

John A. Zappitello Interview

318th Infantry Regiment

(Library of Congress: Veterans History Project; interviewed by Kristi Bergeman, Robin Carbaugh and Bryce Talley)

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

00:00:01 Speaker 2

Today is February 26th, 2016. An interview of Mr. Nicholas Duggan, who was born on August 27th, 1917. He is being interviewed by Garnet Valley students Christy Bergman, Robin Carvell and Bryce Talley. They are working with Garnet Valley High School, Mr. Jacob.

00:00:20 Speaker 2

Ryan is a veteran of World War 2, the US Army. He reached the rank of Sergeant and served in Europe.

00:00:30 Speaker 1

OK.

00:00:31 Speaker 1

So when and where were you born?

00:00:34 Speaker 3

I was born in Philadelphia and this, says August 27, 1917.

00:00:43 Speaker 1

Who were your parents?

00:00:45 Speaker 3

Well, both my parents immigrated from Greece back about 19 roughly 1910 and.

00:00:57 Speaker 3

Because, see, my dad maybe was 2526 when he came here, and I'm not sure when my mother's age, but.

00:01:07 Speaker 3

I my brothers and my sister all were born in this country.

00:01:11 Speaker 1

And what did they do for a living?

00:01:15 Speaker 3

My daughter, my father worked with the.

00:01:19 Speaker 3

A hotel in the kitchen. Bathroom. Man, you know, we did all types of kitchen work, cooking, preparing food.

00:01:26 Speaker 3

Things like that.

00:01:29 Speaker 1

And you had siblings. How many?

00:01:32 Speaker 3

I have two brothers and a sister.

00:01:35 Speaker 1

OK. Did anyone else in your family serve in the military?

00:01:41 Speaker 3

I my brother served in the army.

00:01:46 Speaker 3

Through the Pacific and my brother Harry.

00:01:52 Speaker 3

My brother daily was a merchant marine.

00:01:56 Speaker 3

Now one of the other men here.

00:02:02 Speaker 3

Was in the Navy and assigned to the merchant marine ships as a guard, not guarding the.

00:02:10 Speaker 3

How should I put it?

00:02:12 Speaker 3

A guard against submarine attacks.

00:02:15 Speaker 3

So you know, they were able to fire at them and what have you? I don't know much about. I know what he did, how they did it. I don't know. So three of us did serve.

00:02:28 Speaker 1

And what were you doing before your time in the service?

00:02:33 Speaker 3

I had just left high school.

00:02:36 Speaker 3

I was.

00:02:39 Speaker 3

Looking around for jobs in those days now back in the late 30s, jobs were scarce. So you took what you could to get a job.

00:02:51 Speaker 3

And.

00:02:56 Speaker 3

Are with the wallet. The restaurant are not the restaurant, the hotel my father worked in because you were looking for work.

00:03:06 Speaker 3

And then I found a job with an advertising company.

00:03:11 Speaker 3

Of course I was a trainee, so you didn't get much of anything. You know, you got the lowest rung in the ladder, but.

00:03:18 Speaker 3

It was good training.

00:03:20 Speaker 1

And when and why did you enlist?

00:03:25 Speaker 3

When and why? I guess I'm going to say altruistic that I did. You had a purpose. You had a job and everybody was going. And when my friends were in the servers.

00:03:38 Speaker 4

So, UM, what was boot camp like?

00:03:42 Speaker 3

What was boot camp was kind of rough.

00:03:42 Speaker 4

On the.

00:03:50 Speaker 3

You have to first and foremost.

00:03:53 Speaker 3

Had to.

00:03:57 Speaker 3

Always be information. Always be ready to.

00:04:00 Speaker 3

Go as a.

00:04:00 Speaker 3

Group we always have a Sergeant or somebody else and actually go here and do that. Take these long and that 20 mile mile hikes.

00:04:09 Speaker 3

Were wonderful for us, good for us, but hard.

00:04:14 Speaker 4

And what were your instructors like?

00:04:18 Speaker 4

Your instructors? Or were they like?

00:04:20 Speaker 3

They were.

