

Orvil R. Shea Interview

Company L, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Neil R. Grootenboer)

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

00:00:05 Speaker 1

Today is Saturday, December 22nd, 2000.

00:00:09 Speaker 1

We are interviewing Mr. Orbach from King Ferry, NY.

00:00:15 Speaker 1

Orville is 82 years old, being born October 9th, 1925 in West Virginia.

00:00:21 Speaker 1

My name is Neil Guttenberg, and I'll be the interviewer.

00:00:25 Speaker 1

Although is my father-in-law and I married to his oldest daughter Rita.

00:00:31 Speaker 1

Oval for the record, can you state which war you served and which branch of service you served in?

00:00:38 Speaker 2

Yes, Army World War 2.

00:00:42 Speaker 1

And what was your?

00:00:43 Speaker 2

Rank state Sergeant.

00:00:46 Speaker 1

And where did you serve?

00:00:48

Your.

00:00:50 Speaker 1

Prior to the.

00:00:52 Speaker 1

What were you doing?

00:00:54 Speaker 2

Coal miner.

00:00:56 Speaker 2

All right.

00:00:58 Speaker 1

And how did you come to join the army then?

00:01:02 Speaker 2

Well, there's lots of young people going at that time.

00:01:06 Speaker 2

Wasn't go to.

00:01:09 Speaker 1

OK.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

And so then at that.

00:01:11 Speaker 1

Where you drafted or did you enlist?

00:01:15 Speaker 1

And did you have your choice of which military branch to go into?

00:01:19 Speaker 1

And so you said you selected the army, right?

00:01:22 Speaker 1

And how did you select the army?

00:01:25 Speaker 2

Well, I knew lots of friends in there and they all liked it, so.

00:01:32 Speaker 2

I decided to enroll me too.

00:01:36 Speaker 1

OK.

00:01:36 Speaker 1

And so then when you first joined, where were you sent for your basic training?

00:01:43 Speaker 2

Infidelity or?

00:01:46 Speaker 1

And can you remember the dates that that was?

00:01:53 Speaker 2

No, I can't.

00:01:55 Speaker 2

Well, it's March 28th. Yeah. OK 1944.

00:01:59 Speaker 1

1944 OK. And about how long were you there?

00:02:03 Speaker 2

Approximately 3 months.

00:02:04 Speaker 1

OK. And at that point, did you receive any special training?

00:02:09 Speaker 2

Basic book training. OK and.

00:02:15 Speaker 1

Did they execute a specialized in anything or did you? I want you to specialize in anything.

00:02:22 Speaker 1

OK.

00:02:24 Speaker 1

And what type of?

00:02:28 Speaker 1

Different types of the branches of the army. Could you be in then the infantry, the.

00:02:35 Speaker 1

Machine Gunners had that come out.

00:02:37 Speaker 2

Machine Gunners.

00:02:40 Speaker 1

OK.

00:02:43 Speaker 1

And so head headed head headed. How did you select the machine Gunners?

00:02:50 Speaker 2

Well, at that time they needed a lot of machine Gunners.

00:02:53 Speaker 2

Was losing lots of in battles overseas. They wasn't trained.

00:02:59 Speaker 2

Lots of lots of them being trained.

00:03:03 Speaker 1

And so then how did the machine gunning work?

00:03:08 Speaker 1

What? What type of training did you get in the basic training then in with that?

00:03:14 Speaker 2

Well, just all parts about machine.

00:03:17 Speaker 2

To train, how?

00:03:18 Speaker 2

You.

00:03:19 Speaker 2

Set them up how you clean them, how you care for them.

00:03:24 Speaker 2

All sick stuff.

00:03:25 Speaker 2

Is that?

00:03:26 Speaker 1

And machine gunning was.

00:03:29 Speaker 1

Part of a group.

00:03:31 Speaker 1

How many people were in the group?

00:03:35 Speaker 2

About 15.

00:03:36 Speaker 1

OK. And within each of the groups where there are different types of machine Gunners with different roles that everybody played with the machine gun.

00:03:46 Speaker 1

And what were the roles?

00:03:48 Speaker 2

You had your gunner.

00:03:50 Speaker 2

Your assistant gunner ammunition bearers.

00:03:57 Speaker 2

Section later, your squad leader, section leader.

00:03:59 Speaker 1

OK.

00:04:01 Speaker 1

OK.

00:04:05 Speaker 1

And then when you finished the basic training, where did they send you?

00:04:10 Speaker 1

Out of Oregon.

00:04:14 Speaker 2

Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

00:04:18 Speaker 2

OK.

00:04:18 Speaker 1

And then what did you do?

00:04:20 Speaker 1

You.

00:04:21 Speaker 1

Additional type of basic training in Missouri.

00:04:23 Speaker 2

Exactly same thing.

00:04:25 Speaker 2

Lots of walking, marching.

