

Burchett, Charlie Interview pt 2 3-6-95

[Speaker 1]

Heads on fire, heads on fire. Well, and I found out two things. Number one, I figured out why he said his head was on fire.

I didn't go back and investigate that. That .45 caliber bullet would go right through a jet helmet. But see, you were so sweaty out there that you didn't have any matches.

They would be useless if you carried them in your pocket unless you had an artificial... Now, we had little plastic artificial hand cams. Sometimes you would keep them, but they didn't.

So probably they carried them in what they called a head liner. They were straps to keep that metal from bouncing on your head. And then you regulated it to fit your helmet.

So you would put something up in there, maps and matches, to keep them dry. So apparently that .45 ignited the matches in his head on fire. So he was killed.

Oh, yeah. I suspect that was where he sailed from. So that was just another thing.

But if you get to... I did not know that that thing... I knew it had a cannon over there because one of the guys that went up there told me.

But finally, we still... I don't know whether there were others in there or what. There could have been.

So a Sherman tank came up there with a 75mm howitzer on it. And so he just blasted it down like he shot four or five rounds in the backside of that thing.

[Speaker 2]

That took care of everybody that was there. You guys didn't look around in it to see?

[Speaker 1]

I didn't. We had to go somewhere else. And some of the guys that did told me that they had that cannon in there.

Because then I knew what they were doing. They were getting ready to shoot at the field hospital. Well, that really nobody even sees the way he was.

You see, international law required that you not shoot your, what we call, corpsmen. They were Navy corpsmen or medics from the Army. They wore red cloths on their helmet and front and back.

But the Japanese, we couldn't do that with them. They were the first ones they shot. And when I was supposed to be armed, we had to arm ourselves.

We all got a .45 many times. We had one out that the firefighter broke and all of them. He just picked up the M1 and decided he'd be learning about the rest of us.

But that parallel, it's just... I see, but at that time, we were going up a valley. We went in.

There was a valley. And some Marines got shot up real bad. And they pulled out.

We went back 10 days later to clean them out. And I learned that, I think, when we got up there. Now, Marines never leave their net.

But there are times when they have to. I saw a guy get hit on the ridge just several yards from me in the back of the head. And when a bullet hits somebody in the back of the head, it makes them always remember or forget.

But he just slumped on the side of that little hill. And the guys down below, the squad, they were starting to lower. He climbed up there and tried to get him with a foot to pull him down.

And he got hit. The third one got hit. Just one after another, one after another.

And finally, the last one did get him and pulled him down. I'm pretty sure he was dead anyway. I don't know.

I don't know about that kid. That's another story. I'm just saying.

And in this valley, I saw one dead Marine laying in front of a cave with five dead chaps right behind him and a small camera behind him. I don't know what happened after that. But as we went into the valley, there was a barbed-wire fence up there.

That barbed-wire fence was three feet. There was one or two strands, I mean. And there was somebody in uniform hanging on it.

And I had to peel clothes. We used to have a jacket and pants. And it went over together.

And I said, I've been driving clothes over here. What's it doing? I walked to it.

There was a body in there. Another sight. And I can see this is where he landed.

In ten days' time, we made it to the scene. The body just, the only thing was that greenish-yellow crease of skin around the bones. And everything else was gone.

They chopped off his head, his feet, his hands, and put him there for us to see. I guess, a year or so. How did it make you feel?

Well, I wanted to get work. Get out. And that's why I was telling somebody that they laid on down there.

My buddy and I, we had got 75 in that rubber. And I was telling somebody, I said, how could you sleep after killing all those people? Why are you mad?

There were more bastards in there. That's what I felt about it. But anyway, we started down in that valley.

If anybody thinks of World War I, you think of lions. You know what you do. Let's pretend to be a squad.

You're the apartment man. He goes down and works. And you've got to take casualties from those black hills.

Those guys, this military mountain range, there's House of Cowell back here. They had mining engineers. They fought down that valley for 25 years.

They would go up in those solid rock hills on top, dig straight down, St. Desmond, and then go out along the ridge both ways and fix portholes to shoot out. And they'd shoot out through the rock. You couldn't even see where they were shooting from.

And your buddy right next to you might get hit right in the eye. And you wonder why wasn't he moving. I was curious about that thing.

And I went up in there and we cleaned that thing out. And I looked around and, man, they didn't just... They had you in their sights.

They had kind of went wrong with something and dropped back to the end of us. And when we went down the valley, we stopped. And when you stopped, you couldn't dig a box hole in that coral anyway.

All vegetation was blown off. It was just bloody. The bombs and artillery had just knocked everything off of those things.

And we went back. That's been 50 years of growth on a beautiful tropical island. I couldn't believe it.

So the band stopped. And I didn't know where the front was. We jumped in the hole.

There was just a shell hole and not much hole you could get your whole body in. But we stopped there. And right next to me, they built a little shack up on a hill or somewhere.

And a piece of tin roof had all curled up from the explosions. And it was just right beside me, about two feet, I guess, or three from where I was. And in the morning, I passed on the left.

And my buddy was about seven feet down there. And I looked over at him. He was down on his stomach.

He was just picking a rock up and dropping it. Maybe he was dropping it in the rain or something or something past time. And I said, Red, you lost something in that hole?

And just as I said that, three slugs hit that piece of tin. Ha, ha, ha. I'm telling you, you can talk about noise.

They sniped with that damn machine gun. And they didn't have a selector switch for signal or nothing. And three slugs, I'm telling you, I jumped out of the sea.

And old Red had ached on his leg completely. And, I don't know, we came back here 30-something years later. He came three years later.

And he said, we talked about that yesterday. And he said, Charlie, you remember what you said when they shot that piece of tin? And I said, no, it wasn't the same thing.

He said, you said, Red, a baby got a spot here. I remember saying. Well, we went on down.

And they called us up to this, it was a hunk of rock in the middle of this valley, about the size of this room or so. And in the front, it had an opening, I'd say, about four or five feet wide and about three or four feet deep. And there was a machine gun in place of it.

And this cave they had, they had, they argued, because way up in the valley, and that's probably where they got a shot at me from, they could, you could see right through it with your gun, artillery mortars on it, knocked it out. But it was hard. You couldn't see through it.

And you just knew there was a solid hunk of rock. And they dug that out. And it was, there's just no way you could take that valley.

But they had brought back down to that end of it, most of it. So here was this, this big mound. And they had, and we come up to the town engineer who worked there, and there's an interpreter up there talking to the guys inside, except then there's no response whatsoever.

