

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,510

2
00:00:04,510 --> 00:00:05,770
OK.

3
00:00:05,770 --> 00:00:10,160
This is July 15th, 1995.

4
00:00:10,160 --> 00:00:14,350
I'm Neenah Ellis speaking
with Louise Birch

5
00:00:14,350 --> 00:00:17,710
in West Park, New York.

6
00:00:17,710 --> 00:00:24,580
Tell me, please, when
and where were you born.

7
00:00:24,580 --> 00:00:30,250
June 21st, 1921,
Cleveland, Ohio.

8
00:00:30,250 --> 00:00:33,430
And tell me something about
your family and your background.

9
00:00:33,430 --> 00:00:36,460

10
00:00:36,460 --> 00:00:39,610
Mother and father-- father
was a newspaper reporter

11
00:00:39,610 --> 00:00:44,410
in Cleveland, transferred
to New York City,

12
00:00:44,410 --> 00:00:50,350
and became sports editor of

the New York World Telegram.

13

00:00:50,350 --> 00:00:52,240

Have a brother.

14

00:00:52,240 --> 00:00:55,570

My mother and father divorced.

15

00:00:55,570 --> 00:00:57,940

And saw very little of him.

16

00:00:57,940 --> 00:01:01,480

17

00:01:01,480 --> 00:01:04,450

But my mother, I think, was
loyal to him all the time.

18

00:01:04,450 --> 00:01:06,400

The one thing I
remember about him when

19

00:01:06,400 --> 00:01:08,620

I wanted to become a nurse--

20

00:01:08,620 --> 00:01:10,540

he said to my
mother, there's not

21

00:01:10,540 --> 00:01:14,170

going to be any damn
maids in our family.

22

00:01:14,170 --> 00:01:15,710

That's what he
thought of nursing?

23

00:01:15,710 --> 00:01:16,390

Mm-hmm.

24

00:01:16,390 --> 00:01:19,990

Well, in those days, you're

thinking, talking 1939.

25

00:01:19,990 --> 00:01:23,720

That's when I graduated
from high school.

26

00:01:23,720 --> 00:01:27,043

So my mother said I could go to
college and become a teacher.

27

00:01:27,043 --> 00:01:28,710

Well, I didn't want
to become a teacher,

28

00:01:28,710 --> 00:01:30,760

I wanted to become a nurse.

29

00:01:30,760 --> 00:01:35,590

So I stayed home for a whole
year and absolutely nothing.

30

00:01:35,590 --> 00:01:37,510

And she finally said to me, go.

31

00:01:37,510 --> 00:01:39,370

Go, you know, I'll pay for it.

32

00:01:39,370 --> 00:01:42,550

Because in those days, you had
to pay for a nursing education.

33

00:01:42,550 --> 00:01:45,130

And it was dad's responsibility.

34

00:01:45,130 --> 00:01:48,460

So anyhow, make a long story
short, I became a nurse.

35

00:01:48,460 --> 00:01:52,210

And he never congratulated
me or anything

36

00:01:52,210 --> 00:01:54,640
until I got in the service.

37
00:01:54,640 --> 00:01:57,940
And he wrote me a
letter that he wanted

38
00:01:57,940 --> 00:02:01,870
to come down and do an article
on the nurse, the army nurses.

39
00:02:01,870 --> 00:02:03,910
And by the time
I got the letter,

40
00:02:03,910 --> 00:02:07,420
we were all already
overseas living in tents.

41
00:02:07,420 --> 00:02:11,410
In fact, it was Eckie who
helped me compose a letter back

42
00:02:11,410 --> 00:02:14,260
to my father, saying,
you wouldn't want

43
00:02:14,260 --> 00:02:16,960
to do a story unless-- we
don't look like nurses,

44
00:02:16,960 --> 00:02:19,120
we don't act like nurses.

45
00:02:19,120 --> 00:02:22,300
You know, we're living
in tents, and you

46
00:02:22,300 --> 00:02:26,680
know, walking in mud, and
not the sterile atmosphere

47
00:02:26,680 --> 00:02:28,960

that you think,
white, crisp nurses.

48
00:02:28,960 --> 00:02:31,810
So he dropped the subject.

49
00:02:31,810 --> 00:02:37,210
He never said boo to me the
rest of my life or his life.

50
00:02:37,210 --> 00:02:40,240
Where did you get the idea
that you wanted to be a nurse?

51
00:02:40,240 --> 00:02:43,760
And why was it such
a strong motivation?

52
00:02:43,760 --> 00:02:45,640
Actually, it goes back to--

53
00:02:45,640 --> 00:02:50,050
I was 5 and 1/2 years old,
had a real bad operation.

54
00:02:50,050 --> 00:02:53,590
And I almost died evidently.

55
00:02:53,590 --> 00:02:55,570
It was rare in that time.

56
00:02:55,570 --> 00:02:59,650
And I won't go into
it because I, well--

57
00:02:59,650 --> 00:03:04,090
but anyhow, two holes
in my belly here.

58
00:03:04,090 --> 00:03:06,070
And I had specials
around the clock.

59

00:03:06,070 --> 00:03:09,540

And I can always remember
begging my nurses

60

00:03:09,540 --> 00:03:13,005

that I'd give you a drink if
you were thirsty, you know.

61

00:03:13,005 --> 00:03:14,380

Because I couldn't
have any water

62

00:03:14,380 --> 00:03:16,180

or anything to drink and stuff.

63

00:03:16,180 --> 00:03:19,190

And that must have been
what was instilled in me.

64

00:03:19,190 --> 00:03:20,290

I remember that

65

00:03:20,290 --> 00:03:22,690

Because I had no
idea what nursing

66

00:03:22,690 --> 00:03:24,710

was like when I
went into training.

67

00:03:24,710 --> 00:03:27,400

In fact, my mother, when
she finally said go,

68

00:03:27,400 --> 00:03:30,640

she said, I'll give you a couple
of months and you'll be back.

69

00:03:30,640 --> 00:03:33,780

And I said, no,
I'll stick it out.

70

00:03:33,780 --> 00:03:36,042
And I did.

71
00:03:36,042 --> 00:03:37,750
Well, where did you
get the idea that you

72
00:03:37,750 --> 00:03:39,340
wanted to go in the service?

73
00:03:39,340 --> 00:03:46,820
Well, that's almost
another chapter in my life.

74
00:03:46,820 --> 00:03:54,700
I had my boyfriend through high
school had gone in the service

75
00:03:54,700 --> 00:03:56,350
before he was drafted.

76
00:03:56,350 --> 00:04:01,150
And he volunteered
for the airborne.

77
00:04:01,150 --> 00:04:04,060
He was in the 82nd
Airborne Division.

78
00:04:04,060 --> 00:04:07,070
And in training, we weren't
allowed to be married.

79
00:04:07,070 --> 00:04:09,310
And we had been really romantic.

80
00:04:09,310 --> 00:04:12,320
And he knew he was
going overseas.

81
00:04:12,320 --> 00:04:17,050
And so he got leave,
and I sneaked out,

82
00:04:17,050 --> 00:04:18,700
and we got married.

83
00:04:18,700 --> 00:04:20,850
His family knew about it,
my family knew about it.

84
00:04:20,850 --> 00:04:22,660
It was a real simple ceremony.

85
00:04:22,660 --> 00:04:25,330
And he just had a weekend pass.

86
00:04:25,330 --> 00:04:28,210
And that was the last I saw him.

87
00:04:28,210 --> 00:04:30,340
He went over, he was in
the invasion of Sicily.

88
00:04:30,340 --> 00:04:34,180
And he was-- that's
a thorn in my side.

89
00:04:34,180 --> 00:04:37,700
He was considered
an MIA for a year.

90
00:04:37,700 --> 00:04:40,030
And then you're dead.

91
00:04:40,030 --> 00:04:43,000
Not like the MIAs today
that they're still--

92
00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:45,730
I know that they have to
look for these people.

93
00:04:45,730 --> 00:04:48,940
But they didn't look for the

boys in the World War II.

94

00:04:48,940 --> 00:04:52,600

And there were many of
them that they never found.

95

00:04:52,600 --> 00:04:56,590

And unless there's blue-eyed
blondes running around Sicily,

96

00:04:56,590 --> 00:04:58,990

then I don't know where he is.

97

00:04:58,990 --> 00:05:03,166

And so I went trying to
find some trace of him.

98

00:05:03,166 --> 00:05:05,130

I'd written to his
chaplain and I'd

99

00:05:05,130 --> 00:05:08,430

written to a lieutenant that
used to censor our letters

100

00:05:08,430 --> 00:05:10,400

and never got any response.

101

00:05:10,400 --> 00:05:14,170

Went to the Red Cross,
never got any response.

102

00:05:14,170 --> 00:05:15,990

So I finally found--

103

00:05:15,990 --> 00:05:19,010

when I was in the service
and I was stationed down

104

00:05:19,010 --> 00:05:22,560

in Atlantic City in what
they called England General

105

00:05:22,560 --> 00:05:23,130

Hospital.

106

00:05:23,130 --> 00:05:25,890

It was one of the big hotels
in Atlantic City at the time,

107

00:05:25,890 --> 00:05:26,850

they made a hospital.

108

00:05:26,850 --> 00:05:30,240

And I found a fellow
that was in his company.

109

00:05:30,240 --> 00:05:34,920

And so he invited me over to
his apartment with his wife

110

00:05:34,920 --> 00:05:36,360

and we got talking.

111

00:05:36,360 --> 00:05:40,560

And he knew that my
Hughie had jumped.

