

Raymond Dale Settles Interview

Company F, 317 Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Gary R. Gift, Patsy L. Ray)

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

00:00:10 Speaker 1

After night, top night.

00:00:11 Speaker 2

Well, I'm going to do an introductory.

00:00:14 Speaker 2

This is Gary.

00:00:16 Speaker 2

I'm doing the interview today.

00:00:18

Yeah.

00:00:19 Speaker 2

Mr. Raymond Dale settles, also known mostly by his friends and everybody else's jackets today, is October 2nd, 2003.

00:00:31 Speaker 2

And we are at the VA hospital in the library in Prescott, AZ.

00:00:40 Speaker 2

And.

00:00:42 Speaker 2

Jack settles his birthday is March 6th, 1920 and he currently resides at 872 Baywood in Prescott, AZ.

00:00:57 Speaker 2

And we have several people in the room along with us, and I'd like to have them introduce themselves.

00:01:05 Speaker 3

I'm Patsy Ray and I coordinate the Veterans history project.

00:01:10

I.

00:01:10

Sandy Pickens and I'm here to observe the interviewing process.

00:01:12

Up.

00:01:16

I'm, Lee settles and Jack's wife.

00:01:19 Speaker 2

And our very special guest is.

00:01:21 Speaker 1

Raymond day. Jack settles.

00:01:25 Speaker 2

I think we've done with the preliminaries and we're ready to find out what went on with Jack.

00:01:33 Speaker 2

So we have a few.

00:01:35 Speaker 2

Standard questions, Jack, that we're going to ask and then we can just branch out as we feel appropriate as we go along.

00:01:39

Replay.

00:01:42 Speaker 1

Great.

00:01:43 Speaker 2

So we'll start with how you started into the.

00:01:46 Speaker 2

Did you were you drafted or did you enlist? Or how did you?

00:01:50 Speaker 2

Join the service.

00:01:51 Speaker 1

I tried to enlist the Navy and also the army and they didn't accept me and then.

00:01:59 Speaker 1

I had an operation and.

00:02:05 Speaker 1

And they drafted me.

00:02:06 Speaker 2

And then you get drafted. And where were you living at the time?

00:02:10 Speaker 1

Rushville IL.

00:02:11 Speaker 2

And you were drafted into the army.

00:02:12 Speaker 2

That correct, yes.

00:02:16 Speaker 2

So there's a question here.

00:02:20 Speaker 2

Did you?

00:02:21 Speaker 2

I mean you you were drafted, but you.

00:02:22 Speaker 2

Try to join.

00:02:23 Speaker 2

There.

00:02:24 Speaker 2

Particular reason that you wanted to join.

00:02:26 Speaker 2

The time.

00:02:28 Speaker 1

2.

00:02:29 Speaker 1

Protect my country. Serve your country? Yes.

00:02:34 Speaker 2

And.

00:02:37 Speaker 2

So you you were drafted, so you ended up in the army.

00:02:40 Speaker 2

You were. You tried to enlist in the Navy, and then the army. Did you any particular reason for the branches of service that you?

00:02:47 Speaker 1

Chose OK.

00:02:51 Speaker 2

You recall your your first days in service.

00:02:56 Speaker 1

Yes, very interesting.

00:03:00 Speaker 2

Tell us a little bit about that well.

00:03:04 Speaker 1

I we went through Camp Sheridan and I learned a little etiquette there from officers. That and sergeants and.

00:03:04

I.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

And then from there.

00:03:19 Speaker 1

They.

00:03:19 Speaker 1

I went by train to Little Rock AR at Camp Robinson.

00:03:28

Club will be meeting in the lobby of the main hospital at 2:00 PM for 15 minute Walk.

00:03:34 Speaker 2

Thank you.

00:03:38 Speaker 2

What does it feel like being in the service going from civilian to getting in the service?

00:03:44 Speaker 2

Does that feel like as a 24 year old young man?

00:03:46 Speaker 1

Very different.

00:03:48 Speaker 1

Very different.

00:03:51 Speaker 1

And of course.

00:03:52 Speaker 1

Naturally, they furnish their clothes and fettis and.

00:04:02 Speaker 1

Infantry Basic was very tough.

00:04:06

And.

00:04:13 Speaker 1

I guess I was smart enough to listen to.

00:04:17

What?

00:04:18 Speaker 1

The top kick had to say and and the officers and.

00:04:24 Speaker 1

It helped me a lot.

00:04:28

And.

00:04:29 Speaker 2

Adjusting.

00:04:30 Speaker 1

Adjusting and.

00:04:31

EE.

00:04:34 Speaker 1

Making.

00:04:36 Speaker 1

I guess ready for the trip, say, was going to put me on.

00:04:38

Mm.

00:04:41 Speaker 2

How about your boot camp experience?

00:04:43 Speaker 2

Training experience down there.

00:04:46 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:04:47 Speaker 2

How long was that?

00:04:48 Speaker 1

It was.

00:04:50 Speaker 1

Let's see. Five months.

00:04:56 Speaker 1

See, I went in and.

00:04:58 Speaker 1

What month did I say?

00:05:02 Speaker 2

January 45.

00:05:09 Speaker 1

January 45. That's right.

00:05:15 Speaker 1

And.

00:05:21 Speaker 1

It push.

00:05:25 Speaker 2

Pretty intensive.

00:05:26 Speaker 1

It it, it was intensive and and the.

00:05:33 Speaker 1

I thought was pretty rough, yeah.

00:05:34 Speaker 2

Yeah. How how'd you get through?

00:05:36 Speaker 2

What? What helped you get through it? Like you said you you listened and learned you were just.

00:05:42 Speaker 2

You remember any specific instructors that you had when you were in boot camp?

00:05:47 Speaker 1

No, I.

00:05:50 Speaker 1

Don't.

00:05:51 Speaker 2

Probably visualizing, but can't remember the name.

00:05:53

Yes.

00:05:55 Speaker 1

I remember.

00:05:58 Speaker 1

One day I was trying to get a pass and some something similar to that and.

00:06:06 Speaker 1

This topic I started lean on the dash, he said.

00:06:11 Speaker 1

You don't lean on the dash area, you stand straight.

00:06:21 Speaker 1

And I thanked him for it many times.

00:06:24 Speaker 2

Apps.

00:06:27 Speaker 2

So then.

00:06:29 Speaker 1

I didn't thank him personally, but.

00:06:32 Speaker 1

In my mind.

00:06:32 Speaker 2

Sure.

00:06:35 Speaker 2

Then in terms of some of your experiences, once you get going after boot camp you were in.

00:06:41 Speaker 2

World War 2.

00:06:43 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:06:44 Speaker 2

And so where exactly did you go?

00:06:48 Speaker 2

Start talking about.

00:06:49 Speaker 2

World.

00:06:49 Speaker 2

Your war experiences in your silence there.

00:06:53 Speaker 1

After we hit.

00:06:56 Speaker 1

Entered Germany or not? Germany. France, yes.

00:06:59

Mm.

00:07:06 Speaker 1

Traveling, traveling from.

00:07:10 Speaker 1

From England to.

00:07:13 Speaker 1

Into France was quite a change of scenery and.

00:07:20 Speaker 1

And the way the country had been torn up.

00:07:25 Speaker 1

Amazing.

00:07:28 Speaker 2

Kind of a jolt to see that.

00:07:29 Speaker 1

Yeah, right.

00:07:32 Speaker 2

What was your? What was your job assignment when you were at that point where you were?

00:07:39 Speaker 1

Just a private infantryman.

00:07:41 Speaker 2

Him.

00:07:46 Speaker 2

And.

00:07:48 Speaker 2

So it says.

00:07:48 Speaker 2

Dude, what was it like arriving?

00:07:50 Speaker 2

Did it look?

00:07:51 Speaker 2

So it was pretty pretty beat up from from the invasion and yeah. And then as you were.

00:07:55 Speaker 1

Oh yes.

00:07:57

Where?

00:07:57 Speaker 1

Invasion, you know.

00:08:00

Yeah.

00:08:01 Speaker 1

Where we hit.

00:08:04 Speaker 1

Where the boat took us in from France.

00:08:08

It was.

00:08:10 Speaker 1

Pretty awesome.

00:08:11 Speaker 2

And then when you after you landed, then you started moving towards some towns and I guess they had been occupied.

00:08:16 Speaker 1

Well it.

00:08:18 Speaker 1

It was very cold, very cold and they took us across.

00:08:25 Speaker 1

From the town on on the shore.

00:08:30 Speaker 1

And it was in.

00:08:32 Speaker 1

Tents unheated and.

00:08:37 Speaker 1

Six of us in this tent and what we all decided to do was to zip all of our bags together and we keep warm.