And finally, and I've seen those two dead lions, you know, some guy in that hall has let me out and just as soon as he sees me, he says, I can stay. And I just froze. See, if they ever surrendered, and very few of them ever did, say, if they surrendered, they were utterly disgraced in their families.

But if they died in battle, it wasn't even their own ancestors. Some of their children. Now, I knew, it was so immediate, I thought, there was a guy, they got shot at, that their daughter was dead, and they revived him with something, because that boy was an old axeman.

They couldn't even say Marines, they called us Malines. So while I was wondering about what to do, now, it was about 730, eight degrees off the equator, that sun was bright. One of those infantrymen, he must have thought the same thing I did.

He started getting out busy and warm, which wasn't the smartest thing you could do, because it was dark in there. They took a shot at him, and somebody pulled him back, and said, throw it. It went to the back side, they walked in it.

They bent down and walked in there, that's where they sprang that gun. And before we got back there, now the infantrymen were already in the vicinity, and they were guarding it. B.A.R., very old, sexist. A good rifle, but not a good machine gun, because it was supposed to be a stoop, bulky, and heavy. But anyway, he was standing there holding his gun, and out that cave, a Japanese put a blanket over his head, and ran out. He got, you know, just ten feet from him.

He wanted to commit suicide, and he did. He found a Japanese sleeping on him, but he never woke up. He shot him, of course.

And he was supposed to have grenades, and they gave him a discovery. They popped it, and threw one at him, too. But anyway, they told us to lower it.

Now, the way we operated was, the guy that took the 25-pound charges, he didn't have to put his weapon down, because he's got to pull it his way, and sling it. It's a two-man operation. And I moved out in front of him, and I got back to the mouth of the cave, and then back against the rocks, further away, and my weapon down, and Thompson and me, and I'm going to argue with him, but he had to watch his throat, and make him say, that's the chance you take.

So we put three different charges on that guy. And when the feeling sort of slowed down, I went in there, looked around, because I was looking for that voice. I got a bunch of souvenirs.

I got that damn machine gun out there. It was against the law to sell it at home. I wish I had any way to be worth about \$20,000 right now.

And I sold it some C.V. for 20 bucks. I couldn't do it any other way. And I didn't find it.

I couldn't see good enough. I didn't see the money. And it still bothered me.

But the next day, in there, late, I'll tell you about it, the flies were so bad, but they sent a bulldozer. They sent a squad up there, a bulldozer, and they pulled them out, and buried them. And there were 75 of them that got away.

So that made me feel good. And just 35 years later, when it came through, I finally figured out what that was. Roosevelt, that's my flag, I love the flag.

He carted all the Japanese off the west coast. And he said, I'm going to put them in an internment camp. Now these were American citizens, just like you and me, because he legalized it.

But he did it anyway. The reason he did it was, they were playing footsie with the folks back home. They were going over there, and the Japs were driving them to get home.

The Japanese and Americans had a college education to come back and join the army. It was kind of a rift between those officers and the other, and the regular Jap officers. They did say, in favor of the American traitors, that they were not quite as cruel as the others.

But anyway, this guy had to be one of those. Because he very likely spoke his Japanese with American accent. And he knew enough about the Americans.

Another thing, it was a pistol shot. Once you've been out there in combat, you know what kind of weapon and whose it is and what caliber. But you never heard a Jap pistol because only the officers had them.

And that was what that was. Sounded like firecrackers. I had a .45, a Colt, and a Silver Pulsar. We were near them. It was about six more meters. Anyway, that's what that was.

[Speaker 2]

So was it a trick that he was trying to perpetrate?

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, yeah. He knew enough about the Marines that he might shot that guy and miss him. The B.A.R. man? No, the infantryman at the front.

[Speaker 3]
Yeah.

[Speaker 2]
We've been talking about Peleliu. One thing, one question that's occurred to me before we get back into it, and I wanted to ask you before I forgot about it. You had been attempting to get into combat, and that was your whole focus for joining the Marine Corps.

I was wondering how your folks felt about that. Did they know about it? Well, oh, yeah.

[Speaker 1]
Pretty well. Well, not like that. I told my father I was going to get in there.

I told him, you know, I appreciate the way you might say my brother and I were brought up. I had a younger brother, 14 months younger. He joined the Navy.

And I guess one thing I remember about that was he left before I did. And I can remember all the people that get a draft notice and the families that go berserk. My boys going to get killed when they see Peleliu.

I know on Peleliu, I saw a documentary, but every man on the front line has 23 backing him up, you see. And that's where most of the people went. And they were screaming, carrying on.

One woman, she got the notice, her kid dead, and she alarmed the whole neighborhood. They even called the police, thought somebody was getting murdered. But I remember my mother, when my brother left, and she, he walked to the front door, and she grabbed him and gave him a kiss, and said, you make Uncle Sam the best sailor he's got.

And she went back to the house and cried. I remember that. And she did the same thing when I left.

My father, I told him I was going to join the Marines. And he said, no, I'd rather you, I said, I know you're going to go into the service, but I'd rather you join something else than, but it's your decision. And that's what I did.

One day, I just couldn't feel comfortable with another out there. Not that you're comfortable in combat. That was the way I felt about it.

And my family, my grandparents, supported me. Having them back home, you know, I mean, that's nothing to fight for.

[Speaker 2]
Off tape, we were just talking about the way it was with the 81st Infantry Division there. Can you talk a little bit about that?

[Speaker 1]

There was a thing, a guy by the name of Sledge, I was in that V-12 program with him at Georgia Tech. And he ended up in the 1st Division, as I did, except he was in the 7th Marine, 60mm Mora outfit. Now they put those guys right up close to the line.

They put the 81mm guys back a little further, but they got a lot of combat. And he told an interesting story in a book he wrote about the color blue. And with the old breed?

No, the old breed was, that was what we would call it, a history of the 1st Marine Division. I have a copy of that, if you want to see it. Anyway, this is a book, I have a copy of it.

And Sledge had told this incident, this incident, when he was going home from the, and then discharged, and he was in Atlanta Airport, he was from Alabama. And this Army guy came up and said, we have on the left sleeve a packed 1st Marine Division that was quite well run by World War II Pacific veterans. And this guy came up, grabbed his hand, and hugged him.

And he goes, what's going on here? And he had on an Army uniform too. And he said, well I want to tell you what happened.

