

Vincent Taglimonte Interview

Company B, 319th Inf Reg

(Andy Biggio from Boston interviewed Mr. Taglimonte of the 80th Division)

(Audio Transcript [NOT edited, just transcribed])

00:00:00 Speaker 1

Hello, my name is Vincent.

00:00:04 Speaker 2

Where and when were you born?

00:00:08 Speaker 1

I was born in Sydney, Massachusetts.

00:00:12 Speaker 1

1925.

00:00:14 Speaker 2

So how old are you right now?

00:00:16 Speaker 1

I AM 95 years old.

00:00:18 Speaker 2

Do you feel like you're 95?

00:00:23 Speaker 1

Sometimes I do.

00:00:26 Speaker 1

But thank God I can still move around.

00:00:32 Speaker 2

Physically with it like to be 95.

00:00:38 Speaker 1

Question because I've never been here before.

00:00:50 Speaker 2

I'm trying to get it is.

00:00:51 Speaker 2

Still able.

00:00:52 Speaker 2

Do a lot of things you enjoy.

00:00:55 Speaker 1

Say that again please.

00:00:56 Speaker 2

Still able to do a lot of.

00:00:58 Speaker 2

Things that you enjoy.

00:01:00 Speaker 1

Yes, I do.

00:01:01 Speaker 1

But there are a lot of things that.

00:01:03 Speaker 1

But I can physically do anymore, and I realize that.

00:01:12 Speaker 2

And if you could tell me, Sir, for the record, what branch of the military were you in during the war?

00:01:18 Speaker 1

Was drafted.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

Vision, Regiment and company. Were you in during their time overseas?

00:01:29 Speaker 1

During the time of the Seas I was in the 80th Division.

00:01:34 Speaker 1

319th through regiment.

00:01:39 Speaker 1

As a result.

00:01:42 Speaker 1

What company phone Company B?

00:01:48 Speaker 2

What was your specific job in Company B?

00:01:52 Speaker 1

Two leader how was a that was a dole boy? Yes.

00:02:00 Speaker 2

What was the highest rate?

00:02:02 Speaker 2

Achieved by the time you left the service.

00:02:04 Speaker 1

Hello, staff Sergeant.

00:02:12 Speaker 2

And before we go any further, Sir, I just.

00:02:14 Speaker 2

To backtrack.

00:02:15 Speaker 2

You mentioned you were born in Somerville.

00:02:17 Speaker 1

Hello.

00:02:18 Speaker 2

Did you grow up in Somerville?

00:02:25 Speaker 1

Years I went through the Malden schools.

00:02:30 Speaker 1

That's Massachusetts.

00:02:33 Speaker 1

I was kind of younger and I didn't realize.

00:02:37 Speaker 1

They were weird of depression, but.

00:02:41 Speaker 1

I got a feeling from my parents that.

00:02:45 Speaker 1

To waste too much cash to throw around.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

Then we had a big influ.

00:02:52 Speaker 2

X, did you have any brothers or sisters?

00:02:55 Speaker 1

However, in my head an older brother.

00:02:57 Speaker 1

Was a.

00:03:03 Speaker 1

Baby, he was.

00:03:05 Speaker 1

A Naval Air.

00:03:06 Speaker 1

He was a Commodore, I think something they call.

00:03:11 Speaker 1

And a younger brother was in.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

Diffusing the Korean War.

00:03:19 Speaker 1

And I have a sister that still lives and New Hampshire.

00:03:25

Visit.

00:03:28 Speaker 2

Before the war broke out.

00:03:31 Speaker 2

What were you planning on doing with your life?

00:03:34 Speaker 1

Although I thought that perhaps.

00:03:38 Speaker 1

The knowledge of mathematics I could possibly be a pretty good engineer.

00:03:47 Speaker 1

In any aspect.

00:03:48 Speaker 1

Do you?

00:03:51 Speaker 2

Remember the first jobs you had growing up?

00:04:02 Speaker 1

For the painter I was painting.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

Too many jobs.

00:04:10 Speaker 1

I worked in shoe factory.

00:04:11 Speaker 1

I was.

00:04:15 Speaker 1

In those days, we had city dumps and.

00:04:21 Speaker 1

Too young to own a bicycle and I wasn't going to ask my parents to buy one for me, so I kept visiting the city. Dumping. Before you know it.

00:04:33 Speaker 1

I and the.

00:04:33 Speaker 1

Good friend of mine. Put two bicycles together.

00:04:40 Speaker 1

And we had a 2 seater.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

And they were both petticoats.

00:04:47 Speaker 1

Got some good mileage out of it.

00:04:51 Speaker 2

When you and your buddies would get together when you were teenagers, what kind of mischief would you?

00:04:57 Speaker 2

Get into.

00:05:01 Speaker 1

He used to like to steal food and.

00:05:07 Speaker 1

When late summer.

00:05:10 Speaker 1

Some of the fellows like to pull for some moms, but I didn't approve of that.

00:05:17

Yes.

00:05:19 Speaker 2

Anything special on Halloween?

00:05:23 Speaker 1

Halloween.

00:05:26 Speaker 1

Party and then chase the girls home right after the party, you know.

00:05:35 Speaker 2

Do you remember soaping any windows?

00:05:39 Speaker 1

Windows and we also had beanbows.

00:05:47 Speaker 1

Tube.

00:05:49 Speaker 1

The female monthly young hebeens. And you can you can be pretty accurate with them with a little practice.

00:06:02 Speaker 2

Good practice for your future in the military.

00:06:05 Speaker 1

I.

00:06:08 Speaker 1

Improve my aim.

00:06:15 Speaker 2

Can you talk to me about your education?

00:06:17 Speaker 2

What level did you make it to?

00:06:19 Speaker 1

So I.

00:06:22 Speaker 1

I graduated high school, but when the war broke out, I went to Malden High School.

00:06:31 Speaker 1

They they shifted us and I got into a special scientific course where I could do study meteorology and aviation.

00:06:47 Speaker 1

And I had a a two year course in German which helped me. When I get overseas.

00:06:56 Speaker 1

I spoke to the immigration.

00:07:00 Speaker 1

Consider, as a matter of fact, they use me there as an interpreter.

00:07:06 Speaker 1

For time.

00:07:08 Speaker 1

Actually, when I turned 18 in March.

00:07:15 Speaker 1

I received high school.

00:07:18 Speaker 1

And I got I drive movies.

00:07:22 Speaker 1

My dad, who was also a.

00:07:26 Speaker 1

World War 1 veteran.

00:07:30 Speaker 1

Brought me an extension into my gradulators.

00:07:35 Speaker 1

So I graduated in June of the same year and.

00:07:43 Speaker 1

Today after.

00:07:46 Speaker 1

Graduation. I was at Fort Devens.

00:07:51 Speaker 1

As a soldier.

00:07:54 Speaker 1

So I didn't have a chance to enjoy my graduation.

00:08:00 Speaker 2

What do you remember about that draft notice? As an 18 year old in 1944?

00:08:07 Speaker 2

Well.

00:08:10 Speaker 1

It wasn't too easy to take, but I was with all my friends from high school in the senior class and we all went together when we shipped out of high school and.

00:08:24 Speaker 1

To devins.

00:08:27 Speaker 1

And they gave us a IQ test there and then they were pretty separated. You know, I became a PHC almost immediately.

00:08:39 Speaker 1

Possibly for my IQ.

00:08:41 Speaker 1

I guess I never just sweating and taking salt tablets to save.

00:08:50 Speaker 2

What do you remember about the segregation?

00:08:53 Speaker 1

Segregation.

00:08:56 Speaker 1

Yes, I've also saw a few examples of desegregation.

00:09:04 Speaker 1

People.

00:09:06 Speaker 1

Getting a bus and if they were still black, they were delegates.

