

Donald Morrison Oral History Interview

ED METZLER: This is Ed Metzler and today is the fourth of June 2010. I'm in Fredericksburg, Texas, at the Nimitz Museum and I am interviewing Mr. Donald C. Morrison or Don Morrison. This interview is in support of the Center of Pacific War Studies, archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission, and is for the preservation of historical information that's related to this site. First, let me thank you, Don, for coming over from Austin to spend the time with us today to talk about your World War II experiences. Why don't we get started by having you introduce yourself? Tell us when and where you were born and then we'll take it from there.

DONALD MORRISON: Well, I'm Donald C. Morrison, but I do go by Don Morrison, and I was born in Stoughton, Wisconsin.

EM: Stoughton. You're going to have to spell that for us.

DM: S-T-O-U-G-H-T-O-N. And that was in May 26 of 1926.

EM: Wow. That happens to be my birthday as well, May the 26th.

DM: No kidding? I can't believe that.

EM: Well, anyhow. We'll talk about that later. So what did your folks do for a living?

DM: My dad was a farmer, so I think that speaks for itself. I was automatically exempted should I desire to do so. I did

not. Even when I was in high school yet, I applied and took several tests to get into the Navy. I passed the test for different grades, a couple of them, but I couldn't because of my feet.

EM: You didn't have Navy feet, huh?

DM: Right.

EM: Army would take your feet, but then who wouldn't?

DM: Yes. So when my graduation was over, one day my dad said within a day or two or so of it, he said, "Well, if you want to get into the service or something that bad." He said, "Get off of the farm, get yourself a job," which I did. Six weeks later, I had my notice. I was re-inducted, which was I got my notice for my physical for the 20th of July, and on the 21st of August I was on my way.

EM: So which year was that?

DM: Nineteen forty-four.

EM: All right, so that's '44. So you graduated in --

DM: May.

EM: In May of '44.

DM: May 28th of 1944.

EM: Right. Now, did you have any brothers or sisters?

DM: Yes.

EM: Were you the baby or what?

DM: No, I'm the oldest one. And my sister was the next one, then my next, first brother was three and a half years younger than me. So he was about 15 at that time. And I've got other brothers, too, but that was my only sister. Well, like I said, I got into the service and I was inducted in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, taken down to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, that night. I don't remember if it was that day, or it was the next day, or two days later, we were on a train headed for the South, which we didn't know where it was going to, but it ended up in Camp Wheeler, Georgia.

EM: That's a little bit different than Wisconsin, isn't it?

DM: Oh, much different.

EM: And this is summertime, too, that you're going down there.

DM: Yes. And it was -- one thing I left out, the first morning I was at Fort Sheridan before we were shipped out to go down to Georgia, they flashed a flashlight on my eyes about 3:30 in the morning and says, "You're on KB." That was my first initiation with the military right there. (laughter)

EM: So it didn't take them long.

DM: No. And I wasn't up. It wasn't an eight-hour day, it was about a 12-hour day.

EM: Peeling potatoes at 4:30 in the morning, huh?

DM: We did a little of everything. I know one thing I did, I had to scrub some pots. Those big ones that, oh, man. But I do, I'll remember that as long as I live.

EM: Well, let me go back a little bit. Why were you interested in the Navy earlier on before you --

DM: I just was. I mean, I had some friends that were in the Navy and I took the test and stuff and I passed them.

EM: Mm-hmm. And how old were you when you took these tests?

DM: Seventeen.

EM: Okay. So you were still in high school?

DM: Oh, yes.

EM: And you were --

DM: It was during my last year of high school I took it.

EM: Right, right. But anyhow, I'm not sure we had gotten this on tape. You were talking about it earlier. You had flat feet or you had feet that wouldn't allow you in the Navy.

DM: Right. The Navy wouldn't accept me.

EM: So anyhow, you get down to Georgia. It's the middle of the summer and tell me what that was like.

DM: Hot, and I won't use the other words.

EM: We know what you mean.

DM: But anyway, we went into training for, it was a 16-week setup that we were on. The general things of the infantrymen, learning to use a different gun, rifles,

pistols, machine guns, mortars, everything along that line. And, of course, the Battle of the Bulge came up during in December, while we were still in training.

EM: You're still training when the Battle of the Bulge hits, yes.

DM: Yes. And that was 14 weeks. There were still two weeks left. And they came to us and they said, "Your training is ending. They need you in Europe." All of us that was in there. They said, "But we will send you home for four days. We're going to fly you home." And they did.

EM: Flew you home?

DM: Yes, flew us home. I didn't mind it. Some of them, you know, lived quite close. We had people from Georgia, we had them from Tennessee, we had them from all over. But in my case, I was from up in the north and there were other ones from the north up there too. They flew us home and I was supposed to get home on Christmas Day, and the train I got on in Chicago because that's where we were landed, I got on. I felt, well, we were all bushed, and I fell asleep, and I missed my get off. We went, and I forgot now, how far we went.

EM: You don't know how many stations down the line you went before?

DM: Yes. I had to come back. And they did. They sent me back and I got home, certainly, like I said, early -- I was hoping I'd get there, be at home in time to be under the tree and my folks not know it. Back in those days, they didn't lock their doors and that was my intent. Well, I missed that.

EM: Darn it.

DM: So I, later in the day, I did get there. And I was there for the four days, like they said we would be. On the 30th, no, it would be, yes.

EM: That sounds about right.

DM: On the 30th, we had to show up in Chicago and get on a train for Fort Meade in Maryland. That's where we were going from there and that we did. From Fort Meade, we got on another train to Boston, up at Camp Myles Standish. That's where we would eventually, in a day or so, be on the boat to go across.

EM: Now, at this time, you don't have any idea what army you're going to be assigned to, or what your duties are going to be, or anything. All you know is you're going to --

DM: I was an infantryman.

EM: You're an --

DM: A replacement. They told us this much. "You're a replacement for the Battle of the Bulge casualties." And -
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EM: So what are you thinking about right about that time? I mean, here you are headed overseas. You're not even completely trained yet.

DM: Yes. We were two weeks short of it. We just felt that that's the way the circumstances were. And we used our handbook to look up, and well, there was nothing you could do but accept them.

EM: Doing what you had to do.

DM: Right. And we got on that boat, it was the *Ile de France*.

EM: Really?

DM: Yes.

EM: That was a major cruise liner, that was the French.