00:04:32 Speaker 1

And did they describe to you what the battlefields were like at that point?

00:04:36 Speaker 2

Yes, I had.

00:04:38 Speaker 1

And what kind of things did they tell you?

00:04:42 Speaker 2

Fracturing what all they told us.

00:04:44 Speaker 2

Turned out to be true.

00:04:47 Speaker 2

It.

00:04:47 Speaker 2

In the.

00:04:50 Speaker 2

After seeing it for yourself.

00:04:54 Speaker 2

Uh.

00:04:56 Speaker 1

And while you were still here in the United States, we have anytime off. What did you do?

00:05:04 Speaker 2

I'll just go for a hike or go to.

00:05:09 Speaker 2

Club or something like that.

00:05:16 Speaker 1

And then how long were you in Missouri then?

00:05:21 Speaker 2

Below 2 months.

00:05:22 Speaker 1

Two months, which which would take us then to the summer of 1944.

00:05:28 Speaker 1

Right. And then at that point then?

00:05:31 Speaker 1

Where did they send you?

00:05:33 Speaker 2

Well, I went married, came out Stangish, Massachusetts. I was there.

00:05:40 Speaker 2

Anything two or three nights days and then.

00:05:45 Speaker 2

Went from there overseas to.

00:05:49 Speaker 2

Here.

00:05:50 Speaker 1

OK. And how how did you get overseas?

00:05:53 Speaker 1

Ship the ship and how long did it take?

00:05:56 Speaker 2

I think 11 days and nights.

00:05:59 Speaker 1

11 days a night.

00:06:02 Speaker 1

OK. How was? How was the food on the ship?

00:06:09 Speaker 1

Many people get seasick.

00:06:11 Speaker 2

You yeah.

00:06:13 Speaker 2

How that happened? Well.

00:06:16 Speaker 2

All right.

00:06:16 Speaker 1

And then when you got to Europe, where did you land?

00:06:23 Speaker 2

Marcel French.

00:06:28 Speaker 1

So that would take us into summer of 1944. And then when you got to France?

00:06:35

Play.

00:06:36 Speaker 1

Where did they send you?

00:06:39 Speaker 2

Well, he's on her way to the towards the front lines and Belgium, Luxembourg, places like that.

00:06:47 Speaker 1

And how did they send you up there?

00:06:51 Speaker 2

Mud truck.

00:06:51 Speaker 2

Truck.

00:06:52 Speaker 2

And some of them trained for rail.

00:06:58 Speaker 2

Travel the rail a little.

00:07:01 Speaker 2

Number.

00:07:04 Speaker 1

And so, when did you finally get to the to the battlefield?

00:07:11 Speaker 2

To drown Christmas time on the.

00:07:15 Speaker 2

Few 44.

00:07:17 Speaker 1

Christmastime in 1944. OK. Do you remember Christmas Day?

00:07:23 Speaker 1

In that year and what?

00:07:24 Speaker 1

Was special about that day for you?

00:07:28 Speaker 2

Well, I was on a troop train.

00:07:31 Speaker 2

Heading for.

00:07:35 Speaker 2

Heidelberg, Germany.

00:07:40 Speaker 2

Where I joined a.

00:07:44 Speaker 2

Well, that's where I was at when I joined up with the.

00:07:49 Speaker 2

80th infantry.

00:07:52 Speaker 2

80th Infantry Division.

00:07:56 Speaker 2

When I went overseas with the 70th.

00:08:03 Speaker 2

Transferred for frontline duty.

00:08:07 Speaker 2

But.

00:08:10 Speaker 2

80S Infantry division.

00:08:13 Speaker 2

That's where they were.

00:08:15 Speaker 2

They was there on Christmas Day at Edelbrook and that's where they had a counter attack and lost lots of men, so they needed lots more.

00:08:30 Speaker 1

OK, so you got up.

00:08:34 Speaker 1

Germany, then, just around Christmas Christmas time in 1944.

00:08:41 Speaker 1

OK.

00:08:49 Speaker 1

What was your first experience then with the the battlefield?

00:08:58 Speaker 2

Scary.

00:08:58

I.

00:09:00

Thank you.

00:09:03 Speaker 2

Yeah, it was scary at.

00:09:05 Speaker 2

Then like you get used to it.

00:09:22 Speaker 2

Well, I wouldn't take nothing for the experience I had in it and I wouldn't go back through it.

00:09:31 Speaker 1

And so then when you got up to the front lines, then at that point, so you're still part of the machine gunning team?

00:09:40 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:09:45 Speaker 2

Then when?

00:09:47 Speaker 2

I'm about to laugh.

00:09:48 Speaker 2

A machine gun was 30 seconds.

00:09:52 Speaker 2

Ain't no part of that.

00:09:54 Speaker 2

We decided we'd go his.

00:09:56 Speaker 2

You then when we went out on the scouting that night.