00:08:45 Speaker 1

That around.

00:08:45 Speaker 3

You have a call on 6013.

00:08:52 Speaker 1

And it worked.

00:08:53 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:08:55 Speaker 1

You know you never.

00:08:58 Speaker 1

Think that you sleep with.

00:09:01 Speaker 1

With other soldiers. But you did to keep warm.

00:09:06 Speaker 2

So this was what in March.

00:09:09 Speaker 2

Think March or April, something like that.

00:09:13 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:09:14 Speaker 1

Motion.

00:09:14 Speaker 2

Toward the end of winter, I guess, yeah.

00:09:16 Speaker 1

Yes, it was.

00:09:18 Speaker 1

Well, it was during the winter.

00:09:20

Mm.

00:09:25 Speaker 2

Then did your your unit as you got further into the country there and started seeing action.

00:09:33 Speaker 1

Well, see, I wasn't in a unit we traveled as.

00:09:40 Speaker 1

Army replacements.

00:09:43 Speaker 1

And of course.

00:09:49 Speaker 1

Far as I'm concerned, somebody had had some broader thoughts and other people because they had a lot of a lot of replacements going up to the front and.

00:10:01 Speaker 1

We got to Miss France today, outfitted us winter clothing and.

00:10:08 Speaker 1

Combat clothes and.

00:10:15 Speaker 2

Then you were assigned to the.

00:10:16 Speaker 1

Front after that and then you I was assigned.

00:10:19 Speaker 1

Yes, assigned to the 80s eight.

00:10:24 Speaker 2

In patents, army and then and then where was your first when you actually were assigned and located?

00:10:30 Speaker 2

Were.

00:10:30 Speaker 2

The forget the first time.

00:10:32

Uh.

00:10:37 Speaker 1

We were.

00:10:37 Speaker 1

Up.

00:10:38 Speaker 1

At Luxembourg at Luxembourg.

00:10:42 Speaker 1

That's where.

00:10:45

I.

00:10:47 Speaker 1

Joined.

00:10:49 Speaker 1

The 80th, 80th.

00:10:52 Speaker 2

And then then at that point, you start seeing action?

00:10:55 Speaker 1

Oh yes.

00:10:56 Speaker 2

Yeah, there were there casualties in your unit that you were assigned to, yeah.

00:11:00 Speaker 1

Oh yes.

00:11:03 Speaker 1

Please.

00:11:07 Speaker 2

Can you tell us some of your most memorable experiences that are?

00:11:12 Speaker 2

Comfortable for you to talk about?

00:11:15 Speaker 1

Well.

00:11:19 Speaker 1

One of the first ones.

00:11:22 Speaker 1

We had backtracked just down from.

00:11:25 Speaker 1

Baseline to into Lux support, which is not a large country.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

The town is almost as big as as the country.

00:11:36 Speaker 1

And they.

00:11:39 Speaker 1

From there we went east towards the German border and.

00:11:47

None.

00:11:48 Speaker 1

Really hitting the front lines was we were crossing the our river the OUR river.

00:12:00 Speaker 1

Going down into the town, they had had tanks.

00:12:05 Speaker 1

And.

00:12:05 Speaker 1

Artillery set up down in there.

00:12:08 Speaker 1

And.

00:12:10

Is.

00:12:12 Speaker 1

What I have found out, you know the Germans as they were moving back, they knew where to place their shells and stuff that they were throwing at us and and they pinpointed.

00:12:27 Speaker 1

1st the night going down in there very muddy and.

00:12:34 Speaker 1

And a shell came in.

00:12:37 Speaker 1

Weirdest sound that I'd ever heard.

00:12:40 Speaker 1

And it hit the ground and did not explode.

00:12:44 Speaker 2

How far from you?

00:12:47 Speaker 1

Probably maybe 10/15/20 feet or more.

00:12:53 Speaker 1

But it was a terrible thing, and everybody scattered and they finally got back together again.

00:12:55 Speaker 2

Where did you think that that's when you?

00:13:01 Speaker 1

And got in underneath the house where the the people they were trying, they had blown the bridge out there and knocked it out and they were trying to build a Bailey bridge out across the old Piers.

00:13:16 Speaker 1

And they'd get them just about halfway done.

00:13:20 Speaker 1

And the Germans were shells in on them.

00:13:24 Speaker 1

Them out so, but they finally did.

00:13:29 Speaker 1

They still worked on it.

00:13:30 Speaker 1

That, but they went down.

00:13:33 Speaker 1

A ways below and started running some rubber pontoons across and then they put metal tracks on them and got and got armor across.

00:13:48 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:13:52 Speaker 1

The next day, they started sending boys across the river and.

00:13:59 Speaker 1

River pond to boats.

00:14:02 Speaker 1

And cross the river they were setting up of the Highland crown on the other side and they were just picking these boys off, just like ducks out.

00:14:11 Speaker 1

The water.

00:14:13

Anyway.

00:14:16 Speaker 1

I thought ridiculous.

00:14:27 Speaker 1

And they moved us up another house closer to.

00:14:31 Speaker 3

You have a phone call on 6013.

00:14:35 Speaker 1

Where we used to get our.

00:14:37 Speaker 1

And.

00:14:39 Speaker 1

As a.

00:14:43 Speaker 1

As a platoon we talked to.

00:14:47 Speaker 1

Our first Lieutenant.

00:14:48 Speaker 1

He was just as green as we were and on front line. And we talked with him and said, you know, this is crazy to try to cross in the daytime.

00:15:02 Speaker 1

Let's wait till dark and we'll go over and take some land.

00:15:06 Speaker 1

And.

00:15:07 Speaker 1

He took out the door.

00:15:11 Speaker 1

And I want to.

00:15:13 Speaker 1

Company headquarters and lo and Behold, there was one star general standing there.

00:15:16

Here.

00:15:20 Speaker 1

Of all places, that was the closest I've seen a general.

00:15:24 Speaker 1

I never seen him, but.

00:15:26 Speaker 2

Now.

00:15:28 Speaker 1

And he he.

00:15:32 Speaker 1

The case the weeks and soon as it got dark, we went across and took land.

00:15:41 Speaker 1

We lost.

00:15:43 Speaker 1

We lost many boys.

00:15:47 Speaker 1

From foot mines.

00:15:49

Mm.

00:15:53 Speaker 1

I was talking to the lady.

00:15:55 Speaker 1

I think this is one thing that the United Nations could work on.

00:16:00 Speaker 1

To get foot mines and for good forever.

00:16:08 Speaker 1

I think there there all they are is they crippled people and of course kill them too.

00:16:16 Speaker 1

I think that's.

00:16:19 Speaker 1

Right now that's maintaining should be worked on.

00:16:23 Speaker 1

If we're going to be still.

00:16:27 Speaker 1

Body force.

00:16:34 Speaker 2

Were you any other experiences as you went forward in the war after you got?

00:16:42 Speaker 2

Rossett River and started taking land. Any other experiences that were particularly memorable that you'd like to share with us?

00:16:51 Speaker 1

Well, I had here. We made a hotly crusted contestant river crossing over the IR River and.

00:16:59 Speaker 1

Already got that so.

00:17:10 Speaker 1

Talk about the foot mines.

00:17:14 Speaker 1

Oh, the next day we pulled.

00:17:18 Speaker 1

Our our company.

00:17:21 Speaker 1

We we followed the road around the mountain.

00:17:23 Speaker 1

Was a quite a high.

00:17:26 Speaker 1

And.

00:17:28 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:17:30 Speaker 1

Like we were going knew where we was going and I didn't know what was going.

00:17:35 Speaker 1

We didn't run into anything.

00:17:38 Speaker 1

And lo and behold, we had flushed out.

00:17:43

About.

00:17:43 Speaker 1

Oh, one 5200 Germans out of a.

00:17:46 Speaker 3

Sally, you have a call on 6013.

00:17:51 Speaker 1

Out of one of the fortified places that Germany had known was sick for 9:00.

00:17:58 Speaker 1

And they captured them all.

00:18:01 Speaker 1

You know, it was just a.

00:18:04 Speaker 1

To me, a coincidence. But.

00:18:07

Hmm.

00:18:09 Speaker 2

And how many hundred, 15200. Really.

00:18:13 Speaker 2

So then did you keep those prisoners with you or were they sent back?

00:18:19 Speaker 1

We had nothing to do with them.

00:18:23 Speaker 1

We we there we went up through this, this one fortification.

00:18:29 Speaker 1

It was amazing.

00:18:30 Speaker 1

Could.

00:18:32 Speaker 1

If you didn't know, you could walk up and you could. They were so well camouflaged that you couldn't.

