

Wesley M. Voorhis Interview

Company I, 318th Inf Reg

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Rod Gragg)

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

00:00:00 Speaker 1

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00:00:20 Speaker 1

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00:00:37 Speaker 1

On the campus of Coastal Carolina University, the Center for Military and Veteran Studies is pleased.

00:00:44 Speaker 1

Present military memoirs.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

Hello and welcome to military memoirs. I'm Rod Gragg and our guest for this program is Mr. Wesley Voris, who is a World War 2 combat veteran who served in the Normandy Campaign and with General George Patton's Third Army across Europe. It's a real pleasure to have.

00:01:13 Speaker 2

You here, Sir? Thank you for calling.

00:01:15 Speaker 1

Now you were telling me earlier that you grew up in New Jersey? Yes. Did you ever think that you were going to grow up to?

00:01:22 Speaker 1

Be a soldier.

00:01:23 Speaker 2

Who was far from it? I thought I would might be a pilot.

00:01:28 Speaker 2

I was interested in aircraft.

00:01:30 Speaker 2

And did a lot of little.

00:01:33 Speaker 2

Aircraft restorations and things.

00:01:36 Speaker 1

Like that? Tell me about your family in New Jersey.

00:01:39 Speaker 2

Well, it's one of the oldest families in New Jersey and and Long Island actually it's.

00:01:47 Speaker 2

A real old name, as far as I know. They come over in 16 something.

00:01:51 Speaker 2

And.

00:01:53 Speaker 2

They made themselves a.

00:01:56 Speaker 2

Learn for themselves. People like to hire my grandfather because he was honest and and did excellent work.

00:02:05 Speaker 2

And he was on the board of directors for.

00:02:10 Speaker 2

Ardell, New Jersey and on the fire department. So he was part of the community.

00:02:16 Speaker 1

And who are your parents and what did they?

00:02:17 Speaker 2

Do well. My mother stayed home and took care of my sister and I and my father was a mission contractor years ago, he said he wanted to be a dentist, but he didn't.

00:02:30 Speaker 2

Get there? He ended up in the Police Department and worked his way through many of.

00:02:39 Speaker 2

Fingerprinting and photography work and ended up as chief of police.

00:02:45 Speaker 1

What was it like to be a student growing up in the 1930s and early 40s?

00:02:54 Speaker 2

The third grade I remember I made.

00:02:59 Speaker 2

We had the class was a good student, but the 4th grade went downhill.

00:03:06 Speaker 1

But you were very good with your hands. You made all sorts of things and you were sharing me, sharing with me earlier, that constructing aircraft, all kinds of extraordinary projects.

00:03:18 Speaker 1

In your apartment? Well, let me ask this. What caused you to enlist?

00:03:23 Speaker 1

In the United States Army, in the midst of World War 2.

00:03:27 Speaker 2

Well, what happened was I was with my school buddy friends.

00:03:33 Speaker 2

And my friend was just down the street, was an avid outdoorsman, and he said.

00:03:40 Speaker 2

Have you ever heard the?

00:03:42 Speaker 2

Ski troops and I said no, he said. Well, what do you say?

00:03:46 Speaker 2

We join them.

00:03:48 Speaker 2

I said that sounds good. I like that idea. I was an outdoorsman too. And we got all of another fella. That's how much at that time, his name.

00:04:00 Speaker 2

Was and my brother's name was Parker Summers.

00:04:04 Speaker 2

And that later on, I'll tell you about.

00:04:08 Speaker 2

But we joined the ski troops, which turned out to be the 10th Light Mountain Division in Colorado at Cape Hill, Colorado.

00:04:17 Speaker 2

And it was 9500 foot altitude from New Jersey, which was an altitude of about 800 feet after I got.

00:04:24 Speaker 1

How did you react to that?

00:04:29 Speaker 2

I think they called it a sickness from attitude.

00:04:34 Speaker 2

And.

