

Robert Walker Interview #2

317th Inf Reg (S-2/Intelligence Officer)

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Mary Jane Robinson)

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

00:00:02 Speaker 1

Doubt they didn't even have Harvard, even though Harvard was started back practically in that time. But.

00:00:09 Speaker 1

Where were the greatest generation? What would they have done?

00:00:13 Speaker 1

With all the material things we have, would they have done a better job?

00:00:19 Speaker 1

Well, that's a weird way of putting because they they didn't happen. So I posed the question, but I have to take my hat off to him.

00:00:30 Speaker 1

The way they started this country.

00:00:32 Speaker 1

You just look around the world. Who else ever did it? Nobody.

00:00:37 Speaker 1

The United States of America was.

00:00:40 Speaker 1

Kind of a small nucleus of freedom loving and wanting people.

00:00:46 Speaker 1

Is that what we are made of today? Do we want that?

00:00:51 Speaker 1

Look at the Enron thing.

00:00:53 Speaker 1

What they bought was money.

00:00:56 Speaker 1

And so many weird.

00:00:58 Speaker 1

Thin.

00:01:00 Speaker 1

Slices are substituted for loyalty.

00:01:04 Speaker 1

And just give me one more million and yeah, I'll do it.

00:01:09 Speaker 1

And that seems to be the way people feel now in this country. And I think it's horrible, horrible.

00:01:15 Speaker 1

I just. Oh, what's his name? His first name. Lane was his last name. He was the chief of staff officer Bedron. He was on Eli Lilly's board of.

00:01:26 Speaker 2

Where you spend a lifetime.

00:01:27 Speaker 1

42 years.

00:01:29 Speaker 1

And you know, when I went to the stockholders meeting and he was regarded and introduced.

00:01:37 Speaker 1

As an honorable, outstanding fine to have on our board.

00:01:42 Speaker 1

Wow, that balloon certainly was.

00:01:46 Speaker 1

Burst when the whole thing collapsed, but he had sense enough to resign immediately.

00:01:52

Yeah.

00:01:56 Speaker 2

Yeah, it's unbelievable story.

00:01:58 Speaker 1

What do you do?

00:02:00 Speaker 1

Well, what would the reaction be 60 years later? Oh, come on. What do you mean, you how many?

00:02:08 Speaker 1

We counted them after injury and then I went to talk. And you know, our cup of coffee. And I thought we've lost that. And boy, they kept it and and streetcars quietly run down right from the pots and snake around through the city.

00:02:26 Speaker 1

They just all the streets are medieval. You cannot. I I had to laugh. They're so narrow. And you don't see people sweeping streets here. At least not every day. What they do there.

00:02:42 Speaker 1

But anyway, you remember the street in Weimar when we came down.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

And if it was so narrow that the.

00:02:51 Speaker 1

The phone out of your.

00:02:52 Speaker 1

That the fella I think he left it outside, didn't he?

00:02:55

Oh, I'm sorry.

00:02:57 Speaker 1

Ohh.

00:02:59 Speaker 1

There it is, yeah.

00:03:02 Speaker 1

The fellow just pull up on the sidewalk, let the other guy come by.

00:03:06 Speaker 1

They they're still cobblestone and they go back to the horse and wagon days and they do not.

00:03:15 Speaker 1

Repair them with black dots and we were there when they were repairing. Oh golly, 2 blocks.

00:03:21 Speaker 1

And they were digging it up and putting a kind of a sand compound and then placing cobblestones in there. And they want it that way. And but the Russians had been, they've been the influence there for almost 70 years.

00:03:29 Speaker 2

That great.

00:03:37 Speaker 1

This is.

00:03:37 Speaker 2

On them, the war is not over and you're still back in Luxembourg before going on to.

00:03:41 Speaker 1

OK. Yeah. So then we started to wind up and we went West.

00:03:47 Speaker 1

And.

00:03:49 Speaker 1

We weren't supposed to go as far as we went W we were following again the 4th Army Division and we went to Czechoslovakia and that was.

00:04:00 Speaker 1

Not our territory. We weren't supposed to be there.

00:04:03 Speaker 1

And that we were told in no uncertain terms to get out of that part of Czechoslovakia. I was in Pilsen and uh.

00:04:13 Speaker 1

We did and we overran the Zeiss.

00:04:18 Speaker 1

ZEIS.

00:04:23 Speaker 1

Effect is made binoculars.

00:04:26 Speaker 1

And they made them for the German General staff. Beautiful things like that. And I think we were able to retrieve 26 pair of. I'm not sure, maybe 24. And generally Brad gave me a pair.

00:04:28 Speaker 1

No.

00:04:38 Speaker 2

You have it.

00:04:39 Speaker 1

And now?

00:04:40 Speaker 1

GAIL, you brought up here. Somebody wanted to buy it one day to go bird watching and that's the.

00:04:45 Speaker 1

Last we ever saw.

00:04:46 Speaker 2

Is that right?

00:04:48 Speaker 1

That's right.

00:04:49 Speaker 2

Oh, that is painful.

00:04:51 Speaker 1

Yes, that's painful.

00:04:52 Speaker 2

That's so painful.

00:04:53 Speaker 1

It was a gift from him and his gratitude he gave him anyway, so he turned around and we were billeted in the little town.

00:04:55 Speaker 2

That is pain loss.

00:05:04 Speaker 1

Still, in takes a book called Mary and Bob. It was a spa in its great days.

00:05:10 Speaker 1

And we stayed in this hotel.

00:05:12 Speaker 1

Well.

00:05:14 Speaker 1

The rugs were threadbare.

00:05:16 Speaker 1

It hadn't been painted in, oh Lord, 1520 years.

00:05:20 Speaker 1

And checks the value got nothing for the Germans, nothing for upkeep and.

00:05:26 Speaker 2

Was it called Czechoslovakian?

00:05:28 Speaker 1

Hell yeah, that's what it was in the map.

00:05:32 Speaker 1

But I will tell you this. One night, two of us went to here.

00:05:37 Speaker 1

The local man, Bad Symphony.

00:05:41 Speaker 1

And they were doing what they were doing with instruments that were very old and kind of tiny. And it sounded if you're used to listening to great symphonies like the Indianapolis Symphony, you could tell the difference. But they were doing it. By golly, they were.

00:06:01 Speaker 1

And they were. They had their heads, heads held high and.

00:06:06 Speaker 1

Then we had a football game between the 12th core and I don't know some other core.

00:06:13 Speaker 1

And I don't know where they got the right hit. All the equipment, you know, this was kind of a rest period.

00:06:21 Speaker 1

But I'll never forget this. At halftime, they had a Cossack.

00:06:26 Speaker 1

And this 1/2 time entertainment and this guy would lean over the back of his horse and they had put handkerchiefs on, warms sticking out of the ground by my son, and he went by that thing and plucked him out with his teeth. And his horse was going fast. He could go, didn't miss the one lean over the.

00:06:46 Speaker 1

Back of the horse. Got them all off. Well, anyway, that ended. And then we get back to the world of reality and we started up the.

00:06:56 Speaker 1

Rd.

00:06:58 Speaker 1

Where we were when we started again.

00:07:03 Speaker 1

We could have been to Berlin before the Russians, but we were told not to.

00:07:08 Speaker 1

We were it would only been 50 miles and we would have been there and Oh no shape. Yeah, this is all planned plotted. They were going to get Berlin and we could.

00:07:12 Speaker 2

Called by Patton.

00:07:21 Speaker 1

Have been there, we.

00:07:22 Speaker 1

Just.

00:07:23 Speaker 1

Type and we've been welcomed with open arms instead of Russians. Yeah. Ohh. They were waiting for us. All right. They didn't get their desires. They got the Russians on that. That's what they didn't want.

00:07:36 Speaker 2

Now, why do you think you were told not?