00:09:13 Speaker 1

Back seat of the bus.

00:09:16 Speaker 1

Some black people were forced to cross the street if they saw some white people coming.

00:09:27 Speaker 1

And I did see a couple of confrontations, but.

00:09:32 Speaker 1

Nothing to speak of.

00:09:33 Speaker 1

I don't like to speak of that anyway.

00:09:37 Speaker 2

But that must have been very just such a completely alien environment as someone who grew up.

00:09:43 Speaker 1

Yes, it was.

00:09:44 Speaker 2

Appears.

00:09:46 Speaker 1

Yes, it was. It was quite.

00:09:51 Speaker 1

Something that we had to get used to.

00:09:55 Speaker 1

We will run into these situations and we did know exactly what to do.

00:10:04 Speaker 1

To stay safe, you know, we didn't know where the dangers were and we just didn't like the.

00:10:11 Speaker 1

Environment.

00:10:13 Speaker 2

So after.

00:10:15 Speaker 2

Basic training, Sir. What happens to you?

00:10:20 Speaker 1

After my basic training now I was assigned during.

00:10:27 Speaker 1

The slips my memory, but the anti aircraft.

00:10:34 Speaker 1

40mm or 80 aircraft automatic weapons.

00:10:42 Speaker 1

And we trained as.

00:10:47 Speaker 1

As anti aircraft people, I was the I was the section chief.

00:10:51 Speaker 1

I had my own crew.

00:10:54 Speaker 1

We have a director who.

00:10:58 Speaker 1

Other people.

00:11:01 Speaker 1

And we will practice firing at different.

00:11:06 Speaker 1

Socks.

00:11:10 Speaker 1

Did we did quite well but.

00:11:15 Speaker 1

Things got stickier overseas.

00:11:20 Speaker 1

While they disbanded doing the.

00:11:25 Speaker 1

The old Freddie I was in and.

00:11:29 Speaker 1

I became.

00:11:31 Speaker 1

I was sent to overseas immediately.

00:11:37 Speaker 1

When things got tough.

00:11:40 Speaker 1

In Europe, and so I went over there alone.

00:11:44 Speaker 1

No.

00:11:45 Speaker 2

So can you take me through what was your?

00:11:49 Speaker 2

Of.

00:11:50 Speaker 2

Where did you leave the US and where did you go?

00:11:53 Speaker 1

Yeah, they always, yes.

00:11:56 Speaker 1

For the invocation in New York, yes, and and from what I remember, we landed in Glasgow, Scotland.

00:12:05 Speaker 1

And we would in the train down we went all the way down to Lahav.

00:12:12 Speaker 1

Cross angles channel.

00:12:16 Speaker 1

And before you know it, I was in the 80th Division.

00:12:23 Speaker 1

And across the magical line without a rifle, that's how.

00:12:26 Speaker 1

How important things were at the time.

00:12:32 Speaker 1

So I picked up a BAR and carried it for a while.

00:12:39 Speaker 1

And.

00:12:41 Speaker 2

Automatic weapon. How much did the BIBAR weigh?

00:12:45 Speaker 1

23 lbs.

00:12:49 Speaker 1

BAR weight 23 lbs.

00:12:53 Speaker 1

I'm quite sure that probably 2 years old one today.

00:12:58 Speaker 2

I wouldn't be surprised if you could.

00:12:59 Speaker 1

And.

00:13:01 Speaker 1

Then we went right through.

00:13:03 Speaker 1

I never going through the Ziegfeld line also after that.

00:13:09 Speaker 1

In my memory gets a little bit obscured and.

00:13:14 Speaker 1

We ended up in Belgium someplace.

00:13:20 Speaker 2

Do you remember what month you joined the 80th Division? It was after the Battle of the Bulge, right?

00:13:32

That.

00:13:33 Speaker 1

No, I wasn't allowed to because the bulge of the bulge was.

00:13:41 Speaker 1

Extended to after I was there I was.

00:13:47 Speaker 1

Probably in the bulge when we did the cleanup.

00:13:55 Speaker 1

After the rough time I guess.

00:13:59 Speaker 2

Before we get into your combat experiences.

00:14:04 Speaker 2

Do you remember?

00:14:05 Speaker 2

You know you're a replacement, and once you go to lahar, how do they get you from the replacement depot to the 80th Division?

00:14:16 Speaker 2

It on trains or trucks or.

00:14:21 Speaker 1

They crossed the channel in one of those.

00:14:28 Speaker 1

I forget what they call.

00:14:30 Speaker 1

They troop ship wing troop ship is when they when the front drops.

00:14:35 Speaker 1

Into.

00:14:36 Speaker 1

Water and you come running out in.

00:14:40 Speaker 1

What do they call them?

00:14:41 Speaker 2

Lst.

00:14:42 Speaker 2

Landing.

00:14:43 Speaker 1

Landing, yeah.

00:14:47 Speaker 1

And.

00:14:49 Speaker 1

And then from then on, I was we were trucked to wherever we went.

00:14:58 Speaker 2

Remember the scenes of the devastation as you guys move forward towards the front?

00:15:04 Speaker 1

Oh yes.

00:15:08 Speaker 1

Someone that.

00:15:14 Speaker 1

It's hard to remember because I don't want to remember it.

00:15:20 Speaker 1

But there was a lot of devastation as well.

00:15:25 Speaker 1

The destruction probably didn't have to happen, but it did.

00:15:31 Speaker 1

And many people did just you couldn't go any further than.

00:15:42 Speaker 2

What do you remember about the actual joining of the 80th Division?

00:15:48 Speaker 2

You're this green replacement and you're just shoved into this, this they.

00:15:51 Speaker 3

Didn't see a.

00:15:52 Speaker 2

Lot of action.

00:15:53 Speaker 1

Yes. Well, well, The thing is.

00:15:58 Speaker 1

We were.

00:15:59 Speaker 1

We didn't see a lot of action.

00:16:04 Speaker 1

And then I felt like I was rushing to this thing because I went through the the ripping *****. I guess I call little replacement.

00:16:14 Speaker 1

Some depots.

00:16:17 Speaker 1

And.

00:16:23 Speaker 1

I forgot my lesson. Train authority.

00:16:30 Speaker 1

Just getting to what we have to get into there.

00:16:34 Speaker 1

There.

00:16:34 Speaker 1

There was a lot to be seen.

00:16:37 Speaker 2

Once you've joined the 80th Division, could you please take me through your first time?

00:16:40 Speaker 3

Can.

00:16:43 Speaker 2

Enemy fire.

00:16:46 Speaker 1

Under fire.

00:16:48 Speaker 1

So you know, the first time we went under fire.

00:16:54 Speaker 1

We were advancing.

00:16:57 Speaker 1

On the.

00:16:59 Speaker 1

And they were there.

00:17:00 Speaker 1

Could see.

00:17:00 Speaker 1

They were firing back at US and.

00:17:06 Speaker 1

When they hit.

00:17:08 Speaker 1

Told to hit the dirt when we did because there was a garage coming at us.

00:17:16 Speaker 1

And I laid on the ground and.

00:17:19 Speaker 1

I was pinned down, so to speak.

00:17:22 Speaker 1

And I may be for the wrongest time next to a a German soldier. That didn't make it.

00:17:34 Speaker 1

And I.

00:17:37 Speaker 1

Didn't know where I was and when I when I dared to get up.

00:17:42 Speaker 1

There was nobody there and I I had No Fear.

00:17:45 Speaker 1

Trying to catch up to my to my.

00:17:51 Speaker 1

The rest of the movies.

00:17:53 Speaker 2

I I can imagine you know your first experience under enemy fire being, you know this artillery barrage was inflicting.

00:18:04 Speaker 2

For those who don't know.