00:04:35 Speaker 2

I had the boots that they gave me were lock locks and they had no support for the arches and the arches broke down because I was carrying a heavy machine gun and one morning when revelry I couldn't get out of bed. I was so worried.

00:04:55 Speaker 2

Everybody was out there with me and now here I am in the barracks. How can I tell people that my I couldn't put my feet on the floor?

00:05:02 Speaker 2

Well, evidently it must have happened before, but they understood.

00:05:06 Speaker 1

Where you had this training in the ski troops, but typical perhaps of what happened sometimes in in the military. That's not where you went. You found yourself as a Rifleman in the company, 1300 and 18th.

00:05:18 Speaker 2

Oh yeah.

00:05:23 Speaker 1

Infantry division.

00:05:25 Speaker 1

3rd U.S. Army and you found yourself landing in Normandy on D-Day, +2 to days after the landings that occurred on June 6th, 1944, and the fighting then was still tremendous and it would continue that way for months.

00:05:44 Speaker 1

To come in in Normandy. So do you remember when you first came ashore in France and Normandy at at Utah Beach? What that felt like?

00:05:53 Speaker 2

Well, I was with a bunch of guys and I had no idea what we were in for and I really didn't know what happened the first day. I had no idea we were out in the middle of the water and when that gate went down, we all went ashore and we're very hopeful to get to the beach, which we weren't very far from.

00:06:16 Speaker 2

We're all knee deep in water, thank goodness.

00:06:18 Speaker 2

And we made the beach and went up through the designated area.

00:06:23 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:06:24 Speaker 2

And we didn't go too far when they stopped us and held us there for a while.

00:06:29 Speaker 1

Well, a Utah beach was notorious for the land mines that the Germans had planted there, and even on Day 2, two days after D-Day, there was still a lot of danger from land mines. I would assume on Utah Beach.

00:06:42 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:06:44 Speaker 2

We were a little worried about.

00:06:45 Speaker 1

That so you moved in and then how? And pretty soon you were engaged in combat. Do you remember that first exposure? What that was like.

00:06:50 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:06:54 Speaker 2

What?

00:06:57 Speaker 2

I don't know how everybody else felt, but it was a game to me.

00:07:01 Speaker 2

And my buddy and I used to practice in the little forest that we had around our houses with the 20 twos and dummy shelves. Of course, you know, blanks.

00:07:14 Speaker 2

It upset the neighbors a little bit, but we we had training like that when we were little, so it was almost like that really.

00:07:23 Speaker 2

That once you get hit, you realize.

00:07:27 Speaker 2

They really need it, don't they?

00:07:29 Speaker 1

So you realize this was pretty serious pretty quickly. Do you remember when you first came under fire?

00:07:36 Speaker 2

Well.

00:07:37 Speaker 2

And.

00:07:39 Speaker 2

It was serious business and.

00:07:42 Speaker 2

We took it as it came. We had to play the gay Isaac folded, you know. So when we got came under fire and we fell back.

00:07:53 Speaker 2

We didn't have to worry about a target. You just shot the gun off in the position where we thought that might enemy might be. And after the day was over, we found out that a couple of guys have been hit.

00:08:05 Speaker 2

And.

00:08:06 Speaker 2

One of the fellows had a murder land between his legs when he was laying in the road, but fortunately it didn't go off.

00:08:12 Speaker 2

And I didn't speak to him after that. I didn't get a chance to talk to him or anything.

00:08:18 Speaker 2

I don't think he could talk anyway. He was a nice guy from Tennessee.

00:08:24

Well.

00:08:26 Speaker 1

The the campaign in Normandy lasted throughout the summer and the fighting was really heavy and your 300 and 18th was kind of there in the in the thick of it. And eventually you were engaged down South of the French city of Cannes.

00:08:47 Speaker 1

To the to the east of Saint Low.

00:08:50 Speaker 1

And you were there.

00:08:53 Speaker 1

On the 18th of August and you were involved in a firefight in uh in which you were wounded. Can you talk about that?

