

## **Melvin Louis Schuweiler Interview #1**

Company C, 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion - 4th Armored Division

*(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Ardith Kramer, Wanda C. Driver)*

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

00:00:04 Speaker 1

Today is November 14th, 2003. We are interviewing Melvin Schuyler at his apartment in Green Spring Village, a retirement community located at 7400 Spring Village Drive in Springfield, VA.

00:00:21 Speaker 1

Melvin and we who are interviewing him are all residents of Green Spring Village. My name is Ardith Kramer. I am a member of the George Mason chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the DAR. Other interviewers present are.

00:00:38

I'm Wanda driver.

00:00:40 Speaker 1

Member of the women in Military Service Group HERE.

00:00:43

At green spring.

00:00:44

And I'm Fran Richardson and I belong to the same group.

00:00:49 Speaker 1

Melvin, could you state for the recording your birthplace and the date you were born?

00:00:55 Speaker 2

As born in Stevens Point, WI.

00:00:58 Speaker 2

On August 15, 1921.

00:01:02 Speaker 1

Which branch of the service and in what war did you serve?

00:01:06 Speaker 2

I served in the army as an armored inventory officer in World War 2.

00:01:14 Speaker 1

And were you drafted or did you enlist? How did you get into the service?

00:01:17 Speaker 2

I was at the University of Wisconsin and became a participant in the Reserve Officers Training Course program. Our ROTC, and this was in the fall of 19.

00:01:31 Speaker 2

40.

00:01:32 Speaker 2

And.

00:01:37 Speaker 2

Served all through the until we were until the ROTC unit was called up for active duty. We were remade it with the University of Wisconsin, then went to Camp Walters, Texas.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

And went through basic infantry training there and then sent back to the University of Wisconsin, where we remained because the infantry school Fort Benning was.

00:02:04 Speaker 2

Already fully loaded with the people of Canada, so to speak.

00:02:10 Speaker 2

And finally when?

00:02:13 Speaker 2

Called to active duty at Fort Benning, we were active duty all along. Act. That's correct that.

00:02:21 Speaker 2

When finally we went to Fort Benning, I graduated from my class.

00:02:27 Speaker 2

2nd and there's a class of. I don't know how many there was other officer candidates from not only the University of Wisconsin, but from the University of Illinois.

00:02:37 Speaker 2

New York University and possibly others. I don't remember all.

00:02:43 Speaker 2

But I graduated second in my class.

00:02:46 Speaker 2

And was kept on or ordered to stay on at Fort Benning as a tactical officer.

00:02:52 Speaker 2

However, before that.

00:02:56 Speaker 2

After being commissioned, we were all given leave and I.

00:03:01 Speaker 2

Went back to Charlottesville, VA, where I married my wife, Mary Schuyler.

00:03:08 Speaker 2

Who was living in in Charlottesville with her family at that time?

00:03:13 Speaker 2

Then.

00:03:14 Speaker 2

Went to Fort Benning with Mary and as a tactical officer there remained.

00:03:20 Speaker 2

And as a tactical officer.

00:03:24 Speaker 2

Until after by Stone.

00:03:27 Speaker 2

When suddenly because of the casualties that passed on.

00:03:32 Speaker 2

All of us who were fresh second lieutenants were called.

00:03:36 Speaker 2

2.

00:03:39 Speaker 2

Ordered 2 or to Europe and I entered up with the.

00:03:45 Speaker 2

With the 4th Armored Division, 53rd Armored Infantry.

00:03:52 Speaker 2

Commanded at that time, if I'm not mistaken.

00:03:55 Speaker 2

By.

00:03:59 Speaker 2

Colonel. Well, I see.

00:04:03 Speaker 2

The 53rd Armored Infantry was commanded by a Colonel, Jakes.

00:04:07 Speaker 2

However, we usually fought in Europe as a part of a combat team made-up of.

00:04:15 Speaker 2

Harbored tanks and infantry together with artillery and our commander on occasion was then Colonel Abrams, who later became a four-star general and the commander of our troops in Vietnam, as if I'm not mistaken.

00:04:36

Uh.

00:04:40 Speaker 2

My first real combat experience in Germany.

00:04:46 Speaker 2

After being assigned to the third tomb company C.

00:04:53 Speaker 2

53rd armored imagery.

00:04:56 Speaker 2

We were on basically confronting the Germans in Belgium.

00:05:02 Speaker 2

With the Germans on one side of the Sour River, and we Americans on the other side and.

00:05:09 Speaker 2

We it was stationary. This was midwinter, and it was stationary combat. You'd have Germans sending patrols across the sour river trying to determine.

00:05:22 Speaker 2

What our forces were and what strength we had and so forth, and we would do the same.

00:05:28 Speaker 2

However, suddenly one day our office was ordered out of there from that that stationary position.

00:05:37 Speaker 2

To attack.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

We later learned I went, was ordered back to join my company commander and Battalion commander, and later learned that we were going to attack a town called Boxford in Belgium.

00:05:55 Speaker 2

And I was told I was going to. My platoon was going to lead the.

00:06:00 Speaker 2

Track.

00:06:01 Speaker 2

And.

00:06:03 Speaker 2

We took off with, well, I can remember telling my my platoon sergeants, squad leaders. I told them, for instance, there was a Sergeant Pico, I said, Pico, you'll be on one side of the.

00:06:21 Speaker 2

This high the road as we go in and when we were at when we're fired upon, I want everybody to spread out into the open fields that we're told that that there should be open fields there and spread out.

00:06:34 Speaker 2

Don't remain together because we want to minimize our casualties.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

Any event?

00:06:43 Speaker 2

As we moved along the highway before we started, I told the the Sergeant Pico I said Pico. You'll be on one side and and I don't remember who the other squad leader was. You'll be on the other side and I saw all these.

00:07:00 Speaker 2

Troops of mine. Now this is the first time I'd ever lived these men into real combat. I mean, we're face to face, hand to hand combat. Like I saw all of these enlisted men. Look at me. And these are all sergeants just to say this guy's yellow. And I said no pico.

00:07:21 Speaker 2

Pico and I will be on one side of the road and here I will be in the lead and on the other side will be so and so.

00:07:29 Speaker 2

And we moved along that fashion as we moved along, we moved through. I think it was the 80th infantry straight infantry outfit. And these GI's on each side of the road kept telling us, my man and I, as we passed along, all you you're going to run into trouble there. We've been trying for three days and three nights.

00:07:50 Speaker 2

To take the town of Boxford.

00:07:53 Speaker 2

And.

