

## **Robert Hunter Reeser Interview**

305th Medical Battalion

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Christine Dialectos)*

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

00:01:18 Speaker 1

Welcome to Tales of World War.

00:01:20 Speaker 1

Thank you for joining us this evening. I'm Christine dialectos.

00:01:24 Speaker 2

And I am Sharon wells.

00:01:25 Speaker 2

Thank you for tuning in this.

00:01:27 Speaker 2

Our guest this evening is Robert Hunter Reserve.

00:01:31 Speaker 2

Robert was a combat medic with the 80th Infantry Division in Europe.

00:01:38 Speaker 2

He's also the recipient of the French Legion of Honor.

00:01:41 Speaker 2

That's quite.

00:01:42 Speaker 2

Impressive. We're going to call you Bob this evening.

00:01:45 Speaker 3

Thank you.

00:01:45 Speaker 2

Bob.

00:01:46 Speaker 2

Welcome to the show.

00:01:47 Speaker 3

Thank you.

00:01:47 Speaker 1

Thank you for joining us.

00:01:49 Speaker 1

Honored.

00:01:49 Speaker 3

I'm very happy to be here.

00:01:52 Speaker 1

It's our pleasure, right?

00:01:55 Speaker 1

Where were you born, Bob?

00:01:57 Speaker 1

Can you tell?

00:01:58 Speaker 1

Us a.

00:01:59 Speaker 1

About where you were born and where you were growing up.

00:02:02 Speaker 3

Born in Reading, PA, 1921, March of 25th.

00:02:08 Speaker 3

I was lucky and losing my mother when I was seven years old and my father had to move my brother and I.

00:02:18 Speaker 3

Was two years older and I and.

00:02:22 Speaker 3

We moved to Birsborough and my widowed aunt raised Glenn and I.

00:02:28 Speaker 3

Was nine and I was 7 when.

00:02:31 Speaker 3

All that took place at his 1927.

00:02:35 Speaker 3

So I was raised.

00:02:37 Speaker 3

In Birsberg by a wonderful, wonderful aunt named Kitty.

00:02:39 Speaker 1

Might as well.

00:02:43 Speaker 2

Aunt Kitty.

00:02:44 Speaker 3

Aunt Kitty Bennett.

00:02:45 Speaker 2

We have a.

00:02:46 Speaker 2

Cute photo.

00:02:47 Speaker 2

Of Bob as a 2 year old.

00:02:50 Speaker 2

We don't normally show childhood photos, but I I could not resist that one.

00:02:54 Speaker 2

Were you doing there?

00:02:56

Bob.

00:02:56 Speaker 3

I was a doctor.

00:02:57 Speaker 3

I was making a house.

00:02:59

It's an awesome picture.

00:03:02 Speaker 3

There's 1923 out in the back, I guess around 2 years old.

00:03:02

I.

00:03:07 Speaker 3

So yeah.

00:03:11 Speaker 1

Were you drafted, Bob, or did you enlist? What? What happened?

00:03:12 Speaker 3

Yes, I was.

00:03:13 Speaker 3

No, I was drafted July the 6th, 1942 Phillips and Birdsboro and one of the pillars was mayor reading Mr. Jane Shirk. He was our.

00:03:27 Speaker 3

Athletic director and coach at Burnsville High School and algebra teacher.

00:03:31 Speaker 3

And he was single, and he went a lot older than another 8 fellas.

00:03:38 Speaker 3

He was.

00:03:40 Speaker 3

Grafted and he went along off with us to.

00:03:45 Speaker 3

Maryland and.

00:03:50 Speaker 3

Well, you going to get him a couple days.

00:03:51 Speaker 3

They seated him out and person, you know, he says goodbye.

00:03:57 Speaker 3

I'm walk to the Air Force.

00:04:00 Speaker 3

They're making me.

00:04:01 Speaker 3

Weatherman.

00:04:01 Speaker 3

Beale, Mississippi. So their Jean shirt was off to the Air Force as a weather man.

