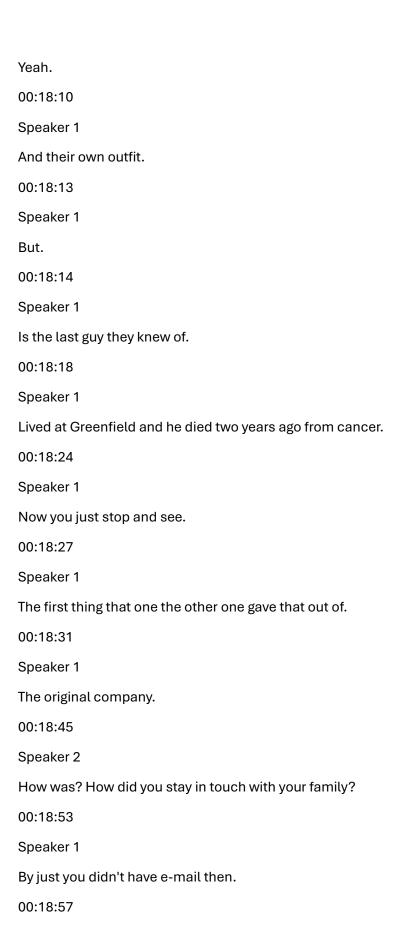
And on both sides of Rd. Rd. be.

00:15:29
Speaker 1
The rifle companies walking along there.
00:15:33
Speaker 1
Sometimes we had our machine guns on the Jeep. Sometimes we had to carry them.
00:15:39
Speaker 1
But anyway.
00:15:42
Speaker 1
We get up here close to the town or once we get small, but I'm tired.
00:15:48
Speaker 1
With the few guys.
00:15:53
Speaker 1
And we take our machine guns and fire on on the the Church.
00:16:00
Speaker 1
And just like, just like sort of the balloon.
00:16:07
Speaker 1
And they called video back and get a 10 from the post number to come up.
00:16:12
Speaker 1
Give them the target.
00:16:14
Speaker 1

And the first show coming out of that.
00:16:16
Speaker 1
The cannon.
00:16:17
Speaker 1
But at that church, people drove all apart.
00:16:23
Speaker 1
And.
00:16:25
Speaker 1
Our outfit. But The Rifleman did.
00:16:28
Speaker 1
Make that go and check on to to see what what it was.
00:16:32
Speaker 1
Women and children.
00:16:35
Speaker 1
There's a lot of those women.
00:16:36
Speaker 1
Were married to French.
00:16:39
Speaker 1
German soldiers.
00:16:42

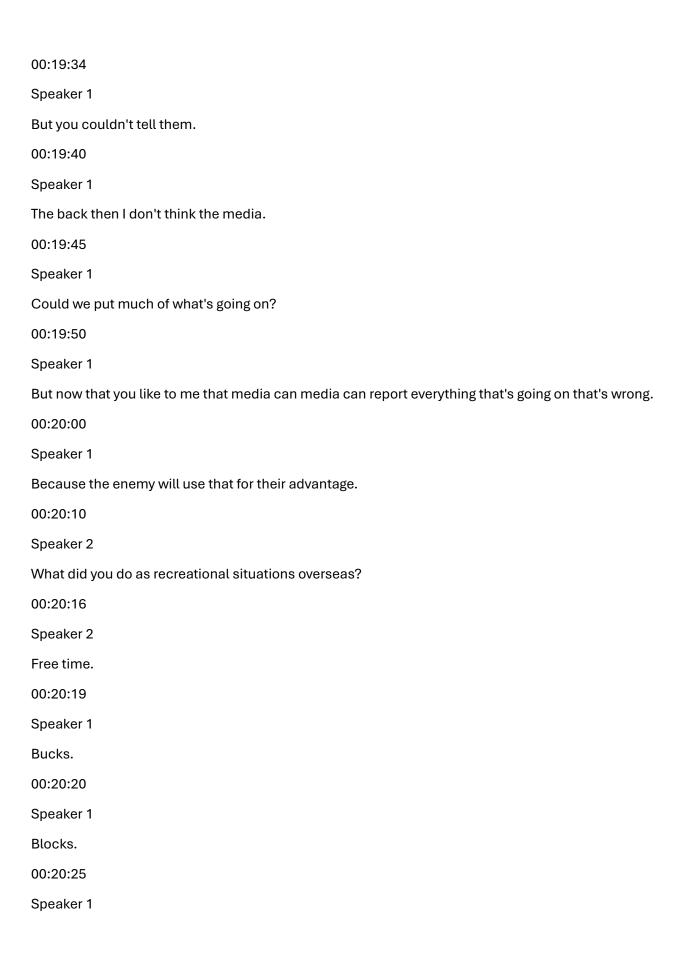
Speaker 1
And the three friends should get a hold of him.
00:16:48
Speaker 1
Davis take all the clothes off at you.
00:16:52
Speaker 1
The.
00:16:54
Speaker 1
The free French people will get on and make a line on each each side.
00:17:01
Speaker 1
And renders women.
00:17:04
Speaker 1
Done that eye order between them.
00:17:09
Speaker 1
Hit him with ****.
00:17:11
Speaker 1
**** them with anything the hat.
00:17:15
Speaker 1
Tend to get to that big.
00:17:17
Speaker 1
It wasn't about and they wish you were.