00:18:08 Speaker 2

What do you see?

00:18:08 Speaker 2

Do you?

00:18:09 Speaker 2

When artillery shells are coming in around you.

00:18:13 Speaker 1

Or you have to at first it's it's, it's frightening, it's.

00:18:21 Speaker 1

It was deadening.

00:18:24 Speaker 1

But after a while you you have to kind of feel.

00:18:29 Speaker 1

For just what is really happening and.

00:18:34 Speaker 1

You could tell whether it was.

00:18:37 Speaker 1

From the fire.

00:18:40 Speaker 1

Or from the.

00:18:42 Speaker 1

Fire from the from the enemy.

00:18:46 Speaker 1

And you could tell by the the way the shells worked that the sound of the shells that when it was our fire, their fire and there was plenty of it.

00:19:00 Speaker 2

Did any of the older men or some of the combat veterans that any of them take you under their wing?

00:19:07 Speaker 1

Yes, yes, they are. The older veteran. It just seemed like they.

00:19:13 Speaker 1

It was their duty to do that and before you know it, you are an older vet and it only takes a few days to become.

00:19:27 Speaker 1

The taste of.

00:19:28 Speaker 1

You know, what do you doing?

00:19:32 Speaker 2

Do you remember the names of any of the men you were close to that you served with?

00:19:40 Speaker 1

Do you remember the names of some of the fellows in the states where I'm not too sure I remember too many people.

00:19:48 Speaker 1

They were overseas because.

00:19:53 Speaker 1

There was a lot of lot of coming in, a lot of going you know.

00:19:59 Speaker 1

So we just couldn't.

00:20:02 Speaker 1

Make friends with it any person.

00:20:08

We'll have to.

00:20:09 Speaker 1

It's next year, one day, and he's not there the next day.

00:20:12 Speaker 1

Know I was fortunate to be okay.

00:20:18 Speaker 2

My understanding.

00:20:19 Speaker 2

That you were wounded though as well.

00:20:21 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:20:22 Speaker 2

Would you mind taking us through the incident of?

00:20:24 Speaker 2

How you were it?

00:20:38 Speaker 1

To the very end of the war.

00:20:41 Speaker 1

And we were.

00:20:42 Speaker 1

We were in Germany and you and we ended up on the end river on the Austrian border.

00:20:52 Speaker 1

And there was a lot of slack.

00:20:56 Speaker 1

And we were down for quite a time and we couldn't.

00:21:02 Speaker 1

We couldn't move.

00:21:04 Speaker 1

And until the we bought the tanks up in the tanks gave us.

00:21:12 Speaker 1

The support that that we needed.

00:21:16 Speaker 1

From I evidently picked up some shrapnel.

00:21:21 Speaker 1

I was doing and since.

00:21:30 Speaker 1

Since my parents, my dad had died and my mother was very ill, I asked not to be evacuated.

00:21:41 Speaker 1

And I would.

00:21:42 Speaker 1

I would heal and without incident.

00:21:48 Speaker 2

So the reason you didn't want to be evacuated was so that they wouldn't send a telegram.

00:21:53 Speaker 1

What they do, they send a telegram room immediately. If you wounded him so.

00:22:00 Speaker 2

Could you tell us where were?

00:22:01 Speaker 2

Hit with the shrapnel, Sir.

00:22:04 Speaker 1

My arms.

00:22:06 Speaker 1

Hands.

00:22:09 Speaker 3

How?

00:22:12 Speaker 1

I'll explain what happened.

00:22:16 Speaker 1

Yes, I.

00:22:17 Speaker 1

And get get close to.

00:22:21 Speaker 1

It there was an.

00:22:22 Speaker 1

Explosion close to million and I felt the pain but.

00:22:27 Speaker 1

It.

00:22:28 Speaker 1

It was shrapnel.

00:22:29 Speaker 1

Wasn't.

00:22:30 Speaker 1

It wasn't or anything like that, so.

00:22:36 Speaker 1

I went down and I was okay. I was able to.

00:22:40 Speaker 1

Was able to escape it.

00:22:43 Speaker 1

That.

00:22:44 Speaker 1

Do you?

00:22:44 Speaker 2

Do you know was it from a mortar or was it from an artillery?

00:22:48 Speaker 1

It was an artillery shell was probably a war shells most.

00:22:55 Speaker 2

And you can patch yourself up or.

00:22:56 Speaker 2

The medic com or?

00:22:59 Speaker 1

The medica came to me, yes, but he patched me up a little bit.

00:23:04 Speaker 1

Wasn't.

00:23:04 Speaker 1

It wasn't that type of a wound. It wasn't.

00:23:08 Speaker 1

It wasn't anything that I couldn't survive.

00:23:13 Speaker 2

When you came home from the war, you know, decades later, did any of the shrapnel find its way?

00:23:25 Speaker 1

That there was nothing stuck in your.

00:23:27 Speaker 2

I've met a lot of.

00:23:29 Speaker 2

Who? You know, they would get tropical wounds and it would be embedded. And they'll be sitting down, you know, 50 years after the war, pick up their skin.

00:23:32 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:23:42 Speaker 1

I can say that.

00:23:44 Speaker 1

I was in Bucharest.

00:23:48 Speaker 1

And I wasn't null.

00:23:49 Speaker 1

I.

00:23:49 Speaker 3

It's.

00:23:50 Speaker 1

Was in heaven, see?

00:23:56 Speaker 1

I wasn't going to look but everybody.

00:24:03 Speaker 1

Only Germans.

00:24:05 Speaker 1

Escaped. We weren't.

00:24:06 Speaker 1

One side they went out the other side.

00:24:10 Speaker 1

But then just.

00:24:12 Speaker 1

At the end of the war, I ended up.

00:24:16 Speaker 1

Having to leave, I think.

00:24:17 Speaker 1

I think that was enough.

00:24:18 Speaker 1

I'm not sure it was.

00:24:23 Speaker 1

We went in there, there was, there were no Jews, just these poor people that were laid in cots and.

00:24:35 Speaker 1

Some were alive, some were trying to save the ones that were very, very thin and sectarian.

00:24:45 Speaker 1

Genetics were feeding them my shoes and things like that, but.

00:24:51 Speaker 1

They didn't have.

00:24:52 Speaker 1

It was not very good.

00:24:54 Speaker 1

They were right through.

00:24:58 Speaker 1

One one thing I did see that.

00:25:04 Speaker 1

I'm trying to be a little bit.

00:25:07 Speaker 1

Is that you can see that they would that the prisoners that were.

00:25:13 Speaker 1

Normal and healthy either.

00:25:15 Speaker 1

Healthy but normal.

00:25:18 Speaker 1

Would.

00:25:20 Speaker 1

Gathered in a group.

00:25:23 Speaker 1

And before you know it, they would, when we would disperse them there, there would be one person left on the ground.

00:25:33 Speaker 1

And we were told that that person was probably one that collaborated with the German Guards.

00:25:41 Speaker 1

So we kept them.

00:25:42 Speaker 1

We kept them as individuals. We wouldn't let them bunch together because they were.

00:25:51 Speaker 1

They had no law, the rule law. They were retaliating you.

00:25:56 Speaker 2

When you stumbled across Broken Ward.

00:26:00 Speaker 2

And that other concentration camp, you know, had you heard about what the Germans were doing to the Jewish people or was it a total surprise?

00:26:13 Speaker 1

It was no surprise to us.

00:26:16 Speaker 1

It was discussed.

00:26:21 Speaker 1

We are officers that we were running into.

00:26:27 Speaker 1

We saw some of the some of the.

00:26:31 Speaker 1

So the people that do have to in Germany, the most, most of the civilians thought that.

00:26:42 Speaker 1

That this didn't happen that.