00:07:56 Speaker 2

Naturally, there was a rather frightening experience for everybody, but you will either succeed in overcoming your fears and go on and and most of the men, I'm glad to say, did.

00:08:12 Speaker 2

We continued on until suddenly we heard.

00:08:16 Speaker 2

Those of us who were right up front heard voices off to the right in the field. Now they were.

00:08:23 Speaker 2

Talking among themselves very loudly in German, so we knew it was the enemy.

00:08:29 Speaker 2

They didn't know we were there, fortunately, but.

00:08:35 Speaker 2

I told.

00:08:36 Speaker 2

Pico to go back. He and I had moved forward and.

00:08:44 Speaker 2

I told him to go back and.

00:08:47 Speaker 2

Wait for me to return and I would tell him talk when we decided when? After I've scouted out this situation.

00:08:57 Speaker 2

What we should do? Well, any event now people will move back. And I was there by myself and.

00:09:04 Speaker 2

All of a sudden.

00:09:06 Speaker 2

A machine gun opened up.

00:09:09 Speaker 2

They still were guessing what was going on, but they'd decided that they'd heard something, apparently. Maybe one of our.

00:09:20 Speaker 2

Jeeps or half tracks, and this was armored imagery and.

00:09:23 Speaker 2

We.

00:09:24 Speaker 2

Usually traveled in either Jeep or half track or frequently would get on top of the tanks and ride the tanks into combat and then attack.

00:09:35 Speaker 1

Wondering about that? And you said you moved.

00:09:37 Speaker 2

Up I was wondering.

00:09:38

Whether you were marching up or, but you didn't.

00:09:40 Speaker 2

Well, our, our, our, our half tracks were all way behind us.

00:09:46 Speaker 2

But there there's someone must have cranked up.

00:09:51 Speaker 2

But any event I went back and gave orders to my men that were.

00:09:57 Speaker 2

This is the.

00:09:58 Speaker 2

Situation we don't know, but the town of Boxford obviously is not very far up.

00:10:04 Speaker 2

And I said, I want all of you to spread out with your told my squad. You spread your squads out on the right and left side and we will move forward all spread out. I said I don't want anybody concentrated. We're going to get caught in our Tillery fire.

00:10:22 Speaker 2

Any event?

00:10:24 Speaker 2

We before we took off, I talked with the artillery forward observer.

00:10:31 Speaker 2

And told them what we were going to do and I told him. You hear my Tommy gun. Open up. I want you to.

00:10:38 Speaker 2

To drop our till reef on the town of Boxford.

00:10:43 Speaker 2

I said keeping my men are out there in that field and so they don't have rounds come in too short.

00:10:51 Speaker 2

Well.

00:10:53 Speaker 2

I might fire my fire when I we got near the town of Boxford and these Germans.

00:11:00 Speaker 2

And that machine gun nest out there. If I fired on them and we, the artillery started coming in and I thought I just had fears that my men were all going to be killed because the artillery came in so close to.

00:11:17 Speaker 2

Any event, we then all move forward and our men were not. None of my men were hit by that artillery. We were, everything was still intact, and we moved in on that town. There was very little resistance that there were two tiger tanks, Big Tiger tanks in the town.

00:11:36 Speaker 2



Still, and our artillery knocked them out.

00:11:41 Speaker 2

And we took the town without any serious problem at all. Well, any event.

00:11:51 Speaker 2

It was rather interesting of a very experienced combat officer in combat with us.

00:11:59 Speaker 2

Who had seen a lot of combat before, or a man named Lieutenant Grundy as I remember him very clearly.

00:12:07 Speaker 2

Grundy later was killed. He was killed when? Well, that's another story. But in any event.

00:12:15 Speaker 2

He had been very much involved with me in this thing and he put me in for a bronze star. That's the first first time I'd really loved my troops in combat. And lo and behold, I was given the brown star for valor and.

00:12:34 Speaker 2

Well, I I must have missed some some other parts of this, but any event we captured the town and.

00:12:43 Speaker 2

The 80th Infantry then moved up and took care to occupy the town.

00:12:51 Speaker 2

From there, we.

00:12:54 Speaker 2

Eventually raced to the Rhine.

00:12:58 Speaker 2

This is armored entry with the tanks and half tracks.

00:13:04 Speaker 2

And we were 80 miles in depth.

00:13:07 Speaker 2

With Germans on either side of US.

00:13:11 Speaker 2

When we hit the Rhine.

00:13:13 Speaker 2

And.

00:13:18 Speaker 2

I think you stop your machine a moment.

00:13:23 Speaker 2

We then raced to the Rhine and we were our objective was to take a bridge across the Rhine River.

00:13:34 Speaker 2

And this.

00:13:36 Speaker 2

This bridge was blown up in front of us.

00:13:41 Speaker 2

We then moved along the Rhine River South as I remember.

00:13:47 Speaker 2

And another bridge was blowing up.

00:13:51 Speaker 2

Before we could capture it.

00:13:54 Speaker 2

We finally crossed the Rhine River on pontoon boats.

00:14:00 Speaker 2

The engineers have built these pontoon boats and we crossed the Rhine on those boats.

00:14:11

It's good.

00:14:12 Speaker 1

How many men would have been on these boats army?

00:14:14 Speaker 2

What was our I don't.

00:14:16

Yeah. When army is in, that's incredible.

00:14:24 Speaker 2

Then.

00:14:27 Speaker 2

Hold it a bit.

00:14:27

OK.

00:14:30 Speaker 2

The next action we saw, we were running in an open field.

00:14:38 Speaker 2

We'd crossed the Rhine and suddenly a light tank pulled up.

00:14:45 Speaker 2

Beside me and this tank was was occupied by Colonel Abrams.

00:14:56 Speaker 2

And he said, Lieutenant, I was then a Lieutenant. You see that bridge up there? I hadn't seen that bridge, but he serves there. It's up there. I want you to take it.

00:15:09 Speaker 2

And this was a a bridge at.

00:15:13 Speaker 2

On one side of the water, and I don't remember what the water was that that we were that the bridge was over over.

00:15:25 Speaker 2

On one side of it was a town called Gross Sahim, and the other side of the town was Klein Anaheim.

00:15:33 Speaker 2

And.

00:15:35 Speaker 2

We raced to the town.

00:15:39 Speaker 2

And.

00:15:42 Speaker 2

I I went forward leaving my platoon.

00:15:51 Speaker 2

Back until they had a chance to scout out what was ahead of us, we.

00:15:59 Speaker 2

A man named Pegla, Sergeant Peglow and I went forward.

