

Interview of Kenneth Dale Berry

Interviewer: Okay, you want Kenneth Dale Berry, B-e-r-r-y. Well, Ken, we are really appreciative of you coming up here today to let us interview you. It's an honor for us to ask you about your World War II experiences. Could you tell us a little bit about your early life in Utah and where you were when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and what was going through your mind?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, I'll tell ya. See, I was born in Arizona. I lived up in Northern Arizona up around St. John's. I spent a lot of time up there, and then the summer of '42, I was up in St. John's. That's when my folks let me know I got a draft notice, but I remember Pearl Harbor.

Interviewer: What were you doing?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, I was still in school. But the summer of '42, I went up to see some of my cousins up in St. John's, and that's when they notified me I got my draft notice, and from there, I went to -- you want me to continue?

Interviewer: Yeah, just go ahead.

Kenneth Dale Berry: From there, I went to Fort MacArthur, California. They took some tests, and then they sent me to Fort Knox, Kentucky, a tank and truck where you trained.

Interviewer: Let me ask you one question. You were still a student on December 7th of 1941. What went through your mind when you heard that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, boy. It really got to me. So many lives lost. And when I went in, I decided I'd be the best I could, to be the best soldier I could.

Interviewer: All right, tell us now about some basic training.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Now, when I went to Fort Knox, we did a lot of training on tanks and stuff. And, we were at a rifle range. I made up my mind; I never shot a rifle in my life until I was drafted into the Army. And I made up my mind I'd try to be the best I could. And, I was a fair shot in Basic Training. And then we had 13 weeks there, and then I was sent to Fort Mead, Maryland. And there was four big brick buildings, and we had -- these guys refused to go overseas. And we had to guard these four big buildings. We had four half tracks that the lights shined so they'd cross each other. And my job for guard duty was to go around and start those half tracks up and keep -- and then run for about an hour and every four hours, we come around and start them up again. And when I left there, I don't know whatever happened to those guys, but you couldn't, in combat, you can't trust those kind of guys.

Interviewer: So, these buildings contained Army defectors that were drafted and refused to go overseas.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Right. They refused to go overseas, that's why we was guarding them. And now, when I'd go out on a rifle range, I tried to improve myself as much as I could. And before I left Fort Mead, I got a sharp shooter's badge. And then I got delayed, about seven days delayed, and I had to report to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. And I went home to see the folks in Phoenix, and I had to be back in Camp Kilmer. And we loaded on the Queen Elizabeth. And we -- when we went past the Statue of Liberty, every four -- every seven minutes, we didn't have any escort across the water. Every seven minutes, you could -- they'd have zigzagged clear across. You could stand out on the back of the ship and you could see them

zigzagging. And that is to throw the German subs off. But it took us about four and a half days to get over there. I landed in Glasgow, Scotland. And we went down -- but going over, we went through the North Atlantic.

Interviewer: Just a minute. So you went over on the Queen Elizabeth, the big cruise ship. What was the insides like? We always thought that Queen Elizabeth was a luxury cruise ship. What was your accommodations like?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, they had -- they refitted it to haul troops. But, there were several decks down. I stayed up, a lot of the guys stayed down below, they were sicker than sick. When I wasn't on duty, I was up on top side. But, when we was going over, the waves would come right up over the bow of the ship. And it would sway this way and sway that way. But when I got to -- when we landed in Glasgow, Scotland, I looked up, "Boy, those waves are pretty big." But we arrived safe and sound.

Interviewer: Did you stay in hammocks?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah.

Interviewer: And how many hammocks were on top of one another?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, boy. There's several of them. But, they had a lot of Navy personnel on there, too. But they had a lot of wacks and stuff like that. So they had to really keep them separate down below. But, that's why we had to have guard duty on those -- to keep them separated.

Interviewer: All right, tell us where you landed. You went to Scotland, did you say?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Glasgow, Scotland.

Interviewer: Okay, and then what happened after that?

Kenneth Dale Berry: We went down through Scotland. Now, Scotland is -- their land is terraced. They utilize every bit of land they got. We went down through Scotland into England, and I was stationed about 75 miles south of London.