00:04:22 Speaker 3

The first instructors we had.

00:04:27 Speaker 3

Were regular army people, at least I had.

00:04:28

No.

00:04:31 Speaker 3

Later on and they have changed, but when we got in in late 42, the instructors I had were regular army. They were tough.

00:04:44 Speaker 3

They didn't take any.

00:04:46 Speaker 3

Lift from anybody. You just did what you had to do. You followed orders and that was it. Very tough.

00:04:55 Speaker 4

And what sort of training did you receive?

00:04:59 Speaker 3

I was in an infantry company and we were taught all about fighting, how to handle a gun, how to keep a gun firing clean.

00:05:11 Speaker 3

You learn how to shoot.

00:05:14 Speaker 3

The.

00:05:17 Speaker 3

Whole object was to learn how.

00:05:19 Speaker 3

To get be good, they had.

00:05:24 Speaker 3

Expert was the top. If you could be an expert with a rifle and then you could hit your target all the time and hit.

00:05:34 Speaker 3

It.

00:05:35 Speaker 3

Very good.

00:05:38 Speaker 4

And what was military life like? Was it easy to adapt to?

00:05:43 Speaker 3

It was not easy to adapt to because military life. You're part of the group you are.

00:05:52 Speaker 3

You got a job out there to doing work, kind of. Your 100 of you, whatever must do it and you.

00:05:59 Speaker 3

Just go along with the group and you do your job.

00:06:04 Speaker 4

And what was the first unit you joined?

00:06:08 Speaker 3

Well, I didn't have much of A choice.

00:06:10 Speaker 3

You went in.

00:06:12 Speaker 3

And they assigned you to a group I got assigned to an infantry company. Then they looked at your qualification. But first, before you did all that, you have to get the basic training. You have to go in. You have to learn to.

00:06:28 Speaker 3

Work as a group, as a unit.

00:06:32 Speaker 3

And when they did this by marching your exercises, you had a very regular routine. You start 6:00 in the morning and you had a controlled day. Everything was laid out. What you did when you did it, how you did it.

00:06:50 Speaker 5

Where in Europe did you serve?

00:06:52 Speaker 3

We served all through Europe. I landed in.

00:07:03 Speaker 3

Utah Beach, 30 days after the invasion, 3035 days and was in there, came in from England.

00:07:12 Speaker 3

Landed there.

00:07:14 Speaker 3

And then there I wish I had brought actually brought my papers with.

00:07:21 Speaker 3

Went through Europe through France, the southern part of France.

00:07:27 Speaker 3

And we were part of patents, 3rd Army and came right across there.

00:07:34 Speaker 5

How did you? How did you get there?

00:07:38 Speaker 3

We went over by transport ship.

00:07:41 Speaker 3

From.

00:07:47 Speaker 3

The states we went over.

00:07:48 Speaker 3

We were very.

00:07:49 Speaker 3

Fortunate we went over when the Queen Mary.

00:07:52 Speaker 3

But that whole ship was converted to a.

00:07:55 Speaker 3

An army or Navy Air Force transport ship.

00:07:59 Speaker 3

They had a whole Army division they had.

00:08:04 Speaker 3

True.

00:08:08 Speaker 3

Air Force groups. I don't know whether they weren't divisions or squadrons. I think they were called.

00:08:15 Speaker 3

They had an artillery group that mangled the ships on the Queen Mary in case of.

00:08:22 Speaker 3

Submarine attacks. They could fire back or airplane attacks.

00:08:26 Speaker 3

And.

00:08:28 Speaker 3

To this extent, the Queen Mary would look was in the luxury ship.

00:08:33 Speaker 3

We landed in England.

00:08:36 Speaker 3

Went to an army camp there.

00:08:39 Speaker 3

And then slowly, they moved us to.

00:08:43 Speaker 3

I think was Southampton.

00:08:46 Speaker 3

And we took a ship to Utah Beach.

00:08:51 Speaker 3

Now in those days we had to learn how to clamp down from the ship.

00:08:56 Speaker 3

On these cargo Nets, you see these cargo Nets that they have and with our packs are gone and our packs and everything and.

