

## Alley, "Bud" Army

[00:00:15.94] BUD ALLEY: I was born in 1942, April 18, in Miami, Florida.

[00:00:20.32] JOE GALLOWAY: How old were you when you went to Vietnam?

[00:00:22.66] BUD ALLEY: 23.

[00:00:23.56] JOE GALLOWAY: 23-- old man.

[00:00:25.27] BUD ALLEY: I was.

[00:00:27.46] JOE GALLOWAY: What was your family status at that point?

[00:00:29.86] BUD ALLEY: I was engaged. And I just lost my mother the preceding six months before that.

[00:00:37.42] JOE GALLOWAY: What was your hometown? Are you--

[00:00:38.83] BUD ALLEY: Greenville, South Carolina.

[00:00:40.21] JOE GALLOWAY: Greenville, South Carolina.

[00:00:47.76] BUD ALLEY: It wasn't out there on anybody's blue lights, far as I knew. I went in, I took ROTC because it paid \$27 a month, and that covered my fraternity dues and my dating money.

[00:01:01.04] [JOE LAUGHING]

[00:01:02.12] And the other reason is, you couldn't get a job in Greenville, South Carolina, without your military behind you. So it was either wait till you get drafted, or take the ROTC and go in as an officer. So I went that route.

[00:01:14.39] And Joe, I chose the infantry. I was the only one out of my class of-- I believe there were 30 of us in the class that year, and I was the only one that chose the infantry, first choice. Because when I went to summer camp that preceding summer, I had a good time. And we were out running around the woods, playing bang-bang, shoot 'em up, and it was a lot of fun. Beat sitting around reading books all day.

[00:01:39.73] JOE GALLOWAY: Mm-hm.

[00:01:40.20] [BOTH CHUCKLING]

[00:01:47.42] BUD ALLEY: I took ROTC at Furman-- had that summer camp experience of six weeks. April of that year, as I was graduating, I was called in and was told there's a new program for you. We've chosen you because of your innate leadership skills, and all those things.

[00:02:06.80] And it's called a U2. And it means you can go on active-duty immediately as an untrained second lieutenant. But you're going to be a platoon leader. You don't go to basic School, you don't go to OIBC or anything. But we can get you in this summer as soon as you graduate.

[00:02:25.82] So that was my initial training-- was, I went from a college graduate fraternity guy one day, to reporting in--

[00:02:36.65] JOE GALLOWAY: --for active duty.

[00:02:37.37] BUD ALLEY: --yeah, to active duty. 2nd Infantry Division, Mechanized.

[00:02:42.68] JOE GALLOWAY: What did they think they were doing?

[00:02:44.81] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[00:02:47.12] BUD ALLEY: I don't think there was a lot of thought involved in the program. I think they were gonna try to save some money. They selected 1,000 of us out of that class of 1964 from ROTC to try to experiment with.

[00:02:59.90] JOE GALLOWAY: How many of 'em survived?

[00:03:00.89] BUD ALLEY: That's a good question.

[00:03:02.23] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[00:03:03.54]

[00:03:04.85] Good question.

[00:03:05.98] JOE GALLOWAY: I don't know, but it don't sound like many.

[00:03:08.69] BUD ALLEY: And you can't find anything about the program. I've tried to research the program and find out things, and, nope, we don't know about.

[00:03:15.44] JOE GALLOWAY: We don't know about that one. Oh, Lord.

[00:03:18.08] BUD ALLEY: I even went to Carlyle and asked them up there at the records place. Nope, never heard of that one.

[00:03:22.91] JOE GALLOWAY: Nothing about that.

[00:03:25.11] BUD ALLEY: But they were trying a lot of those things back then.

[00:03:27.29] JOE GALLOWAY: They were. There was McNamara's 100,000 and all that stuff.

[00:03:32.18] BUD ALLEY: Back to your training thing. The one thing I did do while I was in the 2nd ID, as a platoon leader, I caught the eye of one of our S3. And he pulled me up to become the battalion communication officer, because the guy we had was going through pilot school.

[00:03:52.46] So I got sent to Combat Officer Communication School out at Fort Sill, Oklahoma for about 3 and 1/2 months. And that was studying radios, and how to keep everybody communicating. And that was the extent of my training. And the next thing you know, I'm part of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry.

[00:04:13.01] JOE GALLOWAY: On your way to Vietnam.

[00:04:14.90] BUD ALLEY: We're going to get on this boat here in a little bit.

[00:04:17.06] [LAUGHING]

[00:04:17.84]

[00:04:19.28] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry was pulled together from all over the Army, as I understand it.

[00:04:27.83] BUD ALLEY: We were. Apparently, as they pulled this TOE together, Joe, they realized they needed another battalion in the division, of infantry or cavalry guys. So they went down the list of colonels that were current commanders in the 2nd ID. And my guy said no. He was losing too many people.

[00:04:47.96] And this other fellow said, yeah, I'll take one. So he became the de facto CO of what became the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cav. And they were pulling people from all over-- captains in to be company commanders, and me-- got caught being a communication officer for that particular battalion.

[00:05:10.37] JOE GALLOWAY: And that guy took the battalion over.

[00:05:13.07] BUD ALLEY: He took us over, yes, sir.

[00:05:14.54] JOE GALLOWAY: And his name?

[00:05:15.62] BUD ALLEY: John D. White.

[00:05:16.58] JOE GALLOWAY: John D. White-- I remembered something about him. Nothing good.

[00:05:21.32] BUD ALLEY: No, sir. No, sir. He was an unusual fellow.

[00:05:30.56] JOE GALLOWAY: Tell me about it.

[00:05:31.05] BUD ALLEY: We didn't have to row our own boat.

[00:05:33.24] JOE GALLOWAY: But almost--

[00:05:34.43] BUD ALLEY: Almost, yeah.

[00:05:35.31] JOE GALLOWAY: Tell me about the trip.

[00:05:36.81] BUD ALLEY: Well, we jumped on buses at-- middle of the night at Fort Benning, and ended up in Charleston Naval Base, and got on board the USS Rose. Interesting, old-- it was really not a World War Two victory ship, it was the last of those ships that came out. And there were about 1,500, 1,800 of us on board then. The officers had state rooms. Second lieutenants, actually we had four of us in a room.

[00:06:10.68] JOE GALLOWAY: How about that?

[00:06:12.00] BUD ALLEY: And the poor guys down below, they were nose to tail, stacked up.

[00:06:14.91] JOE GALLOWAY: Stacked in those multiple bunks.

[00:06:17.22] BUD ALLEY: Yep, on those canvas and steel cots. And so we all got our first cruise there to the tropics. Went down through the Panama Canal, back up. Had a fire on board. That was interesting-- trying to figure out what's this fire thing and what's it mean. And none of us know. We're back putting on our life vests and stuff.

[00:06:44.37] Then that passes, and we laagered at Long Beach. And while we were there we took on-- replenished everything. And then headed for Vietnam. One of the guys comes down with appendicitis, so we pulled into Pearl Harbor-- actually pulled off Pearl Harbor. And we're--

[00:07:10.92] JOE GALLOWAY: Put him on shore, and kept moving.

[00:07:12.93] BUD ALLEY: We're all thinking, hey, we're going to get a free night here.

[00:07:15.87] JOE GALLOWAY: Uh-uh.

[00:07:16.23] BUD ALLEY: Uh-uh. Brought that little boat out, and sent him down the slide and kept going. And then we hit that typhoon between the Philippines and Vietnam. And that was another thrill.

[00:07:28.62] JOE GALLOWAY: That must have been exciting, especially down in the hold.

[00:07:32.76] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, it was exciting all over. Cause that damn boat come out, and those screws come out of the water and just shake the whole thing. And you look at those lifeboats and it's like, God, you know you'd never have a chance in this thing. And we had a Portuguese crew which didn't speak English. And I don't know that anybody knew where we were if the damn thing had sunk-- they'd have found out a month later I guess.

[00:07:58.05] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[00:07:59.40] JOE GALLOWAY: You, after some days of this excitement, you landed in Qui Nhon.

[00:08:06.70] BUD ALLEY: We do. And this is another interesting story there. We're all young guys, adrenaline pumping, and we're off port. And the colonel wants a radio up on deck. So we get up on top, and it's dark, and you see all the fireworks going off.

[00:08:23.01] And we turn the radio on and you can hear, yeah, Roger this, and drop a little fire. Drop 50 and fire for effect. And we're all up there with eyes getting big as saucers. And then they call a meeting at like two o'clock down below. All the officers report, because we're going to issue the ammo and everything. And we're like, we're going to storm the damn beach tomorrow. I mean, you know we've seen all the shooting and everything.