And we did a lot of aircraft -- from the other side of England; we did a lot of anti aircraft practice and stuff like that. And, but I, while I was there, we took -- two of us took two trucks of guys to the next over out at camp, and we was asleep in our cabs, and one of the guys was waiting, just waiting for him to come back. And one of the guys got, you know, when these metal knobs in the gas can, it whacked an English guy over the head. And the next morning, there was FBI guys all over the place. But both of us, we just told the truth. They cross-examined us and tried to trip us up. We just told the truth, and we didn't know what was going on. And finally, they found the guy -- he got in a lot of trouble. But yeah, I have been cross-examined by the FBI.

Interviewer: This must have been, you were drafted in late 1942, and probably after basic training --

Kenneth Dale Berry: It was '43.

Interviewer: In '43.

Kenneth Dale Berry: About February, '43.

Interviewer: Okay.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Right around my birthday. I was 18 years old.

Interviewer: And when you were training in Great Britain, did you realize you were training for the D-Day invasion?

Kenneth Dale Berry: No, we didn't know what was going on. But, and then when we -- see, I wasn't a tank op; I was in Second Armored Division when I went over there. And when we started assembling -- having to waterproof -- we knew there was something coming up. So, they started waterproofing our vehicles and the rear end transmissions and around the carburetors and we'd stick a tube clear up so if we dropped into a lot of water, we could keep going. But, when we left Southampton, we knew something was really going on. But, before we boarded ship, we went on LST's.

But right now, I want to make -- I had the impression come to me that I needed to transfer companies. I was in the 80 (inaudible) squad before I transferred. I had a feeling come to me to transfer companies. Had I not, I wouldn't be here today. The LST I would have been on went down. They were sunk going across the English Channel. So the feeling came to me I needed to transfer to -- I went into the service company, and from then on in, I drove truck.

Now, we went in on D plus one on Omaha Beach. Now, the 116th Infantry, that regiment was the one that went in on Omaha -- they made the initial landing.

Interviewer: Okay, so the regiment that you were in originally went in on D-Day?

Kenneth Dale Berry: No, we went D plus -- see, we had to wait until the infantry could take the beach.

Interviewer: I understand, I'm talking about the original regiment where the LST got sunk. Did they go in on the actual D-Day? The one that you were transferred from.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Now see, that company was -- they were sunk. But they was scheduled to come in as soon as they could.

Interviewer: Okay, well, let's take you right back to, when you got on the ships at Southampton to go, did you know at that time that you were going to be in one of the biggest invasions of US History?

Kenneth Dale Berry: We knew that something was coming up. And they told us before we left something big was coming up. But, when they put on these LSTs, they'd drive your vehicle down below. You're locked down below with your vehicles, and you don't have any chance of getting out alive if you're torpedoed. That's what happened to Third Battalion Headquarters Company. They never had a chance. But, that is an awful thing when you go in. Even when we was waiting out there to go in, we had several close calls with the Germans hitting our ships.

Interviewer: Do you remember what was going through your mind when you --

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, boy.

Interviewer: Can you give us some of that what was going through your mind when you were on that ship knowing you had to disembark?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Just hoping that we could do our job and come out alive. We went in determined that we would do the best job we could.

Interviewer: And then tell us about getting on the shore and stuff. You were in a large vessel with tanks and artillery in the hull of the ship?

Kenneth Dale Berry: See, the LST drops down, and you drive the vehicles out. And that's why they wanted to waterproof those vehicles when they drop down into that, you

see, those LSTs, they can only get so close to the shore. And then if you dropped into some deep water, you could keep going. They lost a couple of tanks dropped into where they had been shelling the shore. So, yeah, we lost a couple of tanks. But they got out alive. But, yeah, it was scary.

Interviewer: When you went ashore, did they open up out of the shore a little ways? Did you go in the water? Were they able to take you right up close to the beach?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, what they did with us, they had these ducks loaded. That's the way the ship could come and they go in -- they loaded those ducks, and that's how they brought a lot of those supplies in. And that's how they brought a lot of those guys in, on the ducks. It's just like a big truck, but they're waterproof, and they can run in the water.

Interviewer: So did you drive, were you driving a truck at that time?

Kenneth Dale Berry: When I, not till I got on shore.

Interviewer: Okay, so you got on shore, what was it like on Omaha beach?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, boy.

Interviewer: After -- on D-Day plus one when you arrived?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, there was so much broken, blown up machine tanks and things. The infantry and stuff like that. There was so much going on, that the beach was just littered. Now, the 116th Infantry, they lost, there was only a handful of soldiers that come out alive. That's the way, nowadays; they got a beautiful cemetery on top of the beach. I've never seen it, but they have a beautiful -- where all those guys are buried.