00:09:56

1.

00:10:03 Speaker 2

We we was happy to be machine Gunners.

00:10:08 Speaker 1

And said what was so scary about being out on The Rifleman?

00:10:12 Speaker 2

All this.

00:10:14 Speaker 2

Being out there and people asking you is all along and sit stuff as that.

00:10:22 Speaker 2

Here in the.

00:10:24 Speaker 2

Enemies talking all the time.

00:10:28 Speaker 2

Is very close to you.

00:10:31 Speaker 2

And knowing you had to go back up that Long Hill.

00:10:35 Speaker 2

You're the daylights out there.

00:10:37 Speaker 1

And so then you're in the tree for.

00:10:41 Speaker 1

The your Rifleman for one day and then you switched over, so you switched back to being a machine gunner. And just so we know, a machine gunner.

00:10:50

How? How?

00:10:50 Speaker 1

Are they positioned relative to the rest of the troops that were fighting at that point?

00:10:56 Speaker 2

Well, you set your guns up and you're not out scouting around.

00:11:01 Speaker 2

You're in one position all the time.

00:11:05 Speaker 2

And you're not drawing fire until you're open for.

00:11:13 Speaker 1

OK.

00:11:16 Speaker 1

So now we're back in. We're back as the Rebecca's the machine gunning crew. And this is again around.

00:11:25 Speaker 1

The turn of the year 1944, beginning of 1945.

00:11:30 Speaker 1

Why don't you explain to us then?

00:11:32 Speaker 1

Did you go at that point?

00:11:37 Speaker 2

You say 1944?

00:11:40 Speaker 1

At the end of 44, correct right. You got over there and you're up to runway to Germany and on the troop train.

00:11:47 Speaker 2

Well, we just kept traveling through Luxembourg.

00:11:53 Speaker 2

Belgium.

00:11:55 Speaker 2

Into Germany, head towards the Rhine River.

00:12:03 Speaker 1

And So what was your first real experience then with combat?

00:12:14 Speaker 2

First with the.

00:12:17 Speaker 2

I guess it was real.

00:12:22 Speaker 2

January.

00:12:24 Speaker 2

Down in January.

00:12:27 Speaker 2

Near Luxembourg.

00:12:31 Speaker 2

Run into a little fire.

00:12:36 Speaker 2

Cold, snowy weather was.

00:12:40 Speaker 2

Caught in cold place everything.

00:12:42 Speaker 2

Seen.

00:12:43 Speaker 1

And how did you stay warm?

00:12:49

Yeah.

00:12:50 Speaker 2

With all the flows on you could carry.

00:12:56 Speaker 1

And we did you sleep at night?

00:13:00 Speaker 2

Stands in Vauxhall.

00:13:03 Speaker 2

Sometimes you may be being a little town or something.

00:13:09 Speaker 1

And what type of?

00:13:10 Speaker 1

Did you have at that point?

00:13:14 Speaker 2

Just ordinary everyday food.

00:13:18 Speaker 2

Come from a mess hall. They can send it to us and be hot when they left.

00:13:23 Speaker 2

Sent.

00:13:24 Speaker 2

It and got to us.

00:13:29 Speaker 1

And how about a change of?

00:13:31 Speaker 1

Did you get a change of clothes at all?

00:13:35 Speaker 2

About every two weeks.

00:13:37 Speaker 2

And how?

00:13:38 Speaker 1

About a shower or a bath or something like that.

00:13:43 Speaker 2

Weeks about the shower.

00:13:49 Speaker 2

OK.

00:13:49 Speaker 1

So we.

00:13:49 Speaker 1

So we got you up at.

00:13:52 Speaker 1

In January, is really your first kind of experience with combat major battles that you were.

00:13:59 Speaker 1

With or.

00:14:01 Speaker 1

Attacks that you were involved.

00:14:03 Speaker 1

Can you describe those?

00:14:07 Speaker 2

In three major battles.

00:14:12 Speaker 2

Are Dean Rhineland central you?

00:14:19 Speaker 2

And three battle stars.

00:14:26 Speaker 2

For each.

00:14:30 Speaker 2

And I had a good combat medal and uh.

00:14:38 Speaker 2

Hopefully.

00:14:46 Speaker 2

That it laid her down the road.

00:14:49 Speaker 1

And So what was it like the first time you were in combat?

00:14:53 Speaker 1

You're actually shooting at that point.

00:14:57 Speaker 2

Scary as hell.

00:15:02 Speaker 2

Scary.

00:15:04 Speaker 2

Then you get used to it.

00:15:10 Speaker 1

And so they said that the life of a machine gunner was 30 seconds. Yeah.

00:15:15 Speaker 1

Right for the groups, for the groups that you're with have what were the casualties for the folks that you were with?

00:15:25 Speaker 2

Well, that there was lots of.

00:15:29 Speaker 2

I didn't tell me about.