[00:08:44.30] And they come out say, no, it's going to be an administrative landing. No ammo in guns at all. We're all looking at each other like, somebody has really lost their minds. But it did turn out that it was an administrative landing. And there were no enemy out there waiting to greet us.

[00:09:03.57] JOE GALLOWAY: Well, it could have been worse. The Marines were greeted by little girls with flowers.

[00:09:07.95] BUD ALLEY: Oh well, we had some of those, but we were told to stay away from them.

[00:09:12.29] [BOTH CHUCKLE]

[00:09:18.03] First thing to me was the smell. It smelled like the Orient. Yeah, I don't know what the Orient was supposed to smell like, but it smelled different to anything I'd ever smelled. And what I had always imagined-- kind of a spicy smell about it.

[00:09:36.03] And we're herded over to the beach and standing around trying to get our bearings. Waiting on transportation to take us up to this place we're going, called An Khe. And we're going to ride on helicopters. And that was my first ride on a helicopter.

[00:09:53.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Really?

[00:09:54.03] BUD ALLEY: Most of us in our battalion--

[00:09:55.32] JOE GALLOWAY: You're air-mobile, but you haven't been on a Huey yet.

[00:09:57.72] BUD ALLEY: No, sir. No, sir. And this was on a Chinook-- we've never been on one of those either. Didn't know what it was, really. But they said, this is how you're going.

[00:10:08.40] JOE GALLOWAY: Here's your ride. What'd it look like, flying up that pass?

[00:10:13.80] BUD ALLEY: It was scary. We're looking out the windows-- you can see fires, they're burning down below, and all the noise in the helicopter, you can't really-- your mind starts working all kind of games. So you didn't know what the fires were and stuff, and who was operating where down below. Yeah.

[00:10:38.22] JOE GALLOWAY: What was your initial impression on landing in An Khe?

[00:10:43.29] BUD ALLEY: Well, we landed at the airbase, the airstrip-- PSP airstrip. They herded us on to deuce-and-a-halves, and drove us a few miles over to this place called home. That little dirt road-- and we were all tickled to death to be at least there.

[00:11:01.14] And saw a few friendly faces that had been on the advance party. Met us and said, this is home. And everybody can take an hour to read your mail. And so we get a month's worth of mail, finally, to read. And that was interesting, finally finding that.

[00:11:17.48] JOE GALLOWAY: Catch up on things.

[00:11:18.01] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Yeah.

[00:11:22.96] JOE GALLOWAY: You got to throw up a pup tent?

[00:11:24.72] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Yeah. Mm-hm. Get you a buddy and put one together, and try to remember which stakes go where.

[00:11:33.06] JOE GALLOWAY: And up went the pup tent, two to a-- two guys to it.

[00:11:36.53] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. And they said, OK well, the line companies, you guys are going to be here. And all you officers are going to be there, up on a hill. And so we're up on this hill, and what's out there? Well, that's the jungle out there. Well, is there anybody out there? We don't know. Yeah. And that was our first night, was up there. We're sitting up there, all the lieutenants are all-- tents in a row. And we're all-- nobody can sleep.

[00:12:04.50] Anyway, we're up there, and one of the lieutenants is nervous as hell, and everybody's trying to sleep. And all of the sudden, you hear this-- chichook, chichook, chichook, chichook, chichook, chichook, chichook, chichook, chichook.

[00:12:15.97] JOE GALLOWAY: Sharpening his bayonet?

[00:12:17.39] BUD ALLEY: No, he's running bullets through his .45.

[00:12:21.15] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh my. Somebody's gonna shoot their toe off.

[00:12:26.43] BUD ALLEY: Well, finally, Jim Kelly hollers over to him, if you don't stop that, I'm gonna come over and shove it up your rear. And then we woke the next morning to the rains. The monsoon had arrived.

[00:12:40.62] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh my. And you're in a two-man pup tent, floating away.

[00:12:44.60] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. And that was the last dry clothes we had for a couple of months it seemed.

[00:12:50.31] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh my. That and you guys are still building this base.

[00:12:57.30] BUD ALLEY: Oh, yeah. Well, we hadn't even gotten to that part. We're just there trying--

[00:13:02.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Trying to survive.

[00:13:03.75] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. And then the food was wonderful. We beat the food there. So they gave us a slide of Saltine crackers, and a can of tuna fish for three guys.

[00:13:17.68] JOE GALLOWAY: Whoa.

[00:13:18.61] BUD ALLEY: And that was your fare for the day.

[00:13:20.37] JOE GALLOWAY: That's it for the day?

[00:13:21.68] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Enrique Pujals says, if they don't start feeding us any better, I'm going north. At least they feed us up there.

[00:13:29.09] JOE GALLOWAY: Gonna desert, huh?

[00:13:30.61] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[00:13:33.45] Oh my, how long did that last?

[00:13:38.31] BUD ALLEY: It seemed like it lasted a lot longer than it probably did, but it was probably about a week. That new diet.

[00:13:44.08] JOE GALLOWAY: Tuna fish and crackers.

[00:13:44.76] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, tuna fish and crackers.

[00:13:50.04] JOE GALLOWAY: And your quarters remain the two-man pup.

[00:13:53.24] BUD ALLEY: Well, they did.

[00:13:55.44] JOE GALLOWAY: For how long?

[00:13:58.43] BUD ALLEY: Probably about two weeks while we were still getting stuff off the boat and equipment in. And getting tents in-- GP tents.

[00:14:05.91] JOE GALLOWAY: Somebody bring the GP tents in?

[00:14:07.83] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, finally came in. Finally, the cots came in. And you got up off the ground.

[00:14:14.16] JOE GALLOWAY: That's awfully nice of them.

[00:14:15.66] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Dodging the colonel was a big one, and the major. No, it was primarily trying to get our tent set up for communication-- radio repairs. And getting the equipment cleaned, and testing out all the generators, and getting our battery supplies in, and working with the companies-- trying to make sure their-- because it was all brand new equipment.

[00:14:51.45] I, luckily, had seen some of it when I was in commo school. Prior to that we had the old GRC crystal radios. And that's what I was at school learning how to run. And here, these new ones-- so trying to get the repair guys accustomed to what to look for on the new ones.

[00:15:10.62] And nobody knew-- we didn't know how far they would reach. Nobody knew what the battery lives were. The forecast for the battery lives would be half in the tropics, but they were actually double. The range was supposed to be five miles, and they were nearly 12 miles. So a lot of things we were all learning there first.

[00:15:32.40] So it was kind of working on the equipment, getting the people squared away, and dealing with the-- mainly all the things that you get to deal with as a lieutenant-- the extra duties. All of a sudden, I became mess officer. Because my roommate, John Howard, got relieved of his mess officer duty-- because the major wanted to put it in the swamp. And John said that wasn't a good idea, and they had a bit of a set to, and you know who won that one. So Alley got to be the new mess officer.

[00:16:06.00] JOE GALLOWAY: New mess officer, and the mess was put in the swamp.

[00:16:10.14] BUD ALLEY: No, it wasn't in the swamp. But it was an issue that we finally got resolved. But that's what I inherited as my additional duties.

[00:16:20.13] And then, Jim Lawrence-- that you're going to interview shortly-- was put on alert to take a patrol out. And he was recon at the time. I said, Jim, can I go along with you? I have never been. I need a little experience here, and you guys are senior guys. Well, I don't know, go ask the colonel. So I asked the colonel, can I go with Lawrence if he goes out? And he said, no you're commo.

[00:16:46.53] So after he thinks about it, about two days later, he calls me and says, Alley, you said that you want go on a combat patrol. Why don't you pick 26 guys from Headquarters Company-- the cooks, the bottle washers, the truck drivers, the radio guys--

[00:17:01.56] JOE GALLOWAY: And take them out across the wire?



[00:17:02.88] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, and take them out on combat patrol. Those that survived the adventure jokingly call it Alley's Raiders. Because we sat out there that night in the rain and every now and then you could hear somebody opening their candy bar wrapper, and somebody over on the other side lighting their cigarette. Fortunately, nobody--

[00:17:29.74] JOE GALLOWAY: This is an ambush patrol?

[00:17:30.63] BUD ALLEY: Yes, this is an ambush patrol. And nobody got shot that night.

[00:17:35.85] JOE GALLOWAY: Well, that's a miracle.

[00:17:37.65] BUD ALLEY: It really was.

[00:17:39.33] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, you were in what they would call a combat support unit. You were headquarters, but you were headquarters attached to an infantry battalion.

[00:17:50.28] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Well, we were the headquarters-- they call it headquarters and Headquarters Company of the battalion. And we had three platoons in our Headquarters Company. There was the medical platoon, the commo platoon, and the support platoon. Support was the logistics folks-- the truck drivers, and mechanics, and supply people.