00:16:05 Speaker 2

By that time, Pegla would become my platoon Sergeant. My original platoon Sergeant man named Carnes.

00:16:13 Speaker 2

Had been wounded.

00:16:15 Speaker 2

And replaced by Peggle.

00:16:18 Speaker 2

The two of us went forward and suddenly we heard.

00:16:25 Speaker 2

Voices again.

00:16:27 Speaker 2

And.

00:16:31 Speaker 2

Next thing we heard, a railroad.

00:16:34 Speaker 2

Train came chugging up.

00:16:37 Speaker 2

Alongside.

00:16:43 Speaker 2

I'm getting ahead of myself here. I got my platoon up there to this town of Gross Ahim. And after we crossed the the this.

00:16:59 Speaker 2

Bridge.

00:17:00 Speaker 2

And.

00:17:02 Speaker 2

We were in these houses.

00:17:06 Speaker 2

We've taken this this little town. Go. Solheim or Klein Ohio. I don't remember which was which, but any event we crossed the water. We're occupying these houses. When?

00:17:20 Speaker 2

Suddenly a railroad train came pulling up beside us.

00:17:26 Speaker 2

And.

00:17:28 Speaker 2

Next thing you know here is what turned out to be a battalion of officer candidates German officer candidates.

00:17:38 Speaker 2

We were just a platoon and this German commanding officer lined up his troops. He had no idea that we were there.

00:17:52 Speaker 2

And he marched these troops right down the street toward us.

00:17:59

Oh.

00:18:00 Speaker 2

By that time I figured out what was happening. I had Pegler put half of my petun on one side of the street.

00:18:07 Speaker 2

And.

00:18:07 Speaker 2

The other half was on the other side.

00:18:09 Speaker 2

Of the street.

00:18:10 Speaker 2

With me and I told Pedro, if you hear my Tommy gun go off.

00:18:15 Speaker 2

Shoot them up because it was obvious these these Germans were being marched to the street as a as a whole whole officer candidates and they were coming right toward us.

00:18:31 Speaker 2

And any event.

00:18:34 Speaker 2

Peggle took his half of the platoon on his side of the street, and I took kept the other half on my side and the Germans came right at us and I opened up with my Tommy gun and they spread out and.

00:18:49 Speaker 2

They were far outnumbered us.

00:18:51 Speaker 2

And they surrounded us, and before they surrounded us some, some of us got back, and most of us got back to the where the company was. And the battalion was a part of it. The battalion was now across the bridge too.

00:19:11 Speaker 2

And.

00:19:14 Speaker 2

When I got back, I told the the company commander and battalion, but by that time, battalion had caught up with our our outfit and I told him what was going on.

00:19:26 Speaker 2

And.

00:19:31

Go.

00:19:32 Speaker 2

My returning or interrupting for a moment and saying that my runner by that time when I joined the this 53rd or company C 53rd Armored Dimitry I was a platoon leader and I my runner. I inherited this platoon.

00:19:48 Speaker 2

That's in a sense.

00:19:50 Speaker 2

In fact, all of the officers in that company, with the exception of one, had been killed.

00:19:56 Speaker 2

Are wounded and.

00:19:59 Speaker 2

I, along with the all of the other officers, with the exception of this one officer.

00:20:07 Speaker 2

Whose name escapes me as of the month. As of the moment.

00:20:12 Speaker 2

We're all replacements. This whole whole platoon is a rather company. It was made-up of replacements like myself. My runner, however, was this experienced?

00:20:20

Nice.

00:20:27 Speaker 2

Man from Lepanto, AR.

00:20:31 Speaker 2

His name was Hendrix, Red Hendrix.

00:20:35 Speaker 2

I didn't know it at the time, but Hendricks had been in Bastone and for his action at Bastone, and this is all written up in in books.

00:20:46 Speaker 2

His action had bestowed resulted in Hendrix being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

00:20:54 Speaker 2

And it was eventually awarded to him at the time when I, when I joined the Outfit and met Hendrix, I had no idea. He had no idea that he'd been put in for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

00:21:08 Speaker 2

But any event?

00:21:09 Speaker 2

Hendrix was from Lepanto, AR.

00:21:13 Speaker 2

Saying he's one of the most intelligent people I'd ever known, he had only a 3rd or 4th grade education and extremely smart.

00:21:24 Speaker 2

And eventually I made him the head of my mortar squad, though he'd he'd only had three years of formal education. He could do so much, and so did this thing so well.

00:21:38 Speaker 2

Any event returning to where we where we crossed this bridge at gross all time incline all time we're in this.

00:21:47 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:21:52 Speaker 2

Had my platoon guarding outposts in the town.

00:21:58 Speaker 2

And when this railroad train had come up.

00:22:02 Speaker 2

And next thing I we knew.

00:22:05 Speaker 2

His battalion of officer candidates had attacked or March to us toward us, and we had dispersed them with our Tommy guns and rifles, and we were surrounded by it by Germans, and we managed to.

00:22:23 Speaker 2

Some of us, most of us, managed to work our way back through lumber yards and places wherever we could go without, and most of us got through without being captured.

00:22:36 Speaker 2

Well, I finally got back to where the company's headquarters was.

00:22:42 Speaker 2

Is this on?

00:22:45 Speaker 2

And told them what the situation told my company commander and by that time, I think the battalion had somebody for for one of the officers. Maybe it was a matter.

00:22:56 Speaker 2



Named.

00:22:57 Speaker 2

Major Crosby, Major Crosby was the second command of the 53rd Armored Dimitry Battalion.

00:23:06 Speaker 2

A man named Jakes, Colonel Jakes. JA Qu ES was the commander of the 53rd Armored Infantry.

00:23:16 Speaker 2

Battalion.

00:23:19 Speaker 2

And my company commander was man named.

00:23:24 Speaker 2

Captain Williams, I don't know whether he was with us still still at that time or not.

00:23:31 Speaker 2

But any event I got back to to where the battalion had set up its headquarters and the company, the battalion.

00:23:42 Speaker 2

Commander, who must have been Jakes at that time, told him what was happening and I was then told ordered after we'd.

00:23:52 Speaker 2

This is ordered to outpost the town. That's how my men happen to be in these houses, which, when the officer candidates came marching along and surrounded us, having them worked to disperse the the Germans and they dispersed us and having gotten back to the battalion headquarters.

00:24:13 Speaker 2

I told him what I thought the situation was, and I and by that time I knew that the Germans had were in these houses all along the road.

00:24:23 Speaker 2

Toward the river again, and I told the.

00:24:28 Speaker 2

Battalion commander, give me a light tank.