00:15:34 Speaker 2

Oh I.

00:15:36 Speaker 2

Three to four weeks and I was listed as a old man in the outfit.

00:15:44 Speaker 2

That's how fast they were going.

00:15:48 Speaker 1

And so when you first got to the when you first got to Europe.

00:15:51 Speaker 1

Was your rank.

00:15:54 Speaker 2

First count.

00:15:54 Speaker 1

You first got there.

00:15:57 Speaker 1

Rabbit and what happened then?

00:16:02 Speaker 2

Well, I.

00:16:06 Speaker 2

Machine gun just had been machine gunner during about 3 weeks to make section later.

00:16:14 Speaker 1

Because of the casualties that happened.

00:16:24 Speaker 1

And how did you feel about being a section leader?

00:16:29 Speaker 2

I like it.

00:16:32 Speaker 2

Good.

00:16:35 Speaker 1

And what did you feel about the number of casualties?

00:16:38 Speaker 1

You feel lucky when you were.

00:16:39 Speaker 1

That you.

00:16:40 Speaker 1

The ones that was part of the casualties.

00:16:41 Speaker 2

Yeah, I did many times.

00:16:45 Speaker 2

Lock those with me.

00:16:52 Speaker 1

And did you?

00:16:53 Speaker 1

Anything special for good luck?

00:16:56 Speaker 2

No.

00:17:00 Speaker 2

No, just.

00:17:04

I.

00:17:07 Speaker 2

For the best.

00:17:15 Speaker 1

And so then when you're actually in the battles, what types of things did you witness?

00:17:26 Speaker 2

Battles.

00:17:33 Speaker 2

Yeah, please.

00:17:34 Speaker 2

Different things you would think about.

00:17:39 Speaker 2

Going to make it out alive or not? One thing.

00:17:58 Speaker 2

Is.

00:18:04 Speaker 2

Struggle.

00:18:09 Speaker 2

Walk maybe 5 or 6 miles.

00:18:13 Speaker 2

Snow up to your knees.

00:18:17 Speaker 2

At the snowiest country ever seen in my life.

00:18:20 Speaker 2

Anything quit snowing?

00:18:38 Speaker 2

A good experience.

00:18:41 Speaker 2

Wouldn't take nothing for.

00:18:42 Speaker 2

I wouldn't go back to it.

00:18:47 Speaker 1

And so then you're up there on the front, on the front lines and you were fighting. Were the supplies good?

00:18:54 Speaker 2

Yeah, fair.

00:18:56 Speaker 1

So you had ammunition and.

00:18:59 Speaker 1

All the things that you needed.

00:19:00 Speaker 2

Yeah, we used.

00:19:06 Speaker 2

Positively made it.

00:19:08 Speaker 2

They're doing a good job splun.

00:19:14 Speaker 1

And do you have?

00:19:17 Speaker 1

Any recollections about anything that you were you know, personally involved with in, in terms of individual times that you were involved in combat?

00:19:32 Speaker 2

You know.

00:19:39 Speaker 1

And how about some of the time so?

00:19:42 Speaker 1

The different events that happen to you, anything kind of stick out in your mind.

00:19:48 Speaker 2

These things to think about.

00:19:54 Speaker 2

Battles that you're in.

00:19:57 Speaker 2

Things like that.

00:19:58 Speaker 1

Yeah. Is the one that kind of you can think about in it?

00:20:05 Speaker 1

Comes and it's like a fresh fresh in your.

00:20:08 Speaker 1

All the time where you were and what happened to you.

00:20:19 Speaker 2

After a while, I know when I first got out of service.

00:20:23 Speaker 2

Discharged.

00:20:27 Speaker 2

I decided I was going back and make.

00:20:30 Speaker 2

Farming my life.

00:20:33 Speaker 2

Got it.

00:20:36 Speaker 2

Went to Beckley.

00:20:41 Speaker 2

Reenlist an army after I got out there, I changed my mind.

00:20:48 Speaker 2

That said.

00:20:50 Speaker 2

I'd had enough.

00:20:53 Speaker 1

That that's that.

00:20:54 Speaker 1

After the discharge, taking it back into when you.

00:20:58 Speaker 1

There though.

00:20:59 Speaker 1

When you were.

00:21:01 Speaker 1

Were there, was there a particular episode that you remember?

00:21:12 Speaker 2

Nelly's quite a few of.

00:21:15 Speaker 2

Crossing the line.

00:21:17

They have been hit.

00:21:17 Speaker 1

Maybe get?

00:21:17 Speaker 1

Maybe you could describe a couple of those for us.

00:21:29 Speaker 2

I know.

00:21:31 Speaker 2

110.

00:21:34 Speaker 2

We're going in this battle.

00:21:39 Speaker 2

You're the one about the tree.

00:21:41 Speaker 2

That one's up the apple tree. We went in this little town to take it captured.

