

## **Melvin Louis Schuweiler Interview #2**

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])

00:00:03 Speaker 1

Meantime, Germans had obtained a degree of sovereignty, largely regained of sovereignty. However, the High Commission for Germany was one whereby we retained certain rights to intervene in the affairs of Germany, and by that time.

00:00:22 Speaker 1

I had.

00:00:24 Speaker 1

The work of the Marshall Plan Group, or the ERP group as we recall, was turned over to the Germans and we were not functioning as such. We are now called the High Commission for Germany and I have become a part of the Office of International Trade, Investment and Monetary.

00:00:44 Speaker 1

Deferred.

00:00:48 Speaker 1

And I my assignment was to attend.

00:00:53 Speaker 1

German sessions of bilateral negotiations. The Germans still have their complete sovereignty.

00:01:00 Speaker 1

And my responsibilities were to monitor what they were saying and doing. And if at any point they appeared to be.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

Agreeing to things or negotiating on matters which we considered to be undesirable, I could intervene and did on occasion.

00:01:24 Speaker 1

Any event I worked at that until finally I decided my my I had a second son born in Germany.

00:01:32 Speaker 1

And I decided that it was time to get go home.

00:01:36 Speaker 1

And give my children an education in the United States. I didn't want them educated over in Germany, though the school system.

00:01:45 Speaker 1

Under the occupation was very, very not only the occupation, but our school system generally. Arrangements for our foreign service. We're very, very good.

00:01:57 Speaker 1

But any event I did resign from Germany and came home to the states not knowing what I was going to do.

00:02:09 Speaker 1

And.

00:02:15 Speaker 1

And thinking that I would go into international finance and banking or what have you.

00:02:23 Speaker 1

I went to New York and talked with people and people there. I remember very clearly meeting with the Vice President, Senior Vice President at Chase Manhattan Bank, for instance, and talking about, I tried to interest them.

00:02:38 Speaker 1

And.

00:02:39 Speaker 1

And mobilizing private capital and know how? By that time President Truman had announced the .4.

00:02:46 Speaker 1

Program and I.

00:02:47 Speaker 1

I I was convinced that there's just no way that we could do this without mobilizing private capital. Know how?

00:02:56 Speaker 1

Well, any of that, I concluded after meeting with these people, such as the Senior Vice President at Chase Manhattan, that they weren't the I they kept telling me it's premature, it's it's not safe. We've got plenty of opportunities to invest in the United States.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

And this is where our interests and focus was.

00:03:19 Speaker 1

So I along the line somewhere in there I decided that really I better go back into the government. I ought to go to the State Department and talk with people there.

00:03:30 Speaker 1

Which I did.

00:03:32 Speaker 1

And.

00:03:34

Yeah.

00:03:35 Speaker 1

There was this group that was.

00:03:38 Speaker 1

Following very closely what had been following very closely what was going on in Germany and had been following it and not only in Germany but generally in the economic field, and I was referred to a man named Hamlin Robinson Robinson.

00:03:56 Speaker 1

And.

00:03:57 Speaker 1

This was an no they I first was told to see a man named Bill Turnage.

00:04:05 Speaker 1

Or Jack Corbett. These were heads of the Office of Finance and Development Policy in the Economic Bureau of State.

00:04:14 Speaker 1

And.

00:04:16 Speaker 1

Jack Corbett was in Italy at the time and I met with his deputy, a man named Bill Turnage.

00:04:25 Speaker 1

And told attorneys what I thought what we needed to do. I I said look, President Truman has announced this point .4 program. There's just no way. It's not a chance in hell that we'll be able to do this job through government measures. Here. We've got to some way mobilized.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

Private capital and know how.

00:04:47 Speaker 1

To go overseas and invest and and transfer technology and what have you.

00:04:54 Speaker 1

And Bill looked at me and he said, Mel, don't you know private international investment is dead. And I said to attorneys.

00:05:03 Speaker 1

Who at that point we were living in Brookmont, Maryland, and just up the street, not very far from from Brookmont, Maryland. And attorneys was living. And I said, Bill, I'd gotten to know him. I said yes, private international investment is dead. That's why we've got to do something.

00:05:24 Speaker 1

About it.

00:05:25 Speaker 1

And.

00:05:27 Speaker 1

Lo and behold.

00:05:29 Speaker 1

I I ended up at state and I went to work with the and the office of Finance and Development policy.

00:05:37 Speaker 1

And.

00:05:41 Speaker 1

While I was there.

00:05:44 Speaker 1

I hit upon the idea.

00:05:49 Speaker 1

And I proposed it to the.