112

00:05:40,560 --> 00:05:45,450

Because I wondered, you know,
did he even make it over there?

113

00:05:45,450 --> 00:05:46,200

And he said, yeah.

114

00:05:46,200 --> 00:05:48,475

He said, but that was--

115

00:05:48,475 --> 00:05:51,340

I guess that whole
operation was a faux pas.

116

00:05:51,340 --> 00:05:56,320

You know, they went off
of target and whatever.

117
00:05:56,320 --> 00:06:00,570
So anyhow, at least I
knew that he did his duty.

118
00:06:00,570 --> 00:06:01,920
What was his name?

119
00:06:01,920 --> 00:06:03,350
Hugh Sheridan.

120
00:06:03,350 --> 00:06:05,760
And that's why they
call me Sherry.

121
00:06:05,760 --> 00:06:09,210
My maiden name was Williams.

122
00:06:09,210 --> 00:06:12,240
So at least I found that out.

123
00:06:12,240 --> 00:06:13,840
When did you find that out?

124
00:06:13,840 --> 00:06:18,240
Well, actually, it
was a year that they--

125
00:06:18,240 --> 00:06:19,740
well, no, it wasn't a year.

126
00:06:19,740 --> 00:06:21,780
Because they had
listed him as Missing

127
00:06:21,780 --> 00:06:24,660
In Action and his
picture was in the paper.

128
00:06:24,660 --> 00:06:28,650
And his family had given his
little blurb that he just

129

00:06:28,650 --> 00:06:29,850

got married, et cetera.

130

00:06:29,850 --> 00:06:33,000

And I know my

directress of nurses

131

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:35,790

would see this paper because

it was a local paper.

132

00:06:35,790 --> 00:06:37,920

By this time, I'm out of school.

133

00:06:37,920 --> 00:06:40,470

But I felt so bad because

I had lied to her,

134

00:06:40,470 --> 00:06:43,770

you know, to get this

little pass that I had.

135

00:06:43,770 --> 00:06:48,790

So I went back to her, you

know, teary eyed, and I said,

136

00:06:48,790 --> 00:06:52,300

you know, Miss Coleman,

I want to talk to you.

137

00:06:52,300 --> 00:06:53,580

So I started to say something.

138

00:06:53,580 --> 00:06:55,020

She said, I know.

139

00:06:55,020 --> 00:06:57,202

She said, I know

you got married.

140

00:06:57,202 --> 00:06:58,890

And I looked at her.

141

00:06:58,890 --> 00:07:02,940

But she didn't know, you know,
that he had been missing.

142

00:07:02,940 --> 00:07:04,650

So she was sorry about that.

143

00:07:04,650 --> 00:07:05,590

But it was OK.

144

00:07:05,590 --> 00:07:08,010

And I guess she probably
felt good that I came back

145

00:07:08,010 --> 00:07:13,046

to confess my crime or so.

146

00:07:13,046 --> 00:07:14,360

Now, see, we were Catholic.

147

00:07:14,360 --> 00:07:17,190

And the bands had to be
announced in the church.

148

00:07:17,190 --> 00:07:21,450

And they were announced in
his church, where she went.

149

00:07:21,450 --> 00:07:22,170

Oh, so she knew.

150

00:07:22,170 --> 00:07:23,850

And she picked up the names.

151

00:07:23,850 --> 00:07:26,280

And she must've even known
who was writing to me.

152

00:07:26,280 --> 00:07:26,990

I don't know.

153
00:07:26,990 --> 00:07:28,880
Because they knew everything.

154
00:07:28,880 --> 00:07:32,430

155
00:07:32,430 --> 00:07:34,255
So he was lost in--

156
00:07:34,255 --> 00:07:34,755
Sicily.

157
00:07:34,755 --> 00:07:36,320
About June, '44.

158
00:07:36,320 --> 00:07:38,660
Uh, actually, July.

159
00:07:38,660 --> 00:07:41,850
July '43.

160
00:07:41,850 --> 00:07:43,140
Oh.

161
00:07:43,140 --> 00:07:44,640
And I got out of school.

162
00:07:44,640 --> 00:07:48,300
I finished school
probably September '43.

163
00:07:48,300 --> 00:07:51,990
And by the time we took
state boards, you know,

164
00:07:51,990 --> 00:07:53,100
to get your RN.

165
00:07:53,100 --> 00:07:55,350
Because you couldn't join

the service until you

166

00:07:55,350 --> 00:07:58,980

got your state boards
and had physical papers.

167

00:07:58,980 --> 00:08:04,680

It was '44, it was early '44
that I went in the service

168

00:08:04,680 --> 00:08:08,280

and was stationed down in
Atlantic City for a while.

169

00:08:08,280 --> 00:08:11,250

And then got my orders
to go to Camp Polk, where

170

00:08:11,250 --> 00:08:15,690

the 131st was being started.

171

00:08:15,690 --> 00:08:18,360

The full name of
your unit was what?

172

00:08:18,360 --> 00:08:23,070

131st Evacuation
Hospital, Semi-Mobile.

173

00:08:23,070 --> 00:08:25,740

In other words, you could
pick up half of that hospital

174

00:08:25,740 --> 00:08:28,920

and move it on while the other
half was still operating.

175

00:08:28,920 --> 00:08:30,330

Although we never did that.

176

00:08:30,330 --> 00:08:32,190

But it was equipped to do that.

177

00:08:32,190 --> 00:08:34,919
You could even take down half
of the operating room, which

178

00:08:34,919 --> 00:08:36,750
was a huge, big tent.

179

00:08:36,750 --> 00:08:39,000
Look, it was several
tents put together.

180

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:41,190
Looked like a big
circus tent almost.

181

00:08:41,190 --> 00:08:43,200
And you could take
down half of that

182

00:08:43,200 --> 00:08:46,740
and move it on and move
half of the wards on.

183

00:08:46,740 --> 00:08:51,000
And we had two teams, you know,
nurses and doctors and stuff.

184

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:53,790
But we never did that.

185

00:08:53,790 --> 00:08:57,360
When we set up,
set up as a whole

186

00:08:57,360 --> 00:09:00,960
and moved the whole
unit as a whole.

187

00:09:00,960 --> 00:09:05,760
So it was like what we
might know today as a MASH

188

00:09:05,760 --> 00:09:07,700
unit, mobile hospital.

189
00:09:07,700 --> 00:09:09,990
Yeah, Mobile Army
Surgical Hospital.

190
00:09:09,990 --> 00:09:12,160
And I imagine today that
that's what they call them.

191
00:09:12,160 --> 00:09:15,690
I don't think they call them
evacuation hospitals anymore.

192
00:09:15,690 --> 00:09:22,110
The patients that we had stayed
maybe two nights at the most.

193
00:09:22,110 --> 00:09:27,540
And then they were either taken
by ambulance or air evaced out.

194
00:09:27,540 --> 00:09:29,670
So this was 1944.

195
00:09:29,670 --> 00:09:32,520
They were forming this
unit at Fort Polk.

196
00:09:32,520 --> 00:09:34,440
Where was that?

197
00:09:34,440 --> 00:09:35,120
What state?

198
00:09:35,120 --> 00:09:36,090
No, I'm wrong.

199
00:09:36,090 --> 00:09:37,300
Fort Jackson.

200

00:09:37,300 --> 00:09:37,800
Jackson.

201
00:09:37,800 --> 00:09:40,400
Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

202
00:09:40,400 --> 00:09:40,900
1944.

203
00:09:40,900 --> 00:09:45,360
Yeah, Fort Polk is where
we got just broke up.

204
00:09:45,360 --> 00:09:46,050
Yeah.

205
00:09:46,050 --> 00:09:50,600
And you stayed in South
Carolina until when?

206
00:09:50,600 --> 00:09:51,660
Do you remember?

207
00:09:51,660 --> 00:09:56,940
Well, we headed up north in
December, early December.

208
00:09:56,940 --> 00:10:01,350
And by this time, we knew that
we were heading someplace.

209
00:10:01,350 --> 00:10:04,160
We had gotten a
leave to go home.

210
00:10:04,160 --> 00:10:06,380
And it was a short
leave, probably 10 days.

211
00:10:06,380 --> 00:10:08,390
And then we wound up at--

212

00:10:08,390 --> 00:10:11,810
and I don't remember whether
it was Camp Kilmer, someplace

213
00:10:11,810 --> 00:10:14,480
in New Jersey.

214
00:10:14,480 --> 00:10:20,020
And we did a lot of
training as far as marching

215
00:10:20,020 --> 00:10:21,670
with packs on our backs.

216
00:10:21,670 --> 00:10:25,790

217
00:10:25,790 --> 00:10:27,075
What other kind of training?

218
00:10:27,075 --> 00:10:29,690

219
00:10:29,690 --> 00:10:32,850
Well, I think we did that
down at Fort Jackson.

220
00:10:32,850 --> 00:10:36,020
We dug flip trenches,
we put up tents,

221
00:10:36,020 --> 00:10:37,540
and we hiked, and I was--

222
00:10:37,540 --> 00:10:41,480
I think I told you about the gas
chamber that we went through.

223
00:10:41,480 --> 00:10:43,550
Tell me about that again.

224
00:10:43,550 --> 00:10:46,370

Well, it was this,
almost about the length

225
00:10:46,370 --> 00:10:47,960
of a barrack, maybe shorter.

226
00:10:47,960 --> 00:10:50,780
But there was nothing
in it but tear gas.

227
00:10:50,780 --> 00:10:51,830
Underground?

228
00:10:51,830 --> 00:10:53,070
No, no, up above.

229
00:10:53,070 --> 00:10:55,640
It was all sealed.

