

00:00:14.285 --> 00:00:18.525
ROGER BUSCH: Born on June 5th, 1945 in Huron, South Dakota.
1

00:00:18.785 --> 00:00:20.085
MARK FRANKLIN: Is that where you grew up? ROGER BUSCH: Yeah,
2

00:00:20.165 --> 00:00:23.005
I lived there till I turned 21 when I
3

00:00:23.005 --> 00:00:24.085
went into basic training.
4

00:00:30.375 --> 00:00:32.615
ROGER BUSCH: It was great. I came from a huge family and
5

00:00:33.195 --> 00:00:34.975
had a lot of support.
6

00:00:36.435 --> 00:00:38.895
Didn't think I'd get there yet,
7

00:00:38.995 --> 00:00:43.095
but had four brothers, four sisters, my mom and dad--
8

00:00:43.315 --> 00:00:47.695
just really supportive, into sports.
9

00:00:47.955 --> 00:00:50.735
So it was nice traveling around the state of South Dakota,
10

00:00:50.735 --> 00:00:52.615
getting to play a little high school basketball,
11

00:00:52.745 --> 00:00:56.095
baseball, and-- great life.
12

00:00:56.695 --> 00:01:00.775
I always said I wished my two kids could have had the life
13

00:01:00.775 --> 00:01:02.935
I grew up in, but I didn't want to be there
14

00:01:03.115 --> 00:01:04.615
as an adult to raise them.
15

00:01:05.555 --> 00:01:07.735
My dad worked for the city of Huron.
16

00:01:07.755 --> 00:01:09.415
He was kind of like a maintenance man,
17

00:01:09.515 --> 00:01:11.855
did some garbage collecting through the day,
18

00:01:11.995 --> 00:01:15.615
and evenings he was a janitor for the
19
00:01:15.755 --> 00:01:16.775
Farmers and Merchants Bank.
20
00:01:18.035 --> 00:01:21.695
My mom, early on -- I didn't know this, this was
21
00:01:22.325 --> 00:01:23.455
when I was pretty young --
22
00:01:23.635 --> 00:01:27.175
she was a college grad that was a school teacher.
23
00:01:28.035 --> 00:01:30.775
She taught in a little town of Broadland, South Dakota
24
00:01:30.915 --> 00:01:34.975
for a few years and then start having these nine children.
25
00:01:35.635 --> 00:01:37.415
So that became her full-time job.
26
00:01:38.275 --> 00:01:42.135
And she passed away when I was 14,
27
00:01:42.235 --> 00:01:44.135
so we lost her when I was pretty young.
28
00:01:44.355 --> 00:01:48.535
So that's what I kind of remember of my mom.
29
00:01:48.535 --> 00:01:52.135
MARK FRANKLIN: You graduated high school in '63? ROGER BUSCH: 1963.
30
00:01:52.195 --> 00:01:54.655
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah. So we're very, very early into Vietnam.
31
00:01:54.835 --> 00:01:55.895
Had you had any idea
32
00:01:55.895 --> 00:01:57.295
what was going on over there at the time?
33
00:01:57.635 --> 00:02:00.015
ROGER BUSCH: You know, there was rumors that things were happening,
34
00:02:00.115 --> 00:02:03.655
but nothing serious to think that
35
00:02:03.655 --> 00:02:05.575
we're all gonna go to Vietnam or something like that.
36

00:02:05.595 --> 00:02:07.855
It wasn't-- it was pretty minor.
37

00:02:08.135 --> 00:02:10.495
I don't think there was a lot of discussion about it.
38

00:02:10.595 --> 00:02:13.855
There was a few people
39

00:02:13.855 --> 00:02:17.215
that I knew from Huron that went into the military
40

00:02:17.315 --> 00:02:19.015
and I guess their thoughts were
41

00:02:19.015 --> 00:02:21.375
they might end up there if it starts to escalate,
42

00:02:21.395 --> 00:02:23.415
but it wasn't quite there yet.
43

00:02:23.415 --> 00:02:24.415
MARK FRANKLIN: What did you do after high school?
44

00:02:24.725 --> 00:02:28.455
ROGER BUSCH: Went to-- for two years, well, a year
45

00:02:28.455 --> 00:02:30.855
and a half actually, but Huron College,
46

00:02:30.985 --> 00:02:34.455
which is right there in the same city that I grew up in.
47

00:02:35.235 --> 00:02:38.495
And tried to play a little basketball there.
48

00:02:38.635 --> 00:02:41.335
So that didn't work out too well.
49

00:02:41.415 --> 00:02:44.055
I got injured my first game out of the chute
50

00:02:44.145 --> 00:02:48.295
after I made the freshman team and first game.
51

00:02:49.075 --> 00:02:52.175
But I stuck in there for a year and a half.
52

00:02:52.235 --> 00:02:54.775
And then I just kind of decided-- there again,
53

00:02:55.475 --> 00:02:59.095
not thinking Vietnam or anything-- I took a semester break
54

00:02:59.685 --> 00:03:01.605
'cause I didn't know what I really wanted to do.
55
00:03:01.785 --> 00:03:05.445
And that was probably about the time
56
00:03:06.915 --> 00:03:08.445
Vietnam started to escalate.
57
00:03:08.445 --> 00:03:11.325
And there was a lot of talk about
58
00:03:11.325 --> 00:03:13.085
getting drafted and things like that.
59
00:03:14.115 --> 00:03:16.245
Four brothers that I had, three
60
00:03:16.245 --> 00:03:18.445
of them did have military experience.
61
00:03:18.545 --> 00:03:21.645
All three were Navy, pretty much peacetime.
62
00:03:21.745 --> 00:03:24.645
My oldest brother Don served right after Korea.
63
00:03:24.785 --> 00:03:27.285
He got out of high school around '52, '53,
64
00:03:27.345 --> 00:03:31.645
so Korea was pretty well done. So he enjoyed his four years
65
00:03:31.985 --> 00:03:34.605
on a ship, most of it.
66
00:03:35.425 --> 00:03:38.805
My next brother Milford, he joined
67
00:03:39.305 --> 00:03:42.605
and-- pretty much like peacetime, too.
68
00:03:42.625 --> 00:03:47.525
It was probably around '56, '57 he joined, through '61.
69
00:03:47.525 --> 00:03:49.005
They all just served four years,
70
00:03:49.985 --> 00:03:52.045
But he was an airdale.
71
00:03:52.045 --> 00:03:54.365
He was just in the Air Corps and,
72

00:03:54.505 --> 00:03:57.165
and really had a nice life in the Navy.
73
00:03:57.165 --> 00:03:58.525
Join the Navy to see the world.
74
00:03:58.525 --> 00:03:59.605
You always hear that, so--
75
00:03:59.745 --> 00:04:02.645
and then brother Bob kind of did the same thing.
76
00:04:02.745 --> 00:04:06.765
And he graduated 1960,
77
00:04:07.005 --> 00:04:10.805
I think it was '59, '60. So he was in
78
00:04:10.805 --> 00:04:14.405
through '63, '64, I guess he got out.
79
00:04:14.425 --> 00:04:15.765
So that was kind of like peacetime.
80
00:04:15.825 --> 00:04:18.005
But they all loved the military.
81
00:04:18.125 --> 00:04:20.845
It was pretty uneventful.
82
00:04:20.845 --> 00:04:22.125
There was a couple skirmishes,
83
00:04:22.325 --> 00:04:24.805
I think Kennedy had the Cuba thing going and--
84
00:04:25.225 --> 00:04:27.725
but nothing major. So I thought,
85
00:04:28.385 --> 00:04:30.605
how do I get out of Huron, South Dakota?
86
00:04:31.545 --> 00:04:34.165
No money, wasn't gonna get a scholarship
87
00:04:34.185 --> 00:04:35.285
to play ball anymore.
88
00:04:35.445 --> 00:04:39.365
I worked hard to do that, so I decided, hey, join the Navy.
89
00:04:39.505 --> 00:04:41.845
And like I say, see the world, and--
90

00:04:41.845 --> 00:04:43.565

MARK FRANKLIN: So your brothers influenced that too, you think? A little bit?

91

00:04:43.565 --> 00:04:44.805

ROGER BUSCH: Yeah, pretty much, yeah.

92

00:04:44.925 --> 00:04:47.005

I think, you know, just through that time and-- yeah.

93

00:04:53.475 --> 00:04:56.335

ROGER BUSCH: I went down to basic training in San Diego.

94

00:04:56.815 --> 00:05:01.055

I went in in June of 1966,

95

00:05:01.925 --> 00:05:04.775

just turned 21, June 5th, my birthday.

96

00:05:04.835 --> 00:05:07.695

And it was a good experience.

97

00:05:07.735 --> 00:05:10.175

I mean, having three brothers go through it,

98

00:05:10.215 --> 00:05:11.335

I had pretty good idea.

99

00:05:12.155 --> 00:05:13.895

You know, everybody thinks it's physical,

100

00:05:14.035 --> 00:05:16.455

but being the sport guy that I am--

101

00:05:16.475 --> 00:05:18.055

I'm not a rough, tough football

102

00:05:18.055 --> 00:05:19.095

player or anything like that,

103

00:05:19.235 --> 00:05:21.895

but played basketball,

104

00:05:22.215 --> 00:05:23.575

baseball. Stayed in shape.

105

00:05:23.795 --> 00:05:27.895

And so the physical part was piece of cake.

106

00:05:27.955 --> 00:05:31.055

But it's the mental. I think that most people, when they--

107

00:05:31.435 --> 00:05:34.095

as you well know, you said you were military-- that--

108
00:05:34.835 --> 00:05:37.095
how do you get through the mental part of basic training?
109
00:05:37.275 --> 00:05:39.055
But it was all good.
110
00:05:39.395 --> 00:05:41.175
And they treated me good.
111
00:05:41.275 --> 00:05:42.695
They always say,
112
00:05:42.695 --> 00:05:44.975
if you're a squared away Sailor in bootcamp,
113
00:05:45.115 --> 00:05:46.215
like a four-oh,
114
00:05:46.235 --> 00:05:50.455
if you get a four-oh rating, I got to
115
00:05:51.155 --> 00:05:52.815
get pulled out of my company.
116
00:05:53.635 --> 00:05:57.645
And the whole basic training was really
117
00:05:58.865 --> 00:06:00.445
for the graduation part of it.
118
00:06:00.465 --> 00:06:01.885
So you just trained,
119
00:06:02.225 --> 00:06:04.605
and you learned all the Navy stuff on the ships
120
00:06:04.785 --> 00:06:07.525
and everything to go with it. But I got to go over
121
00:06:07.525 --> 00:06:09.645
and carry my South Dakota flag.
122
00:06:09.905 --> 00:06:12.245
So that was kind of like an honor to get pulled out of
123
00:06:13.145 --> 00:06:14.965
my company to go over and do that.
124
00:06:15.145 --> 00:06:16.525
So I had had pretty good time.
125
00:06:16.625 --> 00:06:17.965
MARK FRANKLIN: Was that part of the graduation ceremony?

126

00:06:18.235 --> 00:06:20.085

ROGER BUSCH: That was part of the graduation then, yeah.

127

00:06:20.265 --> 00:06:22.885

MARK FRANKLIN: Had not heard that before. ROGER BUSCH: Very nice, so--

MARK FRANKLIN: Neat.

128

00:06:23.315 --> 00:06:25.685

ROGER BUSCH: Because Vietnam was building up then,

129

00:06:25.705 --> 00:06:27.725

and a lot of people then, at that time--

130

00:06:28.465 --> 00:06:30.245

I'm not saying they were dodging the draft,

131

00:06:30.305 --> 00:06:32.605

but all of that started coming in about that time.

132

00:06:32.625 --> 00:06:34.165

The heavy part of--

133

00:06:34.545 --> 00:06:37.205

and I wasn't going to ever be

134

00:06:37.445 --> 00:06:39.325

a draft dodger let's say.

135

00:06:39.405 --> 00:06:41.285

I just-- but I didn't really want to go

136

00:06:41.285 --> 00:06:43.285

to the Marine Corps or the Army at the time.

137

00:06:43.885 --> 00:06:45.485

I wanted some kind of schooling.

138

00:06:46.265 --> 00:06:49.645

And, um, so when I got to basic,

139

00:06:49.845 --> 00:06:52.245

I guess I passed enough tests to

140

00:06:52.445 --> 00:06:54.205

qualify me for schools.

141

00:06:54.785 --> 00:06:57.125

And I was hoping like my-- not my oldest brother,

142

00:06:57.185 --> 00:06:59.205

but the other two-- I was hoping to get maybe

143

00:06:59.955 --> 00:07:02.925

into the Air Corps and get on an aircraft carrier.

144

00:07:03.085 --> 00:07:04.565

I loved basketball. I'd get

145

00:07:04.565 --> 00:07:07.125

to play basketball every day and things like that.

146

00:07:07.225 --> 00:07:09.965

But I got signed up for--

147

00:07:10.265 --> 00:07:11.485

it was the only school available--

148

00:07:11.665 --> 00:07:13.365

it was hospital corps school.

149

00:07:14.505 --> 00:07:18.245

So after basic training, I--

150

00:07:18.585 --> 00:07:20.045

and this was in San Diego,

151

00:07:20.055 --> 00:07:22.125

right there at Balboa Naval Hospital--

152

00:07:22.795 --> 00:07:25.285

went through about a-- it was pretty close

153

00:07:25.285 --> 00:07:29.845

to about a five month training to get experience to be--

154

00:07:29.945 --> 00:07:33.925

a lot of the guys that probably get into that field

155

00:07:34.835 --> 00:07:36.365

want to become either a nurse,

156

00:07:36.465 --> 00:07:39.005

or some kind of a medical field, or doctors

157

00:07:39.345 --> 00:07:40.365

and they

158

00:07:40.365 --> 00:07:41.685

give you that kind of training.

159

00:07:41.835 --> 00:07:43.165

It's pretty good schooling for it.

160

00:07:43.185 --> 00:07:47.045

But I had no intentions of doing anything like that.

161

00:07:47.185 --> 00:07:48.765

But I thought if I have to go
162
00:07:48.765 --> 00:07:52.405
through this schooling, I get to a hospital
163
00:07:52.905 --> 00:07:54.725
and see the world. Like I say,
164
00:07:54.915 --> 00:07:56.485
join the Navy to see the world.
165
00:07:56.865 --> 00:08:01.525
I could probably become an X-ray technician,
166
00:08:02.025 --> 00:08:03.285
or a pharmacist mate,
167
00:08:03.345 --> 00:08:05.845
and learn something like that.
168
00:08:06.225 --> 00:08:09.725
But that didn't happen.
169
00:08:10.185 --> 00:08:14.925
The Marine Corps recruit their Navy personnel
170
00:08:16.315 --> 00:08:18.165
from the-- from the Navy. MARK FRANKLIN: Right.
171
00:08:18.305 --> 00:08:22.045
ROGER BUSCH: So-- and then Vietnam, as I said, I went up to
172
00:08:22.545 --> 00:08:26.365
the naval hospital up in Oakland, California.
173
00:08:27.065 --> 00:08:28.205
And when I got my orders
174
00:08:28.255 --> 00:08:31.205
after I graduated from hospital corps school, it was like,
175
00:08:31.225 --> 00:08:35.325
Hey, Doc Busch, you get to go to either
176
00:08:35.385 --> 00:08:37.805
two months, maybe up to two years,
177
00:08:37.825 --> 00:08:40.765
you'll be at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital up in Oakland.
178
00:08:40.785 --> 00:08:41.845
So I said, yeah, that's pretty good.
179
00:08:41.895 --> 00:08:42.965

Never been to the Bay Area.
180
00:08:43.305 --> 00:08:46.325
In fact, I'd never really been out of South Dakota.
181
00:08:46.785 --> 00:08:49.605
So this is all new to me to be in California.
182
00:08:49.825 --> 00:08:50.845
And so I thought
183
00:08:50.845 --> 00:08:53.165
that was a pretty big time, if I got a couple years up
184
00:08:53.165 --> 00:08:54.965
in San Francisco.
185
00:08:55.065 --> 00:08:58.685
But I think on the 59th day, it was
186
00:08:59.365 --> 00:09:01.205
USMC, the Marine Corps,
187
00:09:01.585 --> 00:09:04.405
the United States Marine Corps wants you.
188
00:09:05.305 --> 00:09:07.645
MARK FRANKLIN: Did the-- do you think that training prepared you
189
00:09:07.645 --> 00:09:08.845
for what you were going to see in Vietnam?
190
00:09:10.045 --> 00:09:12.285
ROGER BUSCH: A lot of it did, because you really did learn
191
00:09:12.285 --> 00:09:13.645
everything about the body.
192
00:09:13.825 --> 00:09:17.165
You know, you learned everything about-- not at
193
00:09:17.195 --> 00:09:19.885
that time thinking Vietnam and that,
194
00:09:20.385 --> 00:09:22.765
but there was a lot of classes on
195
00:09:22.765 --> 00:09:25.445
if you had a lot of bleeding and different injuries
196
00:09:25.505 --> 00:09:27.485
and how would you cater to that.
197
00:09:27.545 --> 00:09:30.285