00:07:40 Speaker 1

Ohh, because it was all.

00:07:43 Speaker 1

Decided.

00:07:45 Speaker 2

It was decided that it was a decision that that the Russians should come in.

00:07:46 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:07:46 Speaker 1

Yeah, sure. Yeah, sure. The map was here and the lines were here and.

00:07:53 Speaker 2

Where did the where did the war stand then? Were you just going in cleaning it up?

00:08:01 Speaker 1

No, this is the very end. Well, yeah, kind of. You knew it was kind of, yeah.

00:08:06 Speaker 2

But it wasn't over till it's over.

00:08:09 Speaker 2

But you know it's over.

00:08:09 Speaker 1

That's right.

00:08:10 Speaker 1

Yeah, we were at the very end.

00:08:13 Speaker 1

We were in.

00:08:17 Speaker 1

Just across the border from Austria, in a small small.

00:08:22 Speaker 1

Alpine village on the Ends River and I, the town itself was named in.

00:08:31 Speaker 1

And.

00:08:33 Speaker 1

This.

00:08:35 Speaker 1

They shape forever. The boundary was that river.

00:08:39 Speaker 1

And so John McBride came down.

00:08:42 Speaker 1

And he said, Walter.

00:08:44 Speaker 1

I want you to stay here until the Russians. Dr. I've got to photograph this. Mary Jane, my Jeep driver just happened to take it.

00:08:44 Speaker 3

Right.

00:08:53 Speaker 1

Are so thankful.

00:08:55 Speaker 1

When you tell the story, people, you all eat nuts.

00:08:58 Speaker 1

He said. I want you to stay here. I got to go back. I got a million things. I'll wrap up. I want you to stay here till they come.

00:09:07 Speaker 1

And when they come?

00:09:09 Speaker 1

And we're standing on a bridge over the river.

00:09:12 Speaker 1

They said you don't let those son of the ***** come behind this line, not one inch.

00:09:18 Speaker 1

This is ours and that's theirs.

00:09:23 Speaker 1

Sir so.

00:09:25 Speaker 1

This is about 1:00.

00:09:28 Speaker 1

A 530 very boring afternoon. Nothing happening. Nobody there except the Jeep driver. Me.

00:09:36 Speaker 1

And all of a sudden I hear this Russell Roar coming out of the woods, and here's a Jeep.

00:09:43 Speaker 1

Painted like we paint our jeeps with the White Star on them, a Dodge 3 quarter ton truck. Same deal with the White Star painted on them, complies and a Sherman tank.

00:09:54 Speaker 1

And the only reason you could differentiate.

00:09:58 Speaker 1

If you look carefully, there was a little tiny red banner.

00:10:02 Speaker 1

Off the antenna, each one had a radio and it was. It's the only way you could tell it was Russian.

00:10:10 Speaker 1

And they came across the tank, came across 1st, and I'm standing right there where Jerry Pride told me stand and that esobi he brings that tank right up there. Oh, my God. Right there.

00:10:23 Speaker 1

I said General said don't move.

00:10:26 Speaker 1

And this guy looked down. He sees his outranked.

00:10:30 Speaker 1

So all and these. Here's what the photo all the guys are standing around watching you've got. Yes, I do. It's.

00:10:38 Speaker 2

That should be on the front cover of the book. Unbelievable.

00:10:40 Speaker 1

That's a priceless thing. No kidding.

00:10:42 Speaker 1

Anyway, he jumps down and we're going to.

00:10:48 Speaker 1

Well, we're going to shake hands. But it wasn't that at all. It was crush your hand or I'll crush your, you know, hand. And it didn't take a minute to catch on.

00:10:59 Speaker 1

And he and all the guys and I.

00:11:08 Speaker 1

Well, we it was a Mexican standoff. He gave up. I gave up both of us. So it's time to eat now. The sun is setting. And so this is the way to eat.

00:11:21 Speaker 1

Off the turret of the take there are sacks Gunny Sacks. Now they eat what they capture.

00:11:28 Speaker 1

In the Russian army, that's the way to eat. They don't capture any food, they don't eat.

00:11:34 Speaker 2

So that's what you mean by that. They eat what they capture.

00:11:37 Speaker 1

That's right.

00:11:38 Speaker 1

Quartermaster surprise and clothing bullets and weapons.

00:11:43 Speaker 2

So if you don't get it from some civilian or an enemy, you don't eat.

00:11:46 Speaker 1

If you don't eat no. So they take everything they get, they go to front. Just everything, cattle everything. So they head.

00:11:56 Speaker 1

Big, round, heavy loaves of dark bread. And they had a great big slabs of smoked pork sausage, but this long about that wide.

00:12:08 Speaker 1

And let's see. Oh, bags of potatoes. The dirt was still out of them.

00:12:14 Speaker 1

So the Sergeant up for me? I guess he was side. Oh, by the way, the old war tunics.

00:12:21 Speaker 1

And those black leather belts.

00:12:23 Speaker 1

And then trousers, which are tucked into black leather boots.

00:12:28 Speaker 1

And no helmets soft.

00:12:31 Speaker 1

Felt hats like Cam oh metal. Use those to make guns.

00:12:38 Speaker 2

So even in combat, they didn't.

00:12:39 Speaker 1

Nope, that was it.

00:12:39 Speaker 2

Work.

00:12:42 Speaker 2

I think it would be interesting and worthwhile saying from a historical movement why the Russians were so maligned.

00:12:54 Speaker 2

By whom? Well, you've already given a couple of the reasons. You know they eat what they capture. They bowl into everything. They would destroy what the head, but maligned by the town folk who would prefer you coming in and maligned by us. That this is ours, and this is theirs.

00:12:59 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:13:01 Speaker 1

OK.

00:13:03 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:13:08 Speaker 1

Oh yeah.

00:13:13 Speaker 2

And.

00:13:13 Speaker 1

What I'll tell you now we gotta deviate here. I had a a man who was very, very important to me, Sergeant Steen.

00:13:22 Speaker 1

He was a Jewish man who was.

00:13:27 Speaker 1

He was from the Frankfurt area. He was a shoe salesman in Germany.

00:13:31 Speaker 1

And his mother and father didn't want him to get overrun by and killed by the Germans, so they sneaked him out of the country somehow.

00:13:40 Speaker 1

And he had a sister, and I think his sister died in a bomb attack. And his mother and father also were wiped out. But he got away. I just sent the United States running.

00:13:52 Speaker 1

And.

00:13:54 Speaker 1

When he got over here, he spoke to his excellent German.

00:13:58 Speaker 1

That they immediately put him in the army as a member of the DPW, which stands for interrogation prison.

00:14:04 Speaker 1

More luckily, about more than halfway through the war.

00:14:10 Speaker 1

I think he was attached to me or to my little unit and we worked like this. Oh, he was marvelous.

00:14:20 Speaker 1

What we did was to capture prisoners, or the inopportune would that we would interrogate them. Of course he knew how to do that in German, but more than that, Mary Jane, remember.

00:14:35 Speaker 1

We were in his backyard. He was a shoe salesman.

00:14:40 Speaker 1

In Europe and when we ran into roadblocks such as the bridges out, can't get any tanks, no trucks.

00:14:49 Speaker 1

Wait a minute.

00:14:50 Speaker 1

If you got your way 5 miles here and then what else way 3 miles you can go cross the bridge here. Nobody knows about this bridge. You can get tanks over that bridge. I know you can get that. And you could bring the big trucks too. And you don't have to worry about that. Brought to the bridge. You have to forget it.

00:15:09 Speaker 1

And I said, Ernie, Oh my God, I got on the radio 8.

00:15:15 Speaker 1

You got this. You got on the road. 5 miles. Turn right? Yep. 3 miles? Yep. Turn left and there'll be a bridge about 1/2 mile. OK. The bridge is intact. Use it. This one. On and on and on it just he just got us out of so many messes. But.