00:24:32 Speaker 2

And let me take that correct. The fire of that light tank and we'll clean out those hoses. Well, we begin with this light tank began to move along the streets to clear out these Germans and these houses when suddenly.

00:24:53 Speaker 2

I saw or heard a voice holler.

00:24:57 Speaker 2

Americans don't shoot, have an American, and he helped. There's a man waving a white handkerchief. Well, it turned out to be my Sergeant Pigloo. He had been captured.

00:25:11 Speaker 2

Any event pegla wig rescued Pegula and and then continued on with the light tank and firing into these houses and and managed to take the town and and move on.

00:25:26 Speaker 2

Well.

00:25:34 Speaker 2

After taking gross and flying all high, which was very near Frankfurt, Germany, we bypassed Frankfurt, Germany and were.

00:25:44 Speaker 2

Ordered our outfit was ordered toward Berlin.

00:25:48 Speaker 2

And we had.

00:25:53 Speaker 2

Gotten to the outskirts of Berlin.

00:26:00 Speaker 2

When we ran into.

00:26:04 Speaker 2

Into German fire.

00:26:09 Speaker 2

Well, we raced toward Berlin and got to a a city called Glocal.

00:26:15 Speaker 2

And.

00:26:18 Speaker 2

At glaucoma, we had.

00:26:23 Speaker 2

We were, we gotten to Glaucon, which is between the city of Dresden and Chemnitz.

00:26:32 Speaker 2

And.

00:26:34 Speaker 2

We.

00:26:40 Speaker 2

Ran into real resistance there.

00:26:44 Speaker 2

And this was about 10:00 in the morning when we ran into this resistance. We were riding our.

00:26:50 Speaker 2

Our.

00:26:53 Speaker 2

Half tracks and all got onto tanks. As soon as there was reason to think that.

00:27:01 Speaker 2

We could capture this town and we were on these tanks when suddenly we were all fired upon and.

00:27:08 Speaker 2

We're we jumped off the tanks and ran behind the tanks as best we could.

00:27:18 Speaker 2

And eventually went into the town at 10:00 in the morning. We arrived in the outskirts of the town and then fought in the town city street fighting.

00:27:32 Speaker 2

All through the day until 4:00 in the afternoon.

00:27:37 Speaker 2

When we came out the other end of the town.

00:27:41 Speaker 2

And we're in the suburbs. When Germans were racing trying to escape from us.

00:27:49 Speaker 2

Behind us, straight infantry had come come behind us and we're cleaning up the houses in that town. When we were in the outskirts of the town.

00:27:58 Speaker 2

And.

00:27:59

Umm.

00:28:01 Speaker 2

I can remember firing my tongues. I I traded in a a little carbine that had been given to me as a standard issue.

00:28:10 Speaker 2

I traded it in. Fortunately, even by even, even before I saw any real combat. It's an interesting.

00:28:20 Speaker 2

In itself, because I've got something more to say about this.

00:28:23 Speaker 2

I saw strapped to the side of this.

00:28:28 Speaker 2

American truck hauling gasoline up to the front line is that Thompson submachine gun.

00:28:35 Speaker 2

Now I had a carbine mission to me that had an unjustifiable wind site.

00:28:43 Speaker 2

I didn't hadn't seen anybody else who had one of these. How I got this, I don't know.

00:28:49 Speaker 2

But it had an adjustable wind sight and it was something of a treasure. Is having a unique carving like this and I showed it to the driver of this. I guess it was called a red ball express.

00:29:00 Speaker 2

Yes. And he looked at this thing and I said now, would you like to have that? He said. Yeah, that's interesting. I've never seen one like that. I said you've got something I'd like to have. And I said, I'll give you my carbine for that Thompson submachine gun. I had no idea that I would be doing as much street fighting as.

00:29:20 Speaker 2

As as was with my.

00:29:23 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:29:26 Speaker 2

Any event with returning? I guess where we were at this point, we've gone through the town, fought in the town from 4 from 10:00 in the morning till 4:00 and we were in the.

00:29:39 Speaker 2

Suburbs.

00:29:40 Speaker 2

When we spotted these Germans in in a wooded area.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

Quite a large number of them.

00:29:46 Speaker 2

And I ordered my men to fire on them, and I fired my Tommy gun. When?

00:29:53 Speaker 2

Suddenly.

00:29:55 Speaker 2

A bullet came along.

00:29:58 Speaker 2

And just missed me.

00:30:01 Speaker 2

And it went into my Tommy gun and and.

00:30:05

Oh.

00:30:07 Speaker 2

I it the impact of the German bullet?

00:30:10 Speaker 2

Shattered the casing of my Tommy gun.

00:30:14 Speaker 2

The bullet itself must have splattered and parts of it went into my mouth and my face was just peppered with shrapnel.

00:30:24 Speaker 2

A a a cigarette case that I'd carried in my this pocket of my uniform.

00:30:33 Speaker 2

Just had a big dent in.

00:30:34 Speaker 2

It.

00:30:35 Speaker 2

Very near to where my heart would have been, I guess, but not any event. I threw the Tommy gun up.

00:30:37

Ohh.

00:30:43 Speaker 2

And rent hollering, medic, thinking I was mortally wounded because my face was just peppered. And as I say, I had this strap will come into my mouth.

00:30:52 Speaker 2

And Howard, medic, medic and ran back, looking for a medic.

00:30:58 Speaker 2

He looked me over and he wiped me up off with my face up with the alcohol or whatever they used, he said. Nothing matter with you. You got you got you got all kinds of small shrapnel on your face. But you're all right, I said. I feel all right.

00:31:17 Speaker 2

So I I then went back and rejoined my outfit and lo and behold, the only weapon I could get hold of was a.

00:31:24 Speaker 2

Carving again.

00:31:25 Speaker 1

What's about that?

00:31:26 Speaker 2

Any event the Tommy gun was.

00:31:29 Speaker 2

Shot out of my hands and I think I've gotten to the point when I in this story here where the medic, our medic, could sort of cleaned me up and said you're all right. And I then started out back to find my outfit and.

00:31:45 Speaker 2

We got got through the the the town without any further engagement. The Germans kept running. I'm sure we and we were something of a semi encamped.

00:31:59 Speaker 2

When one of my men came running up to me, he said. Look what I've got. Daughter. My nickname was dauber.

00:32:07 Speaker 2

And.

00:32:10 Speaker 2

By that time, there were no formalities or at least minimum formalities among you and your men.

00:32:16 Speaker 2

You.

