

## **Wilbur Peck Interview**

Company H, 317th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Caity McGill, Samanth Enright, Shannon O'Connor)

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

00:00:02 Speaker 1

Today is February 16th, 2011. We are in Germantown. OH.

00:00:07 Speaker 1

We are interviewing Wilbur Peck, who was born on March 31st, 1921. The names of the people attending the interview are Samantha and Wright, Wilbur Peck, and David Short. The organization we are working with is diverse school for the arts, bedrooms, history project.

00:00:29 Speaker 1

Mr. Peck.

00:00:31 Speaker 1

Served in World War 2, his.

00:00:35 Speaker 1

His slasher and highest rank was staff Sergeant, and he served in Europe.

00:00:44 Speaker 1

Where were you drafted or did you get enlisted?

00:00:48 Speaker 2

No, I was drafted.

00:00:51 Speaker 2

Middletown in Middletown.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

What year were you drafted?

00:00:55 Speaker 2

In 1942.

00:00:58 Speaker 1

Where were you living at the time?

00:01:01 Speaker 2

I'm Co AK steel.

00:01:04 Speaker 2

Where was I living? Oh.

00:01:04 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:01:07 Speaker 2

I was living with my parents in West Middletown, Michael Rd.

00:01:15 Speaker 1

Do you recall your first days in service?

00:01:19 Speaker 2

Year as the day I got the physical.

00:01:24 Speaker 1

Do you remember your instructors?

00:01:29 Speaker 2

No, we didn't.

00:01:32 Speaker 2

We didn't really have instructors there, but uh.

00:01:36 Speaker 2

We got a physical and then we have sent home for two.

00:01:39 Speaker 2

Weeks.

00:01:40 Speaker 2

Waiting till the.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

I guess the.

00:01:45 Speaker 2

80th Division reactivated and then they took a whole plane load down to.

00:01:50 Speaker 2

Tennessee.

00:01:53 Speaker 1

How did you get through the boot camp?

00:01:57 Speaker 2

OK.

00:02:01 Speaker 1

Which war did you serve in?

00:02:04 Speaker 2

Which one?

00:02:05 Speaker 1

Or did you serve in?

00:02:07 Speaker 2

World War 2.

00:02:10 Speaker 1

What years did you serve?

00:02:12 Speaker 2

1942 July through.

00:02:16 Speaker 2

October 23rd I believe it was in 45.

00:02:24 Speaker 1

Where exactly did you go?

00:02:30 Speaker 1

Like, did you go?

00:02:30 Speaker 2

To be.

00:02:31 Speaker 1

To a boot camp 1st and.

00:02:33 Speaker 2

Ohh, we went to.

00:02:37 Speaker 2

To.

00:02:41 Speaker 2

In Kentucky, with the name of it.

00:02:46 Speaker 2

Poor Thomas, Fort Thomas, KY we there.

00:02:51 Speaker 2

A week and then we'd load on train taken to.

00:02:55 Speaker 2

Camp Forest, Tennessee.

00:02:57 Speaker 2

That's where we stayed for over a year.

00:03:03 Speaker 1

Where did you go after your boot camp?

00:03:07 Speaker 2

We stayed there and.

00:03:10 Speaker 2

Continued to drill.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

What war location were you at?

00:03:22 Speaker 2

Camford, Tennessee.

00:03:26 Speaker 2

Of that town.

00:03:29 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:03:33 Speaker 2

Can't think of the town.

00:03:35 Speaker 1

Did you go overseas?

00:03:37 Speaker 2

Yes, July the 7th, 1940.

00:03:42 Speaker 2

4.

00:03:45 Speaker 2

Where do we go?

00:03:47 Speaker 2

We landed and we, John went on the Queen Mary.

00:03:52 Speaker 2

Which they claim we had 28128 thousand people on their one time.

00:03:57 Speaker 2

But it was the second largest ship and we went to.

00:04:02 Speaker 2

From there to Arlen.

00:04:05 Speaker 2

And then taking a train down into England.

00:04:11 Speaker 1

Do you remember arriving overseas and what was it like?

00:04:16 Speaker 2

Strange.

00:04:18 Speaker 2

They didn't live the way we do.

00:04:24 Speaker 1

What was your job or assignment?

00:04:27 Speaker 2

At the time I was uh, coming. No, I was uh.

00:04:34 Speaker 2

Acting section leader.

00:04:40 Speaker 2

Section leader in the mortar platoon.

