

Eugene Patrick O'Neil Interview

Company C, 319th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Charles T. Harrell)

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

00:00:05 Speaker 1

Now you're going into Capricorn.

00:00:07 Speaker 2

Castle and we dug in outside a castle there and.

00:00:12 Speaker 2

It was a lot of, you know, action there.

00:00:16 Speaker 2

Fact the Germans were.

00:00:19 Speaker 2

Turning tanks out right out of the factory on us.

00:00:23 Speaker 2

And but.

00:00:26 Speaker 2

That evening, the next morning, most of us were pretty much exhausted.

00:00:31 Speaker 2

Fell asleep.

00:00:32 Speaker 2

3 tanks came down the road and this fellow John Dolan, who was hit on D-Day and was wounded six days later, came back up the 80th later on.

00:00:44 Speaker 2

God, I took a.

00:00:45 Speaker 2

I knocked 3 tanks out the bazooka.

00:00:48 Speaker 1

Right there with inside of where you were sitting.

00:00:51 Speaker 2

Right in there.

00:00:51 Speaker 2

We didn't.

00:00:52 Speaker 2

I was asleep. Help.

00:00:55 Speaker 2

Here you go.

00:00:56 Speaker 2

Your body only works so.

00:00:58 Speaker 2

So with most of the guys asleep there, we had, we had outpost it and.

00:01:03 Speaker 2

Forth but.

00:01:06 Speaker 2

But he knocked.

00:01:07 Speaker 2

We're trying to get him a DFC for.

00:01:09 Speaker 2

Still in the.

00:01:11 Speaker 2

Working on that now I've got some.

00:01:14

Uh.

00:01:15 Speaker 2

But sixty years later is kind of kind of difficult.

00:01:19 Speaker 1

Well, he knocked at the tanks with that loud noise.

00:01:22 Speaker 1

You all wake up.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

Wake me up.

00:01:26 Speaker 2

I mean, firing was a routine.

00:01:28 Speaker 2

I mean, unless it was coming in on you, you didn't pay attention to it.

00:01:33 Speaker 2

You could actually listen to know where the shelves are going.

00:01:37 Speaker 1

So.

00:01:38 Speaker 2

Shell came.

00:01:39 Speaker 2

It didn't mean anything to you.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

It's routine.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

How far away would a shell hit that?

00:01:45 Speaker 1

You really notice it?

00:01:48 Speaker 2

I guess.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

I have to hit within about 50.

00:01:52 Speaker 2

Or so.

00:01:53 Speaker 2

I couldn't worry about didn't have your number on it.

00:01:55 Speaker 1

It wouldn't work that.

00:02:01 Speaker 1

What else happened there, Castle?

00:02:03 Speaker 2

Oh, we took Castle and.

00:02:10 Speaker 2

I think we went, we stayed over.

00:02:14 Speaker 2

In town of Castle.

00:02:17 Speaker 2

There was.

00:02:20 Speaker 2

A lycra factory there?

00:02:23 Speaker 2

People got whole likers and stuff like that.

00:02:26 Speaker 2

Things like that.

00:02:27 Speaker 1

You mentioned that we took.

00:02:29 Speaker 1

What was your job in the process of taking that club?

00:02:32 Speaker 2

Just one of the guys, one of the troops.

00:02:36 Speaker 2

Just.

00:02:37 Speaker 2

Move in in numbers, that's all.

00:02:41 Speaker 2

Got shot at but.

00:02:44 Speaker 2

It didn't hit me, so didn't bother me man.

00:02:48 Speaker 2

Had a point there where?

00:02:51 Speaker 2

You're kind of immune to that kind of.

00:02:53 Speaker 2

And it's it's a lot of people can't understand that. I mean it's.

00:02:59 Speaker 2

And Jenna Bradley? Some did better than anybody ever did with a Rifleman.

00:03:04

None.

00:03:05 Speaker 2

That goes on day-to-day.

00:03:09 Speaker 2

Until the point where he's either carried out or the war is ended.

00:03:15 Speaker 2

And that's how the attitude is.

00:03:17 Speaker 2

A day-to-day operations.

00:03:19 Speaker 2

You know hero.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

Brave.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

It's something that you.

00:03:21 Speaker 2

To do.

00:03:23 Speaker 1

You mentioned you wanted to trade it.

00:03:25 Speaker 1

Got a special award?

00:03:27 Speaker 1

Were there any recognized heroes in your your squad that you could sit back even at that time and say, my goodness, either this guy's crazy or he's a superhero?

00:03:39 Speaker 2

Well, none of us because we didn't have what they have today, the media.

00:03:42 Speaker 2

That they have today.

00:03:44 Speaker 2

Was you didn't see any correspondence up with us?

00:03:49 Speaker 2

And unless somebody took the time to write you up and said, well, Lordy, Murphy summed it up better than anybody else.

00:03:57 Speaker 2

He says.

00:03:58

He says.

00:03:59 Speaker 2

I've got the awards, but my men with me deserved it as much, if not more than I.

00:04:01

Run.

00:04:05

None.

00:04:06 Speaker 1

So when you were there with your squad, you didn't see any necessarily?

00:04:13 Speaker 1

Acts of bravery that would.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

No, nothing that you did would not of the ordinary that you wouldn't do.

00:04:18 Speaker 2

Mean I dragged this guy to a lot of fire.

00:04:21 Speaker 2

But it was.

00:04:23 Speaker 2

I should do.

00:04:25 Speaker 2

There.

00:04:26 Speaker 1

Did you see anybody? A castle that that captured any German prisoners?

00:04:31 Speaker 2

No, we moved.

00:04:33 Speaker 2

From castle infantry outfits didn't stay on the the.

00:04:40 Speaker 2

Headquarters, companies and all would come in and take over, MPs and all.

00:04:45 Speaker 2

They.

00:04:45 Speaker 2

Keep us in any one place because.

00:04:48 Speaker 2

We moved from there.

00:04:49 Speaker 2

Out of Castle to Guerra and Gotha.

00:04:54 Speaker 2

And we.

00:04:56 Speaker 2

Were in on the.

00:04:58 Speaker 2

Fully liberated.

00:05:01 Speaker 2

Buchenwald.

00:05:03 Speaker 2

The famous concentration camp.

00:05:06 Speaker 2

And I didn't go in some of my friends went in.

00:05:10 Speaker 2

Got some pictures of it.

00:05:12 Speaker 2

Couple pictures of of it, but.

00:05:16 Speaker 2

And I do remember what the stench was.

00:05:19 Speaker 2

Was just a sickening smell.

00:05:23 Speaker 2

From rotten dead bodies and all over around there. But.

00:05:26 Speaker 2

I was just on the outskirts. I saw men like you weighing about 75 lbs. So he just would figure yourself what you would look like at 75 lbs.

