

William John Nelson Interview

80th Infantry Division

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Joanne Cargill)

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

00:00:08 Speaker 1

Today is Wednesday, February the 18th, 2015, and this is the beginning of an interview with Colonel William John Nelson, retired at Merrill Garden, Santa Maria, CA.

00:00:23 Speaker 1

Mr. Nelson is 93 years old, having been born on July 20th, 1920.

00:00:30 Speaker 1

My name is Joanne Cargill and I'll be the interviewer.

00:00:34 Speaker 1

You're ready to get started, Bill.

00:00:36 Speaker 2

Around.

00:00:37 Speaker 1

Well, why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself before you went into the West Point Academy?

00:00:43 Speaker 1

Why you were born?

00:00:47 Speaker 1

That kind of thing.

00:00:47 Speaker 2

I was born in little town.

00:00:49 Speaker 2

Back up, which is about.

00:00:52 Speaker 2

7300 people.

00:00:57 Speaker 2

No. Excuse me, 3000 people.

00:01:01 Speaker 3

That was in Wisconsin. Dad, Wisconsin.

00:01:05 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:01:07 Speaker 2

Wisconsin and it's up to the center and.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

We we the one thing I remember about it was that I used to get out and shovel snow in the morning at 20 below.

00:01:23 Speaker 1

But you were used to that.

00:01:24 Speaker 1

Bet yeah.

00:01:26 Speaker 1

Were you an only child or do you have brothers and sisters?

00:01:29 Speaker 2

I was lonely child.

00:01:33 Speaker 1

And is that where?

00:01:34 Speaker 1

Would did your schooling was in this little town?

00:01:35 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:01:37 Speaker 1

Well, what prompted you to go into the West Point Academy?

00:01:42 Speaker 2

Well.

00:01:44 Speaker 2

A friend of ours by the name of Ray Murray.

00:01:50 Speaker 2

Talked me into it.

00:01:53 Speaker 2

He convinced me that.

00:01:55 Speaker 2

And.

00:01:56 Speaker 2

You would get me in without any problem.

00:02:01 Speaker 1

You were in the ROTC the program, though before this.

00:02:03

Yeah.

00:02:05 Speaker 1

So you're kind of knew what military?

00:02:08 Speaker 1

Be like.

00:02:09 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, it would be like.

00:02:15 Speaker 3

Had your dad lost his job or?

00:02:18 Speaker 2

No.

00:02:21 Speaker 1

So you went into the West Point Academy?

00:02:24 Speaker 1

What was that like?

00:02:26 Speaker 1

Was it a?

00:02:27 Speaker 1

Did you find it easy? What?

00:02:29 Speaker 2

Well, it was different.

00:02:33 Speaker 2

It we the first month that we were there.

00:02:40 Speaker 2

We.

00:02:41 Speaker 2

Burned an awful lot.

00:02:44 Speaker 2

About things to go in the army.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

Did you feel like you were low man on the totem pole?

00:02:53 Speaker 2

No, but they tried to make us feel that way.

00:02:56 Speaker 1

You didn't give in.

00:02:57 Speaker 2

No.

00:03:00 Speaker 1

Did you find the studies easy hard.

00:03:05 Speaker 2

Studies were no hard.

00:03:07 Speaker 2

Hard at all.

00:03:10

They.

00:03:10 Speaker 2

Seem to get along very well.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

We graduated 44.

00:03:19 Speaker 2

And left for Germany.

00:03:22 Speaker 1

So the war had already started before you graduated.

00:03:25 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:03:27 Speaker 1

Let me back up a little bit and do you remember where you were at when you heard about Pearl Harbor being bombed?

00:03:35 Speaker 2

I was at Military Academy.

00:03:40 Speaker 1

Did you hear the announcement over the radio or what?

00:03:43 Speaker 1

That tell me a.

00:03:44 Speaker 1

Bit.

00:03:45 Speaker 1

Describe that a little bit to me.

00:03:50 Speaker 2

We heard the.

00:03:52 Speaker 2

Newspapers crying it out and.

00:03:57 Speaker 2

Followed up very quickly.

00:04:00 Speaker 2

With where we were.

00:04:02 Speaker 1

Now, since you were at the Academy, was this kind of not a surprise?

00:04:07 Speaker 1

Mean you was.

00:04:08 Speaker 1

Talk like, I mean, rumors of war.

00:04:11 Speaker 1

Me mess that.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, we were afraid the war was going to be over before we got in.

00:04:19 Speaker 2

OK.

00:04:22 Speaker 1

So what were your thoughts then when you heard about Pearl Harbor and the loss of life?

00:04:29 Speaker 1

Were your thoughts?

00:04:30 Speaker 2

Well, basically, we wish we had been over and we were on the East Coast and they were on the West Coast and.

00:04:40 Speaker 2

We wish we could have.

00:04:43 Speaker 2

Over there to help.

00:04:47 Speaker 1

But so it was kind of a feeling of helplessness.

00:04:52 Speaker 1

How did you feel about Japan?

00:04:56 Speaker 3

Doing this.

00:04:58 Speaker 2

Japan was a totally foreign country to me.

00:05:04 Speaker 2

I had no interest in it.

00:05:07 Speaker 2

And uh.

00:05:09 Speaker 2

We hadn't gotten involved in it, but.

00:05:14 Speaker 2

We found out quickly enough.

00:05:20 Speaker 1

So after four years, you graduated from the Academy.

00:05:25 Speaker 1

As a.

00:05:26 Speaker 1

Lieutenant. And tell me, what was your first assignment?

00:05:31 Speaker 2

My first.

00:05:32 Speaker 2

My first assignment was.

00:05:34 Speaker 2

In.

00:05:37 Speaker 2

Well, I ended up in the company attached to the 80th Infantry Division in Germany.

00:05:47 Speaker 2

That gave me quite a bit.

00:05:52 Speaker 1

What was your training?

00:05:53 Speaker 1

Were.

00:05:54 Speaker 1

What were?

00:05:54 Speaker 1

What was your job?

00:05:55 Speaker 1

Responsibilities.

00:05:56 Speaker 2

Our training was.

00:06:00 Speaker 2

For online, particularly with small arms and and that sort of thing, to get those packing and use after they.

00:06:09 Speaker 1

So if something broke down, what came to your unit and and that was the?

00:06:16 Speaker 1

You were in charge of or.

00:06:19 Speaker 2

I was a Lieutenant.

00:06:22 Speaker 2

I had a company commander.

00:06:25

Who?

00:06:26 Speaker 2

Very positive ideas on what I should do and not do but.

00:06:33 Speaker 2

We got along.

00:06:36 Speaker 1

So your first assignment right out of the Academy was to go to Germany.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

Yeah. So.

00:06:41 Speaker 1

And that was in the summer of 44.

00:06:44 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:06:48 Speaker 2

Shipped.

00:06:50 Speaker 2

To Southampton.

00:06:54 Speaker 1

How long did it take to get over there?

00:06:56 Speaker 2

Do you remember?

00:06:57 Speaker 1

Was it like 2 weeks, 10 days?

00:07:01 Speaker 2

It was two weeks, roughly.

00:07:04 Speaker 1

Well, the war was going on, so we're protected.

00:07:07 Speaker 1

You in a convoy.

00:07:07 Speaker 2

When we're.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

Or were in a convoy and being told.

00:07:14 Speaker 2

By German submarines, what not?

00:07:17 Speaker 1

Were any of the ships in the convoy in danger, or had they been, you know, been shot at or anything?