00:04:45 Speaker 1

Did you see combat?

00:04:47 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:04:50 Speaker 2

From August.

00:04:52 Speaker 2

6th.

00:04:54 Speaker 2

1944 through.

00:04:58 Speaker 2

March the 26th.

00:05:00 Speaker 2

45.

00:05:02 Speaker 3

What countries did you fight in over?

00:05:08 Speaker 2

Where we started in France trying to get the Germans out of France.

00:05:13 Speaker 2

And then we went to Germany.

00:05:17 Speaker 2

Then down to Luxembourg.

00:05:22 Speaker 2

And Belgium, maybe I don't. I'm not sure on that. It was close there.

00:05:28 Speaker 1

Where there are many casualties in your unit.

00:05:31 Speaker 2

Quite a few.

00:05:34 Speaker 2

In fact, there's one company, company G, which was in our battalion was.

00:05:39 Speaker 2

Really active lovers.

00:05:43 Speaker 2

More people brought in to get it up to par. I don't know what you call it.

00:05:50 Speaker 2

But.

00:05:53 Speaker 2

Three different times they.

00:05:55 Speaker 2

Filled the.

00:05:57 Speaker 2

Ranks.

00:06:02 Speaker 1

Tell me about a couple of your most memorable experiences.

00:06:07 Speaker 2

About what?

00:06:07 Speaker 1

Tell me about a couple of your most memorable experiences.

00:06:12 Speaker 2

Well, there's.

00:06:14 Speaker 2

We were.

00:06:18 Speaker 2

March in the.

00:06:24 Speaker 2

Look what they call the.

00:06:27 Speaker 2

In Nashville, TN in 1942.

00:06:32 Speaker 2

And.

00:06:35 Speaker 2

What did they call that they changed. It changed the name of it after.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

How much this day we are March and Armistice Day parade.

00:06:46 Speaker 2

Ninja and then the spring of 40.

00:06:50 Speaker 2

Three, President Roosevelt come through.

00:06:54 Speaker 2

And.

00:07:01 Speaker 2

That's about to move from moral everything else would work.

00:07:08 Speaker 2

Which one?

00:07:08 Speaker 1

Were you a prisoner of war?

00:07:10 Speaker 2

No.

00:07:11 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:07:13 Speaker 1

Were you awarded any medals or citations?

00:07:17 Speaker 2

The Brown star, for knocking out a machine gun.

00:07:23 Speaker 2

That's the only one.

00:07:27 Speaker 1



Were you injured during your service? Were you in?

00:07:32 Speaker 1

Your service.

00:07:32 Speaker 2

No.

00:07:34 Speaker 2

Got through one piece.

00:07:41 Speaker 1

How did you stay in touch with your family?

00:07:44 Speaker 2

Letters.

00:07:47 Speaker 2

That's all. They didn't have a phone since you could call back and forth.

00:07:53 Speaker 1

What was the food like?

00:07:56 Speaker 2

The food wasn't bad. It was according to who your mess Sergeant was and how well it was fixed.

00:08:03 Speaker 2

They had decent food.

00:08:06 Speaker 1

Did you have a favorite thing that they cooked? Did you have a favorite thing that they cook?

00:08:09 Speaker 2

Have a what?

00:08:13 Speaker 2

No, everything was favorite when you're hungry.

00:08:19 Speaker 1

Did you put have plenty of supplies?

00:08:23 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:08:26 Speaker 1

Did you feel pressure or stress?

00:08:30 Speaker 2

Oh, at times, I guess. I don't recall any.

00:08:33 Speaker 2

Outstanding problems.

00:08:38 Speaker 1

Was there something special you did for good luck?

00:08:47 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:08:51 Speaker 1

How did people entertain themselves?

00:08:56 Speaker 2

Well, you went to town and when you got a chance and.

00:09:01 Speaker 2

And.

00:09:04 Speaker 2

When you got a chance to get away from playing the.

00:09:07 Speaker 2

I come home one time on a weekend pass. We got a taxi driver to.

00:09:13 Speaker 2

From tahoma. That's the town I was trying to think a while ago.

00:09:18 Speaker 2

We got a taxi driver to bring us to.

00:09:23 Speaker 2

Northern Kentucky.

00:09:26 Speaker 2

Then I caught a bus over into Middletown and walked home. I had about 4:00 in the morning. I had to be back at.