DM: Yes. And they told us at that time, how true it is, I don't know, but they said there were 14,000 souls on that boat.

EM: The *Ile de France*. I mean, that's like the *Queen Elizabeth* or the *Queen Mary* to England, you know?

DM: Yes, but it was run by the British.

EM: Yes, because it had probably been captured during the war, you know? When they --

DM: The British men were manning it is what I should call it.

EM: Right, right. That's a big ship then.

DM: And there's one thing the British -- they like cheese three times a day. Not one time a day or once a week. It's three times a day and we were on the boat 11 days. And I happened again to be very lucky. We were the first ones on the boat and the last ones off.

EM: So why is that lucky?

DM: The longest time. You got KP duties immediately, but the KP that I had, some people would have loved it. But I had to cut cheese for 11 days. I never got so sick of cheese in all my life.

EM: Can you face a cheddar cheese anymore?

DM: Yes, I can. I've learned to eat some of it. Once again, there were years I couldn't even stand the smell of it. (laughter) Because we were in our room and it was a huge room, but nothing but cheese in there. There's only room for where we could cut it.

EM: And you from Wisconsin, too. There's lots of cheese up there, too.

DM: Yes. Well, this boy didn't love it any longer.

EM: I love it. That's a great story.

DM: And I've never seen so much cheese in all my life. But they did, they wanted it three times a day. The one good thing about the whole thing was I seen a lot of guys get

sick, but I never once got sick. On that 11-day, then, we had a rough sea.

EM: That's right, because it's the middle of the winter, too. The North Atlantic is not smooth in the middle of the winter.

DM: No. We had a very rough go of it. You could see those bottles go across if you wanted to watch them, and some of them would, and that, of course, they were just like a bat out of a you know where. Some of them, oh, they got sick.

EM: And that's on a big ship. Imagine if they had been on a little old destroyer or something?

DM: And I'm forgetting, I think it was either five or six bunks high.

EM: I was going to ask you how high they had you stacked up.

DM: I was on the next to the top. I wasn't high on the top one, but next to the top, which is a good thing, because those guys got sick.

EM: It's good to be upstream, not downstream. (laughter)

DM: In most cases, it is.

EM: Wow. So, but the trip itself was relatively uneventful? I mean other than the fact that it was --

DM: Yes, it was a bit rough.

EM: -- long, full of cheese, and rough.

DM: Right. And we went from Camp Myles Standish, where we loaded on and we landed in Scotland.

EM: Now you were what, 18 years old?

DM: Eighteen years old. Right.

EM: And what'd you do? Go into Glasgow?

DM: It was, I believe that is where -- I don't remember.

EM: It tended to be the port on the western side, where most --

DM: I think I know where that's at. That's where we were and then we got on a train and went all the way across England, down to Southampton. And when we did down there, it did nothing but rain the whole time. I think it rained the whole time I was in, well, I was only in England for a couple of days, I believe it was. I mean the time to go down there and we were almost immediately put on a boat to go across the channel.

EM: So what was wartime England like? I mean I know you didn't get out and about any, but, I mean --

DM: No.

EM: -- is it crowded? Just full of US soldiers? Poor, cold?

DM: Well, cold and wet. See, that was in January. That's the way I remember the country. And we only seen it from the train. We seen nothing other than that. The only time we hit the land was when we got off it and then got on the

boats that go across the channel and that's where we got.

From there, we went across.

EM: So what are they feeding you at this point? Are you getting just civilian food? Brit food? Or what?

DM: No, it was food. Well, whatever they had on the boat.

EM: And whatever they had on the train, I guess, too.

DM: You're right. But I don't remember paying that much attention to it other than the fact that I lucky I didn't get sick.

EM: Yes. Now were you with anyone you knew? Some of your buds from basic training or?

DM: Oh yes, there was several of us.

EM: There was a group of you?

DM: Yes. There was several of us on that train that we had actually trained together. How many of them, I couldn't tell you that, but there was a bunch of us because it was all that had trained at -- of course, there was a bunch of, of course, added to it because there's more than what we had there at Camp Wheeler, which no longer exists I found out when I was over there seven years ago.

EM: Yes, most of those camps have been shut down long ago.

DM: I had a hard time finding where it even existed.

EM: Where its site was, huh?

DM: Very hard time.

EM: Is that in the Atlanta area or?

DM: No, Mason, or Macon rather, which is where the capital is. It was about eight miles north of Macon as I remember. It wasn't too far from, there was an airfield there, too, and I can't think now right off of the moment, but there was an airfield there also.

EM: So they put you on boats and pushed you across the English Channel. Now, what are we talking about? A troop ship, or a landing craft, or what?

DM: A landing craft-type ship.

EM: Like an LST-type thing with the big flat bottom that goes bump, bump, bump in the water.

DM: Yes. And of course, we got then after that, we were on truck convoys.

EM: Mm-hmm. So where did you land in France, do you remember? Probably Le Havre, but who knows.

DM: Yes, I believe it was Le Havre. And we went from there to, well, in my case, I don't know how many of us, there were several us that were shipped to the part where the second infantry division was at. And they were in Belgium and I'm trying to think of, oh, not too far from Liege because that's where I ended up in the hospital. But anyway.

EM: So is this January?

DM: Hellenthal was the name of one of the places where --

EM: What was the name?

DM: Hellenthal. That's where they had one of their battles.

But they were, when I got with them, they were pulled back in Erlach.

EM: So when did you actually join up with the second?

DM: That would have been in --

EM: Late January?

DM: Yes, late January.

EM: Things had pretty well been taken care of by then, I think, in the Battle of the Bulge. Or you tell me, what was it like?

DM: Yes, right. I mean no, the major stuff had been taken care of. I mean it was what they would call minor after that, especially at that time. But god it was cold.

EM: It was a horrible winter, yes.

DM: But what do I do? Right after I join them and got acquainted with them, I got sick. And Liege, I'm almost positive, is where I ended up in the hospital. I had the mumps.

EM: The mumps.

DM: The mumps.

EM: And the mumps is serious for an adult.

DM: And when we got there, we was in a, I believe it was a second story or so of a three- or four-story building, a hospital part that they had there.

EM: And did you come down with the mumps after you got physically there? Onsite?

DM: Yes.

EM: And how long before you came down with the mumps? Just a few days?

DM: Just a few days. And anyway, they put me in that so-called hospital and, you know, it was nice for the conditions, no question about that.