He said, I'm so fond of the 1st Marine Division. He said, I was on payload. And Sledge says, I was too.

And he said, our infantry outfit, we were supposed to take a ridge somewhere, I don't remember where, and it was a real hot spot. And so we pulled back. He said, I got wounded.

And he said, my lieutenant and my men left me up there. I couldn't move. And it was a pretty serious wound.

And he was yelling for them to help him, and they walked off and left him. Because going back and waiting for one guy to come to work. Sledge and his Marine outfit were on the nearby ridge and witnessed that.

And they saw the guy over there hollering and begging for help. And his buddies walking away, and they went over and brought him out. And that's where they did so I had to find the first wing division.

And one thing, one incident I know about, was part of the fifth wing division was pretty badly shot up. And they could not, you know, you're in combat constantly, no rest really, just statues asleep at night. And somebody stays awake, two men do a foxhole all night because the Japs like to infiltrate.

And you have to count on one of their banzai charges too. So you don't sleep too well in those things. But night after night it takes its toll.

And they pulled the, at night the Japs were not doing anything at that time, so they pulled Marines back so they could sleep and put the army troops up there to just hold the lines because nothing was going on. And then the Marines would come up in the morning and make the advance. I mean that was really stuck in my craw if I was in combat out there.

Then at one time they relieved them of the army troops and the Japs took the land back, the ground back that the Marines had taken and the advance up there and they had to get them

off the little ship and go back there. We'd take that land because we were shot up pretty bad. Then the Marines general took a lot of flack because he wouldn't use the army troops more.

They would say, well that's the reason he wouldn't use them, see. And you can't make that public, but this is the thing. I have witnesses out there.

I thought about it, see. We were volunteers and they mostly were not. And I thought they were over-trained.

My observation was they had to depend on their officers. They called them lieutenants. They called them 90-day wonders, you know.

Initial people could stay, parents could keep them in college, see. And in those days they had to have their money to go to college most of the time. And then they would get a commission.

And they were young, many of them, and they were not, and here they were. They would have farmers, and bartenders, and working people under them, in many cases, I guess, quite older. And it was something they were probably the farthest out of concern.

We never knew where they were or how they all had been here. We just knew which direction we were going in and we weren't going to be denied, you might say.

[Speaker 2]

So most of your leadership came from your sergeants, corporals, probably.

[Speaker 1]

Well, you know, it's kind of funny. You thought you just did your thing, in other words. Kind of the lowest thing that they, that might say the strongest in this whole thing, for some reason, they used them for ammunition carriers, bringing ammunition to the front with machine guns and riflemen.

And those guys, they were one of those kids in the 5th Regiment there. One day, I believe it was 3rd Battalion, they were, there was a cave that was holding things up. And so they were stayed in the situation.

I missed, attacked it, and this kid brought some ammunition up there, and he looked at it, and he just picked up a BAR, right out of my wife was laying there, and grabbed some hand grenades, and while the lieutenant was staying there, and he was pushing me, I wouldn't think about what to do about it. He just went up there, knocked the thing out, and came back with his rifle, and brought back his ammunition.

[Speaker 2]

So there was a lot of personal initiative.

[Speaker 1]

Yeah, that sort of thing. But this ain't like high training. As I went back early, I wasn't going to talk about it.

We got in 20 miles into San Diego from Camp Elliot, we just about had a manufactured way to do it. And if we ate properly, quite often we'd have to steal the food from the galley. I'll say it, I'll go from the officer's mess.

So you just kind of did your thing, and you knew what you were going to do, what you should do, and I'd say which direction to go.

[Speaker 2]

So at the time you didn't really have any opinions of your officers either way, they were just sort of insignificant?

[Speaker 1]

I remember one real good one that we had, he was a VMI graduate, and it's funny, a lot of them go to military schools, and then when it came time to be commissioned, they'd slap the Marine Corps. And much to the regret of the Army and the Navy, is they had that trouble with the Naval Academy, so many people weren't going to the Marine Corps, and I think I read recently they just set a quota that they were just going to let so many in. But this real good lieutenant we had, he was up there, and if there was any missing job to be done, he would just read the charge himself quite often and throw it in.

So this was primitive fits, not on the front line. The infantry wants on the front line to have their people there, they know what to do. And when we were up there, they would send us back at night to set up a perimeter defense, they called it, around, well, mostly it would be battalion command posts.

And sometimes even regimental you might be. And the bad thing about being there is, when they started their artillery branches at night and mortars, they wanted to get the command posts, not the front line troops. I had the ability to shake the ground in front of me and kick dirt and gravel in the box hole and everything.

So that was what they used us at night. But the infantry wanted to have company and people there. So we went back and forth.

And this lieutenant was setting up this kind of hot spot, this was perimeter defense. And toward the, this happened in the middle of Okinawa, we started getting a few draftees in. And the Marines did not want them.

But when people wanted to fight, they would come in through selective service. They made everybody come through selective service because volunteers were going to the Marine Corps. And then the Army and the Navy could select what they wanted and send the rest to the Marine Corps.

And I remember we had this guy a little older than the rest of us. He was up in his thirties. His name was Luther.

A real nice guy. But he was laying in that box hole one night and his mind started seeing things that wasn't around. And the lieutenant was making it known.

Everybody knew what he was doing. He was coming to each hole, making sure everything was all right. Guys were in position.

And as he walked up to this guy, he shot him. Shot the lieutenant. Had him in the amputated leg.

Shot him in one eye. The guy just was not with him. Some guys, you know, I say women have no business in combat.

And some men have no business in combat. And I've seen probably about three just break mentally who had been out there too long. And these guys, if the officers had done their job, they knew those people should not have been there at those points.

The guy breaks in bad situations, but usually it's at night. You just don't spend as much time losing it in combat so often as you would know about it.

[Speaker 2]

The ones who looked like that that you saw, what were the symptoms that they displayed? And were they good Marines before they broke? Yeah, yeah.

[Speaker 1]

They must be a breaking point for everyone. But they were bodies for what they were looking for. And there wasn't as much screaming.

You'd see the Marines. It was an interesting situation. Some of those guys were in boot camp when I was there.

And I think the Marines probably kept them out of there. Good combat units, these draftees. They put them in us.

But they had what they called a school. And these guys, well, many of them were from Appalachian areas in southern Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and East Tennessee, Kentucky. And what they did was they said, Hey, y'all Marines, these are yours.