00:09:35 Speaker 2

In Kentucky, at six to catch my ride back to, there was six of us.

00:09:41 Speaker 2

Catch my ride back to.

00:09:44 Speaker 2

Tulahoma we got there about 3:00 in the morning, I think.

00:09:51 Speaker 2

Every one way we.

00:09:53 Speaker 2

Kept busy.

00:10:00 Speaker 1

What did you do when? What did you do when on leave?

00:10:07 Speaker 2

Visited relatives and.

00:10:12 Speaker 1

Where did you travel while in the service?

00:10:15 Speaker 2

Where did I travel?

00:10:19 Speaker 2

From Tennessee to.

00:10:22 Speaker 2

To Kansas Camp, Phillips and Ender.

00:10:27 Speaker 2

Out on the desert for desert maneuvers and then back to.

00:10:32 Speaker 2

To camp.

00:10:36 Speaker 2

Up in the east.

00:10:41 Speaker 2

Can't think of it.

00:10:44 Speaker 2

And then the Kilmer and overseas.

00:10:47 Speaker 1

Did you travel any other countries in Europe?

00:10:52 Speaker 2

In Europe.

00:10:55 Speaker 2

Not only with the.

00:10:57 Speaker 2

I got one weekend pass to Paris after they deliberated it.

00:11:03

What? What?

00:11:05 Speaker 2

What? What?

00:11:06 Speaker 1

What did you say para para?

00:11:08 Speaker 2

Paris, France.

00:11:10 Speaker 1

What did you do while you were there?

00:11:14 Speaker 2

Just slipped around.

00:11:15 Speaker 1

For the night.

00:11:20 Speaker 2

Took in the sights.

00:11:25 Speaker 1

Do you recall any particularly humorous or unusual events?

00:11:32 Speaker 2

In Paris.

00:11:33 Speaker 1

Like.

00:11:34 Speaker 1

Anywhere during the service.

00:11:37 Speaker 2

Well.

00:11:40 Speaker 2

I got a paper here that says if we.

00:11:45 Speaker 2

Three of my brothers met. We met oh, while I was overseas.

00:11:50 Speaker 2

Just before going to the battle of the Bulge by.

00:11:55 Speaker 2

We.

00:11:57 Speaker 2

Is travelling S to go through the Siegfried Line?

00:12:01 Speaker 2

And we passed the roadside crossroads and there's amp standing there directing traffic.

00:12:08 Speaker 2

And I seen a sign that pointed up at how the road said.

00:12:13 Speaker 2

Outfit my brother Earl was in was up that road, so I hollered. Nasty MP. How far up the road was that outfit? And he said about a half a mile. So when we got to where we was going that night.

00:12:28 Speaker 2

I as acting company commander for pass to go back next day and see my brother.

00:12:35 Speaker 2

And uh, he gave me an OK, but he gave me a Jeep driver too. He said he was waiting on order. So.

00:12:42 Speaker 2

We went to.

00:12:45 Speaker 2

He gave me a driver and we went back and found Earl.

00:12:49 Speaker 2

And he said my other brother Bob was coming back to see him. He'd been there the day before and he was coming back to see him.

00:12:57 Speaker 2

That day.

00:12:59 Speaker 2

So I waited to see him. So all three of us got to see each other, bids a little bit.

00:13:07 Speaker 2

It's unusual. All them soldiers and people that was over there and.

00:13:13 Speaker 2

Just everything looked outright.

00:13:18 Speaker 1

What were some of the some of the pranks that you or others would pull?

00:13:24 Speaker 2

Pranks. I didn't. I used to fight with the guy all the time. I don't know how we got together, but.

00:13:31 Speaker 2

We first went in while he from.

00:13:34 Speaker 2

Guy named Freeman. He was from.

00:13:38 Speaker 2

Batavia.

00:13:40 Speaker 2

Little town down there.

00:13:42 Speaker 2

And uh, we got picking at each other every time we got together, we start wrestling around fighting and.

00:13:49 Speaker 2

They went on to health, which promoted as Sergeant. I had to quit picking on him then.

00:13:57 Speaker 1

Do you have any photographs?

00:13:59 Speaker 2

I got 1. I didn't know where you want it or not but.

00:14:04 Speaker 2

I told him when I got with me.

00:14:06 Speaker 1

Is that when you first entered the service?

00:14:08 Speaker 2

Boudoir.

00:14:09 Speaker 1

Is that when you first entered the service?