00:04:09 Speaker 2

Well, where did you in particular train? And where did they send you?

00:04:14 Speaker 3

Well, we.

00:04:15 Speaker 3

We were in Port Meade for 2-3 days and give us all our.

00:04:19 Speaker 3

Things that we needed, jackets and clothes and so forth and off to campus, Tennessee.

00:04:26 Speaker 3

Was a brand new camp.

00:04:28 Speaker 3

Buildings were even finished off yet, but it was a brand new campus near Tullahoma, TN.

00:04:34 Speaker 3

It was right outside of Tallahassee between.

00:04:38 Speaker 3

Nash, Nashville and Chattanooga, so.

00:04:42 Speaker 3

That was in.

00:04:43 Speaker 3

That's where the 80th Division was formed, and it was Academy came over from Port Jackson.

00:04:51 Speaker 3

And they were old regular army guys, and they're the ones that had to break us in to make us.

00:04:57 Speaker 3

When the soldiers.

00:04:59 Speaker 3

Right.

00:05:00 Speaker 2

How long were you in training?

00:05:02

Typical.

00:05:02 Speaker 3

Well, we had.

00:05:05 Speaker 3

About four or five months in Tennessee, and then we were over do Camp Phillips Kansas.

00:05:15 Speaker 3

For another bit of training.

00:05:18 Speaker 3

Then we went down to Camp Laguna, Arizona, which was outside of Yuma.

00:05:25 Speaker 3

And that was desert.

00:05:27 Speaker 3

Maneuvers many.

00:05:29 Speaker 3

We lived in tents and we maneuvered in the sand. I mean, there were sand dunes there. It was a fact is the.

00:05:40 Speaker 3

They asked for volunteer truck drivers one night and here they were making a movie about.

00:05:47 Speaker 3

Ernie Pyle, the famous work artist and the opening scene of that movie GI Joe.

00:05:51

Well.

00:05:51 Speaker 1

Corresponding unit.

00:05:58 Speaker 3

There was 7 trucks going across the African desert.

00:06:04 Speaker 3

That's what was in the.

00:06:06 Speaker 3

But actually it was in Yuma, AZ.

00:06:07 Speaker 3

But I was driving the third truck and I had Robert Mitchum.

00:06:14 Speaker 3

That was his first movie.

00:06:16 Speaker 3

He wouldn't very well known, but he was Lieutenant.

00:06:20 Speaker 3

Was a problem of me and Burgess murders.

00:06:22

No.

00:06:26 Speaker 3

He played the part of Ernie Pyle.

00:06:28 Speaker 3

He was in another truck with a friend of mine, Troy Krasinski, but.

00:06:36 Speaker 3

That was we got lunch for.

00:06:39 Speaker 3

We didn't get no pay, but we got a nice meal out of that.

00:06:43 Speaker 3

But it was a night.

00:06:43 Speaker 1

You got to drive has to drive in.

00:06:44 Speaker 3

Was a night scene.

00:06:46 Speaker 2

You got to drive Robert Mitchum.

00:06:47 Speaker 2

Yeah, that's pretty cool.

00:06:48 Speaker 3

He was a nobody.

00:06:50 Speaker 3

That was his first.

00:06:51 Speaker 3

No one ever heard of him, but it was his first movie, Lieutenant.

00:06:55 Speaker 2

You've got all kinds of stories, Bob.

00:06:58 Speaker 2

That's a pretty cool one.

00:07:01 Speaker 2

When did you ship out them?

00:07:03 Speaker 3

We went out to we went from the Luna port. \*\*\*\*\* We were there.

00:07:12 Speaker 3

Months, quite a month and they put us on the Queen Mary. One day was in July.

00:07:18 Speaker 3

A purse in July of this first week of July.

00:07:22 Speaker 3

And four days and 20 hours later, we were in.

00:07:27 Speaker 3

Work Scotland.

00:07:30 Speaker 3

And a few word there. Big old ship sitting in there all by itself.