00:09:02 Speaker 2

Yeah, we were on a hill and we were getting shelled that one night and the next morning they decided that we were free enough to go off the hill and up the next hill into the forested area and take that area. And we came under heavy fire and.

00:09:21 Speaker 2

I hit the ground and the machine gun bullet caught my first day pouch and and took all the stuff from the first aid pouch, the bandage and all the other stuff in it through the wound.

00:09:35 Speaker 2

And when I got to the hospital, they didn't know what hit me. They thought the Germans had had a a different kind.

00:09:40 Speaker 2

Kind of a shell or whatever it was when I showed him the first date pouch. Then they knew that it was plastic that was all inside the wound, and it took quite a while because the wound was deep.

00:09:52 Speaker 2

And they had to keep it open until they were able to get all that.

00:09:56 Speaker 1

Stuff out. What did you think when you were hit?

00:09:59 Speaker 2

Ah, I knew what happened. I knew I'd been hit, but it didn't feel like a.

00:10:06 Speaker 2

A knife boom would have it would felt like a 2 by 4 slapped me pretty hard and what it did was hit a lot of the nerves and then nerves were deadened.

00:10:16 Speaker 2

So that the.

00:10:19 Speaker 2

Hurt didn't feel as bad as it could.

00:10:21 Speaker 2

Have.

00:10:22 Speaker 1

Well, one of the things that you have failed to mention is that your actions at that.

00:10:29 Speaker 1

Moment when you were wounded earned you the Bronze star, and we'll be back in a moment and we'll ask you to tell us about that. We'll be back in just a moment.

00:10:41 Speaker 3

They're all around us. They're the men and women who served in our nation's armed forces in good times and bad. They've been willing to stand in harm's way to preserve, protect and defend the legacy of freedom we enjoy as Americans. All of them gave some, and some of them gave.

00:11:02 Speaker 3

All we owe.

00:11:04 Speaker 3

Them a lot. So the next time you see an American veteran say thank you for all of us.

00:11:12 Speaker 1

Hello and welcome back to military memoirs. I'm Rod Gragg and we're interviewing Mr. Wesley Voris, who is a combat veteran of World War 2 European theater, the Normandy Campaign, and it was there in Normandy soon after D-Day that you were engaged in with the 80th Infantry Division.

00:11:32 Speaker 1

The 318th combat regimen.

00:11:36 Speaker 1

You are engaged with the Germans and you suffered a wound, but your actions there caused you to be awarded a Bronze star, which is was no small medal to receive in World War 2IN combat and and if you don't mind, I want to read from the official citation.

00:11:57 Speaker 1

Which was dated 24 September 1944.

00:12:00 Speaker 1

And it says that private voice, seriously wounded in the arm, proceeded to drag himself under direct enemy machine gun fire at ranges varying from 200 to 500 yards to high ground near by, from which he directed mortar fire on the enemy gun and mortar.

00:12:20 Speaker 1

Replacements his actions resulted in disposing of the enemy and the continued advance of our troops.

00:12:29 Speaker 1

So what did you think when you found yourself in the middle of that firefight? How did you know how to react?

00:12:36 Speaker 2

I think it was pretty much automatic. I've been used to having a rifle in my hands when I was a young kid.

00:12:43 Speaker 2

And I just did what I had to be doing.

00:12:46 Speaker 1

So you knew the enemy were there. You were really wounded, but you decided to drag yourself down there and that you directed mortar fire in on the enemy position until it was put out of Commission.

00:12:59 Speaker 2

Well, sometimes you do the things necessary.

00:13:04 Speaker 1

Well, how did you do that? You were a Pfc. You didn't have a radio. How did you direct mortar fire?

00:13:11 Speaker 2

And I yelled directions. Stay right up, right. As long as I could.

00:13:19 Speaker 2

Anyway.

00:13:20 Speaker 2

And do what I could until things quieted down.