00:14:11 Speaker 2

No, we've been in about, I guess, six months when this was taken. I'd made corporal already a company clerk for.

00:14:21 Speaker 2

Year and a half, I guess before I got kicked out.

00:14:29 Speaker 2

Well, I went on awl with leave, with permission.

00:14:36 Speaker 2

I had an appointment to meet my brother Albert at.

00:14:40 Speaker 2

In San Diego, CA.

00:14:44 Speaker 2

And we moved out on the desert and they.

00:14:49 Speaker 2

Set a record didn't wasn't up to par when they had an inspection, so.

00:14:55 Speaker 2

I'd already there was no way of me getting a hold of him again. So.

00:15:00 Speaker 2

I went to the company commander and got permission to go on pass and I took it back to personnel officer.

00:15:06 Speaker 2

Yet OK, I'm all.

00:15:08 Speaker 2

And I put my name about halfway down and he just signed the paper and I took off.

00:15:15 Speaker 2

I went to Yuma, AZ and then hitchhiked to San Diego.

00:15:21 Speaker 2

Come back the next day. Anyway, I checked in and nobody said anything. But about midnight that night they woke me up and told me I had no, no longer clerk. I back with the mortar. So.

00:15:36 Speaker 2

That was.

00:15:39 Speaker 2

So I had owl with live with permission really.

00:15:45 Speaker 1

What did you think of officers or fellow soldiers?

00:15:50 Speaker 2

Most officers we had were decent people.

00:15:56 Speaker 2

We had one that I didn't get along with too well, but that was more.

00:16:03 Speaker 2

He tried to give me the load some.

00:16:07 Speaker 2



And we had a battle that first went over there and then we took in a bunch of ammunition and their vehicles and.

00:16:14 Speaker 2

He wanted to take some of them with him, so he wanted me to help him load her motorcycle onto the truck. He's going.

00:16:19 Speaker 2

To take both of them.

00:16:21 Speaker 2

And I told him I was busy loading up.

00:16:27 Speaker 2

Trailers.

00:16:29 Speaker 2

And.

00:16:31 Speaker 2

I finally went over and helped him load it though.

00:16:35 Speaker 2

And he took me to the company commander and he said, well, I'll let you know what I decide.

00:16:42 Speaker 2

So about a month after that, while we've taken a little town, we're sitting across from the.

00:16:48 Speaker 2

The town hall. They'd run out the flag and.

00:16:52 Speaker 2

And.

00:16:54 Speaker 2

Where we were sitting, they give us some stuff to drink which we weren't supposed to do.

00:17:01 Speaker 2

So he sent after me and I went over. I thought, well, I'm going to catch it again. But he, he said he's going to forget about what had happened on the loading.

00:17:11 Speaker 2

And only not to.

00:17:15 Speaker 2

Refuted an officer again.

00:17:18 Speaker 2

So about a week after that, then I made staff Sergeant from Corporal.

00:17:26 Speaker 1

Did you keep a personal diary?

00:17:28 Speaker 2

No.

00:17:29 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:17:34 Speaker 1

Your call the day your service ended and where were you?

00:17:39 Speaker 2

Where was I was have two. One week out on the ocean, bringing some prisoners over here.

00:17:46 Speaker 2

And the war with Germany was over. Why?

00:17:51 Speaker 2

Next morning we headed back towards France, taking those prisoners back. So that was two weeks out on the ocean that.

00:18:00 Speaker 2

We we count a week back.

00:18:03 Speaker 2

So took us from.

00:18:06 Speaker 2

Last of March till middle of June, they get home on a 30 day furlough.

00:18:14 Speaker 1

What day did your service end?

00:18:17 Speaker 2

October 26th, I believe it was. It's on here.

00:18:24 Speaker 2

24th.

00:18:27 Speaker 2

24th of October 19, 4445.

00:18:33 Speaker 1

What did you do in the days and weeks after your service ended?

00:18:38 Speaker 2

We all went back to work at Armco.

00:18:41 Speaker 2

AK.

00:18:44 Speaker 1

What kind of job was that?

00:18:47 Speaker 2

It was a rewind they had to run all the coil to get.

00:18:52 Speaker 2

Off gauge and bed.

00:18:55 Speaker 2

Material out of them and.

00:18:59 Speaker 2

That's the job I left from. I went back to it.

00:19:06 Speaker 1

Was your educate I mean?