230
00:10:55,640 --> 00:10:57,320
Full of tear gas.

231
00:10:57,320 --> 00:11:01,650
And there was a
sergeant or some GI

232
00:11:01,650 --> 00:11:06,230
sitting at the end with a pad
of paper and a pencil on a desk.

233
00:11:06,230 --> 00:11:08,090
And you went in
through the far end

234
00:11:08,090 --> 00:11:12,060
and walked through this whole
chamber of gas with a gas mask

235
00:11:12,060 --> 00:11:12,560
on.

236
00:11:12,560 --> 00:11:15,020

You always had to
have your gas mask on.

237
00:11:15,020 --> 00:11:16,850
And you had to put
it on properly, too.

238
00:11:16,850 --> 00:11:21,260
Because if it wasn't properly
fit, then you got the gas.

239
00:11:21,260 --> 00:11:25,390
When you reached this officer,
enlistment whatever he was,

240
00:11:25,390 --> 00:11:29,610
you took off your gas mask
and told him your name, rank,

241
00:11:29,610 --> 00:11:31,320
and your serial number.

242
00:11:31,320 --> 00:11:34,760
And if you got
nervous and flubbed--

243
00:11:34,760 --> 00:11:36,740
because he must have had
right down there what

244
00:11:36,740 --> 00:11:38,750
your serial number was.

245
00:11:38,750 --> 00:11:41,960
If you missed a number,
he'd say, repeat that.

246
00:11:41,960 --> 00:11:42,920
You know.

247
00:11:42,920 --> 00:11:46,010
But it was one way to teach
us all our serial number.

248
00:11:46,010 --> 00:11:48,300
Because that was very important.

249
00:11:48,300 --> 00:11:51,290
And then you got out
into the fresh air.

250
00:11:51,290 --> 00:11:53,270
Oh, where he was sitting,
he had a gas mask.

251
00:11:53,270 --> 00:11:54,030
Oh, he had them on, too.

252
00:11:54,030 --> 00:11:54,613
There was gas.

253
00:11:54,613 --> 00:11:55,500
Oh, yeah.

254
00:11:55,500 --> 00:11:57,110
He was sitting there
with his mask on.

255
00:11:57,110 --> 00:11:59,000
But you would take yours off.

256
00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:00,830
And he was just
delighting in every--

257
00:12:00,830 --> 00:12:03,050
especially with a bunch
of females, you know,

258
00:12:03,050 --> 00:12:05,570
and we're all screaming.

259
00:12:05,570 --> 00:12:06,178
I imagine.

260

00:12:06,178 --> 00:12:07,970

I know the men had to
go through this, too,

261

00:12:07,970 --> 00:12:09,012

and probably even harder.

262

00:12:09,012 --> 00:12:12,480

263

00:12:12,480 --> 00:12:14,000

And you had to dig trenches.

264

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:17,330

We dug a slip-- well, what
they call a slip trench, which

265

00:12:17,330 --> 00:12:19,340

would just hold up a body.

266

00:12:19,340 --> 00:12:22,070

In case you got bombed,
you could jump into it.

267

00:12:22,070 --> 00:12:23,900

And we had to put
our pup tents up.

268

00:12:23,900 --> 00:12:25,040

And those were small tents.

269

00:12:25,040 --> 00:12:27,500

They were like two-men tents.

270

00:12:27,500 --> 00:12:30,050

And as I remember,
each one of us

271

00:12:30,050 --> 00:12:33,600

carried a half a
tent at all times.

272

00:12:33,600 --> 00:12:37,430

So if you were ever caught
someplace with no shelter,

273

00:12:37,430 --> 00:12:42,470

you could double up and put
some kind of a shelter up.

274

00:12:42,470 --> 00:12:45,120

All those things, I think, are
in the bottom of the Atlantic

275

00:12:45,120 --> 00:12:45,620

Ocean.

276

00:12:45,620 --> 00:12:49,285

Because when we came back,
stuff was going on inside.

277

00:12:49,285 --> 00:12:50,210

Oh, really?

278

00:12:50,210 --> 00:12:50,780

Yeah.

279

00:12:50,780 --> 00:12:54,140

Well, did you want to-- hey, you
didn't want to carry this home.

280

00:12:54,140 --> 00:12:56,270

Hopefully you wouldn't
need it again.

281

00:12:56,270 --> 00:12:58,190

Did they teach you
how to use a weapon?

282

00:12:58,190 --> 00:12:58,750

No, no.

283

00:12:58,750 --> 00:12:59,250

Never.

284
00:12:59,250 --> 00:13:00,000
No, never, no, no.

285
00:13:00,000 --> 00:13:00,833
Never had to use it.

286
00:13:00,833 --> 00:13:01,610
No.

287
00:13:01,610 --> 00:13:08,180
We were given all sorts of
films on disease, body lice,

288
00:13:08,180 --> 00:13:10,790
sanitary conditions.

289
00:13:10,790 --> 00:13:15,620
And I don't even think there
was a film for us on weapons.

290
00:13:15,620 --> 00:13:19,430
And there were no
weapons in our hospital.

291
00:13:19,430 --> 00:13:22,760
Although I do have a picture
of our dental assistant,

292
00:13:22,760 --> 00:13:27,620
and he's got a bandoleer
of, you know, shells on him.

293
00:13:27,620 --> 00:13:30,940
I don't know where he got it.

294
00:13:30,940 --> 00:13:33,590
And did they-- did you have
special training in how

295
00:13:33,590 --> 00:13:36,410
to treat combat wounds?

296

00:13:36,410 --> 00:13:41,040

Well, that was-- in the army,
you do everything, as they say,

297

00:13:41,040 --> 00:13:44,480

by the ARs, Army Regulations.

298

00:13:44,480 --> 00:13:46,640

There was only one
way to dress a wound,

299

00:13:46,640 --> 00:13:48,750

and you did it that way.

300

00:13:48,750 --> 00:13:50,630

You might not like
to do it that way.

301

00:13:50,630 --> 00:13:52,670

But the army wanted
you to do it that way.

302

00:13:52,670 --> 00:13:56,330

So yes, we had all
these army regulations

303

00:13:56,330 --> 00:13:58,910

on how to treat this and that.

304

00:13:58,910 --> 00:14:00,650

And going over on
the ship, I was

305

00:14:00,650 --> 00:14:04,160

assigned to be an
orthopedic surgical nurse.

306

00:14:04,160 --> 00:14:06,350

And I met the
orthopedic surgeon.

307

00:14:06,350 --> 00:14:09,230

And he gave me a
whole list of what

308

00:14:09,230 --> 00:14:13,400

we would do for all these
orthopedic amputations

309

00:14:13,400 --> 00:14:14,600

or whatever.

310

00:14:14,600 --> 00:14:15,860

You know.

311

00:14:15,860 --> 00:14:20,540

And you read them and OK.

312

00:14:20,540 --> 00:14:22,190

We'll do what we have to do.

313

00:14:22,190 --> 00:14:25,640

Were they substantially
different from the way you

314

00:14:25,640 --> 00:14:27,140

had learned in nursing school?

315

00:14:27,140 --> 00:14:28,700

No, not really.

316

00:14:28,700 --> 00:14:31,880

You know, you still
have surgical technique

317

00:14:31,880 --> 00:14:33,680

that you had to follow.

318

00:14:33,680 --> 00:14:36,770

But they had a particular
way of doing things.

319

00:14:36,770 --> 00:14:41,660

And the army is a
stickler for that.

320
00:14:41,660 --> 00:14:44,870
In a hospital, you might
have several different sizes

321
00:14:44,870 --> 00:14:46,190
of bandages, you know.

322
00:14:46,190 --> 00:14:48,935
In the army, you have
one or two sizes.

323
00:14:48,935 --> 00:14:52,110

324
00:14:52,110 --> 00:14:57,558
It may be different now, but
in wartime, it wasn't, anyhow.

325
00:14:57,558 --> 00:15:03,160
And while we were in England,
I saw returning casualties

326
00:15:03,160 --> 00:15:05,460
from the Battle of the Bulge.

327
00:15:05,460 --> 00:15:08,790
For bandages, they
used the latest issue

328
00:15:08,790 --> 00:15:12,360
of Stars and Stripes,
which was in the magazine.

329
00:15:12,360 --> 00:15:14,460
They had no bandages.

330
00:15:14,460 --> 00:15:15,930
We'd get them in
the operating room

331

00:15:15,930 --> 00:15:19,210

and we'd have to
wet down this let

332

00:15:19,210 --> 00:15:22,973

that had all this paper,
newspaper stuck to it.

333

00:15:22,973 --> 00:15:24,390

Because that's the
only thing they

334

00:15:24,390 --> 00:15:27,610

had because that was
a different situation.

335

00:15:27,610 --> 00:15:30,960

So you can't say that they
went by army regulations.

336

00:15:30,960 --> 00:15:32,290

You do what you have to do.

337

00:15:32,290 --> 00:15:35,280

338

00:15:35,280 --> 00:15:38,580

Let's pick up our chronology.

339

00:15:38,580 --> 00:15:41,340

You had to leave in
December, you went home.

340

00:15:41,340 --> 00:15:43,410

We went home for short leave.

341

00:15:43,410 --> 00:15:46,740

And I can remember, my mother
gave me a [? hegen?] haig

342

00:15:46,740 --> 00:15:51,000

bottle of scotch, pinch

bottle, and I hate scotch.

343

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:52,980

And we got back to base.

344

00:15:52,980 --> 00:15:54,330

Why did she give you scotch?