[00:18:13.85] And as commo, I had responsibility for the generators and the radios and repair sections and stuff, and the operators for the communications for the senior officers. So I mainly-- I had the green tabs of leadership, as did John Howard, but we really were not. We were just more administrative because we gave our people out.

[00:18:39.98] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:18:41.24] BUD ALLEY: Along with the equipment-- was given out. John issued out his medics to the companies. I gave out my radio operators to the colonel and the S3 and the XO.

[00:18:52.52] And I had three Jeeps, the only three Jeeps in Headquarters Company. The colonel didn't have one. He had a helicopter, but he didn't have Jeep. But he fixed that real quick.

[00:19:04.31] JOE GALLOWAY: He took one of yours.

[00:19:05.11] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, he took one of mine.

[00:19:13.03] I didn't have much contact at first because they were-- the line companies were herding them up and relocating them to an area outside our base camp there at An Khe. And so I began seeing them work, being laundry-- doing laundry there in the river and stuff. And word came down they were trying to set up an economy. So I did a little bit trying to help there.

[00:19:39.19] When we had sick call, Doc Shucart would go out and take me with him. And I was still harboring did I want to be a doctor or not thoughts. So I tagged along, and it was a good

experience. Got to learn a lot about the indigenous problems they had and-- canker sores of the little kids and how grateful they were to have some kind of treatment at all.

[00:20:07.39] JOE GALLOWAY: At all, yeah.

[00:20:11.29] BUD ALLEY: They were good people. They were just kind of caught like most people in countries get caught when the powers that be decided to fight one another. The underlying folk-- the peasants that we were dealing with and seeing out there-- they were dollar-a-year people. I mean, they were not-- they were farmers and they just wanted to live in their little rice paddy, and have their little hooch, and--

[00:20:41.02] JOE GALLOWAY: Provide some food for their family.

[00:20:43.18] BUD ALLEY: Yeah.

[00:20:48.62] The lieutenants melded well, and because we were all kind of in that same boat-- everybody's learning-- we had a lot of new guys from OCS. And one of the things we started doing in the evenings-- it was no entertainment or anything-- somebody had made a picnic table. So we would sit down, and as dark approached we'd start singing old camp songs and things.

[00:21:17.69] And eventually somebody brought some beer in, and we got real good then. We could sing.

[00:21:23.68] JOE GALLOWAY: You could sing--

[00:21:24.20] BUD ALLEY: We could almost carry a tune. Yeah.

[00:21:26.16] JOE GALLOWAY: --like canaries.

[00:21:27.74] BUD ALLEY: And the colonel's hooch was up the hill about 100 yards. He had his own little Shangri-La up there. And I guess eventually he got tired of hearing us serenade him every night, so he said you can build an officer's club.

[00:21:41.39] So that was kind of the-- that was like Colonel Bogey's bridge. It was a unifying endeavor for all of us. And it was company grade down. When you had spare time you got to work on the officer's club. And none of us had ever done anything like it before.

[00:22:02.52] JOE GALLOWAY: And did it stand up when you finished?

[00:22:04.82] BUD ALLEY: It did. And the coolest thing was, when we built it, we had to build a bridge to cross over the gully to get to our club. And Jim Brigham engineered that one out. And we were just amazed that it would hold up anybody. And when he got through and pronounced it good and drove that mule across it for the first time, we all lined up and took a leak off the bridge--

[00:22:28.16] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[00:22:29.69] --to christen it.

[00:22:33.74] JOE GALLOWAY: Good people.

[00:22:35.51] BUD ALLEY: Good people. Good, good people.

[00:22:42.90] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you form friendships with men from different racial and social backgrounds during your time?

[00:22:50.92] BUD ALLEY: Joe, I was always pretty neutral about those things myself. A human being was a human being. And if you're one of our guys, you're one of our guys. And so I really had never had issues of race or creed or any of those things.

[00:23:13.15] Pujals is Puerto Rican. And hell, nobody could understand him. You still can't understand him today. But he and I got to be buddies. He would get a care package and always shared his M&Ms with me. And to this day, I remember that.

[00:23:33.70] But we had a variety of socioeconomic guys that were drafted. Some were college graduates, some were dropouts of high school.

[00:23:48.04] JOE GALLOWAY: Junior high dropouts.

[00:23:48.88] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Yeah. Some had criminal records. But they were our guys. And they were doing the job for us. And I had practically no personnel issues that I had to deal with my platoon at all.

[00:24:09.11] And part of it too, I think honestly, is they were scared to death-- if they messed up where I was, they'd go out with a line company. And nobody wanted to go there.

[00:24:17.50] JOE GALLOWAY: Nobody wanted to go there.

[00:24:18.97] BUD ALLEY: But we did have one interesting guy that had an alcohol problem. And he had had it for years, and he--

[00:24:28.59] JOE GALLOWAY: This your cook?

[00:24:29.87] BUD ALLEY: Yeah.

[00:24:30.64] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh my. That's one of the more famous stories-- the cook--

[00:24:36.82] BUD ALLEY: Yes.

[00:24:37.34] JOE GALLOWAY: --who kept trying to desert and you guys wouldn't let him.

[00:24:40.72] BUD ALLEY: No. No.

[00:24:42.21] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[00:24:43.30] JOE GALLOWAY: He knew where he needed to be, and it was back home.

[00:24:46.33] BUD ALLEY: He did. And he was a very silver-tongued individual, too. And he could talk you into believing that the moon is the sun.

[00:24:55.01] JOE GALLOWAY: He managed to get from the battlefield down to a C-141 down at the airport.

[00:25:00.43] BUD ALLEY: He did. He did.

[00:25:02.82] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[00:25:04.15]

[00:25:05.48] And that was only because he'd gotten on the battlefield by accident. Pure accident.

[00:25:09.49] JOE GALLOWAY: In the first place.

[00:25:11.53] BUD ALLEY: And he was drunk before we got out there.

[00:25:13.36] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh my god.

[00:25:14.44] BUD ALLEY: And Dan Boone, our company commander, just was irate and he marched all of them over to put them under command of one of our other E-4s, Lewis Swann.

[00:25:25.48] JOE GALLOWAY: And he immediately got away from that.

[00:25:27.43] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. And he said Lewis, now don't you ever-- don't you let him leave at all. You watch him 24/7. Yes, sir. And next thing you know we get this radio call from back at Pleiku. And it's-- Herbert's out here trying to-- at the end of the runway trying to get on a plane to go back stateside. Says he's got an emergency leave.

[00:25:48.52] And I'm looking at Dan, and Dan looks at me, and he looks at Swann. Swann, where's Herbert? Swann says, sorry, he went to go to the bathroom, and he smelled so bad I couldn't go with him.

[00:26:02.14] Apparently he'd circled all the way around the LZ and jumped on the chow ship that came in and made it. He was gone. Interesting, interesting story. That's probably the biggest personnel issue that our company had.

[00:26:23.82] Well, we built a little club. And one thing, John Howard, one my shipboard roommates, his wife was expecting. And one night, I'm checking on everything before I go to bed, and I hear John down in the commo tent. And he's just fussing away.

[00:26:43.77] Walked down-- and he's got a six-pack there. John, what are you doing? He said, well, I'm trying to call my wife. We just had a baby. How are you going to call your wife in the middle of the jungle?

[00:26:54.45] Well, I know how we can do it. John had been enlisted for about three years before he got commissioned. And so we started-- he had a six-pack-- and we started calling the switchboards.

[00:27:05.79] And we would go from the battalion switchboard, to the brigade switchboard, the division switchboard, to the MACV switchboards, all the way to the Philippine switchboards. And we'd get about halfway there, and somebody would pull the plug, and have to start all the way back over building things.

[00:27:24.78] Finally, it got to the point that I'd had enough beers so that I spoke to the most forward switchboard, and I said, this is Colonel John D. White, and we've got an emergency classified information mission. We've got to get through stateside immediately. And all of a sudden, we get to California. And we get an operator there, and he patches us through. John's got the phone number to the hospital, and we speak to his wife--

[00:27:56.06] JOE GALLOWAY: He got to speak to her?

[00:27:57.44] BUD ALLEY: --in Wheeling, West Virginia.

[00:27:59.70] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh my God. From An Khe, Vietnam, 1965.

[00:28:04.29] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, in October. October 25, or thereabouts. And John and I are just elated. And of course, he's talking, he insists now that I talk to Martha. And here's a lady in the middle of the night, just given birth to a baby.

[00:28:20.69] JOE GALLOWAY: And she needs to talk to you.

[00:28:22.88] BUD ALLEY: To two drunk lieutenants. And she can verify that story for you today.

[00:28:36.81] Barry Sadler's song, put silver wings--

[00:28:40.80] JOE GALLOWAY: You had "Green Berets".