00:13:25 Speaker 1

Well, this was automatic you say, but you also hear of veterans from all conflicts. Say that there is this real sense of commitment.

00:13:35 Speaker 1

To the troops around you and that motivates you to be willing or motivated you to be willing to, to display courage and to make sacrifices on their behalf.

00:13:48 Speaker 2

Automatic. That's the way the people from outside of the.

00:13:54 Speaker 2

The.

00:13:55 Speaker 2

Things that are happening word it, but you really don't think that way. You just do it.

00:14:01 Speaker 1

What is it you think that gave your generation, which has been called the greatest generation? What is it that gave your generation that that sense of duty?

00:14:11 Speaker 1

And that willingness to take sacrifices and to to try to do the right thing.

00:14:17 Speaker 2

Well, you gotta figure the time of.

00:14:22 Speaker 2

Years that have gone by since then.

00:14:26 Speaker 2

I think that everybody was a dedicated American when they came to the United States. They wanted to be American and.

00:14:35 Speaker 2

People who were born there took it for granted that you protect you know you.

00:14:41 Speaker 2

Do what they ask you to do.

00:14:44 Speaker 2

Now they've got dope problems and smoking and all the things that go wrong, and I don't think that the younger people today are as dedicated.

00:14:56 Speaker 2

That they should be like they did. They were dedicated, and now it's days. I just would say.

00:15:02 Speaker 1

Well, you have this bronze star here.

00:15:06 Speaker 1

And that you were awarded for this valor in combat, which no doubt saved a lot of American lives in that time and place. But at the time that you were engaged in this, you weren't thinking about heroics.

00:15:20 Speaker 2

Didn't even know about a bronze star to tell.

00:15:22 Speaker 2

You the truth.

00:15:25 Speaker 1

So how long? How long were you in the field hospital before you went back into combat?

00:15:31 Speaker 2

A couple of months, I think, yeah.

00:15:33 Speaker 1

Mm-hmm.

00:15:35 Speaker 2

Then when I went back and they put me in the repo depot where they put replacement.

00:15:41 Speaker 2

And.

00:15:43 Speaker 2

After.

00:15:44 Speaker 2

Being there for a while, not doing anything but pulling guard duty, I decided that it was time to get out there and do something again.

00:15:55 Speaker 2

So I grabbed the first truck that we're going to the front off and went and I ended up in the front field actually.

00:16:02 Speaker 1

You. So you you deserted to the front. OK, well, I don't guess anybody complained when you deserted to the front lines when you were wounded two times. Tell me about the other time.

00:16:06 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:16:16 Speaker 2

Well, the other time is when I was hitting the side and.

00:16:21 Speaker 1

Where were you then and what happened?

00:16:22 Speaker 2

Well.

00:16:24 Speaker 2

We ran into.

00:16:25 Speaker 2

An ambush in the forest.

00:16:27 Speaker 2

And I had to follow alongside of me that this was the first time he'd ever been in combat. He was a.

00:16:33 Speaker 2

And the two I heard the first shot. I grabbed him and told him to hit the ground and I hit the ground and I guess they heard my voice and they shot my direction and.

00:16:43 Speaker 2

They hit my first aid pouch.

00:16:45 Speaker 2

And then the bullet went through me and it took all the stuff from the fur trade pouch into the wound with.

00:16:51 Speaker 2

It.

00:16:52 Speaker 1

So you were wounded twice and the first, the first wound was was.

00:16:57 Speaker 1

Serious, but one you recovered quickly from the second wound.

00:17:02 Speaker 1

Ended up putting you back in. Yeah. You ended up having to be evacuated and taken back to England. What kind of treatment did you receive in the hospital?

00:17:05 Speaker 2

That was a little more serious.

00:17:10 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:17:14 Speaker 1

In England.

00:17:15 Speaker 2

Well, I tell you, I they picked me up in a C47 and flew me to the hospital in Southampton.

00:17:22 Speaker 2

And they looked over my room pretty carefully. And later on they asked me what, what hit me? Because they had no idea that we was kind of different than they've been used to seeing.