00:05:36 Speaker 2

So, and they couldn't eat anything because they did.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

Would kill.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

But then being kind to him, a lot of times is the wrong thing that we could do is give him.

00:05:47 Speaker 1

Food or anything like that, is that the first time you had realized the evilness of the Nazis?

00:05:56 Speaker 1

Or did you even realize it at the time?

00:05:59 Speaker 2

Well, we.

00:05:59 Speaker 2

Of the evilness of them, because we know that.

00:06:05 Speaker 2

What they did at Melbourne in in doing the balls when they shot over our man, So what he has has done, but I never realized how evil.

00:06:15 Speaker 2

I heard of concentration camps, but I never knew anything was like that.

00:06:21 Speaker 2

You know, until and I didn't only saw.

00:06:24 Speaker 2

The outskirts of it.

00:06:26 Speaker 2

Didn't go in.

00:06:28 Speaker 2

And then we moved out the next day.

00:06:31

Word.

00:06:31 Speaker 1

Did you move there?

00:06:33 Speaker 2

Right on across to.

00:06:36 Speaker 2

Almost outside of Kim Nits.

00:06:43 Speaker 1

What you do there?

00:06:46 Speaker 2

Let me just.

00:06:48 Speaker 2

Move there up to that point, we did a liberated slave labor camp, but it was nothing like the.

00:06:56 Speaker 2

There we were hit.

00:06:58 Speaker 2

You know, small arms far here, there and so forth.

00:07:02 Speaker 2

Yeah, but nothing really hit anything major.

00:07:06 Speaker 2

Up on the.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

Autobahn. When we're moving up in trucks.

00:07:14 Speaker 2

We had a.

00:07:15 Speaker 2

Gun open up on us.

00:07:18 Speaker 2

Out there and a guy sitting next to me.

00:07:22 Speaker 2

Hit in.

00:07:23 Speaker 2

Leg.

00:07:23 Speaker 2

And machine gun had to go all the way down that truck and didn't get anybody else but him.

00:07:28 Speaker 2

I sat next to him and he lost his leg later on.

00:07:33 Speaker 2

Glenn Sandler.

00:07:35 Speaker 2

Sadler.

00:07:37 Speaker 2

But medics were.

00:07:38 Speaker 2

Treated him right away but still couldn't save his leg.

00:07:40 Speaker 2

I think he must have hit an artery.

00:07:42 Speaker 1

Did you have to jump?

00:07:43 Speaker 1

Of the truck when it went.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

All jumped out of the truck and got down behind an embankment.

00:07:48 Speaker 2

Then we sent out I believe a a platoon out to get that it wasn't our platoon 'cause we got hit there.

00:07:56

Yeah.

00:07:59 Speaker 2

And from there.

00:08:03 Speaker 2

From Ken nitz.

00:08:04 Speaker 2

So to Chemnitz, there, which we didn't go, that's where the.

00:08:10 Speaker 2

It's the name of the river.

00:08:11 Speaker 2

That the Russians.

00:08:13 Speaker 2

You met the odor.

00:08:15 Speaker 2

No. Wasn't the Otter River.

00:08:18 Speaker 2

I can't think of the.

00:08:18 Speaker 2

Well, it's famous river run through there.

00:08:22

Where?

00:08:23 Speaker 2

We met the Russians.

00:08:24 Speaker 1

Were you there at that day?

00:08:25 Speaker 2

No, I didn't meet them.

00:08:27 Speaker 2

I at least swung us South.

00:08:30 Speaker 2

Down through Bamberg, Nuremberg, and.

00:08:37 Speaker 2

And on through to Austria, where we finished up.

00:08:42 Speaker 2

1000 thing.

00:08:45 Speaker 2

In in.

00:08:48 Speaker 2

Nuremberg we take the town was pretty secure and everything else. And we laid over there and sort of patrolled it.

00:08:58 Speaker 2

But we got a shower.

00:08:59 Speaker 2

Shower. I got me since December 44.

00:09:03 Speaker 1

How did you?

00:09:04 Speaker 1

Well, probably didn't stay too clean, but had.

00:09:06 Speaker 2

Well, you kept yourself as clean as you could.

00:09:09 Speaker 2

You would take what we call bass.

00:09:12 Speaker 2

The steel pod.

00:09:14 Speaker 2

And if we took a little country town, somebody had these cook stoves, water jackets, hot water jackets. We need hot water nose and put it in the pot and wash off.

00:09:24 Speaker 2

Best we could.

00:09:26 Speaker 2

We didn't get any change in clothes or anything, but that's we always had a change of socks.

00:09:32 Speaker 2

They made sure of that, but I recall getting any other change until.

00:09:35

Replay.

00:09:38 Speaker 2

Till that April 45.

00:09:41 Speaker 1

How much marching did you do versus riding in trucks from battle to battle took place to play?

00:09:47 Speaker 2

Most of it was marching, walking.

00:09:49 Speaker 2

We didn't ride too much.

00:09:53 Speaker 1

About food, where you get your food.

00:09:56 Speaker 2

We carried K rations with us and wherever we stopped, if the kitchen could catch up with us, the kitchen would.

00:10:04 Speaker 2

Come in and cook for the company.

00:10:06 Speaker 1

And then you would line up in a line and go through the kitchen line.

00:10:09 Speaker 2

Right. Probably go back and buy.

00:10:13 Speaker 2

Squads of platoons or whatever.

00:10:15 Speaker 2

Nobody. Everybody went back at one time.

00:10:19 Speaker 2

And then we carried K rations with us and.

00:10:23 Speaker 2

They had a breakfast, dinner and supper in the krasins.

00:10:28 Speaker 1

Where did you sleep most of the time?

00:10:33 Speaker 2

In the ground someplace, wherever you find.

00:10:35 Speaker 1

Usually it was on the ground or was it in houses or sheds or?

00:10:37 Speaker 2

Well, in places we were in town, we took a town would be in the houses.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

Not, it'd wherever we could find a place to sleep.

00:10:44 Speaker 1

Was there any time that you had to eject a civilian family so that your folks could?

00:10:50 Speaker 1

Have a place?

00:10:50 Speaker 2

They weren't there when we got there.

00:10:52 Speaker 2

Of the civilians were gone.

00:10:54 Speaker 1

Was there any civilians that you came across that that were destitute?

00:11:02 Speaker 2

No, I never.

00:11:03 Speaker 2

Noticed anything like?

00:11:04 Speaker 2

See, we hit so fast.

00:11:07 Speaker 2

An infantry outfit didn't linger.

00:11:11 Speaker 2

People coming in behind us, the military, government people.

00:11:17 Speaker 2

MPs and so forth.

00:11:19 Speaker 2

Then, then the people started coming out of there.

00:11:22 Speaker 2

Basements, or wherever they were hiding and so forth into the towns they saw this we didn't there.

00:11:28 Speaker 1

The civilians were all hiding them.