[00:28:42.89] BUD ALLEY: And the book, was it Robin Moore wrote the book about the Green Berets? That was the thing. Music wise, we had the Beach Boys. The Beatles were out and about. Elvis was still around. And it was right at the beginning, I think, when the coffeehouse music was really going mainstream-- Mamas and the Papas, and those-- that new age things--

[00:29:13.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Whatever you call it.

[00:29:15.03] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Yeah. Nancy Sinatra, "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'." That was a biggie.

[00:29:19.63] JOE GALLOWAY: It was the worst song in the world.

[00:29:28.12] Battalion--

[00:29:29.26] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir.

[00:29:30.16] JOE GALLOWAY: --come November--

[00:29:31.75] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir.

[00:29:33.61] JOE GALLOWAY: --is sent out on the first big operation really.

[00:29:38.32] BUD ALLEY: Before that, right before that, things are getting hot up in this area near the Cambodian border. We had one of our brigades up there. I believe it's our 1st Brigade was up there first, along with our 9th Cavalry, had been up there. And they kept stumbling around--

[00:29:59.44] JOE GALLOWAY: Stumbling around, and stumbling into people.

[00:30:01.84] BUD ALLEY: Yes.

[00:30:02.83] JOE GALLOWAY: Had a few good fights.

[00:30:04.52] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. And so things are heating up. And less than a week before, we get orders to go into that area. Things are heating up. Our S3, my boss, Barney Gill, gets reassigned. He bails. Major Malay, our XO, he gets reassigned to brigade S3. And our colonel gets relieved and is replaced by the personnel officer from the division.

[00:30:44.14] JOE GALLOWAY: The G1 for the division.

[00:30:45.48] BUD ALLEY: Yes, G1. And along with him came General Canard's pilot, Frank Henry, who had just made major. So we have a whole new staff. S1, S2-- I'm sorry, the S1 was George Johnson. He was constant the whole year.

[00:31:02.95] S2 was new. Mike Callum moved up from Delta Company. Major Jim Spires came in from MACV duty to replace Barney Gill. And we had a new S4. We had a new 2, 3, and 4, a new XO, and a new CO.

[00:31:22.24] And we're missing two company commanders, and five second lieutenant platoon leaders were all out sick. This is all before-- this is a few days--

[00:31:30.65] JOE GALLOWAY: This is a few days before you're going out on a major operation.

[00:31:34.37] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir.

[00:31:35.20] JOE GALLOWAY: Who figured that out?

[00:31:37.45] BUD ALLEY: I'm not sure it ever got figured out. But the word came, and we saddled up, and off we went. When our brigade went up to take over the 1st Brigade's areas of operation, our brigade wanted to be different.

[00:31:56.03] So instead of having the same areas-- geographic areas-- we came up with three different ones-- Lime, Maroon, and I can't remember what the other one was. But there were three different areas. And Hal Moore's group, his battalion had, I believe, it was LZ-- they had area of operation Lime, we had Maroon. We were not even on the same maps, because I had to draw the maps only for our area of operation. You couldn't draw them for your other area.

[00:32:29.11] So we find ourselves out there going into this major situation, and it's exciting. The helicopters are buzzing, adrenaline's flowing, and the load masters are grabbing people, and putting you on helicopters, and going in. And we go in, and we happen to hit a cold LZ-- it's nice, it's quiet.

[00:32:55.45] Our new colonel said, well, take everything you normally take under your old fella. The old fella was an old mech infantry guy, and he took everything to the field. So we take two radio Jeeps, we take generators, we've got a whole-- GP tents. We've got everything but the sink out there-- at our LZ.

[00:33:20.62] JOE GALLOWAY: And a drunk cook.

[00:33:21.37] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, and a couple of cooks, and one of them drunk. But that was our first LZ, LZ Atlanta. And it was cold for us. But we're stringing wire, and telephone wires, and everything just like the other guy wanted-- got generators running, lights.

[00:33:48.97] So that's where we were. And Hal Moore was in another area. And a day later he goes into an area that stepped in the hornet's nest. And we were scattered in a whole different area of operation. We didn't have maps-- didn't know where they were in relation to us, or anything.

[00:34:08.27] JOE GALLOWAY: But you knew it was going down.

[00:34:10.18] BUD ALLEY: We heard it going down because we had the radios on the squawk box. And I had a log net set up. And we're monitoring the brigade frequencies on the squawk boxes. And we could hear the uh-oh. It ain't good.

[00:34:28.75] And actually, for a while, I was relaying their log request because we couldn't get the am log net going well all the way back to Camp Holloway. But I could get through on my am from our area.

[00:34:46.75] So we did that for a few hours, trying to get them supplies in and monitoring that-- needing ammo, and needing help. And then our Bravo Company was a brigade reserve, and they got committed late that afternoon.

[00:35:03.78] So then we have Delta Company, which is a specialized company, and Alpha Company, and Charlie Company. Charlie Company has a brand new CO-- joined us in the field. He had just taken over his company.

[00:35:17.76] JOE GALLOWAY: Fesmire.

[00:35:18.45] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir. Again, a good guy. And he had a new XO, Don Cornett, who was probably the most experienced first lieutenant-- he just made first lieutenant. And so we were down to three companies in our headquarters gaggle that we had with all the equipment and everything.

[00:35:40.47] And then Bravo Company got in and got things-- helped them out. But the fight kept going. And the next thing you know, they committed our Alpha Company. So A Company goes in by air.

[00:35:53.94] So now we're out there where we are, there's nothing going on. But we're down to the specialized Delta Company and our Charlie Company. And later that afternoon, on the 15th-- yeah, 15th-- we get ordered in. Charlie Company's going in.

[00:36:14.68] So what was left was going to be-- Major Henry stayed back with Delta Company and the headquarters elements.

[00:36:22.00] JOE GALLOWAY: And a lot of equipment.

[00:36:23.55] BUD ALLEY: With the equipment, except for me and John Howard. And I took four radio operators because they needed radio operators and they needed medics. And we hike in. We leave with Charlie Company. And they drop us off at a LZ to try to walk in. And we hit the rivers so we can't get across.

[00:36:45.21] So we're moving back and forth all day on the 15th trying to get into the battle, and can't do it. So they finally drop us into LZ Columbus late that evening, and we--

[00:36:55.98] JOE GALLOWAY: They had dropped you on the other side of the river?

[00:36:58.89] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. And we make a feint out of LZ Columbus right at dark. And hunker down there overnight, and go in overland from the northeast corner. We go into LZ X-ray on the morning of the 16th. And we get--

[00:37:17.19] JOE GALLOWAY: This is 16 November--

[00:37:18.72] BUD ALLEY: 16 November.



[00:37:19.83] JOE GALLOWAY: '65.

[00:37:20.22] BUD ALLEY: And we-- '65. And we take casualties going in, because the ARAs see movement going in from up there, and all the action is going down over there on the mountain base. And we're coming up almost 180 degrees, they think it's--

[00:37:35.46] JOE GALLOWAY: They gave you a few rockets just to warm you up.

[00:37:37.71] BUD ALLEY: They did. They did. And we had a couple of guys injured-- none killed. But got it straightened out, and--

[00:37:45.96] JOE GALLOWAY: Good thing, too.

[00:37:47.07] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Yeah. And so that was my first-- we walk across that opening after that little copse of trees where Moore's and your CP was out there. And we get there and it's-- I mean, the napalm's still going heavy over on the mountain side over there. And we're trying to get oriented. And my eyes are bigger than saucers, I'm sure, while all that's going on.

[00:38:21.51] And I jumped down in the foxhole and took over the radio for-- that was at that time still 1st of the 7th's command net. And then a couple of hours go by and they get things settled down. And they turn the battlefield over to Colonel McDade.

[00:38:43.80] And the napalm stops-- and things are calmed down. And they eventually pull Moore and his group, plus our Bravo Company and one platoon of A Company out, leaving us there on the battlefield. And I remember one incident that was real poignant to me as things had gotten quiet there before everybody had left. Everything was calm, and so I walked down out to the perimeter and walked over to-- I guess it was Captain-- was it Captain Herron that was killed?

[00:39:24.30] JOE GALLOWAY: Lieutenant Herron was killed.

[00:39:26.46] BUD ALLEY: OK. Well, there was a company commander who was killed. Was it Metsker?

[00:39:31.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Metsker had been the G2.

[00:39:34.92] BUD ALLEY: One of the company commanders had been killed--

[00:39:36.72] JOE GALLOWAY: S2.

[00:39:37.15] BUD ALLEY: --and George Jennings had taken over as executive officer, and he had taken over. And George had been with me at Fort Benning back when I first got there. So I just knew him and I walked over and-- just, that was my first real smell and everything.

[00:39:55.59] And I am talking to George, he's sitting on the edge of his foxhole, tears just running down his eyes and his face, and he's got the stare. And he says, yeah, they're all dead. And I'm not sure what company it was that George had taken over.