00:21:50 Speaker 2

And we got rid of the outskirts of it.

00:21:54 Speaker 2

They opened up on us.

00:21:59

L.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

We had a full strength company when we started and at the end.

00:22:09 Speaker 2

We had about 3030 men left.

00:22:13 Speaker 2

And I leave behind the apple tree.

00:22:17 Speaker 2

Day and them shooting that machine guns. But the bullets were going over me. I'd hear them hitting him. The shells.

00:22:26 Speaker 2

Going over.

00:22:28 Speaker 1

So there were other types of, so there were things in back of you.

00:22:32 Speaker 1

What was that?

00:22:33 Speaker 2

Shells from artillery shells.

00:22:36 Speaker 1

From artillery shells. OK, so you heard the bullets wizard over your head.

00:22:42 Speaker 2

Vietnam going over?

00:22:45 Speaker 2

And my buddy back behind kept harm.

00:22:49 Speaker 2

See come back.

00:22:50 Speaker 2

Come back here. I'm in a hole.

00:22:54 Speaker 2

After I laid her about two or three hours.

00:22:58 Speaker 2

Decided to get up and run for it.

00:23:01 Speaker 2

He's honored. That was about half full water.

00:23:06 Speaker 2

Jeep. I kept going when I got to the top of the bank, where the rest of something was. What was left of them. I just jumped and slid into the road.

00:23:18 Speaker 2

In the.

00:23:21 Speaker 2

Company commander says.

00:23:24 Speaker 2

We thought you was going hours ago.

00:23:26 Speaker 2

That scared the hell out.

00:23:32 Speaker 2

So.

00:23:35 Speaker 1

I can.

00:23:35 Speaker 1

So that's that's a scary.

00:23:36 Speaker 1

That scare me people shooting at him.

00:23:42 Speaker 2

And that.

00:23:45 Speaker 2

Just there to before they went in before when they got in this town.

00:23:56 Speaker 2

On machine gun.

00:24:02 Speaker 2

Start with.

00:24:04 Speaker 2

He just rolled off, told.

00:24:07 Speaker 2

Her assistant gunner to take over.

00:24:13 Speaker 2

A lot of accidents, right?

00:24:15 Speaker 2

Casualties right through that area.

00:24:20 Speaker 2

Metal around.

00:24:24 Speaker 2

January.

00:24:32 Speaker 1

How did we talk a little?

00:24:34 Speaker 1

How did the people put up with the cold?

00:24:36 Speaker 1

You have casualties from the cold.

00:24:39 Speaker 2

Few. Not too bad. You get used to it seeing.

00:24:42

It.

00:24:43 Speaker 2

Seems like it.

00:24:44 Speaker 2

Bother you?

00:24:46 Speaker 2

Rule.

00:24:48 Speaker 2

Some of them you'd have.

00:24:51 Speaker 2

They have cold.

00:24:54 Speaker 2

I can't ever remember having a cold or.

00:24:57 Speaker 1

So you weren't being sick? When?

00:24:59

You.

00:24:59 Speaker 1

Were there.

00:25:06 Speaker 1

And then you mentioned that you.

00:25:07 Speaker 1

The purple.

00:25:08 Speaker 1

So how did that come about?

00:25:14 Speaker 2

Well, it was on the 11th day of April. You've been going into here for Germany.

00:25:23 Speaker 2

And.

00:25:29 Speaker 2

We.

00:25:29 Speaker 2

We're going here and we.

00:25:30 Speaker 2

So many people that got wounded.

00:25:35 Speaker 2

I was going to help the medics take care of cure for.

00:25:41 Speaker 2

And after went on up to a little town on the hill there, and I don't remember the name of the town, but it was going into Erfurt where we headed.

00:25:55 Speaker 2

There's some vehicles coming down.

00:25:59 Speaker 2

The Super highway.

00:26:01 Speaker 2

To the left or we.

00:26:04 Speaker 2

We're new.

00:26:05 Speaker 2

They're going to open up on us.

00:26:08 Speaker 2

Could have.

00:26:09 Speaker 2

Cleared, been behind the buildings.

00:26:13 Speaker 2

But we.

00:26:13 Speaker 2

We was out.

00:26:14 Speaker 2

Some of the boys are riding bicycles and little bit of this little bit of that.

00:26:21 Speaker 2

Once they opened up on us.

00:26:25 Speaker 2

OK.

00:26:26 Speaker 2

What you said it was.

00:26:29 Speaker 2

And probably 1819 people.

00:26:35 Speaker 2

Hitler son. Fatal son. Very serious.

00:26:42 Speaker 2

Bad time so.

00:26:46 Speaker 2

That's where I missed being with the company at the end.

00:26:49 Speaker 2

The.

00:26:50 Speaker 2

The Lord rose.

00:26:51 Speaker 2

Back at the evacuation hospital, and so where were you wounded?