00:09:06 Speaker 3

Let me get on these little troop carriers and took us right to the beach. Actually, by the time we got there, they had pumped to.

00:09:16 Speaker 3

Coming.

00:09:17 Speaker 3

From the bridge to a certain point, and water and revival.

00:09:23 Speaker 3

Go back when the land on palm tones.

00:09:27 Speaker 5

What were your primary responsibilities?

00:09:30 Speaker 3

I was very fortunate. I had learned to type in high school.

00:09:34 Speaker 3

So they assigned me to.

00:09:37 Speaker 3

The offers were handed all their personnel records, so in that respect.

00:09:43 Speaker 3

I lucked out.

00:09:46 Speaker 3

My first responsibility had been with the battalion headquarters company, which handled or served 3.

00:09:56 Speaker 3

Infantry regiments and I was assigned a messenger job. Then they realized I could type and they assigned me to the office. I took their personnel records.

00:10:09 Speaker 3

For all the servicemen.

00:10:14 Speaker 5

Did your unit move often?

00:10:16 Speaker 3

Once we got into France, yes, we were moving all the time.

00:10:20

Yeah.

00:10:24 Speaker 3

You're stuck with.

00:10:25 Speaker 3

Except when we had these particular battle we had went through court battles, you'd move up, you'd move up up.

00:10:34 Speaker 3

And.

00:10:36 Speaker 3

Depending on how the battles win.

00:10:40 Speaker 5

So you were moved just based on like how the battle went.

00:10:44 Speaker 3

How the battles went, yes.

00:10:47 Speaker 5

UM, can you talk about the battle of Bulge?

00:10:51 Speaker 3

Very good. I was right there. Went through the Battle of the Bulge. We had been stationed in.

00:11:02 Speaker 3

We'll say this is the Rhine River going into Germany and the southern part.

00:11:08 Speaker 3

And Luxembourg and the battle of the Bulge were way up here. When that happened, actions on me. 3rd Army got orders to go up there.

00:11:18 Speaker 3

Join that battle up there, which we did.

00:11:22 Speaker 3

And.

00:11:25 Speaker 3

It was a tough.

00:11:26 Speaker 3

Fight.

00:11:27 Speaker 3

It was one of the coldest winters they ever had up there. Again, I was lucky I was behind the line, not too far behind. One mile, 2 miles, but.

00:11:40 Speaker 3

Those guys froze up and they were very, very cold.

00:11:45 Speaker 3

And the fighting was terrific.

00:11:50 Speaker 5

How did the war impact the cities you saw in Europe?

00:11:56 Speaker 3

Which cities?

00:11:58 Speaker 3

Where we went they were devastated. We bumped.

00:11:59 Speaker 5

Yeah. Where?

00:12:03 Speaker 3

Bumped them up pretty bad and many were.

00:12:07 Speaker 3

Actually, we would have engineers coming clear road to a lot of these towns.

00:12:14 Speaker 3

And even some of the largest cities like Nuremberg, not Nuremberg. What was it?

00:12:22 Speaker 3

Frankfurt.

00:12:24 Speaker 3

Where they had to just come down and plow that one street, you know, just like we would move snow around here or the debris. And also we could get through on about our business. So they were bumped up pretty bad.

00:12:38 Speaker 5

Were there any people still like living in the cities at the time?

00:12:42 Speaker 3

Yes, you will always find some cities, but they mostly kept to themselves, especially when we got to Germany, France, they would come out and greet you as you went.

00:12:51 Speaker 3

Down the road.

00:12:53 Speaker 3

We were liberating them, but nobody didn't like us, so they kept in the background. So as we moved along.

00:13:00 Speaker 3

Who there?

00:13:01 Speaker 3

Who didn't see many people there?

00:13:04 Speaker 5

How did the men in your unit get along?

00:13:08 Speaker 3

Most of us got along very well. We were fortunate in the sense that we trained as a unit.

00:13:17 Speaker 3

And we started in.

00:13:23 Speaker 3

I would say very late 42 like say, December or January, we train down in.