00:07:24 Speaker 2

No, they weren't.

00:07:25 Speaker 2

Fortunately, they didn't bother us, so we got over there safely.

00:07:31 Speaker 1

Were you seasick?

00:07:33 Speaker 2

No.

00:07:34 Speaker 2

No.

00:07:35 Speaker 1

Were others.

00:07:36 Speaker 2

Some.

00:07:39 Speaker 1

What was the food like on the ship?

00:07:42 Speaker 2

Report.

00:07:44 Speaker 1

Can you describe that or like what?

00:07:46 Speaker 2

Well, I.

00:07:47 Speaker 2

I had good food.

00:07:48 Speaker 2

I was up in the captain's table.

00:07:53 Speaker 2

As a result.

00:07:55 Speaker 2

We ate good food.

00:07:58 Speaker 2

Some of the enlisted people.

00:08:02 Speaker 2

Had very bad food.

00:08:07 Speaker 1

What do you think?

00:08:07 Speaker 1

Why do you think that was?

00:08:10 Speaker 2

Proper training.

00:08:13 Speaker 2

People weren't exactly.

00:08:20

Yes.

00:08:20 Speaker 2

Used to handling enlisted people.

00:08:27 Speaker 1

So the ship landed in Southampton.

00:08:29

Mm.

00:08:31 Speaker 1

Then from there, what happened?

00:08:32 Speaker 1

Did you go?

00:08:33 Speaker 2

Well, the first incident was.

00:08:36

It's.

00:08:38 Speaker 2

They went up, they put us in A room.

00:08:41 Speaker 2

I sure will. Went over the side of the ship when I'm sure that.

00:08:46 Speaker 1

Tug, when you say you went over the side of the ship, did you like those ladders down those rope ladder things?

00:08:51 Speaker 2

Public libraries.

00:08:52 Speaker 1

And I see pictures of that.

00:08:55 Speaker 1

Looks so scary. Was it?

00:08:58 Speaker 1

The ship was going up and down in your.

00:09:03 Speaker 2

We got there and we went to.

00:09:08 Speaker 2

Southampton. We got into Southampton and they put us in a room by ourselves. Next morning we found that the all the floors under us are about 5.

00:09:24 Speaker 2

Filled with German wrens, which were royal enlisted Navy personnel.

00:09:32 Speaker 2

We'll need to say they got us out of that room in a hurry.

00:09:37 Speaker 2

Ship.

00:09:38 Speaker 2

To.

00:09:41 Speaker 1

Did you find that embarrassing?

00:09:44 Speaker 2

No, no text later.

00:09:48 Speaker 1

Or comical maybe, huh?

00:09:50 Speaker 1

Were you with a friend?

00:09:53 Speaker 1

Is it a buddy or?

00:09:54 Speaker 2

To worry about them.

00:09:56 Speaker 2

Six of us that were together.

00:09:59 Speaker 1

And had you all been on that same ship on?

00:10:01 Speaker 1

Way over.

00:10:02 Speaker 1

So you got to know each other.

00:10:04 Speaker 2

Well, we got to know each other well before we were in Aberdeen before that happened, proving ground.

00:10:11 Speaker 2

And then we.

00:10:13 Speaker 2

Moved up to the ship and six months.

00:10:16 Speaker 2

This put with this one group.

00:10:23 Speaker 2

Had a great time.

00:10:28 Speaker 2

And.

00:10:30 Speaker 2

Yeah, they got us out of there and got us over to.

00:10:35 Speaker 2

Southampton, I think it was.

00:10:39

OK.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

Assassin.

00:10:44 Speaker 1

Let me ask you.

00:10:45 Speaker 1

I want to back up again.

00:10:48 Speaker 1

Were you single?

00:10:50 Speaker 2

No.

00:10:51 Speaker 2

I was married.

00:10:53 Speaker 1

Did you get married after graduation from the Academy or?

00:10:56 Speaker 1

You were OK.

00:10:57 Speaker 2

I wonder, well, I'm married in Milwaukee, but not.

00:11:04 Speaker 2

At the graduation.

00:11:06 Speaker 1

Oh, OK.

00:11:09

None.

00:11:09 Speaker 2

And.

00:11:12 Speaker 2

Yeah, I had a good time. My wife was very fine.

00:11:17 Speaker 2

Bless her soul. She passed away sometime back.

00:11:23 Speaker 2

And.

00:11:27 Speaker 1

She was a good military wife, huh?

00:11:29 Speaker 2

Yep.

00:11:30 Speaker 3

How long were you married?

00:11:32 Speaker 2

68 years.

00:11:33 Speaker 1

Oh my goodness.

00:11:36 Speaker 1

It's a long time. That's wonderful.

00:11:38 Speaker 1

Wonderful.

00:11:40 Speaker 1

So you were anxious to get married before you.

00:11:43 Speaker 1

Out was that.

00:11:43 Speaker 1

And what was the reasoning?

00:11:45 Speaker 1

Some guys waited till it came back or they didn't.

00:11:49 Speaker 2

We just got married in Milwaukee.

00:11:53 Speaker 1

So anyway, you were married when you got to Southampton, OK?

00:11:56 Speaker 1

Wanted to clarify that, all right and.

00:11:57 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:12:01 Speaker 1

Where were you sent?

00:12:03 Speaker 1

Were you assigned to? What unit were you assigned to them?

00:12:09 Speaker 2

Replacement officers and they.

00:12:13 Speaker 2

We bring people into the Fourth Harmony Division, which was fighting in the Battle of the Bulge at the time and I was convoy commander.

00:12:28

For.

00:12:29 Speaker 2

Moving people.

00:12:32 Speaker 2

In and out.

00:12:34 Speaker 2

Division.

00:12:37 Speaker 2

We got him up to the fourth. Iron turned him over and then we took the convoy back.

00:12:44 Speaker 2

And this was a time when the Germans were intercepting.

00:12:51 Speaker 2

Uh convoys among world.

00:12:55 Speaker 2

We had. Al was lucky. I never got shot at.

00:13:01 Speaker 1

Well, that's good.

00:13:02 Speaker 1

Did you ever have to fire your rifle or gun?

00:13:08 Speaker 2

Mostly we had a pistol.

00:13:10 Speaker 1

What kind of pistol?

00:13:13 Speaker 2

In 191181.

00:13:17 Speaker 2

1945.

00:13:20 Speaker 2

And I mean he 45 automatic.

00:13:25 Speaker 2

It worked very well.

00:13:27 Speaker 1

You must have known your weapons, yeah.

00:13:31 Speaker 1

Never broke down on you.

00:13:32 Speaker 2

No. Well when they.

00:13:35 Speaker 2

It was up to us to fix it.

00:13:41 Speaker 1

So you were in a convoy. You're managing a convoy that would take troops to the front and then bring back. What troops that were being relieved or?

00:13:54 Speaker 1

Nobody.

00:13:55 Speaker 2

Somebody.

00:13:57 Speaker 2

Nobody have an empty convoy coming back and we take troops up to the 4th harm.

00:13:59

All right.

00:14:06 Speaker 2

Delivering and all of the drivers compact.

00:14:10 Speaker 2

The kind of one with me.

00:14:15 Speaker 2

And we ran some replacement devil to the fourth arm.

00:14:21 Speaker 1

How many miles was that?

00:14:26 Speaker 2

Probably.

00:14:28 Speaker 2

5 miles.

00:14:30 Speaker 1

And so there were Germans kind of lingering around in between that.