00:26:57 Speaker 2

My hand and the hip.

00:27:00 Speaker 2

Piece of shrapnel and hit with.

00:27:04 Speaker 2

Doctor seems to think it come.

00:27:06 Speaker 2

It's never giving no trouble to this day.

00:27:13 Speaker 1

So then, if you were wounded, so they took you back to a hospital.

00:27:18 Speaker 1

They did the first.

00:27:20 Speaker 1

First aid on you.

00:27:23 Speaker 1

And then you said you went back. Where did?

00:27:26 Speaker 1

Did or I shouldn't ask?

00:27:29 Speaker 1

Where did you go then, at that point?

00:27:31 Speaker 2

Back to Paris, France.

00:27:34 Speaker 1

And how did you get back?

00:27:35 Speaker 2

To Paris plane plane.

00:27:43 Speaker 2

They're playing and.

00:27:48 Speaker 2

Never flown.

00:27:50 Speaker 2

I was scared of that.

00:27:53 Speaker 2

First time.

00:27:56 Speaker 1

And so then we were back in the hospital in Paris.

00:27:58 Speaker 1

How long did you stay there?

00:28:01 Speaker 2

I didn't get back.

00:28:04 Speaker 2

Stayed back there probably 3-4 weeks.

00:28:10 Speaker 2

That girl, when the war ended.

00:28:13 Speaker 1

And So what they was and what was that like that day that they announced that the war was over?

00:28:18 Speaker 2

Oh, good feeling.

00:28:20 Speaker 1

Where there's were.

00:28:21 Speaker 2

3rd field.

00:28:22 Speaker 1

There special events or what type of celebrations or things that they have on that day.

00:28:25 Speaker 2

Had a celebration there and girl, come out sing those two blue eyes to sparkle with love.

00:28:33 Speaker 2

And I'll tell you.

00:28:35 Speaker 2

That's up people going wild.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

A good feeling.

00:28:47 Speaker 1

And so then when you finished your recovery in Paris, then they sent you back up to your company.

00:28:54 Speaker 2

Happy.

00:28:56 Speaker 2

Takes so long.

00:29:00 Speaker 2

Like about 60-70 miles, I sent a Jeep after me.

00:29:06 Speaker 2

Company runner.

00:29:09 Speaker 2

Back pick me up. Is that right?

00:29:13 Speaker 2

Swimming pool.

00:29:17 Speaker 2

Stand guard when they got there, but they.

00:29:20 Speaker 2

Me go.

00:29:25 Speaker 1

Maybe we could talk a little bit just.

00:29:28 Speaker 1

You move to the time in Germany when when? Just before the war ended and you were still up. And then the battles on did you get letters from home?

00:29:37 Speaker 1

And how often was that?

00:29:43

Probably.

00:29:44 Speaker 2

Every week or so, a couple weeks.

00:29:47 Speaker 1

OK. And we're able to write back to your family. Then at that point to tell them what was going on.

00:29:51 Speaker 2

Not right that time, no.

00:29:55 Speaker 2

Now you can go some time, maybe two or three weeks for you.

00:29:59 Speaker 2

Time to write letters.

00:30:07

Yeah.

00:30:09 Speaker 1

And then so the war was over and you're in Germany?

00:30:12 Speaker 1

And so then what did you do for that period of time where you were still there?

00:30:20 Speaker 2

Well, I just waited for my turn to come home.

00:30:27 Speaker 2

102nd Division.

00:30:30 Speaker 2

I didn't have enough points to come home with my outfit.

00:30:34 Speaker 2

Short view.

00:30:37 Speaker 1

And so then what were the points about?

00:30:41 Speaker 2

They have so many points for years.

00:30:44 Speaker 2

Come back, leave.

00:30:47 Speaker 2

Like about 4-5 points.

00:30:51 Speaker 1

So then the people with the most points.

00:30:52 Speaker 1

Back sooner.

00:30:55 Speaker 2

All right.

00:30:55 Speaker 1

And so then you had to stay there.

00:30:57 Speaker 1

How long were you still in?

00:30:59 Speaker 1

Until they told you you could go home.

00:31:03 Speaker 2

How?

00:31:03 Speaker 2

Probably.

00:31:08 Speaker 2

Couple months.

00:31:12 Speaker 2

Doing nobody shooting it.

00:31:16 Speaker 1

So what type of things did you do?

00:31:23 Speaker 2

Every day, common things.

00:31:27 Speaker 2

We didn't have a lot of training to do then.

00:31:31 Speaker 2

We.

00:31:32 Speaker 2

Take your exercise and stuff like that and you still.

00:31:40 Speaker 2

Hanging it out.

00:31:42 Speaker 2

Feel problems and stuff like that.

00:31:54 Speaker 1

And so then when did they finally ship you out?

00:32:01 Speaker 2

Will I come home?