00:13:33 Speaker 3

Telephone attendance C.

00:13:39 Speaker 3

And we were together well, like, so we went across and went.

00:13:43 Speaker 3

And we crossover and 40.

00:13:47 Speaker 3

24.

00:13:49 Speaker 3

We trained as you and we got to be very friendly. We got to know each other's families. I was married. Other friends were married. We our wives got together. We all got friendly. So we treated as a unit. You know, that way we knew each other. Now once we got through battle and replacements start coming in, we didn't know those people.

00:14:10 Speaker 3

You know they would come into their front lines and fight.

00:14:13 Speaker 3

Was a different story, but.

00:14:15 Speaker 3

The initial training for about a year.

00:14:19 Speaker 3

We were close. We got to know each other, work with each other. You'll drill together. You'll March together. We were together all the time. And you notice days. You slept in barracks. Bark would be about the size of this room.

00:14:34 Speaker 3

Old beds lined up. I don't know if you ever go to camp where you have one big room where.

00:14:38 Speaker 3

Everybody sleeps was that way.

00:14:43 Speaker 5

How did you communicate with your friends and family back home?

00:14:48 Speaker 3

In those days, and we didn't have these little things that could walk around and know anything, we didn't have radios.

00:14:56 Speaker 3

If I wanted to communicate with you on the front lines, I didn't have a radio like, Hey, Joe, what's going on up there? You know, we had to send. That's why I was the messenger at the time to I found it, gave me this other job.

00:15:11 Speaker 3

So.

00:15:14 Speaker 3

We would send what we used to call then.

00:15:20 Speaker 3

Little letters but.

00:15:23 Speaker 3

Basically, you're right on here. You'd fold it in your what have you and I can't think of the name of it now.

00:15:31 Speaker 3

And send it to either your family and everything was centered.

00:15:36 Speaker 3

You couldn't seal that. It had to be censored.

00:15:40 Speaker 3

So.

00:15:45 Speaker 5

So it was like only you and the person receiving the letter that knew about the letter.

00:15:50 Speaker 3

No, but the signs of God in the middle, he would read it. He had to read it because we.

00:15:56 Speaker 3

Well, I don't know why, but they assign sensors and they've read the mail going down.

00:16:03 Speaker 3

And they would seal and send it on its way.

00:16:07 Speaker 5

How much did you tell your friends and family about your combat experiences?

00:16:13 Speaker 3

Right then in those letters, very little because you were not allowed to talk about these things. In fact, our emblems and all that you see, all these people wearing we couldn't wear while we were in action because they didn't want anybody, the enemies to know who you were.

00:16:33 Speaker 3

What will? What group you will win?

00:16:36 Speaker 3

So.

00:16:40 Speaker 3

It didn't say too much.

00:16:46 Speaker 6

Where were you when the war ended? And how did you?

00:16:49 Speaker 6

Get home.

00:16:50 Speaker 3

When the war ended, we were in.

00:17:00 Speaker 3

Frankfurt no. A small town or Austria, that's roughly at best Frankfurt. We were in Austria and I can't remember the town.

00:17:10 Speaker 3

Ah.

00:17:12 Speaker 3

And then little by little, they were sending us home. And that was based on points. How long you're wearing, your points based on how long you were in the service.

00:17:23 Speaker 3

And.

00:17:29 Speaker 3

There was another factor in that I can't remember it now, but basically.

00:17:34 Speaker 3

You went home on a points basis and your unit split up. In other words, if you 2 have will say 100 points or 95 points and you only 50 or 60, you two were sent home.

00:17:48 Speaker 3

And then they we've got moved into Marseille, France.

00:17:55 Speaker 3

And then coming home we took, we were assigned to wait.

00:18:01 Speaker 3

What they called in those days, a victory ship.

00:18:05 Speaker 3

You don't see them floating around anymore, but we almost didn't make it. Coming home. We had a couple of bad storms in the ocean and almost didn't make it. We floundered. But I'm here.

00:18:21 Speaker 6

How did you feel when your service ended?

00:18:24 Speaker 3

Happy to get home.