00:17:36 Speaker 2

And I showed him the first aid pouch, and then they found out that why there was so much of plastic shrapnel in the wound.

00:17:44 Speaker 2

And very strapped to a great big.

00:17:48 Speaker 2

What do you call those in my hand and and put me out so quick? I didn't know what happened. And first thing you know, I woke up and it was all cleaned out and I was in a nice clean bed.

00:17:53 Speaker 1

NIV.

00:18:07 Speaker 1

Well, and it took you a good while to recover from that wound, but you found yourself again, back, back in combat. And by this time the 3rd Army had engaged in the Battle of the Bulge and had moved into Germany. And you were engaged there at and with the 512th.

00:18:10 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:18:26 Speaker 1

Field artillery and what was the fighting like once you moved into Germany?

00:18:27 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:18:32 Speaker 2

Well, with almost none none.

00:18:37 Speaker 2

At that particular point, the Germans were on the run and war was soon over.

00:18:44 Speaker 2

So we didn't see any real heavy fighting at all, took her out of printers.

00:18:49 Speaker 2

People, they were given up and by that time they had boys and old men.

00:18:54 Speaker 2

That there.

00:18:56 Speaker 2

I had a name for them, but I forget what they called them, but anyway, they didn't want to fight.

00:19:01 Speaker 1

By then, at the at the, at the.

00:19:03 Speaker 2

End well, I worked at him. Fight for one thing.

00:19:07 Speaker 2

And they were anxious to.

00:19:10 Speaker 2

Because when they got into the prison camps, they were getting fed pretty good and treated good.

00:19:16 Speaker 1

We're back in France. Before you were evacuated with your serious wound to to England and you were engaged in the Normandy Campaign and the fighting in the summer of 1944. You mentioned earlier that you you actually witnessed an American aircraft fighter come down.

00:19:36 Speaker 1

Can you talk about that?

00:19:38 Speaker 2

Yeah, well, my buddy and I were in a foxhole and.

00:19:42 Speaker 2

We had been asleep. It was early morning and all of a sudden there was tracer bullets over the top of the foxhole.

00:19:50 Speaker 2

So I waited for a little while so that they it sounded like the guns weren't firing anymore. Before I peeked, and there was a fight going on about, oh, I would say 500 yards away from me to the right.

00:20:05 Speaker 2

And there was a I think it was the P51.

00:20:10 Speaker 2

Flying low and he had been hit and all of a sudden I don't know whether he jumped or had to go down with the plane. I have no idea. But he was only about 300 feet high. And when that plane started for the ground.

00:20:26 Speaker 2

We didn't. We didn't know where it was going to go. It's very hard for a guy on a foxhole to know where something was going to hit the ground.

00:20:35 Speaker 1

Let me see if I understand this correctly. So you're in Normandy and you're engaged, and then the combat at that time in the summer, 44 was ongoing day after day. So you're down in your foxhole. You wake up as early daylight and all this enemy fire is coming over your fox. So when it clears out, you look up and there is an American fighter.

00:20:56 Speaker 1

Aircraft that has apparently taken ground fire and it's coming your way. Yeah. So what did you do?

00:21:02 Speaker 2

Just sat there and watched you with me. Please. Anything you could do.

00:21:07 Speaker 2

We're just hoping that, you know, would hit open ground and it did. We lived through that one all right.

00:21:15 Speaker 1

Well, and and friendly fire was something that was a very dangerous. You had a you had a an encounter with that with an American tank.

00:21:23 Speaker 2

Well.

00:21:25 Speaker 2

Yeah, there was one spot there where we were taken to town for the third time and they sent our outfit in to take it again.

00:21:33 Speaker 2

And I said to a couple of fellas, well, they're not going to have a time to take it the fourth time. I'll tell you that, though. They fell in the tank.

00:21:44 Speaker 2

Center that the camera off at the end.

00:21:47 Speaker 2

Of the street.