00:26:46 Speaker 1

Took the higher offices.

00:26:50 Speaker 1

Did you know that in his I had no knowledge of what was going on, but.

00:26:56 Speaker 1

For me, we really hear it.

00:27:00 Speaker 1

We hear it through the experiences of other.

00:27:05 Speaker 1

Soldiers.

00:27:08 Speaker 1

But it was not a good scene that they were admitted to.

00:27:12 Speaker 1

Were not the Nice people the soldiers weren't.

00:27:18 Speaker 2

Do you remember personally interacting with any of the prisoners in either of the camps you went in?

00:27:29

Well.

00:27:30 Speaker 1

I did.

00:27:33 Speaker 1

A1 time.

00:27:39 Speaker 1

There were some Italian prisoners. I don't know what they were doing.

00:27:43 Speaker 1

What the? Why they were there but.

00:27:47 Speaker 1

They for some reason I can understand them and I I spoke with them and.

00:27:57 Speaker 1

They were trying to explain what they were going through, but I didn't get too much out of that.

00:28:06 Speaker 1

The Italian prisoners.

00:28:10 Speaker 2

I appreciate you sharing that.

00:28:12 Speaker 2

I just want to go back some of your experiences in combat, Sir.

00:28:17 Speaker 2

My understanding is that you saw a lot of action in Wimar Weimar.

00:28:23 Speaker 2

If you could pretend I don't know anything about wima, what was Weimar?

00:28:28 Speaker 1

Wima was was the.

00:28:32

Select.

00:28:34 Speaker 1

I think I forget what they call the third, the third like.

00:28:41 Speaker 1

And I think that's where they kept all their records and all their office buildings and everything were there. They now remember going into Walmart.

00:28:51 Speaker 1

I'm going to say that I might have been the first GI in the Weimar.

00:28:56 Speaker 1

Because I rode on the number one tank going into town. But.

00:29:03 Speaker 1

Tell me about that.

00:29:08 Speaker 1

When we got to Weimar, it was all offices and all kinds of records and and we stayed there a few days and.

00:29:19 Speaker 1

What she eyes went in and just made a mess out of everything that was.

00:29:27 Speaker 2

Do you?

00:29:28 Speaker 2

You know, in the towns that you encountered in Germany and the towns that you would encounter in Germany.

00:29:36 Speaker 2

Could you describe, you know, my understanding is that there was a lot of house to house fighting. You guys got further into Germany?

00:29:41 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:29:44 Speaker 1

Yes.

00:29:49 Speaker 1

Yeah, we did that. We would.

00:29:50 Speaker 1

We would get into a get into a town and we would have to clear out all the houses.

00:29:58 Speaker 1

And.

00:30:00 Speaker 1

Just going, going from getting to a house and go from room to room.

00:30:06 Speaker 1

With a rifle.

00:30:09 Speaker 1

Judgment children was doing it.

00:30:10 Speaker 1

Or many, many people were just, you know, gave up and asked to start, not to hurt them in any way.

00:30:19 Speaker 1

What we did have, we did a lot of this clearing.

00:30:24 Speaker 1

Clearing out.

00:30:29 Speaker 1

Can't believe.

00:30:30 Speaker 1

Too much more that but.

00:30:33 Speaker 3

Chuck, what about the meats in the that you'd reach up in the and get the meats out of the the fireplace?

00:30:40 Speaker 1

So there we go. Oh.

00:30:43 Speaker 1

It was a battle of survival to we would get into a house and and we we always knew that we could find a fireplace, that they were curing some kind of meat.

00:30:57 Speaker 1

In in the fireplace and we got to fly hands and things like that down.

00:31:06 Speaker 1

And chickens out in the backyard or anything like that.

00:31:12 Speaker 1

The guys in my crew knew we find the eggs.

00:31:18 Speaker 1

And and things like that.

00:31:21 Speaker 1

So he was a model and survival.

00:31:25 Speaker 2

You know.

00:31:27 Speaker 2

When you're going into an enemy occupied town and your objective is to clear the houses of the enemy, what's the actual process?

00:31:37 Speaker 2

So if you're on the outside and there's the enemy inside.

00:31:41 Speaker 2

What? You'll just knock off, you know.

00:31:45 Speaker 1

Humans.

00:31:45 Speaker 2

She was thrown grenades or what?

00:31:49 Speaker 2

Ever comes to operate.

00:31:50 Speaker 1

We were all given my game, sort of a designated area.

00:31:57 Speaker 1

To clear Rd. a lot of times you ran into opposition.

00:32:04 Speaker 1

With a.

00:32:07 Speaker 1

Soldiers involved. Germantown. Just.

00:32:09

Where is.

00:32:13 Speaker 1

The.

00:32:22 Speaker 1

Nearest.

00:32:26 Speaker 1

I didn't forget what they called it and.

00:32:31 Speaker 1

Something like that and.

00:32:34 Speaker 1

So we had to be careful of we had a couple of times we had to back up on the car and the the attack.

00:32:45 Speaker 1

Hi.

00:32:46 Speaker 1

We had this designated area that and we just went right down the street as a rule.

00:32:57 Speaker 2

You know, I believe in a lot of different World War 2 combat veterans and one of the and still one of the scariest things for me to appreciate.

00:33:06 Speaker 2

Is the house to house.

00:33:08 Speaker 2

I mean, through 1819 years old, OK.

00:33:11 Speaker 2

You get in the front door.

00:33:13 Speaker 2

But then as you mentioned, you go room to room.

00:33:17 Speaker 2

I mean, what is that like to to build?

00:33:23 Speaker 1

Try to do is probably make some noise maybe.

00:33:28 Speaker 1

To.

00:33:30 Speaker 1

To alert them is when they're going to fight us and when they're going to just accept us, you know.

00:33:37 Speaker 1

It wasn't.

00:33:38 Speaker 1

We just like to do it, though we did it.

00:33:39 Speaker 1

Had to.

00:33:43 Speaker 1

If we had a pistol instead of a rifle, but the rifle worked because we put the rifle in first and we fought, we did.

00:33:52 Speaker 2

With blue eyes fire into a room even if you didn't know there was anyone in there, just to be safe.

00:33:58 Speaker 1

No, no, we wouldn't fire a missile was a danger. But the finger was on the trigger, so.

00:34:06 Speaker 2

And most of the houses that.

00:34:07 Speaker 2

Went.

00:34:08 Speaker 2

With your squad.

00:34:10 Speaker 2

I mean, when the Germans just surrendered the soldiers or was there often they would fight back.

00:34:14 Speaker 1

Oh, they they fought back.

00:34:17 Speaker 1

Then they they retreated.

00:34:18 Speaker 1

They didn't.

00:34:19 Speaker 1

They retreated, but they didn't surrender. I didn't see.

00:34:24 Speaker 1

One incident where I saw a couple of fellas, couple of children surrounded, but mostly they retreated.

00:34:33 Speaker 2

Where they retreat to if they're in the house.

00:34:33 Speaker 1

Sing me a song.

00:34:37 Speaker 1

Whoa, no, that would that would leave town.

00:34:40 Speaker 2

I see.

00:34:41 Speaker 1

They would just back out of town and retreat.

00:34:46 Speaker 1

And #1 incident where we came up on a hospital.

00:34:53 Speaker 1

And.

00:34:55 Speaker 1

It looks safe enough because it was a hospital.

00:34:58 Speaker 1

Didn't think there'd be anybody there.

00:35:01 Speaker 1

And for the annual, we were ambushed.

00:35:05 Speaker 1

And so we had to be real careful that it, even even in the hospital.

00:35:17 Speaker 1

In the action and that's why we captured a few of them.

00:35:24 Speaker 1

For some reason didn't.

00:35:26 Speaker 1

Didn't run, but mostly we treated.