00:18:28 Speaker 6

And what was your family's reaction to you coming home?

00:18:32 Speaker 3

Well.

00:18:35 Speaker 3

I must say my wife was extremely happy.

00:18:40 Speaker 3

I already had a son, a year old and he didn't know me.

00:18:46 Speaker 3

Oh.

00:18:49 Speaker 3

My father, my mother, was going already my.

00:18:55 Speaker 3

It's not home yet.

00:18:57 Speaker 3

He was in the Pacific yet.

00:19:01 Speaker 3

Oh, so they were all very happy to see me.

00:19:06 Speaker 6

What did you do for work after you separated from the military?

00:19:10 Speaker 3

Yeah, I went to work for.

00:19:13 Speaker 3

The Navy department.

00:19:16 Speaker 3

And they're doing golfers work.

00:19:21 Speaker 3

Little by little, I just worked myself up to.

00:19:24 Speaker 3

Who I was ahead of a department there.

00:19:28 Speaker 6

Do you feel that your service is giving you opportunities that you might otherwise have not gotten?

00:19:36 Speaker 3

Well, I've never.

00:19:36 Speaker 3

Thought of it that way, I did what I had to do. I got my job done.

00:19:43 Speaker 3

And I try to improve myself I.

00:19:48 Speaker 3

Went to night school for to get my college degree which.

00:19:54 Speaker 3

Because of illness, I had to give up.

00:19:56 Speaker 3

But.

00:19:59 Speaker 3

Equivalent in all the courses I took, I would have qualified, but no college will give you a degree unless you go to that particular college. So I have enough coverage, but that's another story. I did get all the education I possibly.

00:20:16 Speaker 3

Could.

00:20:18 Speaker 1

Did you stay in touch with any fellow veterans?

00:20:22 Speaker 3

I've stayed in touch with many fellow veterans. I was in a group that organized the veterans of foreign wars. I've been a charter member. I'm still the.

00:20:33 Speaker 3

Member of that post since 19.

00:20:37 Speaker 3

46.

00:20:39 Speaker 3

It's the VFW Post 6633.

00:20:45 Speaker 3

In Delaware County and in Delaware County, we are known as the Greek folks because I would say 90% of our Members are of Greek extraction.

00:20:57 Speaker 1

And how has your military service impacted your feelings about war and the military in general?

00:21:05 Speaker 3

Well, it's impacted me to the extent that.

00:21:10 Speaker 3

If it's a real, real important issue to fight for, we should go ahead and do it.

00:21:18 Speaker 3

And let's let it go with that.

00:21:22 Speaker 1

Would you do it again if you?

00:21:24 Speaker 1

Had the option.

00:21:28 Speaker 3

If my thinking was it was, then the thinking about war, what we're doing today is 100% different than back in 41 and 42.

00:21:40 Speaker 3

OK, it's totally different type of thinking.

00:21:43 Speaker 3

So I don't know how to answer the question truthfully.

00:21:48 Speaker 3

And what I know today, if I was like in your age group, I don't know.

00:21:57 Speaker 3

To answer your question truthfully, Adam back in 4142 was a different story.

00:22:04 Speaker 1

And do you apply any lessons from the military in your daily life?

00:22:08 Speaker 3

Oh, yeah, yeah. When you learn how to get along with people, you learn how to set objectives for yourself in life. You try to learn.

00:22:19 Speaker 3

What to do for yourself as far as education, improving yourself and making a better life better?

00:22:27 Speaker 3

Conditions around you.

00:22:27

Yes.

00:22:30 Speaker 1

And do you see any similarities or differences between World War 2 and more recent wars?

00:22:36 Speaker 3

I'd rather not get into that situation.

00:22:40 Speaker 1

Is there anything you feel like we haven't discussed or should be added to this interview?

00:22:48 Speaker 3

No, I think the questions are pretty good.

00:22:53 Speaker 3

With wound.

00:22:57 Speaker 3

The issues of today are.

00:23:03 Speaker 3

Difficult form.

00:23:05 Speaker 3

As to understand.

00:23:09 Speaker 3

And I'm trying to think there have been early 4142 as opposed to the thinking today, which is.