00:07:34 Speaker 3

And there was 15,000 of us on board the whole 80th Division.

00:07:38 Speaker 2

What was that like? A small town boy?

00:07:42 Speaker 2

All of a sudden you don't want to ship.

00:07:43 Speaker 3

Well.

00:07:45 Speaker 3

This program is long enough to let you hear the story about me, and when the Queen Mary, it's another real wild story.

00:07:54 Speaker 3

But maybe some other time I will have more time.

00:07:59 Speaker 3

Real, real story.

00:08:02 Speaker 2

You're in Scotland now.

00:08:03 Speaker 3

I.

00:08:03 Speaker 2

What did you do in Scotland?

00:08:04

I.

00:08:04 Speaker 3

Hope we went there a couple hours. I put us right on trains and right down to Norwich, England.

00:08:14 Speaker 3

And it was a small town not too far from Manchester, was the biggest city.

00:08:21 Speaker 3

When we went to, we were there about two months.

00:08:25 Speaker 3

And we didn't do any training or anything and we just got there and we picked up equipment. So for trucks and whatnot.

00:08:33 Speaker 3

And then we.

00:08:35 Speaker 3

One night they just said off to South Hampton. We go and they loaded us up one.

00:08:42 Speaker 3

Barges and all kind of vessels and we went to, we landed in Utah.

00:08:51 Speaker 3

We didn't go in Omaha, Omaha or so away, but we actually landed on Utah Beach.

00:08:58 Speaker 2

When was.

00:09:00 Speaker 2

When was it? Shortly after D-Day.

00:09:01 Speaker 3

Oh no, that was a good.

00:09:04 Speaker 3

But it's a good at least a good month.

00:09:10 Speaker 3

The the action most of the boy had moved in off the beach and and, but it wasn't for long.

00:09:20 Speaker 3

Day.

00:09:20 Speaker 3

Later, we were in all kind of mess. We had to what they called the play gap that was.

00:09:28 Speaker 3

A.

00:09:29 Speaker 3

Battle that was born with the Canadian 2nd Army and Patton's Third Army.

00:09:36 Speaker 3

Was all General Patton 3rd Army.

00:09:39 Speaker 3

We swung down South and our first big battle, that was a big one.

00:09:45 Speaker 3

Battle of.

00:09:46 Speaker 3

We took us like 3 days.

00:09:50 Speaker 3

To take Largent and we had all kind of going on there. Habit of real.

00:09:57 Speaker 3

Real mess. But we we done well.

00:10:01 Speaker 3

And we closed the gap.

00:10:02 Speaker 3

And they captured 35,000 Germans.

00:10:07 Speaker 1

3/8.

00:10:09 Speaker 3

Well.

00:10:10

5.

00:10:11 Speaker 3

The 3rd Army, the 80th, was just part of the Soviet 35th Division, the Third Division and the 8th Division. Then in the Canadians came down.

00:10:12 Speaker 2

OK.

00:10:22 Speaker 3

From the north and they close this thing up and they had all these Germans in there.

00:10:27 Speaker 3

And it was.

00:10:29 Speaker 3

That was our real first.

00:10:31 Speaker 1

We first.

00:10:31 Speaker 1

Was this around the time then that you became a?

00:10:32 Speaker 3

Right, right.

00:10:33 Speaker 1

Medic did.

00:10:35 Speaker 3

No, I did truck driver.

00:10:36 Speaker 3

I was still a truck driver. Yeah, I was.

00:10:39 Speaker 3

I drove a big old Army truck.

00:10:43 Speaker 3

People.

00:10:43 Speaker 3

That was my number and I had on my truck the tents.

00:10:48 Speaker 3

Had four big.

00:10:49 Speaker 3

They were not as big as a circus tent, but they were.

00:10:53 Speaker 3

Large one tent.

00:10:57 Speaker 3

Had all the operating to operating.

00:11:02 Speaker 3

Tables plus 10 doctors and then the other three were were convalescent.