00:14:36 Speaker 2

To be very careful what I told.

00:14:41 Speaker 2

Notified the convoy that everybody had to be careful because the Germans were around here and they shouldn't trust anyone and.

00:14:53 Speaker 2

We went back.

00:14:54 Speaker 2

Fortunately, I did not have any problems with the Germans during that time.

00:15:03 Speaker 1

Felt lucky.

00:15:04 Speaker 2

Yeah, I did.

00:15:07 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:15:16 Speaker 1

And how long were you there that that particular?

00:15:21 Speaker 1

You were there in December.

00:15:22 Speaker 1

Battle the bolts, then. OK. And you mentioned here the food was lousy and it rained constantly.

00:15:30 Speaker 2

Yes, it rained constantly.

00:15:34 Speaker 2

And we got wet coming to and from.

00:15:39 Speaker 1

Did you ever dry out?

00:15:41 Speaker 2

No, not really.

00:15:44 Speaker 1

Did you have enough clothing?

00:15:47 Speaker 1

Changes of clothes or.

00:15:48 Speaker 2

Yeah, we did. We had enough.

00:15:52 Speaker 2

Range liquors to keep us dry, but that's all we have.

00:15:57

OK.

00:16:00 Speaker 2

The.

00:16:02 Speaker 1

Were.

00:16:02 Speaker 1

Were they keeping you well supplied at that time?

00:16:05 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, we were well supplied.

00:16:10 Speaker 2

I wouldn't come out.

00:16:13 Speaker 2

Bunch of replacements up to the 4th Armored and deliver them and then.

00:16:21 Speaker 2

Sign off on saying go back home.

00:16:26 Speaker 2

I was a convoy commander.

00:16:29 Speaker 1

So did you have a chow hall that you could eat out when you got back?

00:16:34 Speaker 1

Or was it attempt messed up?

00:16:36 Speaker 2

It was a camp.

00:16:40 Speaker 1

I imagine.

00:16:41 Speaker 1

It was raining all the time. It must have been pretty dirty and muddy and.

00:16:52 Speaker 1

Did you did your unit repair besides artillery?

00:16:56 Speaker 1

They repair vehicles.

00:16:58 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:16:59 Speaker 1

Was just everything needed to.

00:17:00

Yeah.

00:17:01 Speaker 2

Medium maintenance, which meant you repaired.

00:17:07 Speaker 2

The arms and the vehicles.

00:17:13

Set up how many?

00:17:14 Speaker 1

Guys, did you have under your command?

00:17:18 Speaker 2

Why did Tana?

00:17:20 Speaker 2

Small section. I'm trying to think.

00:17:28 Speaker 2

Maybe maybe 5 or 10 people not more than that.

00:17:34 Speaker 1

And all and just those.

00:17:34 Speaker 1

Had to service all the vehicles and.

00:17:37 Speaker 2

Well, the company.

00:17:41 Speaker 2

Was organized.

00:17:43 Speaker 2

With I was the armament officer.

00:17:46 Speaker 2

So all I had to worry about was the arms.

00:17:50 Speaker 2

And.

00:17:52 Speaker 2

The people around me vehicle department.

00:17:58 Speaker 2

Were very busy.

00:18:06 Speaker 1

Did you you mentioned here about a time when you were in.

00:18:13 Speaker 1

Dye Kirk di E, Ki RK and tell us something about this.

00:18:20 Speaker 1

Local brewery there.

00:18:23 Speaker 2

Local brewery there was very good, but they gave us a special cake to take back home.

00:18:31 Speaker 2

We all got drunk on it.

00:18:34 Speaker 2

It was double strength.

00:18:38 Speaker 3

Was it good?

00:18:43 Speaker 1

And then you mention about.

00:18:47 Speaker 1

That at some point then you they brought in.

00:18:51 Speaker 1

Quartermaster shower unit.

00:18:53 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:18:54 Speaker 1

Tell me about that well.

00:18:57 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:18:59 Speaker 2

The Charm Master unit came in and in trailers and.

00:19:05 Speaker 2

You would strip down all your clothes.

00:19:10 Speaker 2

And they gave you new clothes as you came out.

00:19:14 Speaker 1

Was that about the only shower?

00:19:15 Speaker 1

Got and I mean.

00:19:23 Speaker 2

Thus, we're in a terminal house, which I.

00:19:29 Speaker 1

I give one.

00:19:29 Speaker 2

1.

00:19:35 Speaker 1

This quartermaster shower unit travel around.

00:19:38 Speaker 1

That how it.

00:19:39

Yeah.

00:19:39 Speaker 1

And so they were just like portable showers and.

00:19:43 Speaker 1

You just were able to get a clean clothes and make that feel good.

00:19:49 Speaker 2

Close.

00:19:51 Speaker 2

Show me out the other end of the trailer.

00:19:57 Speaker 1

Bet you really appreciated that.

00:19:59 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:20:00 Speaker 2

That was very good.

00:20:07 Speaker 1

And de Laos saying they said you sprayed them with dilaudes.

00:20:10 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:20:16 Speaker 1

And then where was your company moved to?

00:20:21 Speaker 2

Let's see.

00:20:24 Speaker 2

Nor too well.

00:20:30 Speaker 1

Was it bit burg?

00:20:34 Speaker 2

Vicksburg. Yeah, I think so.

00:20:40 Speaker 2

The.

00:20:43 Speaker 1

Was it about that time you got promoted? I understand.

00:20:46 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:20:48 Speaker 2

And I had a little trouble with that.

00:20:51 Speaker 2

The company commander didn't want to accept the promotion.

00:20:56 Speaker 1

Why is that?

00:20:58 Speaker 2

Well, because it came from War department. He didn't think I'd had enough time.

00:21:04 Speaker 2

In service yet?

00:21:07

So.

00:21:09 Speaker 2

He.

00:21:12 Speaker 2

Objected to it and found out he couldn't object to it.

00:21:19 Speaker 1

So you reluctantly, and he reluctantly promoted you, huh? Yeah.

00:21:28 Speaker 3

What were you promoted to at point rank?

00:21:31 Speaker 3

What rank did you get promoted to?

00:21:34 Speaker 2

First Lieutenant.

00:21:38 Speaker 2

2nd Lieutenant, first Lieutenant.

00:21:40 Speaker 2

He had one guy that he'd been holding back.

00:21:47 Speaker 2

And.

00:21:49 Speaker 2

Thought he ought to be promoted before it.

00:21:56 Speaker 1

Then you moved on to Trier T.

00:22:00 Speaker 1

RIER.

00:22:03 Speaker 1

Three or South of Trier. Uh huh. OK and.

00:22:10 Speaker 1

Mentioned about seeing.

00:22:13 Speaker 1

Vehicles that were napalm.

00:22:17 Speaker 2

Yeah, they were.

00:22:20 Speaker 2

You have clothes on either side of the road that were Napoleon.

00:22:25 Speaker 2

Very well.

00:22:29 Speaker 2

We're lucky we didn't get named name Pond.

00:22:41 Speaker 1

Where do you? Where did you go from there?

00:22:49 Speaker 2

We went back.

00:22:51 Speaker 2

Where was it?

00:22:54 Speaker 2

Luxembourg, I think back to Luxembourg City.

00:22:59 Speaker 2

And.

00:23:01 Speaker 2

Managed to get along very well in Luxembourg City.

00:23:08 Speaker 1

You mentioned about.