But as I said, it was more probably getting training
198
00:09:30.345 --> 00:09:33.885
to be like an LVN,
199
00:09:34.265 --> 00:09:36.205
or a nurse, something to that effect.
200
00:09:36.325 --> 00:09:39.205
I think that's what that schooling was for-- for them anyway,
201
00:09:39.205 --> 00:09:42.245
to be a ward corpsman, they called it, at
202
00:09:42.245 --> 00:09:43.445
naval hospitals.
203
00:09:43.705 --> 00:09:47.565
The ward that I got, they called it the dirty
204
00:09:48.255 --> 00:09:49.405
orthopedic ward.
205
00:09:50.425 --> 00:09:52.685
And most of the--
206
00:09:52.915 --> 00:09:55.405
MARK FRANKLIN: This was in Oakland? ROGER BUSCH: Up in Oakland-- MARK
FRANKLIN: Yeah. Okay.
207
00:09:55.735 --> 00:09:58.285
ROGER BUSCH: --were the Vietnam returnees coming back.
208
00:09:58.285 --> 00:10:00.325
They were losing arms and legs.
209
00:10:00.505 --> 00:10:02.885
And so that was the duty.
210
00:10:02.945 --> 00:10:05.965
And that probably got me programmed a lot for-- not knowing
211
00:10:06.025 --> 00:10:08.325
yet at the time I'm going to Vietnam, but--
212
00:10:08.625 --> 00:10:09.805
MARK FRANKLIN: Did that change your views
213
00:10:09.865 --> 00:10:11.845
or change how you saw Vietnam at all?
214
00:10:11.905 --> 00:10:14.365
Did you have a sense anymore about the war at that time?
215

00:10:14.365 --> 00:10:15.365
ROGER BUSCH: No. I think
216

00:10:15.365 --> 00:10:17.965
being a military, it was
217

00:10:18.985 --> 00:10:21.205
you have a job to go do, so you go do it.
218

00:10:21.345 --> 00:10:24.365
And not knowing yet that I'm going to that,
219

00:10:24.385 --> 00:10:26.525
so I was just-- if there was Army
220

00:10:26.705 --> 00:10:29.165
or Marines that were kind of filtered through
221

00:10:29.165 --> 00:10:31.405
before they sent them home
222

00:10:31.905 --> 00:10:33.565
you got their war stories and that.
223

00:10:33.625 --> 00:10:36.005
But I think the
224

00:10:36.545 --> 00:10:37.925
ending part would be if--
225

00:10:38.305 --> 00:10:41.205
and you kind of make buddies with a few of them,
226

00:10:41.205 --> 00:10:42.485
or not buddies so much, but you
227

00:10:42.485 --> 00:10:43.565
get to know them a little bit better.
228

00:10:43.565 --> 00:10:47.005
Either you might-- they might be there for a week or a month
229

00:10:47.025 --> 00:10:50.005
or whatever before they rehab enough to either get
230

00:10:50.005 --> 00:10:52.845
to go home or patched up enough to go back
231

00:10:53.105 --> 00:10:54.725
to military duties and that.
232

00:10:54.785 --> 00:10:57.925
But I got my orders, that was the kicker.
233

00:10:58.325 --> 00:10:59.605
because they'd say, Hey, Doc Busch,
234
00:10:59.825 --> 00:11:01.365
you'll be back here in 30 days.
235
00:11:02.185 --> 00:11:06.485
And I-- oh. So that was probably my first sense,
236
00:11:06.585 --> 00:11:09.165
but still not knowing where I was gonna go.
237
00:11:09.345 --> 00:11:13.605
And, and I probably could have even gone down to--
238
00:11:14.005 --> 00:11:15.405
I thought at first I was going to go
239
00:11:15.405 --> 00:11:17.485
to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.
240
00:11:17.505 --> 00:11:19.285
And I thought, Hey, I'm going to get the Med cruise.
241
00:11:19.285 --> 00:11:21.525
I'm going to go sail the Mediterranean
242
00:11:21.525 --> 00:11:23.525
with a Navy ship like I wanted to do, and--
243
00:11:23.625 --> 00:11:25.725
but they changed my orders,
244
00:11:25.825 --> 00:11:28.325
and it was for Camp Pendleton.
245
00:11:29.105 --> 00:11:31.725
So then you knew you were getting assigned to-- MARK FRANKLIN: Just a
matter of time. Yeah.
246
00:11:31.725 --> 00:11:32.725
ROGER BUSCH: --Vietnam. MARK FRANKLIN: When did
247
00:11:32.725 --> 00:11:33.645
you get orders to Vietnam?
248
00:11:34.275 --> 00:11:38.275
ROGER BUSCH: When? MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah.
249
00:11:38.635 --> 00:11:42.355
ROGER BUSCH: I went to hospital corps school May, so the--
250
00:11:42.695 --> 00:11:44.155
MARK FRANKLIN: May of-- ? ROGER BUSCH: 1967.

251
00:11:44.305 --> 00:11:45.955
MARK FRANKLIN: Okay, ROGER BUSCH: So now the build up.
252
00:11:46.095 --> 00:11:47.515
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah. ROGER BUSCH: Now it's happening.
253
00:11:47.515 --> 00:11:50.195
There was a lot of-- and that's why they were really pushing--
254
00:11:50.945 --> 00:11:54.925
They probably would put 40, 50
255
00:11:55.585 --> 00:11:58.765
in peacetime thing through
256
00:11:59.275 --> 00:12:02.005
that field medical training for the Marine Corps.
257
00:12:02.105 --> 00:12:03.725
But I was in a group--
258
00:12:03.845 --> 00:12:06.125
I should have brought those pictures probably with me.
259
00:12:06.145 --> 00:12:10.365
There was about 300 of us, just Navy corpsmen
260
00:12:10.595 --> 00:12:12.605
that were made up to get geared.
261
00:12:12.605 --> 00:12:16.245
And so what you were doing there was trying
262
00:12:16.245 --> 00:12:18.805
to become a Marine. The tough-- running
263
00:12:19.025 --> 00:12:20.685
and hoorah stuff. And--
264
00:12:20.865 --> 00:12:22.365
MARK FRANKLIN: Really? So they put you through their own training?
265
00:12:22.485 --> 00:12:23.605
ROGER BUSCH: A little bit of a
266
00:12:23.725 --> 00:12:24.765
training for the physical part.
267
00:12:24.765 --> 00:12:26.005
MARK FRANKLIN: Right. ROGER BUSCH: They had to weed out
268
00:12:26.265 --> 00:12:27.325
if you can't do it.

269
00:12:27.425 --> 00:12:29.005
So a lot of it was--
270
00:12:29.785 --> 00:12:31.885
and we did-- I don't know if you've ever been
271
00:12:31.945 --> 00:12:34.525
to Oceanside, California and that,
272
00:12:34.545 --> 00:12:37.205
but we'd go up into those hills,
273
00:12:37.205 --> 00:12:39.005
we'd march out of our little barracks.
274
00:12:39.065 --> 00:12:42.085
It was on one side of I-5, and go underneath this little--
275
00:12:42.305 --> 00:12:45.165
and then go up and do kind of like a bivouac,
276
00:12:45.325 --> 00:12:46.565
I guess you would call it. Bivouac
277
00:12:46.565 --> 00:12:48.565
would be like
278
00:12:48.565 --> 00:12:51.285
you're going out into a battle zone area.
279
00:12:51.795 --> 00:12:55.205
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah. ROGER BUSCH: And then they'd have-- with the
Marines.
280
00:12:55.625 --> 00:12:57.525
So you were assigned to a platoon,
281
00:12:57.585 --> 00:13:00.085
and you were playing war games.
282
00:13:00.085 --> 00:13:01.845
So they had their war games going on.
283
00:13:01.905 --> 00:13:03.525
So if they had a
284
00:13:03.605 --> 00:13:05.325
dummy set up, you'd run up to it.
285
00:13:05.325 --> 00:13:08.085
And if it had a sucking chest wound
286
00:13:08.105 --> 00:13:10.965

or something like that, then you were--that's
287
00:13:10.965 --> 00:13:12.485
where I probably started getting the train--
288
00:13:12.725 --> 00:13:15.485
I might be going to Vietnam now. What's-- ?
289
00:13:15.545 --> 00:13:16.565
MARK FRANKLIN: As you're doing this training, are they
290
00:13:16.565 --> 00:13:17.765
evaluating you or are they scoring
291
00:13:17.765 --> 00:13:18.765
You, or-- ? ROGER BUSCH: Yeah, pretty much.
292
00:13:18.875 --> 00:13:20.605
Yeah, you had to know what you were doing,
293
00:13:20.825 --> 00:13:22.525
or they probably wouldn't send you over there.
294
00:13:22.585 --> 00:13:27.245
So yeah, most of the training was probably just if I passed,
295
00:13:27.295 --> 00:13:29.485
which I did, the hospital corps school stuff,
296
00:13:29.545 --> 00:13:32.805
And then did OK working the two months--
297
00:13:32.835 --> 00:13:35.445
working the wards up in Oakland, kind
298
00:13:35.445 --> 00:13:36.485
of prepped you for it too.
299
00:13:36.665 --> 00:13:36.885
So
300
00:13:42.215 --> 00:13:45.895
ROGER BUSCH: I got to go home, see my family for two weeks
301
00:13:47.085 --> 00:13:49.375
from Camp Pendleton.
302
00:13:49.995 --> 00:13:52.735
And then I flew out of San Diego.
303
00:13:53.595 --> 00:13:57.655
We flew over, flew up to Anchorage, Alaska, down to Tokyo,
304
00:13:58.105 --> 00:14:01.975

Japan, then jumped on military planes to Okinawa.
305
00:14:02.855 --> 00:14:05.655
That's kind of the staging area where you got rid
306
00:14:05.655 --> 00:14:07.415
of all your civilian stuff.
307
00:14:07.435 --> 00:14:10.415
And you won't need this, this, this. And you take your dog tag
308
00:14:10.435 --> 00:14:12.295
and these green uniform--
309
00:14:12.435 --> 00:14:15.695
that's not Navy. No. It's supposed to be blue or white.
310
00:14:17.155 --> 00:14:19.455
And then we jumped on C-130s,
311
00:14:19.645 --> 00:14:22.815
flew right into Da Nang. MARK FRANKLIN: From Okinawa?
312
00:14:23.085 --> 00:14:24.495
ROGER BUSCH: From Okinawa, yeah. MARK FRANKLIN: Okay.
313
00:14:25.475 --> 00:14:27.215
ROGER BUSCH: And then from Da Nang, there was kind
314
00:14:27.215 --> 00:14:28.895
of a staging area, if I recall.
315
00:14:29.085 --> 00:14:31.775
It's been, what, 55 years ago now? Probably.
316
00:14:31.915 --> 00:14:34.055
But I think we spent the night or something there.
317
00:14:34.125 --> 00:14:37.735
MARK FRANKLIN: What do you-- what sticks out? ROGER BUSCH: Well, Da Nang
was kind of a bigger base,
318
00:14:37.735 --> 00:14:41.535
bigger city, so it wasn't like anything unusual.
319
00:14:41.595 --> 00:14:44.455
Other than the fact that, wow, here I'm in Vietnam now,
320
00:14:44.555 --> 00:14:48.095
But I guess you're thinking about--
321
00:14:48.185 --> 00:14:49.535
Where am I going to go?
322

00:14:49.635 --> 00:14:51.055
Who am I going to get assigned to?
323

00:14:51.185 --> 00:14:53.405
And that was probably the biggest issue.
324

00:14:53.405 --> 00:14:55.805
What-- where am I going next?
325

00:14:56.025 --> 00:15:00.925
And so you spent the night. And we got orders.
326

00:15:00.985 --> 00:15:04.405
You're going north. And that was never a good sign
327

00:15:04.405 --> 00:15:06.845
because the further north you went in Vietnam,
328

00:15:06.985 --> 00:15:10.045
the heavier the battles got and the battles get.
329

00:15:10.865 --> 00:15:15.045
And I flew up to Phu Bai. It was a area. That was the
330

00:15:15.045 --> 00:15:17.285
3d Marine Division, the headquarters.
331

00:15:17.425 --> 00:15:20.365
That's where the Marines had their base.
332

00:15:21.075 --> 00:15:23.085
They had all the medical facilities.
333

00:15:23.465 --> 00:15:26.405
So when I flew in there, that was a bigger base too.
334

00:15:26.435 --> 00:15:30.405
Picture maybe something a little bit bigger than a M*A*S*H
335

00:15:30.405 --> 00:15:33.565
unit let's say, on TV, if you related to
336

00:15:33.565 --> 00:15:35.085
that M*A*S*H unit, it would be something like that.
337

00:15:35.085 --> 00:15:39.045
They had the doctors, the nurses, mess halls.
338

00:15:39.065 --> 00:15:42.885
You had food, hot food. You had-- lived in tents. You got
339

00:15:42.885 --> 00:15:44.165
to sleep in a bed. You got--
340

00:15:45.185 --> 00:15:47.125
So I thought, well, this isn't too bad.
341
00:15:47.265 --> 00:15:50.805
But then I think it was like an overnight.
342
00:15:50.945 --> 00:15:52.405
Now you go over to this tent,
343
00:15:52.425 --> 00:15:54.765
and now I'm getting assigned to my unit.
344
00:15:54.985 --> 00:15:57.365
And they said it's Lima 3/3.
345
00:15:58.385 --> 00:15:59.605
No clue what that meant.
346
00:15:59.705 --> 00:16:02.885
But you're going up one step further north.
347
00:16:03.145 --> 00:16:07.805
So that put me on the DMZ.
348
00:16:08.065 --> 00:16:10.645
Now you're starting to think this is--
349
00:16:10.915 --> 00:16:11.925
this isn't Navy.
350
00:16:12.685 --> 00:16:14.965
I didn't join the Navy to do this, the--
351
00:16:15.345 --> 00:16:16.645
MARK FRANKLIN: So who was Lima 3/3?
352
00:16:16.645 --> 00:16:19.605
ROGER BUSCH: Lima 3/3 was a unit
353
00:16:19.605 --> 00:16:22.645
that's attached to the 3d Marine Battalion.
354
00:16:23.625 --> 00:16:27.925
We fought up-- what they called I Corps, the top, I Corps.
355
00:16:28.025 --> 00:16:30.325
It was right up on the DMZ,
356
00:16:30.325 --> 00:16:33.565
which-- the DMZ is the demilitarized zone.
357
00:16:33.785 --> 00:16:37.885
So it was-- all the civilians pretty well evacuated.
358

00:16:37.985 --> 00:16:40.405
So you were really-- it was combat.
359

00:16:40.545 --> 00:16:42.285
It was a year of combat.
360

00:16:42.545 --> 00:16:47.205
So it was-- Dong Ha was the big base that was set up.
361

00:16:47.265 --> 00:16:49.285
And we were hearing over the plane, as soon
362

00:16:49.285 --> 00:16:51.725
as you get off the plane there might be incoming rounds
363

00:16:51.725 --> 00:16:53.285
coming from North Vietnam.
364

00:16:53.525 --> 00:16:54.645
'cause that was just about a mile,
365

00:16:54.655 --> 00:16:56.005
maybe a mile and a half north.
366

00:16:56.595 --> 00:16:59.765
They had-- all their heavy artillery were really dug in deep
367

00:17:00.115 --> 00:17:01.805
over the other side of the river.
368

00:17:02.825 --> 00:17:04.925
So that was my first training-- was like--
369

00:17:05.265 --> 00:17:07.885
it was like a movie, just, hurry, get over here,
370

00:17:07.905 --> 00:17:09.325
get to this bunker, get to the--
371

00:17:10.115 --> 00:17:12.085
Then I got assigned to my unit.
372

00:17:13.105 --> 00:17:14.925
And you mentioned to me, I know, in the hallway,
373

00:17:15.055 --> 00:17:17.805
which I always get a kick out of people do, is
374

00:17:18.935 --> 00:17:21.325
Navy's people aren't supposed to know how
375

00:17:21.325 --> 00:17:22.565
to shoot guns and stuff.
376

00:17:22.615 --> 00:17:25.045
You'd always hear that from an Army guy or a Marine, and--
377

00:17:25.305 --> 00:17:28.525
But the gunny sergeant, when he said, Hey,
378

00:17:28.545 --> 00:17:29.685
Doc Busch, where you going?
379

00:17:29.925 --> 00:17:31.125
I said, Lima 3/3.
380

00:17:31.185 --> 00:17:33.925
And he said, well, here's your issue, your .45.
381

00:17:34.705 --> 00:17:38.005
He said-- and he was serious I think, I'm pretty sure--
382

00:17:38.305 --> 00:17:40.925
he said, we know you Navy guys really don't know how
383

00:17:40.925 --> 00:17:44.485
to use those, but in the event you get overrun,
384

00:17:45.345 --> 00:17:48.605
you don't want to be a POW. So--
385

00:17:49.265 --> 00:17:50.445
MARK FRANKLIN: He taught you how to--
386

00:17:50.445 --> 00:17:52.445
ROGER BUSCH: You didn't want to be a POW.
387

00:17:52.585 --> 00:17:57.365
So that's what your .45 is for. MARK FRANKLIN: Okay. ROGER BUSCH: Anyway.
388

00:17:57.365 --> 00:17:58.725
MARK FRANKLIN: What were your initial duties when you were assigned-- ?
389

00:17:59.445 --> 00:18:03.645
ROGER BUSCH: I went out with the-- on a six-by-- that's
390

00:18:03.675 --> 00:18:07.605
a big, huge truck that carted people out.
391

00:18:07.665 --> 00:18:11.445
And I went out to my first site,
392

00:18:11.505 --> 00:18:13.045
and it was like an outpost.
393

00:18:13.625 --> 00:18:16.045
It was called the Rockpile.
394

00:18:17.185 --> 00:18:19.845
The-- McNamara's wall was made up
395

00:18:19.845 --> 00:18:22.325
of five different bases.
396

00:18:22.325 --> 00:18:23.485
There was six eventually.
397

00:18:23.505 --> 00:18:27.925
But it was-- Dong Ha was the main big, big rear area.
398

00:18:28.145 --> 00:18:33.005
And there was Gio Linh, Con Thien, the Rockpile, Ca Lu,
399