00:35:29 Speaker 2

What's the process when you capture a German soldier?

00:35:34 Speaker 2

I mean, who surrenders?

00:35:35 Speaker 1

The processes to send them back.

00:35:40 Speaker 1

And so to our ranks. And there would always be an outfit behind us, like a backup and and they would do. We had assistant where they will go right back.

00:35:54 Speaker 1

And get worked up somewhere and get the.

00:35:59 Speaker 1

Imprisoned.

00:36:03 Speaker 2

Did you have any experiences against mines against mines?

00:36:12 Speaker 1

We saw the experience we had and this is an odd thing.

00:36:17 Speaker 1

Had one fellow 1.

00:36:22 Speaker 1

GI who are my crew that came from Arkansas?

00:36:27 Speaker 1

And he had a.

00:36:29 Speaker 1

I don't know what it was, but he used to take us to the minefields.

00:36:37 Speaker 1

And we would just follow his steps.

00:36:40 Speaker 1

Hey Cortana.

00:36:40 Speaker 1

And he would take us to one. We could see the the other mines in the ground.

00:36:46 Speaker 1

Moving through.

00:36:49 Speaker 1

They look like little clogs.

00:36:51 Speaker 1

Are sticking, you know.

00:36:54 Speaker 2

We got the GI from Arkansas when he do this without a mind detector.

00:37:00 Speaker 1

No, we didn't have.

00:37:02 Speaker 1

I never saw our mind detected no more. We were.

00:37:05 Speaker 2

So.

00:37:09 Speaker 1

So I wish I could remember his name for.

00:37:16 Speaker 1

You do.

00:37:17 Speaker 1

You do that.

00:37:19 Speaker 2

Right.

00:37:20 Speaker 1

Yeah, we was streetwise I guess.

00:37:22 Speaker 1

Know.

00:37:23 Speaker 2

Did you have any experiences against the German Luftwaffe? Did any?

00:37:31 Speaker 1

Just once we were up in.

00:37:33 Speaker 1

I.

00:37:34 Speaker 1

Think it was in castle?

00:37:38 Speaker 1

Germany and it was Easter Sunday and we were just.

00:37:46 Speaker 1

There was no need.

00:37:49 Speaker 1

Anywhere we were and I.

00:37:54 Speaker 1

And my friends.

00:37:56 Speaker 1

Witnessed a.

00:38:00 Speaker 1

Battle between the measure Schmitz and our 250 wins and it was it was a real dog fight.

00:38:12 Speaker 1

And and as we were watching.

00:38:15 Speaker 1

The ground and somebody right the ground.

00:38:21 Speaker 1

With gunfire. Right. Right. What we were standing.

00:38:27 Speaker 1

So we got into get into a couple of homes and we just went in your house.

00:38:34 Speaker 1

But when we're walking on the street, going to church.

00:38:40 Speaker 2

Yeah, none of us.

00:38:42 Speaker 2

So wait to see and then. Very scary.

00:38:45 Speaker 1

Yeah, that was it was scared.

00:38:48 Speaker 1

What's interesting until.

00:38:50 Speaker 2

They tried to kill you.

00:38:52

Yeah.

00:38:54 Speaker 2

Did you have?

00:38:56 Speaker 2

I know you got there. You know, in early 45, do you remember any of the patrols that you went on?

00:39:05 Speaker 2

Patrols.

00:39:09 Speaker 1

Yeah, I didn't get that.

00:39:11 Speaker 1

I was new scout. I was.

00:39:14 Speaker 1

This is no I did.

00:39:18 Speaker 1

I did see one one night but it.

00:39:22 Speaker 1

Now it wasn't a patrol, it was a 200 patrol. We were in a in a bond. So what?

00:39:30 Speaker 1

Can remember.

00:39:34 Speaker 1

1.

00:39:37 Speaker 1

And we saw a German patrol, I guess a couple of scouts who were trying to locate us.

00:39:46 Speaker 1

They were trying to draw some fire from us so that they could.

00:39:51 Speaker 1

Determine our location.

00:39:55 Speaker 1

And see they were close enough that we could.

00:40:01 Speaker 1

Almost touch them.

00:40:02 Speaker 1

Know what?

00:40:03 Speaker 1

Didn't.

00:40:03 Speaker 1

We just stayed there quiet, let them go away, yes.

00:40:08 Speaker 2

How many of them would you say?

00:40:11 Speaker 1

Although there were three of them that we saw coming way by Asia, one out and the other keeping their spaces.

00:40:20 Speaker 2

I'm surprised someone you know with the trigger food has been open up on them.

00:40:24 Speaker 1

He wanted to do the idea, but.

00:40:29 Speaker 1

We knew what was all about, what we didn't want to draw any fire, and that was it.

00:40:35 Speaker 2

Was that the closest you?

00:40:37 Speaker 2

You would say you got to the enemy.

00:40:41 Speaker 1

Oh, I think so.

00:40:42 Speaker 1

I think so, yes.

00:40:44 Speaker 2

Last night.

00:40:46 Speaker 2

Did you have any experiences against German tanks?

00:40:51 Speaker 2

Do you see your tank fire?

00:40:53 Speaker 1

No, not the German tanks, but there were a lot of experience with their own tanks.

00:40:59 Speaker 1

And.

00:41:02 Speaker 1

There was one incident there and there was our own tanks.

00:41:05 Speaker 1

Were.

00:41:06 Speaker 1

We were laying on embankment.

00:41:08 Speaker 1

We actually fired at the enemy. We could.

00:41:11 Speaker 1

We could see them.

00:41:14 Speaker 1

And it didn't look good for us because they were advancing guns and the next thing I knew.

00:41:23 Speaker 1

Our tanks come up the street and I was weighing on my stomach firing and leaving the embankment.

00:41:32 Speaker 1

And they swung.

00:41:34 Speaker 1

And they had a lot of Algerian shining tanks.

00:41:39 Speaker 1

Swung. Swung the ball right over me. Running over my head and a couple of blasts went off my I couldn't hear for two weeks after that.

00:41:51 Speaker 1

Funny.

00:41:54 Speaker 1

I didn't see any of their.

00:41:55 Speaker 1

No, not not the combat I was in.

00:41:59 Speaker 3

Share.

00:41:59 Speaker 2

What do you?

00:42:01 Speaker 2

About the destruction done to the German towns that you were fighting.

00:42:07 Speaker 1

I remember the town of Nuremberg.

00:42:12 Speaker 1

But was forced to be very interesting in news four years.

00:42:19 Speaker 1

One city.

00:42:21 Speaker 1

In another city it was.

00:42:24 Speaker 1

It was an inner city and other city.

00:42:28 Speaker 1

In the devastation was absolutely terrible.

00:42:34 Speaker 1

You could walk up the street at night and you could hear people's.

00:42:39 Speaker 1

How do they rubble speaking?

00:42:42 Speaker 1

You.

00:42:43 Speaker 1

You couldn't see them.

00:42:46 Speaker 1

They were just trying to survive.

00:42:49 Speaker 1

It was terrible. It's terrible to watch.

00:42:53 Speaker 1

Another time.

00:42:57 Speaker 1

We went to a.

00:42:59 Speaker 1

Going through it, I think this is.

00:43:03 Speaker 1

Salvation.

00:43:07 Speaker 1

We must have had some flame throwers.

00:43:12 Speaker 1

And I saw many Germans that had been.

00:43:15 Speaker 1

I think I think they were in caves and they can point out.

00:43:21 Speaker 1

We got there after after that happened but.

00:43:25 Speaker 1

Sure.

00:43:26 Speaker 1

There were many, many Germans of world.

00:43:31 Speaker 1

Charcoal.

00:43:33 Speaker 2

Worth payment.

