

Francis J. Redar Interview

Anti-Tank Company, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Jean Prebis)

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

00:00:00 Speaker 2

I've got this on now, and so we're going to, so I'll fill this out and your name is.

00:00:02 Speaker 1

OK.

00:00:08 Speaker 1

Francis FRA, NCIS.

00:00:11 Speaker 2

And CIS J.

00:00:14 Speaker 1

Middle initial J and it's reader REDAR reader OK.

00:00:22 Speaker 2

And you were born.

00:00:25 Speaker 3

Hi.

00:00:26 Speaker 2

1918 OK. What year and month? What month of day?

00:00:32 Speaker 1

August 14th, 1980.

00:00:36 Speaker 2

Four, did you say 1414? OK, thank you. And your current address?

00:00:42 Speaker 1

3102 old.

00:00:47 Speaker 3

Albert.

00:00:48 Speaker 2

Hobart.

00:00:53 Speaker 1

Make stations.

00:00:58 Speaker 4

OK.

00:01:02 Speaker 1

46405 962-1962.

00:01:04 Speaker 2

46405 your phone number.

00:01:09 Speaker 2

962-1962 do you have an e-mail address?

00:01:16 Speaker 5

Yeah, I do.

00:01:18 Speaker 2

Would you like to have that put on?

00:01:19 Speaker 2

Here.

00:01:20 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:01:21 Speaker 2

And that is.

00:01:23 Speaker 5

Abeth AB ETH.

00:01:25 Speaker 2

ABETTH.

00:01:32 Speaker 6

At.

00:01:34 Speaker 2

Net, NET, net, NIT, NIT, Co.

00:01:39 Speaker 5

Still.net.

00:01:43 Speaker 2

You know, some of these addresses are so long, it's hard to remember. Where were you born in Griffin. Oh, so you're a local boy?

00:01:46 Speaker 5

I know.

00:01:52 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:01:55 Speaker 4

I know, I know. I gotta be.

00:01:56 Speaker 6

What time did you?

00:01:59 Speaker 2

And what branch of service were you in?

00:02:02 Speaker 1

The army, OK.

00:02:06 Speaker 1

Battalion Regiment Division Three 80th Division, which 180th Division.

00:02:13 Speaker 2

ADS division.

00:02:15 Speaker 1

318 infantry.

00:02:18 Speaker 1

318 infantry and I tank company.

00:02:25 Speaker 1

Tree.

00:02:27 Speaker 1

Anti tank. Yeah anti tank.

00:02:32 Speaker 6

Hey.

00:02:35 Speaker 2

OK.

00:02:36 Speaker 2

And your rank your highest rank.

00:02:39 Speaker 1

5 foot five and about 132.

00:02:41 Speaker 4

Got it.

00:02:42 Speaker 2

Rank No, you're not, you said. We may get to your side.

00:02:45 Speaker 1

Good morning.

00:02:50

I was in power.

00:02:51 Speaker 7

OK.

00:02:54 Speaker 3

And again.

00:02:56 Speaker 2

And do you remember your serial number?

00:02:58 Speaker 5

Oh yeah.

00:02:59 Speaker 1

3535.

00:03:01 Speaker 2

35359276.

00:03:03 Speaker 1

9276.

00:03:06 Speaker 1

Bingo. Everybody hold their card. You might be mistaken, huh?

00:03:09 Speaker 2

Yeah, great.

00:03:11 Speaker 2

OK. And when did you did you enlist or were you drafted drafted, OK and what day was the?

00:03:15 Speaker 1

Good afternoon.

00:03:21 Speaker 1

1942 and was in.

00:03:29 Speaker 4

It's interesting.

00:03:30

That the.

00:03:31 Speaker 5

Excuse me, what was your rank? Purple technical purple. Is that T5?

00:03:38 Speaker 4

40.

00:03:40 Speaker 6

We're just kidding.

00:03:40 Speaker 1

So what was the question you want?

00:03:43 Speaker 2

When did you get drafted? What was the the day you were drafted or the date?

00:03:49 Speaker 5

I didn't know.

00:03:49 Speaker 1

You then all right.

00:03:51 Speaker 1

Approximate I'd say it June of 42.

00:03:54 Speaker 2

June of 42.

00:03:57 Speaker 1

Yeah, I had three and.

00:03:58 Speaker 1

1/2 years.

00:03:59 Speaker 2

Yeah. And so you went from June of 42 to when?

00:04:04 Speaker 1

October the 14th, 1945.

00:04:08 Speaker 4

That was every year.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

45, OK.

00:04:12 Speaker 2

And how old were you at that time when you got drafted?

00:04:16 Speaker 7

Right.

00:04:17 Speaker 1

I imagine about.

00:04:20 Speaker 1

2425 somewhere there.

00:04:21 Speaker 2

24, OK.

00:04:23 Speaker 3

Not sure.

00:04:26 Speaker 2

And so you were in.

00:04:26 Speaker 6

4042 dead and you were born when 18, and that's what I got.

00:04:31 Speaker 6

Yeah, 18 from 42 would be.

00:04:39 Speaker 2

Very good. And this is all World War 2, right? Oh, I. Yes, I know. When we when we say the war, that's always what we mean. Right. So where were you during the service? In what parts of the country or the world?

00:04:39 Speaker 6

OK.

00:04:42 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:04:57 Speaker 1

Well, I was in.

00:04:59 Speaker 1

First of all.

00:05:00 Speaker 1

Tullahoma TN there's.

00:05:03 Speaker 2

Tullahoma.

00:05:06 Speaker 2

Tell.

00:05:08 Speaker 2

I'm spelling it phonetically. Tennessee, OK.

00:05:10 Speaker 1

All right.

00:05:14 Speaker 1

Camp, Phyllis, Kansas.

00:05:17 Speaker 2

Camp Phyllis Phyllis as in.

00:05:21 Speaker 1

Kansas THI double LIPS and.

00:05:25 Speaker 2

Phyllis and Kansas.

00:05:29 Speaker 1

Yuma, AZ. AZ OK.

00:05:31 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:05:38 Speaker 2

And outside of the of the. Yeah, OK.

00:05:43 Speaker 2

And outside of the United States, where were you?

00:05:47 Speaker 4

Ortiz, Florida to small boat train and transferred to.

00:05:51 Speaker 1

England.

00:05:53 Speaker 2

And then England's nominee, Normandy.

00:05:54 Speaker 7

OK.

00:05:58 Speaker 6

You know.

00:06:00 Speaker 1

And then and then, well here, maybe you could shoot.

00:06:08

So.

00:06:10 Speaker 5

Northern France.

00:06:10 Speaker 2

Oh, northern France. OK.

00:06:16 Speaker 6

Until now.

00:06:20 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:06:21 Speaker 3

Actually.

00:06:24 Speaker 2

See rhineland? Or you are all over the place.

00:06:29 Speaker 1

Not my choice either.

00:06:31 Speaker 2

Ah, right. I take it it wasn't all that much fun.

00:06:37 Speaker 3

Right.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

Were you injured?

00:06:42 Speaker 1

Uh, yeah. OK.

00:06:45 Speaker 1

I got trapped on the ankle.

00:06:46 Speaker 2

Finally, shrapnel. I think we'll get to that. Another question later. Prisoner war? No.

00:06:56 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:06:58 Speaker 5

Not till they got married.

00:07:02 Speaker 2

Medals, Special Service awards, anything like that.

00:07:05 Speaker 1

Yeah, right there you can.

00:07:10 Speaker 2

Where is it? Oh, here Purple Heart. OK. Oh, OK. Oh, I see. Oh, you had a listen.

00:07:12 Speaker 3

Yes.

00:07:17 Speaker 1

Well, here maybe you can hear my picture.

00:07:22 Speaker 1

Well, just.

00:07:24 Speaker 4

The light of the.

00:07:25 Speaker 7

OK.

00:07:30 Speaker 5

Stern and then that other thing.

00:07:37 Speaker 7

So we got there actually.

00:07:39 Speaker 7

I went out the back there. I must have thought about it before I got shot.

00:07:40 Speaker 1

Good conduct too, huh? Yeah, that's good you don't have.

00:07:44 Speaker 5

That.