00:32:33

I think I put anymore.

00:32:36 Speaker 1

In March, in 1946, then, and so then where did, where did you?

00:32:41 Speaker 1

When?

00:32:42 Speaker 1

You got back to the United States.

00:32:46 Speaker 2

New York.

00:32:46 Speaker 1

In New York, you know.

00:32:48 Speaker 1

And then where did you go?

00:32:57 Speaker 2

Mary, Maryland.

00:33:00 Speaker 1

And that's where they discharge you then?

00:33:03 Speaker 1

The army, huh? Yeah.

00:33:05 Speaker 1

And you went back home, right?

00:33:09 Speaker 1

At that point.

00:33:13 Speaker 1

And all the time that you were over in Europe then, did you?

00:33:16 Speaker 1

Keep your own diary.

00:33:20 Speaker 2

Yeah. And then best I could.

00:33:24 Speaker 2

Come up missing somewhere.

00:33:27 Speaker 2

Along the line.

00:33:27

Happening.

00:33:30 Speaker 1

What types of things do you?

00:33:31 Speaker 1

Write in the diary.

00:33:32 Speaker 1

Do you have any particular memories of any particular experience or something that you wrote in there?

00:33:36 Speaker 2

No, not really.

00:33:41 Speaker 2

Some places had been it I like.

00:33:47 Speaker 2

Putting.

00:33:55 Speaker 1

And how about the the officers in the fellow servicemen that you were with? What did?

00:34:00 Speaker 1

Think about all those folks when you were there at that time.

00:34:02 Speaker 2

They were nice. I like their.

00:34:05 Speaker 2

Had no enemies.

00:34:17 Speaker 1

And then when you got.

00:34:18 Speaker 1

Then.

00:34:19 Speaker 1

You're back home in West Virginia at that point. What did you do then?

00:34:26 Speaker 1

Oh, you said before and.

00:34:28 Speaker 2

I went went back to work quick as possible.

00:34:30 Speaker 2

OK.

00:34:30 Speaker 1

Because you mentioned earlier is that you thought about reenlisting in the army?

00:34:34 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah, I went back.

00:34:36 Speaker 2

Back to rein Liz and changed my mind after I got out there.

00:34:42 Speaker 2

But that morning, when I left, I was going to make the army my life.

00:34:50 Speaker 2

That changed my mind.

00:34:56 Speaker 1

And then did you join veterans groups or other types of things then after?

00:35:02 Speaker 2

1.

00:35:06 Speaker 2

Better group.

00:35:09 Speaker 2

Legion joined it for a couple years.

00:35:16 Speaker 2

When I moved up here, I never did join a lot of people try to get me to, but I just.

00:35:25 Speaker 2

It.

00:35:28 Speaker 1

And then back when you finally got home.

00:35:32 Speaker 1

Did your family have a party for you?

00:35:37 Speaker 2

They had a.

00:35:39 Speaker 2

For me.

00:35:41 Speaker 2

I can't remember that.

00:35:44 Speaker 1

And did.

00:35:45 Speaker 1

Have any other brothers and sisters that served?

00:35:49 Speaker 1

No. So you were.

00:35:50 Speaker 1

Only one out of your.

00:35:51 Speaker 1

How many brothers and sisters do you do? If you have 8?

00:36:02 Speaker 1

And have you ever run into any of your?

00:36:07 Speaker 1

Fellow servicemen in the years that have gone.

00:36:08 Speaker 2

No, no.

00:36:09 Speaker 2

By I'd like to.

00:36:14 Speaker 2

Have often thought about that.

00:36:16 Speaker 2

I.

00:36:16 Speaker 2

Would.

00:36:17 Speaker 2

Really like to run in some.

00:36:23 Speaker 1

Who were some of the characters or some of the people?

00:36:27 Speaker 1

That you really have a.

00:36:29 Speaker 1

Strong recollection.

00:36:32 Speaker 2

Well.

00:36:35 Speaker 2

Wondered like.

00:36:38 Speaker 2

Name Fisher, from Holly Grove, AR.

00:36:46 Speaker 2

He was just Buck Sergeant.

00:36:54 Speaker 2

Squad leader, not a sexually.

00:37:01 Speaker 2

Pretty good franchise one to only come back to that hole.

00:37:17 Speaker 2

Lots of friends in there.

00:37:23 Speaker 2

Imagine they're like me.

00:37:24 Speaker 2

All getting old.

00:37:33 Speaker 1

And so then as you have a chance to think back about it through all the years, now that you know since the events that you've been there.

00:37:40 Speaker 1

The last thing? Memories that stay with you.

00:37:43 Speaker 1

Maybe you could describe some of those.

00:37:51 Speaker 2

Well, I just.

00:37:54 Speaker 2

Time you sit around, you get to thinking about things that happened.

00:38:05 Speaker 2

People use width.