00:18:41 Speaker 1

You could run into them and not see them.

00:18:46 Speaker 1

They were.

00:18:47 Speaker 1

They were masters at.

00:18:51 Speaker 1

You know, they had, like, they had the national line, France. It didn't matter too much to keep the Germans out, but the Sigford line we went through it twice.

00:19:04 Speaker 1

And it was tough.

00:19:05

Yeah.

00:19:09

Uh.

00:19:12 Speaker 1

This night when we crossed the.

00:19:16 Speaker 1

Had taken some land, our Sergeant.

00:19:22 Speaker 1

And.

00:19:26 Speaker 1

He was standing there and saying I need 4 four men to take some wounded back across the river.

00:19:35 Speaker 1

And I volunteered, and I was glad I did.

00:19:38 Speaker 1

Was the second time that I volunteered.

00:19:40 Speaker 1

That was the first time in the second time.

00:19:46 Speaker 1

You know, they say you're not supposed to ever volunteer.

00:19:50 Speaker 1

Hey, in the arm itself, but it turned out very.

00:19:54 Speaker 1

For me.

00:19:54 Speaker 2

There's a good experience.

00:19:56 Speaker 1

A good experience and.

00:20:01 Speaker 1

First ball we took.

00:20:02 Speaker 1

We didn't know how far north.

00:20:08 Speaker 1

Of the river that we had taken, we didn't know how far we could take the rubber pontoon up and and get the stretcher up there.

00:20:16 Speaker 1

And we didn't go quite far enough.

00:20:24 Speaker 1

We started.

00:20:25 Speaker 1

There was four of us, those big rubber ponies are quite large and.

00:20:31 Speaker 1

Hard to control.

00:20:33 Speaker 1

In a current in a river.

00:20:36 Speaker 1

We went swirling down through the the abutments for the old bridge stood.

00:20:43 Speaker 1

And.

00:20:45 Speaker 1

Eventually, it was dark at night and don't no moon and.

00:20:51 Speaker 1

During the Bowser wasn't any moon, didn't have any sun or anything else.

00:20:55 Speaker 1

Know that's how the Germans started the bulge.

00:21:03 Speaker 1

Because they had all the weather information and everything and knew how long anyway.

00:21:10 Speaker 1

The through the these embankments.

00:21:16 Speaker 1

The IT hit the.

00:21:18 Speaker 1

That was they dressed across the.

00:21:21 Speaker 1

Pontoon and I reached out and grabbed it.

00:21:29 Speaker 1

And.

00:21:32 Speaker 1

Like being 1 foot from your face and.

00:21:36 Speaker 1

We said, hey, buddy, he said. Let me fall off in the river.

00:21:39 Speaker 1

I don't want to go home.

00:21:41 Speaker 1

Christmas, the worst tough.

00:21:45 Speaker 1

Thing that I had to misses, you know.

00:21:51 Speaker 1

But we we went a little farther down the river. We supposed to go, but we got pulled over thing.

00:21:57 Speaker 1

Up to where there these the bridge were.

00:22:00 Speaker 1

Workers were working and we got their attention and they got this boy up to an ambulance.

00:22:08 Speaker 1

And I don't know.

00:22:09 Speaker 1

I didn't know him.

00:22:12 Speaker 1

And don't know whether he made it or not, but there was. We went back.

00:22:17 Speaker 1

Across the river.

00:22:20 Speaker 1

Four times I did.

00:22:22 Speaker 1

At night, we took three boys back that had been either had dirt. This one boy had both legs broken off, blown off.

00:22:30 Speaker 1

And arm injured.

00:22:31 Speaker 2

Of that curve lines.

00:22:34 Speaker 2

From a footnote.

00:22:37 Speaker 1

And.

00:22:39 Speaker 1

And we took two other boys that had gotten wounded.

00:22:45 Speaker 1

And then went back and had to find our platoon and squad. Whatever they had gotten dug in, which was something else.

00:22:55 Speaker 1

Quite an experience.

00:22:57 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:23:01 Speaker 2

Six months earlier, you were in Illinois, yes.

00:23:05 Speaker 1

All right.

00:23:07 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:23:15 Speaker 1

We took many.

00:23:16 Speaker 1

Small Germany was laid out in just small, mainly small farming communities.

00:23:25 Speaker 1

And with a group of housing, then they farmed out around all the land.

00:23:30 Speaker 1

With their.

00:23:31 Speaker 1

If someone had their old tractors, it was very obsolete when they had oxen, they were still using to plant and produce the crops.

00:23:46 Speaker 1

He was very interesting.

00:23:53 Speaker 1

One other experience was.

00:23:57

None.

00:23:58 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:24:00 Speaker 1

Scouting party and thought they had the area all scattered out for us up along hills through a beat field.

00:24:09 Speaker 1

We got up and as soon as it got dark and we started up this road and.

00:24:19 Speaker 1

Well, it was just a pass, really.

00:24:23 Speaker 1

Sure, they didn't have too many good roads in Germany at that time only.

00:24:28 Speaker 1

Off bonds and those they were good.

00:24:40 Speaker 1

And we walked just a little bit too far.

00:24:44 Speaker 1

And the Germans served up flares and.

00:24:48

And.

00:24:49 Speaker 1

I used one thing that I remembered in basic training was when Flair went up.

00:24:55 Speaker 1

You stood absolutely still.

00:24:59 Speaker 1

And everybody froze.

00:25:04 Speaker 1

They didn't pick us up, so we dug in there and they told us to dig in deep.

00:25:10 Speaker 1

Was another big pill box.

00:25:14 Speaker 1

Fortification.

00:25:17

And.

00:25:19 Speaker 1

We sit there the next day till the afternoon and they kept they orders at us and.

00:25:29 Speaker 1

They always had the side on you.

00:25:35 Speaker 1

News, the distance system. All that, and they laid a lot of shells in there, a lot of.

00:25:40 Speaker 1

And we did have artillery shells from our group that.

00:25:47 Speaker 1

Softened it up a little for us and.

00:25:54 Speaker 1

They make one mistake. They they they threw some overhead burst.

00:26:00 Speaker 1

That was the first overhead burst.

00:26:02 Speaker 1

I never knew about.

00:26:04 Speaker 1

Was the big challenge to me in.

00:26:07 Speaker 1

Anyway.

00:26:10 Speaker 1

And they fell in short. And I don't know how many boys got.

00:26:20 Speaker 1

We.

00:26:27 Speaker 1

This was the second day.

00:26:31 Speaker 1

Before ours, it seemed like our Lieutenant liked what we did a day before this week.

00:26:36

Play.

00:26:43 Speaker 1

We were taking ground.

00:26:46

And.

00:26:53 Speaker 1

We took our position.

00:26:57 Speaker 1

Knock people out of it, but.

00:27:01 Speaker 1

Outfits is a right of us and I I don't know whether it was part of ours or part of the 5th century division, but they didn't take their land and we.

00:27:11 Speaker 1

Flanking fire with rifles and everything else and and.

00:27:18 Speaker 1

Wars and.

00:27:20 Speaker 1

This was where I got my first.

00:27:23 Speaker 1

Real scare I got.

00:27:28

Yeah.

00:27:30 Speaker 1

Shell hit right, right beside us, my buddy and I and my head and got shrap.

00:27:40 Speaker 1

Nel, through my helmet, but none of it.

00:27:45 Speaker 1

Pierce my body so. But and he called on us and we.

00:27:56 Speaker 1

You know, normally there's 12 to a squad.

00:27:59 Speaker 1

Usually had 7:00 or 8:00 and.

00:28:02 Speaker 1

We went out across this open field, raining.

00:28:07 Speaker 1

They were shooting sideways on.

00:28:08 Speaker 1

Did you ever have a bullet hit?

00:28:10 Speaker 1

To the top of.

00:28:11 Speaker 1

Head never have.

00:28:12

I know.

00:28:14 Speaker 1

Just like you know, a firecracker goes off.

00:28:17 Speaker 1

That's what you hear.

00:28:21 Speaker 1

Of course, the one that gets.

00:28:22 Speaker 1

You don't hear.

00:28:24 Speaker 1

But we took.

00:28:25 Speaker 1

We took this little village and moved.

00:28:29 Speaker 1

Everybody out of the range of the motors and and we never lost the boy.

00:28:38 Speaker 1

Very lucky.

00:28:40 Speaker 1

And then that second day I was tell you about the Long Hill and.

00:28:47 Speaker 1

Lo and behold.

00:28:49 Speaker 1

Lieutenant, ask us again.

00:28:53

Same.

00:28:53 Speaker 1

Our squat and.

00:28:57 Speaker 1

So they softened the thing up with artillery and we just spread out and walked in to.