00:43:34 Speaker 1

Body using pretty, you know.

00:43:38 Speaker 2

What are?

00:43:39 Speaker 2

Thoughts towards the Germans at the time.

00:43:47 Speaker 1

I wanted.

00:43:48 Speaker 1

I wanted to hate them.

00:43:54 Speaker 1

From my experience, I had a lot of respect for the Germans and engineers and.

00:43:56 Speaker 1

Find.

00:44:05 Speaker 1

People.

00:44:07 Speaker 1

Who were able to get production?

00:44:10 Speaker 1

They had.

00:44:11 Speaker 1

They had many things. They had a breakfast cereal that was.

00:44:17 Speaker 1

The originated from the rock of a tree.

00:44:23 Speaker 1

And they also had.

00:44:26 Speaker 1

They had.

00:44:30 Speaker 3

But I have.

00:44:31 Speaker 1

Weapons in the world almost comparable to.

00:44:35 Speaker 1

They had an 88 year that was comparable to to the 75 that we had on the shelman tanks.

00:44:44 Speaker 1

And we had a work gun that just sounded like a burp and.

00:44:50 Speaker 1

I know how many rounds we fired in a few seconds, you know.

00:44:53 Speaker 2

So the times you remember being under broke gunfire.

00:44:57 Speaker 1

Yes, yes, I remember that.

00:45:01 Speaker 1

I remember going down the street.

00:45:05 Speaker 1

At night and.

00:45:09 Speaker 1

I forget where we were, but there was a.

00:45:12 Speaker 1

Was a barrier.

00:45:14 Speaker 1

Right across the street so that our tanks couldn't get through.

00:45:21 Speaker 1

We fall around the barrier and.

00:45:26 Speaker 1

And they were waiting for.

00:45:27 Speaker 1

They had their guns aimed at this particular barrier.

00:45:33 Speaker 1

And they were guns.

00:45:37 Speaker 1

We survived that we.

00:45:39 Speaker 1

We were able to one and use logs to build a huge fence.

00:45:45 Speaker 1

So we were able to knock it down.

00:45:49 Speaker 1

Continue our March forward.

00:45:53 Speaker 1

We know at Frankfurt.

00:45:56 Speaker 1

Frankfurt on main.

00:45:59 Speaker 1

I guess they called it.

00:46:00 Speaker 1

Crossed the.

00:46:04 Speaker 1

We cross the line river to establish a beach in.

00:46:10

Actually.

00:46:12 Speaker 1

And it was at 1:00 in the morning that we did it.

00:46:18 Speaker 1

And.

00:46:20

Like.

00:46:21 Speaker 1

Moonshine. You can see them in.

00:46:24 Speaker 1

It was.

00:46:25 Speaker 1

It was not the best night to cross a river.

00:46:29 Speaker 1

Can we run the fire?

00:46:33 Speaker 1

Crossing.

00:46:35 Speaker 1

And I lost a couple of men in my boat, and we had one boat.

00:46:44 Speaker 1

And.

00:46:47 Speaker 1

The men didn't want to.

00:46:51 Speaker 1

Wanted to duck down and I was like trying to explain to them.

00:46:56 Speaker 1

It.

00:46:56 Speaker 1

A wooden boat and it wasn't going to do any good.

00:47:01 Speaker 1

And.

00:47:03 Speaker 1

I ended up.

00:47:05 Speaker 1

Having with my bar using my bar as a pedal.

00:47:11 Speaker 1

To give on the other side.

00:47:14 Speaker 1

And I had a backpack.

00:47:19 Speaker 1

I guess I got shot off my back because I didn't have it when I got off to you on the other side.

00:47:27 Speaker 1

But we did establish a beachhead there.

00:47:34 Speaker 1

I had a bad experience when it was okay.

00:47:39 Speaker 1

I confronted a.

00:47:43 Speaker 1

German soldier.

00:47:47 Speaker 1

I was able to hear to the draw I guess.

00:47:54

For doctor.

00:47:55 Speaker 2

What is that like, Sir? To be 19 years old and to be part of a position where it's killed or be killed?

00:48:06 Speaker 1

You just do it.

00:48:09 Speaker 1

I guess it's part. It was part of the training.

00:48:12 Speaker 1

It was part of the training what you had to do.

00:48:20 Speaker 2

Well trained and that encounter was just once you reached on the other on the German side of the Rye River. That encounter with the German.

00:48:30 Speaker 1

When we establish the beach and we try to expand it and it is a beach house, a boat house, I guess you'd call it.

00:48:44 Speaker 1

And I was just.

00:48:47 Speaker 1

Going around and I I met this person face to face.

00:48:53 Speaker 1

But I was able to get my rifle around before he he had a pistol.

00:49:02 Speaker 1

Floral before he had a chance to get me.

00:49:05 Speaker 2

He could have been a German officer.

00:49:08 Speaker 1

It was the German officer because.

00:49:12 Speaker 1

If there's AI had, I was.

00:49:18 Speaker 2

He'll have to go into.

00:49:20 Speaker 2

Well, I I.

00:49:20 Speaker 1

Kind of panicked.

00:49:24 Speaker 1

And I went back to the CP.

00:49:27 Speaker 1

Where the captain was the captain knew that that I was always in trouble.

00:49:35 Speaker 1

So he haunted me to go back and get that man's pistol, and I did.

00:49:43 Speaker 1

And I brought it back to the captain, he said to.

00:49:49 Speaker 1

Me.

00:49:53 Speaker 2

Was it a luger?

00:49:54 Speaker 2

Was it a luger?

00:49:56 Speaker 1

It was a.

00:49:59 Speaker 1

It was made by Luger.

00:50:01 Speaker 2

I don't know much about German piece of rock.

00:50:03 Speaker 1

It was a, he said.

00:50:06 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, ppk.

00:50:07 Speaker 1

It was a PPK.

00:50:12 Speaker 1

Or it's in the family.

00:50:13 Speaker 2

That's great.

00:50:14 Speaker 1

In the family.

00:50:15

That's great.

00:50:17 Speaker 2

Good for.

00:50:18 Speaker 2

I've had a lot of veterans that they got souvenirs from overseas and then back in like the 1960s and 70s.

00:50:26 Speaker 2

There would be these sleazy guys that would come and say, hey, I'll pay you 20 bucks for that and.

00:50:31 Speaker 2

They would sell it.

00:50:32 Speaker 2

And now you know they wish they could.

00:50:34 Speaker 1

No, it's in the family. Yes, yeah.

00:50:34 Speaker 2

Their family.

00:50:36 Speaker 2

That's great.

00:50:40 Speaker 2

I appreciate you sharing that story, Sir.

00:50:45 Speaker 2

I still think you know it's incredible how your eyes were 1819 years old, fighting for your life. And we have 1819 year olds today who go to safe spaces if they don't like what they hear.

00:50:47

Cow.

00:50:52 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:50:59 Speaker 2

And so it's.

00:51:00 Speaker 2

You know you.

00:51:00 Speaker 2

You as your just.

00:51:03 Speaker 1

When you get into that kind of an environment, you you go up.

00:51:08 Speaker 1

Real fast, so that that's what happens.

00:51:11

What is the?

00:51:14 Speaker 1

Experience is that I can't swim when I couldn't swim then I can't swim now.

00:51:19 Speaker 1

So that's why I was paddling with my BAR.

00:51:26 Speaker 2

I just interviewed a veteran up in Vermont.

00:51:28 Speaker 2

He had a drowning experience when he was a kid and he was fighting in Italy.

00:51:34 Speaker 2

He had to cross.

00:51:35 Speaker 2

It's called the Rapido River, where and then ended up putting a Bailey bridge.

00:51:40 Speaker 2

But they were under fire.