345

00:15:54,330 --> 00:15:55,890

I don't know.

346

00:15:55,890 --> 00:15:58,080

Evidently, this was
a very-- and is.

347

00:15:58,080 --> 00:16:00,300

I don't know, because
I'm not a scotch--

348

00:16:00,300 --> 00:16:02,340

it's a very good
brand of scotch.

349

00:16:02,340 --> 00:16:04,440

And she said, take this
back, you know, you

350

00:16:04,440 --> 00:16:07,990

might want to have a
little party or something.

351

00:16:07,990 --> 00:16:13,660

And when we got back to
camp, the door came down,

352

00:16:13,660 --> 00:16:18,290

you could not make a phone call,
you could not write a letter,

353

00:16:18,290 --> 00:16:20,830

you could not have any visitors.

354

00:16:20,830 --> 00:16:23,980

It was-- and I'm trying to
think of the name they used.

355

00:16:23,980 --> 00:16:25,060

I want to say blackout.

356

00:16:25,060 --> 00:16:28,030

But it was a censorship.

357

00:16:28,030 --> 00:16:30,010

So my mother never
heard from me.

358

00:16:30,010 --> 00:16:34,726

And she said, oh, Louise got
caught with that bottle in her.

359

00:16:34,726 --> 00:16:37,990

She said, they put her on-- put
her in the brig or something

360

00:16:37,990 --> 00:16:39,100

because I got it.

361

00:16:39,100 --> 00:16:44,830

And I remember going into
the little commissary there.

362

00:16:44,830 --> 00:16:48,460

And they had a florist in there
that they could wire flowers

363

00:16:48,460 --> 00:16:49,210

out.

364

00:16:49,210 --> 00:16:50,890

I'll fix.

365

00:16:50,890 --> 00:16:52,750

I'll get in touch
with my mother.

366

00:16:52,750 --> 00:16:56,515

So I wired her a
dozen red roses.

367

00:16:56,515 --> 00:16:58,830

Of course, she got
them a month later.

368

00:16:58,830 --> 00:17:01,115

But I thought they would
go right out, you know.

369

00:17:01,115 --> 00:17:03,240

But they were smart, you
know, and so what I put on

370

00:17:03,240 --> 00:17:05,010

was I love you, you know.

371

00:17:05,010 --> 00:17:08,670

And it didn't work.

372

00:17:08,670 --> 00:17:09,569

And you shipped out.

373

00:17:09,569 --> 00:17:10,500

Yeah, we shipped out.

374

00:17:10,500 --> 00:17:11,480

Yeah.

375

00:17:11,480 --> 00:17:15,329

We were like that for maybe
three or four days, I think,

376

00:17:15,329 --> 00:17:17,550

that you couldn't do anything.

377

00:17:17,550 --> 00:17:20,010

And the other girls
must have told

378

00:17:20,010 --> 00:17:23,880

you the story about
crossing the Hudson at night

379

00:17:23,880 --> 00:17:25,560

and this fog rising up.

380

00:17:25,560 --> 00:17:27,359

And that's a vision
I'll never forget.

381

00:17:27,359 --> 00:17:29,530

Tell me about that.

382

00:17:29,530 --> 00:17:31,560

I can't remember
exactly whether--

383

00:17:31,560 --> 00:17:34,890

I know we'd gone by
train to this barge.

384

00:17:34,890 --> 00:17:37,020

Now, it seemed to me the
train was on the barge,

385

00:17:37,020 --> 00:17:39,510

but I could be wrong.

386

00:17:39,510 --> 00:17:40,920

But I remember crossing.

387

00:17:40,920 --> 00:17:42,900

It was dark night.

388

00:17:42,900 --> 00:17:46,470

And crossing the river,
and this fog coming up.

389

00:17:46,470 --> 00:17:49,170

And there was this big,
gray thing in front of us.

390
00:17:49,170 --> 00:17:50,790
It was huge, huge.

391
00:17:50,790 --> 00:17:52,860
Several stories high.

392
00:17:52,860 --> 00:17:56,270
And you're looking up at it
and you could just make out

393
00:17:56,270 --> 00:17:59,850
Queen E-L-I and
then you don't know

394
00:17:59,850 --> 00:18:02,950
what was in round because
it was all painted gray,

395
00:18:02,950 --> 00:18:04,986
the Queen Elizabeth.

396
00:18:04,986 --> 00:18:06,800
And we went, my god.

397
00:18:06,800 --> 00:18:07,647
You know.

398
00:18:07,647 --> 00:18:09,990
I get goose pimples right now.

399
00:18:09,990 --> 00:18:11,900
This is it.

400
00:18:11,900 --> 00:18:13,850
And we all had steel helmets on.

401
00:18:13,850 --> 00:18:15,950
And they chalked mark.

402
00:18:15,950 --> 00:18:17,640

You're all numbered.

403

00:18:17,640 --> 00:18:18,860

And lined up.

404

00:18:18,860 --> 00:18:22,460

And they had the roster
and one, two, three, four.

405

00:18:22,460 --> 00:18:24,680

And then you got
to the gangplank

406

00:18:24,680 --> 00:18:26,870

and they checked the
one, two, three, four.

407

00:18:26,870 --> 00:18:29,700

And you got up on top of the
gangplank, one, two, three,

408

00:18:29,700 --> 00:18:30,380

four.

409

00:18:30,380 --> 00:18:32,850

And they showed which way to go.

410

00:18:32,850 --> 00:18:35,810

They had our orders all--

411

00:18:35,810 --> 00:18:37,790

women were, of course,
all segregated.

412

00:18:37,790 --> 00:18:41,390

And there were thousands,
thousands on that ship.

413

00:18:41,390 --> 00:18:43,610

All the doors on the
stateroom were removed.

414

00:18:43,610 --> 00:18:47,600

There were no doors
on the stateroom.

415

00:18:47,600 --> 00:18:52,000

They had guards at either end
of the hall so nobody could go.

416

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:54,090

Nobody else could go.

417

00:18:54,090 --> 00:19:00,152

And we only could
eat twice a day

418

00:19:00,152 --> 00:19:01,610

because there were
so many on there

419

00:19:01,610 --> 00:19:05,780

to feed that I guess the
kitchen was going constantly.

420

00:19:05,780 --> 00:19:09,870

You got your seating thing,
which was like 10 o'clock

421

00:19:09,870 --> 00:19:12,170

in the morning and maybe
9 o'clock at night.

422

00:19:12,170 --> 00:19:15,300

That's when you ate two
meals because they couldn't

423

00:19:15,300 --> 00:19:19,890

feed everybody three meals.

424

00:19:19,890 --> 00:19:22,172

Were you able to mingle
with the men at all?

425

00:19:22,172 --> 00:19:23,130

Would you talk to them?

426

00:19:23,130 --> 00:19:27,510

Yeah, well, just the officers.

427

00:19:27,510 --> 00:19:30,030

Because it was very segregated.

428

00:19:30,030 --> 00:19:32,400

The huge, huge, big lounge.

429

00:19:32,400 --> 00:19:33,840

You couldn't find
a place to sit.

430

00:19:33,840 --> 00:19:35,830

Everyone was sitting
on the floor.

431

00:19:35,830 --> 00:19:37,582

The few that got a
chair were lucky,

432

00:19:37,582 --> 00:19:39,540

you know, and they weren't
about to give it up.

433

00:19:39,540 --> 00:19:41,100

And the officers all mingled.

434

00:19:41,100 --> 00:19:47,190

There were many Air Corps
fellows going back to England.

435

00:19:47,190 --> 00:19:48,510

There were many other units.

436

00:19:48,510 --> 00:19:54,270

I found out after the war
that one of my friends

437

00:19:54,270 --> 00:19:58,620

who I knew as a little
kid was on that same ship.

438
00:19:58,620 --> 00:20:01,860
And in fact, he was in
the 120th Evac Hospital--

439
00:20:01,860 --> 00:20:04,680
Watch your microphone there.

440
00:20:04,680 --> 00:20:08,490
--that liberated Buchenwald.

441
00:20:08,490 --> 00:20:11,190
And I tried to get
him to talk to me.

442
00:20:11,190 --> 00:20:13,380
No, he's busy right now.

443
00:20:13,380 --> 00:20:14,760
His wife has got cancer.

444
00:20:14,760 --> 00:20:17,350
But anyhow.

445
00:20:17,350 --> 00:20:17,850
Yes.

446
00:20:17,850 --> 00:20:21,840
And while we were there, some
of the nurses from another unit

447
00:20:21,840 --> 00:20:23,580
put on a little skit.

448
00:20:23,580 --> 00:20:26,730
That's why it was the same boat
this friend of mine went on.

449
00:20:26,730 --> 00:20:28,980
Because he was talking

about I can still

450

00:20:28,980 --> 00:20:31,500

see the girls up there
saying don't fence me in.

451

00:20:31,500 --> 00:20:34,800

And they had big
wings, was supposed

452

00:20:34,800 --> 00:20:36,610

to be Air Corps wings
on it, you know.

453

00:20:36,610 --> 00:20:42,060

And of course, the Air Corps
guys went ape over that.

454

00:20:42,060 --> 00:20:44,400

And so we had good time.

455

00:20:44,400 --> 00:20:46,350

So there was another
unit of nurses.

456

00:20:46,350 --> 00:20:47,750

Yours wasn't the only one?

457

00:20:47,750 --> 00:20:52,500

Oh, and this was in
Buchenwald they went to.

458

00:20:52,500 --> 00:20:58,630

A unit replaced us when we
left, the 58th Field Hospital

459

00:20:58,630 --> 00:21:00,900

replaced us.