00:11:10 Speaker 3

You know the minor injuries and so forth they were put in these other tents, but the the big tent.

00:11:18 Speaker 3

Was where they had these two operating rooms.

00:11:24 Speaker 3

And the mash actually.

00:11:28 Speaker 3

You all saw the movie mash or the chief.

00:11:30 Speaker 3

Show that's what we were.

00:11:32 Speaker 3

Were but.

00:11:33 Speaker 3

Recall a clearing station then, and that was the.

00:11:38 Speaker 2

How close to?

00:11:39 Speaker 3

The wines were.

00:11:40 Speaker 3

We try to stay in safe, safe ground, but it was we moved about 3-4 days a week.

00:11:49 Speaker 3

There and then the in between.

00:11:52 Speaker 3

On.

00:11:53 Speaker 3

And then we pick up and move.

00:11:56 Speaker 3

And we were back.

00:11:58 Speaker 3

In the shape I would say 345 miles with all dependent.

00:12:05 Speaker 3

If we could use a building rather than put up these tents, and if there was any buildings that were.

00:12:11 Speaker 3

Usable.

00:12:13 Speaker 3

We reduce the use the building instead of going through all this.

00:12:14 Speaker 1

He would use.

00:12:18 Speaker 3

Those tents were large and took a awful lot of work to put them up, so we didn't have to use the tents.

00:12:25 Speaker 3

We didn't do it.

00:12:26 Speaker 2

You were driving ambulances now, correct?

00:12:28 Speaker 3

Well.

00:12:29 Speaker 3

Later on I was motor pool and.

00:12:37 Speaker 3

We had a name 1 namelets that didn't have a designated driver.

00:12:42 Speaker 3

And that was my friend.

00:12:46 Speaker 3

And I even named it most of these.

00:12:49 Speaker 3

Drivers. They had their wives names on girl's friends names and I named this and with Section 8.

00:12:59 Speaker 3

Now Section 8, I don't.

00:13:00 Speaker 3

That's very familiar with that, but that is, it's not a dishonourable discharge in the army, but it's a.

00:13:09 Speaker 3

How much would call it?

00:13:13 Speaker 3

Undesirable I.

00:13:14 Speaker 1

And I'm going to say a little bit less than honorable discharge, yeah.

00:13:17 Speaker 3

Yeah, museum you weren't militarily.

00:13:22 Speaker 3

Fight for the.

00:13:23 Speaker 3

And so I think just able to section 8I picture.

00:13:27 Speaker 3

You.

00:13:30 Speaker 3

Back there's a have a picture of me and doctor Harry Brogan standing alongside of it. And.

00:13:39 Speaker 3

Every now and then I be sneaking and sleeping rather than.

00:13:42 Speaker 3

Talking with.

00:13:43 Speaker 3

Lot of guys were sleeping in boxes and whatnot, but I did go there and get in there.

00:13:52 Speaker 3

Section 8. I was in there with a letter.

00:13:55 Speaker 3

There was no kind of stuff, just like a little warehouse and.

00:14:00 Speaker 2

We see a picture of you with your ambulance.

00:14:03 Speaker 3

That's section.

00:14:04

And.

00:14:04 Speaker 3

That's me and Harry.

00:14:05 Speaker 2

That on you on the left, OK.

00:14:07 Speaker 3

Yeah, that's me on the.

00:14:08 Speaker 3

Put up on it. There you go.

00:14:09 Speaker 2

That's a pretty good picture.

00:14:11 Speaker 3

Harry Brogan. He's going now.

00:14:13 Speaker 3

Was a great guy.

00:14:15 Speaker 3

He's from Pittsburgh.

00:14:17 Speaker 1

Was this at the point that when you did you become a medic, yet had you my client?

00:14:21 Speaker 3

Not quite.



00:14:24 Speaker 3

One night I was.

00:14:27 Speaker 3

Sleeping someone woke me up and says report down the CPI went down there and it says you're.

00:14:36 Speaker 3

Up front.