[00:40:16.47] JOE GALLOWAY: I'm trying to remember. And I don't even think we had a company commander wounded, much less killed.

[00:40:24.81] BUD ALLEY: I thought it was one that was killed, but--

[00:40:26.97] JOE GALLOWAY: The only one killed out of the captains was Metsker.

[00:40:31.35] BUD ALLEY: OK.

[00:40:31.86] JOE GALLOWAY: --and he was S2.

[00:40:33.75] BUD ALLEY: Maybe he was wounded. Do you happen to know--

[00:40:36.09] JOE GALLOWAY: There may have been a wounded one, which is a Bob Edwards.

[00:40:40.53] BUD ALLEY: OK.

[00:40:41.22] JOE GALLOWAY: Charlie Company was wounded rather badly. And then they were pulled off that section of the line. They may have put George in charge of that company. But it was not that much of the company left at that point-- half?

[00:40:57.69] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, wasn't much.

[00:40:58.88] JOE GALLOWAY: They'd taken 50 casualties-- killed and wounded.

[00:41:02.55] BUD ALLEY: But I remember distinctly talking to George, and then him just saying, they're all dead. And he had just said that total-- you know, the shark's eyes, that stare of shock or total disbelief. And they could look right through you.

[00:41:23.80] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. There were a lot of folks had those eyes. A lot in your outfit going to.

[00:41:32.16] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Yeah.

[00:41:34.48] JOE GALLOWAY: So you guys take over the LZ and you spend the night on X-ray.

[00:41:39.07] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir. Waiting for an attack. Because the battle's been going on three days out there.

[00:41:46.59] JOE GALLOWAY: It has.

[00:41:47.07] BUD ALLEY: Dead people all over the place. And of course, we hadn't slept in two nights either. And everybody's geared up, waiting for the attack that never came.

[00:41:58.54] JOE GALLOWAY: Tell me about the next day.

[00:42:01.51] BUD ALLEY: Next morning, we get a radio call for the six. And we're all standing there, and we've got the squawk box on. And Spires is there, and Henry had gotten out there, and McDade.

[00:42:18.52] And a call came in for six said, we've got a situation that we need you to be beyond coordinates X, Y, Z by noon. This is 8:30, 9:00 o'clock in the morning. It's hot as hell. The guys are cleaning up the battlefield. All the leftover guns, and bullets, and helmets, and everything that you police up. When are they picking us up? They're not. You gotta walk out.

[00:42:54.26] But, by then, there was another battalion in there had come in. Bob Tully's battalion had come in. And so there were two battalions on the LZ at that time. And the deal was, take one battalion to LZ Columbus, and you guys in the 2nd/7, just follow them to Columbus. And then y'all break off and go up to the spot on the ground called LZ Albany.

[00:43:23.42] And so this is a hurried up deal. You've got seven kilometers to go through jungle that nobody's recon'd or seen or-- and we got three maps. The only maps we've got of this area now, are the ones that Colonel Moore's unit had left us on the battlefield.

[00:43:43.28] You've got a brand new recon platoon leader. Pat Payne had taken over as recon from Jim Lawrence, the week before we left to go out there. So we had a lot of newness.

[00:43:57.53] All of a sudden the pressure of having to go from point A to point B to point C-- nobody knows where point C really is-- and they hastily say, how are we going to move. We're gonna do column of twos.

[00:44:11.93] So it's real quick. Recon will be in front with Alpha Company-- since they already were missing a platoon-- and followed by Delta Company, who had a couple of platoons out there. Followed by Charlie Company, and followed by the rear of an attached A, 1st of the 5th-- was attached to us under George Forrest.

[00:44:35.40] So we've got Fesmire, who doesn't know his lieutenants-- Joel Sugdinis, who is a fairly new company commander to his unit, but really a good, good leader-- a good CO. And then you had Hank Thorpe, who-- his company was so bastardized, they were specialized-- but it wasn't really a combat company as far as platoons and stuff.

[00:45:09.44] JOE GALLOWAY: He was what company-- D?

[00:45:11.06] BUD ALLEY: Delta Company.

[00:45:11.42] JOE GALLOWAY: He was Delta.

[00:45:12.10] BUD ALLEY: Uh-huh. And the deal was that, OK, well what happens if anybody hits us, Dan? Well, Charlie Company will take care of you. Charlie Company was supposed to fall back and form a perimeter around headquarters. And then George Forrest was dragging the rear. And that was as much a plan as there was. Follow the man in front of you.

[00:45:38.48] What about water? What you got-- carry what you got. We didn't get any water resupply that morning. What about all this equipment that's out here? Well, carry what you can, blow up what you can't. So of course, we had a couple of engineers with us that knew how to blow some stuff up. The rest of us didn't know what the hell we were blowing up, or dealing with.

[00:46:08.54] And it's hurry up because you got to get the hell out of there, because there's B-52 strikes coming in right where you're standing. So that was pretty good motivation. And oh, by the way, there was an A-1E went down on LZ X-ray. And en route to LZ Columbus, when it stops, Alley, you take a couple of people and go in and see if there's any commo stuff in that plane that needs to be gotten out. And so off we go, column of twos, following the guy in front.

[00:46:46.71] And finally, they stop and call me up front and said, it's out there. And you could see the silver through the foliage. And I took Sergeant Fred Jenkins with me. And we went out there and climbed up on the part of the wing and looked inside. And it was all stripped out.

[00:47:07.44] JOE GALLOWAY: Nobody in it?

[00:47:08.25] BUD ALLEY: Nobody in it. Nope. It had done been picked clean, whatever, whoever did it, I don't know. But it was empty when we got there.

[00:47:20.22] JOE GALLOWAY: Well, it was the enemy that cleaned it out, because I saw that bird go down on the first day-- the first noon. That guy went in with the plane.

[00:47:34.28] BUD ALLEY: Well, when I got there, there was nothing in there in the way of equipment and stuff. It was--

[00:47:41.12] JOE GALLOWAY: Radios, everything had been pulled?

[00:47:42.21] BUD ALLEY: It was all gone. It was all gone. So I climbed down and we go back, and go on a little ways. And next thing you know-- this column is starting and stopping, starting and stopping, because you've got roughly 700 people trying to move--

[00:47:59.36] JOE GALLOWAY: The hydraulics are bad.

[00:48:00.84] BUD ALLEY: They are real bad. And finally, we stop for a few minutes. And we peel off-- we start moving in a different direction. We apparently have gotten to LZ Columbus, and Tully's unit dropped off there.

[00:48:24.00] Now, why in the world-- there's a big landing zone-- why in the world didn't both of the units go? Why do we split our force in the face of an enemy? Even though they told us that

the enemy had all gone-- they'd all gone back to Cambodia. We whipped them good at X-ray, and there wasn't any in the area.

[00:48:45.37] But, nevertheless, we split our force. And the strongest force was Tully's. And we were the weakest in numbers, not to mention experience. We go out to this unknown spot on the map called LZ Albany.

[00:49:03.25] And again, it was starting and stopping, starting and stopping, and hot as Hades. You're in elephant grass one minute and the next you're in triple canopy jungle. And it's dark, in the next it's light, so you're very disoriented that whole time. And we're in a column of twos.

[00:49:25.78] So John Howard and I are on the eastern side of the column with our bunch. On the western side the column is Dan Doone, our S4, Roger Knopf, and Doc Shucart. All the captains are on one side and John and I are over here, the second lieutenants-- the most green second lieutenants in the whole bunch were over on the right.

[00:49:54.25] John had a few of his medics and I had few of my guys. And my support guys were over on the side with Dan Boone and his guys.

[00:50:07.66] JOE GALLOWAY: There's not much distance between you, is there?

[00:50:10.63] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, it's 50 or 100 meters. You can't see each other. I mean, you don't hear each other. You just know they're there over yonder somewhere and they're following somebody just like you're following somebody.

[00:50:23.95] And we stop, finally. And it's, I don't know, one o'clock, thereabouts. And we stop. And I guess we're there. Drop packs-- guys in front all stop. John and I sit and smoke a cigarette. And what's going on? Guess we're there.

[00:50:46.45] Word comes back that all the company commanders need to go up forward. So company commanders, I guess, are going forward. John and I sitting back there wondering if we're there yet the. Did the bombs ever drop? Did you ever hear any of that? And John said, well, I think I did. I never did hear the bombs drop.

[00:51:06.82] And so we're just sitting there shooting the breeze, and I think I had a can of peaches or something. We were sharing, guys were eating, smoking, talking. Pujals comes back-- what's going on? We don't know, and he takes on off to wherever he's going again.