00:05:55 Speaker 1

It was bought within the Office of Finance and Development Policy, but the the thing was my idea was one that needed to to launch a program which needed to be implemented by what was then the.

00:06:07 Speaker 1

The.

00:06:09 Speaker 1

International Cooperation Administration, and I think it was still at that point.

00:06:16 Speaker 1

And.

00:06:18 Speaker 2

International.

00:06:19 Speaker 1

International cooperation administration.

00:06:23 Speaker 1

But soon thereafter, the Republicans came in and.

00:06:31 Speaker 1

That whole function was taken over by the Foreign Operations Administration.

00:06:38 Speaker 1

And the the idea, the idea I had that I outlined and I ended up being referred to a fellow named Frank Kimball, who was the Executive secretary for the International Advisory Development Advisory Board.

00:06:55 Speaker 1

Headed up at that time, as I recall by Eric Johnson Johnson.

00:07:00 Speaker 1

Who's head of the US Chamber of Commerce, if I'm not mistaken.

00:07:05 Speaker 1

And I'd outlined this idea that we needed to mobilize private capital, know how? But by that time, I'd hit on the idea that we ought to organize an international investment, private investment conference, or Kimball got all excited and he sold the idea.

00:07:25 Speaker 1

To Johnson and the Advisory Board.

00:07:28 Speaker 1

But it was decided we should first Test this out.

00:07:31 Speaker 1

In Latin America?

00:07:33 Speaker 1

And.

00:07:39 Speaker 1

By that time, I transferred over to the Foreign Operation Administration and was in this Office of International Investment Monetary Affairs.

00:07:49 Speaker 1

And next thing I knew I was.

00:07:53 Speaker 1

Told that the the idea that I had was bought by that board, it was bought. Also they had sold it to Rudolph Heck. They had a a very prestigious figure in New City of New Orleans which was a key liaison with the with our business.

00:08:12 Speaker 1

Community in Latin America.

00:08:15 Speaker 1

And.

00:08:17 Speaker 1

Together, they had sold time, Life magazine on the idea.

00:08:23 Speaker 1

And next thing I knew.

00:08:26 Speaker 1

Three of us were traveling in Latin America organizing the Inter American Investment Conference.

00:08:35

Oh.

00:08:37 Speaker 2

You.

00:08:38 Speaker 3

Yeah, yeah.

00:08:39

Ohh.

00:08:40 Speaker 1

Any event the conference was in in.

00:08:45 Speaker 1

What was it I said.

00:08:46 Speaker 3

February 1950.

00:08:48 Speaker 1

OK.

00:08:52 Speaker 1

Yes, it was a real success and it was picked up. The whole idea of conferences like this were picked up, I think as I, as I recall Stanford University became, you know, the Stanford Research Institute became the key focal point for continuing the this type of conference.

00:09:06 Speaker 3

Umm.

00:09:10 Speaker 1

But there were a number of hell, including, I believe, if I'm not mistaken, an Asian Asian investment Conference.

00:09:18 Speaker 1

By that time, I had moved on to other things.

00:09:24

Uh.

00:09:30 Speaker 3

Where are we?

00:09:32

OK.

00:09:33 Speaker 1

Well, we were talking about the convergence. I had left the State Department and I was now working for the Foreign Operations Administration, which was which was an independent agency.

00:09:49 Speaker 1

Created a successor to the to the to the Economic Cooperation Administration and the Mutual Security Agency, which was.

00:10:02 Speaker 1

Another independent agency, separate from state.

00:10:08 Speaker 1

Any event when the Republicans came in General Eisenhower succeeded President Truman. They created the Foreign Operations Administration and it was at that point that I transferred from state to the Foreign Operation Administration.

00:10:26 Speaker 3

And it was that organization.

00:10:28 Speaker 3

That had that had this Internet in America.

00:10:31 Speaker 1

Organized well with them that I participated in the Inter American organizing the Inter American investment.

00:10:39 Speaker 1

Conference.

00:10:45 Speaker 3

Now you said that you left that.

00:10:48 Speaker 3

After a while the whole idea.

00:10:50 Speaker 1

No, I I'm getting ahead of my story here because.

00:10:54 Speaker 1

After I left state and joined the Foreign Operation Administration, in addition to working on that inter American Investment Conference, I was at.

00:11:04 Speaker 1

To be a part of an evaluation team, when the Republicans took over, they wanted to.

00:11:10 Speaker 1

Get an assessment of where we were and what and where we ought to be going with our, with our assistance, foreign assistance for operations.



00:11:20 Speaker 1

And I went to Brazil as a part of an evaluation team.