EM: Who is it run by? Was it run by Belgians or Americans?

DM: No, no, Americans. And there was no women, they were all men. The nurses, everybody. But anyway, the first morning I was there after I had been there all night, the doctor had come in -- and this is not prejudice, I don't mean it to be taken that way -- but he was Jewish doctor. He seemed like one heck of a nice guy. But his first thing, he said, "Well, how was your night?" I said, "It was hell." He said, "Well, what do you mean?" I said, "My feet are killing me." He took my covers and flipped them back and he said, "I can tell you what's the matter. You've got bad frostbite." From riding in those trucks.

EM: I know frostbite was a problem over there. So many of the guys on the lines got serious frostbite.

DM: Yes, they were probably worse than mine and mine was bad.

EM: You just got yours riding on the bloody truck.

DM: On the truck.

EM: So what happened then?

DM: Well, he said, "The only thing we can do is just don't put anything on your feet." He said, "Pull your covers and stuff back at night." And I did. It helped. He says, "Don't cover." Like I say, he was a -- man, I'd give anything if I could have remembered his name, but I couldn't. But he was really a good doctor or a nice doctor, whatever, I don't know how good he was. He must have been good, he was able to tell.

EM: He seemed to know what he was talking about.

DM: And it took me just a few years ago to get anything done about it, but I was in there for that two weeks. And of course, we were crowded. One section was just like mumps here. Over here was scarlet fever or something like that.

EM: And all of those are contagious diseases, too.

DM: And when I got out from my mumps situation and go back to the guys, I wasn't back three days and I'd come down with one hell of a fever, 104 or so. I mean I was burning up. They took me. In fact, they took me in in what we called

then the meat wagon. (laughter) And they say, "You're going back to the hospital." They took me back there and they said, "You've got scarlatina."

EM: Oh, you were just working your way down the line of disease there.

DM: So that's how I spent my first five weeks at the front line. Well, in a way, it was probably luck. I had that less than, that much less contact with the enemy.

EM: And at least it was, the winter was passing, too. That batch of the cold weather would be --

DM: That's true. Oh, it was cold out there. And then to have your feet that way, too, and all this and that.

EM: Well, now how bad was your frostbite? Were you able to walk? Was it just painful?

DM: Yes. It was just painful. I was able to walk, but the worst pain was there laying in that bed. And it took me years to get, as you know, all of our records, my records was in that fire in St. Louis in '73 and they couldn't find anything on there. I couldn't remember the doctor's name. I wasn't positive of the hospital. And, of course, they were kicking, the VA was kicking the stuff back every time the pilots --

EM: Saying we don't have records, yes.

DM: And then they said, well, something wasn't bad enough where they weren't able to get this or that. Anyway, I got to my private doctor back in three or four years ago. It's a lady doctor. And I says -- and it's [Ana Rogala?] -- and I says, "Ana, is there any way that frostbite could" -- because I have RLS, restless leg syndrome -- I said, "Is there any way that frostbite could have an effect on that RLS." She says, "I hope to tell you there is." She wrote a letter, sent it in, it came back. I said, "Let me know how it comes." And she did. She wrote another letter. Well, that one didn't come. It came back with a 70% disability. I got 10% from hearing and 60% on my feet and legs.

EM: Wow. Finally got it.

DM: Yes. But it took, well, they went all the way back, when I started really going after it, they went back to as far as December '04, so I got back pay then.

EM: You got a little bit of back pay, then.

DM: Yes, I got some.

EM: But you didn't get 57 years.

DM: Oh, no. Oh, no, no, no. It only will go, they say, back to the time you actually get the initial. Because I kept putting it off. And a different one said you shouldn't do that. And finally, we did have at that time -- he's

retired now -- the representative of the guys at the VA down there in Austin. His name is Tony Moore. And when that doctor gave him the stuff and when they came back, he says, "Finally." He said, "We've got somebody that we're able to do something with."

EM: Oh, that's great. So after the scarlet fever, how long were you in with the scarlet fever?

DM: Three weeks.

EM: So it's a thing that there's nothing they can do for it other than just let the fever run its course.

DM: Right. And I was lucky there, again. It wasn't a major one. I had what they call scarlet, it's the low form.

EM: There's more than one version, huh?

DM: Yes. I had the lesser form.

EM: So when you finally recovered, then, it's what? Back to your unit?

DM: Yes. I was lucky enough to go back to the same one, the very same one I was assigned to. And --

EM: And where were they physically located then when you went back?

DM: They were still in Belgium. Just before we were to cross the Rhine River and near the Koblenz area.

EM: Koblenz, yes. That's where the Moselle River goes down and leads to Rhine, yes.

DM: And that's where we crossed and we went into the Rhine Hill.

EM: So when you went down to cross the Rhine, what route did you take? I mean was there much resistance?

DM: There was some. As we were crossing, we didn't have a whole lot of resistance. It was after we got in there. And we got back in, it's near Wiesbaden, if you know where Wiesbaden is. We crossed there and went up into the hills. Very cold, very, very, hilly. In fact, I had blisters on both my feet.

EM: Really?

DM: Yes. Almost covered the bottom of them but I still, and we went there, and that's, I've already got down into March.

EM: Okay, so it's still wintertime.

DM: Yes. Wintertime. We was there, crossed the Koblenz and went into the hills there. And on the 23rd of March is when they were shelling us.

EM: Now, you were machine -- did I hear you say you were a machine gunner?

DM: A light machine gunner.

EM: Okay. So what is there, a crew of three of you per machine gun or?

DM: There's a gunner, assistant gunner, and two ammo carriers.

EM: Okay, so there's four of you with a .30 caliber --

DM: Right, .30 caliber, air-cooled.

EM: And so you're getting a lot of shelling then, tell me about that.

DM: Yes, we were getting a lot of shelling. And they were coming in and we had stopped and kind of hunkered down.

EM: Now this is the Wiesbaden area?

DM: Well, it's before we got there, yes.

EM: Okay, so in between Koblenz --

DM: Back in the really hilly part of it, just out of Koblenz.

EM: Right. Just on the eastern shore of the Rhine.

DM: Correct, correct. Anyway, it's just like this. But we had, I had a pretty good idea. I'm getting ahead of myself there. And that shelling came in, and of course, we got down and I had my machine gun laying there, and I was there, and the other guys nearby, and we decided to move out. And I got up, I was just about like this --

EM: Bent over.