00:07:48 Speaker 1

That's why.

00:07:52 Speaker 2

Three metal.

00:07:54 Speaker 4

You should feel ourselves but.

00:07:57 Speaker 6

Fine.

00:07:59 Speaker 2

Combat Infantry Badge first award.

00:08:03 Speaker 5

I know what you're saying.

00:08:08 Speaker 2

I have to write this.

00:08:10 Speaker 2

Because I can't.

00:08:13 Speaker 2

Print it too quickly enough.

00:08:15 Speaker 1

This was the first.

00:08:18 Speaker 1

Post that I joined. Yeah, should be in Lake Station to be joined.

00:08:26 Speaker 6

Here.

00:08:26 Speaker 2

OK.

00:08:28 Speaker 2

Honorable service lapel.

00:08:31 Speaker 2

Lapel button. World War 2. I'm going to just read these into the.

00:08:36 Speaker 2

Tape.

00:08:44 Speaker 6

Publish what you would like to talk about.

00:08:46

Read this.

00:08:52 Speaker 1

And marksman badge.

00:08:54

Yes.

00:08:57 Speaker 6

No, no.

00:08:59 Speaker 2

With the rifle bar.

00:09:04 Speaker 7

Ask you about that.

00:09:06 Speaker 1

136.

00:09:07 Speaker 4

OK.

00:09:17 Speaker 2

Did you bring any photographs that you would be willing to let loose of well or no?

00:09:22 Speaker 4

Yeah, I mean for.

00:09:22 Speaker 4

That to that.

00:09:26 Speaker 1

I'm sorry. Alright. If my son-in-law makes it for me from my I don't have it. I just got the picture.

00:09:27 Speaker 2

Problem is that they can't be returned.

00:09:40 Speaker 1

Well, I got a picture where.

00:09:44 Speaker 1

A deep driver.

00:09:46 Speaker 1

And another guy and myself, we ran on to a prisoner war camp and under the first one there.

00:09:52 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:09:55 Speaker 1

Ah, OK.

00:10:00 Speaker 2

Oh, I'm sure they would be delighted.

00:10:02 Speaker 2

Yeah, do it.

00:10:04 Speaker 1

I took a picture of all the dead land and the trenches and things like that.

00:10:07 Speaker 2

Oh, so he has photographs of first entry into a Holocaust.

00:10:11 Speaker 1

All right.

00:10:12 Speaker 6

Pam.

00:10:13 Speaker 4

Right.

00:10:14 Speaker 2

Oh, hey, that would be terrific. I'm not sure if the size matters. Whatever, whatever comes out good.

00:10:16 Speaker 4

By sixes.

00:10:22 Speaker 5

Anything any picture related to the war.

00:10:25 Speaker 6

Lord.

00:10:27 Speaker 2

Up to, I think there. I mean there's if you got boxes full. No, but but if you've got a half a dozen that would be wonderful. Ohh, that would be great. That would be great because I I have to label them with your name and and so.

00:10:31 Speaker 1

No, no.

00:10:42 Speaker 2

They know what what they go for. Any field maps that you might have field map.

00:10:50 Speaker 1

I know.

00:10:50 Speaker 1

1.

00:10:53 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:10:54 Speaker 2

Yeah, if you would be willing to share those, they will contact you. I'm not sure why field maps are special, but.

00:11:04 Speaker 1

Well, I I think I have showed where.

00:11:08 Speaker 1

Where I went, oh, Lord, in Michigan so.

00:11:10 Speaker 2

Uh-huh. So could they contact you to see if they could get copies of that?

00:11:11 Speaker 5

Yeah. And then.

00:11:14 Speaker 1

Yeah. What kind of money do they pay?

00:11:19 Speaker 2

I have a feeling it's like all these volunteer things. It's it's like, right you you would make as much.

00:11:23 Speaker 2

Like.

00:11:26 Speaker 2

As I'm making here right?

00:11:27

Oh, that's nice.

00:11:28 Speaker 5

Here.

00:11:30 Speaker 5

Right.

00:11:32 Speaker 2

Or movies. Some people have home movies that they've made at the time. OK, OK. And would you be interested if the media television if if they want to put together a story, would you be interested in being a part of something like that?

00:11:51 Speaker 4

Alright.

00:11:51 Speaker 2

OK, alright. So they will, you know, I I don't know exactly when this would be or if it would be, but they would be pleased. OK.

00:12:02 Speaker 4

So all right, now, now we get to.

00:12:06 Speaker 2

The real works.

00:12:12 Speaker 2

I've got a whole slew of questions, some of which we've already talked about I've got.

00:12:21 Speaker 2

I think I've got your your name. I've got that all written down already so.

00:12:26 Speaker 1

You took the password to that.

00:12:28 Speaker 2

And your address OK.

00:12:32 Speaker 2

And we did all those first things and the fact that you were drafted and you were living in Griffith at the time. Oh, oh, and Hobart, OK.

00:12:41 Speaker 1

So I was living in in Hobart.

00:12:47 Speaker 5

Or Annie Griffiths that grew up most of the crew.

00:12:49 Speaker 2

In Hobart, OK. And you joined because you were drafted, which lots of other people were, right. Yeah. OK. Yeah. Oh, that's hard to do.

00:12:58 Speaker 1

They grafted me.

00:13:00 Speaker 1

I leave my mommy.

00:13:05 Speaker 4

Well.

00:13:06 Speaker 2

Did you have a choice of of the service that you wanted to get into or that was just just because the draft, OK.

00:13:13 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:13:17

What?

00:13:17 Speaker 2

So how was it the first days that you were drafted?

00:13:23 Speaker 2

What about the where? How did that go?

00:13:27 Speaker 1

A mommy's boy and it was not easy.

00:13:33 Speaker 2

Mommy wasn't there to.

00:13:34 Speaker 2

Wake you up and bring you breakfast. Bring me or not. No. Yeah, OK.

00:13:35 Speaker 5

Yeah, right.

00:13:40 Speaker 2

So it felt a little.

00:13:42 Speaker 1

Strain I was only I ran into.

00:13:44 Speaker 4

I'll bet.

00:13:47 Speaker 1

Fella, we got trapped together. He was from Aetna.

00:13:53 Speaker 1

And him and I that helped us both. He just had got married and he was only four. His wife and I and mom. OK.

00:13:57 Speaker 4

Ohh, I'd like to be.

00:14:01 Speaker 5

There was a third man.

00:14:03 Speaker 1

Yeah, Ray marcourt. And he went in with listen. He had just got married.

00:14:12 Speaker 1

And then I'll tell you a little something about him when they get down the road.

00:14:16 Speaker 2

OK, the first of the training, the boot camp experiences, how did that go?

00:14:27 Speaker 1

You you had to go out and exercise.

00:14:32 Speaker 1

Place well before breakfast. Maybe go back into marriage and then you shave and get ready for breakfast. So you worked up a good appetite. Oh, yeah. How was the food? What they wanted to be sure to keep you.

00:14:35 Speaker 2

Uh-huh.

00:14:41 Speaker 6

Right, right.

00:14:46

Well, I.

00:14:52 Speaker 1

It's healthy, but it was good. Well, when you're hungry, it's good.

00:14:59 Speaker 2

How about the instructors? Do you remember them much? Were they? Well, how how would you describe them? How were they? Wonderful. Now, when you say wonderful. What does that mean? Well, what had happened to me when I went in? Why?

00:15:01 Speaker 1

Oh yeah.

00:15:17 Speaker 1

I don't know why, but this big Texas captain.

00:15:24 Speaker 1

He called me in the office one day and he says you're my ordering and you will shine my shoes and take care of my clothes and follow me like a little dog. And so that's what happened. And then they transferred him. And then the next commander. I was his orderly.

00:15:34 Speaker 4

Oh.

00:15:44 Speaker 2

So was that a good?

00:15:45 Speaker 1

Job. Oh, yeah. Real nice job. I ended up being. I made me a mailman. Yeah, well, I mean, I still took care of it.

00:15:50 Speaker 2

And that was an even better job.

00:15:55 Speaker 1

The company commander and five of their officers, their quarters where they live, they were separate from us.