00:11:26 Speaker 1

And while in Brazil I.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

Spend time and not only Rio de Janeiro, talking and consulting with not only with our embassy people, but also business people and others, our counterparts in the.

00:11:47 Speaker 1

And the the governments in and the government in Brazil.

00:11:52 Speaker 1

And travel to Sao Paulo, for instance, where I especially keenly interested Sao Paulo was the.

00:12:00 Speaker 1

Business really, the Industrial center of Brazil then and?

00:12:05 Speaker 1

Properly and still can be described as such until today, but I'd also traveled in Belo Horizonte.

00:12:14 Speaker 1

Well, that's not necessary, but in any event and.

00:12:22 Speaker 1

Any event we we.

00:12:27 Speaker 1

Our purpose was to recommend changes and additions to our foreign Operation Administration.

00:12:36 Speaker 1

Assistance programs.

00:12:52 Speaker 1

Well, I continue on with this experience in government following my military career.

00:12:58 Speaker 1

I.

00:13:00 Speaker 1

I remained in the State Department or its affiliated agencies until 1959.

00:13:10 Speaker 1

When this man with whom I worked in Germany, who also had been taken out of the.

00:13:17 Speaker 1

Regular management program and the two of us worked in Berlin sector intelligence.

00:13:23 Speaker 1

Had gone home even before I had and he had a business and he talked me into leaving the government.

00:13:30 Speaker 1

He kept coming into Washington and trying to convince me to leave the government to join him.

00:13:36 Speaker 1

Which I eventually did in 1959.

00:13:40 Speaker 1

And as as sales director for this shoe company that his family had organized.

00:13:48 Speaker 1

And I I was quite successful at this shoe company and the business is really.

00:13:56 Speaker 2

Shoes.

00:13:57 Speaker 1

Shoes, shoes, shoes. They didn't have manufacture. This was a direct sales shoe company.

00:14:04 Speaker 1

And when the Peace Corps came along?

00:14:09 Speaker 1

And.

00:14:11 Speaker 1

I was asked to join the staff of the Peace Corps as the head of the Far East operation. I told him. I said I don't know anything about the Far East.

00:14:22 Speaker 1

And besides, I'm.

00:14:24 Speaker 1

Feel that's important. I stay with this company. I've got something going here. This company needs me.

00:14:30 Speaker 1

Well, lo and behold, I turned them down. Lo and behold, they came back. I don't know, months later, and ought to be a better job.

00:14:38 Speaker 1

As deputy director for the total Overseas program operations, this was that of time when Sergeant Shriver.

00:14:46 Speaker 1

Headed up this was President Kennedy's brother.

00:14:50 Speaker 1

And.

00:14:56 Speaker 1

OK.

00:14:57 Speaker 1

And any event, I joined him as deputy associate director.

00:15:01 Speaker 1

Of for the for the.

00:15:02 Speaker 1

For the Peace Corps.

00:15:04 Speaker 1

And lo and behold.

00:15:07 Speaker 1

I hadn't been with them. Maybe.

00:15:10 Speaker 1

No more than a I don't know if there's even a year, but what I came up with another idea which I sold.

00:15:18 Speaker 1

And that was the idea of organizing a counterpart to the Peace Corps. We I suggested that we needed to, really.

00:15:28 Speaker 1

Develop.

00:15:31 Speaker 1

Future leaders, wherever the Peace Corps operates, that ought to be one of our objectives to develop future leaders, and we would probably do this best through organizing what might be called the Alianza Corps.

00:15:45 Speaker 1

Well, the idea was bought and at the time it was bought it was bought by my boss who was a fellow named Warren Wiggins.

00:15:57 Speaker 1

And.

00:16:00 Speaker 1

Next thing I knew, I was on my way to Latin America because the idea was that we would do this first in Latin America and see if the idea made sense, that if it did, we would then replicate it in other parts of the world.

00:16:16 Speaker 1

Well, lo and behold, I found myself traveling through Latin America by myself.

00:16:23 Speaker 1

And this was the time when you could travel by yourself. In contrast to the way it is today, the day you.

00:16:30 Speaker 1

You got to be very careful where you go, what you do at any event.

00:16:44 Speaker 1

I had come back from this trip. And sarge Schreiber.

00:16:51 Speaker 1

I on this trip I met, for instance, with the President of former President of Brazil, Kubichek, Ambassador Lincoln Gordon, who arranged this. But I was meeting with people like that, and the Alliance for progress.

00:17:09 Speaker 1

By them.

00:17:12 Speaker 1

I thought, and I reported in the senior staff meeting, after I got back from this, these travels.