The Marines had to have a school for them to teach them how to read and write and sign the payroll and try to teach them what to call their general orders, which everyone's supposed to know. They had many posts and all that stuff. I can't remember what they were, but we had to memorize those things.

And these guys always brought guitars with them. A little boy in the ordinary group would. We had two or three at home.

But they would sit back there at night in this hut, and they would pick and sing, and we would go over there and listen to them and talk to them. And there was this one guy, I believe he was from Georgia. He was a preacher.

And he said he couldn't read anything but the Bible, and that's the only thing he would read. And there was another one that, now, prior to the war, the drill instructors, quite often if they didn't like the way you stood at attention, if they didn't like you, they would just slug you with a fist. But when the war started and so many people picked, that was outlawed in the Marine Corps.

But they'd stand in your face and call you a kind of dirty name. They wouldn't try to stop that. But out on the drill field, this guy, he had his rifle, no ammunition, my goodness, and a band is in its holster, or whatever they called it.

And this drill instructor called him a son of a bitch. And he took the band out and started after it. And the drill instructor ran to the boundary of the drill field and a big fence like that went up.

And he was trying to climb that fence when they talked to this guy and pulled him off of it.

[Speaker 2]

The D.I. was trying to climb the fence to get on the drill field.

[Speaker 1]

They just didn't do that stuff. Now, sometime we were in tents and sometime we were in huts, they called them. There wasn't much difference.

And when we were in the boot camp, they issued you a bucket, about a two, three-gallon bucket, zinc bucket, and a big scrub brush, two or three bars of octocon soda, and about three cans of shoe polish. And they took it out of your brush, and the monk's putty, or perhaps that haircut you gave him, shaved your head. And what that was for, it had a place that you would go and scrub your clothes with that brush and hang them up, and your name was stenciled on them.

And your name was stenciled on the bucket. And that had a certain place that was supposed to be for your monk, with your name out, so inspecting officers could see what it was. And so they would call your name sometime because they would come in for inspection.

And so the officer would look down in that school platoon and say, Private Jones, and Private Jones would be on the other side of the hut, and he would answer. Maybe they put a bucket there, but they couldn't get the right one. And so this kept you busy.

And they had old field shoes where the leather was turned outside where the rough part was on the outside. It was kind of really fuzzy. And we would take those.

This was keeping busy, too. We would take that shoe polish, and we had to put it on that raw leather and make those shoes shine. And it would take about three cans per shoe to get it that way.

And then there were certain ways you could make them really shine for inspection. And then after about 30 minutes to an hour of walking, they all cracked up again, and then you'd have to do it again. So it was a thing that you had no time at all.

Like I say, I was worried. Those guys, I remember, I don't know whether you want this on the tape or not, but this thing was kind of useless to me. And they would urinate in the bed at night.

And then you'd kind of have to do that at first. They would discharge people that did that. And then they caught on to it that a shooting officer that had some troops that did that.

And so I think the Marines probably did the same thing They would get them up at about 2, 2.30 in the morning and call it a piss call. Just make them all go out to go to the train or army. We called it a head.

And they quit that. So what I found out is you were, as I say, I don't know whether you want this on the tape or not, but I guess you'd rather have this one. Because this happened.

Because these boys were the talk of the recruit depot there. And this guy found out a queer or had those tendencies, they were discharged. So he was at the head.

He had a big old crowd. And one of the sergeants, real sergeants, came in there and was right beside him. They were both urinating.

And he looked over at the sergeant and took the back of his hand and slapped his penis and said, Sergeant, that's a fine piece of meat you got there. And that guy, they'd send him home the next day. I bet they did.

And he wasn't so done. See, they didn't know what the war was about, many of them. Now, what they did do, though, when they got them in combat, they were good.

They wouldn't run. They were standing around. They didn't like being shot at without shooting back.

But another unusual thing happened. They did not score well on the rifle rounds. And you can take those jackets from big city that never shot a gun in their life, and they would beat them on the scope.

And the reason was, I think they changed it then. The kind of training we got on the rifle really made us for me. Those two weeks we spent on the rifle rounds, and consequently we were the best rifle shooters in the world, the military out there.

But it was done like you would do target shooting. We shot up to 500 yards. And we had a rapid fire in there.

Now, they would tell you, for instance, they'd say you shoot to 500 yards, how fast the wind was blowing. So you had a formula for the distance and how fast the wind was blowing. So many clicks on the windage, leave a button, and these guys couldn't do the arithmetic, obviously.

So they would have to shoot, and they called it Kentucky windage, shoot to see where the bullet was hitting, and they marked it with a marker for you, a disc that would show you how far you were to the right or left or up above or below the bullet. And these guys would have to shoot a round or two to see where the sight was, and then they would compensate by moving it in the right direction. Well, they did better off anyway, but they would lose points in that.

And in combat, unless you're a sniper, you don't have time to do that stuff anyway. You set up what they call battle sites at 300 yards, and even though the bullets were raised or lowered, they didn't get further on in that. So that hurt, but they would not do that.

I saw one of them one night, he was up more than a yard down, and I remember he just liked to drink anything and get all drunk. And they used it to carry ammunition, and the machine gunner got hit. And he got up there, and the guy was disabled.

He just took the gun over, he had an ammo bag, and I don't know how many he was, but he got 50 or so. And the daylight came, and they said, I don't know if I should go up there and carry this ammo.

[Speaker 2]

I didn't think it was any good. You just sort of went on like before, right? Yeah, that's right.

[Speaker 1]

You know, I mentioned women in combat, which I highly oppose. On Palo Alto, I remember one day, we were back, and there was a spot where one of the Japs kept trying to infiltrate through. There was a lot of rocks and things, and there was kind of a crevice there, in which they would slip through this flat country at night and kind of crawl in there.

And so the Marines, of course, were alert to what was going on, and they were shooting around. I don't know what was going on, but they sent us with the bulldozers up there to fill it up. So there was some young kid from Indiana, and he was an operator, and I went along, and I'm a submachine gunner.

I had a shotgun, as we called it. So what happened was, I was riding on the back of the plane. Now, when we came around, the infantry outfit was dug in in kind of a little high place, so we went around in front of that, and you could call it a no-man's land.

The Japanese snipers could cover it pretty easily, although at the time, there was no activity going. But we went up there to close that gap, and I was riding on the back of the bulldozer to make sure, because they came here, and they got to concentrate on what they were doing. So I was to protect him.

When I got there, there were about 10 or 12 dead Japs that they had shot that night laying out there. Well, he had to run his bulldozer in that area. And so I thought, well, we didn't have time to drag him off.