00:15:56 Speaker 2

And so that was better than whatever alternative you could.

00:16:09 Speaker 1

Oh yeah, it was. I had to exercise and everything like that. And like if they had marches and things like that.

00:16:18 Speaker 2

Uh-huh.

00:16:18 Speaker 1

But then then I took care of the.

00:16:20 Speaker 1

Mayo too, OK.

00:16:23 Speaker 7

And.

00:16:23 Speaker 5

Think you should tell her about the.

00:16:27 Speaker 5

The March that you went on, you went here?

00:16:30 Speaker 1

Oh, some guy said to me, since you didn't go on the last March, we're going on a 40 mile hike and he says.

00:16:40 Speaker 4

Right.

00:16:40 Speaker 1

Are you going? I said, yeah, Uncle.

00:16:43 Speaker 1

Who I did and that dummy we were walking, we had to walk about 30 miles and he walked in a quick bed to cool his feet off. And the water got in there. And when we finished up, they just peeled the flesh off the bottom of his feet. Something to.

00:17:00 Speaker 1

Because your feet.

00:17:02 Speaker 4

Oh.

00:17:04 Speaker 2

Blisters all over. Oh, that sounds awful.

00:17:07 Speaker 5

That, that too. But I was talking about when you carried each other on your shoulders.

00:17:14 Speaker 4

They said.

00:17:15 Speaker 1

I'm small and there was another guy that was small too and they used to.

00:17:19 Speaker 6

Wow.

00:17:21 Speaker 1

We'd have piggyback braces on the and the big guys they had to carry the big.

00:17:24 Speaker 3

OK.

00:17:27 Speaker 1

Guys back and forth.

00:17:28 Speaker 1

And him and I will. We won every time because we were small and.

00:17:29 Speaker 3

And.

00:17:33 Speaker 2

Can move faster. Yeah, that's wonderful. Any other things like that, that.

00:17:41 Speaker 2

Made life a little easier.

00:17:43 Speaker 1

Well, after I was there a while I.

00:17:49 Speaker 1

My parents brought my car down so it made it even nicer that everybody come around leaving to come the commander and says can I use your car?

00:17:59

Before.

00:18:02 Speaker 2

So you got to be the popular kid on the block.

00:18:05 Speaker 1

They all wanted to go on the weekend. We either went to Nashville or we either went to Chattanooga, 50 miles each way.

00:18:09 Speaker 6

Uh-huh.

00:18:13 Speaker 1

Uh-huh. And what did you do while you were on those tricks on the what? When you went to these wonderful places? Well, you were soldier boy. They put you on a pedestal, and all the girls you wanted and all the drinks, and you go in the fire and they pay for your.

00:18:15 Speaker 1

1.

00:18:27 Speaker 2

Uh-huh.

00:18:28

We will.

00:18:33 Speaker 1

Thanks.

00:18:37 Speaker 2

So it was a great mini vacation.

00:18:39 Speaker 2

Yeah, that sounds great actually. Hello. But you managed to get through it all.

00:18:46 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:18:47

Later.

00:18:47 Speaker 1

We.

00:18:49 Speaker 1

I was in.

00:18:52 Speaker 1

The Normandy, the second phase of that and ardent force about the bulge.

00:19:04 Speaker 2

So you were in most of the major, but what's the word I'm looking for?

00:19:06 Speaker 1

So yeah, the battle the vote. While we crossed the English Channel, right, right. We were the second wave.

00:19:15 Speaker 1

And all the equipment and the men were laying dead. They couldn't get up the hill because they were shot and killed. But the second wave we were able to, but we were being shot at everything.

00:19:15 Speaker 4

OK.

00:19:27 Speaker 2

That must have been a harrowing experience. Well.

00:19:29 Speaker 3

That's why.

00:19:32 Speaker 1

You're young and you're foolish and you don't know about this. Get your money. I mean, guys, you got to clean up.

00:19:39 Speaker 1

At each other and it was happy times and laugh at each other. And you know, you know, and I don't think you realize.

00:19:43 Speaker 2

Uh-huh.

00:19:48 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:19:49 Speaker 5

Thought about myself.

00:19:52 Speaker 2

The Moselle River after you've crossed it it.

00:19:56 Speaker 1

We cross the Moselle river and the the bridge out.

00:20:04 Speaker 1

After they crossed the pontoon boats and all there was was German over there. OK and I and another guy laid in the quick bit so they wouldn't see us. Now we could see the German walking up low. And that morning they Tiger Tank came down on us. And that's the biggest.

00:20:09 Speaker 3

Points.

00:20:24 Speaker 1

Looks like a three story house.

00:20:27 Speaker 1

And it fell on you. No, no, no. And he killed 120 men that morning of our company. 252 men. But this tanker tank when he come up, he come up to go on the road.

00:20:30 Speaker 1

The hill to.

00:20:31 Speaker 2

Get us. Oh, OK.

00:20:47 Speaker 2

Now this is a German tank.

00:20:49 Speaker 1

Yeah, OK. And then we had an anti tank quicker 7mm gun and it bounced off like peace.

00:20:57 Speaker 1

So then we shot, we're able to, when he got hung up and shot the buggy wheels. And that's what stopped him. And and he couldn't go to war. And then So what they did after that, and they said, well, we don't need an anti tank company anymore.

00:21:09 Speaker 3

We.

00:21:17 Speaker 1

And they put all the men in the infantry. Oh, oh, but when I take actually was.

00:21:23 Speaker 1

In front of the infantry trying to stop the tanks, they put us over there first.

00:21:30 Speaker 6

But they were ineffective, so they just just ended.

00:21:33 Speaker 2

OK, because you couldn't, you didn't have equipment to to right?

00:21:36 Speaker 1

Well, the guns weren't big enough.

00:21:37 Speaker 1

Yeah, even the Canon company couldn't even penetrate the Tiger tank. The biggest one they made, and there was only a few of them. But there was no way they could stop if he wouldn't have got hung up, he would have cleaned.

00:21:41 Speaker 6

Maybe.

00:21:51 Speaker 5

Well, they tell Madam to all the officers and people who got captured that morning.

00:21:56

I see.

00:22:00 Speaker 1

You know, safety and everything got captured, something man.

00:22:04 Speaker 2

The men all got. Yeah. Yeah. OK. And so as prisoners of war, they got carted off someplace.

00:22:05 Speaker 1

Most of me out.

00:22:12 Speaker 1

Oh no, they killed.

00:22:13 Speaker 2

Them or they just killed them. Yeah, OK.

00:22:16 Speaker 1

Injured them. Then this man that was in Lake Station now.

00:22:23 Speaker 1

He was crossed when we did to the Moselle river and he got killed. He got killed, killed with shrapnel, I mean.

00:22:32

In front of me.

00:22:34

You know.

00:22:35 Speaker 2

So there was a tremendous lot of damage done.

00:22:39

Not much over.

00:22:40 Speaker 2

To all of these.

00:22:41 Speaker 1

Yeah, because of the fact that they had us because we couldn't get help.

00:22:47 Speaker 1

And they kept blowing that bridge out in pontoon boat and they put it up three times. So you were stuck on the wrong side of the.

00:22:56 Speaker 6

Bridge and there's no way to get back.

00:22:58 Speaker 1

Ohh, who couldn't?

00:22:58 Speaker 1

Get back. We got guys that tried to swim them. Where we down. We weren't grounded.

00:23:03 Speaker 2

Oh, so this was a good sized river, not.

00:23:05 Speaker 1

Ohh good size right I say.

00:23:05 Speaker 2

Just a little.

00:23:09 Speaker 4

Also a loose ball.

00:23:12 Speaker 1

Probably.

00:23:14 Speaker 4

Directly at a quarter realize that, yeah.

00:23:15 Speaker 1

Probably 1000 feet across and have been deep.

00:23:21 Speaker 2

So if you.

00:23:22 Speaker 5

Guys had their equipment.

00:23:23 Speaker 2

Yeah, that you can't swim far when you're carrying guns and boots and.

00:23:30 Speaker 2

You can't. I mean, you can't swim very well.

00:23:33 Speaker 2

If you if you're not.

00:23:34 Speaker 1

Really dressed with. No, no, I couldn't swim anywhere.