00:18:33.265 --> 00:18:34.405
and then Khe Sanh.
400

00:18:34.435 --> 00:18:37.925
Everybody pretty much heard and knows about Khe Sanh, so--
401

00:18:38.585 --> 00:18:42.205
But I spent my first probably two, three four--
402

00:18:42.305 --> 00:18:44.205
maybe about a month at the Rockpile.
403

00:18:44.225 --> 00:18:48.525
And then I went out to that next base in Ca Lu.
404

00:18:49.625 --> 00:18:53.125
And primary duties being attached to the Marine Corps was--
405

00:18:53.185 --> 00:18:55.845
they're made up of platoons.
406

00:18:55.955 --> 00:18:57.285
Lima 3/3--
407

00:18:57.285 --> 00:18:59.005
There was four different companies in--
408

00:18:59.085 --> 00:19:03.005
I think it was Lima and Kilo and India,
409

00:19:04.185 --> 00:19:06.525
and probably one other unit.
410

00:19:07.145 --> 00:19:10.525
But anyway, I was assigned to Lima then, as I said,
411

00:19:10.525 --> 00:19:12.685
and there was like four different platoons
412

00:19:12.685 --> 00:19:14.365
that made up that company.
413

00:19:14.585 --> 00:19:18.925
So basically what it was, is we were there to seek
414

00:19:18.945 --> 00:19:20.605
and-- seek out enemy
415

00:19:20.665 --> 00:19:23.645
and destroy, As I guess their missions were too,
416

00:19:24.225 --> 00:19:26.285
So you go out on daily patrols.
417

00:19:26.905 --> 00:19:29.685
Not every day, but probably three, four,
418

00:19:30.275 --> 00:19:34.045
sometimes if we had enough corpsmen, I only had
419

00:19:34.045 --> 00:19:35.165
to go out maybe two, three times.
420

00:19:35.235 --> 00:19:38.205
Sometimes I was the only corpsman just due to--
421

00:19:39.145 --> 00:19:40.885
not everybody died over there,
422

00:19:40.945 --> 00:19:44.285
but rotation, getting sick, injured,
423

00:19:44.425 --> 00:19:47.165
or getting killed in action possibly.
424

00:19:47.265 --> 00:19:51.005
So it was just a steady stream of
425

00:19:51.875 --> 00:19:55.325
patrols through the day, and then set up outposts--
426

00:19:55.325 --> 00:19:56.965
they called them ambushes-- at night.
427

00:19:57.265 --> 00:20:00.485
So you'd go out just there again, trying to seek enemy,
428

00:20:00.925 --> 00:20:04.445
because the enemy were looking to get us on
429

00:20:04.445 --> 00:20:05.565
all those bases there.
430

00:20:10.415 --> 00:20:12.235
MARK FRANKLIN: So what were those living conditions like for you?
431

00:20:12.615 --> 00:20:14.355
We called them hooches, I guess.
432

00:20:14.355 --> 00:20:17.435
There was just-- dig a hole in the ground and--
433

00:20:18.375 --> 00:20:22.275
to eliminate-- when you did take incoming,
434

00:20:22.415 --> 00:20:24.115
we took a lot of incoming all the time.
435

00:20:24.165 --> 00:20:28.395
Heavy artillery or rockets, motor rounds, everything.
436

00:20:29.895 --> 00:20:32.875
Not on a daily basis, but maybe on a weekly basis, so--
437

00:20:33.095 --> 00:20:35.475
Then there was times it was every day.
438

00:20:36.455 --> 00:20:38.835
But they were just
439

00:20:39.645 --> 00:20:41.635
kind of like digging a deep, deep grave.
440

00:20:41.815 --> 00:20:44.875
And they put some aircraft
441

00:20:44.875 --> 00:20:48.365
landing strips on top with sandbags to stop--
442

00:20:48.385 --> 00:20:49.445
a direct hit probably wouldn't--
443

00:20:49.765 --> 00:20:51.805
you wouldn't make it,
444

00:20:51.985 --> 00:20:53.645
but it stopped all the shrapnel.
445

00:20:54.665 --> 00:20:59.405
So probably what you tried to have is, in those platoons,
446

00:20:59.575 --> 00:21:02.045
three, four, maybe five guys living down in one
447

00:21:02.045 --> 00:21:06.805
of those bunkers at a time, just so-- MARK FRANKLIN: How about--
448

00:21:06.945 --> 00:21:10.725
ROGER BUSCH: My favorite saying was: Like living in the mud
449
00:21:10.745 --> 00:21:12.165
and the blood with no beer.
450
00:21:13.225 --> 00:21:15.645
The old Johnny Cash saying, so-- MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah.
451
00:21:15.865 --> 00:21:19.725
MARK FRANKLIN: How about the food? ROGER BUSCH: Food was for the most
part,
452
00:21:20.305 --> 00:21:22.565
if you were out in Ca Lu,
453
00:21:22.565 --> 00:21:26.925
and that was C-rations. C-rations were just made up of
454
00:21:27.065 --> 00:21:29.325
canned food.
455
00:21:29.505 --> 00:21:31.565
And your best buddy was--
456
00:21:31.565 --> 00:21:34.405
they called it a P-38, I think, maybe nine.
457
00:21:34.545 --> 00:21:35.685
It was your can opener.
458
00:21:35.705 --> 00:21:37.245
You put that with your dog tag,
459
00:21:37.265 --> 00:21:40.205
and if you lost that, you'd starve to death probably.
460
00:21:40.345 --> 00:21:44.845
So you-- that was your buddy. MARK FRANKLIN: I still have mine.
461
00:21:44.855 --> 00:21:49.685
ROGER BUSCH: There were times, like back at the Rockpile
462
00:21:49.705 --> 00:21:51.365
and especially Dong Ha,
463
00:21:51.625 --> 00:21:53.645
but I never really got back to Dong Ha
464
00:21:53.745 --> 00:21:57.365
but twice my whole tour there,
465
00:21:58.425 --> 00:22:00.765
they'd try to get hot meals out to you.

466
00:22:00.765 --> 00:22:03.005
They'd bring them from Dong Ha, so--
467
00:22:03.745 --> 00:22:04.885
If the convoy could make it out,
468
00:22:04.905 --> 00:22:06.645
or if the choppers could bring them in,
469
00:22:06.705 --> 00:22:10.085
then we'd once in a while get hot food.
470
00:22:10.425 --> 00:22:12.885
But most part it was C-rations.
471
00:22:18.875 --> 00:22:20.695
MARK FRANKLIN: So you grew up in Huron, South Dakota.
472
00:22:20.875 --> 00:22:22.255
Do you think you made friends
473
00:22:22.255 --> 00:22:24.015
with folks from different social
474
00:22:24.195 --> 00:22:25.695
and racial ethnic backgrounds
475
00:22:25.695 --> 00:22:27.615
that you might not have ever met had you
476
00:22:27.615 --> 00:22:28.695
not joined the military?
477
00:22:29.475 --> 00:22:30.855
ROGER BUSCH: Oh yeah, for sure. Yeah.
478
00:22:31.095 --> 00:22:33.295
I mean, it was literally a combination
479
00:22:33.295 --> 00:22:35.535
of a lot-- boot camp, different people.
480
00:22:35.715 --> 00:22:38.495
And Huron had very few--
481
00:22:38.655 --> 00:22:39.975
I think there was maybe one
482
00:22:39.975 --> 00:22:43.375
or two families that were Afro-American, black.
483
00:22:43.635 --> 00:22:44.695
But--

484
00:22:44.835 --> 00:22:47.655
and then being sports, we recruited football players,
485
00:22:47.655 --> 00:22:49.095
basketball players to come in.
486
00:22:49.095 --> 00:22:53.615
And so it wasn't like you-- the group that--
487
00:22:54.205 --> 00:22:56.215
That was probably the most interaction I had.
488
00:22:56.215 --> 00:22:58.455
Native Americans, being South Dakota--MARK FRANKLIN: Sure.
489
00:22:58.475 --> 00:23:02.415
ROGER BUSCH: We once in a while--played college ball once
490
00:23:02.415 --> 00:23:06.215
with a-- everybody loves this one is-- one of my buddies was
491
00:23:06.545 --> 00:23:11.015
Homer White Buffalo from Cheyenne Eagle Butte Reservation,
492
00:23:11.445 --> 00:23:13.895
come to Huron College to play basketball for a year.
493
00:23:14.495 --> 00:23:16.335
MARK FRANKLIN: Describe the friendships you made with your fellow
494
00:23:16.335 --> 00:23:17.855
Marines and other corpsmen that you might have made.
495
00:23:19.645 --> 00:23:20.645
ROGER BUSCH: Made a few friends,
496
00:23:20.645 --> 00:23:23.495
corpsman, not like buddy buddies,
497
00:23:23.635 --> 00:23:25.415
but just through hospital corps schools.
498
00:23:25.635 --> 00:23:29.655
So I-- we'd get our weekends off, so we'd try to--
499
00:23:29.655 --> 00:23:30.935
we were all new to San Diego--
500
00:23:31.155 --> 00:23:33.255
try to experience that, just whatever.
501
00:23:34.115 --> 00:23:35.895
We didn't get paid that weekend.

502
00:23:36.165 --> 00:23:38.375
We'd go across the street to Balboa Park
503
00:23:38.475 --> 00:23:40.655
and just hang out there because we didn't have any money.
504
00:23:40.715 --> 00:23:44.215
The next weekend we'd go downtown San Diego and have a good time.
505
00:23:44.215 --> 00:23:45.215
MARK FRANKLIN: How about in Vietnam,
506
00:23:45.215 --> 00:23:45.790
the friendships you made in Vietnam?
507
00:23:45.790 --> 00:23:46.790
ROGER BUSCH: Vietnam was--
508
00:23:46.790 --> 00:23:50.525
I started out with-- when I left
509
00:23:50.595 --> 00:23:54.445
that first six-by,
510
00:23:54.445 --> 00:23:58.805
that truck I got on, I had probably six
511
00:23:58.825 --> 00:24:02.005
or seven of us was on that truck
512
00:24:02.755 --> 00:24:04.485
that was going out to the Rockpile.
513
00:24:05.545 --> 00:24:07.685
And so I buddied up with--
514
00:24:08.685 --> 00:24:11.325
I guess your biggest fear being a Navy guy
515
00:24:11.795 --> 00:24:13.605
with all these tough Marines was,
516
00:24:13.985 --> 00:24:15.525
am I gonna be able to fit in?
517
00:24:15.705 --> 00:24:17.285
And so
518
00:24:17.285 --> 00:24:18.045
that was probably the biggest
519
00:24:18.045 --> 00:24:19.405
hurdle I thought I have to get over.

520
00:24:19.425 --> 00:24:22.965
But there was three Marines on there,
521
00:24:22.965 --> 00:24:27.165
and one of my Navy-- like a supervisor kind of guy
522
00:24:27.165 --> 00:24:30.165
that was going. He was already-- had years in,
523
00:24:30.165 --> 00:24:31.205
He was an E-5,
524
00:24:31.205 --> 00:24:33.245
They called them hospitalmen second classes.
525
00:24:33.625 --> 00:24:38.045
But one was Bart Haynes, the other Jim Gilbert,
526
00:24:38.345 --> 00:24:42.085
the other guy was a Jim Redford, and this Mike Horner.
527
00:24:42.665 --> 00:24:44.525
And then there was one other Navy corpsman.
528
00:24:44.525 --> 00:24:46.005
I didn't know him that well, but
529
00:24:46.305 --> 00:24:48.045
we all went out to the Rockpile.
530
00:24:48.705 --> 00:24:53.005
So I really buddied up with Bart, Jim
531
00:24:53.465 --> 00:24:55.485
and Mike Horner--
532
00:24:55.485 --> 00:25:00.285
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah. ROGER BUSCH: --the leader. And all three of us got
assigned
533
00:25:00.285 --> 00:25:01.645
and went out to Ca Lu together.
534
00:25:01.985 --> 00:25:04.805
So the camaraderie with the Marine Corps is--
535
00:25:04.865 --> 00:25:07.445
you always hear about that-- is very tight.
536
00:25:07.665 --> 00:25:11.285
MARK FRANKLIN: Mm-hm. ROGER BUSCH: So I really buddied up to them.
537
00:25:11.625 --> 00:25:12.685

And the rest did too.

538

00:25:12.685 --> 00:25:16.805

There was a lot of platoon leaders that

539

00:25:17.805 --> 00:25:19.805

probably had been in a lot of combat, three, four, five

540

00:25:19.805 --> 00:25:20.965

months before I got there.

541

00:25:21.045 --> 00:25:24.685

I got there in the tail end of June of 1967.

542

00:25:24.865 --> 00:25:26.445

So there was like two

543

00:25:26.445 --> 00:25:28.525

or three different sergeants that I buddied up to,

544

00:25:28.525 --> 00:25:30.925

because then they just-- here's

545

00:25:30.925 --> 00:25:32.765

what you need to do to stay alive. And--

546

00:25:32.865 --> 00:25:33.865

MARK FRANKLIN: Did you ever have any time off?

547

00:25:34.065 --> 00:25:36.005

Any time? And if you did, what dd you do

548

00:25:36.305 --> 00:25:39.205

for recreational activity? If you had any time off.

549

00:25:39.205 --> 00:25:40.205

ROGER BUSCH: Not in the front line.

550

00:25:40.205 --> 00:25:43.245

Our downtime would be

551

00:25:44.555 --> 00:25:45.765

hitting your bunker.

552

00:25:46.145 --> 00:25:49.285

You could never go without your flak jacket

553

00:25:49.345 --> 00:25:52.245

and your helmet because the threat of incoming was

554

00:25:53.385 --> 00:25:54.525

hourly, daily.

555

00:25:54.845 --> 00:25:58.605

I mean it was-- I guess we'd kid around.
556
00:25:58.925 --> 00:26:00.365
Somebody might have had a little football.
557
00:26:00.505 --> 00:26:02.685
So you'd throw, played a little catch, do your--
558
00:26:02.825 --> 00:26:06.365
But I think on my downtime in the rear area was--
559
00:26:06.365 --> 00:26:10.485
being the medical guy-- was trying to keep everything
560
00:26:10.585 --> 00:26:12.565
pretty sanitary and clean.
561
00:26:12.745 --> 00:26:15.605
And there was always the-- it wasn't like daily
562
00:26:15.705 --> 00:26:19.165
and everything, but just the
563
00:26:19.845 --> 00:26:20.885
bathroom situations.
564
00:26:20.895 --> 00:26:24.005
There was no-- so you'd make sure the Marine, if he had
565
00:26:24.005 --> 00:26:27.925
to do his duty to-- don't do it here, but with your E-tool
566
00:26:27.945 --> 00:26:29.365
and make sure--
567
00:26:29.625 --> 00:26:31.045
MARK FRANKLIN: So you had to instruct him on that, huh?
568
00:26:31.155 --> 00:26:32.285
ROGER BUSCH: Well, some.
569
00:26:32.385 --> 00:26:34.365
You just didn't want it happening.
570
00:26:34.905 --> 00:26:37.645
MARK FRANKLIN: Well sure. ROGER BUSCH: But it was keeping that clean.
571
00:26:37.785 --> 00:26:41.565
And I guess the big scare there too is
572
00:26:41.905 --> 00:26:43.085
people getting malaria.
573
00:26:43.785 --> 00:26:45.605

So I had to make sure I'd make my rounds,
574
00:26:45.605 --> 00:26:48.045
make sure they were taking malaria pills and-- MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah.
575
00:26:48.465 --> 00:26:50.325
ROGER BUSCH: And then just the camaraderie.
576
00:26:50.385 --> 00:26:51.645
I'd go over to the mortar section.
577
00:26:51.775 --> 00:26:54.445
Never buddied up with too many there,
578
00:26:54.465 --> 00:26:56.445
but I did make friends with some of them.
579
00:26:56.505 --> 00:26:59.125
And like you said, there were all walks of life.
580
00:26:59.385 --> 00:27:02.045
I think like that Jim Gilbert was Oregon.
581
00:27:02.435 --> 00:27:04.925
Bart was your hometown. New Jersey.
582
00:27:05.865 --> 00:27:10.005
Mike Horner was Oregon, and Jim Redford, Texas.
583
00:27:10.505 --> 00:27:12.925
I mean, we just came from all over,
584
00:27:13.505 --> 00:27:15.285
and had the majority of them,
585
00:27:15.445 --> 00:27:18.685
probably Caucasian, white guys, but we had a few blacks
586
00:27:18.745 --> 00:27:22.165
and Native Americans and-- but yeah.
587
00:27:22.625 --> 00:27:24.405
MARK FRANKLIN: So the music scene in the country is changing
588
00:27:24.405 --> 00:27:25.965
during '67, '68.
589
00:27:25.965 --> 00:27:28.565
Does any of that, either the music, movies, books at the time,
590
00:27:28.565 --> 00:27:29.725
that if you hear a song
591
00:27:29.725 --> 00:27:32.245

or see a movie today takes you back to your time in Vietnam?
592
00:27:32.505 --> 00:27:36.405
ROGER BUSCH: Oh boy. Yeah. I mean it-- pretty much after we got back, and
593
00:27:37.105 --> 00:27:41.285
what really draws me, the friendship,
594
00:27:42.025 --> 00:27:44.845
if I'm going to bond with somebody is probably
595
00:27:45.175 --> 00:27:46.845
their liking of sports.
596
00:27:47.425 --> 00:27:49.485
If it ends in ball, I'm going to like you.
597
00:27:49.765 --> 00:27:52.205
Football, basketball, baseball, the whole--
598
00:27:52.785 --> 00:27:54.085
or rock 'n roll music.
599
00:27:54.605 --> 00:27:56.645
I just was into rock 'n roll music.
600
00:27:57.385 --> 00:27:59.485
MARK FRANKLIN: Any one song you hear today that you remember from back
then?
601
00:27:59.485 --> 00:28:00.485
ROGER BUSCH: Well, a couple,
602
00:28:00.485 --> 00:28:01.245
I think--
603
00:28:01.305 --> 00:28:03.725
and I think this was a lot
604
00:28:03.725 --> 00:28:06.925
of Vietnam veterans songs-- was The Animals had
605
00:28:06.925 --> 00:28:10.085
that great song, [sings] we gotta get outta this place,
606
00:28:10.625 --> 00:28:13.085
if it's the-- yeah, that's-- that was probably number one.
607
00:28:13.085 --> 00:28:17.365
Maybe two was-- I think it was the Box Tops had
608
00:28:17.375 --> 00:28:19.405
[sings] gimme a ticket for an airplane.
609