That was for sure, because that was a dangerous spot. And I thought he'd just run him off with a blade. I thought that would be kind of crude, but it didn't do that.

He just ran over those bodies, and I sat up there on the back of the plane, and the tracks on the bulldozer, there was arms and legs, hands flaming, there was blood everywhere. I jumped off that thing, you know, and I said, I'll cover you from over here. I said, there's a better spot over there somewhere anyway, because he was turning this way and that.

And just as soon as he got it done, we were out of there. And you cannot hear anything when you're driving on those things, and you don't have time to even look around. You know, it was that kind of thing, and some of the things that I'll tell you about in Okinawa I just wouldn't want my wife in that sort of situation, or my daughter.

People are going to read the mom of your children, I don't think they're going to read anything. It'll scar people through that, you know, the bad effects of it. That's my nature.

And like I said, some men probably wouldn't do too well there. But that's why I come back. Then, I was going to be volunteers, however, because we had some real good Marines that were draftees, and were soldiers in the Army, and some of them were how to decorate.

There was a feeling I know about the ordinary folks in constant service. So I said, hey, we're a young Army, something in service. And quite often this was said, well, no, I'm going to wait till they call me, and then I'll go.

So they wanted to do what they could to protect the country, too. Well, we got these in the pockets, you might say, in certain things that we had to take care of. And I remember seeing, it was probably 300 yards from where we were, and got a direct hit on one of our 75-millimeter howitzer batteries, as you see the stuff lining up against the keel.

Those caves on that place were so well dug, as a matter of fact, there was one, and they said it was five stories in the hill, and they could keep a long, long time, because it was well-supplied hospital kitchens, and they were playing 1,200 troops. And all the bombing and strafing that these fellows knew, didn't get to nail us for sure, or even the strong ones. And, now, a 155-millimeter rifle, that's a long gun, I think it ranged about 35 miles.

And I saw one of those that was probably about 400 yards from the side of the border. Now, there's a valley there, and the troops are all in there, but out of this cave way up on the hillside, now, they had caves in which they had steel doors on them, and they would roll a gun up there, open the doors, a gun on the tracks, and fire several rounds to get off, and then go back inside, before you could get your stuff on. But this one big cave, they had this one piece of fire, now, this makes no sense.

And every few minutes, they fired a round into that cave. They had those things so designed that napalm, which was what the flame-throwers used, would not get there. They could go back, but napalm would not go back in there, and couldn't.

Things to keep the stuff, the blows, from getting to them. And that was the whole day long, that 155, was used to wrap the end of that furnace. Fair enough.

Anyway, we were up doing a demolition job one time, and we got up over one of those things, and we could hear the Japanese in there, and smell what they was cooking in there. And you could hear them just jabbering away in there. And one of the boys got up there, and he was talking Japanese.

He was making up his own Japanese, and talking back to them. And neither one of them knew what he was going to say. And that one, we took a whole case of TNT, and dropped it down with a rope.

He quieted it down.

[Speaker 2]

Did you ever go into the cave after that? What? Did you go into that cave after that?

[Speaker 1]

No, he was at that time. What the infantry did, I don't know. What we usually did, when we blew one, we moved on.

We didn't mess around. Another thing, you got a lot of smoke and fumes, and one thing or another, that you have to deal with before it settles down. Usually we have to go on one.

If they're alive, if there's nothing, apparently when you bypass one, you always keep watching it. But if it appears to be dead, or no one in it, then you don't take time to blow it. One of the things too, on Okinawa, is we would be back, and then we would go up.

There were times, let's see, I didn't even have any mind to go up on Pelehu, but the flies got there so bad. That, when you, when we were back on the airstrip, and they set a temporary galley up, and they were cooking the rations. When you, when you're standing there at a makeshift table or something, with a lump of coal, or a 55-gallon drum, eating, you would have to take your spoon, with one hand in one hand, and the other hand, you would have to wave it.

And you'd have to do that all the way to your mouth, because if you, on your mess kit, that's what we ate out of, you would wave, if you just kept your hand there, two, at least two flies, and sometimes more, would hit your spoon between your mess plate and your mouth. And these were big green flies, we called them blowflies, off of dead jams, because there were so many of them laying around there, we got over 10,000 now. And they just, you'd put them there.

And then, we would do this sometimes, we'd watch a guy, down to the end of the table, and as he started up with his food, he was waving his hand, and invariably, if you was hollering at him, you'd say, hey Joe, he would turn you away, he would quit waving, waving the flies off his spoon, and what he'd keep on, he'd put the spoon in his mouth, and he'd get two or three flies, and he'd start spitting, and you'd laugh at him, if he had food in your mouth, and if you opened it very wide, there'd be flies flying in your mouth, and that's how bad those things were around there. Did you ever eat one? I opened it and didn't know it.

It's best that way. But I'd spit them out of my mouth. You know, and, I just knew I couldn't take time to worry too much about.

Oh, I remember one time, we were back on the beach, and we had to go somewhere, to get some, I remember this red flame, get some ammunition, I mean, TNT, and, we, there was a, kind of a, a ditch, and we were down below, the ground there was about, 12 feet or something, there was a drop-off about 12 feet down the beach, where we were walking, but this big ditch ran from the water, on up, on up past the airstrips, at best I recall. Now, a long time, it could have been a tank trap, I mean that's what it was, these were ditches that they would dig perpendicular to the water, so tanks couldn't go along there, they couldn't cross those things, if they did, they'd go nose down. Now, so when we got there, I'm thinking now, that would sure be a, a sniper up across this airstrip, in the hills, he could see right down there, and there were about seven of them, and I'm bringing up the rear, and they were, you're walking in the sand, it's hard to run, but sometimes you can.

Now, as they got to this place, they would stop, pause there, and run, it was pause, run, and I said now, that is a narrow ditch, a sniper, by the time the bases are moving across there, he

can see you, and then pull his weapon, and they snipe with that machine gun, which, one squeeze of the trigger, you got about three slugs coming at you, instead of one. So, when it got to me, I said, I think that guy, he can anticipate, with that perfect rhythm they're doing, when the next one's gonna come, and he starts shooting before he sees him, I said, I'm gonna delay my departure, that was the last one, and I did, and about five slugs hit the water, right behind me.

[Speaker 2]

Just as you went by, huh?

[Speaker 1]

No, I waited, and it was at the same time they'd gone, so I was, but then, then I ran real fast. I remember that very distinctly.