00:23:39 Speaker 6

Dad, tell him how you got off of.

00:23:41 Speaker 1

That carrier, when they dropped this in across the English Channel and.

00:23:48 Speaker 1

When they dropped the Pope list.

00:23:53 Speaker 1

Why I hung on to a real tall guy and I went under the water and if I wouldn't been hanging on the guy, I would have drowned. But hundreds of them drowned anyway, and some of they dropped it in 20-30 foot of water. They want to get out of there.

00:24:09 Speaker 6

Those those bolts didn't go up to the shore. They dropped them. They went as close as they thought they could go and drop them.

00:24:18 Speaker 1

Get out of there.

00:24:19 Speaker 1

So they just dropped him deep waters. Yeah, yeah.

00:24:19 Speaker 2

Ohh cause they were sitting ducks at that point, you know? Well, they should have asked them if they could.

00:24:25 Speaker 2

Have sworn.

00:24:27 Speaker 2

I say they should have asked them if they could swim before they dumped them. Good.

00:24:30 Speaker 6

Wouldn't do any. You couldn't swim with all your equipment on and you wouldn't short. So wherever they dropped him, he was going to be.

00:24:33 Speaker 2

Anyway, yeah, yeah.

00:24:37 Speaker 1

Underwater pounds. And then you're you're eating utensils and your blanket your tent.

00:24:45 Speaker 2

All water locked.

00:24:46 Speaker 1

And then you had hand grenades hanging on your stomach, and then you had your rifle shells.

00:24:54 Speaker 2

You will wait or don't, so it's one or you could even get even if they're handed it. And he would. He managed to drag it.

00:24:59 Speaker 1

Well, I held on to this guy, otherwise I would have been gone. Yeah, well, see, he his head showed up. See, he was 6 foot 7 and I was down there 5 foot 5.

00:25:13 Speaker 2

Helps that helps.

00:25:14 Speaker 1

And he probably went under the water.

00:25:16 Speaker 4

And.

00:25:16 Speaker 1

1st 2:40 5/20.

00:25:19 Speaker 2

So in that first wave there were huge numbers of casualties.

00:25:25 Speaker 1

And we're seeing, they wipe them all off.

00:25:29 Speaker 1

And we were in the second wave and all of you.

00:25:31 Speaker 2

There and did many of your second wave survive or?

00:25:38 Speaker 1

Yeah. Well, yeah, we had as far as that's concerned, we didn't lose too many men on that situation. We lost most of our men on the result River.

00:25:49 Speaker 2

And that was after Normandy, OK?

00:25:52 Speaker 4

How are you?

00:25:57 Speaker 2

Do you have? I mean, these are very vivid experiences. Do you have others that you think would be good to record?

00:26:05 Speaker 1

Well, if you want, she's 21.

00:26:07 Speaker 2

Oh, absolutely. Those are good too this.

00:26:08 Speaker 1

All right.

00:26:12 Speaker 1

Man was running the mine detector and I was 20 feet behind him as a protector with the gun all through it and all of a sudden the guy did an about face and he said.

00:26:16 Speaker 6

Perfect.

00:26:23 Speaker 1

To me, he would.

00:26:24 Speaker 4

How long?

00:26:25 Speaker 1

He said they get me, they get me.

00:26:27 Speaker 1

In the back. Ohh. But then I knew a German had a beat up and then I start looking and we're going up in the tree with the beat on us with the gun. Uh-huh. And he must have talked over and thought, well, why shoot both of those guys that the American soldier to be coming in there and.

00:26:31 Speaker 4

OK. Yeah.

00:26:47 Speaker 1

And so he put his gun down and surrendered.

00:26:49 Speaker 3

Almost daily.

00:26:51 Speaker 2

Without any. Yeah, wow on the left too well.

00:26:57 Speaker 6

Tell him about when you're out walking.

00:27:01 Speaker 4

They needed eggs.

00:27:03 Speaker 1

People I tell, listen, it's hard for me to realize it. I was in the field. I won't behold. I heard her mother.

00:27:14

Well.

00:27:14 Speaker 1

And I looked up and this guy was only about 30 feet above me.

00:27:20 Speaker 1

And he was only going about 30 miles an hour and a plane. Small plane. Maybe that's where they got this nowadays, when they have the guys go up there and so he, he looked at me and I looked at him. I could see his.

00:27:37 Speaker 1

He's he's him.

00:27:39 Speaker 1

And I waved at him and he waved back. But then he.

00:27:43 Speaker 1

Call bring our covery into that for us because he knew that I'd come out of that forest and our company was in there. So I ran back and said, let's get the hell out of there. Right. And getting out there, they start dropping them in.

00:28:00 Speaker 2

So amazing. It's amazing anybody ever came back alive at all.

00:28:04 Speaker 1

You know, we have to get bigger. The model of days that you were in that danger. It's just like, so I mean, the battle of the.

00:28:15 Speaker 1

The guys wouldn't die because if someone got that cold, really. OK, I remember.

00:28:24 Speaker 1

I brought the mail up.

00:28:26 Speaker 1

And the guy on this day kissed me so much about and he was the youngest guy he went in when he was 17 and his mother signed for and I took him to peg.

00:28:39 Speaker 1

At Christmas time in this control and you always say to God you trust me, a man in the world, you brought the mail up.

00:28:50 Speaker 1

And what the story I said, you forgot. I brought you a page and I waited till you opened.

00:28:55 Speaker 1

I got some of the cookies.

00:28:59 Speaker 2

That must have been a very welcome package.

00:29:02 Speaker 5

He told us.

00:29:04 Speaker 5

It's one of the reunions that man told us that.

00:29:09 Speaker 5

Bran was very fortunate because he could hear somebody was walking up behind him. He was ready to turn and shoot.

00:29:18 Speaker 1

But see, I mean, in that battle they couldn't dig dig into the ground because it was.

00:29:25 Speaker 1

They just pile the snow up above so they couldn't see them, OK.

00:29:31 Speaker 1

It was the coldest winter in Germany ever had.

00:29:35 Speaker 2

So wonder anybody survived.

00:29:39 Speaker 6

Tell them about the damn house or whatever. Tell them about the bathhouse that blew up.

00:29:44 Speaker 1

Well, that was after the war.

00:29:46 Speaker 4

OK.

00:29:47 Speaker 1

All right, another part of this story. Good. A friend of mine, he he's quite active now. He lives in Pontiac, IL. And he's got a museum that he had built and everything. And we'll do it. And he's been back. Foreign country about 3 or 4.

00:29:50 Speaker 2

OK.

00:29:58 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:30:08 Speaker 1

But this man, he came to us two months after the.

00:30:16 Speaker 1

Too much came to us.

00:30:19 Speaker 1

Two months after the war ended.

00:30:21 Speaker 4

There was one there.

00:30:23 Speaker 5

They were in arrest hand but.

00:30:24 Speaker 1

We were in a rest camp and he came to us and he was an officer and so company commander says go down and roll that tree up down there.

00:30:40 Speaker 1

And so he went down there and he built the tree and he blew the bathhouse of the swimming pool.

00:30:45 Speaker 1

Of the whole town.

00:30:47 Speaker 1

Ohh, he didn't know any better and he made sure that that tree and everything and come to find out.

00:30:55 Speaker 1

His company, he was an anti tank company, 317th in our division and old officers got wiped out and they made him an officer because there was nobody left being charged. And he says I don't know nothing about.

00:31:16 Speaker 2

So there really wasn't much point in blowing up the tree in the 1st place and.

00:31:21 Speaker 1

10.

00:31:23 Speaker 1

Nothing for the men.

00:31:24 Speaker 2

To do OK, keep them from getting too bored.

00:31:25 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:31:28 Speaker 1

Yeah, I like the company commander. My company commander. He when they did away with the anti tank company, he stepped over the company commander. That was in this company.

00:31:36 Speaker 4

OK.

00:31:40 Speaker 4

James.

00:31:42 Speaker 1

And he got hit and they blow his side and his head.

00:31:44

Or.

00:31:46 Speaker 4

OK.

00:31:49 Speaker 2

Lots and lots of casualties. It's amazing.