00:15:29 Speaker 2

Great.

00:15:35 Speaker 1

This is what we began to find out at the very end of.

00:15:38 Speaker 2

The war that was going to.

00:15:39 Speaker 1

Be one of my questions. OK. We captured the prisoners.

00:15:44 Speaker 1

And by now we're getting a little bit smart, too late.

00:15:50 Speaker 1

And have a cigarette. Yeah, they took coffee. Yeah.

00:15:57 Speaker 1

Little. Oh yeah. OK. Rash. They thought it was Thanksgiving, so.

00:16:06 Speaker 1

Ernie would started and he said.

00:16:09 Speaker 1

You're from the ethical corner, right? Yes.

00:16:14 Speaker 1

And now you're fighting the Russians, and now you're not fighting Russian? No.

00:16:20 Speaker 1

Why you not? Why you Russians? Well.

00:16:24 Speaker 1

This is a reward, they tell us.

00:16:28 Speaker 1

You fought in Africa, you did a good job with the Russians. But the Russians should kill your soul. We're going to send you out to fight the Americans. All you've got to do is come around. There was over. They give you food and it's over. That's your reward for doing a good job.

00:16:47 Speaker 1

And we went to that over and over again. They kept sending these guys from the Russian front back to fight us and we, they'd surrender.

00:16:55 Speaker 1

That was.

00:16:57 Speaker 1

That was the deal. You did such a good job in Africo car on the Russian front.

00:17:03 Speaker 1

And they bought this.

00:17:05 Speaker 1

Thank goodness for Ernie, for he could pull it out of him.

00:17:10 Speaker 1

But we were fighting.

00:17:13 Speaker 1

Now this is down in little town named Mo Mo El Lumot on the edge and down the hills in Austria.

00:17:24 Speaker 1

For two weeks for fighting is outfit.

00:17:27 Speaker 1

So it was a rainy, rainy night, and we had our headquarters in the mill. I mean a real mill. They crowned, you know, and all the.

00:17:36 Speaker 1

And we're upstairs and everybody is fast asleep and on the office of the day. And I'm sitting there writing the letter. I guess it was the kale and the cold, the lanterns hissing away and.

00:17:46 Speaker 1

Suddenly, the guard appears in the doorway. He says, Sir.

00:17:50 Speaker 1

A couple of offices downstairs like talk to you.

00:17:54 Speaker 1

I will settle up.

00:17:56 Speaker 1

Next thing I know right, look up.

00:18:01 Speaker 1

The long great coats reaching down to about that far from the floor with pistols.

00:18:08 Speaker 1

And Mountaineer hats on. This is a German uniform.

00:18:13 Speaker 1

They didn't say that, he said. A couple offers, so I just looked up and I worked drawer and where I had my 45.

00:18:23 Speaker 1

And I said, let's drop the belts. And one fellow spoke very good things. Yes, Sir. Conk, they hit the floor and came over to sit down.

00:18:34 Speaker 1

So you got it? Yes, the cafe.

00:18:39 Speaker 1

K races again.

00:18:41 Speaker 1

You know, I'll never forget this, Mary Jane. They came to surrender the whole success at Mountain Division, and everybody was in bed asleep. They were pooped. They debated day after day.

00:18:56 Speaker 1

So what this guy's name was Colonel Petrovski.

00:19:01 Speaker 1

Now you can check this with the National Geographic.

00:19:05 Speaker 1

He told me that in the middle 30s.

00:19:09 Speaker 2

She's got it out there with her. Yeah. OK. Yeah, she's got it.

00:19:16 Speaker 1

He told me in the middle 30s.

00:19:18 Speaker 1

That he had flown photographic missions for the magazine.

00:19:26 Speaker 1

And he said those were great days for me. You know, I was appreciated.

00:19:28 Speaker 3

Yeah.

00:19:32 Speaker 1

And then what? This was these were not infantrymen. The Germans ran out of airplanes and they came down to Hungary and took all their airplanes and gave them these stinking s s uniforms and told them to fight his impeachment. And that's what they were doing.

00:19:52 Speaker 1

For two weeks until they ran out of bullets.

00:19:55 Speaker 1

And that's when they came up to surrender and oh, Gee again, they made me a pair of riding boots. They traced my foot on the pavement and then they made these little horse hide. And I don't know what happened to them.

00:20:11 Speaker 2

And this is this they were doing to you for you as a favor, as a gift we're making.

00:20:11 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:20:16 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, because, well, the next morning.

00:20:21 Speaker 2

Date. What date is that?

00:20:23 Speaker 1

Ohh this is very very end. Now we're getting down to.

00:20:29 Speaker 1

There weren't many days left. This had to be a.

00:20:33 Speaker 1

Probably a month or two to the very very end of the war.

00:20:37 Speaker 1

That thing I was telling you about the bridge.

00:20:40 Speaker 1

And because we're in the same area. See you down in down in Austria.

00:20:47 Speaker 1

And.

00:20:50 Speaker 1

The next morning.

00:20:52 Speaker 1

Colonel Fisher woke up and he was incensed.

00:20:55 Speaker 2

Get me a board.

00:20:56 Speaker 1

What do you mean? You surrender the division of you. I am the commanding officer.

00:21:01 Speaker 2

Yeah, I thought that I.

00:21:03 Speaker 1

Ohh brother, was he well? He was **** eyed drunk.

00:21:07 Speaker 1

I'd see I had no regard for the guy. I left out a lot of this stuff. We went across the Rhine River and he got again. He got up next morning.

00:21:15 Speaker 3

Waking up it wasn't true.

00:21:18 Speaker 1

We got him drunk so he wouldn't interfere, and the Navy takes over across the Rhine River and six boats crossing boat. They were sort of like a great big.

00:21:29 Speaker 1

Motorboat.

00:21:30 Speaker 1

I never saw them before or I haven't seen them since, but that's how he got across the river all night long while he's in the sack. Same thing.

00:21:40 Speaker 1

I said, look, Colonel.

00:21:44 Speaker 1

We're going to have a ceremony. This is all that arranges when you accept their surrender this morning, the morning at 10:00 downtown and mauling at the guest house. And we'll be there to accept your surrender terms.

00:21:57 Speaker 2

Very smart move.

00:21:58 Speaker 1

But one in joint and I said, Sir.

00:22:01 Speaker 1

I didn't want to risk you. You were absolutely incapacitated. You were fatigued.

00:22:06 Speaker 2

But you reserved the great celebration moment for him.

00:22:10 Speaker 1

So we come down to the gas stoves. Now, here's the way it went.

00:22:15 Speaker 1

Think of Jimmy Cagney.

00:22:17 Speaker 1

First thing he does, he shoves his helmet over one eye.

00:22:21 Speaker 1

Sayer Pedrosa ski, huh and up, goes 1 foot on the chair.

00:22:26 Speaker 1

You know you've been fighting for two weeks for Droski Hammer and Hank. That's what they call me. Hammer and Hank.

00:22:34 Speaker 1

So we finally got you in a corner.

00:22:37 Speaker 3

Didn't.

00:22:37 Speaker 1

We. Oh my God.

00:22:41 Speaker 1

And so we went ahead and we arranged the surrender and the guy there was a great big Canyon. They had a cross and we were in the command car.

00:22:51 Speaker 1

Open command car.

00:22:54 Speaker 1

And.

00:22:56 Speaker 1

Bedrock. You try to jump out of the car and jump over the side.

00:22:58 Speaker 1

And commit suicide.

00:23:01 Speaker 1

No, we got it. I caught it. So we put that fire out and we put them up.

00:23:08 Speaker 1

The whole division group of arts and they travel with their wives.

00:23:13 Speaker 2

That's what she said at the outset that they can do that.