00:14:37 Speaker 3

It says up where you're going to be a combat medic.

00:14:42 Speaker 3

I.

00:14:42 Speaker 3

I don't have any training, I said.

00:14:45 Speaker 3

We need medics and you're a.

00:14:47 Speaker 3

I had an arm band. They put me in my helmet with a big old cross on the top.

00:14:54 Speaker 3

Know. So up I went.

00:14:57 Speaker 3

And I got up there.

00:14:59 Speaker 3

I was there.

00:15:01 Speaker 3

During the night, they always take replacement up during the night come Daybreak.

00:15:08 Speaker 3

This Lieutenant says. Where's your weapon?

00:15:12 Speaker 3

He says I'm a medic.

00:15:13 Speaker 3

What is your quit license?

00:15:15 Speaker 3

Don't know I.

00:15:16 Speaker 3

I've been just brought up here and dumped here. So he went off and said they took the Medicaid, got injured.

00:15:26 Speaker 3

He.

00:15:27 Speaker 3

Leave his stuff there and I was supposed to pick it up and use it.

00:15:29 Speaker 3

Someone threw it into the ambulance when they hold him away, they threw I am.

00:15:35 Speaker 3

Have a shovel.

00:15:38 Speaker 3

A canteen.

00:15:39 Speaker 3

In a.

00:15:40 Speaker 3

That's all I had.

00:15:42 Speaker 1

No medical equipment, nothing.

00:15:43 Speaker 3

Nothing.

00:15:45 Speaker 3

So my first episode as a combat medic didn't last long.

00:15:52 Speaker 3

When I was there a couple hours and 1, Lieutenant says. What are we going to do with you? I said.

00:15:59 Speaker 3

I'm a truck driver.

00:16:02 Speaker 3

He.

00:16:03 Speaker 3

We're going to send you back.

00:16:04 Speaker 3

So they sent me back.

00:16:06 Speaker 3

About a week later.

00:16:10 Speaker 3

We got another tap on the shoulder and I went down and they said you're going back up.

00:16:18 Speaker 3

And with Art Peters, Hollis Hill and I, Hollis Hill with a full blooded Sioux Indian from North Dakota and Hart Piers was a clubhouse custodian for the Saint.

00:16:29 Speaker 3

Cardinals baseball team.

00:16:32 Speaker 3

And none of us actually know of has had any training whatsoever.

00:16:38 Speaker 3

All, all three of us were Dumber than dumb as far as treating anybody.

00:16:46 Speaker 3

Well, I got signed to the heavy weapons company.

00:16:52 Speaker 3

That was mortars and machine guns, and we were more or less a little bit behind the infantry, the rival companies. And So what Peters did, they sent him off.

00:17:03 Speaker 3

And Hill went off and.

00:17:08 Speaker 3

I was.

00:17:08 Speaker 3

There about 3 or 4 days that time and I luckily I didn't have too much to do.

00:17:15 Speaker 3

I had one casualty and so till I got back.

00:17:24 Speaker 3

Really mean?

00:17:25 Speaker 3

Let me go back to my company decoy. I found out it Pete got shot in the head.

00:17:31 Speaker 3

Sniper got beat in the head with in his helmet, went around.

00:17:36 Speaker 3

Helmet came out the other side.

00:17:39 Speaker 3

And let this destroy. They told me afterwards that when when they got to him, he's.

00:17:45 Speaker 3

They ask him his name and he says Peters.

00:17:49 Speaker 3

Says.

00:17:50 Speaker 3

And someone just rang my bell.

00:17:54 Speaker 3

So he wasn't that.

00:17:56 Speaker 3

I mean the sniper boy then went in and went around and just opened him up and made him bleed like crazy and stricken for days.

00:18:05 Speaker 3

He was back in action.

00:18:07

God.

00:18:08 Speaker 3

Hero, he got a sniper. Got him in a knee and I never saw him again.

00:18:15 Speaker 3

He crippled him by like.