00:31:51 Speaker 6

Come on about John and Cassie Mountain Castle Mantel.

00:31:58 Speaker 1

We were, we had a mine platoon in our company of mine.

00:32:04 Speaker 1

Yeah, you put mine through the tanks. Could not. OK, get you are the men. See? I mean, the men could step up. So it's.

00:32:13 Speaker 1

A truck and somebody either dropped the mine or the German booby trapped it after they picked it up and 14 were killed.

00:32:24 Speaker 4

3-1.

00:32:25 Speaker 1

This Johnny Cash cemento. I went up there with the company commander and Johnny command. Hashimoto was laying in front of the truck by the bumper and he was.

00:32:38 Speaker 1

He was dead.

00:32:40 Speaker 1

All of them were dead and the commander said, well, notify their parents that they're all dead. The name. So my dead and behold, six months later, Johnny Cash and men and women in a hospital in England.

00:32:46

We did.

00:32:58 Speaker 1

Live.

00:32:59 Speaker 1

Just imagine the parents getting the words, but they were still alive.

00:33:01 Speaker 4

Oh my, my.

00:33:04 Speaker 5

We didn't know that he had lived till maybe 30 years after the.

00:33:09 Speaker 1

War I had. Yeah. And I couldn't understand because the company commander and I both looked at him and he didn't move or breathe.

00:33:20 Speaker 1

I don't know that to guide them.

00:33:22

53.

00:33:23 Speaker 2

Well, I guess you can manage under all kinds of terrible circumstances. Some, some survive that shouldn't, and some don't. That should.

00:33:33 Speaker 1

And the one kid there that.

00:33:35 Speaker 4

Sign.

00:33:37 Speaker 1

Was killed and the guy said to me, well, maybe it's best that he didn't get killed. I said well.

00:33:42 Speaker 1

And he said, well, it's wife at home is pregnant with another man's child.

00:33:50 Speaker 2

All kinds of.

00:33:52

Yeah.

00:33:53 Speaker 2

Additional stresses.

00:33:54 Speaker 1

Tell her. Tell her about the dog after the war with the dog. Now, where was this? This was in all the street, Germany in Germany.

00:33:57 Speaker 2

The dog dog.

00:34:08 Speaker 1

This guy had a dog and the dog was named baby. This guy somebody.

00:34:18 Speaker 1

After the war.

00:34:20 Speaker 1

And he put his gun in his holster.

00:34:24 Speaker 1

Thing went off and chopped this guy through the stomach. So he's laying on the ground. This guy. And he said to McCurdy and myself, when you see that this dog gets home and we said well that's yeah we.

00:34:38 Speaker 4

Right.

00:34:39 Speaker 1

Make sure he gets home and I'll be darned after the war.

00:34:44 Speaker 1

I went to see this McCurdy. It was probably 20 years and he said the dog lived for 15. He brought that dog.

00:34:53 Speaker 6

Stuck him on the boat and got.

00:34:54 Speaker 1

Him home and I didn't know if Tommy Stanford, this guy that got shot after the war, he come to see me.

00:34:55 Speaker 2

Ohh wonderful.

00:35:05 Speaker 3

And he said.

00:35:06 Speaker 1

What happened to me? And I said, I think McCurdy brought it home and he said I just made.

00:35:15 Speaker 2

All kinds of strange things happening. You were in almost during the entire war. Were you not? Yeah.

00:35:24 Speaker 1

No, there was there was right.

00:35:25 Speaker 2

Well, not since 41 Normandy. Yeah, well, because if you, if you started off in 4042 and went through 45, that was.

00:35:40 Speaker 2

Remember the major? Yeah. Major. Well, I can.

00:35:40 Speaker 6

All the major operation.

00:35:44 Speaker 1

I don't know.

00:35:45 Speaker 1

If you knew about the bloody bomb.

00:35:48 Speaker 1

Well, at night this thing could come from Germany and they had a motor and it would just circle over England. And then when the motor shut off, there was some guy in England would press a button and shut the motor off. So that thing would go into something and blow it apart.

00:35:49 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:36:03

Do you have any?

00:36:04 Speaker 1

Chance to.

00:36:08 Speaker 1

Where they want to.

00:36:09 Speaker 1

Get.

00:36:09 Speaker 1

OK. And you hear that thing?

00:36:12 Speaker 2

And you and you never know where.

00:36:15 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:36:15 Speaker 1

And when that motor shut off, you gotta hurt in the stomach. You thought it was going right at your stomach.

00:36:22 Speaker 2

How did you survive all the stress that you must have been under?

00:36:26 Speaker 1

You're a kid you don't know no better. And I think to the fact that you have buddies that you've been with, it's almost the same as a wife with their buddy.

00:36:39 Speaker 1

You know, and you enjoy each other. You laugh.

00:36:42 Speaker 6

The sense.

00:36:42 Speaker 6

Humor when they get together. Unions, they've all got that. That sense of humor that is the littlest thing and they just grab onto it and write it. They're all like that. I think it's the only thing that got them through.

00:36:53 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:36:58 Speaker 2

Well, I must say I think you've got to be right, because how could you go day after day after day and with constantly threat of being killed?

00:37:09 Speaker 1

He got lost. You know, I got to tell you, this guy's name was McCoy.

00:37:16 Speaker 1

And he just got married before he went over seas. And we're crossing and was all river on this truck. We get on the other side, he said. Fran, I'm hit. I said what he said my shoes are both full of blood. So I said take your shoes off. I looked on this.

00:37:27 Speaker 3

Thank you.

00:37:36 Speaker 1

Street. Nothing wrong with them.

00:37:39 Speaker 1

Crudu pants leg up and he had got so upset, he banged his knees together. Both knees need and rush run down in the shoes.

00:37:40 Speaker 3

456.

00:37:49 Speaker 1

And I get him to.

00:37:50 Speaker 1

The stage just got married before he went overseas and he was thinking of that right.

00:37:56 Speaker 1

He worked to get home and he was.

00:37:59 Speaker 1

And he did. He did get later on, he got tore up real bad.

00:38:04

Anyway.

00:38:06 Speaker 6

Tell him about going over on the boat.

00:38:09 Speaker 6

With the names, with the tales of food.

00:38:14 Speaker 6

Going over on the boat and the tails are.

00:38:16 Speaker 1

Full I went over on the Queen Mary. Queen Mary was big and I don't know why somebody would get seasick on it. It was that big, but the guy was carrying.

00:38:25 Speaker 4

Interesting.

00:38:28 Speaker 1

The English made this means and you had a big English carrying carrying it by us guys that would stand in line to 8.

00:38:40 Speaker 1

And he got sick and he vomited. And then he put it on the table and another guy come along and picked it up and took it in. I didn't give her mouth face. I didn't eat that. They stirred it up a little bit. But I suppose if you hadn't seen it happen, you might not know, but.

00:39:00 Speaker 1

Yeah, I would.

00:39:01 Speaker 3

No.

00:39:02 Speaker 6

When after the war, tell him they told him, they told all of them right. Get home the best you can and tell them how it happened that you got home before the other guys. It was crazy.

00:39:09 Speaker 4

I don't like.

00:39:20 Speaker 1

3-4 about six guys left the day before me.

00:39:24 Speaker 2

Now, where were you at that time? You.

00:39:26 Speaker 1

Were straight in Germany, OK? And they had more points than they. So they sent them out. The next day they sent me out.

00:39:38 Speaker 1

So I went down to the.

00:39:41 Speaker 1

Race and they said go on down the boat every day and get up.

00:39:42

Scott.

00:39:47 Speaker 5

Where are you?

00:39:49 Speaker 5

But you were staying in there, but they had.

00:39:52 Speaker 1

Well, they had tents and you just sit and watch shores. They had not repeated and repeated you.

00:39:56 Speaker 3

Right.

00:39:58 Speaker 5

Know they were caught after cigarettes.

00:40:05 Speaker 1

Talks.

00:40:07 Speaker 1

And so I got down there and.

00:40:11 Speaker 1

I noticed this one sailor comes on the ship. I'm voting for him and he came down. Here's a \$20 bill. Can you get me on this? Yeah. Follow me. So I got it. And what?