460

00:21:00,900 --> 00:21:05,340

And I have no idea, you
know, what happened then.

461

00:21:05,340 --> 00:21:07,170

That's why I was disappointed.

462

00:21:07,170 --> 00:21:10,920

Well, maybe Mike would know,
when he comes back with Bonnie.

463

00:21:10,920 --> 00:21:14,100

Because I'm sure his
outfit stayed there.

464

00:21:14,100 --> 00:21:18,210

So you got to England
right after Christmas?

465

00:21:18,210 --> 00:21:19,530

Just before Christmas.

466

00:21:19,530 --> 00:21:21,150

Just before Christmas.

467

00:21:21,150 --> 00:21:23,700

And we knew we were going
to be away for Christmas.

468

00:21:23,700 --> 00:21:26,610

So all the nurses
went into the PX,

469

00:21:26,610 --> 00:21:28,830

and we all bought three gifts.

470

00:21:28,830 --> 00:21:32,440

Handkerchiefs, or aftershave,
or a razor or something.

471

00:21:32,440 --> 00:21:34,200

And wrapped it up
for the enlisted men.

472

00:21:34,200 --> 00:21:35,040

And we had that.

473
00:21:35,040 --> 00:21:38,230
And I think we bought an
ornament, too, it seems to me.

474
00:21:38,230 --> 00:21:39,780
But we carried those.

475
00:21:39,780 --> 00:21:41,370
So when we got to England--

476
00:21:41,370 --> 00:21:44,670
and of course, holly
grows wild over there.

477
00:21:44,670 --> 00:21:48,240
So we had a ball cutting
it off and trying

478
00:21:48,240 --> 00:21:51,000
to make our quarters a
little bit more cheerful.

479
00:21:51,000 --> 00:21:54,480
And Christmas night, we
took all these grab gifts,

480
00:21:54,480 --> 00:21:56,820
you'd call them, but we
thought it was something, up

481
00:21:56,820 --> 00:21:58,650
to the enlisted men's quarters.

482
00:21:58,650 --> 00:22:01,020
And we all were a
great singing group.

483
00:22:01,020 --> 00:22:03,090
Not that I have a voice.

484
00:22:03,090 --> 00:22:04,350

I'm losing what I have.

485
00:22:04,350 --> 00:22:08,380

486
00:22:08,380 --> 00:22:10,930
But we sang all the time.

487
00:22:10,930 --> 00:22:14,890
And I'm sure the men got
so sick of hearing us sing.

488
00:22:14,890 --> 00:22:17,110
And Eckie was one
of the ringleaders

489
00:22:17,110 --> 00:22:19,240
because she has a voice.

490
00:22:19,240 --> 00:22:22,360
You know, all kinds of songs.

491
00:22:22,360 --> 00:22:24,790
And we sang Christmas
carols for the enlisted men

492
00:22:24,790 --> 00:22:26,290
and gave them their
little presents,

493
00:22:26,290 --> 00:22:29,200
so that made it a little nicer.

494
00:22:29,200 --> 00:22:32,890
You all-- seems like you saw
it as your responsibility

495
00:22:32,890 --> 00:22:36,860
to care for the men as
well as the injured.

496
00:22:36,860 --> 00:22:44,230

Well, it was hard, the
segregation thing, you know.

497
00:22:44,230 --> 00:22:48,790
And the men thought
of the nurses

498
00:22:48,790 --> 00:22:52,360
as for the officers only.

499
00:22:52,360 --> 00:22:54,910
We weren't supposed to
fraternize with them.

500
00:22:54,910 --> 00:22:59,080
And how can you do that with
somebody you're working with?

501
00:22:59,080 --> 00:23:03,970
I mean, you had a little
law and order, let's say,

502
00:23:03,970 --> 00:23:05,380
on the wards and stuff.

503
00:23:05,380 --> 00:23:07,030
But you still were friendly.

504
00:23:07,030 --> 00:23:11,650
Like one night at Christmas
time, we had this house

505
00:23:11,650 --> 00:23:13,690
that we turned into a sickbay.

506
00:23:13,690 --> 00:23:15,400
So anybody in the
outfit, whether they

507
00:23:15,400 --> 00:23:20,530
were officer or enlisted man was
sick and needed care and stuff

508

00:23:20,530 --> 00:23:21,340
were sent there.

509

00:23:21,340 --> 00:23:23,530
So of course, the
nurses had to man it.

510

00:23:23,530 --> 00:23:26,170
And one night,
we're sitting there

511

00:23:26,170 --> 00:23:29,770
and one of the GIs,
the enlisted men who

512

00:23:29,770 --> 00:23:32,110
was taking care of the fires.

513

00:23:32,110 --> 00:23:34,960
In England, each house room
has a little fireplace.

514

00:23:34,960 --> 00:23:37,840
And god, if you don't keep that
going, you freeze to death.

515

00:23:37,840 --> 00:23:39,260
And he'd go around.

516

00:23:39,260 --> 00:23:41,890
And so we were sitting there and
we're talking about Christmas

517

00:23:41,890 --> 00:23:42,580
back home.

518

00:23:42,580 --> 00:23:45,190
And we're sad, you know.

519

00:23:45,190 --> 00:23:48,580
And this guy says
to me, boy, he says

520
00:23:48,580 --> 00:23:51,970
there's no place like
Christmas in the Adirondacks.

521
00:23:51,970 --> 00:23:53,770
Just, you know, right up here.

522
00:23:53,770 --> 00:23:57,640
And I grew up in the
Adirondacks, summertime.

523
00:23:57,640 --> 00:24:00,100
And I said, whereabouts
in the Adirondacks?

524
00:24:00,100 --> 00:24:01,630
And he says Speculator.

525
00:24:01,630 --> 00:24:04,210
And no one has ever
heard of Speculator.

526
00:24:04,210 --> 00:24:06,100
Well, that's where I grew up.

527
00:24:06,100 --> 00:24:08,110
I off the bench--

528
00:24:08,110 --> 00:24:11,980
and I jumped in his lap, and
I'm kissing him, and going on.

529
00:24:11,980 --> 00:24:14,080
And the poor kid,
he's scared to death,

530
00:24:14,080 --> 00:24:15,370
you know, what did I do wrong?

531
00:24:15,370 --> 00:24:17,120
You know, I'm going

to be court martialed.

532
00:24:17,120 --> 00:24:18,550
But I was so--

533
00:24:18,550 --> 00:24:20,860
someone had heard of Spec.

534
00:24:20,860 --> 00:24:23,710
And then he said to me,
you know, I recognized you,

535
00:24:23,710 --> 00:24:26,560
but I didn't
recognize your name.

536
00:24:26,560 --> 00:24:30,280
And that's because I
had my married name.

537
00:24:30,280 --> 00:24:32,590
But that was, you know--

538
00:24:32,590 --> 00:24:33,850
You all were homesick, huh?

539
00:24:33,850 --> 00:24:34,540
Oh, yeah.

540
00:24:34,540 --> 00:24:35,520
Yeah.

541
00:24:35,520 --> 00:24:37,330
Especially at Christmas time.

542
00:24:37,330 --> 00:24:39,070
And this boy happened
to be Jewish, too.

543
00:24:39,070 --> 00:24:41,960
So that really didn't
mean as much to him.

544
00:24:41,960 --> 00:24:46,495
But the fact that he
was even near any area.

545
00:24:46,495 --> 00:24:49,870
You know, when you
meet a soldier--

546
00:24:49,870 --> 00:24:50,920
where are you from?

547
00:24:50,920 --> 00:24:53,650
Everyone wanted to
know where you're from.

548
00:24:53,650 --> 00:24:57,580
The majority of our enlisted
men were from Oklahoma.

549
00:24:57,580 --> 00:24:59,970
A bunch of Okies.

550
00:24:59,970 --> 00:25:03,020
A few, like Mark, happened
to be from New York.

551
00:25:03,020 --> 00:25:05,170
And we had a few
from Pennsylvania.

552
00:25:05,170 --> 00:25:09,370
Us girls, most of us girls were
from New York, Pennsylvania,

553
00:25:09,370 --> 00:25:11,230
and New Jersey.

554
00:25:11,230 --> 00:25:17,620
Our officers, our doctors were
mostly from Ohio, Pennsylvania.

555

00:25:17,620 --> 00:25:19,365
And you know, so there
were little areas.

556
00:25:19,365 --> 00:25:20,740
So you always
looking for someone

557
00:25:20,740 --> 00:25:23,680
who knew your hometown
so you'd have something

558
00:25:23,680 --> 00:25:27,470
to talk about that would
remind you of home.

559
00:25:27,470 --> 00:25:33,970
And you know, especially
the fighting soldiers.

560
00:25:33,970 --> 00:25:35,980
They were so glad
to see somebody.

561
00:25:35,980 --> 00:25:38,920
First, you know, it
was an American voice

562
00:25:38,920 --> 00:25:40,720
that they were so glad to see.

563
00:25:40,720 --> 00:25:43,330
And then an American woman.

564
00:25:43,330 --> 00:25:45,940
And then, you know,
where are you from?

565
00:25:45,940 --> 00:25:47,680
Where are you from?

566
00:25:47,680 --> 00:25:50,860
And if you were even two

states away, you know,

567

00:25:50,860 --> 00:25:53,890

you were their sister.

568

00:25:53,890 --> 00:25:56,080

What was it like caring

for the men who had

569

00:25:56,080 --> 00:25:58,450

been injured coming back from--

570

00:25:58,450 --> 00:26:01,450

there they were in the Battle

of the Bulge some of them?