[00:51:28.12] And all of a sudden, there's some shooting starts way up front-- there's a word comes back. It's maybe-- you can barely hear it, the faintest little firecracker sound. Somebody said, oh recon. Word comes back-- recon. Recon has hit an ambush, and they want Charlie Company to move on the line to roll up the ambush.

[00:51:50.23] And by now, everybody's getting their packs on and eyes getting big again, and adrenaline flowing. And the shooting starts coming back down the column on our side. And it's in elephant grass, and it's in the trees.

[00:52:11.71] And the next thing I know is, Charlie Company takes off-- the people that's in front of us take off to roll up this ambush. And John is right in front of me with his medics, and the next thing you know somebody's hollering, "Medic, medic, medic," as the shooting is now back on top of us. And John barrels out with his medics to answer the calls of medics.

[00:52:38.83] And there I am-- I'm like what-- It ain't a good place to be, and you can't stand around. So I'm trying to get-- move up with Charlie Company's guys, and move my guys. Come on. Get up here. And from there it went down hill.

[00:52:58.03] JOE GALLOWAY: Badly.

[00:52:58.78] BUD ALLEY: Badly. They were-- I got past John at some point. The visibility was so bad you couldn't have command and control. You couldn't see the guy on your left and right.

[00:53:14.44] And you're trying to make sure these kids are out there with you, not behind you. And all this going-- and the shooting is coming from all sides-- you were getting it from the trees, from the flanks. It's just-- it's a mess where we are back there.

[00:53:33.36] It turned out, in retrospect, there were three different battles, Joe. There was the Headquarters-- the element of command people with the commanders and the S2, S3 and all that command group up front-- they had a platoon so to speak, with Joel and Alpha Company.

[00:53:54.04] JOE GALLOWAY: And they had Alpha Company and recon platoon.

[00:53:57.76] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. And then there was this huge gap of us. And then back behind, at the end, was George Forrest's company, who-- I'm not sure exactly what position they were in to us, but they were to the west of where I was.

[00:54:17.26] But they ended up getting hunkered down and establishing a perimeter when Forrest got back there to them.

[00:54:25.66] JOE GALLOWAY: Right. Did you see him come through?

[00:54:28.66] BUD ALLEY: No, no. He must have been over on the west side. And we were over here on the east side. And it was, every time you get two or three together, here comes a grenade or automatic weapons fire down on you. We didn't know where they were-- were they in the trees, were they-- and the radios--

[00:54:52.16] JOE GALLOWAY: They were everywhere.

[00:54:52.96] BUD ALLEY: They really were. And it was the 1st of the 33rd that had been the one that hit Pleiku. And they had been in hospital recouping and resupplying and since the Pleiku thing.

[00:55:07.17] So they were in pretty good shape. And they picked up a reinforced transportation platoon. So they had about 500 and something of them. And they were scattered, and they cut us off from behind. And they got between our rear and Forrest's front. They'd gotten in there and were coming--

[00:55:31.66] JOE GALLOWAY: Somewhere in there was a full battalion of the 66th NVA Regiment.

[00:55:35.80] BUD ALLEY: They were coming from the other-- the 8th of the 66th was coming back from X-ray, and they were over on the western side. And they were attacking from the west. And this gaggle, the 33rd was-- yeah. So we were kind of caught in between.

[00:56:00.73] And nobody knew where the landing zone was. Nobody knew where anybody was. Where is everybody? And the radios had gotten shot up. And somebody, their mic got shot and keyed, and blocks the frequencies. And it was just a mess.

[00:56:25.12] Late. Butch Aull got down to me, or stumbled onto to me, right as we were being strafed. And I said, Butch, where do we go. He said, this way. And so, by now, we end up with maybe 10 or 12 guys around us that we'd-- fierce in the grass.

[00:56:50.93] And so we started to move that way, and Butch gets killed. And he gets lost, and then he gets hit and must have been killed instantly because he never-- never heard-- made a sound. He was gone. And I couldn't find him. I crawled around in there looking at him.

[00:57:10.24] In the meantime, the rest of these guys are like a covey of quail. They're scared and they just-- pfft.

[00:57:15.90] JOE GALLOWAY: Mm.

[00:57:17.74] BUD ALLEY: So it's a matter of trying to pick back up, and at that time the napalm's coming in the way we're supposed to be moving and stuff. And it ain't looking really-- I don't believe we need to go that way, and don't believe we need to go that way.

[00:57:30.98] And so I'm crawling around trying to get some people and end up in a ditch. A little ditch-- and there's some wounded guys in there. And we're trying to figure out what the heck to do. We can hear them by now. We can hear the NVA executing our wounded guys, because you can hear them screaming-- all of a sudden you hear a bang, and the screaming stops.

[00:58:03.04] So you can't stay where you are. You can't find any friendlies anywhere, and I got five wounded guys. And about that time, I'm hearing some artillery start from way off. And I can hear the artillery coming overhead. And I figure maybe we can-- maybe we can make it over to where the artillery is firing from.

[00:58:28.45] And we took most of the evening and dark. And we couldn't go in, we could tell we had gotten outside the perimeter, so we--

[00:58:41.44] JOE GALLOWAY: Just you and John Howard.

[00:58:43.03] BUD ALLEY: No, not John. John was lost to me. John-- I never saw John till the next morning. I had no idea where John was or anything.

[00:58:55.24] JOE GALLOWAY: I thought you and he were together.

[00:58:57.22] BUD ALLEY: No, we started out-- and then when he went out to answer the call for medics and I joined up with Charlie Company, we went past John. He was back here with wounded guys, and he and some of his medics and some of my headquarters guys--

[00:59:10.99] JOE GALLOWAY: How did he get out?

[00:59:12.55] BUD ALLEY: Well, he got out the same way I did.

[00:59:15.19] JOE GALLOWAY: He-- but by himself?

[00:59:17.59] BUD ALLEY: No, he brought eight more wounded guys with him. So he had eight, but he went one way-- I'd gone another way.

[00:59:29.08] JOE GALLOWAY: But you both ended up at Columbus.

[00:59:32.08] BUD ALLEY: Columbus. And that night, we could hear him-- I got my guys and we're sitting there with their heads in my lap, and we were in the brush grass, at the time. And you can hear things, and you can hear the artillery shells being changed out and firing-- and they're just red hot. And you can hear the little sounds in the bush and stuff, and you don't know if that's a lion or a mouse.

[01:00:03.88] You know, by now, we're just here. If somebody steps on us, we're going to be dead. And we managed to last through that till dawn. And I left them-- I got them behind a berm. And I went around about 200 or 300 yards around the perimeter, and crawled up as close as I could and hollered at them to get an officer over here.

[01:00:31.40] By then, the guys were-- I could see the foxholes. And word goes around, and finally Jim Brigham, my shipmate, was at LZ Columbus. And he came down there, and I recognized Jim.

[01:00:48.61] And I said, Jim, I'm gonna stand up here. I'm gonna let you see me. And I said I got wounded guys, I got to go back. But you make sure nobody's shooting on this perimeter, because I got to go find my guys.

[01:01:01.45] And so Jim identified me and got the word out. And I went back and got our guys and brought them around to where Jim was, because I wasn't going to take any chances. And we started in-- as we're starting in, one of our guys hits a damn trip flare. And that thing pops and goes off and the-- (whooshing sound) --smoke. Of course, we all just hit the ground and I'm like, oh god I'm dead.



[01:01:33.27] And they didn't fire at us. And we got back up. And then they came running out and helped us get up and get in. And I'm in with Jim, and he's taking me over to the CP. And about that time, I hear some rhubarb coming in from another direction. And it's John-- and he's got Leon Callyer and several other of his medics, and--

[01:01:59.97] JOE GALLOWAY: Who had Jim Gooden.

[01:02:02.10] BUD ALLEY: I did.

[01:02:02.85] JOE GALLOWAY: You did.

[01:02:03.31] BUD ALLEY: I did. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

[01:02:06.12] JOE GALLOWAY: Lucky you.

[01:02:06.87] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir. But anyway, they give us a cup of coffee, and god, I'm shaking so bad the coffee won't stay in the cup. And so the medics come over and said, sir, drop your pants for a minute. And they pop me in the butt with something, I don't know what it was.

[01:02:29.37] JOE GALLOWAY: Morphine, probably.

[01:02:31.59] BUD ALLEY: And they take me and take John, and drop us on a helicopter that had come in, was taking wounded. So we go from Columbus back to a place that I've never seen called Camp Holloway.

[01:02:47.03] JOE GALLOWAY: Holloway was Pleiku.

[01:02:48.48] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, but I'd never been there. And so we get there, and our S1 is there. And Orrin Brown, one of our support-- assistant 4 was there. And they're hugging me and we're-- get over here to the medic tent.

[01:03:07.48] And we get there, and we're like, where's headquarters? We've got to tell somebody. As far as we know, we're the only guys alive out of this thing. All the rest of our guys must be dead. And so I'm trying to report. And I'm just, John, we've got to report.