00:40:26 Speaker 1

And I was home before everybody else in October. The other guys got discharged in January and February.

00:40:33 Speaker 2

Oh, wow. Wow. OK.

00:40:38 Speaker 1

But in life I was in Yuma, AZ, and a guy had his car there and was going to.

00:40:40

When?

00:40:48 Speaker 3

Good morning. So.

00:40:52 Speaker 1

He this guy told me and and the other fellas I can write home which but can only take 1. So we flip the coin and I lost when that other guy got to go home with him.

00:40:55

No.

00:41:06 Speaker 1

So this guy said to me, won't you go see the chaplain? I want to see the Chapman's. Yeah, I'm.

00:41:13 Speaker 1

Going to new.

00:41:14 Speaker 1

York, he says. I'll drop you off in Indiana.

00:41:17 Speaker 4

Oh wow.

00:41:18 Speaker 1

And that was in those days, it said go see the.

00:41:20 Speaker 1

Chapter and I did.

00:41:24 Speaker 6

Tell them about the time.

00:41:27 Speaker 6

So.

00:41:29 Speaker 1

Tonsillitis and I had a real bad tour to check into the hospital. They said we're taking your tonsils out in the morning.

00:41:39 Speaker 2

So you got your tonsils out as.

00:41:41 Speaker 2

Bonus.

00:41:43 Speaker 1

At 4:00 in the morning, they said you're outfit. You may Arizona. We're not gonna operate out. So they sent me back to camp.

00:41:54 Speaker 1

Company commander handed me a two week leave. I should. What's that? He should recuperate from your operation. I said. Sam, I didn't get operated on. He said they'd be more work for me to change the paperwork. Go on. Hold with seeing you.

00:42:03

1.

00:42:16 Speaker 5

So whole thing has been like that one thing after another.

00:42:23 Speaker 2

So did you ever get your tonsils taken out or you didn't know?

00:42:26 Speaker 5

No, never did.

00:42:28 Speaker 1

In those days, dumb things I wrote plenty of mine.

00:42:36 Speaker 1

I gotta get home. So they went down into town and they bought up titles.

00:42:40 Speaker 1

Motorcycle for \$0.50, but there was no motorcycle. They brought it back and they got a pass.

00:42:48 Speaker 1

For two weeks to take that motorcycle home, they caught the train.

00:42:55 Speaker 2

Ingenious really had to be shut.

00:42:58 Speaker 2

You know. Ohh yeah. You were in the desert now.

00:43:03 Speaker 5

I guess you was when you were in the desert and.

00:43:07 Speaker 5

I did the truck but.

00:43:12 Speaker 1

Yeah. And I had my.

00:43:15 Speaker 1

They were by a tree and I had my ham on tied to the tree and the bumper of the truck well it.

00:43:25 Speaker 1

All of a sudden I'm rolling down a hill.

00:43:30 Speaker 1

Flew up some guy's little match for something and he blew the truck up.

00:43:39 Speaker 1

Wow.

00:43:40 Speaker 1

Question Mr. magic. But God has been good to me, I guess. Tell about living with the dentist.

00:43:45 Speaker 1

1.

00:43:47 Speaker 5

Yeah.

00:43:52 Speaker 1

Oh, I live with the after the war ended, I lived with a dentist in this town of Water St.

00:43:58 Speaker 2

Now this is a German dentist. Yeah. How did you get to do?

00:44:04 Speaker 1

That, well, everybody lived in the homes after.

00:44:07 Speaker 2

The war. OK, with the people, OK.

00:44:11 Speaker 1

And this dentist I need.

00:44:13 Speaker 4

Of.

00:44:13 Speaker 3

How you doing?

00:44:14 Speaker 1

Build and he said. Well, I don't have any stuff, he said. You got a ring, I say I gotta go. Ring. You said? Yeah, I'll melt it down. You put that gold filling in my tooth? Yeah, they and they.

00:44:23

Relationship.

00:44:30 Speaker 2

Amazing.

00:44:33 Speaker 1

Well, I'm German myself, and I remember one time the the guy could talk American and he was the postmaster in this.

00:44:40 Speaker 4

At the bowl.

00:44:44 Speaker 1

And I told him I'm German and he said you're biting some folks and says yeah, because you've got a guy at the helm who says he's going to rule the world and we.

00:44:54 Speaker 1

Don't want you to.

00:44:55 Speaker 2

Rule us not a good idea. Did you speak German?

00:45:04 Speaker 1

Restoring some sagginess for staying. If you talk slow, I can understand.

00:45:09 Speaker 1

And my family.

00:45:13 Speaker 1

When they didn't want us trips to her.

00:45:16 Speaker 1

They talked German, so I thought I had learned, but they turned around. They talked real fast and I couldn't catch it.

00:45:16 Speaker 4

Altered.

00:45:25 Speaker 2

Yeah, you have to have a lot of practice in the in a language.

00:45:27 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:45:38 Speaker 1

She.

00:45:40 Speaker 1

I was in front and Nick Bucci and then this other fellow and they were shooting at us and we went through a tennis court with an old the opening innocent, just one by hand.

00:45:40 Speaker 7

Just want to say.

00:45:54 Speaker 1

To the right, and he was run through the.

00:45:59 Speaker 1

They were shooting at him. The Sergeant went back and called off and cracked him and says come on.

00:46:00 Speaker 4

Right.

00:46:05 Speaker 1

And he saved his life. I kept on going on, killed.

00:46:10 Speaker 4

No.

00:46:12 Speaker 2

That's amazing.

00:46:13 Speaker 2

I you never were captured though, right? No.

00:46:21 Speaker 1

After the night smashing was held for this other kid and related, but or how much more hands down in the screen and otherwise I would have been.

00:46:27 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:46:36 Speaker 2

So you had a charmed life.

00:46:38 Speaker 1

Good life. I mean, when you're sick.

00:46:41 Speaker 6

Was that was that when you were in the Moselle, when the cricket was that cold? I mean, oh, OK.

00:46:46 Speaker 1

Oh God, I don't know how I live young.

00:46:53 Speaker 2

Young and foolish. Yeah. Yeah. So you had a whole bunch of metals that you accumulated. I know. I made a list of them.

00:47:03 Speaker 4

Umm.

00:47:05 Speaker 2

Are there any particular circumstances that go with those metals or is it accumulation?

00:47:11 Speaker 1

At all the different campaigns of the war.

00:47:15 Speaker 6

OK. How did you get the shrapnel hits? How did you get hit with shrapnel? Well, when we crossed the river.

00:47:25 Speaker 1

That that morning shrapnel got me in the ankle and I am 86 years old. I never did go to the government and get a disability.

00:47:34 Speaker 4

Morning.

00:47:43 Speaker 2

Ohh great.

00:47:46 Speaker 2

OK, I'll make a note of what these are. Oh, OK.

00:47:50 Speaker 1

Now this is when the war. That's all the Germans there.

00:47:59 Speaker 2

OK, so these are two photographs that you took when you were the first or Americans to get to this camp. Which camp was this?

00:48:08 Speaker 1

We don't know. We don't know, OK, that.

00:48:13 Speaker 4

The big one? Ohh.

00:48:13 Speaker 1

I'm the littlest.

00:48:15 Speaker 5

The big ones?

00:48:16 Speaker 4

Oh, OK. Oh, I'm.

00:48:17 Speaker 1

Alright, the little guy in here someplace.

00:48:20 Speaker 2

OK, so that.

00:48:21 Speaker 1

Your bodies here in this trenches.

00:48:25 Speaker 2

Right. And these look like the people who were in the camp, who were starved like you see on the on the news. And so that the the three pairs of legs at the top of the photo, one of them belongs to you, one of those pairs of legs who were the other two people.

00:48:29 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah.

00:48:40 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:48:43 Speaker 1

Oh, I don't want the game driver, sorry.

00:48:46 Speaker 1

Was.

00:48:46 Speaker 2

Surgeon. OK. OK.

00:48:49 Speaker 2

And the larger photograph is also from this same camp as you've got. No, this is. Oh, this is after the war, OK.

00:48:55 Speaker 1

This is after the war.

00:48:58 Speaker 5

These are Germans who have.