00:23:17 Speaker 3

I think the whole world is more globally entertaining. What the neighbor is doing.

00:23:24 Speaker 3

Whereas in those days it wasn't so.

00:23:29 Speaker 3

So it's hard to understand why we're doing things that let it go with that.

00:23:37 Speaker 1

What message would you like to leave?

00:23:38 Speaker 1

For future generations.

00:23:43 Speaker 3

Try to.

00:23:46 Speaker 3

Do the right things. Try to be as.

00:23:51 Speaker 3

Observant, intelligent about the situations like you mentioned today. What about what's going on today and how do you compare know where you are, know what's going on, know what you feel is the right thing to do and do it.

00:24:09 Speaker 1

And what was the most memorable experience from your service?

00:24:19 Speaker 3

Basically learning how to get along with people learning how to get a job done.

00:24:25 Speaker 3

And trying to do your.

00:24:27 Speaker 3

Job the best way you could.

00:24:33 Speaker 3

You mean we're finished?

00:24:39 Speaker 5

What particular skill or life skill would you say benefited you most in the service?

00:24:51 Speaker 3

I would say.

00:24:54 Speaker 3

Trying to know what you're doing, do the best you can learn what you're doing. Learn what is the right thing to do and do the best you can.

00:25:04 Speaker 1

And you said you joined the Greek organization when you came home?

00:25:09 Speaker 3

No, I joined the veterans of foreign wars. That's not a weak organization. That is a.

00:25:09 Speaker 4

Or.

00:25:13 Speaker 6

Oh.

00:25:16 Speaker 3

Group.

00:25:19 Speaker 3

Of veterans.

00:25:21 Speaker 3

They had the choice in those days of going to American Legion or veterans of foreign wars. Since then they've come up with disabled veterans. There's a Jewish War, veterans organization and few more, but the two basic ones back in 4546.

00:25:40 Speaker 3

That.

00:25:41 Speaker 3

We dealt with and had to make up our minds to join with either the American Legion or the Veterans of foreign Wars. This is frequently all American, not Greek. I'm of Greek heritage. I was born and raised there.

00:25:57 Speaker 3

And I want to keep MyHeritage. I'm proud of the fact of MyHeritage, but I'm American.

00:26:05 Speaker 3

So the veterans of foreign wars are strictly an American organization. We started that group when we started up as a veterans group we had.

00:26:18 Speaker 3

I'm going to save roughly 150 members.

00:26:22 Speaker 3

Of that original group.

00:26:26 Speaker 3

There's only four of us left now.

00:26:29 Speaker 3

Today.

00:26:32 Speaker 3

I'm one of them.

00:26:34 Speaker 3

And we just lost our share safe quarter. We just lost 1-2 weeks ago.

00:26:35 Speaker 1

4.

00:26:39 Speaker 3

He was 95.

00:26:41 Speaker 4

Yes.

00:26:43 Speaker 3

But.

00:26:47 Speaker 3

Their whole intent was there's a group of people.

00:26:51 Speaker 3

And all of us coming in here, all these guys served either well, one of them served World War 2.

00:26:58 Speaker 3

2 They were Korean. One is, he says, cold water.

00:27:03 Speaker 3

Too far down the line for me. I don't know where the Cold War comes in.

00:27:09 Speaker 3

Would have to be after the.

00:27:13 Speaker 3

Maybe the 60s?

00:27:15 Speaker 3

That's just still before your timeline.

00:27:20 Speaker 4

And this is Tim.

00:27:20 Speaker 3

Say you you guys weren't born to what, 2001, 299?

00:27:24 Speaker 1

99.

00:27:30 Speaker 4

Right. Uh, this is kind of general, but your rank was, Sergeant. How many ranks are there?

00:27:37 Speaker 3

OK. You're in. You're in the military. You have your officers, you start at.

00:27:44 Speaker 3

Basic glue, tendon and go up. You can go up to.

00:27:48 Speaker 3

Five star general or in the?

00:27:54 Speaker 3

Ranks of non commissioned you start it private.