[01:03:30.78] And so we go back and tell George Johnson, can you get us to wherever the headquarters is, we've got to report. They get us on a chopper and fly us out to the tea plantation which is where brigade was. Hell, I didn't know what brigade was at that time.

[01:03:46.92] But we get there, and we go in to report. Now, we're still a mess. I mean, we got blood all over us. And hadn't shaved in three or four days, and dirt, and-- and we walk in, and here's Major Malay, who had been our executive officer. The guy that John Howard got relieved over putting the mess hall in. And I wasn't one of his favorites either.

[01:04:10.11] And he looks at us and, what the hell are you doing here? You two guys are a disgrace?

[01:04:17.67] JOE GALLOWAY: He was the disgrace.

[01:04:19.32] BUD ALLEY: And John and I, neither one can hear much at that time. And we look at each other like, well, what have we done wrong? Sir, we're here-- show us a map. We know where they are. And we're, I guess, babbling, to the point he says-- gets one of the NCOs to show them a map, and then you two guys get the hell out of here.

[01:04:44.16] So we find out on a map. And yep, that's where they are. And they're all around us. And we could hear them in the night and things moving and everything. They're all over the damn place. So John and I are escorted out. We looked at each other, go get on a helicopter, and go back to Camp Holloway. As far as we knew, we did what we were supposed to do. We reported.

[01:05:08.19] And then you told me later-- that years later, that they did attack Columbus. That we did hear people moving around us that night.

[01:05:17.82] JOE GALLOWAY: You bet. They pulled an attack the next morning.

[01:05:21.81] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. And we just got in between them.

[01:05:23.70] JOE GALLOWAY: They were moving a battalion into position to attack, and they just attacked the wrong clearing. Because they had all those-- two batteries of 105s. And they just cranked them down and laid the flechettes to them. They ate them up.

[01:05:43.17] BUD ALLEY: So--

[01:05:45.60] JOE GALLOWAY: That was a short lived battle.

[01:05:48.93] BUD ALLEY: So we get cleaned up-- John and I get cleaned up. I crash till the next morning, and now it's the 19th, and I'm trying to get out to our battalion, and we can't get a helicopter out. Make sure I got my days right-- it wasn't the 18th, it was the 19th when they moved-- they finally-- they kept our battalion out there in the field. The-- what was left.

[01:06:22.04] JOE GALLOWAY: The 18th.

[01:06:22.95] BUD ALLEY: The 18th and 19th. And then late--

[01:06:25.83] JOE GALLOWAY: Part of the 19th.

[01:06:26.40] BUD ALLEY: Late on the 19th, they moved them to LZ Crook. And by then they had gotten a part of the 1st of the 5th-- the Comanche-- I think it was the 5th-- had gotten out there to help them with the perimeter at LZ Crook.

[01:06:50.19] And so that's when I joined, I was able to get back out, was at LZ Crook. That late afternoon, they had just gotten there and were setting up a perimeter there. And unbeknownst to

me, somebody by the name of Rescorla had stumbled across a bugle at LZ X-ray. I don't know it-- they're out there, they're the outer perimeter, I'm the inner perimeter.

[01:07:21.32] JOE GALLOWAY: They just stumbled across that bugle at Albany, I believe.

[01:07:28.13] BUD ALLEY: OK. Anyway, there's this bugle and I don't know anything about it. And I'm there the night of the 19th, we're in a strange place, I got a foxhole dug so deep I get home almost out of it. And I got my grenades all laying-- because I ain't gonna take no more chances.

[01:07:50.70] And so night passes. And all of a sudden, at just about dawn, I hear this frigging bugle blow.

[01:08:02.12] [JOE LAUGHING]

[01:08:03.43] This god-awful sound of a wounded buffalo or something.

[01:08:08.34] JOE GALLOWAY: That's it.

[01:08:09.29] BUD ALLEY: God, it sounded terrible. And then all hell breaks loose. All hell breaks loose, everything. I'm like, oh shit.

[01:08:18.60] JOE GALLOWAY: Mad minute.

[01:08:18.93] BUD ALLEY: I've come back out, and I'm getting killed--

[01:08:21.73] JOE GALLOWAY: You're gonna get killed again.

[01:08:23.32] BUD ALLEY: I made it one time and I'm gonna get killed. And this is just, everybody's firing everything. I'm ready now, I'm in my foxhole, and I got my rifle, I got my grenades, and I'm just waiting for them to come across that little opening from the outer perimeter to where we are.

[01:08:43.44] And everything's going on, and I look over to my left, and here's Jim Spires and Frank Henry standing there drinking a cup of coffee.

[01:08:52.08] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[01:08:56.98] JOE GALLOWAY: It ain't World War Three if those guys are slurping coffee.

[01:09:04.20] BUD ALLEY: And that's when I learned about mad minutes.

[01:09:07.06] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. But you had come back to a battalion that had been just destroyed.

[01:09:14.07] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, there weren't but 50 or 75--

[01:09:17.70] JOE GALLOWAY: --guys left out of 120 or 130.

[01:09:23.86] BUD ALLEY: And most of it was Bravo Company. But they left us out there the 18th and 19th to police our own dead-- to police our own battlefield. And my speculation is that they kept us out there because the press was all over Camp Halloway area.

[01:09:43.48] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. Including yours truly.

[01:09:47.52] BUD ALLEY: And they didn't want somebody asking questions about what's this all about?

[01:09:56.22] JOE GALLOWAY: They thought they had it hid. But it's kind of hard to hide 155 dead boys.

[01:10:04.80] BUD ALLEY: Yes, it is. And they are still with us, they're still alive.

[01:10:12.42] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. So many good men.

[01:10:16.29] BUD ALLEY: You still, I still hear them, I still see their faces. Yeah. And they'll always be there. And-- it's-- it's one of those things where you sit, and you second guess, and you second guess, and you second guess. You try to say, why me? How did I make it? Why did I live and the good ones die?

[01:10:58.49] JOE GALLOWAY: There's no answer to it.

[01:11:00.17] BUD ALLEY: What could I have done? Should have done this, and should have done that. And you just play these over and over.

[01:11:08.21] JOE GALLOWAY: But there's nothing gained by that. They're all gone, and they stay gone, and you have no responsibility beyond what you did. You saved as many as you could. You know that and I know that, Bud Alley.

[01:11:26.98] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. It's hard to accept. You just feel like you're something else-- something more I coulda, shoulda. And yeah, realistically Joe, yeah-- I did all that I could humanly do. The one guy that I still see every night, this guy named Garret Lee. And he's the one I couldn't save.

[01:11:54.62] He's the one that was shot up so bad I couldn't-- he was a big guy. And I tried, and tried--

[01:12:00.08] JOE GALLOWAY: --couldn't carry him.

[01:12:01.22] BUD ALLEY: I couldn't carry him. He was so bloody I couldn't pick him up. He was so slippery, and he was in so much pain. And he would gain consciousness, and hell, I didn't know what to do for him. I had no bandages left. I had nothing to do but try to hold onto him and-- and that's the one that's my ghost.

[01:12:29.91] JOE GALLOWAY: Mm. Well, he knows what you tried to do.

[01:12:40.76] BUD ALLEY: Yeah. Yeah.

[01:12:42.50] JOE GALLOWAY: You did all you could, Bud. Oh mercy. Well, you and what was left of the battalion still had a half a year to do in Vietnam.

[01:13:04.87] BUD ALLEY: We did. We did.

[01:13:08.20] JOE GALLOWAY: There were other battles?

[01:13:09.61] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir.

[01:13:10.87] JOE GALLOWAY: None of them like that one.

[01:13:12.43] BUD ALLEY: Almost. Almost. Bong Son.

[01:13:16.42] JOE GALLOWAY: Mm-hm.

[01:13:18.23] BUD ALLEY: I came down with malaria a week after the la Drang-- and spent six weeks in a hospital in Okinawa, came back, got back the night before we left to go to Bong Son operation. That was Masher White Wing. And we went over to the airfield, loaded up on fixed wings-- and flew down the coast.

[01:13:39.25] One plane behind me flew into the mountain-- 49 men died. We hadn't even started anything. We move out on the perimeter, getting ready to jump off on the operation the next day. And finally, at about dark, they're bringing chow out. Chow comes out, and word comes out that they've decided to add this-- make this a multinational battle.

[01:14:06.79] So the Vietnamese are now going to have two battalions. And they're going to be assigned to your right flank. Colonel McDade looks at Captain Spires, who looks at-- around for a lieutenant, and I'm the only one there. And he says, Alley, get your RTO and get on this helicopter and go back to brigade. They'll tell you where to go.

[01:14:32.38] JOE GALLOWAY: You're going to be the liaison?