00:32:18 Speaker 2

Would become real buddies anyway.

00:32:22 Speaker 2

Here he had my Tommy go and he said I think you might like to keep it as a soldier. Well, behold that Tommy gun. First chance I got when we got. We captured him some little town and we're holed up there waiting for voters to go on.

00:32:43 Speaker 2

Remember this? We were just South of of Berlin actually in in this town of Glaucon, between Chemnitz and Dresden.

00:32:51 Speaker 2

We could have been in Berlin at least two weeks before the Russians.

00:32:57 Speaker 2

But they shuttered US South.

00:32:59 Speaker 2

But I'm getting ahead of my story. I returned to that Tommy gun.

00:33:05 Speaker 2

The first chance I got.

00:33:07 Speaker 2

The way the armored infantry worked, you'd capture a town or you'd take a town you'd hold up there until you got your next set of orders.

00:33:15 Speaker 2

And I got some brown wrapping paper from, I suppose the meat market or grocery store or someplace like.

00:33:23 Speaker 2

Took the stock off the Tommy gun and wrapped the two parts, the Tommy gun up and and marked on it on the envelope, addressed it to my dad and I marked clearly on it. Thompson submachine gun in clothes of no ordinance value.

00:33:41

OK.

00:33:42 Speaker 2

Now.

00:33:43 Speaker 2

That Tommy gun.

00:33:45 Speaker 2

Must have been thrown around by our postal system, both in Germany and back to the states, eventually got home to my dad and my dad took that Tommy gun and he figured out that how to put the stock of the Tommy gun back on.

00:34:05 Speaker 2

And or any event he was showing it to all kinds of kids in the neighborhood. This was still while the war.

00:34:13 Speaker 2

Was gone.

00:34:14 Speaker 2

All my nephews, I had two nephews living in town and they were all excited and they'd call all their friends and they'd show this. And one of these days.

00:34:21

Oh my God.



00:34:24 Speaker 2

Those days, some kid said there's a bullet in there. My dad took that Tommy gun to an A policeman.

00:34:26

Hey.

00:34:29

No.

00:34:34 Speaker 2

He knew and.

00:34:36 Speaker 2

Told him how he got it and the policeman said yes, there's a bullet in there. What had happened is that.

00:34:47 Speaker 2

While I was firing in this Tommy gun the the the.

00:34:52 Speaker 2

What was it?

00:34:54 Speaker 2

A round had been picked up out of the magazine was shoved into the into the chamber.

00:35:01 Speaker 2

But before.

00:35:02 Speaker 2

The bolt had gone forward far enough to fire that that, that round.

00:35:09 Speaker 2

The the bullet hit hit my gun and the German bullet hit my gun and it just froze. The metals melted and here was this thing being mailed it and bounced around. It could have gone off.

00:35:18

Oh.

00:35:20

Oh.

00:35:25 Speaker 2

Well, the policeman said. He, you, you, you. This is a dangerous piece. But when you got it, what should I?

00:35:34

Yeah.

00:35:36 Speaker 2

Do.

00:35:36 Speaker 2

With it and the policeman said, well, don't report it if you report it, you'll be filling out papers from that, he said.

00:35:42

Oh.

00:35:44 Speaker 2

If I were you, I'd take that Tommy gun and I'd look over the Wisconsin River Bridge, which is right in my go, ran through my hometown.

00:35:55 Speaker 2

And I take it or someone early in the morning when no one's around, look around to be sure no one's watching and throw it into the Wisconsin River.

00:36:04

Wait.

00:36:06 Speaker 2

No, you didn't need to wait the Tommy gun. They were heavy.

00:36:09 Speaker 2

Any event? That's what my dad did.

00:36:14 Speaker 2

Well, they later widened that bridge, and I wondered what they must have done some dredging. I wondered if they ever found my Tommy gun.

00:36:21 Speaker 1

But you never got to see.

00:36:22 Speaker 1

It again.

00:36:23

No.

00:36:26 Speaker 2

The the the thing was that at that time you recall John Dillinger and all the the.

00:36:35 Speaker 2

Gangs were just South of us in Chicago and whatever.

00:36:39 Speaker 1

That's funny. They they did find it.

00:36:41 Speaker 1

They probably thought it was been thrown right?

00:36:43

By one of those people.

00:36:45 Speaker 2

Well, return to the story. Our outfit at that point, instead of going on to Berlin where we which we could have, we could have been there.

00:36:53 Speaker 2

As I say, I think 2 weeks before the Russians got there, we were shunted South.

00:37:00 Speaker 2

And we raced from that time when we got orders, we were ordered through the Reagan Mountains, all between eastern Germany or part of, well, any event, the Reagan Mountains.

00:37:15 Speaker 2

And eventually we ended up in Czechoslovakia.

00:37:22 Speaker 2

And.

00:37:24 Speaker 2

At one point we were told to stop.

00:37:28 Speaker 2

And.

00:37:32 Speaker 2

We were in camp there when one of my men came running up to me.

00:37:37 Speaker 2

He said. I want to show you something.

00:37:43 Speaker 2

And.

00:37:49 Speaker 2

Ohh no, I'm ahead of my story. We were in camp there when one day we were ordered. We hadn't been there long, maybe two or three days most. We are ordered to move back.

00:38:02 Speaker 2

And we moved back to a point where suddenly we found ourselves ordered.

00:38:08 Speaker 2

To.

00:38:10 Speaker 2

Guard and keep under under the Prepare to fire upon any Germans who try to escape. And here we're literally.

00:38:23 Speaker 2

Hundreds, possibly even several 1000 Germans, men, women and children.

00:38:31 Speaker 2

These were German officers and their families. They had fled from the Russian, from the eastern part of Europe, away from the from the Russians, and wanted to be, and were captured by US.

00:38:50 Speaker 2

Now our orders were to take them back.

00:38:55 Speaker 2

And.

00:38:57 Speaker 2

We move these Germans forward, baby carriages and little tots and toddlers.

00:39:05 Speaker 2

Back to where the Russians had an assembly point and where they were being loaded onto freight cars.

00:39:14 Speaker 2

When one of my men came running up to.

00:39:17 Speaker 2

Me we had.

00:39:20 Speaker 2

Left our people to some other outfit, which was putting them on freight cars. Russians, I guess.

00:39:28 Speaker 2

And.

00:39:30

Hmm.

00:39:32 Speaker 2

One of my men came running up and he said Dauber. I want to show you something and I followed him when we ran on the double, threw into a through wooded area into an opening in this wooded area and in the middle of.

00:39:47 Speaker 2

The.