[Speaker 2]

How'd you feel about that at the time?

[Speaker 1]

Was it real scary?

[Speaker 2]

Did you think about it?

[Speaker 1]

No. You, I don't know, there's a type of, almost exhilaration, when you're in combat, you, I guess, the juices get to bubbling, and you just, I don't know what happened, but I'm particularly, I always, I thought, I'm not reckless, and, I would think quickly, look like fast as usual, and so, and make the right decisions. I was telling you about this, this place where we got freed, and I got 75 in that bunker, we went on down the apartment, and it really got hot.

Those Japs, as I said, this was the place, about as, this big on the rock, was about as tall as a Salem storehouse, and they had gotten in the top, and they were shooting out between the rocks and one thing, so we worked our way down and got up on top of that. And there were several, two or three openings, and what they would do, they would dig in down into that rock, and then out, and pick up some time and make a pretty good sized room in there, and we got up on one of them, and, they were shooting, going on like crazy, and up the ridge and got shot in the back of the head, just a few yards up the hip, trying to pull it down, but they got it down. Then, the fact that we got on top of the hill, in which he, that guy was going to be shooting from, and then there were three openings up there, big enough for a man to crawl down in, now.

You didn't go stick a head over those things, but it was dark, in there. So, the guy that was in the headquarters platoon, who was a brilliant machinist, we had a machine shop, but, when it wasn't set up, he was going to be a militia man, with us, and, pretty good. So, we were told to blow those holes, because those Japs were down in there, which was obvious, they were still shooting.

So, I took my timing gun over, to cover one of them, to make sure that, you know, he could get up and do his job. He walked right by me, and I was covering one of them, and he walked

right by me, and shot a few rounds in there, to make sure that he got back from the opening, and walked to the next one. Now, this was, this was one of the shakiest times, I mean, this, I was, not only, afraid of what might happen then, I was terrified, that this, in the next few minutes, when you set off the charge, and you put the fuse, crimp it into a cap, and stick it into the block of TNT, one of them, now on the end of the fuse, you crimp a little black, brass tubing thing, with a little wire and T-hammer coming out the end of it, crimp that on the fuse, and you put that little T-hammer between your two fingers, and pull it, and it's, probably it's got something like sandpaper in there, and match heads, and it gets hot, and it lights that fuse, quick. So, so when you blow a fuse, throw a charge into a hole, you grab that fuse lighter, pull it, and then throw your, your charge in, which is 25 pounds of TNT.

And, so he walks over to the other hole, and when he gets over there, you hear this rifle shot, and he is shot right through his left shoulder, and that charge goes about 15 feet in the air. Now, it looked to me like he had that fuse, that fuse lighter in his hand, and if he had, when it went up, it was on, and it was lit. I mean, I've got some, there were about three of us up there.

We'd have blown us off of that thing, how far it would have gone. I thought, man, this is it. And I hugged that ground as tight as I could, just waiting for that.

Nothing happened. Talk about being happy. He didn't have the fuse lighter in his hand, and all that thing hit the ground, and he, he just grabbed his shoulder and cussed, and walked off to the aid station.

[Speaker 2]

So he was alright after that?

[Speaker 1]

Well, they, the bullet went clean through his shoulder, what damage it did, I don't recall, I don't even recall, I think it came back to the company, but I don't know. But, that one was very, I could go to that hill right now and pick out a spot I laid down. That, that's what I don't recall about that right now, but those incidents are very, very, very clear in my mind.

You know, talk about, the people that talk about it, I, I got, when I went to Calhoun, they wrote a article in the paper, and I got several calls from people from in there. And, and sometimes, the daughter one of them said, I want you to call my father, he said, he was on Calhoun, and he won't talk about it. Combat men are like that, most of them, they just don't want to be reminded of that, because nobody can understand.

And you end up making, what sounds like really stupid comments, or asking stupid questions, you know, were you scared, and things like that. Well, I feel like, and I've talked to students quite a bit about it, this generation, should know what we're not, what price liberty is, that freedom, whatever you want to call it. Because, it's really very difficult to explain what it is.

I think, every kid before he graduated from high school, or college, should have had to study, the Battle of Guadalcanal, another one, Saipan, Giro, or something like that. And that's, a couple of big battles in Europe, that's, know just what it is, because, they wouldn't have the freedom to, or the professors and teachers wouldn't have the freedom to, ignore those

things if we hadn't done it, see. It was, there was some very, definite plans set up, for what to do with the United States, when the war was over, and they won.

So, as I said, Peleliu stays on my mind more than anything, and much more than Guadalcanal. And by the way, many of the people that talk about, combat in World War II, or, even in Korea, and, the other, battles that we've been into since, have not really been in combat, because I don't have someone to come and talk to me, once I let them know that I was, a combat engineer the first week, then they changed the subject. Because, there are a whole lot of people out there, that are close enough to combat, to pick up enough from the guys to talk about it, and they weren't there.

[Speaker 2]

They were those, sort of guys in the middle. There were the combat troops at the front, and there were the guys way back, in the rear areas, and then there were those guys sort of in the gray area. I've heard that, from others too, that, they were close enough to sort of, have a little beard or something, but not really in the action I guess.

[Speaker 1]

Well, when we had Okinawa, that was one of the happiest Easter's I've ever experienced, having been through one invasion, and that wasn't the first wave, see. The people that you really have to respect, are those guys, they're not paratroopers, they're not rangers, or raiders, or this sort of thing. They'll have day in and day out, all night, and you sit there until you can hardly, take a step sometimes, you're so worn out, but you still do what you gotta do.

The infantry, that's the ones that, they fight the wars. I admire the aviators, and the bombers, and all that, but, they come back, and they're sleeping in the barracks, and one thing or another, we got thin mud, and I didn't have as rough a sandwich, you know what I mean, but in any particular spot, you can have some pretty touchy things. When we hit, we were getting ready for Okinawa, and we were making in our shop, steel ladders, ladders about 40 feet long, out of pipe, and then we practiced throwing those things up, against bluffs, or people on a rock canal, or from a nuclear, and they didn't tell us anything, but you can draw conclusions, you don't plan on those things, and the first thing you're gonna hear, and feel, very like a bamboo machine gun, so we made them, but we never saw them again, I don't know what they were, I didn't see any place to use them, unless some aerial photography misled them. Now, we hit, we faked the Japs out, they put the 1st Marine Division, and the 6th Marine Division, we, they faked a landing on the, the ocean side, on the east coast of Okinawa, and then we went around and landed on the, which was in, I guess it was the China Sea, and, then we were really prepared for that day, and we landed without any opposition, we walked all the way across the island, and I never saw a Jap, some way they had moved out the Japanese, and went south, and, which we would be introduced to later, but I can remember, that was most of it, that was half as east of LA, we landed without a shot being fired, man.