00:38:09 Speaker 2

It's a good experience.

00:38:12 Speaker 2

But I wouldn't go back through it.

00:38:15 Speaker 2

I wouldn't want that experience again.

00:38:18 Speaker 1

Well, you said.

00:38:18 Speaker 1

You were scared an awful lot.

00:38:26

Move.

00:38:30 Speaker 1

And is there anything else?

00:38:31 Speaker 1

You would like to.

00:38:34 Speaker 1

Talk about or discuss that we haven't covered.

00:38:45

OK.

00:38:50 Speaker 2

The only thing when I left.

00:38:54 Speaker 2

Hospital headed back towards my old outfit.

00:38:59 Speaker 2

Glad to get back with.

00:39:03 Speaker 1

And I'm sure they were.

00:39:04 Speaker 2

Glad to see everybody, glad to see me too.

00:39:11 Speaker 1

And so of all the fellows that you went over there with, how many actually came back with you?

00:39:22 Speaker 2

And come back.

00:39:24 Speaker 2

Come back with another.

00:39:25 Speaker 1

Outfit come back with another outfit.

00:39:27 Speaker 2

From tomorrow and order.

00:39:28 Speaker 1

And so do.

00:39:29 Speaker 1

Do you have the? Do you have any way of knowing of of what happened with the other people?

00:39:32 Speaker 1

How many other people may have made it back?

00:39:35 Speaker 2

Well, no. But I did run into.

00:39:41 Speaker 2

One Gabrielle fit that I went over with the 70th Infantry Division.

00:39:48 Speaker 2

And he said that.

00:39:52 Speaker 2

Probably 2/3 of the company got wiped out the first battle they went.

00:39:57 Speaker 1

Into, is that right?

00:40:00 Speaker 2

80th Vision when I joined her, they would an old outfit over there. They didn't over there for a while.

00:40:07 Speaker 2

Been through the ropes.

00:40:14 Speaker 2

Which was Third Army.

00:40:21 Speaker 1

And then which one were you finally discharged from?

00:40:22 Speaker 1

So you went from the 70th to the 80th.

00:40:27 Speaker 2

Well then I was transferred from my 80th, but I didn't have enough points to come back to them and I came back with a.

00:40:32 Speaker 1

With them.

00:40:33 Speaker 2

2nd with 102nd.

00:40:36

OK.

00:40:37 Speaker 2

Which in there I didn't know nobody.

00:40:42 Speaker 2

And it's all, you know, transferred around, like from outfit to outfit.

00:40:48 Speaker 2

Come back.

00:40:51 Speaker 2

Which, like you say, if you fall without that, you should've been able to come back with.

00:40:55 Speaker 2

Or.

00:40:56 Speaker 2

Regardless of points.

00:41:00 Speaker 2

Like you, I don't see what that ever made.

00:41:01

I mean.

00:41:02 Speaker 2

Difference.

00:41:09 Speaker 1

But that's something so only about 1/3 of the original folks that went over there with with you.

00:41:14 Speaker 1

Actually made it back, so I think as you said, you know, you felt very, very lucky.

00:41:19

Yeah.

00:41:19 Speaker 1

At that point to.

00:41:22 Speaker 1

Be able to come come back.

00:41:24 Speaker 2

Well, I actually believe.

00:41:28 Speaker 2

Never.

00:41:29 Speaker 2

Nothing else for what? People are warned.

00:41:33 Speaker 2

I've seen guys in there.

00:41:37 Speaker 2

That be happy and jolly going on.

00:41:41 Speaker 2

Like of a morning this morning.

00:41:45

And.

00:41:46 Speaker 2

They've never done that before.

00:41:49 Speaker 2

There's always a quiet person.

00:41:53 Speaker 2

And that be their last day on Earth.

00:41:55

Is that right?

00:41:56 Speaker 2

I've seen that happen several times.

00:41:59 Speaker 2

That's why I have bleed.

00:42:02 Speaker 2

Honestly bleed. You're warned that you're dead.

00:42:08 Speaker 2

Person.

00:42:12 Speaker 2

I see.

00:42:12 Speaker 2

Get out, dance and head. Sing and dance and just have a heck of a time.

00:42:21 Speaker 2

Into the battle.

00:42:29 Speaker 2

Believe they won't.

00:42:45 Speaker 2

It is a good experience. I wouldn't.

00:42:47 Speaker 2

Take nothing for.

00:42:48 Speaker 2

I got.

00:42:51 Speaker 2

Go back to it or not.

00:42:54 Speaker 1

Is there anything else like that?

00:42:55 Speaker 2

Is there?

00:42:56 Speaker 1

Anything else you'd like to add? No.

00:42:59 Speaker 2

Today, thank God. OK.

00:43:02 Speaker 1

Well, thanks very much.

00:43:03

For.

00:43:03 Speaker 1

Your service.

00:43:06

Yeah.