Interviewer: When you landed on the beach, what did it look like? Were there still bodies on the ground?

Kenneth Dale Berry: There was some, some German. We had to go around some of the bodies. And to keep going, they hadn't had a chance to pick all of ours up. But the German bodies, we had to go around all of those.

Interviewer: Okay, what happened after you landed? What did you do after you got on the shore?

Kenneth Dale Berry: We started pushing inland. They, see, I was in the 41st Infantry Regiment, and then we had a tank unit. That was their infantry regiment, and it was assembled with tanks. But they went in and the infantry went in, and they started past the beach and then started inward. It was a fierce battle from then on for awhile. And then we -- going towards St. Lo, and our airplanes battled it, really pounded it. But they, we run into a lot of fierce fighting.

Interviewer: When did you get, you were a truck driver over there? And when did you get on the truck?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, when we got on the truck, as soon as they get supplies in, that wasn't my job. I was always on the front line fueling up those tanks and bringing up ammunition. I was always on the front line all the time. But now, when we got into Belgium and stuff, and then we -- they was moving pretty good. We would come back to the depot and pick up supplies and bring them back up to the front lines. That's what I did, but I was always on the front line. When those guys was fueling up their tanks, I was on the front lines with them.

But, when we got into, first into Germany, it was Aachen, Germany; they turned our whole division around where we just came from. And that's where they had the big --

that's where Hitler was, if they could defeat us there, they could defeat us anyplace. But that was his last big battle, the Battle of the Bulge.

But we come back and they wanted the, I think it was 100 and -- I can't remember what the outfit was now. But they had us surrounded. We had our division and several of the other divisions surrounded and cut our supply lines off and just run them around till they run out of fuel. And we captured them. That was the last.

When we went back up to Aachen, Germany, and that's where my truck was shot up. Messerschmitt come in, but the other guys shot it down. But they, I wouldn't be here if I had been in the truck. Riddled the whole side and broke the steering wheel. See, those trucks, they didn't -- they had a canvass top. We had a 50 caliber machine gun on it. But if I'd have been on that gun, I could have shot that thing down. But I might have got killed then, too. But from then on, they gave me a new truck. And then we started across what you call the Ruhr Valley.

Interviewer: Let me take you back here just a minute. Your job on this truck was to take fuel and ammunition to the front lines. And you went over to Aachen, Germany. And then they had you come back to Belgium, is that correct?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah.

Interviewer: And give us as much detail as you can about, I think you were helping somebody change a tire or something and your truck got strafed.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, I was changing the tire myself.

Interviewer: Okay.

Kenneth Dale Berry: And, that's when my truck got shot up. I was changing; I was just over a little bit. Otherwise, I would have got it. But I was fixing my flat tire.

Interviewer: And how low was that plane when it strafed you?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, he come in about the tree tops. He was just coming in strafing.

Interviewer: Was anybody injured in that experience?

Kenneth Dale Berry: There was a couple of them that was injured. But they, I heard that they finally shot that guy down. But, they, it's scary.

Interviewer: Yeah, it would be. So then, you had to get a new truck after that because yours --

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yes, it was riddled. Busted the steering wheel and just riddled. Why that gas tank didn't blow up on the left side, I don't know. But, it riddled the whole left side of my truck. But yeah, I got another truck. And then we continued on. And then -- you want me to go from there?

Interviewer: Well, you mentioned something about; I think you were talking about the 101st Airborne Division that was surrounded near Bastogne. Did you guys participate in relieving them?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, I missed. When I was in England and I, I was going to tell you about that. The 101st, I was asking for volunteers for -- I was a sharp shooter when I left Ford Mead, Maryland. I had a sharp shooter medal. And the 101st, they were asking for volunteers for a sniper. And I said, "Nuh, uh. Not me." And I was a sharp shooter, and if they zeroed in on a sniper, you're dead. You don't have a chance. But I turned them down -- they

wanted me to volunteer for the, it was all volunteer. But I said, "No, I'll pass you up on this." I didn't volunteer to go into the 101st.

Interviewer: Let's take you back again to where you got strafed. Is that where you received the Bronze Star for that action?

Kenneth Dale Berry: I can't remember, my memory's getting to where I can't remember all the things. Best I can recollect --

Interviewer: Tell us what happened then after the strafing. Take us right after you got strafed and where you went. You went back to Aachen?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, we gathered around seeing how everybody was, and they -- a few of them had nicks here and there. But nobody was killed. You want me to continue on?