00:23:10 Speaker 1

Crossing the Rhine on a pontoon bridge around Mainz.

00:23:13

Yeah.

00:23:16 Speaker 1

Mainz.

00:23:17 Speaker 1

Mine's.

00:23:18 Speaker 1

The last week of March of 45.

00:23:21 Speaker 1

Want to tell us a?

00:23:22 Speaker 1

Bit about.

00:23:22 Speaker 1

Describe it to us.

00:23:24 Speaker 2

Well, it was interesting.

00:23:29 Speaker 2

The.

00:23:32 Speaker 2

Vehicles had to be towed all the way down to the bridge, went across river.

00:23:41 Speaker 2

On the bridge and.

00:23:45 Speaker 2

Got the other side.

00:23:47 Speaker 2

It's OK. The other side was good. Our side was bad.

00:23:53 Speaker 2

The guy that picked the bridge, Patton, was reputed to have won.

00:24:01 Speaker 2

But.

00:24:02 Speaker 1

The guy that picked the the the where the bridge went was.

00:24:05 Speaker 2

Yeah, where the bridge went.

00:24:07

Yeah. All right.

00:24:09 Speaker 1

Patton didn't like it anymore. You did.

00:24:15 Speaker 1

Was that scary?

00:24:18 Speaker 2

Not really.

00:24:19 Speaker 1

Did you have any opposition from the Germans?

00:24:22 Speaker 2

Yeah, they were on the other side shooting at us.

00:24:25 Speaker 1

And you weren't frightened.

00:24:29 Speaker 2

No reason to be.

00:24:33 Speaker 2

We were.

00:24:36 Speaker 2

Getting across the bridge.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

A little bit.

00:24:41 Speaker 2

German for shelling.

00:24:45 Speaker 2

Big, big guns.

00:24:48 Speaker 2

If they didn't hit, you didn't make any difference.

00:24:51 Speaker 1

You just kept going, yeah.

00:25:03 Speaker 1

You also mentioned here in your memoirs.

00:25:08 Speaker 1

That you took during this time?

00:25:12 Speaker 1

A food depot or a German food depot and you were told.

00:25:19 Speaker 1

Not to let any of the German civilians get any of the food.

00:25:26 Speaker 2

We also remodeled there and the next day.

00:25:31 Speaker 2

People just shot them down.

00:25:34 Speaker 2

As they came up to get food.

00:25:38 Speaker 2

They were starving to death.

00:25:42 Speaker 2

It was a difficult situation.

00:25:46 Speaker 1

You chose not to follow the orders then?

00:25:50 Speaker 1

Wasn't when you were there?

00:25:51 Speaker 2

To shoot them.

00:25:54 Speaker 2

In order for them to just get them over there, we got them.

00:25:57 Speaker 2

And.

00:26:00 Speaker 2

And the next day, the they changed outfits.

00:26:06 Speaker 2

Shana.

00:26:08 Speaker 1

What did you think when you heard about that?

00:26:12 Speaker 2

Well.

00:26:17 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:26:18 Speaker 2

We didn't think it was very nice.

00:26:22 Speaker 2

It was a bad thing to do that we had solved the problem without shooting people.

00:26:31 Speaker 2

And.

00:26:39 Speaker 1

So then you arrived in the town of Wire Mar.

00:26:43 Speaker 2

One more young.

00:26:49 Speaker 1

And I understand that your company commander was a Captain, Bill Scott, who was in your or in the class before you at the Academy.

00:27:01 Speaker 2

He was a.

00:27:04 Speaker 2

Captain, what was it?

00:27:09 Speaker 2

XP I think.

00:27:11 Speaker 2

Was the name of that guy.

00:27:12 Speaker 1

OK.

00:27:17 Speaker 1

And then you went on to the an airfield just outside of Goa.

00:27:25

Mm.

00:27:28 Speaker 1

And you want to tell us about that?

00:27:31 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:27:32 Speaker 2

Well, we came down across the we had across the bridge, it was going down.

00:27:41 Speaker 2

On the road and.

00:27:45 Speaker 2

German Flames we had just cleared the bridge when the German planes came down and there were 4 quad 50s sitting on the other side of the bridge.

00:27:56 Speaker 2

And of course, they shot the Germans down right behind them.

00:28:02 Speaker 2

Came two American planes.

00:28:03 Speaker 2

They shot them down.

00:28:10 Speaker 1

A lot of friendly fire you.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:28:13 Speaker 1

Yeah. Well, tell us about the time that General Eisenhower, his senior commanders were arriving at this airfield and to visit a concentration camp.

00:28:26 Speaker 2

And they had.

00:28:30 Speaker 2

Came down to see what was going on.

00:28:34 Speaker 2

And did you see them?

00:28:38 Speaker 2

Tossed the airstrip so they could land.

00:28:45 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:28:46

And.

00:28:48 Speaker 2

They all went off to visit the.

00:28:54 Speaker 2

Concentration camp and we.

00:29:00 Speaker 2

You stayed back.

00:29:02 Speaker 2

Wait until they came back and got in their planes and they took off and about that time for a run, planes came down looking for the.

00:29:15 Speaker 2

For the shoot.

00:29:15 Speaker 1

But they had already left and.

00:29:17 Speaker 2

They'd already left.

00:29:19 Speaker 2

So we.

00:29:21 Speaker 2

And ended up that these four German planes were on a short runway and they plowed into each other.

00:29:31 Speaker 2

One after the other, but they didn't hurt each other. Seriously.

00:29:36 Speaker 2

They.

00:29:39 Speaker 2

We got left with four German pilots.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

And we had to send them back with rations to the ration truck.

00:29:49 Speaker 2

So we loaded them up and they spent their day the.

00:29:53 Speaker 2

Days they were with us.

00:29:56 Speaker 2

Collecting helmets and what not.

00:29:59 Speaker 2

We ship them back with a ration truck.

00:30:04 Speaker 1

Did you talk to them?

00:30:08 Speaker 1

What was that like?

00:30:10 Speaker 1

This was your.

00:30:11 Speaker 1

The guy that was shooting at you.

00:30:15 Speaker 2

Every shooting in us.

00:30:15

Cancel.

00:30:19 Speaker 2

They had missed her target.

00:30:23 Speaker 2

That we're lucky.

00:30:26 Speaker 1

They were lucky.

00:30:26 Speaker 1

Have gotten captured by the Americans.

00:30:32 Speaker 1

Did you go to see this concentration camp?

00:30:36

Yeah.

00:30:36 Speaker 1

What did you you want to describe that to us?

00:30:40

Well.

00:30:42 Speaker 2

Very bad setup, a lot of dead people around.

00:30:50 Speaker 2

Laying around.

00:30:53 Speaker 2

We didn't stay very long.

00:30:59 Speaker 2

Hey.

00:31:00 Speaker 2

And like us in there.

00:31:03 Speaker 1

Why is that?

00:31:04 Speaker 2

Well.

00:31:07 Speaker 2

They didn't like this because we were.

00:31:12 Speaker 2

Interfering with our operations, it was being taken over by the military police.

00:31:24 Speaker 2

We didn't get to see it.

00:31:27 Speaker 1

What were your feelings?

00:31:31 Speaker 2

We were against ruthless enemy.

00:31:36 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:31:51 Speaker 2

I move, you know, it came down away.

00:31:57 Speaker 2

Bridge.

00:31:59 Speaker 2

Pursue MY2USP50 ones.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

The quad did not have time to detect the planes were friendly and they were shot down to join the German planes, but such life?