00:18:19 Speaker 3

I guess there was some kind of a bullet or something that took his D cap out, so he went back.

00:18:24 Speaker 3

He was the last I heard.

00:18:26 Speaker 3

Was in England.

00:18:27 Speaker 2

We're going.

00:18:27 Speaker 2

Take a short break and we'll be right back. Thank you.

00:18:32 Speaker 4

You're watching tales of World War 2 on bctv.org be informed.

00:18:38 Speaker 4

Be involved.

00:18:39 Speaker 4

Be a member for membership information. Go to [www.bctv.org/support/membership](http://www.bctv.org/support/membership).

00:18:48 Speaker 4

For other.

00:18:49 Speaker 4

And information go to [bctv.org](http://bctv.org).

00:19:01 Speaker 2

Welcome back to Tales of World War 2 with Bob Reiser. OK.

00:19:06 Speaker 1

I just wanted to continue with your story about your first. Your first treatment as a as a medic.

00:19:11 Speaker 3

Well.

00:19:13 Speaker 3

The only real?

00:19:18 Speaker 3

What would call a instructions, so to speak? Don't give morphine for head wounds, and would you believe the very first actual?

00:19:31 Speaker 3

Casually I had was a poor guy named Dugdale.

00:19:34 Speaker 3

Never gave his name because I spelled it wrong. I had him down his duckdale. I had to make out of E.

00:19:39 Speaker 3

Nicola the EFT tag and I had him down at duckdale.

00:19:43 Speaker 3

Anyway, it was a neck wound now.

00:19:47 Speaker 3

Make wounds that are head.

00:19:49 Speaker 3

Do I do morphine or don't do morphine and I said how much paining in there, young fella?

00:19:58 Speaker 3

He would mumbling her a little bit and he was spitting some blood and.

00:20:03 Speaker 3

Well, apparently he's not in too much pain, so we didn't do any more pain because I didn't know how to give him a shot anyhow.

00:20:11 Speaker 3

I I was four-star poor.

00:20:15 Speaker 3

Combat.

00:20:16 Speaker 3

How about in a very good.

00:20:17 Speaker 3

I was just. I was afraid for it.

00:20:21 Speaker 3

Was a truck driver but.

00:20:22 Speaker 3

They set me up there and I had done all kinds of crazy stuff that.

00:20:28 Speaker 3

When?

00:20:28 Speaker 1

You call to do it. You do it.

00:20:30 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:20:31 Speaker 2

But you were a great ambulance driver and I want to tell the folks out there a little story and then you're going to fill in the blanks early in the war, before the bulge, about 300 American soldiers crossed the Moselle river.

00:20:38 Speaker 3

All right.

00:20:45 Speaker 2

And when they got across, they were attacked by the Germans. And I don't know how many died, but 22 were wounded and Bob got a call. You got to get your ambulance over there and pick up these men.

00:20:54 Speaker 2

Was dark.

00:20:56 Speaker 3

All right.

00:20:57 Speaker 3

I was in old Section 8 that night looking for a place to sleep is all I was doing but.

00:21:03 Speaker 3

I had an extra 5 gallon can of gasoline.

00:21:06 Speaker 3

Why don't I take a drive?

00:21:09 Speaker 3

And the Mozilla River was not as wide as the.

00:21:14 Speaker 3

Such behavior, but a little wider than the school.

00:21:18 Speaker 3

Well, anyway, I went on up long and we were in a little town called Pontoon.

00:21:25 Speaker 3

And next town up was Billy.

00:21:29 Speaker 3

And it was night time, and I was only thing I could drive was was the cat lights you because the Germans were on the other side.

00:21:36 Speaker 3

The.

00:21:36 Speaker 3

And there was no lights, but I was moving along with this aimless, with a little cat lights.

00:21:44 Speaker 3

When I get up there in Boolean and I stop, I'm going to try to find a place that Barkley Sting and take a nap.

00:21:54 Speaker 3

Lieutenant walked up to me. Says you weren't getting more able to come behind guys. And no, I'm it.