00:17:20 Speaker 1

Sarge Shriver returned.

00:17:22 Speaker 1

To.

00:17:23 Speaker 1

To Washington, and I was reporting on this, my findings on this trip.

00:17:29 Speaker 1

And.

00:17:31 Speaker 1

At some point, I said the Alliance for Progress is dead on its feet.

00:17:37 Speaker 1

And this is needs to be beefed up and one of the ways to do it is to create the Alianza Corp.

00:17:46 Speaker 1

When SARS took out after me and he and I got into a knock down, drag out, literally, of a terrible argument to such a point.

00:17:58 Speaker 1

That I knew after that meeting, I just my goose was cooked. If you ever worked with SARS River, he was a very, very.

00:18:07 Speaker 1

He he used to have a sign above the door to to his office. Nice guys don't win ball games any any event, whereupon after that meeting I decide.

00:18:20 Speaker 1

I've got to get out of here.

00:18:22 Speaker 1

And find but.

00:18:24 Speaker 1

I couldn't figure out immediately why did he take out after me. Well, I realize I put two and two together afterward, but also I'm sure helped by other people who told me that what their views were.

00:18:37 Speaker 1

That when I mentioned that the Alliance for Progress was dead on his feet.

00:18:42 Speaker 1

He knew SAR trial, that is, he's got to quash. Any idea anybody in this room thinks that he's interested in succeeding Teodoro Moscoso, who was the head of the Alliance for Progress?

00:18:55 Speaker 3

Ohh.

00:18:57 Speaker 1

He didn't want that to happen. He didn't want anybody to leave that staff meeting and talk with the press and the Peace Corps people like everybody else talks with the press.

00:19:07 Speaker 1

Because if it got out the press, the press would immediately say Shriver is going to be the successor of the Moscoso, and Shriver didn't want any part of the Alliance for Progress. In any event, I then left the Peace Corps, who joined the Battelle Memorial Institute or Research Institute, is more accurate.

00:19:13 Speaker 3

No.

00:19:26

Excuse me, what? Parkdale.

00:19:28

No.

00:19:29 Speaker 1

But Patel BATTELLEI think that's correct.

00:19:34 Speaker 1

In Columbus, OH.

00:19:38 Speaker 3

And what was it called that town?

00:19:40 Speaker 1

Battelle Memorial Institute.

00:19:43 Speaker 1

The man named Battelle or some family named Battelle, headed it up.

00:19:49 Speaker 3

In Columbus, OH.

00:19:51 Speaker 1

Columbus, OH.

00:19:55 Speaker 1

If you'd like to put a.

00:19:56 Speaker 1

Light on over there.

00:19:57 Speaker 1

Please do.

00:20:04 Speaker 3

And what year was that rough?

00:20:07 Speaker 1

That had must have been 19.

00:20:13 Speaker 3

Well, the candies are in.

00:20:21 Speaker 1

Well, peace school. I was a Peace Corps 3 1/2 years so.

00:20:22 Speaker 3

Early 60s.

00:20:26 Speaker 3

3060606263.

00:20:29 Speaker 1

You know something there, right?

00:20:32 Speaker 1

And was with Patel for.

00:20:38 Speaker 1

Maybe a year and a half. When I went with the Cummins engine company.

00:20:43 Speaker 1

Cummins engine company, incidentally, was located in Columbus IN my family, was still in Columbus. OH, and I joined Columbus. The Cummins engine company was Cummins. Engine was the the biggest manufacturer of heavy duty diesel engines in the.

00:21:02 Speaker 1

World.

00:21:03 Speaker 1

These are engines which if you look at these steam shovels and big power equipment or heavy heavy duty trucks, 18 Wheelers on the highway, they had the chances are a Cummins engine.

00:21:16 Speaker 1

Any event? I was hired by Cummins's director for International forward planning.

00:21:22 Speaker 1

And remain with with the Commons until I came back into the government and in 19.

00:21:33 Speaker 1

When did I come back?

00:21:37 Speaker 1

1966 I guess I came back in.

00:21:41 Speaker 2

And when did you retire from government service?

00:21:44 Speaker 1

1980.

00:21:45 Speaker 2

1980.

00:21:48 Speaker 2

Now I'd like to get this on tape before our tape runs out. I know you said you married this young lady back in the 40s, but can you tell?

00:21:58 Speaker 1

Right.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

Me. What her?

00:22:01 Speaker 2



Maiden name was and that when she was born.

00:22:04 Speaker 1

Right. Mary was born in Wisconsin Rapids. I didn't know her at that time. We met at the University of Wisconsin.