00:28:20.065 --> 00:28:23.165
And every time we'd see that C-130 it was, why am-- why,
610

00:28:23.585 --> 00:28:26.845
why-- I should be on that one. Why am I still here?
611

00:28:27.505 --> 00:28:29.685
But that was probably a couple of the big--
612

00:28:29.745 --> 00:28:32.125
and then if somebody did have--
613

00:28:33.105 --> 00:28:36.805
up in the area we were at, we didn't have access to news
614

00:28:36.945 --> 00:28:38.165
or media and TV,
615

00:28:38.505 --> 00:28:40.085
but if somebody had a little trans--
616

00:28:40.105 --> 00:28:42.045
if they came back maybe from R&R
617

00:28:42.045 --> 00:28:44.885
and they had a little radio, it seemed like
618

00:28:45.825 --> 00:28:48.605
if there was ever a song that I ever heard,
619

00:28:48.905 --> 00:28:50.525
and you just played it repeatedly,
620

00:28:50.705 --> 00:28:53.485
it was A Spooky Little Girl Like You,
621

00:28:53.645 --> 00:28:56.005
I don't know if you know that song, but [sings] Spooky.
622

00:28:56.525 --> 00:28:57.885
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah. Another good one.
623

00:28:58.105 --> 00:29:00.605
ROGER BUSCH: So when I hear that one, it still rings a bell.
624

00:29:00.755 --> 00:29:01.925
Kind of ticks me back there,
625

00:29:01.955 --> 00:29:03.765
hearing the choppers and hearing that.
626

00:29:04.145 --> 00:29:05.445
MARK FRANKLIN: Any-- while you were over there,
627

00:29:05.465 --> 00:29:07.205
any memorable holidays stand out for you?
628

00:29:08.645 --> 00:29:11.325
A lot of times troops would get served special meals
629

00:29:11.505 --> 00:29:13.045
or they do something special for them.
630

00:29:13.285 --> 00:29:14.605
Anything like that occur while you were there?
631

00:29:14.965 --> 00:29:18.685
ROGER BUSCH: I think the best I had-- I always wanted--
632

00:29:18.865 --> 00:29:20.885
you always had one tour for R&R,
633

00:29:20.885 --> 00:29:22.805
they called it. Rest and Relaxation
634

00:29:23.465 --> 00:29:24.765
was the R and R part of it.
635

00:29:24.785 --> 00:29:27.125
And I wanted to go to Australia
636

00:29:27.705 --> 00:29:29.805
or Hawaii. I just-- one
637

00:29:29.805 --> 00:29:31.245
of those two that were the options,
638

00:29:31.425 --> 00:29:35.125
but my name kept getting passed by
639

00:29:35.125 --> 00:29:36.405
because I was the new guy.
640

00:29:36.505 --> 00:29:37.565
New guy, new guy, new guy.
641

00:29:37.945 --> 00:29:41.925
So Panang, Malaysia come up right
642

00:29:41.925 --> 00:29:45.285
around Christmastime. So that probably had to be the best.
643

00:29:45.395 --> 00:29:47.965
I'd been in the bush. They called it out in the field,
644

00:29:48.145 --> 00:29:49.365
out in a combat zone.
645

00:29:49.505 --> 00:29:53.805
And no hot meals, no-- just-- so I--
646
00:29:54.625 --> 00:29:59.205
me and another Marine Corps-- didn't stay buddy buddies,
647
00:29:59.345 --> 00:30:01.365
but we got to know each other pretty good.
648
00:30:01.565 --> 00:30:03.045
because we went on R&R together.
649
00:30:03.235 --> 00:30:04.765
Juan Lovato was his name,
650
00:30:04.825 --> 00:30:08.805
and we went to Panang, Malaysia for five days.
651
00:30:09.025 --> 00:30:10.285
MARK FRANKLIN: You are the first -- ROGER BUSCH: That was through
652
00:30:11.045 --> 00:30:12.165
Christmas season. Pardon?
653
00:30:12.165 --> 00:30:13.605
MARK FRANKLIN: You're the first one we've interviewed that said they went
654
00:30:13.605 --> 00:30:14.805
to Malaysia for R&R.
655
00:30:14.805 --> 00:30:16.965
Usually they go to Australia or Thailand
656
00:30:17.105 --> 00:30:18.405
or Hong Kong or Hawaii.
657
00:30:18.405 --> 00:30:19.645
Everybody wanted-- MARK FRANKLIN: Went to Malaysia?
658
00:30:19.675 --> 00:30:21.325
ROGER BUSCH: --everybody wanted Bangkok.
659
00:30:21.865 --> 00:30:26.205
But I was probably stressed out to the point of
660
00:30:27.105 --> 00:30:29.525
get me out of here, or I might do something crazy
661
00:30:29.705 --> 00:30:30.805
or whatever. You know what I mean?
662
00:30:30.805 --> 00:30:33.525
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah. ROGER BUSCH: So when I heard nobody
663

00:30:33.525 --> 00:30:34.725
wants Panang, or however that came up,
664

00:30:34.985 --> 00:30:36.645
MARK FRANKLIN: You grabbed it. ROGER BUSCH: I said, hey, I'm ready.
665

00:30:36.645 --> 00:30:39.125
Because that got me down to Da Nang for a day or two.
666

00:30:39.125 --> 00:30:41.045
And it was Christmastime.
667

00:30:41.725 --> 00:30:43.125
I had no thoughts of even going,
668

00:30:43.125 --> 00:30:47.285
because here they had cheeseburgers and bathrooms,
669

00:30:47.545 --> 00:30:49.885
and I got water out of a faucet
670

00:30:49.945 --> 00:30:51.565
and I just wanted to stay there.
671

00:30:51.585 --> 00:30:54.045
But I got asked if I wanted to go over
672

00:30:54.105 --> 00:30:56.365
and we saw the big choppers coming in.
673

00:30:56.785 --> 00:30:59.805
The Bob Hope Show was coming in, the USO brought them.
674

00:31:00.345 --> 00:31:02.285
So we just looked at them at a distance
675

00:31:02.285 --> 00:31:03.925
and said, hey, I'm going to stay here,
676

00:31:04.065 --> 00:31:08.285
and nobody else is around, and enjoy Da Nang.
677

00:31:09.025 --> 00:31:12.165
MARK FRANKLIN: So you stayed in Da Nang? ROGER BUSCH: Well, that was our
stop over.
678

00:31:12.275 --> 00:31:14.125
MARK FRANKLIN: Okay. ROGER BUSCH: We had to get cleaned up. Yeah.
679

00:31:14.185 --> 00:31:16.805
Get all the bush, all of the jungle boot, the mud
680

00:31:16.805 --> 00:31:19.205
and the blood off us, like we were saying.

681
00:31:19.305 --> 00:31:23.125
And then I flew out of Da Nang to Penang,
682
00:31:23.405 --> 00:31:24.965
Malaysia, and I had my-- MARK FRANKLIN: So what was that like?
683
00:31:24.965 --> 00:31:26.125
What did you do there? ROGER BUSCH: Oh, it was great.
684
00:31:26.285 --> 00:31:28.485
I mean, here again, I've never really been out of
685
00:31:28.485 --> 00:31:31.765
South Dakota. But they loved us there.
686
00:31:32.285 --> 00:31:34.085
I mean, they thought-- I guess--
687
00:31:34.905 --> 00:31:37.965
at least the places they recommended us to visit
688
00:31:38.105 --> 00:31:41.325
and things-- we got to go to the movies, nice restaurants,
689
00:31:41.425 --> 00:31:42.845
and drink a beer, and
690
00:31:43.665 --> 00:31:47.485
kind of just get humanized for that five days.
691
00:31:47.585 --> 00:31:49.245
So it was excellent.
692
00:31:49.385 --> 00:31:52.125
And having Juan Lovato-- like I said, bonded with him.
693
00:31:52.305 --> 00:31:56.165
MARK FRANKLIN: Mm-Hm. ROGER BUSCH: He didn't have any sports
694
00:31:56.225 --> 00:31:58.525
with the ball behind it, but he was a high school wrestler,
695
00:31:58.985 --> 00:32:00.885
so he had a little sports blood in him.
696
00:32:00.885 --> 00:32:04.725
But he's still alive today.
697
00:32:04.745 --> 00:32:07.965
I'm still in touch with him, but not as a good friend.
698
00:32:08.325 --> 00:32:11.085
I haven't been in touch for a while, but we were in touch.

699
00:32:11.645 --> 00:32:15.125
I think a lot of the Marines-- I hadn't reached out
700
00:32:15.125 --> 00:32:19.485
to them too much, but I've had about five
701
00:32:20.635 --> 00:32:23.245
just call and-- not to get together so much,
702
00:32:23.265 --> 00:32:25.565
and that was, hey, Doc Busch, you're still alive and--
703
00:32:25.585 --> 00:32:27.765
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah, ROGER BUSCH: We bonded that way.
704
00:32:28.545 --> 00:32:31.245
but we'll probably-- if you get into the Bart Haynes
705
00:32:31.305 --> 00:32:34.885
story, I'm really tight with
706
00:32:34.945 --> 00:32:37.605
Jim Gilbert, who's still alive, and this Robert Peugh.
707
00:32:37.795 --> 00:32:40.765
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah. ROGER BUSCH: We bonded and did a lot together.
708
00:32:41.025 --> 00:32:43.365
Not a lot, a few things together
709
00:32:43.365 --> 00:32:44.365
since we got there.
710
00:32:48.755 --> 00:32:50.195
MARK FRANKLIN: Describe the leadership in your unit
711
00:32:50.495 --> 00:32:51.795
as far up as you could see.
712
00:32:52.775 --> 00:32:56.395
ROGER BUSCH: Boy, I thought we had the best. In fact,
713
00:32:56.665 --> 00:32:59.995
when I first got assigned there at the Rockpile, I got
714
00:33:00.155 --> 00:33:01.635
to meet and greet
715
00:33:01.695 --> 00:33:03.675
and welcome aboard for
716
00:33:03.735 --> 00:33:06.115
coming into the Lima 3/3.

717
00:33:06.255 --> 00:33:08.355
His name was John Ripley.
718
00:33:08.355 --> 00:33:11.395
He was a captain in the Marine Corps at the time.
719
00:33:12.615 --> 00:33:15.435
And he since became one
720
00:33:15.435 --> 00:33:17.875
of the more decorated Vietnam veterans.
721
00:33:18.705 --> 00:33:21.555
He's got a monument at Quantico, Marines,
722
00:33:21.555 --> 00:33:23.635
because of how he handled the Ripley's
723
00:33:23.635 --> 00:33:24.755
Raiders, we were called.
724
00:33:24.895 --> 00:33:28.435
And if you were part of his unit from, I think it was
725
00:33:28.455 --> 00:33:32.955
November of '67 to--
726
00:33:33.735 --> 00:33:37.835
or March I think it was to November of '67,
727
00:33:37.905 --> 00:33:39.395
then you were part of that.
728
00:33:39.575 --> 00:33:42.635
So I've got my name on the monument,
729
00:33:42.635 --> 00:33:43.795
on the pedestal part of it.
730
00:33:43.865 --> 00:33:46.715
It's got all the names of all the Marines
731
00:33:46.715 --> 00:33:48.595
that served under Ripley's Raiders.
732
00:33:48.655 --> 00:33:50.315
MARK FRANKLIN: Was he your company commander?
733
00:33:50.495 --> 00:33:53.035
ROGER BUSCH: He was our Lima 3/3 company commander.
734
00:33:53.035 --> 00:33:57.395
And then, when I first got in country,

735
00:33:57.595 --> 00:33:59.595
I mentioned earlier the three, four sergeants
736
00:33:59.595 --> 00:34:02.115
that ran the platoons were excellent,
737
00:34:02.505 --> 00:34:03.675
took me under their wings.
738
00:34:03.735 --> 00:34:06.675
And I give Marine Corps a lot of credit for that.
739
00:34:06.675 --> 00:34:09.475
They're just-- that camaraderie. Once a Marine,
740
00:34:09.475 --> 00:34:12.635
you're always a Marine. And I almost feel like even though I'm
741
00:34:12.715 --> 00:34:16.555
a Navy guy, that I'm probably more attached to Marines, and--
742
00:34:16.575 --> 00:34:19.275
MARK FRANKLIN: You were a corpsman. ROGER BUSCH: --and
743
00:34:19.375 --> 00:34:20.115
Marines love their corpsmen. So, yeah.
744
00:34:26.155 --> 00:34:27.575
ROGER BUSCH: Not so much medicine
745
00:34:27.575 --> 00:34:30.695
because there again, I wasn't a medical guy.
746
00:34:30.815 --> 00:34:32.175
I went through the training for it,
747
00:34:32.195 --> 00:34:35.895
but what I think-- Vietnam--
748
00:34:36.645 --> 00:34:39.255
that saved-- even though there was a lot of lives lost,
749
00:34:39.595 --> 00:34:42.895
but there were so many lives saved by
750
00:34:42.955 --> 00:34:45.815
how they did their evacuation and triage.
751
00:34:46.155 --> 00:34:49.175
And that was really, really brought up,
752
00:34:49.175 --> 00:34:52.975
that saved tons of lives, I think. How they-- not so much

753
00:34:52.975 --> 00:34:57.095
where we were at. You either patched up the injury
754
00:34:57.155 --> 00:34:58.575
or try to get--
755
00:34:59.075 --> 00:35:02.455
but calling in a chopper to get it in as quick
756
00:35:02.455 --> 00:35:04.735
as possible to get it back to either Dong Ha
757
00:35:04.735 --> 00:35:08.815
or down to that battalion aid station in Phu Bai and that.
758
00:35:08.815 --> 00:35:10.495
MARK FRANKLIN: Mm-Hmm. ROGER BUSCH: It expedited
759
00:35:10.495 --> 00:35:12.815
and I think it saved a ton of lives.
760
00:35:12.955 --> 00:35:16.295
So, but I don't think as far as--
761
00:35:16.955 --> 00:35:20.855
we didn't carry that much medicine that I think I just had.
762
00:35:20.915 --> 00:35:23.455
If somebody was injured bad enough, maybe
763
00:35:24.435 --> 00:35:25.895
the morphine and things.
764
00:35:26.035 --> 00:35:28.175
But that wasn't anything new. But--
765
00:35:34.625 --> 00:35:38.445
ROGER BUSCH: Engineers were on their way to Khe Sanh with a convoy,
766
00:35:38.505 --> 00:35:41.405
and then they got hit pretty good.
767
00:35:41.465 --> 00:35:42.765
We went out to save them.
768
00:35:42.825 --> 00:35:45.645
And I was on one of those six-by trucks.
769
00:35:45.985 --> 00:35:49.085
Me and my buddy Jim Gilbert, in fact--who's still alive.
770
00:35:49.205 --> 00:35:51.045
I just talked to him a couple of weeks ago to

771
00:35:51.865 --> 00:35:52.925
let him know I'm doing this.
772
00:35:53.105 --> 00:35:56.005
He was pretty honored the fact, that I got to do this, so--
773
00:35:56.145 --> 00:36:00.525
But we hit either an antitank mine,
774
00:36:00.545 --> 00:36:03.565
or a Bouncing Betty, they called it,. That was kind of one
775
00:36:03.565 --> 00:36:08.005
of the NVA-- North Vietnamese Army,
776
00:36:08.365 --> 00:36:12.285
NVA people that-- booby trap type things.
777
00:36:12.865 --> 00:36:15.125
The truck I was on hit one. Boom.
778
00:36:15.265 --> 00:36:18.205
And exploded, blew up the truck.
779
00:36:18.305 --> 00:36:19.405
And of course
780
00:36:19.405 --> 00:36:21.725
your first thought is, when you're getting off
781
00:36:21.725 --> 00:36:23.485
it is, the enemy's right there,
782
00:36:23.585 --> 00:36:25.525
you're going to get attacked, and do the--
783
00:36:25.905 --> 00:36:27.285
MARK FRANKLIN: You were on the one that got blown up.
784
00:36:27.555 --> 00:36:28.965
ROGER BUSCH: Yeah, I was in the back end of it.
785
00:36:29.825 --> 00:36:31.165
And I don't know this for a fact,
786
00:36:31.305 --> 00:36:35.565
but I did hear that the two in the cab died.
787
00:36:35.805 --> 00:36:38.165
I mean, the truck-- and I do have pictures of that,
788
00:36:38.195 --> 00:36:40.565
that this Robert Peugh sent to me.