00:11:30 Speaker 2

We're really hiding with it.

00:11:31 Speaker 1

Where from here?

00:11:33 Speaker 1

Was there anytime that it's the civilian played a pivotal role, important part in the battle?

00:11:40 Speaker 1

None that you saw.

00:11:41

18.

00:11:44 Speaker 1

As you can you continue to across.

00:11:49 Speaker 1

From Belgium to into Germany.

00:11:53 Speaker 1

Did you notice?

00:11:56 Speaker 1

How destroyed the landscape look like versus Belgium? I'd say from southern Germany.

00:12:04 Speaker 2

Well, the landscape you notice from the time you went across France and so forth right on through and some of the towns we went in, there wasn't anything hardly left of the town. There had been totally destroyed.

00:12:18 Speaker 2

And you know.

00:12:21

In the.

00:12:23 Speaker 2

In the 45 period there.

00:12:27 Speaker 2

We started sending 1000 planes over these cities.

00:12:31 Speaker 1

Did you see these big air armados at any time?

00:12:36 Speaker 2

There were too high up to see them.

00:12:40 Speaker 1

We typically think of the American soldiers more moralistic than than the enemy.

00:12:47 Speaker 1

Was there any times that you saw our soldiers do reprehensible things?

00:12:52 Speaker 2

On know of situation, I didn't see it there.

00:12:58 Speaker 2

You know it's.

00:12:59 Speaker 2

You hear a lot of stories like that.

00:13:02 Speaker 2

And I know situation where our soldiers actually shot 2 Germans.

00:13:11

Yeah.

00:13:11

But.

00:13:12 Speaker 2

We saw him the next day. No, we didn't.

00:13:14 Speaker 1

Soldiers are civilians soldiers.

00:13:19 Speaker 2

Is out of revenge so.

00:13:22 Speaker 2

What?

00:13:23 Speaker 2

I mean, there's a lot of that went on.

00:13:26 Speaker 2

So in situations I know it probably couldn't take any prisoners.

00:13:31 Speaker 2

Have no choice.

00:13:32 Speaker 1

How about looting?

00:13:34 Speaker 2

Oh, you looted?

00:13:37 Speaker 2

No question about that.

00:13:41 Speaker 2

It's.

00:13:42 Speaker 2

But we mainly took.

00:13:44 Speaker 2

Look for self light cameras and.

00:13:48 Speaker 2

4.

00:13:49 Speaker 2

They like guns.

00:13:52 Speaker 2

You know, everybody wanted to get a Luger, which I never did.

00:13:57 Speaker 2

And almost get killed one time by.

00:14:02 Speaker 2

Sergeant von fall bluer.

00:14:04 Speaker 1

What happened at?

00:14:05 Speaker 2

We outside of this town, we got orders to move up behind these artillery positions and clean them out and so forth, he went in there.

00:14:16 Speaker 2

And we captured just one.

00:14:20 Speaker 2

And the Sergeant Mars is a pair of binoculars, not a liver, but a pair of binoculars hanging on the breach of the gun, I guess.

00:14:29 Speaker 2

Whatever they call it.

00:14:31 Speaker 2

And he reached for it when he did, it went off down to the town where our GIS were. And our Lieutenant got on the phone on radio.

00:14:40 Speaker 2

Don't fire back. Don't.

00:14:41 Speaker 2

Back.

00:14:43 Speaker 2

Yeah, but just so these things, I mean.

00:14:50 Speaker 2

Those guys were only interested in military.

00:14:53 Speaker 2

Things as souvenirs and stuff which then didn't mean anything to the Germans, I mean.

00:14:59

There.

00:15:00 Speaker 1

Did your company fight against the best of the German army, the s s unit?

00:15:07 Speaker 2

We hit DSL.

00:15:09 Speaker 2

That was the s s that opened up on some trucks.

00:15:16 Speaker 2

We run across up in the our River route, ESS and everything. It's a.

00:15:24 Speaker 1

You fought against different you military units.

00:15:28 Speaker 2

You didn't know what you were fighting against.

00:15:30 Speaker 1

So 1 didn't seem worse than another.

00:15:32 Speaker 2

You find the.

00:15:34 Speaker 2

Ssb came across a group that was really.

00:15:37 Speaker 2

It was usually ESS were Mark was they were citizen soldiers and many of them in there and didn't want to be in there.

00:15:44 Speaker 2

You know, it's, but they had no choice and they would give up more readily than the s s would give up.

00:15:54 Speaker 1

When you were in Nuremberg, there, toward the last weeks of the war, did you visit the sites of the big rallies ahead in the 30s and?

00:16:03 Speaker 2

Not that I.

00:16:04 Speaker 2

No, I didn't recall anything as they had the famous.

00:16:08 Speaker 2

Wall City there and so forth, which was pretty well destroyed, which still in existence today.

00:16:14 Speaker 2

Son was there, but five years ago.

00:16:18 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:16:19 Speaker 1

Did you?

00:16:22 Speaker 1

Ever know that you were near any Nazi households?

00:16:27 Speaker 2

No.

00:16:28 Speaker 2

We were went through Bruno.

00:16:30

I.

00:16:31 Speaker 2

With Hitler's home was didn't know it.

00:16:36 Speaker 2

Know that until way after the war was over.

00:16:39 Speaker 1

For combat ended in April late April.

00:16:44 Speaker 1

Early May in 1945.

00:16:47 Speaker 1

Were you given any extensive amount of time where you were off duty?

00:16:54 Speaker 2

We pulled into Federal brook.

00:16:55 Speaker 1

Consonant.

00:16:57 Speaker 2

We had the Germans were coming in by the thousands to give.

00:17:03 Speaker 2

They were trying to get away from the Russians and those that got across the river there.

00:17:10 Speaker 2

We could give the Americans those it didn't get across that particular river was Russian.

00:17:16 Speaker 2

The hell was the name of that river?

00:17:20 Speaker 2

It's, but anyway they.

00:17:23 Speaker 2

So we came.

00:17:24 Speaker 2

We must have several 1000.

00:17:29 Speaker 2

German soldiers waiting for us.

00:17:32 Speaker 2

What they did was to oscillate about 30 or 40 of them and put them over here to the side.

00:17:40 Speaker 2

There's nothing we could do.

00:17:41 Speaker 2

Had more.

00:17:42 Speaker 2

10 times as many men they could run over top of us, but they were through just 30 or 40.

00:17:48 Speaker 2

We were told they look cross eyed shooting.

00:17:51 Speaker 2

They were the real Nazis, yeah.

00:17:55 Speaker 2

What happened after?

00:17:56 Speaker 2

I don't know where they went.

00:17:57 Speaker 2

What?

00:17:59 Speaker 1

You never actually captured any German. Is that true or did you no.

00:18:03 Speaker 2

Personally.

00:18:04 Speaker 2

I bought.