00:22:13 Speaker 1

She was a freshman when I was, by that time, A in the law school.

00:22:21 Speaker 2

And what was her maiden name?

00:22:22 Speaker 1

Her name name was Mary Babcock.

00:22:26 Speaker 1

Mary Babcock's family moved from Wisconsin to Charlottesville, VA, where Mary's father was editor of the Charlottesville Daily Progress.

00:22:38 Speaker 2

And do you know when her birthday and the year?

00:22:41 Speaker 1

Her birthday is June.

00:22:46 Speaker 1

4th.

00:22:48 Speaker 1

1924 she's three years younger than I.

00:22:51

Penny.

00:22:53 Speaker 2

And what was the?

00:22:55 Speaker 2

Your wedding date.

00:22:57 Speaker 1

August 24.

00:23:00 Speaker 1

19.

00:23:03 Speaker 1

44.

00:23:05 Speaker 2

OK, now you said.

00:23:06 Speaker 1

And and our daughter, who I haven't mentioned, was born after we got back to the states here.

00:23:15 Speaker 2

And her name?

00:23:16 Speaker 1

Our daughter, our daughter is is Mary Suzanne Dobbs. DAB.

00:23:17 Speaker 2

M.

00:23:24 Speaker 2

OK.

00:23:24 Speaker 1

And our oldest son's older son, rather, is Mark.

00:23:31 Speaker 1

Schuyler Mark and he lives here in the Washington area. Actually, he's just across the state border now. He just bought a house and he's living in West Virginia, but he's mailing address in. Is Virginia still?

00:23:32 Speaker 3

Guess what?

00:23:46

Uh.

00:23:48 Speaker 1

But he works for electronic data services or EDS, as it's called.

00:23:54 Speaker 3

And and and I see Mark and one more boy.

00:23:58 Speaker 3

The other son.

00:23:59 Speaker 2

What's the other son's name?

00:24:00 Speaker 1

The other son's name is Robert, and Robert lives in Seattle, WA.

00:24:06 Speaker 1

And both of them.

00:24:08 Speaker 1

After graduating from college, got into the hospital administration field and were experts in materials and equipment management.

00:24:19 Speaker 2

Now, do you remember what Mark's birthdate is?

00:24:23 Speaker 1

August.

00:24:26 Speaker 1

27th as I recall.

00:24:28 Speaker 2

What year?

00:24:30 Speaker 1

1948.

00:24:31 Speaker 2

And how about Roberts?

00:24:34 Speaker 1

Oh, I think you got me there. I think Bob was born three years later and he was born in. I wish Mary were here and I don't have that.

00:24:36

OK.

00:24:44 Speaker 2

OK. And your daughter, do you know when?

00:24:46 Speaker 2

She was born.

00:24:47 Speaker 1

She was born seven years after Mark was born. So 55, I guess.

00:24:52 Speaker 2

50.

00:24:59 Speaker 2

OK.

00:25:00 Speaker 1

It is rather interesting. While Mary was giving birth to our daughter, she was in the hospital. The what is the the Women's Hospital? I don't know if it still.

00:25:10 Speaker 3

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

00:25:10 Speaker 1

Exists. Yes, it still exists.

00:25:12 Speaker 1

But who should show up there?

00:25:16 Speaker 1

But a man who?

00:25:18 Speaker 1

Both of us knew at the University of Wisconsin, who had become a doctor, and \*\* \*\*\* woke up after being.

00:25:24

Well.

00:25:30 Speaker 1

Give an ether for in giving birth to baby and she looks up and who should she be looking at? But Tommy Boisclair. Tommy. Tommy was a guy who sat behind me at football games at the University of Wisconsin and he would.

00:25:31

Oh.

00:25:37

You can.

00:25:48 Speaker 1

He was an upperclassman and I was a.

00:25:51 Speaker 1

Lowly freshman at that time, and he pulled my hat down over my head and he'd yell and scream, but we became very fast friends, any any event?

00:25:55

Oh.

00:26:02 Speaker 1

This thing still going.

00:26:05 Speaker 3

This is the kind of thing.

00:26:08 Speaker 1

Excuse me.

00:26:09 Speaker 3

That is very nice.

00:26:12 Speaker 3

You had quite a lot.

00:26:17 Speaker 1

Yes, I did, and it's still going.

00:26:17 Speaker 3

Yeah, and and still going here getting lectures. Yes. Thank you very, very much. We really enjoyed this. I'm glad I eliminated that luncheon.

00:26:26 Speaker 1

Of my pleasure, I guess.