571

00:26:01,450 --> 00:26:03,210

At that point, it was

right at Christmas.

572

00:26:03,210 --> 00:26:08,050

I was in the operating room, so

I really didn't care for them.

573

00:26:08,050 --> 00:26:10,900

I saw them and saw their wounds.

574

00:26:10,900 --> 00:26:12,610

And that's all.

575

00:26:12,610 --> 00:26:14,210

Because they were in and out.

576

00:26:14,210 --> 00:26:19,990

And we had two tables going

at the same time in one room.

577

00:26:19,990 --> 00:26:22,490

These were people who

were pretty badly injured.

578

00:26:22,490 --> 00:26:25,180

Well, they had all sorts of--

579

00:26:25,180 --> 00:26:27,670

and the room I was in, it
was an orthopedic room.

580

00:26:27,670 --> 00:26:33,640

So it was either real bad
fractures, some amputations,

581

00:26:33,640 --> 00:26:34,570

something like that.

582

00:26:34,570 --> 00:26:39,220

But there were other rooms that
had chest wounds and, you know,

583

00:26:39,220 --> 00:26:41,080

abdominal.

584

00:26:41,080 --> 00:26:44,230

So they were, in
a way, worse off.

585

00:26:44,230 --> 00:26:47,770

Because it's a little
easier to fix a bone

586

00:26:47,770 --> 00:26:49,000

than it is to fix a--

587

00:26:49,000 --> 00:26:49,600

Soft tissue.

588

00:26:49,600 --> 00:26:52,690

--a shatter, you
know, lung and stuff.

589

00:26:52,690 --> 00:26:56,920

So in fact, I had to relieve one
day in the chest surgery room,

590

00:26:56,920 --> 00:26:58,870
and I went, get me out of here.

591
00:26:58,870 --> 00:27:01,430
You know, I was scared
because I'd never

592
00:27:01,430 --> 00:27:04,468
saw so much blood in my life.

593
00:27:04,468 --> 00:27:06,760
You know, and they worked so
fast, whereas orthopedics,

594
00:27:06,760 --> 00:27:09,456
it's--

595
00:27:09,456 --> 00:27:10,185
It's slower.

596
00:27:10,185 --> 00:27:14,500
Yeah, it's slower because
most of the bleeding

597
00:27:14,500 --> 00:27:18,670
had already been under control
because it didn't just happen.

598
00:27:18,670 --> 00:27:21,430

599
00:27:21,430 --> 00:27:23,920
But you know, they were
repairing what they could.

600
00:27:23,920 --> 00:27:26,500
And even that,
they would probably

601
00:27:26,500 --> 00:27:29,470
have to have more surgery when
they got back to the States

602

00:27:29,470 --> 00:27:32,080
because there were nerve damages
done, which I don't think

603

00:27:32,080 --> 00:27:33,670
they would attempt to do there.

604

00:27:33,670 --> 00:27:37,323

605

00:27:37,323 --> 00:27:38,740
It's an awful thing
to say, but it

606

00:27:38,740 --> 00:27:43,810
was good to take
care of our soldiers.

607

00:27:43,810 --> 00:27:45,470
What do you mean by that?

608

00:27:45,470 --> 00:27:49,370
Well, that's what
we were there for.

609

00:27:49,370 --> 00:27:51,740
And when I was stationed
in Atlantic City,

610

00:27:51,740 --> 00:27:55,790
these soldiers were
all injured ones,

611

00:27:55,790 --> 00:27:59,060
but they were up and about
on crutches, and wheelchairs,

612

00:27:59,060 --> 00:28:02,190
and you know,
slings and whatnot.

613

00:28:02,190 --> 00:28:04,760

So they were sick, yes, but
they weren't sick that way.

614
00:28:04,760 --> 00:28:08,310

615
00:28:08,310 --> 00:28:11,630
Had a couple real bad head
injuries that upset me

616
00:28:11,630 --> 00:28:13,800
because they couldn't talk.

617
00:28:13,800 --> 00:28:15,230
But they weren't fresh wounds.

618
00:28:15,230 --> 00:28:21,830
And in England was the first
time I saw a fresh wound.

619
00:28:21,830 --> 00:28:27,020
And then in France, we set
up the hospital in France,

620
00:28:27,020 --> 00:28:28,820
but we didn't have any patients.

621
00:28:28,820 --> 00:28:31,850
It was like a dry run
because that's the first time

622
00:28:31,850 --> 00:28:33,860
we had set up the tents.

623
00:28:33,860 --> 00:28:36,230
We had to make sure
all of our equipment

624
00:28:36,230 --> 00:28:40,760
worked, trying our generators,
and water distillers,

625

00:28:40,760 --> 00:28:42,900
and autoclaves.

626
00:28:42,900 --> 00:28:46,670
And all of our instruments
were shipped over,

627
00:28:46,670 --> 00:28:48,080
covered with some
sort of grease,

628
00:28:48,080 --> 00:28:50,510
or Vaseline, or something.

629
00:28:50,510 --> 00:28:51,860
We had to clean all that off.

630
00:28:51,860 --> 00:28:55,170
It was to protect it, you know,
from the saltwater, I guess,

631
00:28:55,170 --> 00:28:56,660
whatever.

632
00:28:56,660 --> 00:28:58,580
And we cleaned the instruments.

633
00:28:58,580 --> 00:28:59,720
And even made little--

634
00:28:59,720 --> 00:29:06,410
some of the girls made, sewed,
hand sewed little compartments

635
00:29:06,410 --> 00:29:11,060
for some of the more delicate
instruments, to protect them.

636
00:29:11,060 --> 00:29:12,380
And then we went on to Germany.

637
00:29:12,380 --> 00:29:16,670

That was the first time
we had fresh patients.

638
00:29:16,670 --> 00:29:19,130
In April?

639
00:29:19,130 --> 00:29:20,060
April, yeah.

640
00:29:20,060 --> 00:29:21,140
April, yeah.

641
00:29:21,140 --> 00:29:22,700
April, 1945.

642
00:29:22,700 --> 00:29:23,810
'45, yeah.

643
00:29:23,810 --> 00:29:27,200
And these were coming
off the battlefield?

644
00:29:27,200 --> 00:29:29,300
Yeah.

645
00:29:29,300 --> 00:29:34,160
Our very first load of
patients was a truck accident.

646
00:29:34,160 --> 00:29:36,530
The truck had tipped
over and a whole bunch

647
00:29:36,530 --> 00:29:38,360
were injured in that.

648
00:29:38,360 --> 00:29:42,710
In fact, we even had some German
POWs that had gotten injured

649
00:29:42,710 --> 00:29:44,510
and we treated those.

650
00:29:44,510 --> 00:29:47,330
But then there were--

651
00:29:47,330 --> 00:29:49,460
the war was starting
to wane down.

652
00:29:49,460 --> 00:29:52,970
So there weren't that
furious amount of accidents.

653
00:29:52,970 --> 00:29:54,650
There were a lot
of mine, you know,

654
00:29:54,650 --> 00:30:01,340
people walking into personnel
mines and stuff like that.

655
00:30:01,340 --> 00:30:01,910
I remember.

656
00:30:01,910 --> 00:30:05,510
And I can't remember what
happened to him, one night

657
00:30:05,510 --> 00:30:11,030
in the operating room, was
this kid with this head wound.

658
00:30:11,030 --> 00:30:15,140
And we had just set up
the distilled water.

659
00:30:15,140 --> 00:30:18,600
And it was-- the doctor yelled
at me to get a pitcher water

660
00:30:18,600 --> 00:30:21,160
and pour it over, you
know, to debride it,

661

00:30:21,160 --> 00:30:22,670
to get the dirt out.

662

00:30:22,670 --> 00:30:25,520
And I said, no, the
water's too hot.

663

00:30:25,520 --> 00:30:26,600
And he says, pour it.

664

00:30:26,600 --> 00:30:27,890
I said, it's too hot.

665

00:30:27,890 --> 00:30:32,270
He says, pour it,
god damnit, pour it.

666

00:30:32,270 --> 00:30:35,420
And when I did, I could
see the kid's toes jump.

667

00:30:35,420 --> 00:30:37,580
And, oh, I felt terrible.

668

00:30:37,580 --> 00:30:38,570
And he came later.

669

00:30:38,570 --> 00:30:39,605
His toes moved?

670

00:30:39,605 --> 00:30:43,640
Well, yeah, because of the
nerve reflex, you know.

671

00:30:43,640 --> 00:30:44,810
And I felt terrible.

672

00:30:44,810 --> 00:30:45,740
I felt so bad.

673

00:30:45,740 --> 00:30:47,840

And he came to me
later and apologized.

674
00:30:47,840 --> 00:30:50,047
He says, I shouldn't
have yelled at you.

675
00:30:50,047 --> 00:30:52,130
And I said, well, I shouldn't
have questioned you.

676
00:30:52,130 --> 00:30:54,800
And he said, he
couldn't have felt that.

677
00:30:54,800 --> 00:30:56,590
He said, the damage
that was in his brain,

678
00:30:56,590 --> 00:30:59,410
he said, but I had to, you know.

679
00:30:59,410 --> 00:31:02,375
So that was one
incident I remember.

680
00:31:02,375 --> 00:31:05,470

681
00:31:05,470 --> 00:31:08,380
Was it a generally
tense situation?

682
00:31:08,380 --> 00:31:10,990
I mean, I don't know about
what the normal state

683
00:31:10,990 --> 00:31:12,340
of an operating room is.

684
00:31:12,340 --> 00:31:17,890
But how is it different
behind the lines?