00:23:13 Speaker 1

Yeah, yeah, yeah, they did. So they were going to throw.

00:23:17 Speaker 2

Has that ever been portrayed in any kind of a movie? I've never seen that I've.

00:23:20 Speaker 1

Not that I know.

00:23:21 Speaker 1

Of.

00:23:22 Speaker 1

Huh.

00:23:23 Speaker 2

Heard it.

00:23:24 Speaker 1

But in their army, they were there.

00:23:30 Speaker 1

I don't say that we're a whole gang, but.

00:23:32 Speaker 2

But never children.

00:23:34 Speaker 1

No, no children, but I think they're about six children now. They may have cooked, and they may have done some sewing. I don't know. There they were there. And so anyway, podrasky in appreciation for the way that we handle this.

00:23:40 Speaker 2

OK.

00:23:48 Speaker 1

Especially the way I had gotten him calmed down.

00:23:52 Speaker 1

They're going to put on a big dinner and there was a huge barn with this farmhouse. They were in. It was a very nice farmhouse, had a grand piano.

00:24:03 Speaker 1

And so we gave them enough bullets.

00:24:08 Speaker 1

For their rifles to hunt to feed themselves.

00:24:12 Speaker 1

And part of the what they arranged to do.

00:24:16 Speaker 1

Who?

00:24:18 Speaker 1

Well, let me put it basically they lined the whole bar with pine boughs, the floor and the all the. Ohh, wonderful. And in the corner was a spit and here was his enormous deer roasting that was going to be it.

00:24:35 Speaker 1

And I said, wow, they're going to do this. We scour the countryside for every bit of alcohol we can find of anything. And I don't like green or brown or what.

00:24:43 Speaker 2

Here.

00:24:46 Speaker 1

And that kind of lightened up the evening and then out came the violin and the piano player. And we thought we had the Russian tea room, you know. No, I couldn't. I really couldn't. It was absolutely a wonderful, wonderful evening. Everybody was. The world was over.

00:24:58 Speaker 2

You were in there.

00:25:06 Speaker 1

You know, and they felt that and I said, I kept telling madrassi.

00:25:11 Speaker 1

Just don't worry about it. You're all going to be transferred now. The war is over. You'll be sent home. You, your presenters. You'll be fed. And it's over. There'll be no more killing or out of the corner. I see him going up the steps, not our own brother. I'll bet. Sure enough. He had a pistol.

00:25:31 Speaker 1

Kill himself and I grabbed the gun and he said no, that that's the end of that. Just forget.

00:25:38 Speaker 1

But.

00:25:39 Speaker 1

Well, we moved out three days after that. Now the latter happened to him, but I assume he stayed alive and we had to go on, you know, and we went up to the Weimar area.

00:25:50 Speaker 2

Right.

00:25:52 Speaker 1

And that now we come to the end of the story.

00:25:59 Speaker 1

I wandered off the path outside the barmar.

00:26:04 Speaker 1

In a little place called Buchenwald, you never hear that name. You've been there.

00:26:09 Speaker 2

I believe I've been there. I.

00:26:11 Speaker 1

Concentration camp.

00:26:14 Speaker 2

My question here was we have to get. I've got to know that because you were right there. You had. Did you know what was going on in these concentration camps?

00:26:23 Speaker 1

No. Well, yeah, but somewhat, but not really. But again, we were told to watch for these things in your area.

00:26:31 Speaker 1

So I I pulled up this goofy looking place and the gates all around, you know, and.

00:26:37 Speaker 1

And the entry gate was rather imposing.

00:26:41 Speaker 1

And it hasn't changed. We were there four years ago and that part hasn't changed.

00:26:46 Speaker 2

I lived in Austria for a year and therefore went many, many places so.

00:26:49 Speaker 1

Did you?

00:26:52 Speaker 1

OK, this is where Ilse Acock had her office on the left side of the ends where she made lamp change on.

00:26:58 Speaker 1

The human skin.

00:27:00 Speaker 1

OK, I wish I had brains enough to know that when I was there, I would have grabbed one of those lamb.

00:27:07 Speaker 1

But she was gone and everybody was gone and this little short.

00:27:11 Speaker 1

Jewish guy wearing the usual blue and white striped nightgown and the little turban.

00:27:19 Speaker 1

And holding a huge volume of book came up and said perfect English accent.

00:27:26 Speaker 1

Oxford accent.

00:27:28 Speaker 1

Would you like to have me show you around, Sir?

00:27:32 Speaker 1

I said yes.

00:27:34 Speaker 1

What is this place? Buchenwald.

00:27:37 Speaker 1

Follow me. And so I follow them, he says. Now cast your eyes to the right.

00:27:46 Speaker 1

And is 150 bodies stacked up outside the crematorium, ready to be ashes?

00:27:53 Speaker 2

Was the smell.

00:27:55 Speaker 1

No, no smell, no smell, but the.

00:27:58 Speaker 1

Huge brick chimney was belching smoke like crazy.

00:28:02 Speaker 2

Was that an A? Was that a different smell than you'd ever?

00:28:06 Speaker 1

I don't know. So high. I didn't get it. No, it's just the wind just slipped away.

00:28:08 Speaker 2

Then you get it.

00:28:12 Speaker 1

So he said, well, let's go inside, Sir. So we went inside and inside they had four Russian Polish prisoners and they were shoveling bodies in the six ovens.

00:28:25 Speaker 1

And the ovens are going like crazy.

00:28:27 Speaker 1

I mean, they were White Hawk.

00:28:30 Speaker 1

And I said, do they understand you? Can you tell them to shut those things down? They said no, they don't understand our language. And I don't understand their language.

00:28:41 Speaker 1

It's impossible to communicate, I said. No, I don't think so.

00:28:46 Speaker 1

And I tried and it was impossible. So I finally pulled out the trusty 45 and.

00:28:52 Speaker 1

Into the floor and I got their attention. That got their attention. Incidentally, the little piece of brick.

00:28:59 Speaker 1

Is still off the corner.

00:29:02 Speaker 1

Four years ago.

00:29:04 Speaker 2

East side.

00:29:04 Speaker 1

Yeah, I saw it. Little piece, Chuck. The only chip in the whole stinking floor. All brick red brick.

00:29:12 Speaker 1

And he finally got the message. And he said, now let's go upstairs, Sir. Well, we went upstairs. Now that was locked four years ago.

00:29:19 Speaker 1

So you go upstairs and it's just an attic. But there were, oh, I'd say 150 urns, and some of them had metals draped around them. Little little jars, you know.

00:29:31 Speaker 1

And I said, what is this?

00:29:33 Speaker 1

And he said, well, our next stop will be the basement.

00:29:37 Speaker 1

But these are the ashes of prisoners.

00:29:42 Speaker 1

Who were cremated?

00:29:44 Speaker 1

Who were not Jewish? They were German political prisoners.

00:29:49 Speaker 1

And I said, well, how many of these things have been claimed?

00:29:53 Speaker 1

No one ever claims these, Sir, because that would affiliate them with the fact that they were a member of the family.

00:30:01 Speaker 1

For which the crime was committed.

00:30:04 Speaker 1

I said. Now let's go downstairs. So we're downstairs in the base.

00:30:09 Speaker 1

And the hooks were still there, up in the wall, like neat hooks.

00:30:13 Speaker 1

And they they hung these guys up.

00:30:17 Speaker 1

Their uniforms on and high neck things, so they hang them out on the meat hook and I just wish I've said this 100 times. There was a great big long wooden.

00:30:31 Speaker 1

Device hanging there with a round root growth on the end, which was a natural thing. They gotten out the woods. Somebody did.

00:30:39 Speaker 1

And this was the instrument after hung him up.

00:30:42 Speaker 1

They would.

00:30:43 Speaker 1

Beat these people in the solar Plexus area until they confess.

