

## Meeting General Patton

RN: So, my ranger battalion goes to England, where we trained with the British commandos. There were five ranger battalions. There were five ranger battalions: one, two, three, four, and five. One, three, and four were annihilated at [Anzio]. They were just annihilated, there wasn't any of them left. The second and fifth were slated for D-Day. Second ranger battalion and fifth ranger battalion. After D-Day, the fifth ranger battalion was assigned to General Patton, third army. So we fought the - I fought the whole war with General Patton. And he was a very interesting guy. I met him one time. He - remember, there was 20,000 people in - what was there, 150,000 people in the third army. 150,000. And I met him one time.

The answer was after the Battle of the Bulge, when we were badly beat up, we were turning recruits, and we were maybe three miles behind the front lines. And this Jeep pulls right up behind me, and stops, and stops right in front of me and there's General Patton in the Jeep. I heard the conversation. He said, "son, what outfit are you?" I said "sir, this is your fifth ranger battalion." He says "I know that, but what in the hell are you doing back here? The war's up that way!" [Laughs]. So, within two hours, we got new orders to put us back in the front lines and continue our training there, and that's what we did.

DS: And didn't he say, "you can train your recruits up at the front lines as well as back here," right?

RN: Yes, that's what he said. "You can train recruits at the front lines well as you can back here." And so, that was my one experience with General Patton [laughs].