00:51:43 Speaker 2

They weren't under fire at that time, but the river moved very fast and so the bridge moving.

00:51:49 Speaker 2

And.

00:51:49 Speaker 2

And he says that he saw guys ahead of him running across the Bailey Bridge.

00:51:54 Speaker 3

But he was.

00:51:55 Speaker 2

So afraid of the water, he says.

00:51:57 Speaker 2

Don't care what?

00:51:58 Speaker 2

I don't care if they shoot me from behind.

00:52:00 Speaker 2

He got on his hands and knees and crawled 1 by 1. He thinks they took him back 25 minutes to go from here to there.

00:52:09 Speaker 2

And so you know I.

00:52:10 Speaker 2

In the water.

00:52:12 Speaker 2

So I can't fault you guys.

00:52:16 Speaker 2

The only other thing I wanted to ask you about.

00:52:20 Speaker 2

Was.

00:52:23 Speaker 2

German snipers. My understanding is that oftentimes in the towns, the Germans would hide up in the church towers. Is that accurate?

00:52:35 Speaker 1

Yes, I saw it just one time where we were.

00:52:40 Speaker 1

We were in a home, a German home and we were up in the second level.

00:52:45 Speaker 1

Guess there was two family and.

00:52:50 Speaker 1

And there was a sniper, a German sniper, but he wasn't in the church tower.

00:52:56 Speaker 1

He was in in.

00:52:57 Speaker 1

An attic of a home that had a.

00:53:01 Speaker 1

A window where you could open it and put his rifle to the window and.

00:53:12 Speaker 1

We took care of him, you know.

00:53:16 Speaker 1

But that's that's a snipe sniping out of those.

00:53:21 Speaker 2

I heard some.

00:53:22 Speaker 2

You know, sometimes these snipers, they were so arrogant they would keep firing.

00:53:27 Speaker 1

Yes, that's all I.

00:53:28 Speaker 1

Wouldn't quit until we got them.

00:53:33

And I.

00:53:34 Speaker 1

Yeah, my number wouldn't trick.

00:53:37 Speaker 1

Was he was bald headed?

00:53:40 Speaker 1

I don't know if he was a germinate and he wasn't withering the soldier or not, but he was balling and he had a rifle, so he was the enemy.

00:53:51 Speaker 2

Maybe that's why he was.

00:53:53 Speaker 2

Angry at the world?

00:53:59 Speaker 2

No, that's natural back then at.

00:54:03 Speaker 2

Age.

00:54:05 Speaker 3

So that's an interesting aspect.

00:54:08 Speaker 3

What about the the knife you have and the the special the knot?

00:54:11

And.

00:54:18 Speaker 3

The specs knot the the special soldiers of young kids.

00:54:23 Speaker 1

Or the younger the deuteran.

00:54:24 Speaker 2

Yes.

00:54:28 Speaker 1

The deuteran that was it, was a group of young kids that were trying to sabotage our our camps and our equipment.

00:54:43 Speaker 1

And I caught one guy and I took. I took.

00:54:48 Speaker 1

Away from him and I, I took it home.

00:54:53 Speaker 1

And it's still in the family.

00:54:58 Speaker 1

Spending.

00:54:59 Speaker 2

No, I I.

00:55:01 Speaker 2

I just appreciate you sharing what you have.

00:55:04 Speaker 2

I'm sure.

00:55:07

Yeah.

00:55:07 Speaker 2

I understand you know.

00:55:08 Speaker 3

For that, as you tell this story.

00:55:12 Speaker 3

Oh no, there's a.

00:55:19 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, you heard this.

00:55:24

I did what?

00:55:25 Speaker 2

He wants you to.

00:55:25 Speaker 2

Is hold and tell the story.

00:55:27 Speaker 2

Say that.

00:55:28 Speaker 2

Again, and then you unsheathe.

00:55:30 Speaker 2

And show the camera.

00:55:33 Speaker 2

Is there a popping tires right there talking tires?

00:55:36 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:55:37 Speaker 2

So if you wouldn't mind if you say that story and.

00:55:41 Speaker 2

Then you can.

00:55:42 Speaker 2

The camera. This is what I.

00:55:45 Speaker 1

OK.

00:55:47 Speaker 1

Yeah, we we had to.

00:55:51 Speaker 1

We.

00:55:52 Speaker 1

We we kept a God kept on God and to.

00:55:57 Speaker 1

But what we had because there were, there were some people that really, really disliked us for coming over there and doing what we were doing.

00:56:09 Speaker 1

So one night we.

00:56:13 Speaker 3

Call dad.

00:56:13 Speaker 1

Check a few of these little guys and then what we found out that they were part of what they called the Deutsche Yoga and these young teenagers, I guess were were just trying to sabotage what they couldn't and they were.

00:56:32 Speaker 1

So they were punching holes in the tires of our equipment too.

00:56:37 Speaker 1

This is what I I took away from one guy.

00:56:43 Speaker 1

Who I was able to get it on as a relic.

00:56:48 Speaker 2

What was that like when you guys were?

00:56:51 Speaker 2

You know, not only did you face the German soldiers, but you faced.

00:56:57 Speaker 2

Kids with weapons and they had the mindset that they were going to kill you.

00:57:03 Speaker 1

But it was, you know, it was a difficult thing to do that I don't ever remember.

00:57:12 Speaker 1

That we killed any younger kid just because they usually ran.

00:57:18 Speaker 1

Who could catch?

00:57:19 Speaker 1

We did, if we could. We didn't.

00:57:22 Speaker 1

That was it.

00:57:24 Speaker 2

Do you remember coming across any S troops?

00:57:29 Speaker 1

I believe that that guy had bullets. Who was a nurses.

00:57:35 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:57:37 Speaker 1

I think he was because he charged a person. He didn't have a rifle.

00:57:42 Speaker 1

That's my belief.

00:57:44 Speaker 2

And I just wanted to ask Mr.

00:57:51 Speaker 2

You mentioned that you became a squad leader.

00:57:55 Speaker 2

Was that after the war was over or during combat, you were a squad leader.

00:58:01 Speaker 1

When I go over there in to the Ripple labels.

00:58:06 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:58:08 Speaker 1

I was a Sergeant.

00:58:10 Speaker 1

Hey Cortana.

00:58:14 Speaker 1

Female.

00:58:18 Speaker 1

When we came to a pause in the action.

00:58:22 Speaker 1

On a record, so seem to have caught up with us.

00:58:27

I guess.

00:58:28 Speaker 1

And the captain in my outfit discovered that I was drawing the sergeants pain, and I had to admit that I was hit Sergeant.

00:58:37 Speaker 1

So that's when they put me in charge of the they gave me a platoon.

00:58:43 Speaker 1

Soon after that, I became a staff Sergeant.

00:58:48 Speaker 2

Can you talk about the responsibilities of being an NCO?

00:58:55 Speaker 2

Especially, you know, in a combat zone.

00:58:58 Speaker 1

In a combat zone, you will worry about about the people that.

00:59:05 Speaker 1

Under you that.

00:59:08 Speaker 1

You turn into protect.

00:59:11 Speaker 1

So will you just your own life? You have to worry about?

00:59:15 Speaker 1

Got a responsibility of.

00:59:20 Speaker 1

Your men will be in healthy.

00:59:24 Speaker 1

Not making too many mistakes.

00:59:29 Speaker 2

Did you?

00:59:29 Speaker 2

Go to any of the reunions after the war.

00:59:32 Speaker 2

For the 80th.

00:59:37 Speaker 1

No way. I didn't like to go to reunions or anything like that because.

00:59:44 Speaker 1

I was convinced that the war was over and there wasn't anything that I was really proud of just going over there and hating people and having to to fight.

00:59:59 Speaker 1

People that I didn't even know, you know.