00:27:58 Speaker 3

And you'll work up to a master Sergeant.

00:28:04 Speaker 3

So I got to be a Sergeant.

00:28:12 Speaker 3

What I would be interested in getting your feelings of what you think about US World War 2.

00:28:21 Speaker 3

Or anything else is, you know, I just let.

00:28:23 Speaker 3

Them know what's.

00:28:25 Speaker 3

What you feel about what's going on today and what what we did?

00:28:33 Speaker 4

Seems like really impressive. I couldn't get by all the training seems really intense.

00:28:44 Speaker 3

Do you think you guys any one of you would go into military today?

00:28:49 Speaker 1

I would consider it, yeah.

00:28:51 Speaker 3

Because I've talked with that another girl just graduate. You know, one of the waitresses up there and.

00:28:59 Speaker 3

She joined the Air Force so she was going to graduate.

00:29:01 Speaker 4

True.

00:29:04 Speaker 3

Last year? Yeah, last year she would graduate. She'd go in the Air Force and get her additional training or schooling. She was looking forward to getting.

00:29:20 Speaker 3

Let's just check.

00:29:25 Speaker 3

Well, it doesn't matter.

00:29:27 Speaker 3

But.

00:29:28 Speaker 3

That was her ring. Here's her military training. And they do make colleges available a day.

00:29:37 Speaker 3

In my day, you look forward to going to maybe Milan.

00:29:41 Speaker 3

3.

00:29:42 Speaker 3

Officers training School become an officer.

00:29:49 Speaker 5

I feel like a.

00:29:51 Speaker 5

A big factor in why people don't join the military today can be just like fear of not being physically or mentally.

00:29:59 Speaker 5

Tough enough is there a bit? Is that a big factor or?

00:30:03 Speaker 3

I would say no, that's not a big factor because physically.

00:30:08 Speaker 3

You know whether you could do your.

00:30:10 Speaker 3

Job or not?

00:30:14 Speaker 3

I don't know what the army training is today. In those days you had to do the 20 mile highs. You've got to pack. You have to do this. We went through obstacle courses. I don't know what the training is today and you see it, what little bit we see on television. There's no indication of what army life is like.

00:30:34 Speaker 3

So I can't tell you and I have not made it a point to try to find out.

00:30:41 Speaker 3

That's over and done with.

00:30:44 Speaker 3

On my dad.

00:30:47 Speaker 3

Had one son served Korea, he was fortunate he was ready to go over and something happened and they he did go over. The other boy was in college.

00:31:01 Speaker 3

When you graduate next day, you report well was all over, so he didn't have to.

00:31:07 Speaker 3

Fortune, right?

00:31:11 Speaker 5

Do you think the military can be for everyone? Like, do you think they, at least when you were there, was there a spot for everyone that came in, not just a job like on the front line of of war, but like, like you said, a messenger or something like that?

00:31:28 Speaker 3

The Navy have all kinds of jobs. There's got to be somebody in the back supplying this guy with a gun. Ammunition whom?

00:31:38 Speaker 3

We had in our battalion headquarters. I told you we had one squadron, had to do with.

00:31:47 Speaker 3

Information service Oregon the other was a nanny tank group.

00:31:54 Speaker 3

The messengers we use at the street telephone lines.

00:31:58 Speaker 3

To communicate with radios and then they finally came along. You've seen these old hand crank things and you sent something. That's how bad we were in those days. I said bad and they're because you didn't reach in your park and push a couple of buttons and say, yo, Joe, I'm bringing you the, you know, your food or what?

00:32:16 Speaker 3

Have you?

00:32:20 Speaker 3

If the line was there and by the end of the war they began getting done radios for everybody, but we didn't.

00:32:30 Speaker 3

Have them.

00:32:31 Speaker 3

So it's it.

00:32:32 Speaker 3

It's very difficult for me to see what they're doing today.

00:32:37 Speaker 3

Or what we see on TV because I'm not made it.

00:32:42 Speaker 3

A point to learn what army life is today, to what we went through. It's a completely different world.

00:32:55

OK.

00:32:58

Stop.