DM: -- bent over, picking up my machine gun, starting to pick it up, when that hit like a --

EM: Describe that.

DM: Well, it hit me and it knocked me out.

EM: So something came down during a shelling and it grazed you in the head, in the face?

DM: The face, face.

EM: While you're bent down?

DM: Yes.

EM: And knocked you out.

DM: Well, I think that, I think it was not necessarily knocking me out from the head, but it knocked me out from the blow to the heart area. And I had nothing but blood on me as I found out afterward. Right at the moment, I naturally didn't know because it did, it knocked me out. And there I laid with blood all over me, a hole in my coat pocket over my heart. They picked up my machine gun because they looked at that, and they seen the blood on me, and seen the hole there in my field jacket. They gave me up for dead. And how long I was knocked out, I had no idea, but there was nobody there when I came to.

EM: Now your mates that were part of your four-man crew, were any of them injured, do you know?

DM: No, I was the only one. And they picked up the stuff and took off. I mean everybody was moving out, I mean they went with them. They just left me for dead. Once I came to, I recalled more or less the route or how they were going to be going. So that's where I did that, I followed them. It was probably a couple of hours later by the time I caught up with them.

EM: So here you are, blood all over you, given up for dead, and you are two hours of slogging along and you caught up with them?

DM: It could be something like that. I don't know how long it was. But that's what we figured. And they were like that sheet of paper when they seen me coming. They couldn't believe it was me.

EM: They turned white, huh? They figured it was the ghost of Don Morrison.

DM: I was supposed to be there, I mean, in their thinking because they figured I was gone.

EM: What happened?

DM: Just went on. Well, first of all, I wasn't going to do nothing about it all. I said, "I'm okay. I'll be with you." I mean, I got cleaned up by the medics and I wasn't even going to turn it in. They said, "Yes, you are."

EM: Who said that?

DM: The other, I don't, I imagine my sergeant. The head of the section of the squad because there's two squads and I was in one squad. And the sergeant, or the section leader, is what his position was. He was a sergeant. "Yes, you are," he said. "You need to turn that in." I said, "Well, I'm okay." I says, "I feel okay, I can go with you guys." He says, "You're still going to turn it in. No matter how you

feel, I want you to turn that in." And that's how I come about to be a Purple Heart veteran.

EM: So who do you turn it into? I mean --

DM: Well, I had to report it.

EM: You got a form or something?

DM: Well, I mean, I don't even remember now for sure. I'll be honest with you. I do not remember for sure. All I know is that I had refused and they talked me into doing it anyway.

EM: Well, tell me about the New Testament and the role it played because I don't think you've been explicit on that, so tell us.

DM: Well, the New Testament, I carried it from the day one that I went into the service and they issued it to us. They issued that Testament to all of us and I always carried it in my left breast pocket from then on. I think from the time we got it, unless I didn't remember. I know I always had it. And that piece of shrapnel that grazed my face, which made it bleed and stuff, made the hole in my coat, and we found it was buried in the New Testament. So chapter 15 of the Corinthians I, verse 10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain." And when it hit that spot because we were able to get the pages apart, the pages before had a crack

in it, but where that verse was it only indented it. It did not go through it.

EM: And which Corinthians was that again?

DM: Corinthians 15, verse 10. "But my the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain." I'll let you get copies. It's here.

EM: Amazing story. Describe the piece of shrapnel that's embedded in your New Testament.

DM: It's just like a piece of gear that had been broken out of a gear. It even has the edges --

EM: The teeth.

DM -- the teeth, yes, that's what I should say, teeth. It's probably, oh, an inch long and maybe a half to three quarter inches thick through. Maybe even, yes, that'd be about right. I've never actually measured it. I just go by sight.

EM: And you still got the New Testament?

DM: I still got it. I have never let it out of my -- well, I have let it out of my sight because I told you a story about my wife.

EM: Yes, your kids took it to show and tell at school.

DM: Show and tell.

EM: Unbeknownst to you.

DM: Right. In fact, I --

EM: But it worked out.

DM: Yes, it did. Well, anything my wife had to do with, you knew it was going to be taken care of immediately. Had I known, I knew it would have been taken care of.

EM: And just for the recording, Don has that New Testament with him here at the interview in a small plastic bag. And the piece of the shrapnel is still tightly embedded in the New Testament and you can pull the piece of shrapnel out and have a look at it and then slip it back in. It's truly amazing. So when did you discover that it was the New Testament with the shrapnel in it that had saved your life? Did you discover that right away after you came to?

DM: Not immediately, no. But sometime in a short period. I don't even remember how we'd come about it. I think there was a couple other guys that helped entice me to let's find out. I'm sure it was not just my own thing. There were others there.

EM: So you didn't really discover then, I take it, until you had rejoined your -- I mean, the fact that the New Testament had stopped it or did you discover that right away?

DM: No. I did not know until I caught up with them and started checking into things.

EM: Starting searching around and they found it.

DM: Right. It was not done immediately, but I would say probably within, probably a day or two or so.

EM: So what was the reaction of everybody when they saw that?

DM: Just amazing, the best way I can recall.

EM: How'd that make you feel?

DM: Lucky beyond words. I was, well, there was a thing I sent home to my mother as I remember. In fact, I've got a copy of it, want you to see it and read it. I sent it to the newspaper, I mean an article about it, to the newspaper back there in Wisconsin. And it says, in there it says, "He says he believes now that there is a God."

EM: Well, I was going to ask you the question. Were you a religious man going in?

DM: No, no I wasn't. I was not.

EM: What a story.

DM: I had never hardly been in church. Now, my mother was religious to a degree. My dad wasn't.

EM: So when you got cleaned up and they convinced you to report your wound, you did so.

DM: I did.

EM: And then what happened?

DM: I don't remember after that, I honestly don't. Of course, we went from the Wiesbaden area, well, before the convoy, we went into another convoy is what it actually was because

we were moving across Germany. And actually, it started before Wiesbaden, but we went through Wiesbaden in an angle up towards Leipzig. From that area up to there.

EM: Headed up to Leipzig. So Leipzig's over in the eastern part of Germany, so.

DM: Correct. Well, anyway, along that way we were, a lot of it was done on convoy again.

EM: Because there wasn't a lot of resistance?