00:32:15 Speaker 1

Imagine there was a lot of that happened.

00:32:19 Speaker 1

War is chaos, right?

00:32:24 Speaker 1

Then you were in chem Nets with General Patton or.

00:32:29

Yeah.

00:32:32 Speaker 2

And.

00:32:33 Speaker 1

And that's where those German planes came, huh?

00:32:36 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:32:37 Speaker 1

OK. During OK, I see.

00:32:39 Speaker 2

45.

00:32:44 Speaker 2

Patton was.

00:32:47 Speaker 2

Totally could not go to Berlin, was given very specific orders to go South.

00:32:54 Speaker 2

And he didn't like that.

00:32:59 Speaker 2

Managed.

00:33:06 Speaker 1

And then it says you bivouac somewhere near Burlington for the night.

00:33:12 Speaker 1

And you were sent the next day to go to an area in Nuremberg.

00:33:17 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:33:17 Speaker 1

Derived on the 23rd of April.

00:33:20 Speaker 2

Yep.

00:33:23 Speaker 1

And you will seem to be ahead of.

00:33:24 Speaker 1

Group or something?

00:33:26 Speaker 2

And out as a reconnaissance to go into the town and pick up two quarters and.

00:33:28

Uh.

00:33:33

Noise.

00:33:34 Speaker 2

We did that, captain. One very happy with the ones that I picked.

00:33:41 Speaker 2

Such as life.

00:33:43 Speaker 1

What was your criteria for picking it?

00:33:46 Speaker 1

Picking quarters well.

00:33:49 Speaker 1

Does anything that looked like it would stand up?

00:33:54 Speaker 1

Were there Germans living in the town and I?

00:33:57 Speaker 1

This town heard for him.

00:33:57 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:34:00

The.

00:34:01 Speaker 2

New.

00:34:01 Speaker 2

That kicked Germans out before the troops moved in.

00:34:09 Speaker 2

Very difficult.

00:34:16 Speaker 1

Where there's still German military there.

00:34:21 Speaker 1

Or are they?

00:34:22 Speaker 2

Pretty for military.

00:34:22 Speaker 1

Little touch left. Oh, OK.

00:34:25 Speaker 2

They were German military again.

00:34:27 Speaker 1

You're being shot at, but.

00:34:28 Speaker 2

Very huge.

00:34:32 Speaker 2

Yep, they passed away.

00:34:36 Speaker 1

And what kind of what were the quarters like that that that you picked was?

00:34:42 Speaker 1

Were they just people's houses or?

00:34:43 Speaker 3

How did people?

00:34:44 Speaker 2

'S houses. You just take over a house.

00:34:44

Yeah.

00:34:49 Speaker 1

And so.

00:34:49 Speaker 2

Show the Germans on.

00:34:50 Speaker 1

If somebody was living.

00:34:52 Speaker 1

You just told them to get out.

00:34:53 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:34:55

Repl.

00:34:55 Speaker 2

Hmm.

00:34:57 Speaker 2

That was the idea anyway.

00:35:00 Speaker 1

That was your job, OK?

00:35:03 Speaker 1

Manning officer didn't like his quarters.

00:35:09 Speaker 1

Then you cross the in river.

00:35:12 Speaker 2

And the annual?

00:35:12

Perfect.

00:35:13 Speaker 2

Was.

00:35:16 Speaker 2

And rivers across.

00:35:21 Speaker 2

We had a.

00:35:23 Speaker 2

A bed.

00:35:26 Speaker 2

Route up to the end of river and.

00:35:30 Speaker 2

There was a bridge here, Ponten Bridge, that was.

00:35:42 Speaker 2

It was slop.

00:35:46 Speaker 2

Things on top so that we can get across, we got across Germans in the tax.

00:35:54 Speaker 2

Were in good shape.

00:35:58 Speaker 1

Did you encounter any Germans that were surrendering?

00:36:04 Speaker 2

Umm.

00:36:07 Speaker 2

Not that I remember, but I'm sure there were some.

00:36:15 Speaker 1

And then it was shortly after that that you heard that the war was over in Europe.

00:36:22 Speaker 1

Is that true?

00:36:25 Speaker 2

OK. Over over for a long time.

00:36:28 Speaker 2

OK.

00:36:33 Speaker 1

Then your division was given the job of patrolling the Danube.

00:36:40 Speaker 1

You want to tell us about that?

00:36:42 Speaker 2

Well, that was where we ran into a lot of trouble getting down to the water.

00:36:49 Speaker 2

And.

00:36:52 Speaker 2

Going across to.

00:36:55 Speaker 2

The other side on a bridge which we built.

00:37:00 Speaker 2

And we got all the way across.

00:37:04 Speaker 2

We just climbed the bridge.

00:37:07 Speaker 2

A German plane came speeding down.

00:37:11 Speaker 2

Stream firing his guns and dropping a bomb and missed the bridge as he passed the bridge to Quad 50s.

00:37:18 Speaker 2

There were 4 Quad, 50s on either side and they just shot him down.

00:37:27 Speaker 2

American planes were right behind them.

00:37:29 Speaker 2

Shot them down.

00:37:37 Speaker 1

Now you indicate that when you're patrolling the Danube, that there were refugees coming across down to the bridge and that the Russians wouldn't let them.

00:37:44 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:37:50 Speaker 1

Cross or.

00:37:51 Speaker 2

Well, the Russians would let them cross.

00:37:56 Speaker 2

With all their belongings, and then they would take all their belongings away from them and send them back.

00:38:04 Speaker 2

And.

00:38:05 Speaker 2

So that's what we ran into and.

00:38:10 Speaker 1

So these refugees were actually trying to escape the Russians.

00:38:16 Speaker 2

They were trying to get away from it.

00:38:21 Speaker 1

And to get over to the American side.

00:38:24 Speaker 2

They were on both sides.

00:38:26 Speaker 2

They had crossed and the Russians would take.

00:38:32 Speaker 2

Their goods from and then send them back to the American side.

00:38:35 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:38:43 Speaker 1

Interesting.

00:38:47 Speaker 1

You mentioned that you actually saw some of them.

00:38:49 Speaker 1

To swim across.

00:38:51 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:38:53 Speaker 1

The Daniels, a big river.

00:38:54 Speaker 2

Yes it is.

00:38:56 Speaker 2

A long way.

00:38:58 Speaker 2

Not many of them made it.

00:39:04 Speaker 1

So while you were stationed there.

00:39:09 Speaker 1

Were there any interesting places you visited?

00:39:13 Speaker 2

No.

00:39:15

Repl.

00:39:20 Speaker 2

We went from narrow down to ***** on the.

00:39:26 Speaker 2

It was further down.

00:39:29 Speaker 2

We got through OK, safe and sound so on.

00:39:35 Speaker 1

And I understand you visited Lince and saw the lip and nausea horses.

00:39:40 Speaker 2

Oh yeah, we went up to the 6th German army.

00:39:47 Speaker 2

Stables where they had the lipinsons her and saw those.

00:39:53 Speaker 1

And they had brought those horses from.

00:39:57 Speaker 2

They had captured them from, well, they had brought them from Vienna.

00:40:07 Speaker 1

That must have been interesting.

00:40:09 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:40:09 Speaker 1

You get to ride them.

00:40:12 Speaker 2

Well, we, we didn't write Lipton's answers, but we did write several other horses.

00:40:24 Speaker 1

Yeah. You mentioned horses a lot that.

00:40:28 Speaker 1

Brought some you captured some?