685
00:31:17,890 --> 00:31:20,920
Well, I think any
operating room situation,

686
00:31:20,920 --> 00:31:25,030
even if you watch MASH,
is tense while they're

687
00:31:25,030 --> 00:31:26,170
doing the operation.

688
00:31:26,170 --> 00:31:28,782
Once it's over-- and
I know in civilian

689
00:31:28,782 --> 00:31:31,240
because I worked in the civilian
hospitals in the operating

690
00:31:31,240 --> 00:31:31,930
room.

691
00:31:31,930 --> 00:31:35,050
Once it's over, the
laughter starts,

692
00:31:35,050 --> 00:31:37,962
and they ask how your golf
game is, or they'll start, hey,

693
00:31:37,962 --> 00:31:38,920
did you hear this joke?

694
00:31:38,920 --> 00:31:41,410
You know, it's very blase.

695
00:31:41,410 --> 00:31:45,220
And I think there, too.

696
00:31:45,220 --> 00:31:48,730
Although they did

things a lot faster.

697

00:31:48,730 --> 00:31:50,850

They had to move, keep moving.

698

00:31:50,850 --> 00:31:54,765

699

00:31:54,765 --> 00:31:56,140

Because there was
always another.

700

00:31:56,140 --> 00:31:59,410

There's another
one waiting, yeah.

701

00:31:59,410 --> 00:32:02,050

We always had what we
called a pre-op tent that

702

00:32:02,050 --> 00:32:04,960

came out this way, then
the big operating room tent

703

00:32:04,960 --> 00:32:06,160

was this way.

704

00:32:06,160 --> 00:32:10,060

And the pre-ops were in
there on the stretchers and--

705

00:32:10,060 --> 00:32:10,570

Waiting.

706

00:32:10,570 --> 00:32:11,230

--waiting.

707

00:32:11,230 --> 00:32:13,630

So it was a constant
emergency surgery.

708

00:32:13,630 --> 00:32:14,195

Yeah, next.

709
00:32:14,195 --> 00:32:15,430
Constant, yeah.

710
00:32:15,430 --> 00:32:17,380
Some of it wasn't
considered emergency,

711
00:32:17,380 --> 00:32:19,080
but it had-- it
wasn't life or death.

712
00:32:19,080 --> 00:32:21,160
Some of them weren't
life or death

713
00:32:21,160 --> 00:32:23,830
but they still needed attention.

714
00:32:23,830 --> 00:32:26,210
And you took the first
ones first, that's triage.

715
00:32:26,210 --> 00:32:30,770

716
00:32:30,770 --> 00:32:33,980
Who would do those assessments,
the triage assessments?

717
00:32:33,980 --> 00:32:35,220
A doctor in that area?

718
00:32:35,220 --> 00:32:40,640
Well, yeah, and the nurse like
Woodie, she was head of the OR

719
00:32:40,640 --> 00:32:41,480
that I worked in.

720
00:32:41,480 --> 00:32:44,620

721
00:32:44,620 --> 00:32:47,260
I don't know because I
was in the operating room.

722
00:32:47,260 --> 00:32:49,180
Actually, I don't
remember those.

723
00:32:49,180 --> 00:32:51,400
And I know we had
a sergeant who was

724
00:32:51,400 --> 00:32:53,980
in charge of the ward itself.

725
00:32:53,980 --> 00:32:55,330
And he was an older man.

726
00:32:55,330 --> 00:33:01,546
So whether he was, you know--
the corpsman, god bless him,

727
00:33:01,546 --> 00:33:04,000
was a lot better than
some of the nurses.

728
00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:05,800
They were great, really great.

729
00:33:05,800 --> 00:33:09,770

730
00:33:09,770 --> 00:33:15,170
On a typical day, how many
surgeries would you do?

731
00:33:15,170 --> 00:33:18,770
That would be hard to tell
because we move so much.

732

00:33:18,770 --> 00:33:20,360
We moved an awful lot.

733
00:33:20,360 --> 00:33:23,060
You just couldn't keep
up with the third army

734
00:33:23,060 --> 00:33:24,350
was moving through.

735
00:33:24,350 --> 00:33:26,375
And we weren't that busy.

736
00:33:26,375 --> 00:33:29,750

737
00:33:29,750 --> 00:33:32,720
Our wards were never full.

738
00:33:32,720 --> 00:33:35,300
Whether they shipped them
back out fast enough.

739
00:33:35,300 --> 00:33:37,550
Like I said, the
war was waning down.

740
00:33:37,550 --> 00:33:40,350
And they could get
them moved out.

741
00:33:40,350 --> 00:33:42,590
They wanted to get them
to general hospitals

742
00:33:42,590 --> 00:33:44,150
as soon as they could.

743
00:33:44,150 --> 00:33:46,740
And then back home.

744
00:33:46,740 --> 00:33:53,180

So we were never out straight.

745

00:33:53,180 --> 00:33:53,870

I wouldn't say.

746

00:33:53,870 --> 00:33:55,460

In England, yes.

747

00:33:55,460 --> 00:33:56,510

England was different.

748

00:33:56,510 --> 00:33:57,620

England was when they--

749

00:33:57,620 --> 00:33:59,210

What do you mean

by out straight?

750

00:33:59,210 --> 00:33:59,840

Well--

751

00:33:59,840 --> 00:34:00,962

Working around the clock?

752

00:34:00,962 --> 00:34:01,670

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

753

00:34:01,670 --> 00:34:03,390

One right after the other.

754

00:34:03,390 --> 00:34:06,230

And at nighttime, you might

be called out at night.

755

00:34:06,230 --> 00:34:09,563

756

00:34:09,563 --> 00:34:10,730

That would happen that you--

757

00:34:10,730 --> 00:34:11,420

Yeah. oh, yeah.

758
00:34:11,420 --> 00:34:14,270
--were on call virtually
every day, all the time?

759
00:34:14,270 --> 00:34:15,469
Yeah, yeah, yeah.

760
00:34:15,469 --> 00:34:18,050
There was always
this two team units.

761
00:34:18,050 --> 00:34:24,199
So somebody was always there to
work the hospital if some of us

762
00:34:24,199 --> 00:34:27,469
got to go to a so-called party.

763
00:34:27,469 --> 00:34:29,659
You know, as long as
there was enough left

764
00:34:29,659 --> 00:34:32,139
to cover the
hospital, that was OK.

765
00:34:32,139 --> 00:34:33,380
You could get leave to go.

766
00:34:33,380 --> 00:34:35,929

767
00:34:35,929 --> 00:34:38,480
So half of you were
always on and half of you

768
00:34:38,480 --> 00:34:39,199
were always off?

769
00:34:39,199 --> 00:34:42,210

Well, actually, yes, I
suppose you'd call it that.

770
00:34:42,210 --> 00:34:43,585
I was going to
say we were always

771
00:34:43,585 --> 00:34:47,030
all on unless there
was something doing,

772
00:34:47,030 --> 00:34:48,380
which wasn't that often.

773
00:34:48,380 --> 00:34:50,969
It sounds like we were just
one big party but it certainly

774
00:34:50,969 --> 00:34:51,469
wasn't.

775
00:34:51,469 --> 00:34:54,320

776
00:34:54,320 --> 00:34:59,990
And we made our own parties a
lot of times just for something

777
00:34:59,990 --> 00:35:03,500
to do, something different.

778
00:35:03,500 --> 00:35:06,560
I think that's probably why
we got along so well together.

779
00:35:06,560 --> 00:35:13,760
Because you could always
think of something else to do.

780
00:35:13,760 --> 00:35:14,540
What do you mean?

781

00:35:14,540 --> 00:35:17,880

Well, if you had to, you
know, you sit in the tent,

782

00:35:17,880 --> 00:35:21,320

and you might write
letters, or read books,

783

00:35:21,320 --> 00:35:24,530

and somebody would come in,
and make a lot of noise,

784

00:35:24,530 --> 00:35:27,275

and say, oh, well, quiet down.

785

00:35:27,275 --> 00:35:31,340

786

00:35:31,340 --> 00:35:33,890

And you know, they
realize well, maybe I

787

00:35:33,890 --> 00:35:34,970

should go out for a walk.

788

00:35:34,970 --> 00:35:37,100

And you'd go out for a walk.

789

00:35:37,100 --> 00:35:38,730

And you couldn't
walk far because you

790

00:35:38,730 --> 00:35:41,460

weren't allowed to go too far.

791

00:35:41,460 --> 00:35:47,870

So I don't know, it's
funny, thinking back of we

792

00:35:47,870 --> 00:35:52,310

didn't take it lightly but we
didn't let it get underneath,

793

00:35:52,310 --> 00:35:54,110

you know, let us get down.

794

00:35:54,110 --> 00:35:58,850

We had a job to do and
we were there to do it.

795

00:35:58,850 --> 00:36:02,450

Let me check this.

796

00:36:02,450 --> 00:36:06,710

While you were in
Germany in April,

797

00:36:06,710 --> 00:36:09,530

was your general attitude--

798

00:36:09,530 --> 00:36:12,410

799

00:36:12,410 --> 00:36:13,880

what was your general attitude?

800

00:36:13,880 --> 00:36:19,250

Were you feeling I'm glad to be
here, I feel good doing this?

801

00:36:19,250 --> 00:36:23,090

Or was it this is terrible,
I want to go home?

802

00:36:23,090 --> 00:36:25,460

Well, I always
wanted to go home.

803

00:36:25,460 --> 00:36:27,020

I know that when
I was in Germany,

804

00:36:27,020 --> 00:36:30,260

I hated the Germans
with a passion.