00:22:03 Speaker 3

So he says, we got a.

00:22:06 Speaker 3

We got 300 men across there. 22 of them were banged up, injured.

00:22:13 Speaker 3

And we just kept a Ponty Bridge finished here and we'd like to.

00:22:20 Speaker 3



Get those guys back before Daybreak because Daybreak were going to be some more problems over there.

00:22:27 Speaker 3

He.

00:22:27 Speaker 3

You ever drive a pontoon bridge? I said no.

00:22:31 Speaker 3

He.

00:22:31 Speaker 3

The They're all cookie I.

00:22:34 Speaker 3

Well, okay, he says. Can you swim?

00:22:39 Speaker 3

Not too good.

00:22:41 Speaker 3

And he said, I would suggest you loosen your boots in case you do go in.

00:22:51 Speaker 3

Boots or drag in down, he says.

00:22:54 Speaker 3

Going to give you a.

00:22:56 Speaker 3

Man to walk with ya 'cause.

00:23:01 Speaker 3

All right, so I enter this bridge and I'm and low, low, low gear and this guy is walking alongside me and he's reaching in to help me steer this thing. Is it stark?

00:23:12 Speaker 3

Couldn't see.

00:23:13 Speaker 3

Every down them germs put up a flare.

00:23:17 Speaker 3

And well then for 8 or 10 seconds I can see.

00:23:21 Speaker 3

I put on a little dance and move a little faster, but then the players would go out and then back down.

00:23:27 Speaker 3

Darkness when the person was.

00:23:30 Speaker 3

Too bad I think I got over there and maybe 1520 minutes.

00:23:34 Speaker 3

And.

00:23:36 Speaker 3

The other side was these 2216 group litter cases and chicks were walking on it and I knew the guy. The medic will shine. He was a Pittsburgh boy also and it was the only medic over there and he was trying to take care of these poor.

00:23:55 Speaker 3

And.

00:23:58 Speaker 3

I learned what board litter cases and I put a walking wound up problem with me and we went.

00:24:05 Speaker 3

And.

00:24:07 Speaker 3

Went back, went back again and then make this Long story short, I made four trips over there and I brought 22 guys back.

00:24:20 Speaker 3

Unfortunately, when I was dead but we didn't know that at a time, but I got 22 guys back from.

00:24:27 Speaker 3

Request a mosel.

00:24:29 Speaker 2

But the second and third trip you failed to tell them that you were under heavy fire.

00:24:33 Speaker 3

Yeah, there was.

00:24:34 Speaker 3

They were dropping some, I guess not. Being an infantryman, I wasn't sure what they were.

00:24:44 Speaker 3

The Germans had a gun called an 88, which was a super super gun.

00:24:48 Speaker 3

The best gun in the world.

00:24:50 Speaker 3

And they knew how to use it, and they could shoot the.

00:24:57 Speaker 3

Tree burst. In other words, shell that would go up in the air and come down on you and they were firing a couple of those, but they weren't sure. Every time they put a player up it would, it would go out and they didn't.

00:25:10 Speaker 3

Didn't know exactly what we were doing.

00:25:13 Speaker 3

But they had dropped some shells around us and.

00:25:19 Speaker 3

Capitals, a little bit upset.

00:25:22 Speaker 3

Like I said, I was didn't have any training other than that being a truck driver and ended up being a nameless driver, so.

00:25:29 Speaker 2

I tell them what happened at the end of the third year, third trip back. What happened?

00:25:35 Speaker 3

Well.

00:25:36 Speaker 3

Well.

00:25:37 Speaker 2

Another ambulance.

00:25:38 Speaker 3

They had Troy Krasinski and ambles showed up, and Charlie Krzyinski, who was a stigma.

00:25:47 Speaker 3

Beer truck driver in Hazleton.

00:25:50 Speaker 3

He came up with a name that and I called him cosmic chapters, his Polish name for Charles as his cosmic senses.

00:25:58 Speaker 3

You want to take this?