00:40:30 Speaker 2

Well, we kept.

00:40:31

We.

00:40:31 Speaker 1

You can't caught them, I should say.

00:40:33 Speaker 2

Captured a bunch.

00:40:37 Speaker 2

Call Vienna captured and then.

00:40:41 Speaker 2

We had label and the next thing you know, next morning they showed up down at our place.

00:40:48 Speaker 2

So we couldn't get rid of matter, how hard we tried.

00:40:56 Speaker 1

I understand it was.

00:40:58 Speaker 1

It was during this time that you got a telegram.

00:41:02 Speaker 2

No, my wife.

00:41:04 Speaker 2

And she were telling me that.

00:41:08 Speaker 2

Son had been born.

00:41:12 Speaker 2

It was old enough to.

00:41:17 Speaker 2

No better.

00:41:19 Speaker 2

That was about all.

00:41:25 Speaker 1

And did you think that since the war was over, you'd be?

00:41:28 Speaker 1

Home soon.

00:41:30

None.

00:41:31 Speaker 2

Well, we thought that that.

00:41:35 Speaker 2

We were.

00:41:38 Speaker 2

And.

00:41:41 Speaker 2

Please the 80th Division.

00:41:46 Speaker 2

Ready to go home? We weren't attached to the 80th.

00:41:52 Speaker 2

We were only attached. We weren't part of them, so we didn't go with them.

00:42:01

I.

00:42:02 Speaker 2

Let them go.

00:42:06 Speaker 1

Must have been kind of disappointing.

00:42:11 Speaker 2

We were.

00:42:22 Speaker 1

Tell us about the time you got your foot locker stolen with all your uniforms in them, your belongings.

00:42:29 Speaker 2

Well, that was.

00:42:33 Speaker 2

On the way we.

00:42:34 Speaker 2

Were in Belgium at the time.

00:42:38 Speaker 2

And we're on our way to.

00:42:42

And.

00:42:43 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:42:46 Speaker 2

Place for work and spend the night and we stopped.

00:42:52 Speaker 2

My foot locker for some reason or other got dropped off.

00:42:58 Speaker 2

And all of my uniforms were in it.

00:43:03 Speaker 2

Those and everything else.

00:43:05 Speaker 2

So I had to.

00:43:08 Speaker 2

Quickly get together.

00:43:13 Speaker 2

Uniform at least I was presented, presented with.

00:43:19 Speaker 2

My clothes.

00:43:21 Speaker 2

I never saw the.

00:43:23 Speaker 2

Close that. I had not so carefully nourished sitting.

00:43:32 Speaker 2

They were gone.

00:43:36 Speaker 1

Did you have a camera?

00:43:37 Speaker 1

You were over there.

00:43:40 Speaker 2

No, I didn't.

00:43:43 Speaker 2

I had one of our Members had a camera which he had taken a few pictures.

00:43:54 Speaker 2

Of us in Germany and.

00:43:56 Speaker 1

Those are the pictures you have.

00:43:58 Speaker 2

Those are the pictures.

00:44:01

Around.

00:44:01

Yeah.

00:44:09 Speaker 1

When you heard that the atom bomb was dropped on them.

00:44:17 Speaker 1

Nagasaki. Did you and you heard that the war was over.

00:44:24 Speaker 1

What were your thoughts then?

00:44:26 Speaker 2

Within.

00:44:27 Speaker 2

In here that the war was over, but.

00:44:31 Speaker 2

There would be a reaction from the Japanese people.

00:44:37 Speaker 2

At that time.

00:44:38 Speaker 1

Because you were getting. Were you getting ready to go?

00:44:41 Speaker 1

To the Pacific, yeah.

00:44:45 Speaker 1

So when you heard that this atom bomb had been dropped.

00:44:50 Speaker 1

You felt.

00:44:52 Speaker 1

This is the beginning of the end.

00:44:53 Speaker 1

Going to get this reaction.

00:44:57 Speaker 2

Yep.

00:44:58 Speaker 2

That sure was.

00:44:59 Speaker 1

That must have been a great relief.

00:45:02 Speaker 2

Well, not really.

00:45:03

Do you?

00:45:04 Speaker 2

We were interested in getting into the war.

00:45:09 Speaker 1

OK.

00:45:11 Speaker 1

So the war ended for.

00:45:13 Speaker 1

Before you can really get into it.

00:45:15 Speaker 2

Yep for.

00:45:15 Speaker 2

Can you get into it?

00:45:19 Speaker 1

Well, that's what you'd been groomed for, right?

00:45:26 Speaker 1

So then I understand that you were in Nuremberg when the trials started and you were able to sit in on a.

00:45:33 Speaker 1

Bit of that.

00:45:33 Speaker 2

Sat in on quite a bit of the trials.

00:45:38 Speaker 1

And what did you think of the testimony?

00:45:42 Speaker 2

Well.

00:45:44 Speaker 2

Not much.

00:45:48 Speaker 2

We sat listen to the lawyers as they expound on both sides. And then.

00:45:56 Speaker 2

We weren't very pleased with the results.

00:46:03 Speaker 2

But they did take the.

00:46:09 Speaker 2

People away.

00:46:13 Speaker 2

When?

00:46:16 Speaker 1

Did you see any of the defendants? Could you see them?

00:46:20 Speaker 1

Could you see any of the defendants?

00:46:25 Speaker 2

Sit here and they'd be down here in front and.

00:46:29 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:46:30 Speaker 2

We were able to see them quite readily.

00:46:36 Speaker 1

What did you think of them?

00:46:40 Speaker 2

There were Nazis.

00:46:41

Yeah.

00:46:44 Speaker 2

They weren't the type of people we associated.

00:46:49 Speaker 2

As a rule.

00:46:52 Speaker 1

And not ones you wanted to associate with.

00:47:00 Speaker 1

Then was your.

00:47:01 Speaker 1

Was your wife ever allowed to join you?

00:47:03 Speaker 1

Look like you.

00:47:04 Speaker 1

Going to be there for a while.

00:47:07 Speaker 2

Umm.

00:47:10 Speaker 2

I had enough points.

00:47:13 Speaker 2

On my medals and what not.

00:47:17 Speaker 2

For to come in first.

00:47:18 Speaker 2

But she came in the second ship and was.

00:47:22 Speaker 1

This a ship that brought American wives over is that.

00:47:29 Speaker 1

I'm not familiar with how that worked.

00:47:31

You.

00:47:31 Speaker 1

Had to have a certain amount of points or.

00:47:34 Speaker 2

That's yeah, you had to have certain points before you could get your wife over and.

00:47:40 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:47:44 Speaker 2

She got over safe and sound and being.

00:47:49 Speaker 2

And I'm also in Dorf, which was by Nuremberg.

00:47:57 Speaker 1

When you say you got a house.

00:47:59 Speaker 1

Was it a Germans house?

00:48:02 Speaker 1

What happened to the people that were living there?

00:48:05 Speaker 2

Well, the people that were living there.

00:48:09 Speaker 2

The guy was off to the war with Russia and she was very happy to have somebody pick it up and pay it.

00:48:17 Speaker 1

Some records I see OK.

00:48:23 Speaker 1

Interesting.

00:48:24 Speaker 1

Did you make any German friends?

00:48:27

While you were there.

00:48:28 Speaker 1

Or did you associate?

00:48:29 Speaker 1

With Americans.

00:48:36 Speaker 2

Was quite a friend.

00:48:40 Speaker 2

The fact he gave me the dog he had trained.