00:39:49 Speaker 2

Area.

00:39:51 Speaker 2

We're.

00:39:54 Speaker 2

A man and all the German officer.

00:39:57 Speaker 2

His wife and children he had shot, he'd taken his pistol and shot everyone through the head and then killed himself. Rather than being being taken to Russia.

00:40:09 Speaker 1

Captured.

00:40:11 Speaker 2

Ohh.

00:40:14 Speaker 2

Well, any event, it was a very traumatic.

00:40:19 Speaker 2

Things to observe.

00:40:24 Speaker 2

Any event?

00:40:27 Speaker 2

Eventually we were in Czechoslovakia. We remain in Czechoslovakia until we were a whole lot that was ordered to launch land, shoot Germany LAND.

00:40:39 Speaker 2

SHUT.

00:40:42 Speaker 2

Which is South of Frankfurt, quite near Munich.

00:40:48 Speaker 2

As I recall, and I think that's right.

00:40:52 Speaker 2

And we remain there.

00:40:56 Speaker 2

As an occupation force, part of our duties were to.

00:41:01 Speaker 2

To support the United Nations Relief and rehabilitation outfits which had there were all kinds of.

00:41:10 Speaker 2

Wounded people, people in hospitals.

00:41:13 Speaker 2

And our job was the ward ended by then.

00:41:18 Speaker 2

And.

00:41:22 Speaker 2

One day I got a telephone call from the recreation and Education officer or something like that. Each of the battalions had such a person and he said Mel.

00:41:36 Speaker 2

I see you're qualified.

00:41:40 Speaker 2

To go to school and I had been in the I was had been in the University of Wisconsin. I'd had only two years of undergraduate work when ten of us had been invited to into law school.

00:41:56 Speaker 2

By the Dean of the law school.

00:41:59 Speaker 2

And I had completed this one year law school. I had had two years of undergraduate work and completed this one year law at Wisconsin, when our ROTC unit was called up.

00:42:12 Speaker 2

And he said you're qualified where we, you, you we could do. You could have applied to any one of these universities. He said there's Oxford, there's Cambridge and Sorbonne.

00:42:25 Speaker 2

Would you like to continue your education? I said. That'd be great. So I I picked Oxford. Well, lo and behold, Oxford for some reason or other was full up and I didn't get to Oxford, but I got to Cambridge.

00:42:41 Speaker 2

While still in uniform, all of this was.

00:42:44 Speaker 2

And while at Cambridge.

00:42:47 Speaker 2

And I was living at what was called the Bull Hotel. The Bull Hotel was bull college. We call it any event. There's. There were all kinds of Americans there and that overflow. Some of us were at this hotel. Any event.

00:43:07

Uh.

00:43:11 Speaker 2

I moved out of the bowl hotel and was living in a rooming house with some other officers.

00:43:19 Speaker 2

And one night it hit me.

00:43:21 Speaker 2

I've reading Sumner Wells book a time for decision.

00:43:27 Speaker 2

I was in law school there and enjoying it thoroughly, but it hit me. Wait a minute. What?

00:43:32 Speaker 2

Do you do?

00:43:32 Speaker 2

Here you're not.

00:43:34 Speaker 2

Really, as interested in the legal aspects of property back in Wisconsin or something like that, you're interested in how to.

00:43:44 Speaker 2

Save the world, so to speak. I've seen a lot of combat and terrible destruction. We would go in and and.

00:43:45

Oh.

00:43:51 Speaker 2

Destroys what? You just can't imagine how the terrible devastation, what you can. Now we see it on.

00:44:00 Speaker 2

Television every day.

00:44:02 Speaker 2

Any event it it occurred to me that I'm going to switch fields when I get a chance and I'm going to go into international relations.

00:44:10 Speaker 2

And then there then I made a decision I was not going to go into law school. I would. When I got out of service, I would look for a university which would accept a maximum my number of my credits, allowing for this year in law school, I'd have still had only two years undergraduate.

00:44:30 Speaker 2

Any event?

00:44:38 Speaker 2

Had a lot of points to get home, but any event?



00:44:40

Yeah, I was going to say quite soon.

00:44:46 Speaker 2

I went my joint after completing that.

00:44:46 Speaker 1

How long were you?

00:44:50 Speaker 2

Tour at Cambridge.

00:44:54 Speaker 2

And I returned to my outfit, but soon was by that time there was a new company commander to taking my place.

00:45:04 Speaker 2

And I was ready to be rotated home. I had all all these points, and then I'd had that Silver Star, the Bronze Star for valor and two purple hearts, and as well as a campaign ribbon and so forth.

00:45:21 Speaker 2

And one day after I was given orders to start processing, to return to the home.

00:45:32 Speaker 2

I was at one of these semi stations with processing stations.

00:45:38 Speaker 2

With a bunch of other GI's when a Jeep came along and.

00:45:42 Speaker 1

This is in England.

00:45:43 Speaker 2

I said no, no, I would back it back. It I was back in, in, in Germany. By this time I would completed that Michaelmas term at Cambridge.

00:45:49

Launch.

00:45:54 Speaker 2

And a Jeep came along and he stopped. He said. Hey, Mel, here is a fellow named Steve Rebel.

00:46:04 Speaker 2

Who was also at Cambridge studying law, a GI like I soldier, like I.

00:46:09 Speaker 2

He said I'm on my way to Nuremberg. Would you like to join me?

00:46:15 Speaker 2

Well, it I knew my orders weren't to that. I'd be there for some day, I said. That's great, Steve. Just.

00:46:21 Speaker 2

Let me check.

00:46:22 Speaker 2

To.

00:46:23 Speaker 2

Inform people who were right. People where I am going and he and I took off for Nuremberg and we attended the trials when everybody was there.

00:46:35 Speaker 2

Except for Hitler, Hitler and gerbils was there. Who was the German? The.

00:46:42 Speaker 2

Big German. What's his name? Gary Gary Rudolph Hess was there.

00:46:44 Speaker 1

Gary was a little.

00:46:48

1.

00:46:51 Speaker 2

All these people were.

00:46:52 Speaker 2

Right up lined up. These were guilty. I mean, they were being tried rather for war crime.

00:47:01 Speaker 2

Any event that was quite an experience and Steve and I parted company, but that wasn't not the last time I saw Steve Rebel, believe it or not.

00:47:10 Speaker 2

But I got back to my outfit and continued on with going through Camp, Lucky strike or whatever it was, and eventually.

00:47:20 Speaker 2

Got to a point where I was about to be transferred.

00:47:27 Speaker 2

To a point where we pick up a ship to come home, a liberty ship come home.