00:29:06 Speaker 1

And there again the.

00:29:14 Speaker 1

God was with us or what?

00:29:16 Speaker 1

I don't know.

00:29:17 Speaker 1

At that time, I think I know now.

00:29:25 Speaker 1

We kicked a lot of boys out of.

00:29:29 Speaker 1

Out of the foxholes that they're dug there and took it and.

00:29:37 Speaker 1

This was two of the worst.

00:29:41 Speaker 2

This is daylight.

00:29:43 Speaker 1

It was daylight, brought daylight.

00:29:48

Uh.

00:29:55 Speaker 1

All right. At one point in time, they had signed me as a company.

00:30:00 Speaker 1

Runner and.

00:30:03 Speaker 1

We went from your company or to whoever was to your right or left, whichever way you were.

00:30:10 Speaker 1

And you would have to make trips over there to make sure that.

00:30:16 Speaker 1

They had been invaded and.

00:30:19 Speaker 1

You know all this was very.

00:30:24 Speaker 1

Testing.

00:30:29 Speaker 1

On us taking the.

00:30:33 Speaker 1

Taking the pill box right out in the middle of a bare field.

00:30:37 Speaker 1

There was a one star General who was sitting back in watching us.

00:30:44 Speaker 1

And he commended.

00:30:49 Speaker 1

Whoever it was that went up there and he put us in for.

00:30:56 Speaker 1

For.

00:30:58 Speaker 1

Bronze star for.

00:31:05 Speaker 1

Taking taking it but it never as they turned it down.

00:31:11 Speaker 2

How many?

00:31:12 Speaker 2

How many enemies were in that pillbox?

00:31:19 Speaker 1

Probably 35 to 50.

00:31:25 Speaker 2

Uh, and how many of you?

00:31:27 Speaker 1

7:00 or 8:00.

00:31:30 Speaker 1

I forget how many we had at that time.

00:31:32 Speaker 2

Can't believe I would have given you the star.

00:31:37 Speaker 1

This one little Mexican boy, he'd he'd been up.

00:31:40 Speaker 1

He'd been up in the front longer than us. He went up on top of the of this embankment.

00:31:50

You know.

00:31:52 Speaker 1

And.

00:31:56 Speaker 1

Down in the shaft to form, to come out.

00:32:02 Speaker 1

You learn to speak a little German after you got over there.

00:32:06 Speaker 1

Anyway.

00:32:11 Speaker 1

Holler down in there and they were.

00:32:15 Speaker 1

They started out and he just pulled in.

00:32:22 Speaker 1

Pulled out a hand grenade and sorted in that.

00:32:28 Speaker 1

Fixed a lot of them up.

00:32:32 Speaker 1

But.

00:32:37 Speaker 1

Then.

00:32:41 Speaker 1

I did. I thought Germany was a big place.

00:32:43 Speaker 1

I mean we.

00:32:44 Speaker 1

We had walk in the daytime.

00:32:47 Speaker 1

And.

00:32:52 Speaker 1

We're.

00:32:58 Speaker 1

The enemy and.

00:33:02 Speaker 1

Then you take them.

00:33:04 Speaker 1

But we would dig in at night.

00:33:07 Speaker 2

How long? Jack, were you in this particular theater where every day you were?

00:33:15 Speaker 2

In danger of encountering the enemy or or not or.

00:33:20 Speaker 2

Sometimes you were just moving forward on a narrow path and didn't know whether he was there or not, and then how many, how many days or weeks were.

00:33:25

Yeah.

00:33:28 Speaker 2

In that type of environment.

00:33:29 Speaker 1

Let's see.

00:33:35 Speaker 1

We were on the front lines.

00:33:39 Speaker 1

Without any any retreat from.

00:33:52 Speaker 1

February or March until.

00:33:55 Speaker 1

Almost until the war ended.

00:33:56

Yeah.

00:33:59 Speaker 2

Every day you into that kind of battlefield stress.

00:34:00 Speaker 1

And we.

00:34:06 Speaker 1

Farther into Germany, we got to easier than it was that the towns they would.

00:34:14 Speaker 1

The bergamister.

00:34:18 Speaker 1

Mayor, what's?

00:34:21 Speaker 1

They.

00:34:21 Speaker 1

They would surrender their talent.

00:34:25 Speaker 1

And it made it much easier.

00:34:28 Speaker 1

And we.

00:34:31 Speaker 1

We, we this Mexican boy and I we were.

00:34:37 Speaker 1

They always point when your company, when you were marching, if you're just going down a road, not going to.

00:34:47 Speaker 1

They would put 2 two men out one.

00:34:53 Speaker 1

5200 yards apart and.

00:34:57 Speaker 1

You you were out there to draw the fire.

00:35:01 Speaker 1

And we were going into Weimer, Germany.

00:35:13 Speaker 1

And.

00:35:16

They.

00:35:20 Speaker 1

Tell us to walk so far and then to stop and wait till they had we had sight of of the rest of the company. Opportunity. Whatever.

00:35:20

Replay.

00:35:30 Speaker 1

And.

00:35:33 Speaker 1

So.

00:35:36 Speaker 1

We stopped once.

00:35:37

Yeah.

00:35:39

And.

00:35:42 Speaker 1

And here. Come here. Come tanks up the.

00:35:46

I.

00:35:46 Speaker 1

And so we got on tanks and we rode into one of Germany.

00:35:53 Speaker 1

Secured the town. The section that we were in.

00:36:00 Speaker 1

Particular town outside of.

00:36:05

Yet.

00:36:07 Speaker 1

I felt that we were responsible for him finding camp Buchenwald.

00:36:13 Speaker 1

Which was very.

00:36:16

Did you see that?

00:36:17 Speaker 1

The infamous.

00:36:20 Speaker 1

No, I didn't get to see it.

00:36:22 Speaker 1

Heard about it?

00:36:23 Speaker 1

Kind of.

00:36:25 Speaker 1

What they had in and some of the boys went down and went through it, but I did.

00:36:31 Speaker 1

If they had torture chambers.

00:36:37 Speaker 1

It'd be a long wall through a room and.

00:36:42 Speaker 1

They just they put prisoners in there and they just. That's where they slept.

00:36:48 Speaker 1

Just stack them in there.

00:36:51 Speaker 1

And they had rooms where?

00:36:57 Speaker 1

They had spikes driven up from the floor up and then put people in there to live on those spikes.

00:37:05 Speaker 1

No, this I didn't see with my own eyes.

00:37:08 Speaker 2

If that was nearby some of the territory that he occupied.

00:37:11 Speaker 1

Yes, right, yes.

00:37:16

Uh.

00:37:18 Speaker 1

From.

00:37:18

I.

00:37:20 Speaker 1

There we went into a they put us put.

00:37:25 Speaker 1

Are.

00:37:28 Speaker 1

I don't know whether it was.

00:37:29 Speaker 1

Regimen or what?

00:37:32 Speaker 1

We they put us back in.

00:37:33 Speaker 1

Was in.

00:37:35 Speaker 1

April or May, they put us back in the back and we would pull card duty on a hospital.

00:37:44 Speaker 1

And.

00:37:46 Speaker 1

There we from there, the unbeknownst to us, I was in the 317th, the 318th Infantry Regiment took help.

00:37:58 Speaker 1

Nuremberg and we went in seven days after it was taken.

00:38:03 Speaker 1

There and patrolling the streets.

00:38:07 Speaker 1

And I've never seen such.

00:38:09 Speaker 1

Devastation of one town.

00:38:13 Speaker 1

I'm sure.

00:38:14 Speaker 1

There were others over there, but it was it was leveled and but you know, the amazing thing that I noticed, there was a lot of they had big churches with staples.

00:38:30 Speaker 1

And you know there.

00:38:31 Speaker 1

Were so many of them still standing?

00:38:35 Speaker 1

Which was amazing to me.

00:38:40 Speaker 1

From there you know it came easier.

00:38:44 Speaker 1

They put us on 6 by 6 trucks and we went down into the southern part of Germany and into.

00:38:54 Speaker 1

Austria, which was.

00:38:59 Speaker 1

To me, was just as Nazi as Germany was.

00:39:04 Speaker 1

Austria.

00:39:07 Speaker 1

And.

00:39:07 Speaker 2

This is still before the war ended.

00:39:09 Speaker 1

Right before the war ended, they would put us on 6 by 6 trucks and we'd go until we met any resistance.

00:39:17 Speaker 1

What we run into.

00:39:20 Speaker 1

The roads were just lined with German soldiers walking.

00:39:24 Speaker 1

They were walking back and we were driving this way, you know.

00:39:27

She didn't.

00:39:29 Speaker 1

And.