00:48:47 Speaker 2

And along very well, I went back to the states with the dogs.

00:48:53

To.

00:48:57 Speaker 1

So he hadn't been in the German army.

00:49:01 Speaker 2

He had been in World War 1.

00:49:04 Speaker 2

That he had been in World War 2.

00:49:06 Speaker 2

Interesting.

00:49:11 Speaker 2

He was a good guy.

00:49:13 Speaker 1

And did you live off the economy of the town, or did you have a a base where you could buy things?
Or how did that work?

00:49:22 Speaker 2

We.

00:49:22 Speaker 2

Didn't have a base at all.

00:49:26 Speaker 2

And then the.

00:49:30 Speaker 2

We live don't see economy basically.

00:49:33

I do.

00:49:35 Speaker 2

What we did?

00:49:38 Speaker 2

I contributed to it by shooting Raybuck, which was a little short German deer and at June, then my shotgun.

00:49:52 Speaker 2

Then 451.

00:49:57 Speaker 2

Wait, you said?

00:50:00

Yeah.

00:50:03 Speaker 1

Did you have a garden?

00:50:05 Speaker 1

Did you have a garden or did you buy local produce from the?

00:50:11 Speaker 2

We didn't have the garden.

00:50:12 Speaker 1

Farmers.

00:50:20 Speaker 1

Now I found this interesting.

00:50:22 Speaker 1

It said that you.

00:50:26 Speaker 1

You had.

00:50:29 Speaker 1

A hotel that had been built to accommodate unwed German mothers while.

00:50:33 Speaker 1

Gave birth.

00:50:37 Speaker 1

And the state would raise the children.

00:50:43 Speaker 2

Before we took it over.

00:50:46 Speaker 2

Took over this building and made it into an officers quarters.

00:50:53 Speaker 1

Well, that's interesting, I mean.

00:50:58 Speaker 1

Were these women that were German women who had?

00:51:02

Who?

00:51:04 Speaker 1

Who had gotten pregnant by Americans, or just any Germans?

00:51:09 Speaker 2

By anybody.

00:51:11 Speaker 2

Home.

00:51:14 Speaker 1

And so you this building was taken.

00:51:16 Speaker 1

Then by.

00:51:17 Speaker 1

Americans, when they came in, I see, OK.

00:51:20 Speaker 1

And that's where your wife lived for.

00:51:22 Speaker 1

Little bit.

00:51:23 Speaker 2

She came over while I was there.

00:51:28 Speaker 2

And join me and.

00:51:32 Speaker 1

And you were promoted to a captain? No around that time.

00:51:39 Speaker 1

You mentioned something also about segregated troops.

00:51:44 Speaker 2

There were.

00:51:46 Speaker 1

And you mentioned one night about a troops manning an ammunition dump.

00:51:54 Speaker 1

Enlisted were.

00:51:56 Speaker 1

The officers are white.

00:51:59 Speaker 1

Tell us.

00:51:59 Speaker 1

Can you talk a little bit about that?

00:52:01 Speaker 3

Sure, sure.

00:52:07 Speaker 2

Officers were very white and the soldiers were very black.

00:52:15 Speaker 1

And they wanted to go to Munich on their time off, the black guys.

00:52:19 Speaker 2

Anyone in prosa?

00:52:21 Speaker 2

Road into Munich and German.

00:52:28 Speaker 2

So they went back and got everything already.

00:52:33 Speaker 2

The none of the officers with major. Yeah, major.

00:52:50 Speaker 2

I forget his name now.

00:52:53

He.

00:52:54 Speaker 2

Later became the mayor of.

00:52:58 Speaker 2

Beverly Hills.

00:53:03 Speaker 2

He did very well.

00:53:07 Speaker 1

That's interesting.

00:53:10 Speaker 1

Setting.

00:53:14 Speaker 1

Then you were. You went back to the United States.

00:53:19 Speaker 1

After that.

00:53:19 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:53:21 Speaker 1

And again, your wife and your son made the crossing.

00:53:27 Speaker 1

Understand it was not a pleasant crossing.

00:53:29 Speaker 2

No, it wasn't.

00:53:31 Speaker 1

Everybody was sick.

00:53:31 Speaker 2

Used to, I used to have to take all all kids down to the nest all everyday.

00:53:39 Speaker 1

Everybody else was.

00:53:42 Speaker 2

Fortunately, I didn't get sick.

00:53:49 Speaker 1

So then after you got back to the states, where were you stationed?

00:53:59 Speaker 1

Due to the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

00:54:02 Speaker 2

In Aberdeen, I'm trying to think.

00:54:04

They.

00:54:08 Speaker 2

Sent us to commanding General Staff College.

00:54:13 Speaker 2

Not.

00:54:15 Speaker 2

Some distance away from the shop.

00:54:21 Speaker 2

C And we live there.

00:54:25 Speaker 2

A year?

00:54:27 Speaker 2

That's where I got to meet John Eisenhower.

00:54:32 Speaker 2

Got to know him pretty well. His mother and his father was running the show.

00:54:48 Speaker 1

So you spent the next two years getting your master's.

00:54:52 Speaker 1

In electrical engineering.

00:54:55 Speaker 1

Did you get to use that much?

00:54:58 Speaker 2

Not too much.

00:55:03 Speaker 2

I ended up.

00:55:07 Speaker 2

To the degree routine.

00:55:11 Speaker 2

And we got done with that.

00:55:16 Speaker 2

I got over to the one of Nate Arsenal.

00:55:21 Speaker 2

Which was an interesting experience.

00:55:28 Speaker 2

The.

00:55:30 Speaker 2

People at the arsenal were all.

00:55:36 Speaker 2

Civilians, of course.

00:55:39 Speaker 2

And they were moved in alongside her.

00:55:45 Speaker 2

Get fed with them, with our education. What not.

00:55:53 Speaker 2

Didn't work out too well.

00:55:57 Speaker 2

We weren't.

00:55:58

I.

00:55:58 Speaker 2

Weren't.

00:56:00 Speaker 2

I hear.

00:56:02 Speaker 2

Let know few people pretty well.

00:56:08 Speaker 2

51.

00:56:10 Speaker 2

That used to go hunting with me.

00:56:15 Speaker 2

Would go up in the mountains.

00:56:17 Speaker 2

Try to shoot a deer.

00:56:25 Speaker 2

They did very well.

00:56:29 Speaker 2

I couldn't object to.

00:56:34 Speaker 2

There weren't many. There were only.

00:56:39 Speaker 2

3 or 4 enlisted people and the rest were officers who were moved in to the Earth.

00:56:46

Yeah.

00:56:53 Speaker 1

So I understand at some point then you were stationed.

00:56:56 Speaker 1

Were sent to Korea, yes.

00:57:05 Speaker 1

What was your job there?

00:57:07 Speaker 2

My girl.

00:57:07 Speaker 2

My job was basically.

00:57:13 Speaker 2

The same as it had been in Germany, which was repairing vehicles.

00:57:20 Speaker 2

Arguments.

00:57:24 Speaker 2

Pretty well with that.

00:57:27 Speaker 2

They did pretty well.

00:57:30 Speaker 1

Did you work with the Korean military?

00:57:33 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:57:33

Yeah.

00:57:37 Speaker 2

I sat here in Korean.

00:57:37 Speaker 2

Great talent.

00:57:41 Speaker 2

Here. So we got along pretty well.

00:57:45 Speaker 1

Could you speak?