00:49:00 Speaker 2

OK, so this would be a German prisoner, American prisoner of war camp for the Germans, right. They were all just lined up waiting to surrender.

00:49:06 Speaker 1

No. Well, they just surrendered to y'all.

00:49:10 Speaker 2

See OK.

00:49:12 Speaker 2

OK. And these people, these are Americans here.

00:49:16 Speaker 1

No, I don't think so. Here. Here is I think that German is, that's all German.

00:49:21 Speaker 6

Yes.

00:49:22 Speaker 2

OK, so OK, so these were all soldiers, German soldiers who were waiting to surrender and to get out of this. Yeah, that sense. OK, alright. I will identify them and put them in with this. And if anybody wants to contact you more about this, I'm sure.

00:49:41 Speaker 2

Well, OK. How did you stay in touch with your family while you were over there?

00:49:44 Speaker 2

You those are great.

00:49:46 Speaker 7

Thanks. Thank you.

00:49:49 Speaker 1

When I was a bad boy, I didn't ride home very much. In fact, my family got a notice that I got the perfect heart and was concerned, and I'll have to tell you a funny story about that.

00:50:07 Speaker 1

My two sisters, they read all about the shoulders when they come home and holidayed after what they do, so I was always a cut up and I was sitting at the table and when.

00:50:17 Speaker 4

Right.

00:50:21 Speaker 1

My dad and mom were talking in front of the girl like her like that and throw my face and my mouth and that and all of a sudden they both got up and left the bedroom, started bowling something wrong with their brother, and then I had to go in and tell him. I'm just playing around with them.

00:50:41 Speaker 2

A real tease, right?

00:50:42 Speaker 5

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:50:44 Speaker 1

I was. I was a spoiled. My mom loved me dearly, and after the war I was home for about 3 months and the girl said.

00:50:55 Speaker 1

Francis isn't paying any board. We do.

00:50:59 Speaker 1

So my mom. So, Francis, you'll start paying for it. I thought my mom turned on me, but I.

00:51:04 Speaker 1

Didn't say anything.

00:51:06 Speaker 1

Later on, she said France, if you pay me right in front of them, then I'll slip back to you.

00:51:12 Speaker 1

And my sister to this day thinks her mother did love her.

00:51:17 Speaker 6

Well.

00:51:18 Speaker 3

Alright, go ahead.

00:51:19 Speaker 2

I know the boys get to be the.

00:51:21 Speaker 6

Favorites often, especially that generation.

00:51:24 Speaker 2

Yes, and that generation, right, right.

00:51:28 Speaker 2

While you were in all these combat areas, did you ever get fed? What did you ever get any decent food while you were in all these combat situations?

00:51:34 Speaker 1

Hey.

00:51:39 Speaker 1

Well, you need to have seen rash one time where there was three of us guys. We had the cheek and we thought, what the heck, the war going on. So we went back in the restaurant with the Jeep and we lived in a.

00:51:48 Speaker 6

We do it right here, yeah.

00:52:00 Speaker 1

Blown up Castle Pro to about 3 weeks away from the company and just enjoyed ourselves and go to.

00:52:07 Speaker 1

Kitchen, on the other Armory.

00:52:10 Speaker 5

You could put that on tape, honey.

00:52:10 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:52:12 Speaker 1

And then we turned around, and after three weeks we just said we got lost, OK?

00:52:19 Speaker 2

That was a good place to be lost.

00:52:22 Speaker 5

3.

00:52:24 Speaker 2

Did they bring you know, you the the newsreels used to show big time entertainers going to entertain the troops during the war. Did you ever?

00:52:33 Speaker 6

Handle.

00:52:34 Speaker 1

We had, I never shot and we were in the, we were up front and they couldn't go up there was they would have got shipped after the war. When I was in all this.

00:52:46 Speaker 1

The Red Cross did come up there and brought coffee.

00:52:50 Speaker 2

But Bob Hope never visited you before, no.

00:52:52 Speaker 1

God.

00:52:53 Speaker 1

We quit. Let those people.

00:52:59 Speaker 5

You got to see President Roosevelt before the.

00:53:02 Speaker 1

I saw President Roosevelt, when I was at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, and he drove by.

00:53:10 Speaker 1

And open eyes. And we were. And the guy next to me said we're going to get shipped overseas. They're saying for what they're doing.

00:53:19 Speaker 1

We did.

00:53:22 Speaker 4

Alright.

00:53:23 Speaker 6

Did you ever see any of the generals like?

00:53:26 Speaker 6

The big generals, did you ever did?

00:53:28 Speaker 6

They struggle 15.

00:53:29 Speaker 1

Eisenhower while I Shaw.

00:53:31 Speaker 1

Yeah, and the darn fool had no business being up there.

00:53:37 Speaker 4

Yeah.

00:53:38 Speaker 5

This is this is not in the states that overseas.

00:53:43 Speaker 1

But like I say, he had no business being up there that close to the front line because he had knowledge and what they did, they stopped Pat.

00:53:53 Speaker 1

Because he was pushing them back and they thought that he was making too much progress, so they stopped.

00:53:55 Speaker 7

Mm-hmm.

00:54:00 Speaker 1

Too fast? Yeah. And but he said it's like a fighter. You got a fighter going down, keep adding, see. Then the Germans could regroup again.

00:54:02 Speaker 2

They couldn't keep up with it.

00:54:08

Right.

00:54:10 Speaker 2

OK. Yeah. If you slow down, right?

00:54:15 Speaker 2

So there were three men or two other men that you were especially friends.

00:54:20 Speaker 2

During that time, was that it?

00:54:22 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:54:23 Speaker 1

Huh.

00:54:24 Speaker 5

We had a.

00:54:24 Speaker 1

Lot of a lot of friends but.

00:54:27 Speaker 2

Did you keep up with them after the war? The friends?

00:54:29 Speaker 1

Ah, yeah. Well, the one was dead and the other one. Yes, I did. But he's in Florida now. OK. And then there was Nick Mucci. Yeah, I used to be my buddy. We used to go there and.

00:54:36 Speaker 4

Right.

00:54:42 Speaker 1

There.

00:54:43 Speaker 1

To Pennsylvania every year.

00:54:48 Speaker 4

Let's see what else?

00:54:49 Speaker 5

Gradually we starting.

00:54:52 Speaker 5

Getting in touch with the other many of.

00:54:54 Speaker 1

The other have we started a army reunion.

00:54:55 Speaker 5

Next.

00:54:58 Speaker 2

Ohh OK, when did you start?

00:55:00 Speaker 1

That and we started 20 some years ago.

00:55:01 Speaker 5

That must have been 20 years ago.

00:55:04 Speaker 2

Just for your group, yeah.

00:55:07 Speaker 1

That's my conflict and now.

00:55:09 Speaker 6

Blender anymore.

00:55:11 Speaker 5

Is what? Whatever. I will. Well, there's probably six or seven alive that only four of us could come to our.

00:55:12 Speaker 3

Right.

00:55:17 Speaker 7

Victory in the right.

00:55:18 Speaker 1

Last, get together, the rest are all dead.

00:55:21 Speaker 2

Yeah. Well, we all fade away eventually.

00:55:25 Speaker 6

But now they never.

00:55:27 Speaker 6

Together with them, we find out they all have similar circumstance. The kids, they've heard any of the stories, never knew anything about the war until they started getting together and never talked about what they've been over. It was 30 years before they were able to.

00:55:42 Speaker 6

Even globalized any other.

00:55:43 Speaker 5

Your friends.

00:55:45 Speaker 2

Well, that's not surprising. I mean, such horrendous kinds of situations.

00:55:51 Speaker 2

What did you do after you got back though?

00:55:53 Speaker 1

Thank you very very much.

00:55:56 Speaker 1

Before I went in.

00:55:58 Speaker 1

To service, I worked at a steel mill in 87th St. in Chicago.

00:56:06 Speaker 1

Had made my mind.

00:56:06 Speaker 2

That Wisconsin, that wasn't Wisconsin steel was that wasn't Wisconsin steel, was it?

00:56:12 Speaker 1

No, no, no.

00:56:13 Speaker 1

And.

00:56:16 Speaker 1

I had made my mind up when I was in service that I was not going to be working in a mill when.