DM: No, not but every once in a while we'd get something. But I had my machine gun set up in the back of one of them big, I forget what they're called, a 40x8 truck? Anyway, a big truck. Oh, here's the thing. When they were back there in Erlach, that group of guys, they did things besides just fight and stuff like that. But if they were going to be back there like that, they made available to themselves, they got a hold of a compressor like, where they made their own electricity.

EM: Yes, a generator.

DM: A generator, that's what I was trying to think of. And hey, that truck that I was in, going across there, there was also some tanks and stuff like that. But the truck that I was in, we had to make sure that generator, wherever they went, that generator went with them. Well, I had my machine gun set up on the side gate of the truck and I sat

on the generator so I could do what I needed to. And we had some fire come in at us, just rifle-type fire, not any shells or anything like that. And something hit below me. I felt a hot, something hit me hot. I got down quick. About that far, not even a foot, there was a bullet hole in the side of that generator.

EM: Missed your crotch by 12 inches?

DM: By 12 inches or less. That was the second scare.

EM: That's another wake up call, Don.

DM: But you know what we found? They finally give up and they came out with a white flag. The oldest one was 15 years old and the youngest one out of four was 11.

EM: Of the German resistance?

DM: They were kids keeping us.

EM: Yes, the kinder army. The oldest one was 15?

DM: Fifteen and the youngest one was 11 out of four. But they had us wasting ammunition set up on them, you know?

EM: Right, yes.

DM: They were detouring us. They came in or whatever --

EM: Of course they wanted to slow down and divert you.

DM: But that was in going from Wiesbaden to Leipzig.

EM: So we must be in April now because --

DM: Yes, it was.

EM: -- that was pretty much when things collapsed for the Germans.

DM: Because then, when we got to Leipzig, we had no, we didn't really have a lot of resistance in Leipzig. But we got in a little town west or east of Leipzig and the name of it was Grimma, G-R-I-M-M-A. Now we got a lot of resistance there, a whole lot of it. In fact, it was our last major one. In fact, my assistant gun, no, one of my ammo carriers, he got hit with what they called potato mashers on the side of his head. And it didn't kill him, but he was taken out of action, of course.

EM: What's a potato masher?

DM: It's similar to a, I don't know, it's an overgrown type of a --

EM: Grenade, or?

DM: Yes. Only you throw it like you were throwing a machete and ahead of them.

EM: Kind of a head on it?

DM: Yes. It's what they had. And we called them potato mashers. And of course, he got hit with one of them. But in that one there, that was the battle where we had to fight from a basement. You can imagine what that was, that's why my ears, probably, part of the reason. It was in the basement of a house.

EM: You had house-to-house combat here.

DM: Right.

EM: Did you start it?

DM: Well no, it wasn't really house-to-house. We were in the house, you know, in the basement of the house. And over there was a ravine where the Germans was going through. And I was able to set up in there and keep them at bay there. Now whether I killed anybody or not, I have no idea because they were, well, you saw them. You could see them go through there and naturally, you'd fire. But we never did know.

EM: So this was in the basement of what, a farmhouse?

DM: Probably.

EM: Kind of out in the country like?

DM: Yes, because there was a ravine there. But it was because a small town to begin with, Grimma was. But we called it Grimma, it was our base.

EM: Did you have any contact with civilian Germans while you were going through there during that?

DM: No.

EM: Or were they lying low, I guess?

DM: They must have been. I mean, I know I would have been. No, I had no contact with civilians.

EM: Did they, did the Germans still, able to put armor in the field? I mean tanks and that kind of thing?

DM: At that time, we didn't see a tank that I remember. Now, maybe some of part of it was, maybe. I know we had tanks there, on that trip from Wiesbaden to Leipzig, there was a few tanks there.

EM: And of course, we had tanks.

DM: Yes.

EM: So, after, let's see, what was the name of the town again where you had the resistance?

DM: Grimma.

EM: Grimma. So did you push further beyond then?

DM: No, that seemed to be it, because it was only a few days after that when, again, I don't have the exact dates, but it's when they decided to send us to Czechoslovakia. See, we were getting very, very close to the end. We didn't know at the time, of course. And we got to Dobrany is the name of the town, which is near Pilsen.

EM: What's the name of the town again?

DM: Dobrany, D-O-B-R-A-N-Y, which is near Pilsen, P-I-L-S-E-N, which is the big now, of course, that's where the biggest amount of proceedings took place when they liberated the situation.

EM: Is that right, it was in Pilsen?

DM: Yes, yes. But our company, the 38th Regiment, I should say, which included my company. We were the ones that went to Dobrany. Some of the other parts of the second division ended up in Pilsen.

EM: Now why do you figure they sent you to Czechoslovakia?

DM: I never did find out. We ended up down there and then --

EM: Everything was over.

DM: We got there, no, we got there on the sixth, and the eighth, of course, you know.

EM: Did you ever feel like they pulled you back before they sent you down there because of all, you know, I know there was a deal being cut between, you know, the Soviets and --

DM: Yes, I have no idea.

EM: So when you went down to Czechoslovakia to see --

DM: I as just a PFC at that time.

EM: Yes, you were just --

DM: No, I might not have even been a PFC yet. Yes, I'd think I had to be in order to be a light machine gunner.

EM: Right. Was there any resistance when you went down to Czechoslovakia?

DM: None that I remember.

EM: You just convoyed down there, then?

DM: Yes, we were convoyed down there and when we got to it, we had to do a lot of prisoner guarding after we got there.

EM: So they had already basically given up down there?

DM: They must have because that one place was just full of nothing but Germans and we'd have to pull guard duty. And that one night, it was the worst storm I've ever seen, that I was ever in in my life. Just the storm and weather. It would lightning so it was just like daylight. I've never seen it like that in my life. Here I am out there on guard duty with, at that time, they give me a rifle to be out there on guard duty. That's the only time I had a rifle, but otherwise when I had a machine gun, I carried a .45. And that was dangerous now that I think back, but I didn't think anything of it at the time.

EM: While you're doing this, you were wet. (laughter)

DM: Wet and --

EM: Miserable.

DM: But and one time, I had to fire the gun. I didn't fire into him, I fired over him.

EM: Yes? Tell me about that.

DM: Well, there was a lot of commotion going on back at the fence.

EM: So is this just a big open compound where you had all these prisoners?

DM: Yes, yes.

EM: Describe it. Describe the whole scene.