Interviewer: Yeah, just --

Kenneth Dale Berry: From there, we went across what they call the Ruhr Valley. And we was in Patton's Army. You've heard about him, Patton. He -- sometimes he'd move, the units would move as much as 50 miles or more a day. And trying to keep fuel and ammunition up, we'd -- sometimes we'd work around the clock to keep the fuel and ammunition to these guys. But we was on the front lines all the time.

And finally, we got to the Rhine River. That big -- we were there at Cologne, Germany. That's where we crossed. We crossed on a little pontoon bridge that the engineers put across. About 2:00 in the morning, you only have these little (inaudible) lights, and crossing about 2:00 on the morning and trying to see if you are still on those girds and crossing that river and then we, Patton was moving faster now. And when we was near the end

of the war, that's where I got the Purple Heart. If he had got a direct hit, the 88 was hitting the house I was on. If they would have got a direct hit, I might not have been here today. And the guys, we had to scramble to get cover when that thing hit. But they finally, that's where -- it just cut my hand, but that's where I got my Purple Heart.

Interviewer: You were in a house, and a German 88 shelled the house while you were in there?

Kenneth Dale Berry: And boy, it was accurate. Those guys were pretty accurate. We had a guy, one of our drivers going down the highway. He had a tank of gas on it, and he got a direct hit going down the highway. Whether it was just an accident or something, I don't know. But he got a direct hit. His assistant was out on the back of the truck when it hit. The driver, he was killed instantly. But the assistant, he lived to tell about it. And he survived.

But that's how accurate those German 88s was. But, if it had hit the house a direct hit, I probably would have been real -- we just dived for cover. But that was right near the end of the war. They were starting to give up right and left. It was about a couple months near the end of the war. But that's the closest I ever get to be getting killed, when it hid in that house.

Interviewer: That's where you got wounded then, right?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah.

Interviewer: What did those 88 shells sound like as they were coming at you?

Kenneth Dale Berry: (Whooshing).

Interviewer: So you could tell that they were coming, huh?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: So tell us what happened after then till the end of the war?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, the end of the war, I had -- with all the battles I had been in, I had 96 points. And I was some of the first to go home.

Interviewer: What city were you in when the war ended?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, I can't remember what the city was. It was up near the Ebbw River. But when I left, they -- it sent us down to Frankfurt. That's where I left from. When they surrendered, I was up near the Ebbw River, and when they surrendered, they sent us down to Frankfurt. And from there, I went to down through -- now, these, they put us in boxcars. Now the box cars in Europe are just half the size of box cars in the US. And they crowd us in those and sent us on down. We landed in Antwerp, Belgium. And we went down through a long tunnel and we left there at Antwerp. They loaded us on a liberty ship called Fetuli. And we was, I think 14 and a half days. I never seen that lake so calm. And then we landed back in Camp Kilmer. They'd load us up on a train. There's an officer and several of us going down to, where is it.

Interviewer: Where's Camp Kilmer located?

Kenneth Dale Berry: That's in New Jersey.

Interviewer: So you took a liberty ship and landed there?

Kenneth Dale Berry: That's where we -- that's where they sent out and that's where they come back into. And then, they sent you -- they sent us down on a train to El Paso, Texas. And that's where I got discharged.

Interviewer: Let me take you back now to where you were when you heard that Germany had surrendered. Where were you and what was going through your mind when you heard that Germany surrendered?

Kenneth Dale Berry: What now?

Interviewer: Where were you and what was going through your mind when you heard that Germany surrendered?

Kenneth Dale Berry: I was happy.

Interviewer: Do you remember where you were?

Kenneth Dale Berry: I can't remember the town. It's been too many years ago. But, everybody was so happy that the war was over. They could go back to their families.

Interviewer: When you were on the boat coming back, did you pass by the Statue of Liberty?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yes.

Interviewer: Tell us about that.

Kenneth Dale Berry: It was just a sight we always wanted to see. This lamp of liberty, and even the guys that never come back, they gave their life so we could have this liberty.

Interviewer: And if you were to say something to future generations about your experiences in the war, what message would you give to future generations?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Just do your duty, what is called of you, to serve your country and keep us free from aggression.

Interviewer: If you were to describe your strongest memory of World War II, what would be your strongest memory?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, boy. That's when I almost got killed. But a lot goes through your mind.