789
00:36:40.585 --> 00:36:42.565
And the rest
790
00:36:42.565 --> 00:36:44.645
of us in the back somehow lucked out.
791
00:36:44.705 --> 00:36:47.485
Got it-- probably shell-shocked,
792
00:36:48.605 --> 00:36:51.045
a little shrapnel here and there probably,
793
00:36:51.305 --> 00:36:54.365
But then we just got off thinking the enemy's there, so we--
794
00:36:55.185 --> 00:36:56.525
bam, you're just back to your mission.
795
00:36:56.665 --> 00:37:00.445
And thank God they-- the enemy was not there
796
00:37:00.445 --> 00:37:03.405
After they did what they did to the engineers,
797
00:37:03.525 --> 00:37:04.685
I guess they did their duty,
798
00:37:04.785 --> 00:37:05.965
so they were gone.
799
00:37:06.675 --> 00:37:11.085
That one's probably one that, if I have to
800
00:37:11.145 --> 00:37:12.365
think about any at night.
801
00:37:12.875 --> 00:37:14.485
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah. ROGER BUSCH: Might be that.
802
00:37:14.485 --> 00:37:17.165
MARK FRANKLIN: Were you able to help the engineer unit after that or
were--
803
00:37:18.065 --> 00:37:19.885
ROGER BUSCH: No, they were on their own op,
804
00:37:20.185 --> 00:37:21.525
and we just stayed in the back.
805
00:37:21.665 --> 00:37:23.285
We didn't get hit too heavy.
806
00:37:23.845 --> 00:37:27.205

I probably patched up a few injuries, just nothing major,
807
00:37:27.345 --> 00:37:29.605
but-- from that truck,
808
00:37:30.125 --> 00:37:31.605
probably bouncing up, coming back down.
809
00:37:31.705 --> 00:37:34.565
We took kind of a beating that way, so---
810
00:37:39.825 --> 00:37:41.015
ROGER BUSCH: There was so many.
811
00:37:42.175 --> 00:37:44.015
I don't know if there was one worse than the other.
812
00:37:44.075 --> 00:37:45.895
The bad part--
813
00:37:45.955 --> 00:37:50.695
I told you about the five, six
814
00:37:50.695 --> 00:37:51.695
of us on that six-by on my first day
815
00:37:51.795 --> 00:37:54.895
to go to the Rock. Three of them died.
816
00:37:55.315 --> 00:37:58.055
So those three days really stick out in my mind a lot, so--
817
00:37:58.055 --> 00:37:59.135
MARK FRANKLIN: How were they killed?
818
00:37:59.135 --> 00:38:00.135
Bart Haynes
819
00:38:00.135 --> 00:38:01.695
was the first one.
820
00:38:02.435 --> 00:38:03.735
We went up to a--
821
00:38:03.915 --> 00:38:06.895
and really went into a real small little outpost just--
822
00:38:07.245 --> 00:38:10.735
one of those McNamara walls was Con Thien,
823
00:38:11.515 --> 00:38:15.175
And that was like just maybe a mile from the Ben Hai River,
824
00:38:15.275 --> 00:38:16.495

the-- North Vietnam.
825
00:38:17.035 --> 00:38:18.615
We set up another little post.
826
00:38:18.645 --> 00:38:20.895
They called it the C-2 Bridge.
827
00:38:21.795 --> 00:38:24.175
And I don't know if that C-2 stood for Con Thien
828
00:38:24.315 --> 00:38:26.495
or if that was the grid where the--
829
00:38:26.715 --> 00:38:28.375
on the map that we were at.
830
00:38:28.475 --> 00:38:32.375
But anyway, it was about a half mile south of Con Thien.
831
00:38:33.915 --> 00:38:35.645
And we took over for a unit
832
00:38:36.155 --> 00:38:39.325
that got overrun just a few days before that.
833
00:38:39.725 --> 00:38:42.485
A lot of casualties, a lot of-- so we went up there
834
00:38:42.485 --> 00:38:45.165
to set up our spot. And they got overrun
835
00:38:45.165 --> 00:38:48.285
because they just didn't take the precautionary
836
00:38:48.285 --> 00:38:49.525
things to save themselves.
837
00:38:49.525 --> 00:38:50.845
They didn't put up the barriers
838
00:38:51.065 --> 00:38:53.045
and the-- so that was our job,
839
00:38:53.605 --> 00:38:54.685
probably to try to save the basin.
840
00:38:54.785 --> 00:38:56.805
The C-2 Bridge wasn't like a huge bridge
841
00:38:56.805 --> 00:38:59.445
or anything that you think. It was just enough of a bridge
842
00:38:59.505 --> 00:39:02.125

to get the convoy to get it up to Con Thien,
843
00:39:02.125 --> 00:39:04.005
the big outpost there.
844
00:39:05.025 --> 00:39:09.325
And Bart with two brand new Marines
845
00:39:09.325 --> 00:39:12.525
that had just come in, probably within a few days,
846
00:39:13.065 --> 00:39:14.565
he took them out for their training
847
00:39:14.745 --> 00:39:18.365
to set up on our little outpost, probably about 10,
848
00:39:18.365 --> 00:39:19.885
15 yards out in front of us.
849
00:39:20.425 --> 00:39:23.685
And the enemy walked in mortar rounds that night,
850
00:39:24.715 --> 00:39:26.485
then one of them landed right--
851
00:39:26.785 --> 00:39:28.605
probably between the three of them.
852
00:39:29.705 --> 00:39:33.325
And that's the night Bart Haynes died.
853
00:39:33.325 --> 00:39:36.685
He took a piece of shrapnel, I guess,
854
00:39:36.685 --> 00:39:39.365
behind here that--
855
00:39:40.145 --> 00:39:43.165
and all I knew from Robert Peugh, the other Marine
856
00:39:43.235 --> 00:39:45.285
that I've been right in touch with lately,
857
00:39:45.345 --> 00:39:47.685
was he was best friends with Bart.
858
00:39:48.425 --> 00:39:49.485
MARK FRANKLIN: Was he there though, with them that night?
859
00:39:49.485 --> 00:39:50.485
ROGER BUSCH: He was-- yeah,
860
00:39:50.485 --> 00:39:52.885

we were all in that one little area.
861
00:39:53.405 --> 00:39:56.205
I mean, it was really a small little area
862
00:39:56.235 --> 00:39:58.405
that we were in. Even that
863
00:39:58.805 --> 00:40:00.325
C-2 Bridge outpost we were at, so--
864
00:40:00.465 --> 00:40:03.645
But he went screaming for Doc Busch, I guess.
865
00:40:04.005 --> 00:40:07.325
Because Robert Peugh told me this story like 45 years later.
866
00:40:07.525 --> 00:40:10.085
I didn't know this, but me
867
00:40:10.085 --> 00:40:12.725
and another, our radio man, went out to try
868
00:40:12.725 --> 00:40:15.525
to save whoever got hit. If it was Bart screaming,
869
00:40:15.585 --> 00:40:17.565
or if it was-- and it was pretty chaotic.
870
00:40:17.565 --> 00:40:19.685
You've got the rounds coming in all of a sudden,
871
00:40:20.425 --> 00:40:21.685
the shooting, the mortars
872
00:40:21.685 --> 00:40:23.805
and everything coming-- coming at you.
873
00:40:23.905 --> 00:40:26.125
So, but
874
00:40:31.225 --> 00:40:33.925
we grabbed one of the Marines and we saved him.
875
00:40:34.585 --> 00:40:38.045
He took a lot of shrapnel through the ankle and the leg.
876
00:40:38.145 --> 00:40:41.045
And this Ron Treat, the radio man,
877
00:40:41.265 --> 00:40:43.485
and I pulled him back to our bunker.
878
00:40:43.545 --> 00:40:46.365

And-- but Bart didn't make it.
879
00:40:47.345 --> 00:40:49.125
MARK FRANKLIN: Did he-- Bart died there at the scene?
880
00:40:49.465 --> 00:40:50.465
ROGER BUSCH: Almost immediate. Yeah.
881
00:40:50.465 --> 00:40:54.925
When I went back over-- we called them
882
00:40:55.565 --> 00:40:58.605
BAS, was a battalion aid station, comparable
883
00:40:58.665 --> 00:41:01.725
to a M*A*S*H unit on TV, but not quite that big.
884
00:41:01.865 --> 00:41:05.925
No doctors, no-- but it had medical people
885
00:41:05.925 --> 00:41:10.565
that were in there that acted as like a practice nurse
886
00:41:10.665 --> 00:41:15.205
or some-- that level that-- so when I took my injured one over
887
00:41:15.235 --> 00:41:17.125
then I heard that next morning
888
00:41:17.125 --> 00:41:18.765
that Bart didn't make it, so--
889
00:41:19.425 --> 00:41:21.085
MARK FRANKLIN: So that was probably your worst day?
890
00:41:22.815 --> 00:41:23.815
ROGER BUSCH: Night. Yeah,
891
00:41:23.815 --> 00:41:24.845
I had a night. Yeah.
892
00:41:25.555 --> 00:41:30.085
Then Jim Redford. That was another patrol that we had.
893
00:41:30.195 --> 00:41:32.165
He'd been in country a little bit longer than me.
894
00:41:32.225 --> 00:41:35.965
He was going home I think around the 1st of May of '68.
895
00:41:37.105 --> 00:41:39.725
We were out on his last little bivouac
896
00:41:39.725 --> 00:41:41.405

if you want to call it a big mission.
897
00:41:42.225 --> 00:41:45.445
We went up around Con Thien
898
00:41:46.025 --> 00:41:47.605
and then come back down to the--
899
00:41:47.605 --> 00:41:49.365
there's one village in the area,
900
00:41:49.365 --> 00:41:50.845
but they called it Leatherneck
901
00:41:50.845 --> 00:41:53.285
Square. And nobody had been
902
00:41:53.285 --> 00:41:56.325
through there in months,
903
00:41:56.395 --> 00:41:57.565
they said. Nobody.
904
00:41:57.905 --> 00:41:59.645
So we did one little sweep
905
00:41:59.705 --> 00:42:02.645
and Jim decided that he wanted
906
00:42:02.645 --> 00:42:05.005
to help out his fellow Marines.
907
00:42:05.025 --> 00:42:07.885
He wasn't part of Lima 3/3, he was a scout,
908
00:42:07.885 --> 00:42:11.085
they called it. He learned to speak Vietnamese.
909
00:42:11.225 --> 00:42:14.085
And if we did capture any of them,
910
00:42:14.105 --> 00:42:16.525
and it was his job to try
911
00:42:16.525 --> 00:42:18.165
to get most of the information from them.
912
00:42:18.665 --> 00:42:20.485
He was a college educated guy.
913
00:42:20.505 --> 00:42:23.765
He was like six foot seven, would've never gotten drafted.
914
00:42:23.765 --> 00:42:27.565

But he wanted to serve his country and
915
00:42:27.825 --> 00:42:31.165
be a Marine, I guess. The nicest guy you'd want to meet.
916
00:42:31.375 --> 00:42:32.445
Loved basketball.
917
00:42:33.305 --> 00:42:35.685
So we fought between Lew Alcindor
918
00:42:35.775 --> 00:42:37.725
who's now Kareem Abdul-Jabbar,
919
00:42:37.865 --> 00:42:41.005
and he loved his Elvin Hayes because he was a Texas guy.
920
00:42:41.065 --> 00:42:42.925
And so that was my bond with him.
921
00:42:43.025 --> 00:42:45.445
But here he is, six foot seven
922
00:42:45.665 --> 00:42:50.565
and he-- Marines were just having a tough time hacking
923
00:42:50.565 --> 00:42:54.005
through the elephant grass, the jungle, with the machetes.
924
00:42:54.065 --> 00:42:56.605
And so Jim decided to help out this guy.
925
00:42:56.705 --> 00:43:01.445
And being six foot seven, sniper gets him right--
926
00:43:01.955 --> 00:43:03.605
he was going home, a couple of weeks.
927
00:43:10.905 --> 00:43:14.765
ROGER BUSCH: The best day I guess was, hey Doc,
928
00:43:15.225 --> 00:43:17.885
the jet's sitting in Da Nang to take you to
929
00:43:18.545 --> 00:43:22.205
Norton Air Force Base in California. Adi--
930
00:43:22.385 --> 00:43:23.765
saying goodbye.
931
00:43:23.825 --> 00:43:26.885
But getting on that big plane to-- back
932
00:43:26.885 --> 00:43:29.445

to the United States would always be the greatest day.
933
00:43:29.445 --> 00:43:33.005
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah, we hear that a lot. ROGER BUSCH: But over there, I--
gosh, I guess
934
00:43:35.045 --> 00:43:38.685
monsoons hit, we hadn't had food in so long
935
00:43:40.225 --> 00:43:42.765
and somehow we ended up back at
936
00:43:42.765 --> 00:43:43.885
the other little base.
937
00:43:43.885 --> 00:43:46.205
We didn't stay there very long, but it was Thanksgiving
938
00:43:46.425 --> 00:43:48.285
and hot meals come in.
939
00:43:49.305 --> 00:43:52.365
So we got to run over and actually get some mashed potatoes
940
00:43:52.545 --> 00:43:54.725
and Turkey and-- MARK FRANKLIN: Alright.
941
00:43:54.795 --> 00:43:57.205
ROGER BUSCH: That was probably with my big tall guy, fighting
942
00:43:57.295 --> 00:43:58.445
basketball with him.
943
00:43:58.505 --> 00:44:01.325
And just-- it was like--
944
00:44:02.245 --> 00:44:05.605
I don't know if the enemy thought Thanksgiving was a great
945
00:44:05.685 --> 00:44:09.285
day to take a break, but no incoming, no threat of it.
946
00:44:09.345 --> 00:44:11.605
We just thought we had a free day,
947
00:44:11.605 --> 00:44:14.245
and had some turkey and mashed potatoes.
948
00:44:15.865 --> 00:44:17.125
We didn't get that very often, so-- MARK FRANKLIN: No.
949
00:44:17.265 --> 00:44:21.685
ROGER BUSCH: I mean the camaraderie with the Marines,
950

00:44:21.945 --> 00:44:23.605
and getting to know all of them,
951

00:44:24.315 --> 00:44:27.005
that was probably pretty beneficial.
952

00:44:27.225 --> 00:44:27.445
So--
953

00:44:33.075 --> 00:44:33.695
ROGER BUSCH: Not really.
954

00:44:34.055 --> 00:44:38.335
I met up a couple as we went to a rear area.
955

00:44:38.585 --> 00:44:42.495
There was a couple of units that were Australia
956

00:44:43.755 --> 00:44:45.375
and that was probably my only contact.
957

00:44:45.475 --> 00:44:47.535
And it was really not contact. It was just,
958

00:44:47.595 --> 00:44:48.655
hey, hey, where are you from?
959

00:44:48.655 --> 00:44:50.015
what are you doing? kind of thing.
960

00:44:50.035 --> 00:44:53.415
It was probably-- like I say, I never really got back
961

00:44:53.415 --> 00:44:54.455
to the rear area.
962

00:44:55.295 --> 00:44:59.615
I spent my full 13 months with 12 and a half--
963

00:44:59.715 --> 00:45:03.895
11 and a half of it up in the bush, up in the combat zone, so--
964

00:45:03.995 --> 00:45:08.855
But I did come back to Dong Ha for-- one trip was on my way
965

00:45:08.855 --> 00:45:12.535
to R&R to Panang, Malaysia.
966

00:45:12.675 --> 00:45:14.135
And the other one is-- Navy,
967

00:45:14.245 --> 00:45:16.375
even though you were out in the field,
968

00:45:16.635 --> 00:45:20.255
and all these conditions, if you wanted to get promoted,
969

00:45:20.355 --> 00:45:22.775
you still had to go back to the rear, take a test, and--
970

00:45:22.915 --> 00:45:27.015
MARK FRANKLIN: Really? ROGER BUSCH: And I was just an E-3
971

00:45:27.195 --> 00:45:28.735
hospitalman and they called it, so I wanted
972

00:45:28.735 --> 00:45:30.575
to get my petty officer stripes and that.
973

00:45:30.575 --> 00:45:33.975
So I did go back for another couple of days
974

00:45:34.035 --> 00:45:35.975
and spent-- which was nice.
975

00:45:36.045 --> 00:45:40.295
They did have tents, housing,
976

00:45:40.715 --> 00:45:44.095
wooden structured like-- so that was kind of nice.
977

00:45:44.115 --> 00:45:47.415
But the only bad part is they still got incoming.
978

00:45:48.075 --> 00:45:51.495
So I'd missed my trench and my hooch I told you about.
979

00:45:51.635 --> 00:45:54.015
MARK FRANKLIN: Yes, sir. ROGER BUSCH: I was--
980

00:45:54.095 --> 00:45:57.415
I felt a little more comfortable if incoming started coming.
981

00:45:57.815 --> 00:45:58.935
I knew right where to go
982

00:45:58.955 --> 00:46:01.175
and who was going to take care of me if I got hit.
983

00:46:01.245 --> 00:46:06.135
MARK FRANKLIN: Sure. ROGER BUSCH: But probably just-- maybe
984

00:46:06.195 --> 00:46:07.455
through the lunch hall or something like
985

00:46:07.455 --> 00:46:09.135
that might have just briefly--
986

00:46:10.395 --> 00:46:11.655
But we heard nothing
987

00:46:12.435 --> 00:46:15.695
but good news with the Australians
988

00:46:15.695 --> 00:46:17.295
and the Koreans and the--
989

00:46:17.435 --> 00:46:18.455
all the help we were getting.
990

00:46:24.615 --> 00:46:28.115
ROGER BUSCH: We were fighting up in that area where I'm at the--
991

00:46:28.185 --> 00:46:31.315
they called it the NVA, it was North Vietnamese Army.
992

00:46:32.495 --> 00:46:36.195
So if you were Vietnamese,
993

00:46:36.335 --> 00:46:40.355
you were either NVA or hardly any Viet Cong,
994

00:46:40.455 --> 00:46:41.635
but you'd be a Viet Cong.
995

00:46:41.655 --> 00:46:44.915
So if we saw civilians, it was pretty much the enemy.
996