00:19:08 Speaker 1

Did your work or did you go to work or go back to?

00:19:11 Speaker 1

School.

00:19:13 Speaker 2

I went back to work, but we had little classes. Later to I went to but.

00:19:22 Speaker 2

Just went back to work.

00:19:24 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:19:25 Speaker 2

Well, as after I went back we saw I took.

00:19:30 Speaker 2

Math and all that stuff I'd already had in school, but.

00:19:35 Speaker 2

It's something they kind of wanted you to do when you went to work at Armco to take these classes.

00:19:44 Speaker 1

Was your education supported by the GI Bill?

00:19:47 Speaker 2

No.

00:19:49 Speaker 1

Did you make any close friendships while in the service?

00:19:53 Speaker 2

Any word?

00:19:54 Speaker 1

Did you make any close friendships?

00:19:56 Speaker 1

While in the city.

00:19:56 Speaker 2

Yeah, we had. Well, when I went home with in here.

00:20:01 Speaker 2

We visited back and forth. He lived up close to Cleveland.

00:20:07 Speaker 2

And we visited back and forth.

00:20:14 Speaker 1

Did you continue any of the relationships?

00:20:18 Speaker 2

Not anymore. Most of them did.

00:20:24 Speaker 1

Did you join a veterans organization?

00:20:27 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:20:28 Speaker 2

American Legion.

00:20:33 Speaker 1

What did you do? What did you go on to do as a career after the war?

00:20:40 Speaker 2

What did I do after the war?

00:20:42 Speaker 1

Yeah. Did you like? Did you have a career? You did after the war?

00:20:47 Speaker 2

Just work.

00:20:53 Speaker 1

Did your military experience influence or you're thinking about war or about the military in general?

00:21:03 Speaker 2

No.

00:21:06 Speaker 1

If any.

00:21:09 Speaker 1

What kinds of activities does your post or association have your veterans organization?

00:21:17 Speaker 2

You know, Division 80 division has a organization.

00:21:25 Speaker 2

Which I went to about 3 different times but.

00:21:31 Speaker 1

What kind of activities did you do?

00:21:35 Speaker 2

I don't do much anything anymore but.

00:21:39 Speaker 2

Try and get around.

00:21:42 Speaker 1

Do you attend reunions?

00:21:45 Speaker 2

About 3 times, but you know.

00:21:47 Speaker 1

Year.

00:21:48 Speaker 2

What?

00:21:49 Speaker 1

A year?

00:21:50 Speaker 2

I know.

00:21:52 Speaker 2

You mean the division reunion?

00:21:54 Speaker 2

No.

00:21:55 Speaker 1

Many times I guess.

00:21:56 Speaker 2

Not anymore.

00:21:58 Speaker 1

When was the last one you went to?

00:22:00 Speaker 2

I think 1972 in Nashville.

00:22:04 Speaker 2

We were down.

00:22:07 Speaker 1

Do you guys like talk about all the stuff you used to do in?

00:22:11 Speaker 2

Your division? Yeah, there was some of that.

00:22:17 Speaker 1

How did your service and experience affect your life?

00:22:24 Speaker 2

I don't know if that's affected other than.

00:22:28 Speaker 2

Made me.

00:22:31 Speaker 2

I guess know what I had to do certain things, whether whether I wanted to or not.

00:22:38 Speaker 1

Is there anything you would like to add that we have not covered in this interview?

00:22:44 Speaker 2

I don't know of anything.

00:22:48 Speaker 3

Tell them which company Regiment division is served with Wilbur.

00:22:54 Speaker 2

Company H, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division.

00:23:01 Speaker 3

Can you recall some of the specific?

00:23:05 Speaker 3

Larger battles that you were involved in.

00:23:09 Speaker 2

Other than the barrel, the bulge, I don't.

00:23:13 Speaker 2

I know we had them, but I I never kept a record or.

00:23:17 Speaker 3

What was it like to live as an Ultraman during the war in Europe?

00:23:23 Speaker 2

What was it like for what?

00:23:24 Speaker 3

How? How did you survive from day to days and instrument in the war in Europe?

00:23:30 Speaker 2

Well, we were given rations to carry with us, but.

00:23:38 Speaker 2

So we didn't have to get anything from the kitchen. Why? Usually we had a ration to eat.

00:23:45 Speaker 2

I remember one time there was before daylight.

00:23:49 Speaker 2

I went up to.