Interviewer: The time when you got killed and shelled by that 88 in that house.

Sally: I'd like to hear a lot of detail about that. I'd like to know what town or city he's in, who he's with --

Kenneth Dale Berry: Now, what did you say?

Sally: Kenneth? Can you hear me? Can you hear me, Kenneth?

Interviewer: Can you hear her?

Kenneth Dale Berry: No.

Interviewer: Go ahead and tell me.

Sally: Where he is, who he's with, who his comrades are, what their conversations are as they're getting shelled. If he is describe the environment that he's in.

Interviewer: Okay, Ken, we want to take you back to that time you were getting shelled in that house. Tell us again what city or what city you were near.

Kenneth Dale Berry: I can't remember. It's been so many years.

Interviewer: Do you remember who your buddies were and what you were thinking at the time and any detail you can remember about that incident.

Kenneth Dale Berry: That picture I've got, that's one of my buddies I was usually with. I can't remember -- it's been so many years. I can't remember a lot of these names and stuff.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Sally: What were the feelings, though? Do you remember? If that was your strongest memory, what was your strongest feeling?

Interviewer: Do you remember how you were feeling right after that shell hit?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, boy. Scared. And lucky we survived. See, the officers company commander, he was right there. But he was over a little way. He come and see how we was, and then they had to first aid the -- come in and take care of the cuts and bruises and stuff. Yeah, it's scary.

Interviewer: Were any of your buddies wounded or killed during that hit?

Kenneth Dale Berry: No, there was just not -- they had a few scrapes and my little shrapnel wounds, but other than that, they never got killed. We was lucky that time.

Interviewer: If you were to -- did your World War II experiences, how did they affect the rest of your life? Did they hinder you or help you?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, it's helped me to be better. Be a better person, and -- but see, I went in the second time. I went in twice.

Interviewer: Oh, is that right?

Kenneth Dale Berry: You joined up after you got back?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did you serve in Korea?

Kenneth Dale Berry: No, see, that's where -- I reenlisted again in '47. I got out in '45, about October '45. In '47, I went -- reenlisted. They said, "Do you want to go back the same outfit?" I said, "Yeah, that'd be fine." And I went back to the same outfit. And we did have one officer -- one was up in Germany, we was short of second lieutenants. He made a battle field commission. He went to school (inaudible) for three weeks, and he got in battle and was commissioned. Now, when I went to Fort Hood, he was a captain when I went back there.

He made the best officer. He came up through the ranks. He made the best officer. So, when I was in Fort Hood, they sent me to (inaudible) school. When I graduated, I was a corporal then. When we graduated, they asked me to -- because the mess sergeant left. When I graduated, they asked me to -- I was acting mess sergeant for months and months on end until they got one in. You had to keep a balanced meal. You had to be, if you was over on inspection, you had to get rid of it. You had to have the balanced meal. I was acting mess sergeant for quite awhile.

Interviewer: That was after World War II, your second time, right?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah. And when the Korean thing come around, I had three kids then. And that's when I got out. But when I got my discharge, they froze all discharges. They weren't letting anybody -- they were sending guys to Korea. I felt if I went over there, I may not come back. I felt -- I think I better got out.

Interviewer: Did you have a couple more questions?

Sally: Ken? This is your buddy?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah.

Sally: Now, I know you don't remember his name. Maybe you can get a wider shot for this while he's looking at it. But explain to Rick who he is, and what you remember about serving with him. Okay? And what he meant to you. I want a relationship with a comrade.

Kenneth Dale Berry: He was one of my best buddies over there. We worked together and he was like a big brother to me. But he -- he really took care of me.

Interviewer: And he served with you all the time you were traveling through Germany again?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah, he -- we was pretty close buddies.

Interviewer: Did you keep in touch with him after the war?

Kenneth Dale Berry: No, I lost contact with him. I wish I would have kept contact. But I lost contact. So many things going through your mind about during the war. Wanting to come home to your families.

Sally: Ask him if he can recall any stories about him specifically.

Interviewer: Having a buddy like that, you kind of look out for each other.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: The -- can you remember any stories between the two of you where he helped you or you helped him or something like that?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Been so many years, I can't remember a lot of these things that happened. But, yeah, he was always -- he helped me quite a bit. But my memory's not as --

Interviewer: I understand, you're doing a good job.

Sally: His son says his picture was taken Battle of the Bulge.