00:46:45.135 --> 00:46:48.395
MARK FRANKLIN: Ah, okay. ROGER BUSCH: However, we did have--
997

00:46:48.895 --> 00:46:52.355
and I guess here's a good story then-- we did have
998

00:46:52.735 --> 00:46:54.875
around the Rockpile a doctor,
999

00:46:55.475 --> 00:46:58.475
because it was a little bit bigger fire base,
1000

00:46:58.855 --> 00:47:02.675
had a doctor, and a few more Navy corpsmen
1001

00:47:02.675 --> 00:47:05.475
had been in that were training
1002

00:47:05.615 --> 00:47:07.675
to be maybe nurses and things like that.
1003

00:47:08.145 --> 00:47:10.315
We'd go to Cam Lo, that was a little village.
1004

00:47:10.935 --> 00:47:13.955
So we'd go there to try to help anybody that needed--
1005

00:47:14.775 --> 00:47:18.755
the kids, if they were sick, sores, the--
1006

00:47:19.055 --> 00:47:21.475
any medical treatment they needed.
1007

00:47:21.655 --> 00:47:24.075
So we probably interacted with them.
1008

00:47:24.235 --> 00:47:26.635
I didn't speak Vietnamese or anything,
1009

00:47:27.215 --> 00:47:28.635
but they were appreciative then.
1010

00:47:28.655 --> 00:47:29.925
And-- but that's probably
1011

00:47:30.345 --> 00:47:33.805
about the only time I ever had.
1012

00:47:33.985 --> 00:47:37.005
And we only did that probably--
1013

00:47:37.955 --> 00:47:39.485
they probably did it once a month,
1014

00:47:39.505 --> 00:47:41.725
but I probably only did that maybe two times.
1015

00:47:42.165 --> 00:47:45.765
because I was always pretty busy with the four platoons
1016

00:47:45.765 --> 00:47:47.245
and not having enough corpsmen
1017

00:47:47.425 --> 00:47:50.085
to keep up those patrols and ambushes.
1018

00:47:56.695 --> 00:47:58.475
ROGER BUSCH: Not much because of the service.
1019

00:47:58.575 --> 00:48:00.555
And it wasn't that I wanted to,
1020

00:48:01.615 --> 00:48:04.675
and I didn't want my dad to know how bad I had it.
1021

00:48:05.195 --> 00:48:09.235
MARK FRANKLIN: Hmm. So you
1022

00:48:09.235 --> 00:48:10.355
can't listen that to yourself.
1023

00:48:11.695 --> 00:48:15.515
He passed away the year I got back. MARK FRANKLIN: Oh.
1024

00:48:15.775 --> 00:48:19.115
ROGER BUSCH: And I don't know if it works,
1025

00:48:21.425 --> 00:48:22.425
MARK FRANKLIN: It's okay. ROGER BUSCH: Couldn't
1026

00:48:22.425 --> 00:48:25.395
imagine my son had to go to war. MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah.
1027

00:48:25.955 --> 00:48:28.195
ROGER BUSCH: Probably kill me too, so--
1028

00:48:29.855 --> 00:48:32.075
MARK FRANKLIN: Did you get any news about what was going on back home?
1029

00:48:32.075 --> 00:48:34.995
Because now you're there at '68, towards the end of your tour,
1030

00:48:35.055 --> 00:48:37.475
and so you have the civil rights movement, you have a lot
1031

00:48:37.475 --> 00:48:40.035
of issues, turmoil going on back home.
1032

00:48:40.335 --> 00:48:44.395
ROGER BUSCH: You know, most of that was coming-- when I come back home.
1033

00:48:44.555 --> 00:48:47.835
It was July of '68 that I got to come home.
1034

00:48:49.095 --> 00:48:51.635
And we started hearing things.
1035

00:48:51.655 --> 00:48:55.035
But it was still-- I don't think people were
1036

00:48:55.135 --> 00:48:56.235
really at that point yet.
1037

00:48:57.295 --> 00:49:01.835
Somebody mentioned the Pentagon Papers
1038

00:49:02.095 --> 00:49:04.515
or something like that with Ellsberg or something.
1039

00:49:04.615 --> 00:49:08.035
And there was that-- the seven from Chicago,
1040

00:49:08.265 --> 00:49:11.275
they're starting to get this little protest with--
1041

00:49:11.575 --> 00:49:14.715
how do we get rid of Johnson and McNamara
1042

00:49:14.815 --> 00:49:18.435
and the people that created this war?
1043

00:49:18.625 --> 00:49:22.155
Well, they didn't create it. It goes back to the forties
1044

00:49:22.335 --> 00:49:25.035
and the fifties that probably started that.
1045

00:49:25.095 --> 00:49:27.995
But no, I think
1046

00:49:27.995 --> 00:49:29.715
because of where I was at--
1047

00:49:30.495 --> 00:49:35.235
had I been Dong Ha, Da Nang, out of combat,
1048

00:49:35.945 --> 00:49:39.875
then they were looking at TVs and probably the radio.
1049

00:49:40.455 --> 00:49:43.475
We didn't even have news people come up.
1050

00:49:43.795 --> 00:49:46.435
I don't recall any anybody ever coming
1051

00:49:46.455 --> 00:49:47.635
up to interview us.
1052

00:49:48.355 --> 00:49:49.755
because they just didn't want to come up there.
1053

00:49:49.865 --> 00:49:52.395
They might come up to Dong Ha, as far as Dong Ha,
1054

00:49:52.415 --> 00:49:54.835
and hey, one day, and I'm out of here
1055

00:49:55.795 --> 00:49:58.035
because incoming. I mean, yeah, it was a--
1056

00:49:59.175 --> 00:50:01.435
it was just a daily diet almost.
1057

00:50:01.495 --> 00:50:03.915
Or you were thinking it was going to happen every day. so--
1058

00:50:03.975 --> 00:50:07.035
But yeah, it really didn't hit
1059
00:50:07.035 --> 00:50:08.595
until I got home.
1060
00:50:08.775 --> 00:50:11.435
MARK FRANKLIN: Any of that social turmoil make it over to your unit?
1061
00:50:11.695 --> 00:50:13.515
And what I'm talking now about the--some
1062
00:50:13.515 --> 00:50:15.155
of the racial riots and the racial tensions.
1063
00:50:15.215 --> 00:50:18.315
ROGER BUSCH: Pretty much after I got home, we saw a lot of that.
1064
00:50:18.695 --> 00:50:19.795
But not in Vietnam.
1065
00:50:20.095 --> 00:50:23.315
No, it didn't have any-- the camaraderie was such
1066
00:50:23.625 --> 00:50:24.915
that I don't recall--
1067
00:50:25.375 --> 00:50:28.685
And I was-- and I'm really thankful of this--
1068
00:50:28.885 --> 00:50:32.045
I was probably with one of the best units that you'd want
1069
00:50:32.045 --> 00:50:34.525
to be with, being in Lima 3/3. MARK FRANKLIN: Mm-hm.
1070
00:50:34.725 --> 00:50:36.125
ROGER BUSCH: I mean, they're highly thought of.
1071
00:50:36.265 --> 00:50:39.245
We didn't have a whole lot of casualties.
1072
00:50:39.425 --> 00:50:42.285
We didn't have a lot of-- but the camaraderie, I think
1073
00:50:42.285 --> 00:50:45.405
because of all the sergeants and the lieutenants
1074
00:50:45.785 --> 00:50:48.525
and a guy like Captain Ripley to run--
1075
00:50:49.635 --> 00:50:50.885
kept that kind of free.
1076

00:50:51.125 --> 00:50:52.725
I mean, I'm sure there was some.
1077

00:50:52.965 --> 00:50:55.125
I mean, you can't get two Marines together
1078

00:50:55.125 --> 00:50:56.925
without clashing probably.
1079

00:50:57.025 --> 00:51:01.285
But they loved their corpsmen so they protected me.
1080

00:51:01.835 --> 00:51:02.605
Yeah. Yeah.
1081

00:51:09.425 --> 00:51:11.835
ROGER BUSCH: July. The first part of July in 1968,
1082

00:51:12.315 --> 00:51:14.635
I actually got a little break.
1083

00:51:14.875 --> 00:51:16.715
I told you I stayed in the bush
1084

00:51:17.175 --> 00:51:20.995
or out in the field, I should say, the combat zone probably
1085

00:51:21.015 --> 00:51:23.475
for about 11 of those months.
1086

00:51:23.855 --> 00:51:25.195
But I did get to kind
1087

00:51:25.195 --> 00:51:28.595
of come back down a little bit south to Phu Bai.
1088

00:51:28.595 --> 00:51:30.595
That was the 3d Med Battalion.
1089

00:51:31.255 --> 00:51:33.515
But that was shortly after Tet hit.
1090

00:51:34.455 --> 00:51:37.195
Phu Bai-- just a few miles up the road was Hue City.
1091

00:51:37.335 --> 00:51:40.115
And that's-- everybody heard through Tet what Hue did.
1092

00:51:40.115 --> 00:51:42.035
You know, Khe Sanh was over here, Hue here, and--
1093

00:51:42.055 --> 00:51:45.435
But it was kind of--
1094

00:51:46.395 --> 00:51:48.915
I guess they always structured it like
1095

00:51:48.915 --> 00:51:51.915
to be-- get humanized again, where you're getting ready
1096

00:51:51.935 --> 00:51:55.355
to go home, you get to-- so I had a little brief break
1097

00:51:55.455 --> 00:51:58.595
and that last
1098

00:51:59.245 --> 00:52:04.155
maybe 15, 30 days at Phu Bai before I actually did fly home.
1099

00:52:05.015 --> 00:52:08.635
But yeah, getting down to Da Nang, start seeing my
1100

00:52:09.835 --> 00:52:13.155
personal stuff, getting it ready to fly back to Okinawa now
1101

00:52:13.155 --> 00:52:14.875
to get all my other stuff.
1102

00:52:15.055 --> 00:52:16.995
And it was a great day.
1103

00:52:17.905 --> 00:52:21.155
It's-- the worst part of it is
1104

00:52:21.255 --> 00:52:26.195
I think when you survive it, sometimes that's hard.
1105

00:52:26.695 --> 00:52:29.315
Why me and not you? MARK FRANKLIN: Right. ROGER BUSCH: You know what I
mean?
1106

00:52:29.535 --> 00:52:31.675
So that was probably the toughest part, I thought
1107

00:52:31.675 --> 00:52:32.915
MARK FRANKLIN: How about coming back into the States?
1108

00:52:32.945 --> 00:52:35.595
What was that like? ROGER BUSCH: Oh, that was-- yeah,
1109

00:52:35.735 --> 00:52:38.275
we flew into Norton Air Force Base, just-- Orange County.
1110

00:52:38.605 --> 00:52:42.755
Kind of like a-- that's when we first started hearing about--
1111

00:52:42.935 --> 00:52:47.475
we had a couple of days there to get all of our gear

1112
00:52:47.575 --> 00:52:49.155
and get cleaned up
1113
00:52:49.335 --> 00:52:52.475
and ready to get orders to where you're going to go,
1114
00:52:52.615 --> 00:52:53.715
your next assignment.
1115
00:52:53.855 --> 00:52:56.395
But I remember getting into a taxi cab.
1116
00:52:56.455 --> 00:52:58.595
It was like four of us to head home.
1117
00:52:58.795 --> 00:53:00.755
I was going back home to South Dakota then.
1118
00:53:00.775 --> 00:53:02.995
And he said,
1119
00:53:02.995 --> 00:53:05.515
it's getting a little nasty here in the States and that,
1120
00:53:05.575 --> 00:53:08.595
and if you're in your uniform, don't stick around
1121
00:53:08.625 --> 00:53:09.675
outside that terminal.
1122
00:53:09.675 --> 00:53:11.795
There might be a sniper up there, one that--
1123
00:53:11.795 --> 00:53:13.275
there's people that don't like you
1124
00:53:13.595 --> 00:53:17.835
military people now. And that was probably the first signs
1125
00:53:18.095 --> 00:53:21.395
of-- But there again, my family at home
1126
00:53:23.015 --> 00:53:26.485
made it great for my return.
1127
00:53:26.985 --> 00:53:28.325
MARK FRANKLIN: Did they? ROGER BUSCH: Oh very.
1128
00:53:28.485 --> 00:53:30.965
I mean, yeah. There was probably a few--
1129
00:53:30.965 --> 00:53:31.965
MARK FRANKLIN: So you didn't experience any

1130
00:53:31.965 --> 00:53:33.165
of the antiwar kind of
1131
00:53:33.685 --> 00:53:34.685
sentiment? ROGER BUSCH: Just a few.--
1132
00:53:34.685 --> 00:53:38.285
if we were out in about my--
1133
00:53:38.365 --> 00:53:40.205
I had like 30 days leave when I got home--
1134
00:53:40.865 --> 00:53:44.365
so if we were drinking beer at Charlie's Pizza Hut
1135
00:53:44.365 --> 00:53:47.045
or something here in South Dakota, somebody might kind
1136
00:53:47.045 --> 00:53:48.645
of throw out something to the effect
1137
00:53:48.705 --> 00:53:51.205
of-- not maybe personally to me
1138
00:53:51.365 --> 00:53:52.685
because I was a Navy corpsman.
1139
00:53:52.965 --> 00:53:56.885
I wasn't Marine Corps with an M16 and that.
1140
00:53:56.905 --> 00:53:59.285
But-- baby killer
1141
00:53:59.505 --> 00:54:02.885
or kind of things-- even in here in South Dakota
1142
00:54:02.885 --> 00:54:05.085
they're kind of-- kind of come up with a little bit.
1143
00:54:05.265 --> 00:54:09.405
Not bad. I mean, 99 percent were very supportive.
1144
00:54:09.625 --> 00:54:10.925
Buy you a beer, do that
1145
00:54:11.185 --> 00:54:13.685
But that was where I was picking up being--
1146
00:54:13.825 --> 00:54:17.125
and then I was going to get assigned back to California.
1147
00:54:18.065 --> 00:54:22.925
And that's where we probably had more--

1148
00:54:23.205 --> 00:54:26.045
I was at-- I was still not attached
1149
00:54:26.045 --> 00:54:27.125
to the Marines any longer,
1150
00:54:27.185 --> 00:54:28.645
but I was on a Marine Corps base.
1151
00:54:28.765 --> 00:54:30.445
I was a naval hospital in
1152
00:54:31.155 --> 00:54:33.525
Camp Pendleton, which is Oceanside.
1153
00:54:33.575 --> 00:54:34.575
MARK FRANKLIN: How long did you stay in after you came home?
1154
00:54:34.575 --> 00:54:37.085
ROGER BUSCH: It was just-- I'm a four year, that's all I did.
1155
00:54:37.265 --> 00:54:39.805
But I had almost two years left when I--
1156
00:54:39.865 --> 00:54:42.285
and I think that's what really saved me then.
1157
00:54:42.285 --> 00:54:44.645
That was-- I had that two years
1158
00:54:45.705 --> 00:54:47.445
and I really look back at it now
1159
00:54:47.445 --> 00:54:50.485
and I think of anybody like you being an Army guy
1160
00:54:50.745 --> 00:54:53.085
or a Marine that was Vietnam.
1161
00:54:53.295 --> 00:54:55.485
Let's say me come home the 1st of July
1162
00:54:56.105 --> 00:54:59.445
and now you're out of the service the 15th of July. Now go
1163
00:54:59.445 --> 00:55:01.605
back to Kansas or go back to Wisconsin,
1164
00:55:01.705 --> 00:55:05.805
just-- that had to be tough on them.
1165
00:55:05.955 --> 00:55:08.245
Very tough. But I had two years left

1166
00:55:08.745 --> 00:55:12.485
and made some real good friends at Camp Pendleton.
1167
00:55:13.585 --> 00:55:16.125
We didn't want to be in the medical field anymore.
1168
00:55:16.285 --> 00:55:17.365
I don't want to do this.
1169
00:55:17.545 --> 00:55:20.645
So they got-- we got it like administrative.
1170
00:55:20.885 --> 00:55:23.165
I worked for the-- up in the
1171
00:55:23.545 --> 00:55:25.005
the mail room they called it.
1172
00:55:25.145 --> 00:55:29.285
And then the front OD's desk, officer of the day desk.
1173
00:55:29.825 --> 00:55:31.365
So I was kind of a messenger
1174
00:55:31.625 --> 00:55:35.405
and doing different duties for the
1175
00:55:35.405 --> 00:55:37.245
commanding officer, the executive,
1176
00:55:37.265 --> 00:55:38.805
and the administrative officer.
1177
00:55:39.025 --> 00:55:40.845
So they were all captains in the Navy.
1178
00:55:41.025 --> 00:55:43.645
And so I had a pretty good job for two years.
1179
00:55:43.745 --> 00:55:46.085
And then I just made a couple
1180
00:55:46.085 --> 00:55:48.365
of my best friends ever from that.
1181
00:55:49.145 --> 00:55:53.645
And I think none of us went
1182
00:55:53.645 --> 00:55:54.925
to any psychologist.
1183
00:55:55.035 --> 00:55:56.725
None of us went to any training.