00:39:32 Speaker 1

Some had set fire to some of their tanks. That left all their vehicles and.

00:39:40 Speaker 1

It was.

00:39:40 Speaker 1

It was quite a sight.

00:39:48 Speaker 1

When?

00:39:51 Speaker 1

We get.

00:39:54 Speaker 1

We have brown, our Austria.

00:39:59 Speaker 1

Home.

00:40:03 Speaker 1

Lo and behold, we found out that.

00:40:04 Speaker 1

All right.

00:40:09 Speaker 1

The days that we got the words at the Germans had capitulated and and.

00:40:16 Speaker 1

Said Hitler is is dope dead and.

00:40:26 Speaker 1

You know, it was quite a thing that was that's Hitler's birthplace at Brown, Alaska.

00:40:31 Speaker 2

That's where you were when?

00:40:35 Speaker 1

Which is very interesting to me.

00:40:37 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:40:40 Speaker 2

Sort.

00:40:40 Speaker 2

Celebration. Did you have?

00:40:43 Speaker 1

Well, if we could find any wine or anything, we had little celebrations that.

00:40:49 Speaker 1

Nothing real big.

00:40:53 Speaker 1

Yeah, sure. The latter part, you know well.

00:40:58 Speaker 1

Through most of the work.

00:41:03 Speaker 1

I was telling the lady they always got us.

00:41:09 Speaker 1

Cigarettes and ammunition up to the front. Whether they got anything else up there or not.

00:41:15 Speaker 1

And we lived off the fat of the land. A lot of the times.

00:41:20 Speaker 1

And.

00:41:22 Speaker 2

Operations were scarce.

00:41:23 Speaker 1

I would, yeah.

00:41:24 Speaker 1

And if they didn't get any rations up to us, sometimes they didn't. A lot of times they didn't.

00:41:29 Speaker 1

And so me and this other boy, my buddy we were on.

00:41:37 Speaker 1

The egg egg consignment, or chickens. I mean, if there weren't any eggs, we chickens.

00:41:44 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:41:45 Speaker 1

This is what didn't happen too much, but it did.

00:41:48 Speaker 1

It did happen and.

00:41:52 Speaker 1

Then we we learned that you go into these villages and they all had fireplaces.

00:41:59 Speaker 1

They burned all wood.

00:42:03 Speaker 1

And.

00:42:04 Speaker 1

They'd go upstairs, into the flus and get bacon hands. And I mean, we found these things out ourselves and we'd have.

00:42:15 Speaker 1

We'd have a good meal.

00:42:19 Speaker 1

I mean, this didn't happen too much at the time.

00:42:22 Speaker 1

You know.

00:42:24 Speaker 1

It did happen.

00:42:26 Speaker 2

How did you stay in touch with your family during this period of time?

00:42:32 Speaker 1

I did.

00:42:34 Speaker 1

I did very little letter writing to my wife.

00:42:38 Speaker 1

I mean, you just didn't have time.

00:42:41 Speaker 1

And finally I.

00:42:42 Speaker 1

And I and I wrote.

00:42:48 Speaker 2

She got it in.

00:42:48 Speaker 1

Probably not often enough, but.

00:42:51 Speaker 2

How long would it take for her to get it?

00:42:54 Speaker 1

Oh, goodness. Couple weeks or something? Couple of weeks.

00:42:59 Speaker 2

She at least had some communication from me.

00:43:02 Speaker 1

Oh, yes, right.

00:43:06 Speaker 2

Did you do anything special for bid luck?

00:43:10 Speaker 2

Any particular?

00:43:12 Speaker 2

Little good luck charm or little thing that you.

00:43:16 Speaker 2

For good luck while you're over there.

00:43:19 Speaker 1

No, I I I didn't have anything like that.

00:43:26 Speaker 1

My my best buddy was my M1.

00:43:27

And then I'm.

00:43:31 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:43:32 Speaker 1

And I also and I was most of the time, I was BAR assistant and I carried.

00:43:43 Speaker 1

I carried 20 clips of.

00:43:48 Speaker 1

Ammunition for the.

00:43:49 Speaker 1

And then I'd have my bandoliers of my ammunition from M1 over my shoulders hanging on my shoulders.

00:44:00 Speaker 1

And if you were, we did.

00:44:03 Speaker 1

Lot of walking and.

00:44:06 Speaker 1

I had to carry the BAR.

00:44:09 Speaker 1

After the time and I it lot of equipment.

00:44:13 Speaker 1

Lot of equipment.

00:44:15 Speaker 2

From 122 LB yeah.

00:44:15 Speaker 1

Canteen, yeah.

00:44:18

Yeah.

00:44:19 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:44:23 Speaker 2

You're.

00:44:23 Speaker 2

Going to change that, OK.

00:44:26 Speaker 2

Turn that over.

00:44:31 Speaker 3

Give you a chance to rest here.

00:44:33 Speaker 1

OK.

00:44:34 Speaker 3

But not Shalom. You're on again.

00:44:35 Speaker 1

Not too long.

00:44:39 Speaker 2

What about?

00:44:40 Speaker 2

I mean, how did you guys entertain yourself?

00:44:43 Speaker 2

Did you?

00:44:43 Speaker 2

Did you have time for that sort of thing?

00:44:47 Speaker 1

Not, not, not not. Follow, not follow what was going.

00:44:47 Speaker 2

You really didn't.

00:44:51 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:44:51 Speaker 1

No.

00:44:52 Speaker 1

After warranted.

00:44:55

And we.

00:44:58 Speaker 1

Come in the garage, fire incursion. It was a great town.

00:45:02 Speaker 1

Had they took over the hotels there and.

00:45:09 Speaker 1

And.

00:45:10 Speaker 1

Gives the boys an opportunity from other.

00:45:15 Speaker 1

Parts of Germany that you know.

00:45:20 Speaker 1

They would come.

00:45:21 Speaker 1

And have a rest and relaxation.

00:45:24 Speaker 1

And.

00:45:25 Speaker 1

That's when I worked in this old army.

00:45:30 Speaker 1

Fang Investment neighborhood where we typed out the.

00:45:35 Speaker 1

Reports that the interrogators made and the interrogators they were Jewish and some.

00:45:43 Speaker 1

Romanians and but that spoke fluent German and they would question.

00:45:50 Speaker 1

They had one.

00:45:51 Speaker 2

And who were they?

00:45:52 Speaker 2

Who were they interrogating?

00:45:55 Speaker 1

S s troops and and and.

00:45:59 Speaker 1

People.

00:46:02 Speaker 1

Had this Polish Polish doctor in law who was supposed to have been.

00:46:08 Speaker 1

Responsible for the deaths of a lot of people and they were trying her.

00:46:18 Speaker 1

We.

00:46:19 Speaker 1

On her lunch hour would sit outside of.

00:46:22 Speaker 1

Big building that we.

00:46:24 Speaker 1

Typing in and she was sit there and talk, just like we're talking right here.

00:46:31 Speaker 1

She could talk English.

00:46:32 Speaker 1

Fluently.

00:46:37 Speaker 1

And she said she said these officers think I'm crazy, but I'm not.

00:46:42 Speaker 1

And whenever they'd take her into interrogator way, I guess she would just act like she was.

00:46:51 Speaker 1

Had lost.

00:46:53

It.

00:46:54 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:46:55 Speaker 1

Very smart lady, but a lot of the people who were there, who they had imprisoned there.

00:47:04 Speaker 1

Ended up in the Nuremberg trials.

00:47:08 Speaker 1

I don't know that I typed any of their reports, but.

00:47:14 Speaker 1

Could have.

00:47:14 Speaker 2

Mm.

00:47:18

Umm.

00:47:21 Speaker 2

You recall any particularly humorous or unusual events that?

00:47:25 Speaker 2

Sort of broke.

00:47:26 Speaker 1

Get.

00:47:26 Speaker 2

Broken monotony of all that, or the danger.

00:47:28 Speaker 2

All that.

00:47:31 Speaker 1

This one boy from Alabama.

00:47:35 Speaker 1

He was a senator.

00:47:38

And.

00:47:38 Speaker 1

We were in this House.

00:47:42

In this.

00:47:45 Speaker 1

Or would stay in the daytime but not at night necessarily.

00:47:50 Speaker 2

This is back at the front.

00:47:51 Speaker 1

Yeah. And he was upstairs cleaning his rifle.

00:47:55 Speaker 1

This boy was and.

00:48:01 Speaker 1

The ironic part of it? There was nothing ironic about it.

00:48:05 Speaker 1

That.

00:48:07 Speaker 1

He explained his rifle and he after got it all clean, they cocked it, pulled the trigger and car boom right out through the ceiling and.