DM: Well, just an open place with a lot of people, a lot of prisoners. Whether they were civilians, or soldiers, or what they were. I'm sure they were soldiers, no question about that part of it. They were in there and --

EM: And you've got, what? Barbed wire and everything surrounded and got them enclosed?

DM: Yes. And they just were acting up that night and I thought well, I fired one time and it quieted right down. I remember that part.

EM: So do you think they were, this is mostly military types in there that were causing that?

DM: It's possible that it could have been.

EM: So were these all Germans or were there any Czechs in there?

DM: No, I'd say they were all German. No, I don't think there was any Czechs in there. I really don't.

EM: Mm-hmm. So, these guys, the prisoners, what did they have? Tents for them to stay in or did they, do you remember?

DM: You know, I don't remember that. All I remember is seeing a big compound full of people, billowing, you know, milling around is the way I'd put it. And they just seemed like they, that one time, it just seemed like they were getting unruly, and I thought maybe this will do it and it did. But I, naturally, I shot like this.

EM: Sure, up, yes.

DM: I wasn't about to go any other way, I mean, if I didn't need to.

EM: So what do you remember about the day that the surrender was official? Was there a lot of celebrations on the part of you guys and the other guys? Or --

DM: Well, there was as far as our own guys, I'd say yes. As far as the Czech people, I don't remember.

EM: But you guys did a few cheers and what have you?

DM: Oh, yes. And just, I know when we, like I told you and I had I knew this, way, way beyond the fact when we back there five years ago, we couldn't have been treated better.

EM: You went back to Pilsen?

DM: (coughing) Pilsen, Prague. And Prague is where the main headquarters was.

EM: I've got some water there if you've got a scratchy throat.

DM: (coughing) It's beginning to act up.

EM: Well, what was the countryside like around there where Pilsen is? I mean, did it look a lot like Germany or?

DM: We didn't pay that much attention to it, yes.

EM: You weren't sightseeing, I know. (laughter)

DM: No. Just country. And I mean, you were just -- and when we were in Dobrany, it was a big building where we, well, I guess you call it a building. You know, we were in a

building, we weren't out in tents or anything like that. And it was around the square and that was the place where we held our practices and stuff like that. And there was always Czech children around, like when we'd eat and they didn't want you to give them anything. But you know most of us, we'd find a way to get that food, anything we didn't want, we'd try to get it to them. Well, you knew they were hungry.

EM: They looked pretty desperate then, huh?

DM: Oh, yes.

EM: So during this period of time, are you able to stay in contact with your folks back in the states? Are you writing them letters letting them know you're all right?

DM: Oh, yes. We were always writing back and forth. Because I was there from, like I said, we got there on May 6th. I think that's the exact date. It could have been the fifth, but I know it wasn't any later. And we were there until, I believe, we left there on the seventh of July. So we were there exactly two months and I went back five years ago. We went to the exact spot. It's still intact, just like it was when we were there.

EM: Really?

DM: And it's got, well, parading grounds is what I should call that word, that building was around.

EM: Mm-hmm. Now this is Dobrany?

DM: Mm-hmm.

EM: Yes, things don't change as fast in Europe over there as they do in the new world.

DM: And that was a long building, man, of course, you've got a whole regiment of guys and we were all in that building.

EM: So are you starting to figure at this point, when the Germans have surrendered, ah, maybe I can finally go back home? What's, you know, what's the scuttle bug? You know, how long are you going to have stay? What's going on?

DM: We had no idea how long we were going to stay and then it came about that they were going to ship us. We started back on the seventh of July by train, that's the way we came back from there to, I think, it was Camp Old Gold, which is in the Le Havre area we ended up. We ended up, I don't, it seems like it was the Le Havre area, anyway.

EM: So it was back on the French coast?

DM: Right. And we went back there and we, you know, I can't remember the name of that ship we were going, only half the size of the *Ile de France*.

EM: Well, nothing was as big as the *Ile de France*, I mean, that was a huge ship.

DM: But it was a nice ship, I mean, for conditions.

EM: Was it a converted passenger liner, or was it a troop ship?

Or --

DM: It was considered a troop ship and we were 11 days on that coming up.

EM: So you went straight from there? You didn't go back to the UK first? You went straight to the states then?

DM: Right. We went straight to the states. We landed in Camp Kilmer, that's where we got in.

EM: Where's that?

DM: It's in New Jersey.

EM: New Jersey.

DM: I don't re-- let's see. Fort Meade's the one that we went home, what's the one when we come back?

EM: It doesn't matter.

DM: I can't think. It may even be in this thing. I don't know. I should know. But anyway, when we got there, this other camp, boy. I want to say it was Fort Dix, but I'm not positive it was Fort Dix. But when we got there, then they disbanded everybody, I mean, to their homes.

EM: Really?

DM: Yes.

EM: It wasn't just liberty, you were discharged?

DM: No, no. We had a 30-day leave with travel time, which in my case turned out to be six days, but that didn't start

until I got to Camp McCoy, which is Fort McCoy now. Well, that was only a couple of hours, about three hours from home, so I got an extra six days.

EM: Yes, you got like almost six weeks here.

DM: Yes.

EM: Or five weeks.

DM: Yes, it was like five weeks.

EM: What did it feel like sailing back in to the good old US-of-A after --

DM: Oh, it was great. I mean, seeing the Statue of Liberty and all that to go with it.

EM: And still in one piece --

DM: Yes.

EM: -- you were. So you went home for leave.

DM: Yes, leave.

EM: Liberty.

DM: Yes. We actually went back by train, but again, they didn't start my travel time until we got to the base in Wisconsin.

EM: Hey, rules is rules. (laughter) Why not?

DM: They could've started that way back there in New Jersey.

EM: They sure could have.

DM: And it's a wonder they didn't.

EM: Yes. So how was the visit home?

DM: Oh, fine. I ended up being married. (laughter)

EM: Well, so --

DM: I'm 19 years old, I'm getting married. (laughter) My wife was 19, but in all that, I had contact with her by letter all the time I was over there.

EM: And she was in Wisconsin?

DM: Yes.

EM: And but then you had to go back?

DM: Yes, I had to go back on the -- let's see. Well, we were on the train coming back. They were shipping us to Camp Swift, over there by Bastrop.

EM: Oh really?

DM: Yes, that's where we were headed for. We didn't know we was going to be headed for there.

EM: Bastrop, Texas?

DM: Yes. And we were headed back there, but we still, it was while we was on that train that the second of September came.