1184
00:55:57.065 --> 00:55:59.405
Didn't ever think post-traumatic stress.
1185
00:55:59.545 --> 00:56:04.205
And even though we probably had tough years. MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah.
1186
00:56:04.625 --> 00:56:07.485
ROGER BUSCH: But I think the camaraderie, just drinking beer, going
1187
00:56:07.485 --> 00:56:11.285
to ball games, rock 'n roll concerts for two years.
1188
00:56:11.285 --> 00:56:12.725
MARK FRANKLIN: So you didn't have too much trouble adjusting
1189
00:56:12.725 --> 00:56:13.965
to life afterwards because of those two years?
1190
00:56:13.965 --> 00:56:14.965
ROGER BUSCH: Not really.
1191
00:56:14.965 --> 00:56:16.765
I mean, a few nightmares here and there,
1192
00:56:16.825 --> 00:56:18.205
and I probably always will.
1193
00:56:18.385 --> 00:56:20.285
You might-- some
1194
00:56:20.285 --> 00:56:22.045
of these things when you think about it,
1195
00:56:22.595 --> 00:56:24.725
hear chopper come over the head, you know,
1196
00:56:24.725 --> 00:56:27.045
especially if it's a Huey or a Chinook
1197
00:56:27.105 --> 00:56:29.525
or-- especially at Camp Pendleton.
1198
00:56:29.635 --> 00:56:30.725
MARK FRANKLIN: Sure. ROGER BUSCH: You'd hear the--
1199
00:56:31.145 --> 00:56:33.005
but everybody said, doesn't that scare you to
1200
00:56:33.005 --> 00:56:36.285
hear that? And I said-- they were shooting artillery--
1201
00:56:36.545 --> 00:56:38.565
and I said that, that's outgoing. You love that.

1202
00:56:39.585 --> 00:56:40.765
But when it starts coming--
1203
00:56:42.025 --> 00:56:43.025
MARK FRANKLIN: That's different. ROGER BUSCH: Where's my bunker?
1204
00:56:43.025 --> 00:56:44.685
MARK FRANKLIN: That's right.
1205
00:56:46.395 --> 00:56:48.925
Have you-- have you had any--
1206
00:56:49.395 --> 00:56:51.205
well, you said you stay in contact with some
1207
00:56:51.205 --> 00:56:53.165
of these veterans after the war. You still stay in contact with them?
1208
00:56:53.165 --> 00:56:54.165
ROGER BUSCH: My best friend,
1209
00:56:54.165 --> 00:56:55.765
Chuck Bongers,
1210
00:56:56.065 --> 00:56:58.685
he was a Navy corpsman.
1211
00:56:59.625 --> 00:57:01.405
We weren't in Vietnam together,
1212
00:57:01.505 --> 00:57:05.445
but we were in the same-- up there that I Corps at the DMZ.
1213
00:57:05.545 --> 00:57:08.365
But he was with a real tough, tough unit.
1214
00:57:08.665 --> 00:57:13.085
We felt like we were there to seek out the enemy,
1215
00:57:13.105 --> 00:57:16.005
to go on those patrols, ambushes to look for enemy.
1216
00:57:16.505 --> 00:57:18.805
Seemed like the enemy looked for
1217
00:57:19.815 --> 00:57:21.645
Bravo 1/9, for whatever reasons.
1218
00:57:21.875 --> 00:57:23.485
They just had a long, tough year.
1219
00:57:23.585 --> 00:57:28.005
But we met up together at Camp Pendleton.

1220
00:57:28.305 --> 00:57:30.365
He come home a few months before I did.
1221
00:57:30.625 --> 00:57:33.325
He was wounded, didn't come home from the injuries,
1222
00:57:33.345 --> 00:57:36.565
but he got a Purple Heart,
1223
00:57:38.685 --> 00:57:41.845
recouped in Yokosuka, Japan, I think it was.
1224
00:57:41.845 --> 00:57:42.885
And then they sent him back.
1225
00:57:42.945 --> 00:57:44.765
And they didn't put him out in the bush again.
1226
00:57:44.795 --> 00:57:46.765
They just kept him in the rear area
1227
00:57:46.785 --> 00:57:48.685
and worked in different places there.
1228
00:57:48.745 --> 00:57:53.205
But we bonded there at Camp Pendleton
1229
00:57:53.205 --> 00:57:58.165
and we're best friends today, so he's got a tough
1230
00:57:59.025 --> 00:58:00.245
go right now with it.
1231
00:58:00.345 --> 00:58:02.925
He got Parkinson's from Agent Orange.
1232
00:58:03.105 --> 00:58:07.165
And so he's diabetic, Agent Orange.
1233
00:58:07.465 --> 00:58:10.365
I tell people I lucked out.
1234
00:58:10.665 --> 00:58:13.245
All I got out of it was prostate cancer,
1235
00:58:14.745 --> 00:58:15.805
but I got it cured.
1236
00:58:16.105 --> 00:58:18.125
So I've been cured for ten years.
1237
00:58:18.905 --> 00:58:22.845
And the VA was very good to me for--MARK FRANKLIN: That's good.

1238
00:58:22.915 --> 00:58:23.915
ROGER BUSCH: Yeah.

1239
00:58:29.395 --> 00:58:31.775
MARK FRANKLIN: So we'll go back a little bit and talk about Bart Haynes.

1240
00:58:32.195 --> 00:58:33.615
He was one of your best buddies

1241
00:58:33.615 --> 00:58:35.255
while you were in Vietnam?

1242
00:58:35.915 --> 00:58:37.055
ROGER BUSCH: Yes.

1243
00:58:37.235 --> 00:58:39.815
MARK FRANKLIN: And you said the way you guys bonded was through music.

1244
00:58:40.835 --> 00:58:41.895
And how did that come about?

1245
00:58:43.125 --> 00:58:46.015
ROGER BUSCH: Well, there again, as you try to meet up friends,

1246
00:58:46.215 --> 00:58:49.855
I don't care if you're in school, class, college, sports,

1247
00:58:49.955 --> 00:58:52.495
just who do you bond with?

1248
00:58:52.675 --> 00:58:55.655
And as I mentioned, sports and rock 'n roll

1249
00:58:55.655 --> 00:58:56.695
would probably do it.

1250
00:58:56.715 --> 00:58:59.095
So we were out on patrol or something like that.

1251
00:58:59.115 --> 00:59:01.655
It was like, hey Doc, you're a new guy from here.

1252
00:59:01.655 --> 00:59:04.975
What was the biggest hit when you come from the States?

1253
00:59:05.045 --> 00:59:07.055
What was the number one hit? Or something like that.

1254
00:59:07.155 --> 00:59:09.615
So we named off a few songs or whatever.

1255
00:59:10.235 --> 00:59:12.175
So then we'd try to sing along with it.

1256
00:59:12.395 --> 00:59:14.815
And that's probably when I picked up that he was
1257
00:59:15.335 --> 00:59:18.095
a drummer in this little garage band.
1258
00:59:18.235 --> 00:59:21.565
And so we hit it off.
1259
00:59:21.585 --> 00:59:24.325
He was just-- and Bart was one of the first, as I said,
1260
00:59:25.585 --> 00:59:28.645
when you go to a
1261
00:59:28.965 --> 00:59:31.725
Marine Corps unit similar to, let's say you went
1262
00:59:31.725 --> 00:59:34.485
to play football or something like that, you want
1263
00:59:34.485 --> 00:59:35.525
to be a tough guy.
1264
00:59:35.525 --> 00:59:37.365
You can't be the weak guy down on the bench.
1265
00:59:37.385 --> 00:59:39.485
And-- but then I found out
1266
00:59:39.485 --> 00:59:42.165
that all the Marines aren't just big, tough, rough--
1267
00:59:42.555 --> 00:59:44.925
Bart Hayes was probably the nicest, youngest--
1268
00:59:45.565 --> 00:59:49.205
I thought he was 12 years old. He was that-- just a young kid.
1269
00:59:49.505 --> 00:59:52.965
And he was probably only 17 anyway, or 18 at the time.
1270
00:59:53.145 --> 00:59:54.165
And I'm a little bit older
1271
00:59:54.405 --> 00:59:55.805
because I had that couple years of college,
1272
00:59:56.625 --> 00:59:59.285
or that two years I took the break and then my training.
1273
00:59:59.505 --> 01:00:03.325
And so I was getting to be 22, 23 years old

1274
01:00:03.435 --> 01:00:04.525
when I was in Vietnam.
1275
01:00:04.525 --> 01:00:09.205
And he was like 19, probably 20 if he would've lived. MARK FRANKLIN:
Yeah.
1276
01:00:09.625 --> 01:00:12.885
ROGER BUSCH: But yeah, I was just talking, the new wave
1277
01:00:12.905 --> 01:00:14.885
of everybody knew the Beatles,
1278
01:00:15.265 --> 01:00:18.405
but not too many knew about the Rolling Stones
1279
01:00:18.625 --> 01:00:23.085
and The Animals and the-- and that was Bart. MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah.
1280
01:00:23.145 --> 01:00:24.565
ROGER BUSCH: He loved, loved that music.
1281
01:00:24.745 --> 01:00:26.325
MARK FRANKLIN: So he had the knowledge. ROGER BUSCH: And I did.
1282
01:00:26.385 --> 01:00:27.685
MARK FRANKLIN: So he was a drummer in a band,
1283
01:00:27.705 --> 01:00:30.245
but there was something else that-- he had another band member
1284
01:00:30.245 --> 01:00:31.965
that went on to become pretty famous.
1285
01:00:33.555 --> 01:00:35.325
ROGER BUSCH: That-- I think
1286
01:00:35.445 --> 01:00:37.925
I probably buried my Vietnam
1287
01:00:37.935 --> 01:00:39.525
experience as much as possible.
1288
01:00:39.605 --> 01:00:41.485
I talked to my buddy Chuck Bongers about it,
1289
01:00:41.505 --> 01:00:43.405
and I got another buddy, Mike Damer
1290
01:00:43.435 --> 01:00:44.965
that if we ever get together
1291
01:00:45.075 --> 01:00:46.565

then we chat,
1292
01:00:46.585 --> 01:00:49.805
but the rest is we kind of buried our uniforms
1293
01:00:49.805 --> 01:00:51.365
and went on with our lives.
1294
01:00:51.625 --> 01:00:53.165
And--
1295
01:00:53.985 --> 01:00:57.725
but 45 years later, another
1296
01:00:58.705 --> 01:01:01.165
friend of Bart's was a Marine.
1297
01:01:02.225 --> 01:01:06.645
We met up in Oklahoma City at Toby Keith's restaurant.
1298
01:01:07.585 --> 01:01:09.845
We hadn't seen, talked to each other in, like I said,
1299
01:01:09.845 --> 01:01:11.005
45 years probably.
1300
01:01:12.145 --> 01:01:14.485
So we had a nice lunch.
1301
01:01:15.355 --> 01:01:16.965
Toby Keith even bought it for us.
1302
01:01:17.065 --> 01:01:20.685
He wasn't there, but the waitress said, we called him
1303
01:01:20.705 --> 01:01:22.205
and we will pick up the tab.
1304
01:01:22.235 --> 01:01:23.325
They loved our story.
1305
01:01:23.505 --> 01:01:27.925
And probably about a year later,
1306
01:01:28.375 --> 01:01:29.925
those pictures
1307
01:01:29.925 --> 01:01:34.765
and that, that I brought along with me, had just a lot
1308
01:01:34.765 --> 01:01:38.405
of stuff about Robert Peugh and Jim Gilbert, my friends
1309
01:01:38.545 --> 01:01:40.645

and me,
1310
01:01:40.825 --> 01:01:43.285
and then this little display of Bart Haynes.
1311
01:01:43.585 --> 01:01:46.925
And I started reading about Bart, my buddy
1312
01:01:47.025 --> 01:01:48.205
and I flipped it over
1313
01:01:48.265 --> 01:01:53.125
and it goes like, Bart, not only was he just a drummer
1314
01:01:53.125 --> 01:01:57.805
in a little rinky-dink garage band, he was the drummer
1315
01:01:57.805 --> 01:02:00.005
for the Castiles. Freehold New Jersey.
1316
01:02:00.185 --> 01:02:02.525
I tried to look up Bart.
1317
01:02:02.525 --> 01:02:04.805
I've tried to look up a few different Marines
1318
01:02:04.805 --> 01:02:07.405
that I was tied with, but I'm not a computer nut,
1319
01:02:07.625 --> 01:02:09.285
and we didn't have computer.
1320
01:02:09.315 --> 01:02:11.445
nuts 20, 30 years ago.
1321
01:02:12.005 --> 01:02:14.965
I did look up that one Ron Treat, the radio man.
1322
01:02:14.965 --> 01:02:17.565
And I did find family and I was going to--
1323
01:02:17.905 --> 01:02:21.205
and I found out-- this was probably a good 10,
1324
01:02:21.205 --> 01:02:24.245
12 year-- he died trying to skydive.
1325
01:02:24.785 --> 01:02:28.565
So I-- but Bart was another one that was hard.
1326
01:02:28.725 --> 01:02:32.685
I worked New Jersey-- Philadelphia, New Jersey,
1327
01:02:33.325 --> 01:02:34.565

probably 20 years ago now.

1328

01:02:35.185 --> 01:02:38.445

And I tried to look him up thinking he was from like Trenton

1329

01:02:38.545 --> 01:02:42.325

or somebody in Trenton, Vietnam, and never could find it.

1330

01:02:42.385 --> 01:02:46.925

But Robert Peugh then-- meeting him--

1331

01:02:48.255 --> 01:02:50.485

sends me months later this little

1332

01:02:50.485 --> 01:02:51.765

packet with all the pictures.

1333

01:02:51.785 --> 01:02:54.605

And that's the one that said, here's Bart

1334

01:02:54.605 --> 01:02:56.045

with Bruce Springsteen.

1335

01:02:56.145 --> 01:02:57.605

You know, he's a drummer in a band

1336

01:02:57.625 --> 01:02:58.925

for the-- Bruce Springsteen.

1337

01:02:59.465 --> 01:03:03.565

MARK FRANKLIN: Wow. ROGER BUSCH: And later in my life,

1338

01:03:03.725 --> 01:03:05.925

my career, I was in the banking industry for a few years,

1339

01:03:06.625 --> 01:03:09.685

but then I got picked up by the federal government

1340

01:03:09.745 --> 01:03:14.205

for disaster loan duty, kind of like partnership with FEMA.

1341

01:03:14.205 --> 01:03:18.405

And so anytime there was a big, major storms, battles--

1342

01:03:18.505 --> 01:03:19.685

or, not battles, but

1343

01:03:19.685 --> 01:03:20.885

MARK FRANKLIN: This is what you did after the war?

1344

01:03:21.165 --> 01:03:25.125

ROGER BUSCH: Afterwards I did--yeah. Took for like 27-- off and on for 27 years.

1345

01:03:25.545 --> 01:03:27.765
MARK FRANKLIN: Wow. ROGER BUSCH: Did a lot of disaster.
1346

01:03:27.865 --> 01:03:29.085
Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast. MARK FRANKLIN: Right.
1347

01:03:29.185 --> 01:03:33.365
ROGER BUSCH: Hit Jersey big time. And I got assigned to Brunswick.
1348

01:03:34.105 --> 01:03:37.645
So I thought, well, now we got the computer, maybe I can--
1349

01:03:37.815 --> 01:03:39.765
maybe I'll try to find Bart Haynes.
1350

01:03:39.905 --> 01:03:42.205
And so I went over to the--
1351

01:03:42.985 --> 01:03:45.925
and I was in the public information office too with the--
1352

01:03:45.985 --> 01:03:48.725
so I always had to go in when there's a disaster,
1353

01:03:48.945 --> 01:03:51.725
any little community, like Freehold, I had
1354

01:03:51.765 --> 01:03:54.605
to go find the mayor, let him know what SBA's doing,
1355

01:03:54.705 --> 01:03:58.165
and-- SBA's small business administration
1356

01:03:58.905 --> 01:04:00.925
and the Chamber of Commerce and all that.
1357

01:04:01.095 --> 01:04:02.525
These people started telling me,
1358

01:04:02.545 --> 01:04:04.045
we knew Bart, we knew the family.
1359

01:04:04.265 --> 01:04:06.605
We knew-- and I guess Bart,
1360

01:04:08.675 --> 01:04:12.285
when he was a kid, he worked for a funeral home,
1361

01:04:12.395 --> 01:04:14.525
shoveling snow off the sidewalks
1362

01:04:14.525 --> 01:04:15.845
and mowing the lawns and stuff.
1363

01:04:15.865 --> 01:04:17.885
So I guess he was really in touch with--
1364
01:04:18.415 --> 01:04:21.365
their names were Higgins, at a funeral home.
1365
01:04:21.385 --> 01:04:22.805
So I thought, well, I'm going to go over
1366
01:04:22.805 --> 01:04:24.645
and see if they know anything about Bart Haynes, right?
1367
01:04:24.645 --> 01:04:27.605
Then it just built up from there.
1368
01:04:27.745 --> 01:04:29.365
And that's probably why I'm here.
1369
01:04:30.445 --> 01:04:33.125
I don't-- I think I've mentioned to you
1370
01:04:33.265 --> 01:04:34.605
or Brian, I'm not sure,
1371
01:04:34.605 --> 01:04:37.725
there's probably 500 people that should be here, not me,
1372
01:04:38.545 --> 01:04:42.205
but the story with Bart tied to Bruce Springsteen--
1373
01:04:42.265 --> 01:04:45.325
Well anyway, I go over to this funeral home
1374
01:04:45.385 --> 01:04:49.085
and I knock on the back door and this guy comes out
1375
01:04:49.145 --> 01:04:52.165
and, oh, yeah, I'm a Higgins, but you want my dad.
1376
01:04:52.225 --> 01:04:53.325
But he passed away.
1377
01:04:53.385 --> 01:04:56.525
He knew Bart. And he was probably about the same age as us.
1378
01:04:56.675 --> 01:05:00.725
MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah. ROGER BUSCH: Us then Bart's age.
1379
01:05:00.725 --> 01:05:02.845
But he said, come on in. And I said, they had the service for him here.
1380
01:05:02.945 --> 01:05:05.965
And I think Robert Peugh-- that friend I talked about--
1381