Speaker 1
You would just you'd write to him. Sometimes you could, you would write.
00:19:02
Speaker 1
But if you had written the letter.
00:19:07
Speaker 1
And the Germans would contact before you got it mailed.
00:19:12
Speaker 1
And.
00:19:15
Speaker 1
And there was sometimes they would get.
00:19:17
Speaker 1
Or muddy wet.
00:19:21
Speaker 1
And.
00:19:22
Speaker 1
Cursing consequently and then never got mailed.
00:19:26
Speaker 1
I would get better from home.
00:19:30
Speaker 1

And what I know where I was.



Playing pool because that was here in the states that overseas we were in.
00:20:33
Speaker 1
In England, we didn't know much of it.
00:20:35
Speaker 1
We didn't have much free time at all when we got to England.
00:20:40
Speaker 1
They kept us busy all the time.
00:20:47
Speaker 2
UM.
00:20:53
Speaker 2
Is there any duties that happened in the war, any duties that you did during the war that were special?
special?
special? 00:21:06
special? 00:21:06 Speaker 1
special? 00:21:06 Speaker 1 Any special duty?
special? 00:21:06 Speaker 1 Any special duty? 00:21:07
special? 00:21:06 Speaker 1 Any special duty? 00:21:07 Speaker
special? 00:21:06 Speaker 1 Any special duty? 00:21:07 Speaker Mm-hmm.
special? 00:21:06 Speaker 1 Any special duty? 00:21:07 Speaker Mm-hmm. 00:21:07
special? 00:21:06 Speaker 1 Any special duty? 00:21:07 Speaker Mm-hmm. 00:21:07 Speaker 1
special? 00:21:06 Speaker 1 Any special duty? 00:21:07 Speaker Mm-hmm. 00:21:07 Speaker 1 No.

00:21:12
Speaker 1
And just come on old futsal, peretto.
00:21:21
Speaker 1
Oh, patent Curtis. Mud dobber.
00:21:32
Speaker 2
UM.
00:21:34
Speaker 2
Did you? Were you in a part of patents group or were you part in any patents group?
00:21:43
Speaker 1
Patients Group I was in the.
00:21:45
Speaker 2
3rd Army, you were in the 3rd Army with Patton. Did you ever meet Patton?
00:21:53
Speaker 1
Yeah, I did.
00:21:58
Speaker 1
That's carrying that type out of the machine gun and.
00:22:00
Speaker 1
He.
00:22:00
Speaker 1

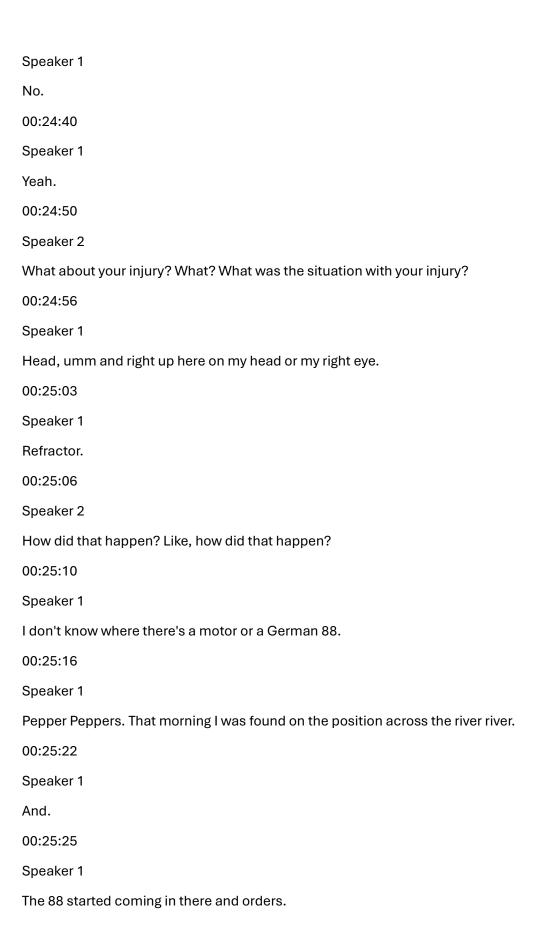
Said can you hit anything with that gun soldier?
00:22:05
Speaker 1
Should you damn ride that Canyon?
00:22:08
Speaker 1
And a second Lieutenant start getting on to me about talking and waiting.
00:22:14
Speaker 1
And he tell the tenants all right.
00:22:20
Speaker 1
I turned around the dirt and there he was like that. Read that type out.
00:22:26
Speaker 1
And he talked to.
00:22:27
Speaker 1
Me for a little bit.
00:22:30
Speaker 1
Wonder where I was.
00:22:34
Speaker 1
For a word from.
00:22:38
Speaker 1
And when the power, like the army.
00:22:42