EM: You were probably going to be headed to the Pacific.

DM: There was no probability about it. We were headed that way. But by the time we got back to Camp Swift, all the war had been fought, which made us all happy.

EM: I bet. There was another celebration. Because you probably were going to be involved in the invasion of Japan.

DM: Oh, that was one of the reasons they got us back when they did. It was all and that was all in there to go. We all knew it. I mean, we didn't know it literally, but we had the feeling.

EM: You knew it in your heart.

DM: Yes. Oh, there was no question in none of our minds that we would go anywhere but, except maybe for the oldest guys, you know, who had been, which there was probably, oh, I'd say a third of them.

EM: But you were young, you were still --

DM: Oh, yes.

EM: You were still --

DM: Oh, I was just a kid. Well, I had turned 19 now.

EM: You'd just turned 19.

DM: I turned 19 when I was over there in Czechoslovakia.

EM: And you'd only seen six months on the -- in combat.

DM: Yes. Oh, yes. There was no question in my mind.

EM: You were fresh meat still.

DM: Well, there was no question about it.

EM: So at that point, they just shut things down and then what, did you --

DM: We were just as though we were in train --

EM: Limbo.

DM: Semi-training, I guess you'd call it. No, you were always doing something. I mean, they were trying to do some kind of thing. There was nothing guaranteeing that we would not be kept for so forth.

EM: So what finally happened? Did they just go ahead and discharge you?

DM: No, I was discharged in April of '46. And part of mine was due to, I mean, as long as I didn't have to go over there, they let me out in the situation that my dad's sick. He'd been sick a lot and they let me back to the farm.

EM: So, but you had eight months after the war was over when you were just hanging out, huh? Hanging around? Were you there that whole time?

DM: No, in fact, I was home twice during that time for him.

EM: But that whole time you were in the Bastrop area, yes?

DM: Yes. That was the only place I was after we'd come back. And then I went from Bastrop up to Fort McCoy for my discharge. In fact, I've got a picture of it in that one that shows the day I was discharged.

EM: With a big smile on your face.

DM: Trying to get -- grabbed the one wrong again. Here. That's the day I was discharged.

EM: Yes, you do have a big smile on your face.

DM: This was in Czechoslovakia.

EM: I see. Dobrany.

DM: This is one of my buddies. He was in, he wasn't in my squadron, he was in the other squad of the section.

EM: That's something. Here, we're going to want to make copies of those.

DM: Oh, you guys can have anything you want to copy. But I didn't realize until I just showed this to you that that had such a clear --

EM: Yes, that's a good reproduction of the New Testament with the --

DM: Yes, it even turned out better.

EM: -- with the fragment on it.

DM: This is the original and then they, of course, did it so it's like this here. See, they don't show quite as much. But that can be due to the fact of the size.

EM: I think some of that's the size. So, looking back on that experience that you had, it seems almost a self-evident question, but how did it change you as a person, from when you went in to when you came out?

DM: I hope it made me a better person. I know one thing. I don't think the service hurt anybody that went in the service. There's going to be some good come out of it.

EM: And what good came out of it for you?

DM: Just being there.

EM: How do you mean that?

DM: Well, first of all, serving our country. Having been one of them. Because you don't do it alone, it takes everybody. And you've seen guys that you never would have seen in your life and made great buddies of them. My -- he's gone down -- but my platoon leader, couldn't have asked for a finer guy in your life and he would not ask you to do anything that he wouldn't do. He was lieutenant. I cannot recall a guy ever saying anything about him bad. Just sad that he couldn't have went on longer in life, but he died on D-Day anniversary, on his 60th birthday.

EM: Hm, that is early.

DM: And that guy, he was something. His whole family was part of that group.

EM: Where did they live?

DM: He originally was from Midland, Texas. But he married a lady from La Crosse, Wisconsin, when they were stationed up there at, I mean, from a result of being stationed up there when they were in, at that time, camp. When they change these camps and forts --

EM: They're too busy changing things.

DM: Camp McCoy it was then, it's Fort McCoy now.

EM: Yes. How do you feel about the Germans since you fought them as an enemy and saw what you saw in Germany?

DM: As a German, they're fine. I'd better. There's a lady, a lady friend, she's a full-blooded German. But, I mean, it's just hard to visualize and I know it's got to be hard for them that are -- she was born in this country, I mean, but her parents weren't. But it must be, I can't imagine what it must be for somebody that was born in Germany and yet did not agree with that setup. It must be, I really don't know how to express it. It would be hard to do for me, I know that.

EM: Hard to explain it, huh?

DM: Yes. And here's something that really gets me. When people tell and say, or not necessarily themselves, but they tell about somebody saying, "That never happened." I don't know where they're at. If they can't visualize, see what actually happened with pictures. Pictures don't lie.

EM: Did you see any concentration camps?

DM: Oh, no. I am very happy that I did not. I've seen enough in pictures.

EM: To know that you didn't want to see it in person?

DM: That's for sure. And I know a guy that was -- he just died recently, too -- from Pennsylvania. He was a prisoner of war. He was a second division man, but he was captured in

the Battle of the Bulge. I just cannot understand people that say they don't believe it, either who are there or the other way.

EM: I agree.

DM: I cannot understand their thinking or how they can even think it.

EM: You know, one of the things that's kind of sticking in my mind just thinking back on our conversation here is the 11 through 15-year-old soldiers that came out with the white flag. What went through your mind when you saw those kids?

DM: Just --

EM: Of course, you were only 19, but still.

DM: Well, I know.

EM: Big difference.

DM: That's a whole lot of difference, especially an 11-year-old.

EM: So what did you do with them, then? Were they taken in as prisoners?

DM: Yes, they were taken in. I don't remember now what was done to them. I mean, that's pushback to somebody else to do and we never seen them again. So what they did them or anything, I have no idea. I mean, I'd been --

EM: Well, yes, you had a job.

DM: -- I never talked to the -- even that good friend I had --
I mean, the one that we were talking about, the platoon
leader. I never even talked to him about it.

EM: Wow. Now did you say, I assume that you stayed in contact
with some of your buddies from the war through the years?

DM: Oh, yes, better and better.

EM: I know they're getting thin on the ground.