01:05:06.725 --> 01:05:08.085
actually escorted the body back.
1382

01:05:08.185 --> 01:05:11.925
So now I'm standing where Peugh was and here's Bart's coffin.
1383

01:05:12.025 --> 01:05:14.725
And we just kind of chatted about--
1384

01:05:15.185 --> 01:05:18.045
and this Mr. Higgins guy
1385

01:05:18.045 --> 01:05:20.965
that runs the funeral home thought my story was good enough.
1386

01:05:21.025 --> 01:05:25.285
So he got a hold of this Kevin Coyne, who's-- has a lot
1387

01:05:25.285 --> 01:05:27.965
to do with Bruce Springsteen's archives
1388

01:05:28.065 --> 01:05:29.765
and things with Melissa.
1389

01:05:30.825 --> 01:05:33.565
He called him over.
1390

01:05:33.705 --> 01:05:37.085
So he come over and now we're sitting talking about Bart
1391

01:05:37.085 --> 01:05:40.885
and my story, what I told you, that night that it happened,
1392

01:05:41.025 --> 01:05:43.845
and thought it was over.
1393

01:05:44.075 --> 01:05:46.405
Okay, great. Now we got a tour of Freehold.
1394

01:05:46.405 --> 01:05:49.565
They took me to where Bart's little memorial is there
1395

01:05:49.565 --> 01:05:51.925
and the downtown and where he lived,
1396

01:05:52.245 --> 01:05:53.245
I guess they tore it down.
1397

01:05:53.245 --> 01:05:54.645
There's where they played band
1398

01:05:54.745 --> 01:05:57.165
and over here, this next street's
1399

01:05:57.165 --> 01:05:58.805
where Bruce Springsteen grew up.
1400
01:05:58.825 --> 01:06:00.685
And I thought, okay, great, I'm happy.
1401
01:06:00.885 --> 01:06:02.725
I go back to Brunswick
1402
01:06:02.745 --> 01:06:06.485
and then I get a call from Glen Cassion,
1403
01:06:06.665 --> 01:06:10.045
and then I find out that's Bruce's tie is--that's his cousin.
1404
01:06:11.185 --> 01:06:15.525
And they're keeping this foundation archive thing alive
1405
01:06:15.545 --> 01:06:17.365
for Bart Haynes.
1406
01:06:17.665 --> 01:06:18.925
And I thought, wow, great.
1407
01:06:19.545 --> 01:06:23.685
So I-- this was-- Hurricane Sandy was probably
1408
01:06:24.415 --> 01:06:26.125
about eight, nine, ten years ago now.
1409
01:06:26.705 --> 01:06:29.245
And Glen Cassion's kept this alive ever since.
1410
01:06:29.465 --> 01:06:31.885
He just kept saying, we're gonna bring you back to Freehold.
1411
01:06:31.945 --> 01:06:34.165
We want you to be party of this, this, this.
1412
01:06:34.865 --> 01:06:37.485
But that has never come about. They're still working on it, I think.
1413
01:06:37.645 --> 01:06:40.805
It's kind of a Bruce Springsteen
1414
01:06:40.895 --> 01:06:43.645
foundation archives that they're trying to put together.
1415
01:06:44.265 --> 01:06:46.685
And then I guess he knew a couple other guys
1416
01:06:46.685 --> 01:06:48.245
that were Vietnam veterans.
1417

01:06:48.865 --> 01:06:50.485
And then I think through my son
1418
01:06:51.345 --> 01:06:54.645
and my good buddy Chuck, I started hearing
1419
01:06:54.715 --> 01:06:57.565
that Bruce started talking about Vietnam.
1420
01:06:57.745 --> 01:06:59.645
And I just thought he was kind of one
1421
01:06:59.645 --> 01:07:01.245
of these lefty guys that wouldn't
1422
01:07:01.245 --> 01:07:05.005
like Vietnam veterans and all this,
1423
01:07:05.005 --> 01:07:06.925
but at every concert, not every,
1424
01:07:07.345 --> 01:07:10.205
but a couple of the concerts, I guess he dedicated things
1425
01:07:10.205 --> 01:07:12.645
and he'd start talking about my buddy Bart Haynes.
1426
01:07:12.665 --> 01:07:15.005
And so that's how that come about.
1427
01:07:15.145 --> 01:07:17.125
So-- keeping it alive. MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah, I appreciate--
1428
01:07:17.245 --> 01:07:18.245
I appreciate you sharing that.
1429
01:07:18.555 --> 01:07:20.645
What do you think that war meant to you and your generation?
1430
01:07:21.065 --> 01:07:22.685
You know, because I survived it.
1431
01:07:23.165 --> 01:07:26.205
I've always thought that I'm a better person for it.
1432
01:07:26.515 --> 01:07:28.085
There's a reason I probably had
1433
01:07:28.085 --> 01:07:31.045
to get out of Huron, South Dakota. It was just a--
1434
01:07:31.305 --> 01:07:32.805
and that was my ticket to get out.
1435

01:07:32.825 --> 01:07:34.765
So I'll never ever look at it as negative.
1436

01:07:34.965 --> 01:07:39.285
I never-- the politics of it maybe kind
1437

01:07:39.285 --> 01:07:41.205
of made you work on it, You just kind of wonder
1438

01:07:42.105 --> 01:07:44.925
if it got that nasty, that bad, why?
1439

01:07:45.105 --> 01:07:48.485
And then you try to go back, like you mentioned earlier,
1440

01:07:49.545 --> 01:07:50.805
why didn't they see this in
1441

01:07:51.285 --> 01:07:54.685
1961, '62, '63, '64,
1442

01:07:54.785 --> 01:07:57.445
and then let it build up to where it was.
1443

01:07:58.825 --> 01:08:01.725
And-- but we did our duty.
1444

01:08:02.305 --> 01:08:07.205
And I don't care if you're World War II--
1445

01:08:07.265 --> 01:08:09.805
Randy and I were talking about this in our little
1446

01:08:09.805 --> 01:08:10.925
discussion last night.
1447

01:08:10.925 --> 01:08:13.005
There's always gonna be somebody here that
1448

01:08:13.525 --> 01:08:18.445
probably would favor Hitler, World War II, if we had our media
1449

01:08:18.475 --> 01:08:19.485
that we have today.
1450

01:08:20.545 --> 01:08:23.045
It's a-- but why it got to that point.
1451

01:08:23.185 --> 01:08:26.605
And then, like you said, '68 was just really traumatic.
1452

01:08:26.885 --> 01:08:28.085
Being a rock 'n roll guy,
1453

01:08:28.085 --> 01:08:30.365
my first album back I bought,
1454

01:08:30.565 --> 01:08:34.125
I thought this great group, the Chicago Transit Authority,
1455

01:08:34.565 --> 01:08:36.365
remember? And they're called Chicago now.
1456

01:08:36.905 --> 01:08:41.285
But that first album had on the streets of Chicago that--
1457

01:08:41.705 --> 01:08:42.805
it was a great song, but
1458

01:08:42.945 --> 01:08:46.565
it was really the whole world's watching, the whole--
1459

01:08:46.675 --> 01:08:50.125
that was the Hubert Humphrey, with the candidacy.
1460

01:08:50.265 --> 01:08:53.845
And then that's the big turn. That was the big turn.
1461

01:08:54.545 --> 01:08:56.645
But I still supported
1462

01:08:56.715 --> 01:08:58.125
what we were doing in Vietnam.
1463

01:08:58.305 --> 01:09:01.525
And gosh, we got POWs over there.
1464

01:09:01.625 --> 01:09:03.325
We still got people fighting.
1465

01:09:04.305 --> 01:09:08.965
And so I never-- I've never had a negative bone,
1466

01:09:09.065 --> 01:09:13.765
but it goes back to the camaraderie of Marines
1467

01:09:14.425 --> 01:09:16.525
and the leadership
1468

01:09:17.235 --> 01:09:19.805
that we had the year I spent there then,
1469

01:09:20.665 --> 01:09:25.205
and then probably that two years to kind of get some
1470

01:09:25.205 --> 01:09:26.205
of it out of my system--
1471

01:09:26.385 --> 01:09:27.965
MARK FRANKLIN: And transitioned, decompressed a little bit.
1472

01:09:27.965 --> 01:09:31.605
ROGER BUSCH: Yeah, yeah. Had I gone home, that--
1473

01:09:32.505 --> 01:09:33.885
if I come home 1st of July
1474

01:09:33.885 --> 01:09:36.045
and I'm out of the service 1st of August,
1475

01:09:36.285 --> 01:09:37.605
I don't know what would have happened.
1476

01:09:38.025 --> 01:09:40.085
So I-- you never know,
1477

01:09:40.505 --> 01:09:43.045
MARK FRANKLIN: You think your experience in Vietnam affected the
1478

01:09:43.045 --> 01:09:45.725
way you see or think about troops coming off the battlefields today
1479

01:09:45.795 --> 01:09:47.205
from Afghanistan?
1480

01:09:47.595 --> 01:09:48.595
ROGER BUSCH: Oh yeah. Respect them.
1481

01:09:48.595 --> 01:09:52.125
Yeah. Yeah, they did exactly what we did.
1482

01:09:52.395 --> 01:09:55.485
Yeah. But, and thank God, thank God that
1483

01:09:55.755 --> 01:10:00.205
because of that, Vietnam's getting a lot more respect.
1484

01:10:00.385 --> 01:10:02.245
You know, it's a-- and I'm
1485

01:10:02.265 --> 01:10:06.365
not afraid to say that I am a Vietnam veteran.
1486

01:10:06.885 --> 01:10:09.325
I guess there was a couple of times that when you said it
1487

01:10:09.325 --> 01:10:11.645
was bad, I guess when I got out of the military,
1488

01:10:11.645 --> 01:10:13.605
there was always job interviews
1489

01:10:13.625 --> 01:10:15.085
and that I never knew what
1490

01:10:15.355 --> 01:10:17.605
that person on the other side might feel.
1491

01:10:17.625 --> 01:10:19.765
So there was a lot of times I never put
1492

01:10:19.765 --> 01:10:22.325
that I was a Vietnam veteran, or even a veteran,
1493

01:10:23.125 --> 01:10:25.125
because you didn't know you. You didn't.
1494

01:10:25.865 --> 01:10:29.205
But I think that turned a lot with the Gulf War
1495

01:10:29.545 --> 01:10:30.685
and then the wars since.
1496

01:10:31.025 --> 01:10:34.685
But no, they're-- to me, they're heroes. Yeah. Yeah.
1497

01:10:34.685 --> 01:10:36.005
MARK FRANKLIN: Well, so are you guys, so--
1498

01:10:36.345 --> 01:10:38.485
how do you think the war is-- Vietnam War is remembered today?
1499

01:10:38.965 --> 01:10:40.125
ROGER BUSCH: I think in a better light.
1500

01:10:40.265 --> 01:10:44.245
There's always a few that--
1501

01:10:44.685 --> 01:10:46.965
I hope they feel sorry for what they've done
1502

01:10:46.965 --> 01:10:50.965
to the Vietnam veterans, probably back in '69, '70, '71,
1503

01:10:50.965 --> 01:10:52.045
especially '72.
1504

01:10:52.145 --> 01:10:55.405
And-- but no, it's great.
1505

01:10:55.685 --> 01:10:59.885
I get-- I'm not afraid to say-- I'll go buy anything now.
1506

01:11:00.325 --> 01:11:02.165
I just say, hey, could-- do I get a discount?
1507

01:11:02.265 --> 01:11:04.165
I'm a Vietnam vet and an old man.
1508

01:11:04.475 --> 01:11:06.965
What-- those two things, what can I get? So--
1509

01:11:07.705 --> 01:11:09.845
MARK FRANKLIN: Do you have any lessons that you took from that
1510

01:11:09.845 --> 01:11:12.405
experience that you'd like to pass on to future generations?
1511

01:11:13.465 --> 01:11:16.925
ROGER BUSCH: Oof. Well, I don't know about lessons.
1512

01:11:17.365 --> 01:11:20.365
I mean, because one, I wasn't in the field
1513

01:11:20.365 --> 01:11:23.165
that I wanted to be, being a hospital corpsman.
1514

01:11:23.165 --> 01:11:24.165
That wasn't by choice.
1515

01:11:24.425 --> 01:11:27.125
It was just, hey, I want a class. So I got it.
1516

01:11:27.185 --> 01:11:31.925
So I-- be happy, I guess.
1517

01:11:32.085 --> 01:11:34.805
Whatever duties you're assigned
1518

01:11:34.825 --> 01:11:37.325
to do, do them and be happy.
1519

01:11:37.605 --> 01:11:38.445
MARK FRANKLIN: They're all important, right?
1520

01:11:38.445 --> 01:11:39.885
ROGER BUSCH: Something to that
1521

01:11:40.065 --> 01:11:40.285
effect, I guess.
1522

01:11:46.445 --> 01:11:47.945
ROGER BUSCH: Oh, fantastic.
1523

01:11:49.205 --> 01:11:51.625
My first time, I had my family with us,
1524

01:11:51.805 --> 01:11:54.905
and it was 1987, shortly after--
1525

01:11:55.115 --> 01:11:58.065
I think it was like '82, it was dedicated,
1526

01:11:58.065 --> 01:11:59.065
something like that, '83?
1527

01:11:59.125 --> 01:12:01.945
So we were there in 1987 and
1528

01:12:01.945 --> 01:12:06.105
before I saw the Wall here in Washington, D.C. we saw the
1529

01:12:06.105 --> 01:12:09.265
miniature one that they-- MARK FRANKLIN: Oh, yeah. It's to scale.
1530

01:12:09.265 --> 01:12:10.545
ROGER BUSCH: --that floats around the nation.
1531

01:12:10.545 --> 01:12:12.145
Yeah. So that was probably the first time
1532

01:12:12.185 --> 01:12:13.305
I saw it in Balboa Park.
1533

01:12:13.365 --> 01:12:15.145
MARK FRANKLIN: Okay.
1534

01:12:15.145 --> 01:12:16.185
ROGER BUSCH: It was probably the first time I really cracked up.
1535

01:12:16.545 --> 01:12:18.905
because I went out and got-- well he took my stuff,
1536

01:12:18.925 --> 01:12:21.225
but I did Bart Haynes and Redford-- MARK FRANKLIN: Did the rubbing?
1537

01:12:21.365 --> 01:12:25.465
ROGER BUSCH: Yeah, I did the-- and it never bothered me.
1538

01:12:26.405 --> 01:12:28.985
I got through all that just talking to people.
1539

01:12:29.445 --> 01:12:30.625
But then to see it.
1540

01:12:31.325 --> 01:12:33.425
And I think for the longest time-- Chuck,
1541

01:12:33.565 --> 01:12:36.305
my buddy Chuck Bongers there in Appleton, Wisconsin,
1542

01:12:37.005 --> 01:12:39.585
we always just said, were you really there?
1543

01:12:40.565 --> 01:12:45.065
And I think for many years I thought maybe I didn't--
1544

01:12:45.165 --> 01:12:47.745
you know, it was like a dream. Until that Wall was made.
1545

01:12:47.845 --> 01:12:50.345
So I think that kind of brought it to light,
1546

01:12:50.605 --> 01:12:52.345
seeing Bart's name and-- MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah.
1547

01:12:52.615 --> 01:12:56.945
ROGER BUSCH: --that makes your-- yeah, you did. It wasn't a dream.
1548

01:12:57.015 --> 01:12:58.705
Yeah. We did it. So, yeah.
1549

01:12:59.065 --> 01:13:01.865
I really-- most of my life since then,
1550

01:13:02.025 --> 01:13:04.105
I never dwelled on Vietnam.
1551

01:13:04.265 --> 01:13:06.425
I kind of like-- I buried it.
1552

01:13:06.585 --> 01:13:09.385
I got a son and a daughter and a wife to take care of.
1553

01:13:09.645 --> 01:13:10.865
MARK FRANKLIN: That's true. ROGER BUSCH: It's like--
1554

01:13:11.205 --> 01:13:15.265
you probably always heard from World War II veterans,
1555

01:13:15.605 --> 01:13:16.945
and I don't know if you see--
1556

01:13:17.005 --> 01:13:18.505
you see it a lot more than I would.
1557

01:13:18.525 --> 01:13:20.625
So I don't know if I'm gonna be right on this one
1558

01:13:20.625 --> 01:13:25.385
or not. Hardly any interviews, if I see it on TV
1559

01:13:25.405 --> 01:13:28.865
and that, or-- they're Pearl Harbor,
1560

01:13:29.685 --> 01:13:32.945
but you never see-- I hardly ever hear a Marine
1561

01:13:33.015 --> 01:13:37.985
that was on Iwo Jima for that two months, or Tarawa
1562

01:13:38.005 --> 01:13:41.265
or-- because they either died,
1563

01:13:42.605 --> 01:13:45.705
got wounded bad, or just come home
1564

01:13:45.845 --> 01:13:49.385
and threw the uniform away and got on with their life.
1565

01:13:49.525 --> 01:13:50.865
MARK FRANKLIN: t's hard to talk about, yeah.
1566

01:13:57.225 --> 01:14:00.085
ROGER BUSCH: Oh gosh. I'm sold. I'm impressed.
1567

01:14:00.235 --> 01:14:02.845
This has been
1568

01:14:03.745 --> 01:14:05.365
a fantastic day.
1569

01:14:05.525 --> 01:14:07.285
I think it's great. MARK FRANKLIN: Awesome.
1570

01:14:07.425 --> 01:14:09.925
Mr. Busch, thank you very, very much. That was superb.