Speaker 1
And they said to to you want the tooth.
00:22:54
Speaker 1
That he was a good old general.
00:23:00
Speaker 1
You know, they call him old blood and guts.
00:23:02
Speaker 1
Uh.
00:23:05
Speaker 1
We used to say.
00:23:07
Speaker 1
His guts and our blood.
00:23:13
Speaker 1
But he had the right idea.
00:23:19
Speaker 1
I know at times it gets her cut and pick and tired.
00:23:23
Speaker 1
You wish you you would get hit so you.
00:23:25
Speaker 1
Can get some rest.

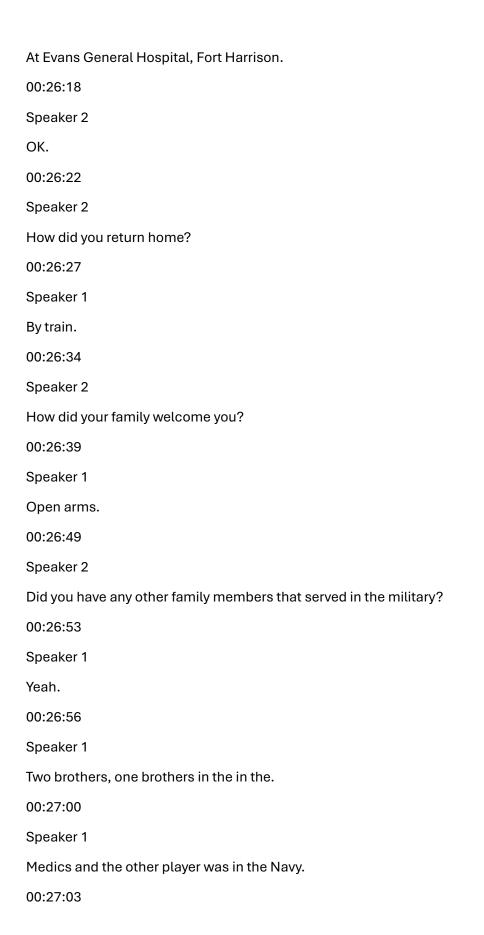
00:23:37	
Speaker 2	
Read.	
00:23:39	
Speaker 2	
How was training for the military?	
00:23:43	
Speaker 2	
How was training training?	
00:23:47	
Speaker 2	
In the military.	
00:23:49	
Speaker 1	
Very good.	
00:23:50	
Speaker 2	
Very good.	
00:23:50	
Speaker 1	
You were rugged.	
00:23:56	
Speaker 1	
And if.	
00:23:56	
Speaker 1	
You.	
00:23:59	

Speaker 1

To pay attention to what? What, what they're trying to tell you.
00:24:05
Speaker 1
And.
00:24:07
Speaker 1
And follow up and get a better chance of coming.
00:24:09
Speaker 1
Out coming through the line.
00:24:17
Speaker 1
That shower bomb or or.
00:24:21
Speaker
Bullet.
00:24:24
Speaker 1
It seemed like to me it.
00:24:25
Speaker 1
Doesn't care who it hits.
00:24:31
Speaker 2
Were there any close calls?
00:24:34
Speaker 2
At all.
00:24:38