Interviewer: Well, that picture was from the Battle of the Bulge is that right?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah.

Sally: Ask him if he remembers that moment.

Interviewer: Do you remember the moment of the picture? Who took it?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: Tell us about that.

Kenneth Dale Berry: It was about 20 degrees below zero when that picture was taken. You can see there's snow on the ground.

Interviewer: And you were on the front lines of the Battle of the Bulge?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah they -- we was in the, we supplied the -- we was in our unit and we supplied the unit with their ammunition stuff.

Interviewer: At 20 below zero, there was a lot of soldiers getting frostbite.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Oh, my. My hands, even though you have these gloves on. The trucks would drive with canvass tops. Boy, I had my ears frozen. Yeah, it's cold. It's just like when you're taking your basic training. They want you to blindfold you when you're cleaning your guns so when you're at night, when you're in battle, you can clean these guns. Be able to clean the guns, you know, by feel. You do it by feel. Yeah, but I, see, on this picture, I carried a 45 automatic on my hip. And I had a 30 caliber carbine in my truck. That's what I -- but I always carried a 45 on my hip all the time going on these -- supplying the units.

Interviewer: Did the trucks have heaters in the cab?

Kenneth Dale Berry: (Laughter), you kidding? No.

Interviewer: (Laughter). So, it was pretty cold for you then, wasn't it?

Kenneth Dale Berry: It was cold. I tell ya. A lot of the infantry, they had their feet frozen -- got frostbite because it was so cold. I never seen a winter so cold as that. Even though you have these gloves on, your hands would freeze. But you just have to keep moving. Have to keep moving.

Interviewer: Well, tell us about getting home to your loved ones.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, I went home to Phoenix, and then I -- my wife, I grew up with her, actually. She was -- my youngest brother, they're close to the same age. And he used to teach her all the time. But at that time, she was living up in Utah, up in -- I went up to see her. And that's when we got married. We got married in the Salt Lake temple.

Interviewer: And then you lived in Salt Lake ever since, I guess?

Kenneth Dale Berry: No, we've lived -- yeah; we've lived in several places here in the valley. But where we live now, we've been there for 48 years or so. But I, like I say, I got in the construction business and that's where I made my living and finally, I had to retire. I got the arthritis so bad in my shoulders that I finally had to quit driving. I couldn't hardly get in the truck.

Interviewer: Yeah. Well, Sally, anything else?

Sally: I just -- if he has anything else he really wants to share with us.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you would like to share that you can think of?

Kenneth Dale Berry: Well, like I say, I've had several -- I've had, my oldest son; he served in the Marine Corps. And my son Rick, here, he was in the Airborne. And I had another son in the Army. Now, you gotta -- my youngest son now is in the Guard. And he just come back from last February, yeah, last February, he come back from Kuwait. He was stationed in Kuwait there for almost a year. But he come back from Kuwait and we celebrated my birthday with his coming home.

Interviewer: Yeah. Well, Ken, we sure appreciate you coming up here and letting us interview you.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah, I appreciate the chance to tell my story and I want my family to know I appreciate this free country of ours and I want them to always do their best to serve their country, if in their life is possible. Their families, if they need to serve their country, keep the country free. Free from aggression. And that's my hope, that they'll always have the desire to do the right thing.

Interviewer: Well, that's great. And it sounds like they've pretty much followed your example by volunteering for the Armed Forces. We appreciate men like you and buddies that stayed there and never came back, and we're thankful that our country has been kept free. So, thanks for coming up and thanks, Rick, for bringing him. We appreciate it very much.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Now, Rick did so much for me. See, the records was burned up and all of the servicemen's records were burned up from 1912 to 1954, I think it was. And they did find part of my records. It had burnt -- they had a big fire where the service records was --

Interviewer: I heard about that. You got a purple heart and a bronze star.

Kenneth Dale Berry: Yeah, and they did find a little piece of paper on mine, but that's all. If it hadn't been for Rick, I wouldn't have these hearing aids. That's where I got hearing aids, up here at the Veteran's Home. Rick, if it hadn't been for Rick, he really went the extra mile for me, and I wouldn't have anything. He's secured all these medals and things for me.

Interviewer: Well, that's great. He's proud of his Dad, and I don't blame him. Well, Ken, thank you so much for coming up. We appreciate it. Are you going to keep those pictures and then get them back to him?

Sally: Yeah, can I get them scanned?

End of transcript.