01:00:02 Speaker 1

And I wasn't too happy.

01:00:03 Speaker 1

I.

01:00:04 Speaker 1

I was not.

01:00:05 Speaker 1

I didn't consider myself a hero or anything like that.

01:00:09 Speaker 1

I just just let it be.

01:00:14 Speaker 1

I had a chance to go back not too long ago. Not too long ago.

01:00:17 Speaker 1

He had refused.

01:00:18 Speaker 1

I I don't want to go back and think of the devastation that was over there.

01:00:23 Speaker 3

In fact.

01:00:24 Speaker 2

Absolutely. I would ask you to.

01:00:30 Speaker 2

Change your way of thinking a little bit that.

01:00:34 Speaker 2

You know you want to set over there to go hate people.

01:00:37 Speaker 2

Mean we.

01:00:38 Speaker 2

Sent there to stop some real evil that was taking over the world.

01:00:43 Speaker 1

Well, I didn't go over there to do that, to hate people.

01:00:49

Thanks.

01:00:50 Speaker 1

I went over there to do what I was asked to do.

01:00:54 Speaker 1

But the most important thing to me at the time was to get back home again because I had a pretty.

01:01:03 Speaker 1

Life here.

01:01:05 Speaker 1

That was it.

01:01:09 Speaker 2

Can you tell me did you go?

01:01:11 Speaker 2

With anyone and.

01:01:12 Speaker 2

Were overseas.

01:01:14 Speaker 1

Yes, I was going steady with my wife with my girlfriend.

01:01:21 Speaker 2

What's your name?

01:01:23 Speaker 1

Call me.

01:01:24 Speaker 1

Call me.

01:01:29 Speaker 1

I was in the service for three years and she wrote to me every.

01:01:36 Speaker 1

Day that I was in the service. Of course I didn't get them.

01:01:39 Speaker 1

I didn't get the mail every day where I was, but I got every letter that she wrote in bunches.

01:01:49 Speaker 1

And.

01:01:51 Speaker 1

As soon as I got home, we talked about marriage and that was the deal.

01:01:56 Speaker 2

How long were you guys married?

01:01:58 Speaker 1

We were married for 70 years.

01:02:02 Speaker 3

Good grief.

01:02:03 Speaker 1

Four years ago, she passed away.

01:02:06 Speaker 2

Well.

01:02:09 Speaker 2

So.

01:02:12

OK.

01:02:12 Speaker 2

You.

01:02:13 Speaker 2

You didn't prove others, but did she keep the letters?

01:02:15 Speaker 2

Would write back.

01:02:17 Speaker 1

I really don't know when I.

01:02:20 Speaker 1

I really don't know. We haven't.

01:02:31 Speaker 1

Back to her.

01:02:38 Speaker 2

The only other thing is, could you tell us about your experiences at Nuremberg?

01:02:43 Speaker 2

My understanding is that you were a witness.

01:02:45 Speaker 2

The trials.

01:02:48 Speaker 1

I I.

01:02:50 Speaker 1

When the war was over, when they declared a peace.

01:02:57 Speaker 1

We started to come home.

01:02:59 Speaker 1

I didn't quite have the enough.

01:03:03 Speaker 1

I think we were on a point.

01:03:05 Speaker 1

I didn't have the points to come home, so I transferred. They transferred me.

01:03:12 Speaker 1

To the First Division, the big one. I guess they call it.

01:03:19 Speaker 1

And I had for some reason.

01:03:21 Speaker 1

I I ended up at the end trials.

01:03:27 Speaker 1

I don't remember if I was there as a soldier or as a visitor, but I remember sitting in the first balcony looking straight down at the.

01:03:42 Speaker 3

During.

01:03:44 Speaker 1

Hess and Gibbles and a few other guys that I didn't, I don't remember.

01:03:52 Speaker 1

That was quite an experience.

01:03:54 Speaker 1

To me.

01:03:56 Speaker 2

That's really that's seeing evil up close.

01:04:00 Speaker 1

Yes, yes, we were all close.

01:04:04 Speaker 2

Should you talk to us about your your, how you came back?

01:04:08 Speaker 2

And your reunion with your family.

01:04:11 Speaker 2

You first came back home.

01:04:18 Speaker 1

How many family?

01:04:22 Speaker 3

Was the process like to come?

01:04:23 Speaker 3

From something like that.

01:04:25 Speaker 3

It's all done. You come home.

01:04:28 Speaker 3

Is there a parade for you?

01:04:30 Speaker 1

There's no there is no.

01:04:33 Speaker 1

When the war was over.

01:04:37 Speaker 1

I remember discharge.

01:04:42 Speaker 1

I remember you coming home and leaving.

01:04:47 Speaker 1

And coming home on the MBTA, I just can't get off of bus night until I think I had a duffel bag.

01:04:57 Speaker 1

By the grammar school that I used to go to school and just happened to one of the teachers was looking out the window.

01:05:05 Speaker 1

So born here.

01:05:07 Speaker 1

And she recognized me and we went.

01:05:10 Speaker 1

She called me and asked me that day. So I went to come back to the school before I took my uniform off and made the children.

01:05:21

Shakespeare.

01:05:22 Speaker 1

That was my experience.

01:05:24 Speaker 1

There was no no celebration.

01:05:26 Speaker 1

Wasn't anything like.

01:05:28 Speaker 1

I I'm just glad to get home.

01:05:30 Speaker 1

My mother was waiting for me.

01:05:33 Speaker 2

That must have been such.

01:05:34 Speaker 2

Nice reunion to see your mom again.

01:05:36 Speaker 1

Tell me a.

01:05:43 Speaker 1

During those tenure as a soldier.

01:05:50 Speaker 2

She wants to.

01:05:51 Speaker 2

Praying every day for all three of the boys.

01:05:54 Speaker 2

Your mom must've been praying.

01:05:56 Speaker 2

Day for all three of the boys.

01:05:57 Speaker 1

Yes, yes. My older brother was still in law.

01:06:02 Speaker 1

Still flying somewhere?

01:06:05 Speaker 1

Yes. Yeah.

01:06:06 Speaker 2

My only two things here is what advice would you like to give to future generations?

01:06:21 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:06:22 Speaker 2

I mean, if you could talk to your great, great, great, great, great.

01:06:26 Speaker 2

What is something you want them to know?

01:06:31 Speaker 3

Jump.

01:06:35 Speaker 1

You don't love your country to first thing.

01:06:38 Speaker 1

Make sure you love your country.

01:06:41 Speaker 1

You love your family and be good to each other.

01:06:45 Speaker 1

And not try to.

01:06:47 Speaker 1

As.

01:06:48 Speaker 1

Start any controversy so that we may lead to a World War.

01:06:54 Speaker 1

What time?

01:06:56 Speaker 1

That's my advice I have.

01:06:58 Speaker 1

Have a grandson that.

01:07:02 Speaker 1

That fold me around and so that he had to get into the Marines and he did very well. He did.

01:07:10 Speaker 1

Excellent. He was.

01:07:13 Speaker 1

He was in the heavy equipment over in Afghanistan.

01:07:18 Speaker 1

And you come over as our captain.

01:07:24 Speaker 1

Very proud of him.

01:07:27 Speaker 2

What kind of person do you want people to always think?

01:07:31 Speaker 2

You as.

01:07:33 Speaker 3

Thank you so much for saying.

01:07:36 Speaker 1

Like to have people think of me as being a person that.

01:07:46 Speaker 1

Calls it the way it is.

01:07:51 Speaker 1

And is honest with people and himself.

01:07:57 Speaker 1

And just being a good citizen.

01:08:02 Speaker 1

And and and love love.

01:08:07 Speaker 1

And and this country.

01:08:09 Speaker 1

That's who I would like to be. That's what I am.