00:18:05 Speaker 2

A lot of presents one time and I never presented that.

00:18:08 Speaker 2

Have captured.

00:18:09 Speaker 1

When you were bringing those prisoners back to the back lines.

00:18:15 Speaker 1

Where they really dejected looking. Or were they just people?

00:18:19 Speaker 2

It.

00:18:19 Speaker 2

I think they were glad that it was over.

00:18:23 Speaker 2

Just like in any other.

00:18:28 Speaker 2

7 appeal the last big push the Germans had was the Battle of the Bulge.

00:18:33 Speaker 2

Made that big push and that was pushed mostly by the s s.

00:18:37

And.

00:18:39 Speaker 2

And.

00:18:41 Speaker 2

But.

00:18:42 Speaker 2

And those guys couldn't turn back, either because they had.

00:18:46 Speaker 2

But that's the last big push in the last big battle in the last big fight was there at.

00:18:50 Speaker 2

Our river.

00:18:52 Speaker 2

Yeah. It's like little D-Day.

00:18:55 Speaker 1

Did you ever see in your unit something that was done that was just playing out and out stupid?

00:19:05 Speaker 2

That's a good question.

00:19:10 Speaker 2

Not that I can recall offhand, I guess.

00:19:14 Speaker 1

Was there anything that happened that was tragic but the same time just kind of funny?

00:19:24 Speaker 2

John Dolan tells the story.

00:19:27 Speaker 2

Wasn't tragic, but it was kind of funny.

00:19:29 Speaker 2

He'd been on patrol.

00:19:31 Speaker 2

He and the fella, another New York by the name of Egan. He'd been on patrol, got behind a German lines and he.

00:19:39 Speaker 2

He.

00:19:39 Speaker 2

There and he had to get back.

00:19:41 Speaker 2

And digging had GIS.

00:19:45 Speaker 2

And the answer is, come on, he said.

00:19:49 Speaker 2

I can't he.

00:19:50 Speaker 2

You couldn't get the hell out of here if you wanted, so they took.

00:19:53 Speaker 2

And he.

00:19:54 Speaker 2

Crapped all the way.

00:19:57 Speaker 2

On the.

00:19:57 Speaker 2

So let's see. That's another thing. It was, was.

00:20:02 Speaker 2

It was bad, but it was a dysentery Diaz.

00:20:06 Speaker 2

I mean.

00:20:07 Speaker 2

Ek rations and they would bind you up and you get a hot meal and that would open you up.

00:20:14 Speaker 2

No, it's one or half of who's ever had any intestines left or it.

00:20:18 Speaker 2

Over with.

00:20:20 Speaker 1

You mentioned you had frostbite to the point where you went to the medication.

00:20:24 Speaker 2

With the medics.

00:20:25 Speaker 1

A couple days.

00:20:25 Speaker 2

They get back in the.

00:20:27 Speaker 2

Kitchen for three days and filled.

00:20:28 Speaker 2

Feet up with some hot water and so forth.

00:20:31 Speaker 1

How?

00:20:32 Speaker 1

How did you know they hurt?

00:20:34 Speaker 1

If you had to put.

00:20:37 Speaker 1

A scale of.

00:20:37 Speaker 1

Had you ever since been that much pain?

00:20:42 Speaker 2

I couldn't tell you then you know, so long ago.

00:20:46 Speaker 2

On on my feet was swelling.

00:20:50 Speaker 2

Was it? I went from a.

00:20:50

Yeah.

00:20:52 Speaker 2

Think 8 1/2 shoe to a nine and a half.

00:20:56 Speaker 2

So and they were swelling and so forth, it was and.

00:21:04 Speaker 1

Did you wear the same uniform? The entire combat experience, or did you get replaced uniforms?

00:21:12 Speaker 2

No, we didn't get to replace and we went across the Iowa River because it was freezing cold.

00:21:18 Speaker 2

And and then the snows were melting and and everything. And I went across.

00:21:26 Speaker 2

This sounds they sound kind of crazy, but I had.

00:21:29 Speaker 2

Long John's on.

00:21:33 Speaker 2

Odessa, top of that.

00:21:36 Speaker 2

Sweater and sweater and then fatigues. On top of that and a field jacket and an overcoat.

00:21:42 Speaker 2

How cold it was?

00:21:44 Speaker 2

And.

00:21:47 Speaker 2

And us after a while you just start throwing stuff off.

00:21:52 Speaker 2

On the ground.

00:21:55 Speaker 2

Get less and less is the weather got warmer?

00:21:58 Speaker 2

But you didn't get a change.

00:22:01 Speaker 1

Was there any battle or skirmish that you were involved with where you ran out of ammunition or got close to running out?

00:22:09 Speaker 2

No, not really. But they did.

00:22:14 Speaker 2

Take away.

00:22:17 Speaker 2

A bandolier of ammunition from all of us, because it was a shortage of ammunition somewhere else.

00:22:22 Speaker 2

So we had to turn it back in.

00:22:25 Speaker 2

But I understand it was something happened back in the in France, the supply that goes to something.

00:22:34 Speaker 1

So was there anytime where your weapon jammed at the wrong moment?

00:22:41 Speaker 1

Did you carry anything for good luck?

00:22:48 Speaker 2

I had a miraculous medal I wore around my neck and I carried.

00:22:55 Speaker 2

A small missile up here over my heart.

00:22:58 Speaker 1

What do you mean, a missile?

00:22:59 Speaker 2

Little church missile. You know, little Bible, I guess you can.

00:23:03

I.

00:23:04 Speaker 2

It, yeah.

00:23:06 Speaker 2

And.

00:23:08 Speaker 2

That's that's the only two things I carried really there.

00:23:13 Speaker 1

Did you do a lot of what did you do?

00:23:16 Speaker 1

Praying at certain times.

00:23:18 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:23:20 Speaker 2

There's no atheist in the foxhole.

00:23:24 Speaker 2

There's only place between.

00:23:27 Speaker 2

There is between you and your.

00:23:29 Speaker 2

There's nobody else you are.

00:23:31 Speaker 1

You went through five months of combat here.

00:23:35 Speaker 1

Was there any time when you thought that God was looking after you?

00:23:40 Speaker 2

I felt I had an Angel up here.

00:23:42 Speaker 2

My shoulder.

00:23:44 Speaker 2

I called him Michael later on.

00:23:47 Speaker 2

And he didn't fall.

00:23:48 Speaker 2

So I figured to some place look.

00:23:51 Speaker 2

And I feel it's he's still.

00:23:52 Speaker 2

Because I've been very blessed.

00:23:54 Speaker 2

All my life.

00:23:56 Speaker 1

From the time you went into service and July 44 until the war ended in May, did you see any entertainers at us show shows?

00:24:06 Speaker 1

Were you given an opportunity to do any touring?

00:24:09 Speaker 2

Opportunity we I saw one after the war was over.