[Speaker 2]

It was like a dream, wasn't it? What? It was like a dream come true, wasn't it?

[Speaker 1]

Well, and you didn't even dream it, you didn't think that would ever happen, but once you've been on one, then you know. But anyway, we went down, set up somewhere, a camp down, somewhere around the middle of the island, and, and that waiting, that waiting, that was, you know what to expect. The 27th Army Division was sitting down there in front of a big ridge, and they wouldn't move.

And, they said that this happened, I'd read it, that it happened, and see the Comcast pilots were coming in, and wreaking a heavy toll on the naval ships. And they wanted, they had to keep a lot of the naval ships there to shell that hill, and the Army wouldn't take it. And the General, the Army, the Admiral was quoted as saying, telling that Army General in the Philadelphia one day, if you don't start moving, so I can get my ships out of here, and I'm gonna turn my guns on you.

So, we went down, and finally we were leaving, and we took the ridge. That was, those Japanese, would, they had little dugouts, you might say, on that ridge. And these guys went out with a rifle, and just picking up one guy, and then with a chain gun.

There's no way out for them, see. And they'd stay there, and I was not in on it, my people weren't in on the initial push, but as we came in to join them, we'd say, those Japanese, that plane, they were burned to a crisp. All just black.

There he was, the body was in good shape. The shape of the body was still there, just, just a crisp. And some of them would stay there, and the plane would get there, and then they'd run out with that, sure tail gun fire, and things like that.

And after we took that thing, then we started on the south. I traded my Tommy gun for an M1, because Thompson is good for good close-in stuff, like Palo Verde, but this was about open country. And, I zeroed the thing in, and then, apparently, the infantry started doing a lot of their own demolition work there.

And so we did special work, and then we went to construction and land mines. One of the, well, actually after leaving the 27th, we went on the south, and, I remember one day, we were working this road for mines, and apparently, there were thousands of Okinawan civilians killed because of the fighting. And many of them were by airplanes and ammunition.

And I understand, and I'm very happy with Americans today, even though the Japanese were there, at least they were killed in about thousands. We did everything we could. Apparently, they dropped pamphlets, told them to stay put, or they would come back through the lines.

One of the most pitiful things I've ever seen was a frightened old man with a baby strapped to his back. The Japanese wouldn't let them come to us, many of them. I think they wanted to use them as shields, apparently.

But this old man, we would get close to the end of the island, and the civilians were just streaming through our lines. And this old man had a baby, they carried him, kind of like a papoose or something on his back. And he had a little white flag in each hand, on each of his hands, and it went around.

But anyway, we went up to work this line of mines, the road for mines, because we had to get the ammo and the tanks down through there, and the Japs would mine it. On each side of this road were hundreds of dead civilians, most of them. The Japanese would also put on civilian clothes and probably ammo in that one.

And the only thing that could have happened was that the planes were strafing the Japs as they were going ahead, like just several miles from me and that island, I believe about 60 miles off. So, these civilians in a niche were killed. I mean, they were stacked on top of each other, as far as I could see, not on this road.

And then there was a semi-tropical climate, and the bodies would, as the gases would expand and blow up like balloons, just bloated, and then they would break. And then millions of maggots, I mean, and they're over. And again, as I think back to that, we didn't have to talk.

We just had to use the mine detector and dig those things up. That's what we were supposed to do. In the middle of the day, we had our K-rations, and we just ate them.

You just got to adjust to that kind of stuff. I remember one thing. We were working some mines.

We got a metal detector in with the company. It was a big, bulky thing. It had vacuum tubes.

It didn't have transistors. And none of the guys, they didn't know how to use it. And no one, and you just learned not to take on any new things, you know.

I always, the thing fascinated me. So I got me a book, and I adjusted the thing. No problem.

And so, they sent old Possum Head Stroud, that's what I called him, he was from Beryl, Tennessee, and I went up there and worked this road to get so we could get to the trucks down there. And so, we got down, we found a mine that was, that thing must have been about a good two feet in diameter. Now that was an anti-tank mine.

You could step on that, it wouldn't go up. You wouldn't want to waste one of those on a foot soldier. Well it would turn tank over, like.

It was obviously about two and a half. So, we pulled it up. Now I had not been trained in this business, see.

But we carried us a big long load. Now I did know that what the Germans did, I guess old Stroud probably knew too, but see what they would do, they'd take a big mine like that, and if you discovered it, and then you lifted it out, they'd have a little 100 that when it would go off, and then both would go off. And in fact, so we tied a big rope on it, we knew enough of that, and we got way back and we pulled it out of the hole and put the old man's mark there.

And then we started going down the road and that load would bring the trucks on the damn nation, and all of a sudden the damn load would look back here and all of a sudden there was a load on the tire and a load on it. It's embarrassing to miss that one, get another one coming on. We had about three like that.

Now what was happening was those damn officers knew good and well that those, these were anti-personnel mines. And we were just, the load went with us. We just, for some reason, we didn't step on them.

And what it was, they made, their mines were not metallic, they were pottery mines. And those officers knew that. That's probably the reason why they didn't show up, but they sent us up there with a magnetic mine detector, metal detector, to get those things.

[Speaker 2]

Looking for anti-tank mines, not anti-personnel mines.

[Speaker 1]

No, they just, see, they got a call from headquarters, clear that road of mines, and they said, how's something going? They knew good and well that those kept some pottery mines. I didn't know it, or they wouldn't have gotten me up there.

But, you know, it's just something you think back to. Why I got my legs on them, I don't know. I thank the Lord for that.

Right, because maybe they were looking after Henry Earl Stroud. And another kind of funny thing happened up there. These supply troops, quartermaster troops, and Navy guys would get on board ship and they would come and go in these caves.

A lot of them. Man, there's caves everywhere. What would happen was, and then, if they were by themselves, which is stupid, all of a sudden, they wouldn't be back without me.

They'd be absent without leave. AWOL would call them. And then they would find them in one of those caves.

They would wake too late and dead. And there used to be a dead Jap in there, too. These Japanese stragglers would do, and some of them would slip back through the mines.