00:48:10

Yeah.

00:48:18 Speaker 1

In our first Sergeant.

00:48:19 Speaker 1

Who was he was a pull lock.

00:48:22 Speaker 1

From New York.

00:48:26 Speaker 1

A start upstairs and he says what's going on up here and he.

00:48:30 Speaker 1

Says Murphy.

00:48:31 Speaker 1

Says.

00:48:32 Speaker 1

I can't tell a lie, he says.

00:48:34 Speaker 1

Was me, he said.

00:48:36 Speaker 1

I had a bullet in my rifle and I pulled the trigger.

00:48:41 Speaker 1

You know, it might not.

00:48:41

Club.

00:48:42 Speaker 1

Just this way, but this was the summit substance.

00:48:47 Speaker 1

Which was very, you know.

00:48:51 Speaker 2

Scared him to death, huh?

00:48:52 Speaker 1

Yeah, it scared us too from.

00:48:53 Speaker 2

Yeah, blood vit.

00:48:56 Speaker 1

Was happening to us.

00:49:01 Speaker 2

Any any particular pranks or anything that people would pull during that time or?

00:49:08 Speaker 2

When you had your free time, you probably rested, huh?

00:49:10 Speaker 1

We rested.

00:49:11 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:49:13 Speaker 1

That's right. We arrested her.

00:49:14 Speaker 2

Not a lot of pranks going on during.

00:49:19 Speaker 1

One other time along towards end, we were down in, I don't know, it was in Germany.

00:49:25 Speaker 1

Southern Germany maybe?

00:49:29 Speaker 1

We are going into this town and.

00:49:36 Speaker 1

This happened.

00:49:37 Speaker 1

This had to be before the war was over and they.

00:49:45 Speaker 1

They seem to call on our squad or are the same four boys and they ask us that they're sent us four of us out of this town to the to the railroad track and they wanted to know if.

00:50:00 Speaker 1

They wanted to, when we got the railroad track, we go left and.

00:50:07 Speaker 1

Walk to the bridge and see if the track was still intact.

00:50:16 Speaker 1

We.

00:50:18 Speaker 1

We did that on the way.

00:50:22 Speaker 1

On the way we.

00:50:27 Speaker 1

Of us bought, we looked over and here was a German he over the side of the tracks. He's laying there asleep and he woke up and moved and we got him. We didn't kill.

00:50:41

Him.

00:50:43 Speaker 1

We put him.

00:50:45 Speaker 1

Out ahead of us on the railroad track.

00:50:49 Speaker 1

And we and we got to a station where there was a family living there, a man, wife and children.

00:50:59 Speaker 1

And we we made the man get out here with.

00:51:07 Speaker 1

With this German soldier, and we had drawn rifles and we said if anybody shoots.

00:51:15 Speaker 1

At us, they're going to get killed.

00:51:19 Speaker 1

And we walked through the.

00:51:22 Speaker 1

Turn to the bridge and it's been blown out so.

00:51:27 Speaker 1

Around and.

00:51:30 Speaker 1

Brought this fellow back and here was his wife and children crying and they they knew that was going to take them down there and kill them. I know.

00:51:37 Speaker 1

It.

00:51:39 Speaker 1

Americans aren't that kind of people.

00:51:44 Speaker 1

You only kill when you have to.

00:51:50 Speaker 1

And when we got back there, as they were crying and but.

00:51:54 Speaker 1

They got their father and husband back safe and we took the prisoners in only to with us.

00:52:03 Speaker 1

We don't know what ended up with him, but.

00:52:07 Speaker 2

What did you?

00:52:07 Speaker 2

Of your officers and your fellow soldiers.

00:52:15 Speaker 1

Very good, very excellent work.

00:52:19 Speaker 1

I was in.

00:52:22 Speaker 2

I regard that.

00:52:24 Speaker 1

Yeah. Well, yes.

00:52:29 Speaker 1

Our captain.

00:52:36 Speaker 1

I forget what town we were in that.

00:52:42 Speaker 1

He was quite a drinker and.

00:52:46 Speaker 1

They came in one night and.

00:52:48

A.

00:52:50 Speaker 1

I was on.

00:52:55 Speaker 1

On the door.

00:52:57 Speaker 1

30.

00:53:00 Speaker 1

They pulled.

00:53:02 Speaker 1

Each night to pull somebody out of the squads to you.

00:53:06 Speaker 1

Put the picture and.

00:53:06 Speaker 2

Stand back. Yeah.

00:53:10 Speaker 1

This boy's Jeep pulled up in front of them.

00:53:18 Speaker 1

I couldn't see his rank, but he pulled out and I pulled my rifle up and I said Mr. you better tell me who you are, you're going to die.

00:53:30 Speaker 1

And he told me who?

00:53:30 Speaker 1

He was and.

00:53:34 Speaker 1

And showed me.

00:53:36 Speaker 1

He went on in the house and the captain.

00:53:42 Speaker 1

In the ruckus.

00:53:43 Speaker 1

He didn't hear us, I guess, but.

00:53:46 Speaker 1

Today we got a new captain.

00:53:51

Yeah.

00:53:53 Speaker 1

You know, it's just something that is.

00:53:58 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:54:00 Speaker 2

Did you keep a personal diary?

00:54:05 Speaker 2

Pretty good right there.

00:54:09 Speaker 2

And you've got a lot of photographs that you're going to share with us.

00:54:15 Speaker 2

Who are some of the people that?

00:54:16 Speaker 2

In your photographs.

00:54:17 Speaker 1

Own.

00:54:20 Speaker 1

My second buddy.

00:54:23 Speaker 1

I have a picture of him and.

00:54:26 Speaker 2

Hold some a month.

00:54:27 Speaker 3

They're quite small, unfortunately.

00:54:28 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:54:29 Speaker 3

I think that what we will do is to Xerox copies of those and include them in with your interview if we may.

00:54:37 Speaker 1

OK.

00:54:37 Speaker 3

Because I don't think a video camera would.

00:54:39 Speaker 3

Those up.

00:54:41 Speaker 1

Yeah, I mean, you know.

00:54:45 Speaker 1

We can look through them and.

00:54:49 Speaker 2

We can do that after the in the interview and then decide which ones.

00:54:51 Speaker 1

OK.

00:54:54 Speaker 2

Keep for a photo occur xeroxing.

00:54:57

Thank.

00:54:57 Speaker 1

OK.

00:54:59 Speaker 2

How about after the service?

00:55:01 Speaker 2

You told us about where you were and what you did.

00:55:05 Speaker 2

On the day the war ended.

00:55:08 Speaker 2

What did you do in the weeks?

00:55:10 Speaker 2

How long after the war was it before you were discharged?

00:55:15 Speaker 1

Let's see. Would be.

00:55:20 Speaker 1

Almost a year that I was there.

00:55:21

Yeah.

00:55:23 Speaker 1

See, I was on the front lines for.

00:55:27 Speaker 1

6-8.

00:55:31 Speaker 1

And.

00:55:37 Speaker 1

They had good entertainment there and I obtained a pair of ice skates and and.

00:55:43 Speaker 1

Learn how to.

00:55:44 Speaker 1

I didn't try to ski, I tried it, but I didn't care for it.

00:55:48 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:55:53 Speaker 1

That and.

00:55:56 Speaker 1

We had a movie theater and.

00:55:58 Speaker 1

We got to see.

00:56:00 Speaker 1

Movies. This was after the war.

00:56:07 Speaker 2

Then, when was it that you headed back to the states?

00:56:13 Speaker 1

June of 45.

00:56:15 Speaker 2

And then as soon as you got it back or?

00:56:17 Speaker 2

After you got back, you were discharged.

00:56:19 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:56:20 Speaker 1

Immediately, yeah.

00:56:21 Speaker 2

And where was that?

00:56:24 Speaker 2

For sure.

00:56:25 Speaker 1

Went in in the port Sheridan out.

00:56:29 Speaker 2

Then sure, go ahead.

00:56:29 Speaker 1

I tell you a little story.

00:56:36 Speaker 1

When we hit Chicago.

00:56:42 Speaker 1

Ha ha.

00:56:47 Speaker 1

We hit the bar.

00:56:50 Speaker 1

After we got.

00:56:53 Speaker 1

And and I.

00:56:57 Speaker 1

I didn't overly, but I got enough.

00:57:03 Speaker 2

You were feeling happy.

00:57:04 Speaker 1

When when I arrived from Chicago in Saint Louis and Springfield.

00:57:10 Speaker 1

I was pretty happy with my wife.

00:57:20 Speaker 2

That was a nice reunion, huh?

00:57:22 Speaker 1

Is great.

00:57:24

How?