00:56:16

All right.

00:56:22 Speaker 1

I got out.

00:56:24 Speaker 1

So my dad's dad said to me Francis did in the post office, so I went down and they they said they had a janitor job for five hours. You sweep and you put coal in the furnace.

00:56:39 Speaker 1

Well, I did it for two weeks the postmaster.

00:56:41

Period.

00:56:42 Speaker 1

He like because I was working and doing things and he put me up at the window and then I sold stamps and everything and then probably 2 years later a job came open for wood.

00:56:47 Speaker 4

Much larger.

00:56:53 Speaker 6

OK.

00:57:00 Speaker 1

You had to take an exam for it and there were 17 total.

00:57:06 Speaker 1

And some were school teachers and some with college education, and I was not too sure school and I come out with the top grade and I never told him at the post office I had the Purple Heart. I got 10 minutes on exam only made 83 and give me 93.

00:57:17 Speaker 4

My father lives.

00:57:26 Speaker 1

Nate, all of them and post all stuff for that guy. Spark, I never did.

00:57:31 Speaker 2

While your experience being a mailman in the service must have counted for something.

00:57:36 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:57:37 Speaker 1

Well, I don't know why they didn't care about that.

00:57:43 Speaker 2

So did you go up to ever think about going back to school using the GI Bill?

00:57:50 Speaker 1

No, because I was busy learning with the post office bonds all that stuff and that.

00:58:01 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:58:02 Speaker 1

Educated myself when the exam come up, she helped me. My sister helped me and another girl help different questions and things like that.

00:58:08 Speaker 6

So.

00:58:12 Speaker 5

And he loved his work.

00:58:14 Speaker 1

I was a rural mail carrier.

00:58:17 Speaker 2

Or a rural route carrier Hobart area.

00:58:20 Speaker 1

Yeah. And I had in those days I had age where people were Wheeler, South Haven Portage the homework.

00:58:29 Speaker 2

Very healthy running around in all of that fresh air. Yeah, yeah.

00:58:34 Speaker 7

This.

00:58:35 Speaker 1

But I drove a car, you understand?

00:58:37 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah, I know. You didn't walk at that time. So the friends that you still have from the service are just a handful right now left.

00:58:47 Speaker 1

Right now, in fact, we're all Michael goes with us and Bob, we go to this year, it's at Nashville and we got a reunion, but there will only be.

00:58:58 Speaker 1

Probably three of us because.

00:59:01 Speaker 1

I'm ready. Busy. He can't come. The other guy. Another guy can't come. We're about three of us are 4.

00:59:12 Speaker 2

Now, do you belong to any other veterans organizations or just?

00:59:16 Speaker 1

Your own I belong to.

00:59:17 Speaker 1

Disabled Veterans Front American Legion and in fact, this post.

00:59:23 Speaker 3

More important.

00:59:24 Speaker 1

Here when I got out of the uh-huh. OK.

00:59:26 Speaker 1

There was a friend brought me over here and here's where I signed up for the.

00:59:32 Speaker 5

He's also a member of the VFW in.

00:59:35 Speaker 2

In Lake Station, OK.

00:59:41 Speaker 2

Can you? I'm sure you thought about how, how being in the service affected your life after that and and particularly about war, your views of war and and the military.

00:59:43 Speaker 5

Yeah.

00:59:51 Speaker 4

There.

00:59:55 Speaker 1

So, well, I think when you got out, you appreciated things.

01:00:00 Speaker 1

When I was in service, I said Lord.

01:00:03 Speaker 1

You let me come back and have a cup of coffee and a piece of pie. I will be thankful.

01:00:09 Speaker 1

And to this.

01:00:10 Speaker 3

Day I often go out and have a piece of money when I come to come off, yeah.

01:00:18

Your.

01:00:19 Speaker 4

Camera.

01:00:20 Speaker 3

Again, all you.

01:00:22 Speaker 2

OK. Then you think of anything else that we haven't touched on that you think would be important that for other people to know this is all going to go to the library of?

01:00:32 Speaker 2

Congress.

01:00:33 Speaker 2

I don't know if they'll keep any of it here as well.

01:00:40 Speaker 1

Know who I am.

01:00:43 Speaker 1

I came out and I got my health number 86 and.

01:00:47 Speaker 4

For.

01:00:51 Speaker 1

The taxes went up, you know.

01:00:54 Speaker 1

All right, so when the taxes went up on us, I never got a disability all my life. I'm 86, so in June, I went up to Chicago.

01:01:06 Speaker 1

And examine my ankle and he said, yeah. So I get a disability of \$108.00 a month.

01:01:14 Speaker 4

Right.

01:01:15 Speaker 1

Over the ankle and also I did it because of the taxes you get an exception on taxes, amount of money and that's the only reason I did it. I was that Doctor said to me.

01:01:26 Speaker 7

Right.

01:01:30 Speaker 1

You're just coming now. I shall. I was thankful I lived. And come on. All right. And I live. What a thing. But when they have the taxes so high, that's what I get it. And how long am I going to collect?

01:01:38 Speaker 3

Action.

01:01:43 Speaker 2

It so we've got a good thing going with you, right? We're not.

01:01:48 Speaker 2

Going to pay for too much longer.

01:01:51 Speaker 2

Well, I'll tell you, it's it's important to get whatever you need and all the services that you need, the health services.

01:02:00 Speaker 1

I never did. I was thankful, considered the other guy.

01:02:03 Speaker 5

He does need hearing aids, but what?

01:02:08 Speaker 5

Yeah, they they have enough.

01:02:12 Speaker 5

Bad.

01:02:13 Speaker 2

That's not. That's not what they they will improve.

01:02:16 Speaker 6

And the health.

01:02:18 Speaker 2

Our hearing aids.

01:02:20 Speaker 5

Yeah, you're supposed to be able.

01:02:22 Speaker 5

To get it.

01:02:23 Speaker 2

Yeah, I'll ask you to fill that out.

01:02:27 Speaker 2

This is the release form that says.

01:02:31 Speaker 2

This tape material will be made available to whoever academics or students or senators or whoever want wants to put together any more of this information.

01:02:46 Speaker 5

And brother listens to us. Going to think, boy, he had a.

01:02:49 Speaker 2

Good time. Well, you know, I understand.

01:02:52 Speaker 2

That that all of the people who have been interviewed always bring up some of these crazy things that they did. And I think you're absolutely right. They had to do this because otherwise they would not have survived. I think I think they came back and dwelled on all the bad things. I think they will all go crazy.

01:02:59 Speaker 5

Yeah, yeah.

01:03:12 Speaker 1

Yeah, exactly there.

01:03:13 Speaker 6

And I think by by kid like memories are the good things is.

01:03:17 Speaker 6

It still not.

01:03:23 Speaker 6

Funny, I mean.

01:03:25 Speaker 6

Digging each other back and forth, you know, just like kids and grace were amazing.

01:03:31 Speaker 2

Well, I guess your friendships really had to be strong in order to survive at all under those circumstances. See too many terrible things.

01:03:35 Speaker 5

Yes.

01:03:44 Speaker 5

They find one of the fellows finally found out where our captain was, and he had been seriously wounded and in England, at hospitals and we never knew where he was. Turned out. He lived just a few.

01:04:00 Speaker 5

Miles from my our son in California.

01:04:02 Speaker 6

So we got to go.

01:04:03 Speaker 5

See him and he came.

01:04:05 Speaker 5

To two or three of our reunions, I'm talking.

01:04:08 Speaker 5

Touch.

01:04:15 Speaker 2

When when did you 2 get married?

01:04:17 Speaker 5

1946.

01:04:20 Speaker 2

He you knew each other before.

01:04:22 Speaker 1

No, no. Some dirty guy introduced us.

01:04:28 Speaker 1

And had it in for you, right. He was a Fire Chief in the Hobart. He ended up we ever gotten the street I'd run over.

01:04:30 Speaker 5

Yeah, both trying to land him wait for him.

01:04:37 Speaker 7

And not.

01:04:41 Speaker 2

On that, on that show, you know what? I think we'll end this.

01:04:41 Speaker 1

No, I I was here when I was shell shocked when I got.