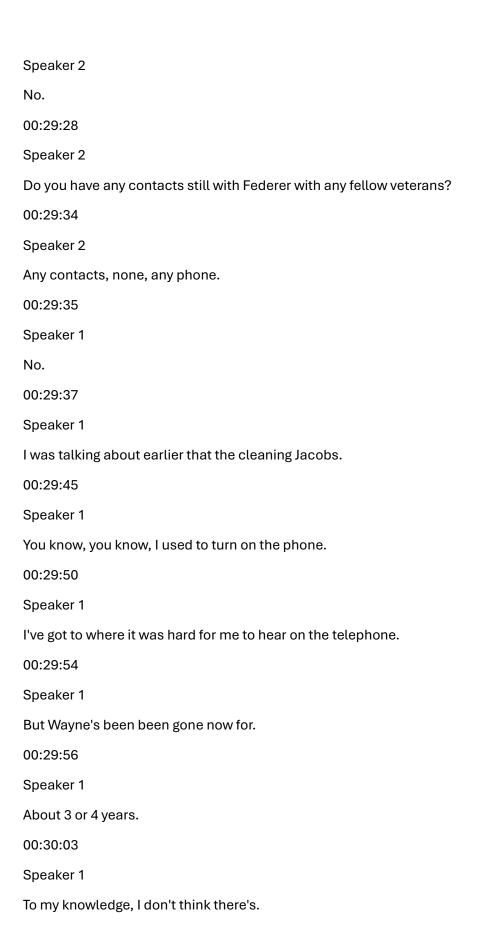
00:25:32
Speaker 1
But I was told by assistant gunner.
00:25:35
Speaker 1
Was killed by a fellow, but now.
00:25:40
Speaker 1
And he's seen me there in England when I was.
00:25:42
Speaker 1
In the hospital.
00:25:54
Speaker 2
Where were you when the war ended? But where were you when the war ended?
00:26:01
Speaker 1
In the war, but when?
00:26:02
Speaker 2
The war ended.
00:26:07
Speaker 1
Back home.
00:26:09
Speaker 1
Home.
00:26:11
Speaker 1

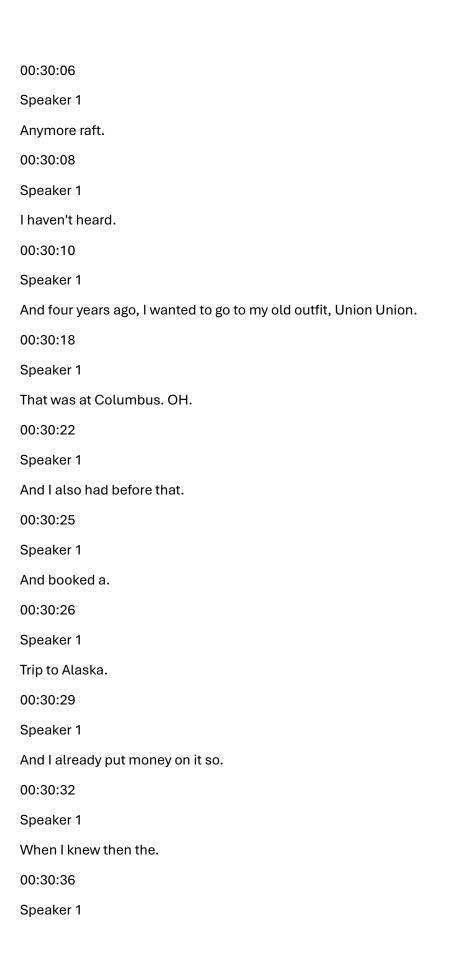


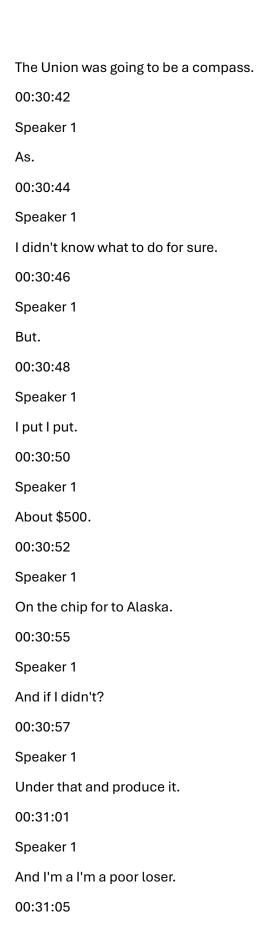
Speaker 1
But the one that was in the Navy it.
00:27:05
Speaker 1
Was after World War 2.
00:27:08
Speaker 1
Even between.
00:27:12
Speaker 1
World War 2 and the Korean War.
00:27:17
Speaker 1
The.
00:27:22
Speaker 1
He was on the High Seas Cup several different times. Should have done an aircraft carrier.
00:27:29
Speaker 1
But he's there in four years and he got out.
00:27:35
Speaker 1
And after the went into Korea.
00:27:41
Speaker 1
Who didn't want to go back in?
00:27:44
Speaker 1
And.