00:57:24 Speaker 1

That's wonderful.

00:57:25 Speaker 2

Did she?

00:57:26 Speaker 2

I mean, how far in advance did she know that you were coming home?

00:57:35 Speaker 1

Well, it's probably a week or so because they had to travel to Springfield to pick me up and they knew what train I was coming in on.

00:57:49 Speaker 2

It was a great day, huh?

00:57:51 Speaker 1

Day ever anyone?

00:57:57 Speaker 2

Did you?

00:57:58 Speaker 2

Did you go back to school or take advantage of the GI Bill or anything like that after?

00:58:03 Speaker 2

Got back.

00:58:05 Speaker 1

I did.

00:58:06

Yeah.

00:58:07 Speaker 1

And I regretted it.

00:58:09 Speaker 1

I regretted it, but I.

00:58:15 Speaker 1

I still feel that I've.

00:58:19 Speaker 1

Lived a good life and had a good life.

00:58:23 Speaker 1

Worked hard.

00:58:25 Speaker 1

All right.

00:58:31 Speaker 1

Moved from Illinois in 1951.

00:58:35 Speaker 1

To Williams and I worked there for.

00:58:40 Speaker 2

Williams.

00:58:42 Speaker 1

William service Verizon after moving from Illinois.

00:58:43

I.

00:58:47 Speaker 1

And.

00:58:51 Speaker 1

I manage their hardware store and furniture store there and then I was asked to.

00:59:00 Speaker 1

I'd like to go to the Grand Canyon and operate the general store there.

00:59:05 Speaker 1

And.

00:59:07 Speaker 1

Took me up there and showed it to me and I badly accepted and.

00:59:14 Speaker 1

It was a wonderful place, you know, to raise it.

00:59:17 Speaker 1

Raise our family for quite a few years and graduate 20 years.

00:59:20 Speaker 2

How long?

00:59:20 Speaker 2

How long were you?

00:59:25 Speaker 2

And.

00:59:26 Speaker 2

So was that a private enterprise you work for?

00:59:28 Speaker 1

Yes, Babbitt brothers.

00:59:35 Speaker 2

Did going back to your relationships with people in the service, did you maintain friendships and correspondence?

00:59:42 Speaker 1

I maintain some for a time and then I.

00:59:48 Speaker 1

I'm sorry to say that.

00:59:50 Speaker 1

Lost out on that.

00:59:53 Speaker 2

You join any veterans organizations or anything.

00:59:56 Speaker 1

Legion.

00:59:57 Speaker 2

Yeah. Any reunions or anything that you've attended?

01:00:01 Speaker 2

After the war.

01:00:03 Speaker 1

You know, and they've had some and I never did go.

01:00:09 Speaker 2

Then so you started a little bit to talk about your career after the war?

01:00:15 Speaker 2

Umm.

01:00:16 Speaker 2

And then after your Grand Canyon experience, then.

01:00:22 Speaker 2

Did you retire you?

01:00:23 Speaker 1

Well before that before that.

01:00:25 Speaker 1

Rushville my.

01:00:28 Speaker 1

Nephew and I away.

01:00:32 Speaker 1

Grocery store and operated in as a partnership and then?

01:00:37 Speaker 1

He decided he didn't want to stay in the grocery business, so I bought him out and.

01:00:42 Speaker 1

Operated and then sold it. And that's when I moved to Arizona.

01:00:53 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:00:57 Speaker 1

Like I say I you know, I I feel that I've made a lot of good choices in my life, yeah.

01:01:01 Speaker 2

Sounds like that.

01:01:03 Speaker 1

I went after after operating a general store for 20 years. I went out side of the park at.

01:01:13 Speaker 1

Area called to see an.

01:01:17 Speaker 1

And I was able to place some land out there which was.

01:01:23 Speaker 1

Too expensive to buy, but you could lease it. And I built a store there and operated it.

01:01:29 Speaker 1

My wife and I operated.

01:01:30 Speaker 1

For 10 years and I got up to 646465 and decided not hanging up.

01:01:43 Speaker 2

How about your military experience and how did it your military experience influence your thinking about the military or about war in general?

01:01:56 Speaker 1

Well.

01:01:58 Speaker 1

Is that, as I wrote in here?

01:02:04 Speaker 1

It.

01:02:09 Speaker 1

Talking about Matson, Luxembourg and under Wilson bash tones, I soon learned it was better to kill than be killed.

01:02:21 Speaker 1

That pretty well sums it up.

01:02:29 Speaker 2

How did?

01:02:31 Speaker 2

How did your service and your wartime experiences influence your life after that?

01:02:42 Speaker 1

Well.

01:02:47 Speaker 1

I don't think it influenced it that much.

01:02:50 Speaker 1

I mean I.

01:02:52 Speaker 1

I left it, tried to leave it behind me.

01:02:58 Speaker 1

But I still have memories.

01:03:07 Speaker 2

Did they?

01:03:08 Speaker 2

Those memories are those experiences influenced?

01:03:11 Speaker 2

The way you conducted your life, or I mean you think.

01:03:16 Speaker 1

Well.

01:03:20 Speaker 1

You know.

01:03:23 Speaker 1

There were times that.

01:03:26

We.

01:03:28 Speaker 1

Be sitting outside.

01:03:29 Speaker 1

You don't say a town in Germany.

01:03:33

Yeah.

01:03:34 Speaker 1

And they would.

01:03:37 Speaker 1

Were sending the message by the.

01:03:41 Speaker 1

The runners from.

01:03:45

Uh.

01:03:46 Speaker 1

From our company headquarters.

01:03:51 Speaker 1

And then.

01:03:54 Speaker 1

Issue orders to the our sergeants and our squad that we.

01:04:01 Speaker 1

Were going in there.

01:04:02 Speaker 1

Was going to be rough.

01:04:05 Speaker 1

And at that point in time.

01:04:11 Speaker 1

That was right after the bulge.

01:04:15

And.

01:04:20 Speaker 1

They wouldn't have anybody.

01:04:22 Speaker 1

We didn't have the backup, they didn't have the backup that we.

01:04:27 Speaker 1

So when you go into these towns and it was one of the toughest things.

01:04:34

That.

01:04:37 Speaker 1

If I had to do it.

01:04:40 Speaker 1

Had to do was did you take no prisoners?

01:04:47 Speaker 1

And I didn't like that.

01:05:01 Speaker 2

So it.

01:05:01 Speaker 2

To put those things behind you, right? Yeah.

01:05:05 Speaker 1

Exactly.

01:05:10 Speaker 2

We have one.

01:05:10 Speaker 2

Question. OK. And it says, what did we, what did we leave out here?

01:05:15 Speaker 2

Anything else you'd like to talk about that we didn't ask you or?

01:05:21 Speaker 2

What did we miss anything.

01:05:33 Speaker 1

She.

01:05:38 Speaker 1

Well.

01:05:47 Speaker 1

Should we form our way to the Rhine River major crossing for mines into we spot we had many hot battles from this time into Litch, Hamburg Chicane, Castle and walk through.

01:06:00 Speaker 1

We walked through Erfurt at night.

01:06:02 Speaker 1

I have that on the map here.

01:06:06 Speaker 1

And the Germans let us walk right through it.

01:06:09 Speaker 1

And.

01:06:15 Speaker 1

The next the next morning found our company behind their lines.

01:06:20 Speaker 1

And we had to fight our way back out of the entrapment.

01:06:25 Speaker 1

We lost many lives.

01:06:30 Speaker 1

Uh.

01:06:52 Speaker 1

And then, well, I told you here from here, by tanks with 14 is the 14th armor into the middle of Weimer, Germany. And I told you about that.

01:07:04 Speaker 1

Timewise, it was the last of April 1st of May 1945.

01:07:11 Speaker 1

We were finally.

01:07:15 Speaker 1

Finally getting.

01:07:18 Speaker 1

Uh.

01:07:22 Speaker 1

Badly needed rest.

01:07:25 Speaker 1

Period. And that was when they had us back into 20th core reserve after we'd been up on front and that was this.

01:07:34 Speaker 1

Day was the day that Franklin Delano Roosevelt died.

01:07:51 Speaker 2

You know one thing.

01:07:52 Speaker 1

The rest of the time, as I say, I was in the army of occupation in Nisawong.

01:07:59 Speaker 1

In Nisawong, we guarded the.

01:08:05 Speaker 1

Trail OR?

01:08:08 Speaker 1

I don't know, but I guess I could take out from coming from Italy, Italy into Germany and we we were we were on guard duty there for.

01:08:20 Speaker 1

Sometime immediately following the war.

01:08:31 Speaker 1

Here we put on war maneuvers for General Patton in preparation for landing in Japan.