00:30:49 Speaker 1

Now to see what agony they went through.

00:30:52 Speaker 1

There was a part of the plaster wall kicked out like that of above the very bottom. That's where the boots in agony were kicking the plaster out.

00:31:04 Speaker 1

And I wish I'd gotten. I wouldn't. Ohh, I wish I'd got it. It was so important to me then.

00:31:06 Speaker 2

That wouldn't been.

00:31:12 Speaker 1

But you know, you just do things so fast and.

00:31:14 Speaker 2

What were you feeling?

00:31:18 Speaker 1

My feeling is you get those ovens shut down and stop that.

00:31:24 Speaker 1

They give these people one lousy ounce of respect in death. Oh, this is gone.

00:31:30 Speaker 2

Part of that survival you have to.

00:31:33 Speaker 1

Yeah, we'll see how the world.

00:31:36 Speaker 1

What could you do about it? They were dead.

00:31:39 Speaker 1

I tell you one thing again. I was just thinking monkey, that little guy told me. He said you got here 15 minutes after they left with their German police dogs.

00:31:50 Speaker 1

All the rest of the Nazi guards, and they did just left.

00:31:54 Speaker 1

And then he took, he said, I want to show you this. You must see this. So he takes me through the barracks. And therefore these guys huddle over a pan of outside of this frame and they're cooking about four pieces of salt pork, swimming in grease, got a little tiny fire going on and that's.

00:32:13 Speaker 1

What they ate?

00:32:14 Speaker 1

Or what they had to eat.

00:32:16 Speaker 1

So we walked on the back and I could not find this four years ago.

00:32:20 Speaker 1

By the way.

00:32:24 Speaker 2

I'll pause this.

00:32:25 Speaker 1

Anyway, we finally found this place. It was a style, you know, three steps up and three steps down and both sides of these boulders going from this side, the sides this side.

00:32:38 Speaker 1

And he said now this is probably.

00:32:42 Speaker 1

The Biester resistance of how they treat the women here. If the women who were.

00:32:50 Speaker 1

Slept in the barracks and.

00:32:53 Speaker 1

It was practically prostitution night and day.

00:32:58 Speaker 1

Got pregnant.

00:33:00 Speaker 1

They would be marked out this thing. There'd be an armed Nazi guard there. They pick up the stone. Clunk. Clunk. Clunk. Clunk. Clunk.

00:33:10 Speaker 1

Clunk.

00:33:11 Speaker 1

Make up the next down.

00:33:13 Speaker 1

Clunk. Clunk. Clunk. Clunk. Clunk. Clunk. Make it the next stop until they drop the chap.

00:33:23 Speaker 1

That's yeah.

00:33:25 Speaker 1

However, if they lived.

00:33:28 Speaker 1

Back in the barracks.

00:33:30 Speaker 1

They made me rape that night. No one cared. There was nothing. Life would just.

00:33:35 Speaker 1

Just horrible. You asked how I felt. I just awful horrible.

00:33:40 Speaker 1

I will give the Russians credit for one thing.

00:33:44 Speaker 1

If you go back to this place today.

00:33:47 Speaker 1

Had you been there earlier, the barracks were very, very thin wooden barracks. The Russians made them.

00:33:57 Speaker 1

All made him take him down.

00:34:00 Speaker 1

And there's nothing there but the foundation posts, steel things and you could look at this huge place that used to be filled barracks.

00:34:10 Speaker 1

Another one now the better buildings were the Nazi staff say they are intact and they are in good condition and they use as a museum or gift shop so far.

00:34:24 Speaker 1

But it was a horrible place, just a horrible place.

00:34:28 Speaker 1

Which, you know, I went down into vimar.

00:34:32 Speaker 1

And I said lassos.

00:34:33

No.

00:34:35 Speaker 1

Nobody knew a thing about it and I have had worked up there. Oh, no, they didn't need anything about.

00:34:42 Speaker 2

It were they deceiving. They were.

00:34:44 Speaker 1

Of course they were. They were lying.

00:34:46 Speaker 1

They knew what went on.

00:34:47 Speaker 2

And there wasn't all kinds of scuttlebutt going on in your man that they heard something like this was happening notice.

00:34:55 Speaker 1

No, no. Well, no, we this was daily daily movement. You didn't get the 6:00 news. You didn't.

00:35:01 Speaker 2

Alright.

00:35:03 Speaker 1

At all. The only people that got things like that were people like myself and people on the staff who these messages come down and you have to react and know what to look for, see. And it's just being prepared.

00:35:18 Speaker 1

To bump into this kind of garbage and.

00:35:23 Speaker 1

Now the next town about.

00:35:27 Speaker 1

Oh, 10 miles down the road from by Mile was Erfurt ER fu art. And we did some damage to that time. They didn't surrender, but they were the nicest people to us. When we went back for this thing four years ago, the German American club.

00:35:45 Speaker 1

In that town.

00:35:47 Speaker 1

Put on a luncheon and it was it was in the basement of a castle.

00:35:54 Speaker 1

And there wasn't castles of fortress.

00:35:57 Speaker 1

And history.

00:35:59 Speaker 1

Has recorded the fact that Napoleon was captured there and he tried to commit suicide by jumping over the parapet.

00:36:08 Speaker 1

And they showed us where that was, and they're very proud. The fact that the this Napoleon was brought to his knees here right there. So anyway, the what they served were.

00:36:20 Speaker 1

Ground. Well, they served steak tartar sandwiches. Now this is another kind of food.

00:36:29 Speaker 1

I've never seen things like this.

00:36:32 Speaker 1

They had huge bowls of diced white onions.

00:36:36 Speaker 1

And I just sat there look and see what everybody else is going to do with this, because here's a great big piece of beautiful rye bread.

00:36:43 Speaker 1

With the ground raw beef on it red.

00:36:48 Speaker 1

You don't eat that. There's a cut.

00:36:51 Speaker 1

So what they do is they take this like that, write down the onions.

00:36:57 Speaker 1

Plaster so the beef picks up all the onions and then they carefully lay it up like that.

00:37:05 Speaker 1

That's it.

00:37:06 Speaker 2

Ah.

00:37:07 Speaker 1

Well, that's steak tartar and.

00:37:11 Speaker 1

To wash it down, of course. Then come to the beer.

00:37:15 Speaker 1

And they had their own brand of Pickles, and it was not a copious menu.

00:37:21 Speaker 1

Was interesting. That was interesting. The state charge. I wouldn't want to make it happen. It was interesting to see how other people live, you know, but boy, they sure love their beer.

00:37:35 Speaker 1

Thing they have in that part of Germany, the most delicious Thunder I've ever had in my life.

00:37:42 Speaker 1

Thuringer sausage. I don't know. They grill it like we would grill outside, but it tastes so different from what you buy in grocery stores here.

00:37:44 Speaker 2

Right.

00:37:55 Speaker 1

It was, I think it's all veal. I'm not sure of it.

00:38:00 Speaker 1

The Ford dealer in Erford.

00:38:03 Speaker 1

Had a luncheon.

00:38:05 Speaker 1

It is this display room where you had all the cars out there and there were picnic tables in there and they grilled these things and brought them in and big steins of beer.

00:38:16 Speaker 1

And I had, I think two of them and boy they were and they brought in a whole tray of this and doing that's that's it but.

00:38:26 Speaker 1

That was the the end. The line for us that we're for we end up there then.

00:38:33 Speaker 1

The division was divided.

00:38:36 Speaker 1

Now we get back to points. You know get 90 points.

00:38:41 Speaker 1

Any points for instance?

00:38:44 Speaker 1

You were allowed to go home. And no, I forget what they were, but that was the magic number and lots of people had more than 99.

00:38:53 Speaker 1

110 and so forth.