00:21:48 Speaker 2

They took 40 prisoners out of that particular area after a while.

00:21:53 Speaker 2

But the concussion from the gunman bleeding into the ditch.

00:21:59 Speaker 2

And my feet went through the snow and ice into the water down below and got me a little wet, but it got me good and mad.

00:22:08 Speaker 2

Though.

00:22:09 Speaker 2

And I got up on the other side opposite the tank.

00:22:13 Speaker 2

And went into the house to check it out and found out it was booby trapped.

00:22:18 Speaker 1

And this was in Germany in the winter.

00:22:20 Speaker 2

Yeah. Yeah and.

00:22:23 Speaker 2

I had a concussion grenade.

00:22:25 Speaker 2

And I decided that I would throw that down the basement stair and.

00:22:31 Speaker 2

See what it could do if there's anybody down there or whatever.

00:22:34 Speaker 1

Or any ammunition. Or you said it was booby trapped. The Germans had apparently left some kind of munitions in there. Blow up in there as Americans came in.

00:22:41 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:22:42 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:22:45 Speaker 2

So anyway, I had never shot or pulled the pin on a concussion grenade, and it was a good size.

00:22:52 Speaker 2

And it blew me out of the house. Well, it didn't hurt me, except that it knocked me out a little bit and I ended up on the front lawn.

00:23:01 Speaker 2

And in the meantime, I had picked up a incendiary grenade that was German made and was all glass. So I said, well, this is a good time to get rid of that grenade. So I went back in the house. She looked the grenade room and took.

00:23:16 Speaker 2

Off.

00:23:16 Speaker 2

And set the house on fire when?

00:23:19 Speaker 2

Nobody else would.

00:23:21 Speaker 2

Go into that house and the booby trap go off where they wouldn't know it.

00:23:26 Speaker 2

The and that house connected to the next house and the next house. Well, maybe I'll bring the town down.

00:23:33 Speaker 2

I don't know.

00:23:35 Speaker 1

Well, what you do know is that you you put your own grenade in there because the house was booby trapped and it blew you out of the house. So I guess you could say that was very friendly fire that.

00:23:45 Speaker 2

Anyway.

00:23:45 Speaker 1

And dangerous at that time. Now you found yourself at Bitburg, Germany with the with the 300, with the 512th Field Artillery. Artillery generally is support for the infantry. You are a Rifleman infantry and then you found yourself with the artillery. But in this case you were telling me earlier the artillery did not lag behind the infantry.

00:23:47 Speaker 2

Yeah.

00:24:07 Speaker 2

Now the head of the outfit, I guess decided that.

00:24:13 Speaker 2

If things were clearing for him, so.

00:24:14 Speaker 2

He took off.

00:24:16 Speaker 2

And everybody went with them of.

00:24:19 Speaker 2

So.

00:24:21 Speaker 2

As it as it went, I became. I guess it was a wireman. I had to go up the poles and string wire and communications is what they put me in.

00:24:34 Speaker 2

And we got into a warehouse at that time that was full of four-star Kodiak.

00:24:43 Speaker 2

And guess who liberated it? Well, it was my job because I was small and I went through the window and handed up a few cases of Kodiak.

00:24:55 Speaker 1

So do you remember where you were when you heard that the Germans had surrendered and it was V?

00:25:02 Speaker 1

In Europe day.

00:25:04 Speaker 2

Well, as far as I knew at the time.

00:25:07 Speaker 2

Things kind of were over our heads. We didn't know who was going to do this or do that.

00:25:14 Speaker 2

That, but we ended up in Prague. I believe it was in a big circle and celebrating the idea that it was the end of the war.

00:25:23 Speaker 1

In Czechoslovakia.

00:25:24 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:25:26 Speaker 1

Well, what did? What did? How did?

00:25:28 Speaker 1

You feel at.

00:25:28 Speaker 2

That moment? Well, I I feel pretty elaborated and free. Really and.