00:57:47 Speaker 1

I mean, did you have a mutual language?

00:57:49 Speaker 1

They speak English.

00:57:50 Speaker 2

He spoke more English than Hindi in Korean.

00:57:53

Yeah.

00:57:57 Speaker 1

What was that like working with them?

00:58:00 Speaker 2

Very good. I got to like the South Koreans.

00:58:07 Speaker 2

Which?

00:58:10 Speaker 2

There's a problem.

00:58:14 Speaker 1

Why was that a problem?

00:58:16 Speaker 2

Well, the problem is the North Koreans.

00:58:22 Speaker 1

Was there still fighting going on there?

00:58:26 Speaker 2

38 parallels being shot at both sides and.

00:58:36 Speaker 2

We got up there one day and saw it.

00:58:40 Speaker 2

Bonneton.

00:58:43 Speaker 1

So were you training them how to repair vehicles and armament or?

00:58:48 Speaker 2

Yeah, she had to be very careful.

00:58:50 Speaker 1

Why is that?

00:58:51 Speaker 2

Because you couldn't criticize a Sergeant.

00:58:56 Speaker 2

For the way he.

00:58:58 Speaker 2

Rep.

00:59:01 Speaker 2

You had to praise him.

00:59:03 Speaker 2

Same time that.

00:59:07 Speaker 2

He was active.

00:59:11 Speaker 2

Well, because.

00:59:14

They.

00:59:15 Speaker 2

Dreams, were you, you'd lose your ability to talk to anybody.

00:59:17

The.

00:59:22 Speaker 2

If you just cracked down on them and.

00:59:25

Mm.

00:59:28 Speaker 2

With no no friend.

00:59:31 Speaker 2

They.

00:59:33 Speaker 1

Didn't want to lose face.

00:59:35 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:59:37 Speaker 1

So that was kind of a cultural thing that you.

00:59:39 Speaker 1

To.

00:59:40 Speaker 1

Learn very quickly.

00:59:41 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:59:44 Speaker 2

I didn't earn 8 Kemp she though.

00:59:47 Speaker 1

Did or didn't? I didn't.

00:59:52 Speaker 1

What is kimchi?

00:59:53 Speaker 2

Kimchi is is.

00:59:58 Speaker 2

Pot of cabbage with spices put in the ground and brought out the spring of spring camp sheets.

01:00:07 Speaker 2

Summer campsheets fall, Campsie mutter campshe, and.

01:00:14 Speaker 2

Gets very interesting.

01:00:15

Right.

01:00:17 Speaker 1

He has a distinctive taste.

01:00:19 Speaker 2

Yeah.

01:00:21 Speaker 1

Never could acquire it.

01:00:23 Speaker 1

You know, I'm sure.

01:00:24 Speaker 1

Eaten cabbage in your life, but.

01:00:27 Speaker 2

Yeah. The officer I replaced.

01:00:30 Speaker 2

He couldn't stand it and.

01:00:35 Speaker 2

There because people are friends and come in and eat kimchi.

01:00:41 Speaker 2

And they would talk to.

01:00:42 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:00:44 Speaker 2

Just couldn't. Couldn't bring himself to barrel in it.

01:00:51 Speaker 1

Didn't bother you that much?

01:00:54

OK.

01:00:56 Speaker 3

It's good.

01:00:59 Speaker 1

So after Korea, then where were you sent?

01:01:06 Speaker 2

I think I'll send back to the states.

01:01:14 Speaker 2

Came back to the States and got along very well.

01:01:18 Speaker 1

Mm.

01:01:22 Speaker 1

And then I understand you were in Japan for a couple of years too.

01:01:25 Speaker 2

Yeah.

01:01:26 Speaker 1

And your family was able to join you there?

01:01:28 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's right.

01:01:34 Speaker 1

What did you see while you were in Japan?

01:01:37 Speaker 2

When we saw not Fuji then I'll set kitchen window.

01:01:45 Speaker 2

Right on Mount Fuji and.

01:01:50 Speaker 2

You got one. Fine.

01:01:52 Speaker 2

Yeah.

01:01:53 Speaker 1

You liked that tour duty?

01:01:56 Speaker 2

It was a very interesting tour duty.

01:01:59

Yeah.

01:02:00 Speaker 1

Got quite a varied experience, haven't you?

01:02:03 Speaker 3

That I remember one story from Japan.

01:02:06 Speaker 3

You probably remember it better.

01:02:08 Speaker 3

I had two older brothers.

01:02:10 Speaker 3

And did they get into a rock fight with some of the Japanese kids?

01:02:16 Speaker 3

Remember that story?

01:02:18 Speaker 2

And.

01:02:19 Speaker 2

Jim and son Dave and I did, Jim.

01:02:25 Speaker 2

Picked up a rock.

01:02:34 Speaker 1

Imagine you had cut your hands full.

01:02:40 Speaker 1

So you stayed in the military until 1971?

01:02:47 Speaker 1

And you retired as a Colonel.

01:02:50 Speaker 1

And then I understand you went to work for.

01:02:54 Speaker 3

Hughes.

01:02:55 Speaker 1

Aircraft and how long did you work for them?

01:02:59 Speaker 1

20 years.

01:03:02 Speaker 2

10/10/12 years something like that.

01:03:06 Speaker 1

As an electrical engineer, what what project were you working on?

01:03:12 Speaker 2

Well, I was more.

01:03:15 Speaker 2

Consultant than anything else.

01:03:20 Speaker 2

You used to ask me all sorts of things.

01:03:23 Speaker 3

You work in the shipyards and you work in here.

01:03:27 Speaker 3

You're glad and visit different shipyards.

01:03:30 Speaker 2

Well, we got into use. The ships were in different yards.

01:03:36 Speaker 1

Traveled a lot with them, didn't you? Yeah.

01:03:40 Speaker 2

100 and 1000 miles a year.

01:03:43 Speaker 1

Did you find it difficult to go from?

01:03:48 Speaker 1

So many years in the military to civilian life.

01:03:53 Speaker 1

Made the transition very.

01:03:56 Speaker 2

Made it quite quite.

01:03:57 Speaker 1

Mm.

01:03:58 Speaker 1

Did any of your children go in the military?

01:04:01 Speaker 2

My.

01:04:03 Speaker 2

August son is in graduate of the Naval Academy and my.

01:04:10 Speaker 2

Next son is a graduate of the Military Academy.

01:04:14 Speaker 2

And then came Nancy.

01:04:17 Speaker 2

She graduated as a lawyer.

01:04:21 Speaker 2

And the youngest son, Dave.

01:04:24 Speaker 2

Graduated from Santa Barbara Research.

01:04:28 Speaker 1

You know.

01:04:28

Good.

01:04:30 Speaker 1

Well, Bill, is there anything else you want to tell us about your World War 2 experience?

01:04:36 Speaker 2

Not that I can think of.

01:04:38 Speaker 2

Covered it pretty well.

01:04:40 Speaker 1

How about you?

01:04:41 Speaker 1

Can you pick little particular stories? OK.

01:04:44 Speaker 1

We're going to take a shot of your medals and some other things here.

01:04:58 Speaker 1

OK, bill, this is a picture of all your medals.

01:05:03 Speaker 1

Your badges.

01:05:06 Speaker 1

Got quite a few there.

01:05:15 Speaker 1

Dog tags are in there.

01:05:37 Speaker 1

Well, Bill, I want to thank you very much for your service to our country and for this interview.

01:05:45 Speaker 2

I.