DM: They're getting very, very thin. In fact, I cannot think
of one right at this moment that I actually trained with.
I cannot think of one. There's a guy living in Temple yet.
He was with us five years ago when I went there. And he
was an officer at that time. He just turned 90, I think.
But anyway, just hearing him. By the way, before I forget
it, if you pull this up on the Internet, which you can,
that Chapter 1919 over there in Austin has got numerous
guys on there. There's one on there, if you ever get the
chance, I think his story is more, I think outshines mine
100%. He was a medic. He died the 13th of January, [sic]
the year before last with Alzheimer's. He was probably
four years older than I am, I think. But he was a medic.
There's a story about him, and Carl Klein is his name,
Klein spelled with a K. He literally, he took, back then,
you know fountain pens, you could take and you could blow
the ink out of them? He took one of them. He had to cut

the guy's throat and get that in there to get some air into him. And this guy, the officer appeared, and he said, he looked at him and he says, "Carl," he said. "You're going to kill him." He says, "He was going to die anyway."

EM: So he actually formed a tracheotomy with --

DM: Yes, right.

EM: -- with a fountain pen.

DM: A fountain pen. That guy lived until just a few years ago down here at Seguin. He hasn't been dead five or six years, but he lived that long.

EM: That's incredible.

DM: That's what I say. You can find incredible stories on that Chapter 1919.

EM: I'll have to go look at that.

DM: Those guys have done an excellent job over there. But Carl, of course Carl, I knew him close and I didn't serve with him over there, but we got to know one another after the war. That, see, there's so many of them you know after the war that you never knew anything about when you were over there, because of the age difference and due to the circumstances. So many of them was wounded or something before they ever got to Belgium. I mean, there was so many of them that was wounded there in France.

EM: Yes, you made a comment earlier about, well, you know, everybody was together in, you know, working for each other. Have you by any chance seen any of the series "Band of Brothers?"

DM: You know, I have that and I have not been able, you know -- my thing is not working.

EM: Well, it's a very emotional trip.

DM: My son got it for me, but I've never been able to go get my TV --

EM: But a lot of it really resonates with some of the things that you're saying. Of course, this group of guys, they came in on Normandy and stayed all the way through and actually, at the end of it, they were actually in occupation and I think it was in Czechoslovakia, but I'm not sure. Or it might have been, Austria, I'm not sure. But I mean you would really relate to it, even though, I'm sure, it's flawed, and you know, it is a made-for-TV movie, so it's going to not be. But I would think you'd get a kick out of that. Or, I don't mean a kick, I would say I think it would resonate with you.

DM: Well, you get the appreciation of it. This guy that I speak a lot of, my platoon leader. He hit Normandy on D-Day one. Of course, the second division did. They didn't go on D-Day, they went D-Day one. He never got a scratch

and he was with them the day we moved out of there in Czechoslovakia. And he's the one that I'd said he would not ask me to do anything that he wouldn't do.

EM: That's amazing. Where was General Patton compared to you during all of this?

DM: He was on our right flank. See, we were in General Hodges' first army, and Patton's third army, and then Patch's seventh army, and our left was the English one, Montgomery.

EM: Did you have any interaction with any of the British or other Allied soldiers?

DM: No. (coughing)

EM: Well, what else can we touch on while we've got you on the recorder, so to speak?

DM: I don't know what else, unless I've left something out. I told you about the -- I have to have my mind for a moment, I can't think. You know, when we came back, we didn't go to camp. Fort Dix, I said. It was Camp Kilmer.

EM: Camp Kilmer.

DM: That's where we came back. Camp Kilmer, not Fort Dix. And we went from Fort Meade in Maryland to go on over.

EM: Okay, you mentioned Myles Standish, I thought, up in --

DM: Yes.

EM: That's where you actually --

DM: That's where we got on the boat.

EM: -- launched?

DM: Right. And we were the first on and the last off.

EM: And then all of that exposure to cheese, huh?

DM: (laughter) I like that. Oh, I forgot one little thing on the coming back. Guess what kind of a KP deal on got on that time?

EM: I have no idea.

DM: Ice cream. (laughter)

EM: Ice cream KP detail?

DM: Yes.

EM: What is that all about?

DM: Well, they were them little square, well, they weren't necessarily square. Small, about that thick.

EM: Ice cream bar type things?

DM: Yes, but they would just cling, wrapped in this kind of like cellophane and we had to do all of that.

EM: Well, what did you have to do? Hand it out, or make it, or what?

DM: No, we had to make sure each plate, I mean, kitchen area got the right amount. Just like we had to make the right amount of cheese. (laughter) Well with ice cream, the trouble is we sampled that ice cream. (laughter)

EM: I was going to say. (laughter)

DM: And I gained weight.

EM: Coming back was a -- (laughter)

DM: A complete turnaround.

EM: A high fat diet coming back, huh? (laughter)

DM: Oh, I forgot to tell you about that. Yes, let's see here.
I guess I haven't told you about what I've done since I was
in the service.

EM: Well, I'll tell you what I'd like to do. What I'd like to
do --

DM: But that's all in here.

EM: I want to end the recording here if this is all the World
War II experience that we have.

DM: It is, that's all I can think.

EM: And then, you know, we'll talk some more afterwards.

DM: I don't see anything else right now. Yes, I got it in
here. The potato masher grenade.

EM: Yes, yes, grenade, right. Well, why don't I close it down
here? Let me do two things. First.

DM: Oh, when I got off the plane --

EM: Go ahead.

DM: When I got off the plane in Chicago there, after our basic
training, 20 below zero.

EM: Because that was right at Christmas, too?

DM: Twenty below.

EM: I was going to ask you if there was snow on the ground after you came back up from Georgia.

DM: Yes, oh, yes.

EM: And there was.

DM: I have pictures, yes.

EM: Well, maybe that was good training for you, though, because you sure got some cold weather when you were in Northern Europe.

DM: That, that was cold. And I didn't get even the worst, that's the worst part of it.

EM: That's correct.

DM: Some of them guys were far worse.

EM: That's right, that's right.

DM: No, I can consider myself lucky in more ways than one.

EM: Oh, in so many ways.

DM: And that I wasn't any older, otherwise I'd have been in it sooner.

EM: Well, that's right. Well, let me do two things here. First, thank you for coming over and sharing your incredible story and I, you know, I appreciate that. I feel honored to even hear the story, let alone get it in a recording. Second thing is to, and this is obvious, too, is to thank you for what you did for our country during the war. And I know --

DM: I thank you for what you're doing. I mean not for me,
everybody.

EM: Yes, well it's one of the reasons we do it, but --

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