00:23:50 Speaker 2

Started up, they brought a kitchen, brought food up to us.

00:23:55 Speaker 2

And.

00:23:58 Speaker 2

I'll start up the canteen to get or up to the kitchen, rather to get some coffee and something to eat before I got there. She'll come in and exploded.

00:24:10 Speaker 2

You cut.

00:24:10 Speaker 2

That.

00:24:11 Speaker 2

Canteen cup out of my hand.

00:24:14 Speaker 2



But it never bothered me and he just took the canteen.

00:24:18 Speaker 1

What kind of stuff did you have?

00:24:20 Speaker 1

To carry around with you.

00:24:23 Speaker 2

Real rations and and clothes of socks. They try to get socks up to us every day. They didn't really always make it, but.

00:24:32 Speaker 2

They've done a pretty good job.

00:24:35 Speaker 2

And do what we're told.

00:24:38 Speaker 1

You have to carry any certain.

00:24:40 Speaker 1

Type of weapons with you.

00:24:41 Speaker 2

We had mortars but.

00:24:43 Speaker 1

What are?

00:24:45 Speaker 2

Pardon, it's.

00:24:45 Speaker 1

What are more?

00:24:49 Speaker 2

Tube. That's a shell that you drop down in a tube and it sets it off and it goes to the enemy territory.

00:24:59 Speaker 2

It's better really than our two. You, Arthur. We had more of a.

00:25:03 Speaker 2

Slant. Work the.

00:25:06 Speaker 2

Mortar kind of comes straight down.

00:25:10 Speaker 3

Can you tell them how you slept while on the front?

00:25:16 Speaker 2

Well.

00:25:19 Speaker 2

We supposed to dig foxholes and slit trenches, but you never, never always had time to do that.

00:25:28 Speaker 2

So you've just done what you had to.

00:25:30 Speaker 2

Do.

00:25:31 Speaker 2

Slip out on top.

00:25:33 Speaker 2

That or.

00:25:35 Speaker 3

Can you tell them how you?

00:25:38 Speaker 3

Tried to warm yourselves.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

Well, stomp around or move around it.

00:25:45 Speaker 2

If it wasn't too, uh hard we had dig a foxhole, but.

00:25:50 Speaker 2

And then you get out and around it. If it wasn't shelling.

00:25:56 Speaker 2

But.

00:25:59 Speaker 1

What was like your basic uniform you wore every day.

00:26:04 Speaker 2

Well, we got it run every once in a while to put on. They got pretty dirty before.

00:26:10 Speaker 2

We got usually got a chance to change.

00:26:15 Speaker 1

What did you have to wear?

00:26:18 Speaker 2

But in the winter time we had where all we could, all we could find the wood and keep us warm, especially around the bulb. The bulge because there wasn't any place to get out of it there and you couldn't dig foxholes so cold.

00:26:34 Speaker 2

As a as a bad part about the bulge is so miserable cold.

00:26:40 Speaker 2

People going back with frozen feet.

00:26:47 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:26:48 Speaker 3

What's the one memory lover that you have from World War 2?

00:26:52 Speaker 3

That you still.

00:26:53 Speaker 3

Recall or think about often.

00:26:58 Speaker 2

There's one thing we saw.

00:27:01 Speaker 2

On that tank.

00:27:04 Speaker 2

The guy had been shelled and the tank was knocked out and we was on that tack. We passed him but.

00:27:13 Speaker 2

He'd gotten out on that as a small tank, and he'd gotten out on the front of.

00:27:17 Speaker 2

It.

00:27:17 Speaker 2

And that's where as far as he got. And he bled to death and.

00:27:21 Speaker 2

No legs load all with front.

00:27:26 Speaker 2

I don't know. It's just kind of stayed with me all these years.

00:27:30 Speaker 3

Was he an American soldier?

00:27:31 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:27:33 Speaker 1

When he saw a dead soldier, would some people take their uniform so they could get warmer?

00:27:40 Speaker 2

Well, if if we could get them, we.

00:27:44 Speaker 2

Got an overcoat for the winter but.

00:27:49 Speaker 2

You didn't worry too much about summer time, but.

00:27:55 Speaker 3

What was your impression of the Germans, Wilber?

00:27:59 Speaker 2

Well, they were more advanced than the French were. The French were way behind those.

00:28:07 Speaker 2

In Germany was kind of like we are but.

00:28:13 Speaker 2

It seemed like French. Just never.