01:08:36 Speaker 1

They.

01:08:36 Speaker 1

They were had us all.

01:08:39 Speaker 1

Slated to go, and thanks to God they capitulated due to the atomic bomb Hiroshima.

01:08:51 Speaker 1

For the next year, I was on temporary duty with 9th Infantry Division in Garmisch Parton, Kirchen, Germany.

01:08:56 Speaker 1

Only 20 miles from Birchis cotton, which I told you.

01:09:01 Speaker 1

You typed your irrigation reports.

01:09:06 Speaker 1

I told you about Hitler's private buck, right?

01:09:10 Speaker 2

Not on tape, you.

01:09:11 Speaker 2

Why don't you tell us about?

01:09:15 Speaker 2

Glad you brought that up.

01:09:18 Speaker 1

We typed irrigation reports from s s troops. Many political prisoners.

01:09:23 Speaker 1

Interesting one was Hitler's private Butler.

01:09:26 Speaker 1

He spoke fluent.

01:09:28 Speaker 1

English and was a marvelous penis and violinist.

01:09:29

Replay.

01:09:32 Speaker 1

He served our food and played music for us.

01:09:34 Speaker 1

Many of these prisoners went to the Nuremberg trials.

01:09:35

Replay.

01:09:45 Speaker 1

And.

01:09:48 Speaker 1

The word that we got to he was a little stockish fat guy, jovial.

01:09:51

I.

01:09:57

Very.

01:10:00 Speaker 1

They were.

01:10:01 Speaker 1

They were going to turn him.

01:10:04 Speaker 1

Let him go.

01:10:05 Speaker 1

Turning loose.

01:10:07 Speaker 1

We're going to put some of the best tails they had on him.

01:10:11 Speaker 1

Find out.

01:10:14 Speaker 1

If he might take them to settle Hitler's.

01:10:19

None.

01:10:21 Speaker 1

Longing stuff. Papers.

01:10:27

No.

01:10:33 Speaker 2

You know one thing I'd like to do is maybe hold the math up and get a.

01:10:38 Speaker 2

Picture of the map.

01:10:39 Speaker 1

Upon completion of their of interrogations, I was transferred to Augsburg, Germany, which was interesting to the 9th Century Division headquarters in G2, which is held in.

01:10:53 Speaker 1

June 1946 from here back to the states in honorable discharge with the following battles.

01:11:09 Speaker 1

Even though we lived.

01:11:11 Speaker 1

So even though we were at.

01:11:14 Speaker 1

Odess.

01:11:17 Speaker 1

I had this experience with.

01:11:20 Speaker 1

A.

01:11:22 Speaker 1

Colonel.

01:11:26 Speaker 1

They asked me to be file clerk and I reworked all files.

01:11:30 Speaker 1

I felt that they were not set up right.

01:11:35 Speaker 1

And.

01:11:38 Speaker 1

I came back in from.

01:11:41 Speaker 1

Uh.

01:11:46 Speaker 1

First Sergeant brought back. He wanted a paper on can I remember what it was.

01:11:55 Speaker 1

There was a funny name Fish wife playing fish wife.

01:12:00 Speaker 1

And.

01:12:02 Speaker 1

I got into the plans and.

01:12:05 Speaker 1

Find this papers.

01:12:06 Speaker 1

It was talked secret and I had no information.

01:12:10 Speaker 1

And this Colonel came back to my desk. And.

01:12:15 Speaker 1

He.

01:12:15 Speaker 1

You know he.

01:12:16 Speaker 1

I want to compliment you, he says.

01:12:19 Speaker 1

I've been here for some time and he says this is the first time.

01:12:24 Speaker 1

That I've asked for something.

01:12:26 Speaker 1

And received it promptly.

01:12:29 Speaker 1

Or at all.

01:12:34 Speaker 1

He, he said.

01:12:36 Speaker 1

I had my Pfc stripes on, he says.

01:12:39 Speaker 1

Are you doing wearing Pfc stripes?

01:12:42 Speaker 1

And I said.

01:12:45 Speaker 1

Don't ask me, you know.

01:12:47 Speaker 1

And he immediately.

01:12:53 Speaker 1

Cut papers, but they never did catch up with me.

01:12:57 Speaker 2

You get out too soon.

01:12:58 Speaker 1

I had I got my points and got out too soon and it didn't.

01:13:03 Speaker 1

Up with me.

01:13:04 Speaker 1

I was going to be a tech.

01:13:07 Speaker 1

Tea.

01:13:08 Speaker 3

Lee and Sandy.

01:13:09 Speaker 1

You have to be what?

01:13:10

My.

01:13:11 Speaker 2

Almost umm.

01:13:12 Speaker 1

My rank was.

01:13:13 Speaker 3

Could I impose on you to hold up the map and that way I can use the camera to 0 in on it. And I know that Jack is going to bring us a 8 by 10.

01:13:26 Speaker 1

Yes, I will.

01:13:27 Speaker 3

So that would be great, but if you can hold.

01:13:28 Speaker 1

If you if you tell me.

01:13:29 Speaker 3

Up if you'll tell me where to bring it.

01:13:33

Can you just?

01:13:34 Speaker 3

Old map up so that we can.

01:13:34 Speaker 1

Show just hold one or.

01:13:37 Speaker 3

Can you put all the two of them together?

01:13:40

So.

01:13:40 Speaker 3

There's an overlay.

01:13:41

Yeah.

01:13:46 Speaker 3

There we go.

01:13:49 Speaker 3

And that can you point out where you first arrived and then where you landed up?

01:13:57 Speaker 1

Well.

01:13:57 Speaker 2

When I I'll hold this and then you can.

01:14:00 Speaker 1

Landed in Southampton.

01:14:03 Speaker 1

In France and then.

01:14:08 Speaker 1

I this was where the 80th Temperature division made their they.

01:14:15 Speaker 1

Went into Southampton, I was not there.

01:14:19 Speaker 1

I never joined them until over here at Metz, France.

01:14:27 Speaker 1

And from there.

01:14:32 Speaker 1

We remove straight N into welts.

01:14:36 Speaker 1

France and and then they they had us assigned to the 80th Infantry or our outfit was they were up on the front lines and they didn't take us up there.

01:14:52 Speaker 1

They waited till they were coming back off the lines and and.

01:14:57 Speaker 1

We were at Luxembourg, the city of Luxembourg.

01:15:00 Speaker 1

Luxembourg is a very small country.

01:15:04 Speaker 1

And it's.

01:15:07 Speaker 1

There are lux people, but they're a lot German too and.

01:15:12 Speaker 1

They were not very they were not a friendly country or people.

01:15:21 Speaker 3

You're getting short on time, so if you would just please hit the highlights.

01:15:25 Speaker 3

Sorry to do this to you.

01:15:26 Speaker 1

We made, we made, we crossed the our river.

01:15:31 Speaker 1

And that's where.

01:15:35 Speaker 1

And then on into.

01:15:39 Speaker 1

Uh.

01:15:44 Speaker 1

All these towns, they're not very important and we crossed the Rhine River from mines into Wiesbaden and from there we started walking. We walked, we'd walk in the day till we met interference or.

01:16:02 Speaker 1

The enemy and.

01:16:05 Speaker 1

We went and got to Weimer, Germany.

01:16:11 Speaker 1

Where were very close to this towns camp and wall and.

01:16:18 Speaker 1

From there, they switched us back down and we were on.

01:16:23 Speaker 1

After coming and standing guard and walking the streets of Nuremberg, which the streets were very good.

01:16:33 Speaker 1

Then we went down and.

01:16:36 Speaker 1

Into regensburg.

01:16:40 Speaker 1

By the Danube river.

01:16:42 Speaker 1

Flows there into Austria.

01:16:46 Speaker 1

And uh.

01:16:50 Speaker 1

We arrived.

01:16:53 Speaker 1

On Brown Island at Brownhill, Austria, and on that day we got the word that Hitler was dead.

01:17:01 Speaker 1

And that the.

01:17:01 Speaker 1

Was over.

01:17:04 Speaker 2

And.

01:17:05 Speaker 2

That was his hometown.

01:17:07 Speaker 1

That was that was his that his birth brown. Now Austria is his birthplace.

01:17:15 Speaker 1

And then we went on down into Austria.

01:17:19

MMM.

01:17:21 Speaker 1

A lot of guard duty down there.

01:17:25 Speaker 2

I think that gets the.

01:17:27 Speaker 2

Of the.

01:17:27 Speaker 2

That's a great map. Thank you for bringing.

01:17:31

You know.

01:17:34 Speaker 3

You so much, Jack, and do appreciate it.

01:17:36 Speaker 2

Thank you very much. Appreciate your time.