00:38:55 Speaker 1

But I didn't have any problem.

00:38:59 Speaker 1

So I was assigned to.

00:39:02 Speaker 1

Oh.

00:39:04 Speaker 1

102nd Division, which meant nothing to me. You know this just to go home.

00:39:10 Speaker 1

But I will tell you and this now we're getting on the end of the story.

00:39:14 Speaker 1

I finally ended up in Marseille.

00:39:19 Speaker 1

In the next morning.

00:39:21 Speaker 1

We were going to get on the ship and go home.

00:39:24 Speaker 1

And that night we were billeted in a room about the size of this room.

00:39:29 Speaker 1

With one little pot belly stove in the middle.

00:39:33 Speaker 1

And it was aptly freezing cold, and we had no blankets, and it was just a place to stay till morning. And we thought morning never come. But what they did.

00:39:44 Speaker 1

If they gave you a ration of liquor.

00:39:47 Speaker 1

And if you had any of that coming, you could have it and consume it in this atmosphere. So I think most of the people kept warm. I doing what they could to get rid of their rations, which was stupid because you're still going to freeze. Don't care what. Well, anyway, the next morning.

00:40:07 Speaker 1

We're going up the gangplank and this is a German prisoner warship liberty ship.

00:40:12 Speaker 2

Ken, where are you?

00:40:13 Speaker 1

Now Marseille, France. Yeah.

00:40:16 Speaker 1

And.

00:40:18 Speaker 1

Right in front of Maine is my friend, the Colonel.

00:40:22 Speaker 1

Who shared his fruit cake with me?

00:40:24 Speaker 2

Ohh really?

00:40:25 Speaker 1

And he had a musette bag.

00:40:27 Speaker 1

Over his shoulder and they had a transportation officer, an able officer.

00:40:33 Speaker 1

And.

00:40:35 Speaker 1

All member of the merchant Marine.

00:40:38 Speaker 1

Three men at the top.

00:40:40 Speaker 1

And.

00:40:43 Speaker 1

I was coming behind him and he said the Navy guy said anything in the bag to declare Sir. They said no, I'll just shave him material.

00:40:53 Speaker 1

And he said. May I?

00:40:54 Speaker 1

See it.

00:40:57 Speaker 1

And the and the musette bag. What could he do?

00:41:01 Speaker 1

And the guy takes the bag.

00:41:04 Speaker 1

Over the side of the ship.

00:41:06 Speaker 1

And he hands it back to them. And it's dripping. And a bottle of 100 year old Brandy that included he was taken back to his dad in Louisville.

00:41:15 Speaker 1

Shot.

00:41:17 Speaker 2

Alright.

00:41:17 Speaker 1

And lying.

00:41:19 Speaker 1

No Necker was allowed on the ship.

00:41:21 Speaker 1

That's why I said you had to drink it and freeze that anyway.

00:41:26 Speaker 2

I would think everybody would have been hung over the next.

00:41:29 Speaker 1

No, I think love just throw it away. Anyway, my turn next, OK?

00:41:36 Speaker 1

Well, congratulations, captain.

00:41:39 Speaker 1

You have the ship to take home.

00:41:42 Speaker 1

I said why?

00:41:44 Speaker 1

625 men, Sir. All yours. Here's the manifest. I see. You gotta be kidding. Come on.

00:41:52 Speaker 2

Wow.

00:41:55 Speaker 1

All aboard. That was it. And we went across the Atlantic Ocean in the worst storm and had, and I think 40 years.

00:42:04 Speaker 1

The Merchant Marine captain, who was an old goat. He had two cats up in his cabin.

00:42:10 Speaker 1

Invited me to come up and see his quarters. Well, they were pretty Spartan, but you know, well completed. But what got me was through the whole cabin.

00:42:21 Speaker 1

He had a cabinet with.

00:42:25 Speaker 1

Uh.

00:42:27 Speaker 1

Contours cut out of the wood and they were all filled with liquor.

00:42:31 Speaker 1

The whole thing there must have been 50 bottles of booze stacked up in there.

00:42:37 Speaker 1

And there was nobody sharing with him. He that was his on.

00:42:42 Speaker 1

So I thank for.

00:42:44 Speaker 2

You should have conjugated that 100 year old bottle of.

00:42:47 Speaker 1

He didn't even know was in the bank. He was up here and they were down there anyway.

00:42:53 Speaker 1

It took us 28 days to get across the ocean.

00:42:59 Speaker 1

When we got to Hampton Roads.

00:43:02 Speaker 1

We had apples and chocolate ice cream things on wooden sticks left to eat. All the food was got.

00:43:08 Speaker 2

It had taken you 4 1/2 days on the Queen Mary and 28 days to get back. Was that because of the vessel or because of the weather?

00:43:13 Speaker 1

Whoa.

00:43:15 Speaker 1

The weather he kept going South, s s so far South we were way we should have gone there and we were way down here and then we had to come way back.

00:43:27 Speaker 1

Get in.

00:43:28 Speaker 1

And that's all we had were apples and ice cream.

00:43:30 Speaker 2

The stories that were shared on that ship must have been unbelievable or was no one talking about it.

00:43:35 Speaker 1

No, I think nobody talked much because the deck was so slippery correctly. You couldn't walk on it.

00:43:43 Speaker 2

From throwing up.

00:43:44 Speaker 1

Yeah, constantly constant. That was it. Ohh, seasickness. It was terrible. Terrible.

00:43:48 Speaker 2

What a miserable, miserable.

00:43:53 Speaker 1

I left out one story, though we did have toward the end of it. We had a victory celebration for Patton.

00:44:03 Speaker 1

And he'd been ordered and told, and we knew this by Omar Bradley to keep his big mouth shut and not use foul language, especially in regard the Germans.

00:44:15 Speaker 1

But patent.

00:44:16 Speaker 1

Just wouldn't listen. He didn't think anybody could tell him off again. I've got photographs of this, unfortunately, at home.

00:44:28 Speaker 1

We built, we confiscated the lumber from the area, and we built a great big reviewing stand. Oh, about as long as this room. And then we mustered it about as many troops as we could, which we're about 150. And we told them what we were doing this for and they, you know, while they agreed, well, came one more time.

00:44:49 Speaker 1

So we're all marching down in front of this thing and we had a microphone up there and he was going to give us his personal speech.

00:44:58 Speaker 1

This speech start up man.

00:45:01 Speaker 3

I want you to stay out of those horse beds. You understand what I'm saying? You don't sleep with those *** ** * ***** and women.

00:45:10 Speaker 1

Oh my God, Bradley is going to skin this guy lied. He did. He's skin in my life. You're the best thing happened to Patton was to be the. Oh, they'd actually be killed as a hero.

00:45:23 Speaker 1

I'm not kidding you. There would have been books written like this about so many people could tell you stories like this. You asked how people felt about them.

00:45:33 Speaker 2

Was the portrayal done by?

00:45:38 Speaker 1

Oh yeah.

00:45:39 Speaker 2

Was it accurate? Yes. Was it?

00:45:40 Speaker 1

George Scott, I too would agree. I think the biggest.

00:45:46 Speaker 1

Button you can push about. Ooh yeah, he did it right was when he slept the kid, you know, in the hospital that's about as close as gave. But he was capable a lot more than that. One more.

00:45:58 Speaker 1

Outside an anti France, we've been coming through this little tiny.

00:46:03 Speaker 1

It was in a forest and the reason we were there, I was going from one place to another into Nancy, which is a beautiful city. But to get there we went through this forest and, uh, the trucks that were.

00:46:19 Speaker 1

Driven were called the Red Ball Express. They were all driven by colored troops and they worked and worked and worked. Those guys did a fantastic job driving these trucks. What they were bringing into this forest.

00:46:32 Speaker 1

And camouflaging it were shells, artillery shells, big ones.