00:28:16 Speaker 2

God going.

00:28:18 Speaker 2

They still use cows to plow with and.

00:28:24 Speaker 3

How many brothers did you have during the Second World War? What were their names?

00:28:29 Speaker 2

Walter, he was a.

00:28:34 Speaker 2

Preacher, will you come?

00:28:38 Speaker 2

Chapter.

00:28:38 Speaker 3

1.

00:28:40 Speaker 2

He was the oldest and then Bob and.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

Earl.

00:28:46 Speaker 2

In me and.

00:28:48 Speaker 2

Brother Albert, he just passed away here last fall.

00:28:53 Speaker 2

He was in the Marines. Rest of us was all in the army.

00:28:57 Speaker 1

Did you?

00:28:59 Speaker 1

Like you said that you guys dug foxholes.

00:29:03 Speaker 1

What's the process of doing that? Like? What were they for?

00:29:08 Speaker 2

To keep us from getting hit when they shield us.

00:29:11 Speaker 1

So you just dug a big hole then?

00:29:13 Speaker 2

Big hole in the ground, more or less.

00:29:15 Speaker 1

Did they did? Did they take long?

00:29:16 Speaker 1

Time to dig.

00:29:17 Speaker 2

It's going how much time you had and what you want to do with. You could make a little seed in there.

00:29:25 Speaker 2

So you could sit down, you know.

00:29:28 Speaker 2

But that had to be a little time consuming.

00:29:32 Speaker 1

Do you still have your uniform?

00:29:35 Speaker 2

I got a coat.

00:29:37 Speaker 2

And I've got a pair of pants, but they're khaki. And the coat, the coat is.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

Gave her name, whatever it was.

00:29:53 Speaker 3

What do you want people to remember about the veterans from?

00:29:58 Speaker 3

World War 2.

00:30:02 Speaker 2

Well.

00:30:05 Speaker 2

They gave up alot. Alot of them did to pay one very good at that time and some of them better off going in service than they were.

00:30:14 Speaker 2

At home but.

00:30:16 Speaker 2

People gave up a lot during World War 2 and had to have food stamps to buy something to eat and.

00:30:23 Speaker 2

And.

00:30:29 Speaker 3

Do you remember any of the?

00:30:30 Speaker 3

Names of your buddies, Wilber.

00:30:38 Speaker 2

I got 1 here.

00:30:43 Speaker 2

Joe.

00:30:46 Speaker 2

Joe Pollak.

00:30:48 Speaker 2

He's, I guess one of the best. And then Ralph freeman.

00:30:51 Speaker 2

He was the one I used to wrestle with, and he finally stayed in after the war and came out of them as a major. He visited a couple of times.

00:30:58

Yeah.

00:31:00 Speaker 2

But.

00:31:03 Speaker 2

I remember some I got a paper home. It's got a list of all the company of the year. That was 1943. I think it was.

00:31:13 Speaker 3

Do you remember the first time you saw your family when you returned from the war?

00:31:19 Speaker 2

Noreen.

00:31:19 Speaker 3

And your mother's reaction?

00:31:21 Speaker 2

Well, she's always glad to see us, but I don't remember anything outstanding.

00:31:27 Speaker 1

Do you remember how much you were paid to?

00:31:29 Speaker 1

Work in the.

00:31:31 Speaker 2

When I come home, I'd make it \$119 a month.

00:31:36 Speaker 1

Without a lot of money then.

00:31:39 Speaker 2

Yeah, it wasn't bad per.

00:31:42 Speaker 2

Times didn't pick up until after war or two, and then seemed like automobile people needing automobiles and reapplied onces and.



00:31:52 Speaker 2

Business took off. Kind of.

00:31:55 Speaker 1

Did you get married?

00:31:56

OK.

00:31:56 Speaker 2

Yeah, finally.

00:31:59 Speaker 2

Yeah. Got married. I met her in.

00:32:07 Speaker 2

January, I guess it was at 40.

00:32:11 Speaker 2

Six, we got married in August.

00:32:15 Speaker 2

My nose is running.

00:32:21 Speaker 2

We can marry now because she died here and.

00:32:24 Speaker 2

07.

00:32:27 Speaker 2

We've been married 61 years.

00:32:33 Speaker 1

If there's anything else you want to add to the interview.

00:32:38 Speaker 2

Not that I know of.

00:32:40 Speaker 1

OK.

00:32:43 Speaker 1

Thank you.