00:26:01 Speaker 3

Said, what are you?

00:26:02 Speaker 3

I said I got this bridge down there.

00:26:05 Speaker 3

He couldn't see what I was trying to show him, I said. Pontoon bridge and I've been making trips across there, he says.

00:26:12 Speaker 3

Well, he said.

00:26:13 Speaker 3

You were doing a good.

00:26:14 Speaker 3

You go ahead and you can do that.

00:26:17 Speaker 3

'S I and so I.

00:26:19 Speaker 3

I made the last trip.

00:26:20 Speaker 3

Brother kajima. She he didn't want to know. Parts of that bridge.

00:26:26 Speaker 1

You made the fourth trip.

00:26:27 Speaker 3

Yeah, I made the point, yeah.

00:26:28 Speaker 2

Four trips under fire and for that he.

00:26:31 Speaker 2

He was awarded a bronze star.

00:26:33 Speaker 3

They were dropping some.

00:26:35 Speaker 3

Like I said, I don't.

00:26:36 Speaker 3

They were borders or 80 eighths, or what? The world they were.

00:26:40 Speaker 3

They were.

00:26:41 Speaker 3

Not to scare you.

00:26:43 Speaker 3

I was pretty scared. I didn't sleep.

00:26:46 Speaker 3

To do for us.

00:26:46 Speaker 2

Well, you saved 22 guys.

00:26:48 Speaker 2

We're just about at a.

00:26:50 Speaker 2

But you said that at the end of the war, you stayed on a little while longer.

00:26:54 Speaker 2

You watched.

00:26:55 Speaker 2

You heard about and you watched about all these these gentlemen going home, these soldiers going home and these sailors going home from the war to these massive homecomings.

00:27:04 Speaker 2

And then when you went home?

00:27:06 Speaker 3

Where is Burr?

00:27:07 Speaker 3

A railroad was across the Schuylkill River, and I got.

00:27:15 Speaker 3

In the Fort Meade or Fort Dix Port, Dickson, we got the discard port. Dickson had a double double bag and I had some souvenirs.

00:27:25 Speaker 3

Had a Walther 38 Walter pistol that I got. I got off of.

00:27:31 Speaker 3

A German officer and we had some other little trinkets, and I had this big old double bag and I walked up the steps.

00:27:40 Speaker 3

Bridge walked across the bridge and couple cars went by.

00:27:46 Speaker 3

Waved at me, you know and.

00:27:48 Speaker 3

And I got home and Aunt Kitty was dumbfounded when she saw me. Dad, my dad was working at the time and we hugged. And but I sit there and watch TV.

00:28:01 Speaker 3

Now more they have.

00:28:04 Speaker 3

Braids. They have fire trucks going by and all kinds of working committees at the airport, you know, and you.

00:28:11 Speaker 2

Had two people wave to you.

00:28:12 Speaker 3

Yeah, people waving at me, you know, and come to me at your kid home and.

00:28:22 Speaker 3

He's finally got home, you know, but it was quite a.

00:28:26 Speaker 2

Well, we are very proud of you, Bob, and I want to thank you for your service.

00:28:29 Speaker 3

Well.

00:28:31 Speaker 3

Well, I'm just.

00:28:31 Speaker 2

We appreciate very much.

00:28:32 Speaker 3

It's just happy I can be here and.

00:28:33 Speaker 1

Thank you for your.

00:28:35 Speaker 1

We're honored to have you here.

00:28:36 Speaker 3

I'm just happy that I can.

00:28:39 Speaker 3

Do what I did.

00:28:41 Speaker 1

You did more than your share.

00:28:43 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:28:43 Speaker 2

Bob is wearing his French legion of.

00:28:46 Speaker 2

That's beautiful. If you want to zoom in on that. In the meantime, I'm going to say goodnight.

00:28:51 Speaker 2

Thank you for being on our show.

00:28:53 Speaker 2

This is tales of World War 2.

00:28:55 Speaker 2

You and good night.