00:46:37 Speaker 1

And so I was driving carefully down the road because you couldn't go around it was that.

00:46:43 Speaker 1

And they had the right away.

00:46:45 Speaker 1

And the trucks did. And so I said, slow down. Now let's just follow this truck. He'll get off pretty soon.

00:46:54 Speaker 1

All of a sudden I hear this.

00:46:56 Speaker 1

Noise in back of us.

00:46:58 Speaker 1

Ohh. Siren then. Oh my God. You gotta be kidding.

00:47:08 Speaker 1

Here he comes. He had a bar welded in his Jeep Chrome bar, and he's holding on to it. Which that was voted for with his left hand and always carried a riding crop.

00:47:21 Speaker 1

And here he is.

00:47:23 Speaker 1

Whipping the side of the Jeep and if we had to pull off the road in the mud.

00:47:29 Speaker 1

And his he came by.

00:47:31 Speaker 3

Get off the road. You right, son of a *****. Another Red Brothers American soldier gets through here. Do you hear me?

00:47:39 Speaker 1

Bang. Bang. Ohh. Deez there. He went down the road. They all pulled off the mud. It we it took us winches.

00:47:48 Speaker 1

On big trucks to get them out of the mud for hours.

00:47:52 Speaker 1

Well, that's the man.

00:47:54 Speaker 2

Was really crazy, wasn't he?

00:47:57 Speaker 1

Was God.

00:47:59 Speaker 1

He thought nobody could do anything more than he could do when he got all the credit from Eisenhower. You know, for really blasting through, yeah.

00:48:10 Speaker 1

But to do it this way.

00:48:14 Speaker 1

Just there were just thousands of guys.

00:48:18 Speaker 1

Like the paratroopers are never made into the ground. Those are the guys who won the war and the guys that kept their head blown off and and the guys that froze their feet.

00:48:29 Speaker 1

He never froze his feet.

00:48:32 Speaker 2

And his black boots were never dirty.

00:48:34 Speaker 1

No way. And he went to rest places. We had a rest place up in the mountains.

00:48:40 Speaker 1

And this is a joke, a joke. These people lived up on the top of a mountain.

00:48:47 Speaker 1

We there was a trout stream that ran through this beautiful, beautiful German place.

00:48:53 Speaker 1

And it was down near Austria.

00:48:56 Speaker 1

And we had to run this thing for about 10 days or two week.

00:49:01 Speaker 1

And the way we ran it was ridiculous. We had a 55 gallon drum.

00:49:07 Speaker 1

A couple of them filled with trouts.

00:49:10 Speaker 1

And if we knew they were going to fish.

00:49:13 Speaker 1

They'd quietly go and dump the whole thing in the stream, and these fish are come down. Oh my God. Look at the hey, man. Look what I call. It's ridiculous. And then this guy. Ah, Beetle Smith, I mentioned a while ago. He came up to this place and he is. He was headquartered at the time of Frankfurt.

00:49:34 Speaker 1

And he had a fighter pilot fly him up there.

00:49:38 Speaker 1

And he's sitting there in the evening about 8:30, he said, you know.

00:49:43 Speaker 1

Boy, this has been a great day.

00:49:46 Speaker 1

A fly back to Frankfurt in my apartment, look in the refrigerator is a quart of strawberries up there on the left hand side. Bring them back away.

00:49:56 Speaker 1

That poor guy had to fly all the way back to Frankfurt. Get the strub. Oh, come on.

00:50:03 Speaker 2

Do you think that goes?

00:50:04 Speaker 1

That went on.

00:50:05 Speaker 2

Do you think anything like that goes on now?

00:50:11 Speaker 1

Well.

00:50:14 Speaker 1

I hesitate to say, hesitate to say it does go on. On the other hand, if Enron could happen, I'm not too sure that some of it does in remote places. The more remote it is, the less chance you have to.

00:50:31 Speaker 1

C.

00:50:32 Speaker 1

It going on, but there were a lot of eyes in World War 2.

00:50:37 Speaker 1

But you asked the question, do people feel that way about, you know, I don't know. I don't think there are enough of people that were.

00:50:46 Speaker 1

Vastly and widely exposed to all these.

00:50:49 Speaker 1

Things of the man.

00:50:51 Speaker 1

See, I had three one-on-one experiences and they were not pleasant. Not my book. And I don't know whether I'd want to work on his staff, you know, generic, brave is so much different than he he was. He composed the scholarly.

00:51:11 Speaker 1

Elderly gentleman lifetime career army man.

00:51:16 Speaker 1

But when the war is over, he established the Horace McBride Scholarship Fund, which still exists today.

00:51:23 Speaker 1

East east, of course, but the scholarship fund still goes on. I don't know that Patton ever had anything like that set up in his name.

00:51:31 Speaker 2

Status of Hitler. What was your understanding?

00:51:36 Speaker 2

Of where he.

00:51:36 Speaker 2

Was what he was doing. Had he been killed?

00:51:39 Speaker 2

By the end of the war.

00:51:42 Speaker 1

Well.

00:51:43 Speaker 1

According to Ernie.

00:51:46 Speaker 1

Ernie Stein.

00:51:48 Speaker 1

He's pretty sure he was killed because there were so many people.

00:51:53 Speaker 1

Surrounding him, who wished he were dead in the German army. He was not that widely supported by the professionals. They in particular looked down on him and thought he was an amateur.

00:52:12 Speaker 1

When he made something like fighting the Russians, they thought he was out of his mind and he was. They'll never win, never had a chance to win, not against Russians. And the reason is that.

00:52:24 Speaker 1

The soldiers were not the kind who were not brave enough. The supply lines were going to run out on him. That's what killed him.

00:52:33 Speaker 1

The supply line.

00:52:35 Speaker 1

And you know, again, going back to Arnie's question of prison.

00:52:41 Speaker 1

Uh, we got. Oh, I'd say half a dozen prisoners who were hard boiled Germans.

00:52:47 Speaker 1

We did not lose the war.

00:52:50 Speaker 1

Your supply lines were the ones that did us. You didn't need us.

00:52:57 Speaker 1

And they were not afraid to say that right out in front of your face. Well, when you stop and think about it.

00:53:04 Speaker 1

When we bomb the factories.

00:53:07 Speaker 1

Not once, but 20 times, and there was nothing left like rubble. I think they were right. Our supply lines were fantastic. The people back here worked 24 hour, 48 hours and.

00:53:19 Speaker 1

Without a shift, the chains to keep the boy. Excuse me to keep the boys going.

00:53:28 Speaker 1

And I think that made all the difference in the world. There was a lot of patriot.

00:53:33 Speaker 2

Well, then going to that the conditions on the ship coming back were so miserable and I'm sure none of you were looking.

00:53:42 Speaker 2

Well, to have people greet you at the ship.

00:53:46 Speaker 1

But there was no there was nobody there. Great, you. You know what? They had a a public address system playing canned music. And they said. All right, now you're back on American soil.

00:53:59 Speaker 1

We want you men to get off the ship and step out lively when you hear that music and hear the the half sea legs are still flopping around, you know? And they I forget the thing they played because John Philip Sousa.

00:54:13 Speaker 2

They've all lost 40 lbs.

00:54:15 Speaker 1

Ohh yes, and the the the I'll never forget this. Going through the mess line. They have a cafeteria set up. What they ordered was amazing quarter milk and a head of lettuce.

00:54:29 Speaker 1

Almost every other guy, that's what they want.

00:54:32 Speaker 1

A head of lettuce and a quarter mount.

00:54:32 Speaker 3

Right.

00:54:36 Speaker 1

And they could careless about the rest.

00:54:37 Speaker 2

Of it, nobody would believe that they would think they would want a steak, potatoes. So it's the body telling me what I need. I need dairy and vegetables, fresh lettuce.