00:47:33 Speaker 2

And I was sitting in in this barracks when.

00:47:38 Speaker 2

The other guys had gone off. I don't know why, but there was one other man there and he was a the the the minister.

00:47:47 Speaker 2

A chaplain rather for our outfit, and he and I got to talk.

00:47:52 Speaker 2

And.

00:47:54 Speaker 2

I can remember spending the evening. It is still fascinating was talking with this fellow but.

00:48:02

Yeah.

00:48:04

You don't come to you.

00:48:06 Speaker 2

Any event then was processed and finally got home.

00:48:12 Speaker 2

And met my wife Mary at.

00:48:16 Speaker 2

In in New York.

00:48:22

Well.

00:48:22 Speaker 2

Any event I returned to my story, I was on the way home and I was mustered off and my wife and I been reunited.

00:48:35 Speaker 2

And I looked for a as soon as I had a chance to get out of the.

00:48:40 Speaker 2

Service.

00:48:40 Speaker 2

I got out.

00:48:42 Speaker 2

But a the whole experience was one, as I'd indicated while I was at law school at Cambridge, I decided I was going to switch fields of study, and I did. And.

00:48:56 Speaker 2

Ended up at the American University here in Washington, DC.

00:49:01 Speaker 2

Now at that time, the American University was divided campus. They had a downtown campus where most of the.

00:49:12 Speaker 2

Older.

00:49:14 Speaker 2

People went to school a lot of these people there were working now working as civilians.

00:49:20 Speaker 2

And.

00:49:22 Speaker 2

But at the university, it was extremely interesting at that point, because being in Washington and at that point that Washington had attracted a great numbers of outstanding academicians.

00:49:37 Speaker 2

And you had such people as Pitman powder.

00:49:40

Who?

00:49:41

GI Bill, or it's just GI Bill.

00:49:42

Get.

00:49:45 Speaker 2

Yes, it was on the GI Bill that buried definitely.

00:49:51 Speaker 2

Yes, I think we're still recording now.

00:49:55

Yeah.

00:49:55 Speaker 2

It was on the GI Bill and we were.

00:50:00 Speaker 2

Mayor and I were living at the on the campus at the American University.

00:50:05 Speaker 2

When?

00:50:07 Speaker 2

Red when this red Hendrix showed up.

00:50:09 Speaker 2

I guess I.

00:50:11 Speaker 2

We're on the campus there.

00:50:13 Speaker 2

And after finishing my.

00:50:16 Speaker 2

This one year I had one year and a half to go to get my undergraduate degree and I was now getting it as an as a in in social science, as in political science, as international relations with my field of emphasis.

00:50:32 Speaker 2

When?

00:50:34 Speaker 2

I learned of an opportunity that was very exciting. My father sent me a newspaper clipping announcing a program of management intern program for the occupation of Germany.

00:50:47 Speaker 2

And I read this thing and immediately got on the telephone and made an appointment at the Pentagon.

00:50:56 Speaker 2

And found out who was running in this program and who to talk with at the Pentagon. Next thing I knew, I was accepted and I was on my way back to Germany as a civilian.

00:51:08 Speaker 2

I've I've finished gotten this degree in international major in international relations.

00:51:14 Speaker 2

Went back to Germany as a civilian and.

00:51:18 Speaker 2

Where?

00:51:19 Speaker 2

Excuse me.

00:51:21 Speaker 1

Where in Germany?

00:51:22 Speaker 2

Where in Germany? Well, that management insurance program started out in Berlin.

00:51:26 Speaker 2

And Berlin at that time was as you was occupied and by the four occupying powers of Soviet Union.

00:51:34 Speaker 2

The French, the British and the Americans.

00:51:37 Speaker 2

And.

00:51:39 Speaker 2

I hadn't been in Berlin when a man named Cable brand, who was also in this management intern program, and I were called into the headquarters.

00:51:51 Speaker 2

Where we met with the Deputy director of Berlin Sector.

00:51:56 Speaker 2

Who said, look, you fellas with all your combat experience and all your your education.

00:52:03 Speaker 2

And so forth.

00:52:04 Speaker 2

We need you here.

00:52:07 Speaker 2

If if would you be willing to get all of this management insurance program if if we could get to you because we need you?

00:52:15 Speaker 2

And both of us.

00:52:18 Speaker 2

Said yes, that'd be fine. Well, first place, there were certain attractions and 1st place Mary could come back. Come over to Germany right away.

00:52:26

OK.

00:52:28

Well.

00:52:28

It was his man's name, Campbell.

00:52:31 Speaker 2

Cabell Brand was the other band, and Cabell Brand was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute.

00:52:40 Speaker 2

And a real fine man.

00:52:43 Speaker 2

A very fine soldier. He had been an engineer, signal Corps man and Signal Corps have no mistake.

00:52:52 Speaker 2

Well, we were both. We were asked where would you like to?

00:52:55 Speaker 2

Work.

00:52:57 Speaker 2

Here in Berlin sector.

00:52:59 Speaker 2

We both said we'd like to work for for intelligence.

00:53:03 Speaker 2

And both of us were assigned to intelligence and talked about a fascinating time we would.

00:53:12 Speaker 2

Attend meetings of the commander Tura.

00:53:16 Speaker 2

We would seek to get to know these people and we could, especially the Germans, who might be able to help us.

00:53:26 Speaker 2

And.

00:53:28 Speaker 2

The Americans.

00:53:31 Speaker 2

My boss, whose name was Barber Phil Philip Barber, the head of the the Civil Affairs unit, there was a Colonel Heimlich.

00:53:43 Speaker 2

Who later became head of Radio Free Europe, as I recall.

00:53:48 Speaker 2

Any event?

00:53:52 Speaker 2

We would be invited to attend meetings.

00:53:56 Speaker 2

Of our counterparts of the British, the French, where we plan strategy to how to deal with the Soviets.



00:54:05 Speaker 2

Because though the Cold War hadn't yet formally.

00:54:10 Speaker 2

If things were heating up, so to speak.

00:54:13 Speaker 2

But what an experience well.

00:54:17 Speaker 2

We we were kept out of that management insurance program. I don't know, maybe four months long enough anyway for Mary to join me in Germany.

00:54:27 Speaker 2

And next thing we knew, both of us were.

00:54:32 Speaker 2

Ordered back into the intern program.

00:54:35 Speaker 2

And both of us were sent to Stuttgart.

00:54:40 Speaker 2

In in Germany.