00:27:47
Speaker 1
They asked him if you could go back in, but do you turned it down?
00:28:01
Speaker 2
Did you feel any emotions when you?
00:28:06
Speaker 2
Saw any combat?
00:28:09
Speaker 1
See any what?
00:28:11
Speaker 2
Did you feel any emotions? Were you moved by any combat situations?
00:28:22
Speaker 1
Like I said before, I can still hear it.
00:28:26
Speaker 1
And I can still see it.
00:28:29
Speaker 1
Until she.
00:28:35
Speaker 1
There's nothing worse things worse.
00:28:38
Speaker 1

And the human body efforts made there.
00:28:43
Speaker 1
For a while.
00:28:46
Speaker 1
Distinguished thing there ever was.
00:28:50
Speaker 1
And I'm I'm.
00:28:53
Speaker 1
As you know, the horses and cattle hog sheep, chickens.
00:28:59
Speaker 1
There's none of it compared to what it is human body.
00:29:12
Speaker 2
Anything.
00:29:15
Speaker
How much do you need? 30 minutes. Got 29.
00:29:17
Speaker
The.
00:29:22
Speaker 1
Has broken that camera.
00:29:24

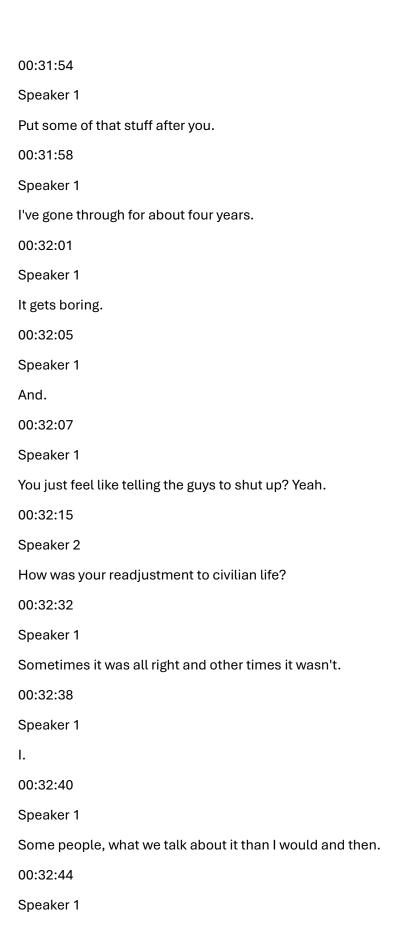






Speaker 1
So I went to Alaska.
00:31:16
Speaker 2
Were there any duties away from the frontline?
00:31:24
Speaker 1
So just what?
00:31:27
Speaker 2
Anything. Anything you witnessed, anything you did.
00:31:32
Speaker 2
Besides fight.
00:31:35
Speaker 1
Well, when you're you're not there. You always had gun trail.
00:31:41
Speaker 1
And cleaning the weapons.
00:31:43
Speaker 1
Kosher under barrel.
00:31:46
Speaker 1
And tactics, but.
00:31:50
Speaker 1

And that's about all.



I can remember that when you go ahead and.
00:32:46
Speaker 1
Colombia liar.
00:32:51
Speaker 1
And of course, when.
00:32:52
Speaker 1
That happened. That set that set me off.
00:32:57
Speaker
But.
00:33:01
Speaker 1
Most of the times I'll just.
00:33:03
Speaker 1
Keep my mouth shut.
00:33:06
Speaker 1
Because.
00:33:08
Speaker 1
I know a guy.
00:33:10
Speaker 1
He told me he didn't like to talk about it because he thought.
00:33:15

Speaker 1
That people thought he was lying about.
00:33:18
Speaker 1
That's why he didn't want to talk about.
00:33:24
Speaker 1
When I came home.
00:33:27
Speaker 1
At Fort Harrison.
00:33:30
Speaker 1
Take it down and and.
00:33:32
Speaker 1
Encourage us and talk about it to get it off right shoulder.
00:33:39
Speaker 1
And help help to.
00:33:40
Speaker 1
You to overcome.
00:33:42
Speaker 1
The stress.
00:33:47
Speaker 1
But like I say, active still here.

00:33:55
Speaker 2
Is there anything else you would like to add?
00:33:59
Speaker 2
No.
00:34:00
Speaker 1
So.
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