00:54:41 Speaker 1

Nope, Nope. Just give me a.

00:54:51 Speaker 1

Course they hadn't had, and two, maybe three years. Well, year and a half at least.

00:54:58 Speaker 2

Well, Are you ready for some?

00:54:58 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:55:00 Speaker 2

Kind of soulful questions.

00:55:02 Speaker 1

Yeah, what?

00:55:10 Speaker 2

I do want to ask you too.

00:55:14 Speaker 2

If you can pinpoint.

00:55:16 Speaker 2

The most significant or memorable event of the.

00:55:20 Speaker 2

War for you?

00:55:22 Speaker 2

Is.

00:55:24 Speaker 2

Is there anything that you can turn to? You've told me many things that might qualify for that. Does anything come to your mind? The most poignant, memorable, significant. And there can be more than one. Does anything come right to mind?

00:55:38 Speaker 1

Well, yeah.

00:55:41 Speaker 1

Yes. And Mom, any friend.

00:55:44 Speaker 1

This is early in the war where we're coming through. And remember, I told you I'd had a couple of initial experiences that this is the war where we're coming from Mommy France. And if you look up Mommy, you'll you'll find that Mommy was one of the first places where our atrocities were committed.

00:55:51 Speaker 2

Yeah, yeah.

00:56:04 Speaker 1

In France, and as I was coming down the street very slowly with my Jeep and the windshield flat against the hood.

00:56:15 Speaker 1

I think 4 nurses, not nurses, nuns.

00:56:19 Speaker 1

Came running up.

00:56:21 Speaker 1

From church.

00:56:22 Speaker 1

And piled huge piles of beautiful flowers on the hood.

00:56:28 Speaker 1

And this was coated in the Annapolis Star.

00:56:34 Speaker 1

How they ever got, I don't know. I didn't tell them, but anyway, they were so grateful to see Americans to alleviate the horrors that had gone on in that little town. And I said, well, like what?

00:56:48 Speaker 1

I don't see any *****.

00:56:51 Speaker 1

Go down to our church and I went down this little Catholic Church. Beautiful little church. I would say the whole church was.

00:57:01 Speaker 1

Oh, maybe a little bit bigger than the whole floor we're looking at with a gorgeous altered one end.

00:57:09 Speaker 1

Very, very. It must have been.

00:57:12 Speaker 1

Ohh, a couple 100 years old because it was that had built on the you know, it was just not a modern church. It was built with care and love and.

00:57:23 Speaker 1

And up on the altar.

00:57:25 Speaker 1

There was an old elderly Frenchman and he had a rifle.

00:57:31 Speaker 1

Pushed up his **** and he had fired it. He was.

00:57:35 Speaker 1

Dead laying over a statue of Jesus Christ now that I will never forget, never that left a horrible memory in my mind like the kid with no head, yeah.

00:57:47 Speaker 1

And of course, on the joyful side, this this thing I won't forget that. Forget it. That all.

00:57:52 Speaker 2

Oh.

00:57:53 Speaker 2

I'll never forget picturing your Jeep right there right there.

00:57:56 Speaker 1

Yeah, right here.

00:57:57 Speaker 1

Yeah.

00:57:59 Speaker 1

See, that's just wide enough going around there to go down the mountain.

00:58:03 Speaker 2

And to be all by yourself with your driver.

00:58:05 Speaker 1

Prodigy. But I've got great. I've got great photographs of this place inside. Also I have.

00:58:14 Speaker 1

Framed in my den a map.

00:58:19 Speaker 1

Indicating where we had gone, we mean the division from Omaha all the way all the way through up to by Mark.

00:58:28 Speaker 2

Price.

00:58:28 Speaker 1

Yeah, there's now the kids are seeing them and they think that's pretty neat.

00:58:33 Speaker 1

But one that was partially finished, I said that doesn't.

00:58:37 Speaker 1

That doesn't come across the the way I want to come across, so we put little Red Arrows on top of the blue line and that really sparks it out.

00:58:47 Speaker 1

And then I have a picture of this up in one corner and I have a picture of Maine and in my Jeep up here and Michael's name is painted on the front of the Jeep.

00:59:01 Speaker 2

I want to ask too about.

00:59:04 Speaker 2

What do you feel now? Is our responsibility for World Peace and order as Americans.

00:59:10 Speaker 1

Lily gotten herself a pickle.

00:59:13 Speaker 1

I mean, we've inherited Great Britain's mantle of being the world's policeman. They were that for centuries and and now I guess that's our responsibility, but.

00:59:25 Speaker 1

I don't think we want that responsibility. We've lived so long in a shell with oceans to protect us and friendly nations North and South.

00:59:34 Speaker 1

That is kind of difficult to.

00:59:37 Speaker 1

Say to the world. Oh yes.

00:59:40 Speaker 1

I guess it's now our turn. I don't think we really feel that it's our turn. We try to do it politically. Well, that's not the way Great Britain did it. They colonized and that was that was somewhat political. But a lot of was for trade and commerce.

00:59:59 Speaker 1

And.

01:00:01 Speaker 1

I just have mixed emotions about the degree to which we're getting ourselves.

01:00:07 Speaker 1

Extended trying to police six or seven wars all over the world at once.

01:00:12 Speaker 1

You can't stretch yourself that thin.

01:00:15 Speaker 1

And I feel so sorry for Bush because.

01:00:21 Speaker 1

Whether he is or is not responsible directly for all these things, he is held responsible by the media. Maybe not the people certain the Democrats hold him, but not not all people hold him.

01:00:35 Speaker 1

But that's too bad, because I think that guy is.

01:00:40 Speaker 1

Uh oh, my God. What? What in the world would we do if Al Gore were sitting in the seat?

01:00:47 Speaker 2

So my next question is where were you on 9/11?

01:00:52 Speaker 1

Oh, right here. And we got a call from Dave Hunt.

01:00:59 Speaker 1

Right across in Daves cottage. Just get over here.

01:01:04 Speaker 1

And we said, well, come on Dave, we're just sending this breakfast. Get over here.

01:01:10 Speaker 1

And I said, come on, Kyle, there is something wrong with the right. I think CAMS had a heart attack. So he had it off and we sat there. Absolutely emotionless.

01:01:21 Speaker 1

Until 2:00, we just couldn't move.

01:01:25 Speaker 1

Watching that horrible thing now that.

01:01:29 Speaker 1

You're talking about world policeman boy.

01:01:32 Speaker 1

I don't know what we're going to do about this situation, but that's a new game we've never been caught up in it, stupid.

01:01:39 Speaker 1

Terrorist thing and honor world, we can can.

01:01:45 Speaker 1

Convince our people.

01:01:47 Speaker 1

To not get involved in it and immersed in it.

01:01:52 Speaker 1

I was telling Kyle the other day that we must practice.

01:01:59 Speaker 1

The policies that were carried out in World War 2, where the posters had an Uncle Sam, so quit talking.

01:02:08 Speaker 1

Don't say so much about everything because.

01:02:11 Speaker 1

A lot of what you're saying could develop into bad information information.

01:02:16 Speaker 1

That could be used against us.

01:02:18 Speaker 1

Because we didn't have sense enough to just be quiet and not pass on rumors.

01:02:26 Speaker 2

This is a conversation in our House quite a bit that we cannot understand that even the military comes out and shows on the television where we are and this has happened here. I don't understand it, but we're caught because we're a nation that feels we should have all these civil liberties and know everything.

01:02:36 Speaker 1

Yeah.

01:02:45 Speaker 2

And it's a hard thing for the government to step in and say you have to be quiet now. You cannot talk.

01:02:51

What?

01:02:52 Speaker 2

I want to ask you the last question.

01:02:55 Speaker 2

Is yours the greatest generation?

01:03:04 Speaker 1

I'd have to imagine that against the Minuteman.