805
00:36:30,260 --> 00:36:32,840
Just hated them with a passion.

806
00:36:32,840 --> 00:36:38,390
And I couldn't even be civil to
them when I would look at them.

807
00:36:38,390 --> 00:36:42,440
I've changed since, believe me.

808
00:36:42,440 --> 00:36:46,310
Because I've been back and
found some real nice people.

809
00:36:46,310 --> 00:36:53,030
But we were almost
like cattle being led.

810
00:36:53,030 --> 00:36:56,000
You're in the
service, you're told

811
00:36:56,000 --> 00:37:00,170
when to get up, and go
to bed, and when to eat,

812
00:37:00,170 --> 00:37:03,860
and you didn't question what
you were eating, you ate it.

813
00:37:03,860 --> 00:37:06,045
You went to work and
you did your job.

814
00:37:06,045 --> 00:37:08,810

815
00:37:08,810 --> 00:37:10,690
And why am I here?

816
00:37:10,690 --> 00:37:12,860

Because I joined.

817

00:37:12,860 --> 00:37:14,870

I wasn't drafted, I joined.

818

00:37:14,870 --> 00:37:16,310

This is what I want to do.

819

00:37:16,310 --> 00:37:20,200

820

00:37:20,200 --> 00:37:25,780

I never thought of
coming home as it

821

00:37:25,780 --> 00:37:31,570

seemed to me that everybody in
that era joined the service.

822

00:37:31,570 --> 00:37:33,490

So it was the thing to do.

823

00:37:33,490 --> 00:37:36,520

You had to do it
for your country.

824

00:37:36,520 --> 00:37:38,440

And we weren't doing it, maybe--

825

00:37:38,440 --> 00:37:40,780

we weren't doing it for
the country, per se.

826

00:37:40,780 --> 00:37:44,980

We were doing it for
our men, our fellow men,

827

00:37:44,980 --> 00:37:47,650

fellow Americans.

828

00:37:47,650 --> 00:37:49,450

And that's what we wanted to do.

829
00:37:49,450 --> 00:37:53,620
That's why we were all
there to help them over.

830
00:37:53,620 --> 00:37:56,930
Because they're the ones
that did the dirty work.

831
00:37:56,930 --> 00:37:57,430
Yeah.

832
00:37:57,430 --> 00:38:02,450
And we try to make it a little
nicer, or softer, or healthier.

833
00:38:02,450 --> 00:38:05,200
Did you think
about your husband?

834
00:38:05,200 --> 00:38:08,920
Yes, yes, I did.

835
00:38:08,920 --> 00:38:11,440
Wondered, you know.

836
00:38:11,440 --> 00:38:13,090
He used to have a--

837
00:38:13,090 --> 00:38:16,700
on his dog tags, he had a
little vial with my hair in it.

838
00:38:16,700 --> 00:38:18,310
And he had said
to me, the last I

839
00:38:18,310 --> 00:38:22,580
saw him, don't ever believe I'm
dead unless you get this back.

840
00:38:22,580 --> 00:38:26,530

Of course, I've
never gotten it back.

841
00:38:26,530 --> 00:38:29,740
But there were--

842
00:38:29,740 --> 00:38:34,240
I have heard so many
stories since how must have

843
00:38:34,240 --> 00:38:37,035
been an awful job for these--

844
00:38:37,035 --> 00:38:38,410
I don't know what
they call them.

845
00:38:38,410 --> 00:38:43,030
They had a name that
buried the dead.

846
00:38:43,030 --> 00:38:45,700
And this especially, in
the Battle of Normandy,

847
00:38:45,700 --> 00:38:49,240
I heard this from
one of the GIs.

848
00:38:49,240 --> 00:38:53,080
That the invasion of
Normandy was so horrendous

849
00:38:53,080 --> 00:38:58,600
that they had a truck of left
arms, a truck of right arms,

850
00:38:58,600 --> 00:39:01,383
a truck of left legs.

851
00:39:01,383 --> 00:39:02,800
And when they went
to bury a body,

852
00:39:02,800 --> 00:39:05,440
if it was missing a left
leg, they went to that truck.

853
00:39:05,440 --> 00:39:10,210

854
00:39:10,210 --> 00:39:12,820
So you wonder.

855
00:39:12,820 --> 00:39:16,300
And even when I
was in high school,

856
00:39:16,300 --> 00:39:18,820
my chemistry teacher
in high school

857
00:39:18,820 --> 00:39:21,430
was a doctor, a female doctor.

858
00:39:21,430 --> 00:39:24,470
And she was a doctor
in World War I.

859
00:39:24,470 --> 00:39:28,420
And she had all these
slides to show us.

860
00:39:28,420 --> 00:39:34,660
There were slides of
heart tissue, lung tissue,

861
00:39:34,660 --> 00:39:39,580
and all sorts of tissues
that she had taken out

862
00:39:39,580 --> 00:39:41,515
of World War I dead soldiers.

863
00:39:41,515 --> 00:39:44,380

864
00:39:44,380 --> 00:39:46,970
And she told us,
and here we are,

865
00:39:46,970 --> 00:39:52,910
that's way back in the early
'30s, that they stuffed them

866
00:39:52,910 --> 00:39:57,590
with straw and sent
them home to be buried.

867
00:39:57,590 --> 00:40:01,070
So you wonder, you
know, what came home.

868
00:40:01,070 --> 00:40:06,731
Maybe he's better over
there not knowing, you know.

869
00:40:06,731 --> 00:40:09,926
Blown to bits or
something, I don't know.

870
00:40:09,926 --> 00:40:11,740
But that stuck.

871
00:40:11,740 --> 00:40:19,000
And I can remember we had these
seats in our chemistry lab

872
00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:21,280
that were two to a desk.

873
00:40:21,280 --> 00:40:23,843
And I'm listening like this.

874
00:40:23,843 --> 00:40:26,260
And all of a sudden, I hear
blump, and the girl next to me

875

00:40:26,260 --> 00:40:30,010

fainted right out of her seat.

876

00:40:30,010 --> 00:40:32,080

But I don't know if

they could do that now.

877

00:40:32,080 --> 00:40:33,280

Maybe they do, I don't know.

878

00:40:33,280 --> 00:40:33,970

I don't know.

879

00:40:33,970 --> 00:40:37,720

So you were caring

for wounded soldiers

880

00:40:37,720 --> 00:40:40,930

and grieving at the same time?

881

00:40:40,930 --> 00:40:44,080

I couldn't have been grieving.

882

00:40:44,080 --> 00:40:46,720

Because now, this is a

year later, for one thing.

883

00:40:46,720 --> 00:40:51,350

884

00:40:51,350 --> 00:40:53,870

I was busy doing my work.

885

00:40:53,870 --> 00:40:55,180

I thought of him.

886

00:40:55,180 --> 00:40:58,610

I still have the same

picture I carried with him,

887

00:40:58,610 --> 00:41:00,470

with his wings.

888

00:41:00,470 --> 00:41:03,440

And the last letter

I wrote him--

889

00:41:03,440 --> 00:41:10,160

or he wrote me, excuse me,

which was a V-mail letter.

890

00:41:10,160 --> 00:41:13,310

But they never photographed it.

891

00:41:13,310 --> 00:41:16,840

And I'm curious to know why

it was never photographed.

892

00:41:16,840 --> 00:41:19,300

Because they came

all photographed.

893

00:41:19,300 --> 00:41:23,170

I don't know if you're familiar

with V. Well, V-mail you would

894

00:41:23,170 --> 00:41:24,460

write on the certain paper.

895

00:41:24,460 --> 00:41:25,960

You could only have one sheet.

896

00:41:25,960 --> 00:41:29,200

And they would photograph them

and put them into microfilm.

897

00:41:29,200 --> 00:41:31,060

And then they'd

send that microfilm.

898

00:41:31,060 --> 00:41:33,250

They'd get thousands

and thousands of letters

899

00:41:33,250 --> 00:41:35,530
on this little small microfilm.

900

00:41:35,530 --> 00:41:40,660
And that saved hundreds of
cubic feet in a cargo ship,

901

00:41:40,660 --> 00:41:43,490
sending all these
letters back and forth.

902

00:41:43,490 --> 00:41:48,610
His letter, dated July
it looks like seven,

903

00:41:48,610 --> 00:41:52,450
but he made it an eight, and
he was missing on the 10th.

904

00:41:52,450 --> 00:41:55,030
And it says, I'm going
to be busy for a while.

905

00:41:55,030 --> 00:41:57,040
This will probably
be the last letter

906

00:41:57,040 --> 00:41:59,570
you get from me because
I'm going to be busy.

907

00:41:59,570 --> 00:42:02,920
But you'll hear
about it soon enough.

908

00:42:02,920 --> 00:42:08,030
And why would they send that
handwritten, you know, piece?

909

00:42:08,030 --> 00:42:09,040
The original piece.

910

00:42:09,040 --> 00:42:11,230

So I still have that
and his picture,

911

00:42:11,230 --> 00:42:13,750

which I carried all
overseas with me.

912

00:42:13,750 --> 00:42:15,625

And kept even when I remarried.

913

00:42:15,625 --> 00:42:18,790

And my husband knew it was in
my drawer, and it stayed there,

914

00:42:18,790 --> 00:42:19,966

and it's still there.

915

00:42:19,966 --> 00:42:23,620

916

00:42:23,620 --> 00:42:26,170

Let me turn the tape over
while we have a break.

917

00:42:26,170 --> 00:42:32,730

This is the end of side
one with Louise Birch.

918

00:42:32,730 --> 00:42:35,320