00:25:37 Speaker 2

Until I got a fellow who shot alongside me by a fellow on the other side of the the room and showing somebody a gun and I didn't feel quite so safe as I should have.

00:25:51 Speaker 1

Even when the hostilities officially cease, you're still in danger in a war zone.

00:25:57 Speaker 2

There was a couple of times there that I was walking up a Main Street and in the middle of the war sometime someplace. I don't know where it was and all of a sudden that a shell.

00:26:08 Speaker 2

Hit the wall.

00:26:09 Speaker 2

Alongside of me and I was alone, I didn't have anybody around with.

00:26:13 Speaker 2

And it was a 20mm gun and.

00:26:18 Speaker 2

Hit the wall.

00:26:19 Speaker 2

Bounced on the ground in front of me, spinning.

00:26:24 Speaker 2

And I reached down to touch it, and it was so hot. I had to let it go.

00:26:30 Speaker 2

It was a.

00:26:30 Speaker 1

Little closer. This was around that came in, but it was a dead it it failed to explode.

00:26:35 Speaker 2

Nor was he spent round.

00:26:37 Speaker 1

Well, OK, I understand.

00:26:38 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah. Put a heck of a hole in.

00:26:40 Speaker 2

The wall, but, and you knew it.

00:26:41 Speaker 2

Could have been a hole in you. Yeah, well, it would have taken my head off, right. It's about that.

00:26:46 Speaker 2

About that height. Well, I was fortunate there. We looked been shot someplace, could have been 2 miles away.

00:26:53 Speaker 1

The war ended and you, you came back home to New Jersey and you worked in aviation in a variety of other fields. Later on, after a successful career, you moved to Florida.

00:27:07 Speaker 1

And you joined the US Coast Guard Auxiliary as a volunteer. You rode motorcycles. You built aircraft, you flew aircraft, and you have remained active up until your 90s.

00:27:23 Speaker 1

When you look back at World War 2.

00:27:26 Speaker 1

What is? What does your service?

00:27:29 Speaker 1

In that war mean to you.

00:27:31 Speaker 2

Well, I mean the dedication for one thing.

00:27:35 Speaker 2

And it was nice to have people come up to me now and thank me for my.

00:27:41 Speaker 2

Service, which means more now to me than it would have then.

00:27:46 Speaker 2

Good. I can't do things now.

00:27:49 Speaker 2

And we'd be proud.

00:27:53 Speaker 1

Well, we're very thankful for your service in World War 2, and we're very grateful for you coming on this program and and sharing your memories with us. And maybe we can wrap up this program by showing our viewers your Bronze star.

00:28:13 Speaker 1

And also.

00:28:16 Speaker 1

You were wounded twice and there's.

00:28:18 Speaker 1

A purple.

00:28:19 Speaker 1

Alright.

00:28:20 Speaker 1

And we want to thank you for your for your courage and for your sacrifice, for your love of country and for all that you've done for us.

00:28:30 Speaker 2

Yeah, there, there are times that do you think about things?

00:28:34 Speaker 2

And when you get older.

00:28:37 Speaker 2

That could have happened, but didn't. And.

00:28:41 Speaker 2

Every once in a while you get shook up a little bit.

00:28:44 Speaker 2

I remember when I was only home for a year or something like that and I was going with a girl for a little while.

00:28:53 Speaker 2

And she lived there herself, from New York. And there was a.

00:28:59 Speaker 2

Turntable up there for trains.

00:29:02 Speaker 2

And it was in the distance and.

00:29:06 Speaker 2

One time they let the whistle off and sound like a shell coming in.

00:29:13 Speaker 1

And you hit the hit the.

00:29:14 Speaker 2

Deck. Ohh, hit the deck just once.

00:29:17 Speaker 1

Well, we want to thank you so much for your service and we want to thank you for being with us on this program and we want to thank you too for joining us for military memoirs.

00:29:31 Speaker 1

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00:29:49 Speaker 1

And convenient locations.