00:24:17 Speaker 2

You get to realize an infantryman is nothing between him and the enemy.

00:24:24 Speaker 2

Right.

00:24:26 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:24:28 Speaker 2

And like I said, the only.

00:24:29 Speaker 2

To get out is to be carried out.

00:24:32 Speaker 2

Order for the water in one of.

00:24:34 Speaker 1

The other. Did you see anybody who cracked up mentally?

00:24:38 Speaker 2

I saw one guy cracked up.

00:24:41 Speaker 2

Right up up on the our river if.

00:24:43 Speaker 2

Walk around here.

00:24:44 Speaker 2

Who he was or that there.

00:24:47 Speaker 2

And I don't know whatever happened to him.

00:24:51 Speaker 1

Was there anything that you did while you were in the combat zone that was that could be categorized as a prank or something that was a prank that did that was affected you?

00:25:04 Speaker 2

No.

00:25:05 Speaker 1

So there were no games for you.

00:25:07 Speaker 2

Folks, no.

00:25:09 Speaker 2

Were just in the big game.

00:25:12 Speaker 1

It was serious.

00:25:15 Speaker 2

Oh, at once, I guess for thing here was down near the end of the war.

00:25:20 Speaker 2

Called it.

00:25:21 Speaker 2

Fun thing to do, but we.

00:25:25 Speaker 2

Had the guy followed by name and Nick Donofrio and Nick could do everything, he was the old man. If it was about 32 years old, the rest of us were left with two. Most of us, between 18 and 20.

00:25:38 Speaker 2

And he was our Barber cook.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

Could do anything so.

00:25:43 Speaker 2

We got down there and Austria in a little town, I forget in Germany, just near the Austrian border.

00:25:50 Speaker 2

He said get me some chicken and we'll fix fried chicken.

00:25:54 Speaker 2

Follow by name up.

00:25:57 Speaker 2

Bobby Dodge and Mr. Cohen. Okie, he and I went down checking out us. The farmer and the first time I ever seen him, he grabbed a chicken by.

00:26:06 Speaker 2

Head and snapped the head off and the chicken would run, then fall down.

00:26:12 Speaker 2

Forth like 3 or 4, Farmer came out and the farmer came out. Put my rifle.

00:26:19 Speaker 2

In his belly and just told him to get his buddy in.

00:26:21 Speaker 2

We're going to get some chicken.

00:26:25 Speaker 2

And we had some fried chicken that night.

00:26:35 Speaker 1

When the war ended.

00:26:37 Speaker 1

The Germans surrendered in May Sevent.

00:26:41 Speaker 1

1945 Do you recall where you were?

00:26:42 Speaker 2

Right.

00:26:44 Speaker 2

Faced with crossed.

00:26:47 Speaker 1

And how did you hear the news?

00:26:57

Come here.

00:26:58 Speaker 2

Recall how we heard the news.

00:26:59 Speaker 2

Do know that.

00:27:04 Speaker 2

There's a little town there, which we stayed in.

00:27:09 Speaker 2

We got BBC One there.

00:27:12 Speaker 2

Broadcast. You know, we heard it from there, but.

00:27:16 Speaker 2

I think it was just passed down the line.

00:27:18 Speaker 2

It was over with.

00:27:20 Speaker 1

Did you celebrate?

00:27:23 Speaker 2

No way. Celebrate.

00:27:24 Speaker 2

We had all these prisoners to worry.

00:27:26 Speaker 2

And everything.

00:27:27 Speaker 2

Chance to celebrate or anything like that. And for us it's just about it's over with.

00:27:34 Speaker 2

Relax.

00:27:36 Speaker 1

The war is over with an ETO, but the wars it'll still going.

00:27:39 Speaker 1

The Pacific.

00:27:40 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:27:41 Speaker 1

What happened after that?

00:27:43 Speaker 2

Well, July 44.

00:27:46 Speaker 2

July 45, weather we went back in the training 80th Division.

00:27:52 Speaker 2

And.

00:27:53 Speaker 2

We were to leave, by the way. The Suez can be the first wave to hit.

00:28:01 Speaker 2

Japan being the 1st.

00:28:03 Speaker 2

And they were talking about first wave 100,000 men killed in the 1st wave.

00:28:07 Speaker 1

And you were where in Austria still.

00:28:09 Speaker 2

We were in.

00:28:11 Speaker 2

We were in bad wars show from.

00:28:13 Speaker 2

We went back home maneuvers, we moved back out of there.

00:28:17 Speaker 2

And so when the atomic bomb was dropped, it saved my life from hundreds of thousands of men like me because the Japanese were known to fight right down to the very end.

00:28:29 Speaker 1

Did you have enough points to go home instead?

00:28:34 Speaker 2

The older guys had the points, as with families and stuff like that. I only had 37 points.

00:28:40 Speaker 2

So I'd wait till they get down.

00:28:42 Speaker 2

Had 15 points for.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

3 battle stars and then 22 points for.

00:28:47 Speaker 2

Points for service.

00:28:48 Speaker 1

And you need into the 80 and 90.

00:28:50 Speaker 2

Well, they.

00:28:51 Speaker 2

They were in 758090 and.

00:28:53 Speaker 2

Forth it was.

00:28:56

Repl.

00:28:56 Speaker 1

So you were going to get killed in Japan?

00:28:59 Speaker 2

What happened?

00:29:00 Speaker 2

Atomic Bomb had been dropped also.

00:29:04 Speaker 2

Had a pretty high IQ, so.

00:29:08 Speaker 2

Talking about sending back to the states, OCS.

00:29:12 Speaker 2

And get a second Lieutenant and then going back over into that as a platoon leader.

00:29:18 Speaker 1

Knowing what you know now about the atomic weapons.

00:29:23 Speaker 1

Do you think the Truman made the right choice?

00:29:25 Speaker 2

I have no doubt in my mind he made the right choice.

00:29:29 Speaker 2

He saved a million people.

00:29:33 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:29:34 Speaker 2

If you.

00:29:35 Speaker 2

At some of the bombings of Japan, fire bombings of Japan, far worse than the atomic bomb.

00:29:43 Speaker 2

And the suffering from those.

00:29:45 Speaker 2

But he we were going to hit.

00:29:47 Speaker 2

Japan and.

00:29:48 Speaker 2

If we'd have hit it, they.

00:29:50 Speaker 2

Have fought right down to the last man.

00:29:53 Speaker 2

Just like it did in Okinawa and Iwo Jima. Those places.

00:29:56 Speaker 1

Where were you on September 1945, when the surrender happened?

00:30:02 Speaker 2

I was in when the war bomb was dropped.

00:30:05 Speaker 2

Was in Bad wars show from Germany.

00:30:08 Speaker 2

There which is.

00:30:11 Speaker 2

Not too far from Garmisch there.

00:30:15 Speaker 1

And how?