The officers told them I was pushing bounty and they were running out of caves. They said, it's been a big load. We might have been landing back in the middle of the island, slipped through the mines and go back there.

The Jap officers didn't have enough room for enlisted men. They'd tell them that. And we picked them off at night slipping through the mines.

But they were hiding in those caves. And then, as they would be, if they heard somebody coming in, that would be in the daytime. They'd do their room at night.

As the American would get up close, when they didn't know what was in there, they'd get close enough and they'd pop a grenade and kill themselves, and you, too. That's what they'd try to do. A lot of them got killed like that.

Anyway, these troops, over here, Stroud and I, on this particular place, this was another one, that's where we got the big tank mine out. And we were sitting around there getting a Jap

rifle. They had some men over there and they were just mopping up that over the ridge about half a mile from us.

It's a little dangerous to shoot a Jap rifle in this hell, because everybody, the infantry, we all know that's what it is. But we were running out of something to do. And so this army, there were about five or six.

It was a black unit. They came up, were going up, in the middle of the road. And they had their rifles and machine guns and everything in front of them, like they was ready for battle.

And I said, Henry, when these guys, you take that rifle and you load it, and when I tell you, you shoot it. Don't ask any questions, just shoot it. These guys came and said, what are you all doing up here?

I said, we're souvenir hunting. I said, yeah. Well, I said, there's plenty of souvenirs in the store.

And they got, we didn't like those guys up there, you know. They weren't combat troops. And so, they got right beside us.

And I signaled Old Strauss and shoot that thing. He shot that rifle. The guy in the front just froze.

And they had their rifles and two of them flattened down and the other two hit the ditch and one took off running out. It's a wonder they hadn't shot us, but that was one of the funniest things I've ever seen in my life. But those guys, they really didn't have to bend us up there.

First of all, it is getting away. And quite often, the combat troops and the officers from there, they were going to clean up to the front line, you know. Well, it's not a line, but that's where the blast may have been.

And so, the officer in charge would put them in their line and say, you are now an infantryman. Big mistake for them, huh? Yeah.

Anyway, I remember that story very clearly. We got... Another place that was kind of touchy on Okinawa, I remember more than that at home, they sent us up to blow a big field thing, a coastal gun.

Now, again, they were out of there, but there was a village right around this place and it was... They had made a dug in part of a cave from that big gun. That thing looked like it must have been 30 feet long.

It was a powerful one. And so, they had this cave, must have been about 50 yards back of that dug-on gun. And way back there, they had a powder magazine.

I tried to get Sergeant to go with me, but he wouldn't. It's a good thing he didn't, because we needed the lead to go a couple miles away. Well, he shouldn't have anyway, because there's some ladies living around there.

Now, in front of this cave, there was about 4 feet tall concrete wall and a valve, I'd say, about 2 1/2 feet thick all across it. And the gun, then, would reach out and shoot out over that, or the gun was hidden back in the cave. Now, how you gonna blow a gun?

Again, I had not been trained as an engineer, or an Englishman, or anything, but I picked it up pretty quick. So, I said, if you put it in there, it doesn't hurt the barrel, because they put more than 25 pounds in there. So, I said, crank the thing down, and you got that rather delicate instruments that crank the gun up where you can get your elevation and right and left.

Crank the thing all the way down where you can use it and blow that adjusting mechanism off of it. Well, it was a real fancy telephone, like that. And again, I'd seen the movies and things, I was aware of the area of booby traps.

And one of the guys said, looked at the phone and said, well, I think I'll call old Poe Joe. And he started writing out his hand, leave that thing alone, don't touch it, it may be a booby trap. Well, he did what I said.

We practically didn't take a big charge to blow that mechanism off of that. We fixed it and got out. And that, you know, the noise, when the explosion went off, that wall cracked right down the middle and moved back about a foot.

You know, we set off that booby charge. If he'd picked that phone up again, I wouldn't be talking.

[Speaker 2]

Who was wired to the phone? What kind of booby trap did they have?

[Speaker 1]

I don't know. We didn't see it. They used pitric acid as their explosive, but they had a good one in there, boy.

And they could think that gun was sitting up there just too pretty and that phone didn't come up. But, you know, it was the kind of thing you'd want to take with you, the phone did. You know, makes you think.

But, I got, I remember one day, this was before we came, and we said, we're sitting in Naha, the capital, and, let's wait, we go down, wait, see if we can get you geared up for action. So the 6th Division had gone through an area over there, and we said, we'd go over there and get a few souvenirs that we knew what to do. And this was Magnus Cave.

I mean, it was about 50 to 60 yards straight through a dirt hill. And then, you could see light down there, and they had a generator in there. And then there'd be a small passageway off of it on each side.

And then, it was like a T in a room that the passengers, just a few feet, would run into the room, and there was double-decker bucks in there, two. And they were so that any explosion that went off in the passageway would not get to them. And the reason they're so fancy, it was the Japanese naval aviators' bags.

Kind of messy, but they were protected there. Now, I got one of them as a paycheck in this leather suitcase. Well, I had this young kid with me.

He was being talky, about 6'4", something like that. I don't know again. He was probably about 17 years old.

And I was with him. And he had a B.A.R. in front of him on my right. And so, I put him in the passageway.

I said, I want to go and look in one of these cases. And so, what I did, I told him, I said, now you stay out here because, you know, you get in there and they could be, and I'm sure there's some stragglers in there. They run up and throw grenades in there on me, so we kept looking around the back side.

And I went in there and I had a flashlight. And I put that flashlight on a stick so I could hold it way out. And if anybody shot the flashlight, they might get my hand but they wouldn't get me.

The main part of it. And this, on this double-decker bunk, nothing on the top, a blanket made up on it. And then, I got down to the bottom.

And that thing was lumpy. And I brought it down to the end and there were three toes sitting there. I said, oh.

First thing, I ain't gonna do them, I'm gonna run out of there. But I didn't want to have enough to hold that pistol. And I didn't want to start shooting because I didn't want to scare the kid.

I didn't know how calm this was his first operation. And I didn't want to holler at him because they speak English, many of them, too. And I said, oh, this went through my mind just like this.

And I couldn't get his attention. He was looking the other way out there. And so, I backed over where if he did get excited, I put about five, three, four rounds through the blanket.

[illegible]

[Speaker 2]
and he and he got up, and he got up,

[Speaker 1]
and he got up, and he up, and he up, and he and he got up, and he got up, and he up, up,
and he got up, and he