00:54:42 Speaker 2

We're part of military government. This is part of the idea was to for the management intern program to introduce us to all levels of military government. This was going to be a 40 year occupation of Germany. Remember, right under the Morgan Footpaw plan, we were going to reduce Germany down to nothing.

00:54:56

Oh.

00:55:01 Speaker 2

So to speak.

00:55:03 Speaker 2

Any of that, meantime, the Alta conference had taken place. The Potsdam agreements had taken place. The Cold War got really started to heat.

00:55:13 Speaker 2

And by the time.

00:55:16 Speaker 2

We completed this management intern program. We went through all levels of of by the occupation, military, government, all the way down to the Chrysler level.

00:55:27 Speaker 2

Of KRE.

00:55:29 Speaker 2

ISE that's the lowest level of governmental structure in Germany.

00:55:37 Speaker 2

The Marshall Plan was just been had just been announced.

00:55:41 Speaker 2

And.

00:55:43 Speaker 2

I don't know what got into my head. I said I'm going to see if I can.

00:55:47 Speaker 2

Get in that.

00:55:49 Speaker 2

And I finished my management intern program and we were told you can go out and look for a job. And I got up to Frankfurt and lo and behold, I was hired by the program officer for the Marshall Plan.

00:56:04 Speaker 2

For the combined British and American occupied zones of Germany, Feller named Clifford Burke Burke.

00:56:13 Speaker 2

I became his assistant. I was assistant program officer for the Marshall Plan.

00:56:20 Speaker 2

And we wrote, actually wrote the long term.

00:56:24 Speaker 2

And 1st and 2nd Annual Recovery forums for the combined British and American occupied zones of Germany. The French were still are not being still but were being French.

00:56:36

Yeah.

00:56:38 Speaker 2

And they they were. They were going to run their go their zone the way they wanted to.

00:56:44 Speaker 2

But our job was to beef up.

00:56:48 Speaker 2

Germany was very apparent that we needed to.

00:56:54 Speaker 2

Have have build up Germany to for Germany to become a strong, prosperous nation.

00:57:02 Speaker 2

And the Marshall plans certainly succeeded.

00:57:11

Were your wife allowed to stay with?

00:57:13

You.

00:57:13 Speaker 2

Oh yes. My yes, my wife followed me to Stuttgart and then to then to Frankfurt, where where the headquarters for the combined.

00:57:13

When you at the intern program, back to the emergency.

00:57:22 Speaker 2

British and American military government was headquartered.

00:57:30 Speaker 2

And.

00:57:34 Speaker 2

We had completed the long term strategy for Germany.

00:57:41 Speaker 2

We would keep in mind this was still military government.

00:57:46 Speaker 2

When Ambassador Harriman.

00:57:51 Speaker 2

Who was representing the United States?

00:57:55 Speaker 2

In Paris.

00:58:01 Speaker 2

And he and an entourage came to to Frankfurt.

00:58:07 Speaker 2

When? One morning.

00:58:11 Speaker 2

I went to my office and my boss, whose name was Harrelson, Colonel Harrelson, who headed up the European Recovery Program Group of which I was a part.

00:58:22 Speaker 2

Said Mel.

00:58:26 Speaker 2

We're going to brief Ambassador Harriman.

00:58:31 Speaker 2

On what we've got planned for.

00:58:34 Speaker 2

Our combined zones of Germany.

00:58:37 Speaker 2

And you're going to give with the briefing.

00:58:44 Speaker 2

You can imagine I stood at attention very fast, but I went back to my office and sat down and paper and pencil and.

00:58:55 Speaker 2

Very quickly.

00:58:57 Speaker 2

Outline what I thought needed to be said, and it was rather interesting how it all came together together very quickly.

00:59:05 Speaker 2

What we've been working on this so intensely.

00:59:09 Speaker 2

And I can remember I was sitting in the audience with all the other.

00:59:17 Speaker 2

People not not on the podium when my name was called up and.

00:59:23

Oh wow.

00:59:23 Speaker 2

And I went up. I walked out of the audience, and I'm sure all the heads turned. And what's this young guy? And I was at 25 years old, I guess at that point.

00:59:33 Speaker 2

And I went up on the stage with the podium and which shook hands with the Ambassador Harriman, and all the the other big shots, so to speak.

00:59:44 Speaker 2

And made my presentation.

00:59:48 Speaker 2

Walked off the podium, went back down to my seat and after the formalities were over and long and behold, if Ambassador Harriman didn't come down from the podium.

01:00:00 Speaker 2

Search me out and congratulate me. Well, I want you to know at 12:00 that night, I was still wide awake, standing at attention. But it was a great experience for young men.

01:00:15 Speaker 2

Well now.

01:00:19 Speaker 2

About that time.

01:00:22 Speaker 2

We had been in Germany long enough, reunited Mary and I, and we had had.

01:00:29 Speaker 2

A son born in Germany.

01:00:36 Speaker 2

And another son born in Germany.

01:00:42

How?

01:00:47 Speaker 2

By that time, we'd become part of the community.

01:00:53 Speaker 2

And I don't know whether this is interested for your program here, but by that time Mary had become active in a play. They put on the women, and this was a play written by Claire Booth. Luce and Mary had a lead in this.

01:01:05

Oh.

01:01:15 Speaker 2

And.

01:01:17 Speaker 2

When it was all.

01:01:20 Speaker 2

Over or about to be over.

01:01:24 Speaker 2

They it was so successful that the plans were to have this Little Theatre group, which was located in Frankfurt.

01:01:37 Speaker 2

Go on to Vienna, Austria and places like that. However, by then Mary was nine months or not 9, not 9 months, but some months big enough so that she couldn't go.

01:01:50 Speaker 2

And and the.

01:01:51 Speaker 2

And the group didn't go, but it was a great experience, sort of like our.

01:01:53 Speaker 1

Oh my.

01:01:57 Speaker 2

Group here and.

01:01:58 Speaker 1

That was the second son, right?

01:02:01

Like.

01:02:05 Speaker 2

Well, we.

01:02:12 Speaker 2

So any event we we got back to the States, Mary and I got.

01:02:18 Speaker 2

Back to the States and.

01:02:19 Speaker 1

How long were you in Germany?

01:02:21 Speaker 2

We're there 3 1/2 years in Germany.

01:02:28 Speaker 2

Well before.

01:02:30 Speaker 2

At a certain point, while we're still in Germany, that we had returned to the Germans a certain degree of sovereignty.

01:02:39 Speaker 2

And.

01:02:41 Speaker 2

We were now.

01:02:43 Speaker 2

In Germany, a presence of Americans and the British and other.