00:30:16 Speaker 1

Did you stay in Europe before you were transferred?

00:30:19 Speaker 1

To the states.

00:30:20 Speaker 2

Well, we left there.

00:30:22 Speaker 2

Went up to.

00:30:24 Speaker 2

Into Czechoslovakia.

00:30:27 Speaker 2

And.

00:30:29 Speaker 2

We had posted.

00:30:30 Speaker 2

Along the Russian border and everything.

00:30:32 Speaker 2

And then from there.

00:30:34 Speaker 2

I came back from Czechoslovakia.

00:30:36 Speaker 2

The outfit came back from Czechoslovakia to somewhere in Germany.

00:30:43 Speaker 2

And organized as aided divisions, put together as an outfit to come home with the High Point Man.

00:30:51 Speaker 2

And we shipped out to various.

00:30:54 Speaker 2

Engineer outfits and things like that.

00:30:58

Now.

00:30:59 Speaker 1

What did you ship out?

00:31:02 Speaker 2

Yeah, I shipped into the engineers I was in.

00:31:04 Speaker 2

I forgot what outfits they were, but I was in one that was in Nuremberg doing a war crime trials. A friend of mine was a guard on the this guy Jim Acry was in my squad.

00:31:16 Speaker 2

Was a guard on.

00:31:19 Speaker 2

On German elite there.

00:31:23 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:31:25 Speaker 2

And I got his story.

00:31:30 Speaker 2

Well, it's in.

00:31:33 Speaker 2

We were guarding prison of war cage there.

00:31:37 Speaker 2

There's another crazy prank or whatever, and this was it.

00:31:43 Speaker 2

We always had a keg of beer.

00:31:46 Speaker 2

And they brought us out a whiskey rush, and I don't know why.

00:31:50 Speaker 2

Hell, they ever did that, and I still, even to this day.

00:31:54 Speaker 2

Guys get pretty well stoned. Anyway, this phone Joe, as often as I could. We use what they call the male.

00:32:04 Speaker 2

And everything you wrote home was censored.

00:32:06 Speaker 2

You by your.

00:32:08 Speaker 2

Officer Patroon officer.

00:32:10

The.

00:32:10 Speaker 1

Did you get mail much?

00:32:13 Speaker 2

Yeah, quite a bit.

00:32:15

There.

00:32:17 Speaker 2

Mother would send me packages and so forth. I do remember getting it once after the war was over. I got to.

00:32:24 Speaker 2

My mother made homemade fruitcakes when she did it, she saturated with bourbon and everything and wrapped it in towels and all was sent that over to me.

00:32:35 Speaker 2

Open that box up.

00:32:36 Speaker 2

I never seen GIS come from everywhere, just to smell that fruitcake was going in 30 minutes.

00:32:43 Speaker 2

30 seconds maybe.

00:32:44

Yeah.

00:32:46 Speaker 2

Good thing.

00:32:47 Speaker 2

Now we got our packages and stuff like that we could get.

00:32:51

I mean it.

00:32:52 Speaker 2

Was times he got relief and you get set back and pulled out of the line for a couple three days to rest up and everything, but you spend your time there getting yourself cleaned up as much as you could and.

00:33:05 Speaker 2

He took care of your personal self.

00:33:09 Speaker 1

Did you have a sweetheart you were writing to it also at home?

00:33:12 Speaker 2

Yes, I had a.

00:33:13

OK, girl.

00:33:15 Speaker 2

Was my wife married? Married in 47.

00:33:20 Speaker 1

When did you finally get to come?

00:33:22 Speaker 1

To the states.

00:33:22 Speaker 2

46 June of 46.

00:33:25 Speaker 1

So you were in in ETO for an entire year after?

00:33:29 Speaker 2

The war over.

00:33:29

There we go.

00:33:31 Speaker 2

And I got around to see a lot of them.

00:33:33 Speaker 2

'S on.

00:33:36 Speaker 2

So I got to go to Switzerland.

00:33:38 Speaker 2

On an R&R, the only R&R I've got.

00:33:43 Speaker 2

Down in the Rome, I had an audience with Opio C12 at the time, and it's like you're sitting there and I'm sitting here.

00:33:52 Speaker 2

How? He said.

00:33:53 Speaker 2

Right among us and.

00:33:57 Speaker 2

So the ancient ruins of Rome and everything which that time it.

00:34:02 Speaker 2

Had not been fixed up like they are today and everything you know the original.

00:34:08 Speaker 2

I was very there and.

00:34:12 Speaker 2

That's really the only RNR I got over there.

00:34:15 Speaker 1

Did you go to Berlin?

00:34:17 Speaker 2

No.

00:34:18 Speaker 1

I got Paris.

00:34:19 Speaker 2

No.

00:34:21 Speaker 1

Never landed on England though.

00:34:23 Speaker 1

You didn't go to England at all.

00:34:25 Speaker 2

No, I was scheduled during a war for gifts in about March. End of the hour. River was going to send me.

00:34:33 Speaker 2

To Riviera to rest.

00:34:36 Speaker 2

And going back, pulling out of the line, we got orders to move again.

00:34:42 Speaker 2

So I never did catch that C47 back. I would have flown that time.

00:34:47 Speaker 1

When you finally made it back, how did you get back home?

00:34:51 Speaker 1

Back across the ocean.

00:34:53 Speaker 2

Came back home in a victory ship.

00:34:57 Speaker 1

You didn't lose your lunch there either.

00:34:59 Speaker 2

No, no, it was a totally different wasn't quite as crowded and it was.

00:35:06 Speaker 2

It was a different kind of trip coming back.

00:35:08 Speaker 1

Did you come in Boston again?

00:35:10 Speaker 2

No. We came into New York.

00:35:13 Speaker 2

Pass the statue of.

00:35:15 Speaker 2

And New York and came to.

00:35:19 Speaker 2

Fort Kelman, New Jersey.

00:35:21 Speaker 1

When you were on deck, did you see the statue?

00:35:24 Speaker 2

So the statue.

00:35:25 Speaker 1

How did that feel for a young man? Been gone for a?

00:35:27 Speaker 1

And a half. Wonderful.

00:35:31 Speaker 1

Any cheering?

00:35:32 Speaker 2

Oh, I think we all cheer up one day.

00:35:35 Speaker 2

All.

00:35:36 Speaker 2

We were all happy to come home.

00:35:39 Speaker 1

How long did you stay at Fort Kilmer?

00:35:45 Speaker 2

I think about 3.

00:35:48 Speaker 2

In fact, we get in there on a Friday night.

00:35:51 Speaker 2

And Friday.

00:35:52 Speaker 2

They.

00:35:53 Speaker 2

Weren't going to do any processing on Saturday and Sunday.

00:35:56 Speaker 2

So we got to pass and I caught train home to Washington.

00:36:00 Speaker 2

There that weekend.

00:36:02 Speaker 2

And then had to go back to Kilmer on Monday morning, be back on Monday.

00:36:09 Speaker 1

So when you came home, Mama waiting for you.

00:36:14 Speaker 2

Yeah. It's so many of us are coming home, getting discharged. All mom was waiting.

00:36:20 Speaker 2

Brother, Brother, Brother was just about 15. He was there.

00:36:26 Speaker 2

News.

00:36:28 Speaker 2

Age where you just getting into trouble.

00:36:31 Speaker 1

Were you in a spiffy uniform?

00:36:33 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:36:37 Speaker 2

Yep, uniform had ribbons on all that kind of stuff.

00:36:42 Speaker 1

Was there a party that you threw for?

00:36:44 Speaker 2

You no.

00:36:47 Speaker 2

All right, we're.

00:36:48 Speaker 2

Skittle mama's dinners.

00:36:53 Speaker 1

You were discharged 1946.

00:36:58 Speaker 1

What was you going to?

00:36:59 Speaker 1

What were? What did you want to do with your life?

00:37:00 Speaker 2

Didn't know.

00:37:02 Speaker 2

Took me 10 years to get my head.

00:37:04 Speaker 2

To find out what I wanted.

00:37:06 Speaker 2

Do.

00:37:06 Speaker 1

Did you use AGI bill to go to school?

00:37:09 Speaker 2

I went to school, started at college and went for a while and got restless and got bored.

00:37:16 Speaker 2

You know? Then I got married at 47 at.

00:37:22 Speaker 2

And.

00:37:25 Speaker 2

It was.

00:37:26 Speaker 2

Then I went to work.

00:37:29 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:37:30 Speaker 1

Did you keep in touch with any of the?

00:37:32 Speaker 1

In the company.

00:37:34 Speaker 2

Had no contact with anybody.

00:37:36 Speaker 2

Yes, I did have one guy, a fellow here who was in met a couple times after the war was over.

00:37:45 Speaker 2

I never heard Biggs, but he was up in Sacramento and George Company.

00:37:50 Speaker 2

And but I've never really kept in touch with anybody after that.

00:37:55 Speaker 2

Just want to get.

00:37:57 Speaker 2

Get started with our lives again.

00:37:59 Speaker 2

Know.

00:38:00 Speaker 1

Did they call your company Charlie company? Yeah.

00:38:06 Speaker 1

How long was it before you decided to join a veterans organization?

00:38:13 Speaker 2

Hmm.

00:38:16 Speaker 2

I don't think I really I I.

00:38:19 Speaker 2

There's two things I never follow through on.

00:38:23 Speaker 2

Was I started playing.

00:38:26 Speaker 2

Little baseball in 46 with a VFW.

00:38:33 Speaker 2

American Legion baseball.

00:38:36 Speaker 2

And.

00:38:37 Speaker 2

And that was. But then in 47 or 48, I joined the Catholic War veterans.

00:38:40

Read it.

00:38:46 Speaker 2

But I never stayed in them or.

00:38:47 Speaker 2

I really didn't join the American Legion until 19.

00:38:52 Speaker 2

The late.

00:38:54 Speaker 2

1980s.

00:38:58 Speaker 1

What did you do?

00:39:00 Speaker 1

What did you go on to do as a career after you finally got yourself straight?

00:39:06 Speaker 2

Well, I ended up.

00:39:07 Speaker 2

I know.

00:39:09 Speaker 2

Was probably especially working for the DC Air National Guard, as GS5 went down, civil service and reopened the clerk's exam.

00:39:20

Replay.

00:39:20 Speaker 2

And took the clerks exam, which is a grade two or three for the federal government.

00:39:25 Speaker 2

I.

00:39:26 Speaker 2

Passed the Grade 3 and I took a personal clerks job there in the State Department and I had a lot of supply experience and everything. And I went over.

00:39:37 Speaker 2

During that period of time and I talked to the people at GSA and GSA was expanding under the Federal Administrative Act of 49 to be the central procurement.

00:39:50 Speaker 2

Agency.

00:39:52 Speaker 2

And I got to.

00:39:55 Speaker 2

Job with GSA at AGS 5. Again, that's a strange thing.

00:40:00 Speaker 2

I went from A5, the federal government recognized the salary grades when I got my three, I got \$100 more than I was making at 5, so.

00:40:10 Speaker 2

And then when I.

00:40:11

Went.

00:40:11 Speaker 2

Got my 5 back about 9-10 months later from GSA.

00:40:17 Speaker 2

I got.

00:40:18 Speaker 2

\$100 raise. So it was kind of a transit, but I was very.

00:40:23 Speaker 2

I got in that one.

00:40:24 Speaker 2

I spent 30 years with GSA.

00:40:27 Speaker 2

And I became a senior contracting.

00:40:29 Speaker 2

I retired as GS14 step 8 turn of GS15 down.

00:40:36 Speaker 2

Because I had a nice office of seven people and they wanted me to take a procurement branch over with 100 people and I didn't want all those headaches there at the time. And then 81 a friend of mine was.

00:40:51 Speaker 2

Over at the Department of State.

00:40:53 Speaker 2

And he had.

00:40:59 Speaker 2

Just before that, our people have been imprisoned in.

00:41:05 Speaker 2

Iran there.

00:41:07 Speaker 2

So Congress appropriated \$5,000,000 to beef up the security in the embassies. They want to put safe havens in the embassies where people were embassy people could retreat to and be safe for, at least for 24 hours and couldn't get outside communications.

00:41:24 Speaker 2

So the State Department would not hire any direct hire to do that, but they say we'll hire 2 contract.

00:41:31 Speaker 2

And myself and another guy went over to the State Department as a contract hire.

00:41:36 Speaker 2

I did that for five years.

00:41:37

Run.

00:41:39 Speaker 2

And then when that program was over.

00:41:42 Speaker 2

I had another good friend hitting up the Moscow Embassy project and I went on that no sooner got on that and that's when it was debugging.

00:41:53 Speaker 2

Was found out and the Russians were kicked off and everything was stopped. So.

00:41:58 Speaker 2

Death 15 more years.

00:42:00 Speaker 1

Of your year in two years in service, five months of combat, six months of training.

00:42:06 Speaker 2

I had five.

00:42:07 Speaker 2

Let's see, January through, I guess, February, March, right.

00:42:10 Speaker 1

Man.

00:42:13 Speaker 1

How did your service and experiences during the war affect your life?

00:42:22 Speaker 2

I don't think it the only effect I had in my life is I didn't know what I wanted to do.

00:42:28 Speaker 2

I just couldn't get my head together.

00:42:31 Speaker 2

I should have gone on to college.

00:42:34

I.

00:42:35 Speaker 2

Should have gotten a law degree.

00:42:38 Speaker 2

I spent years as a frustrated lawyer.

00:42:41 Speaker 2

Doing all the legal work.

00:42:44 Speaker 2

And.

00:42:46 Speaker 2

Not argue the cases and stuff like that, you know.

00:42:47

Replay.

00:42:50 Speaker 2

I just till till I really my life really didn't turn around until.

00:42:56 Speaker 2

Probably about 1957.

00:42:58 Speaker 1

Do you think it is because of the war?

00:43:01 Speaker 2

I think a lot of it.

00:43:01 Speaker 1

Was not meant for the war, would you?

00:43:05 Speaker 1

Pursue count.

00:43:07 Speaker 2

I may.

00:43:08 Speaker 2

I mean, I think I'd had a better chance of doing.

00:43:12 Speaker 2

I mean, I could have matured normally instead of maturing in one way.

00:43:19 Speaker 2

And still being immature in another way.

00:43:22 Speaker 2

Man, some people can't won't ever understand that. What I mean by that.

00:43:27 Speaker 2

Was seen death I've seen.

00:43:34 Speaker 2

Then, through heavy shelling, everything.

00:43:40 Speaker 2

And in that kind of maturity there. But then again, I never got a chance to grow up.

00:43:48 Speaker 1

As an old man, as you are now, are you still affected by dreams?

00:43:52 Speaker 2

No, not really.

00:43:52 Speaker 1

That's all.

00:43:54 Speaker 2

I mean, things come up from time to time.

00:43:56 Speaker 2

Not really it.

00:43:58 Speaker 2

I can't say that I am, I mean.

00:44:01 Speaker 2

It's ancient history. It's in the past.

00:44:04 Speaker 2

And what I can understand it I can understand.

00:44:09 Speaker 2

Lot of these guys.

00:44:12 Speaker 1

As a soldier, World War 2 did you?

00:44:17 Speaker 1

Hate the enemy.

00:44:20 Speaker 2

I never hated anybody.

00:44:22 Speaker 2

My nature.

00:44:28 Speaker 1

Did your military experience influence you're thinking about war?

00:44:33 Speaker 2

No, it was.

00:44:36 Speaker 2

Thing that had to be done.

00:44:38 Speaker 2

And that's why never.

00:44:41 Speaker 2

I mean, I had a problem with the having one of the big problems I had with the Vietnam War.

00:44:47 Speaker 2

Was World War 2?

00:44:49 Speaker 2

Was the father of most of those kids.

00:44:50 Speaker 2

Coming along, and Marine College and everything else.

00:44:55 Speaker 2

Board up my country right or wrong and we had a hard time realizing it. What the kids were saying.

00:44:55

And.

00:45:02 Speaker 2

Was right about the Vietnam War.

00:45:04 Speaker 2

And it was President Johnson who never used his reserves.

00:45:10 Speaker 2

He only used the draft and created the problem of the Vietnam.

00:45:14 Speaker 1

War, really. But the war we're in Iraq today.

00:45:19 Speaker 2

I.

00:45:19 Speaker 2

Believe in it.

00:45:20 Speaker 2

I think it's necessary going to have it down in here.

00:45:24 Speaker 2

I think it's.

00:45:25 Speaker 2

I mean, I mean, don't forget that mediece has been going off since the time of Christ.

00:45:32 Speaker 2

And it's the first time that we're really getting some.

00:45:35 Speaker 2

European influence and I'll speak your European American influence 'cause we're influenced by the European.

00:45:44 Speaker 2

Into into the Mid East I think and look with the treatment there. I mean people don't see the.

00:45:50 Speaker 2

Women now.

00:45:50 Speaker 2

All right. In public life, it never happened.

00:45:53 Speaker 2

Iraq before?

00:45:55 Speaker 2

Boys and girls are going to school together.

00:45:57 Speaker 2

Never happened in Iraq before.

00:45:59 Speaker 2

While we there and as we get more of the fundamental education into there, I think you'll see a major change and I think it's well.

00:46:10 Speaker 1

Worth it when World War 2 ended.

00:46:14 Speaker 1

And that year, you stayed in Germany?

00:46:17 Speaker 1

Did you see or hear about?

00:46:22 Speaker 1

Any insurgency like we're seeing in Iraq today after the major combat.

00:46:25 Speaker 2

No it.

00:46:26 Speaker 2

There was no insurgencies at all. I guess if someone may have happened, but it really they were defeated.

00:46:35 Speaker 2

And they were beaten and.

00:46:36

I.

00:46:38 Speaker 2

Sure.

00:46:39 Speaker 2

The country was torn apart, you know.

00:46:44 Speaker 1

Do you attend reunions from your division tonight?

00:46:50 Speaker 2

Every year.

00:46:52 Speaker 1

And do you see people you actually saw in the war or is it just too big?

00:46:54 Speaker 2

I have, but we're fading out now.

00:46:58 Speaker 2

This past reunion, none of them were there.

00:47:01 Speaker 2

One guy I know that was.

00:47:02 Speaker 2

Seat company, but he got.

00:47:03 Speaker 2

Wounded in November of 25.

00:47:06 Speaker 1

The juror on division have a nickname?

00:47:13 Speaker 2

Blue Ridge the blue ridges.

00:47:20 Speaker 1

Did you have a nickname yourself?

00:47:23

Me.

00:47:23 Speaker 2

Oh, it's a kid that used to call me Deacon.

00:47:27 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:47:27 Speaker 1

How about in the military?

00:47:29 Speaker 2

No.

00:47:30 Speaker 1

What did people call you?

00:47:32 Speaker 2

I went by Gene.

00:47:33 Speaker 1

With the sergeants and officers call Eugene.

00:47:36 Speaker 1

Would they call you private?

00:47:38 Speaker 2

Probably call me private on the hill.

00:47:42 Speaker 2

Unless in the relationship in combat was not a separation but very little separation between that private Sergeant, everybody he would call my first names.

00:47:55 Speaker 2

He respected your officer and called him by Lieutenant.

00:48:00 Speaker 1

Who was your officer?

00:48:03 Speaker 2

My goal was our captain and we didn't have a platoon officer.

00:48:09 Speaker 2

Went on the Air River.

00:48:11 Speaker 2

And later on we.

00:48:14 Speaker 2

March, we have Lieutenant Sterling.

00:48:19 Speaker 2

Who served as an attorney.

00:48:20 Speaker 2

He was an attorney. He served as an attorney, doing a Nuremberg trials.

00:48:26 Speaker 1

I'd like to thank you for your interview.

00:48:28 Speaker 1

Mr. O'Neill, is there anything else you'd like to add?

00:48:32 Speaker 2

No, I don't know of anything.

00:48:35 Speaker 2

Appreciate it too, it's.

00:48:38 Speaker 2

To do this I guess.

00:48:41 Speaker 1

Thanks Sir.

00:48:41 Speaker 2

Did I make any sense?

00:48:44

Yes.