[01:14:33.60] BUD ALLEY: I'm the liaison.

[01:14:35.23] JOE GALLOWAY: To the ARVN.

[01:14:36.09] BUD ALLEY: To the ARVN. On the right of the Street without Joy-- Highway 1, running up. So I go back, and they said, go over there. And by now it's getting dark. And I go there, and that's where they're all bivouacked-- go there and find the captain's with him.

[01:14:54.70] So I go over there and I walk in the tent. And this big guy looks at me and he says, you're with us? I said, yes sir, I'm supposed to report here to be a liaison. He's said, well, good. He said, I'm Pete Dawkins.

[01:15:09.04] JOE GALLOWAY: I'll be damned.

[01:15:12.10] BUD ALLEY: Just call me Pete. And so he and I then spend the next 3 and 1/2 days in a world of hurt.

[01:15:24.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Sorting it all out.

[01:15:26.53] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, with him over on that-- with them over there, and our guys end up in a deep mess, too. So we were on this way and our guys were over that way, and it was raining, and foggy, and all those things that happened.

[01:15:49.03] And there were, I think, there were four Americans there with the ARVN 1st Airborne Battalion. It was Dawkins and his radio operator and me and my radio operator. And we were trying to marry up with-- their other battalion had come in by sea, and we're trying to marry up. So it was a shooting match all over the place.

[01:16:13.24] JOE GALLOWAY: A mess.

[01:16:14.20] BUD ALLEY: It was. And there were others after that but none as bad as those two. I learned. I'm a slow learner.

[01:16:33.95] The men that I was with-- the situation-- and you look back, and here I came back home by myself. The air strike-- there was an airstrike on. I didn't experience the disrespect that some of the Soldiers did. I came back and got out of the Army at Oakland Army Station. And flew out of the air terminal back to the-- took 24 hours to fly back to Charleston, where I met Caroline and my sister had come down to pick me up.

[01:17:13.04] But I'm interviewing for jobs, and I can't sleep at night. I'm single, I'm not married yet, but I can't-- there's something missing. And I'm interviewing people that want to interview you for a sales job to sell flashlight batteries. And, you think you're capable of doing that?

[01:17:38.18] And when I left, I'd been in charge of feeding 400 and something men. The responsibility of a platoon of nearly 40 men, their lives, and everything. And they were responsible for all that equipment and everything, then they're wanting to ask me can I sell flashlight batteries? There's a disconnect.

[01:18:02.90] JOE GALLOWAY: There's a disconnect there somewhere.

[01:18:06.02] BUD ALLEY: So I ended up taking a job selling empty boxes.

[01:18:17.06] The best days were getting in and getting back, and finding that your buddies didn't get killed. Finding that they were OK. Finding that Larry Gwin, who'd gotten shot, didn't

get killed. He didn't end up being evacuated forever. Getting back and finding that Jim Lawrence has come back from getting shot in the head.

[01:18:50.18] To me, those were the best feelings of-- knowing that OK, well, my guy-- he stepped on a Punji stick, but he's going to be OK. My radio operator got lightly winged, but he's OK. Couple of bandages and he's OK-- he's not hurt. Best days were knowing that we'd made it through another day.

[01:19:25.20] During all of it, when I was in the hospital there was a MARS unit set up where you could do a telephone call like once a week or something. So I would get to call Caroline. And she would be over at my dad's-- at our house. And it was just, "I love you, honey. Over."

[01:19:46.65] JOE GALLOWAY: Over.

[01:19:47.07] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[01:19:48.38]

[01:19:49.68] BUD ALLEY: And so we got to do that a couple times. And then I had one other time, when I was in Saigon, I got on a MARS call there too and was able to call home.

[01:20:02.70] JOE GALLOWAY: Otherwise, letters.

[01:20:03.75] BUD ALLEY: Letters. Letters. Letters every day. Sometimes two. And I kept them. Caroline kept every one of my letters. And I've got all those letters chronologically, so I could tell what I did or what I was thinking on any-- just about that whole-- including on the boat. And my dad kept all the letters I wrote to him. And I've got all them chronologically. So I could do a lot of reconstructing of things during those 12 months.

[01:20:46.49] We had a change of command ceremony about the 28th or 27th, somewhere around there, July. We were outside-- we were doing road duty outside Pleiku on Highway 14. And we got a new battalion commander. And it was a Sunday morning. And this new battalion commander said-- it was almost dark-- he said, I want to see how this unit is going to move.

[01:21:12.11] And I'm the only old hand there by now. And Doc Shucart was there still. John had long gone. And it's a rainy day, it's monsoon again, and we had to move around the back side of this mountain, just purely because the colonel wants to see how we move. And we make the move.

[01:21:42.21] It was just about dark, it's muddy. The guys are trying to dig in an inner perimeter. I've had to put a radio relay up on top of a mountain, and a platoon up there to guard them. There's an old French outpost up there.

[01:22:01.31] And so it's pouring down rain. And one of our medics had borrowed the machete and was running to make a little clearing and impaled himself on it. About that time, a Chinook comes in, sees our lights, hears our motion, lands in the middle of our landing zone.

[01:22:22.87] It's two young warrant officers. They are lost.

[01:22:32.43] JOE GALLOWAY: They're lost. They just landed on your lights.

[01:22:36.47] BUD ALLEY: And it's pouring down rain, and they come. And about that time, Doc comes out of the tent saying, look, if I don't get this guy into a hospital to operate, he's going to be dead. And the warrant officers said, oh, we can fly him. So--

[01:22:54.53] JOE GALLOWAY: We don't know where we are, but we can fly him out.

[01:22:57.02] BUD ALLEY: So Doc Shucart and a couple of his medics, and the one that's injured, and the crew from the-- they get on the Chinook. And I'm on the radio. And about now, it's raining-- worse than a cow peeing on a flat rock. And I'm on the radio, with my radio relay, telling them we're getting ready to fly into the-- Pleiku, to the hospital there. And I don't know what that hospital was there-- 15th Medevac or something.

[01:23:29.55] But anyway, Doc and them are going in. And all of a sudden, bang-- the world comes crashing down-- literally. These guys had gotten up in that Chinook, about 75 feet-- vertigo-- couldn't see. Pulled pitch, flipped that sucker right back over in the middle of the landing zone.

[01:23:52.25] And when it hit, it was just such an explosion. And all I could see was what were these electronic sparks-- look like white phosphorous. I'm looking through the rain and I'm like, oh shit. Somebody is dropping Willy Peter on us.

[01:24:10.37] In the confusion, and finally-- we get it sorted out that it was the chopper. And so we get out there, and getting the people. And we had my Jeeps, and I think we had a 3/4 ton, and might've had one ambulance at that time. And got people on.

[01:24:27.62] And I led-- we were about 12, 14 miles outside of Pleiku. And I was the lead Jeep running cat eyes in-- all the way into II Corps headquarters, with guys strapped to the Jeep. And I spent the night on the porch of II Corps headquarters. And the next morning, I went back out and told that colonel I wasn't going to stay out there anymore. And he said your replacement's not here. And I said, I've got my orders, sir. I can leave any time, and I'm out of here.

[01:24:59.57] And I went back and packed up, and got sent to that compound at Pleiku where they locked everybody up. And whenever the big bird came in, you marched out of the mud and changed your clothes, and got on it to go home. And we got to Oakland that night and found that there was an airline strike on. There was no way to get from California to South Carolina.

[01:25:33.48] And what do we do? Well, the trains are all full. There's no cars to be had-- no rental cars. Some of the NCOs were pooling their money and buying a car. And I'm like, I ain't gonna buy no car to drive.



[01:25:50.38] So they said, well, if you go back to the air terminal, and sit there, they're trying to get the Air National Guard and everybody to come in and fly these missions. But they don't know when they'll be in or what. So I sat there for three days waiting for my turn.

[01:26:07.09] And the deal was, they'd come out and call numbers-- you had to sign up. And nobody would answer for anybody else. So if you were taking a leak and not there when they called your name--

[01:26:17.28] JOE GALLOWAY: Tough.

[01:26:17.59] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, you went to the back of the bus in a hurry. So finally I got on that C-154, the old Globemaster thing-- more air coming through than there was underneath us. And we all got khakis on. And we fly-- and we get to Texas, and we got motor trouble. And so we fly-- from Texas to somewhere in Alabama, and we got some more motor trouble.

[01:26:50.89] Meanwhile, I had called in and said, we're going to be going to Charleston Naval Base. And so my family left South Carolina-- left Greenville-- and drove down to the air base. And they were waiting on me down there.

[01:27:03.58] And by now, a lot of people are coming in to this little air terminal at the air base. And we're here to pick up our family from Vietnam. And guys at the air station said we don't know anything about an airplane coming in. There's storms. There's nothing coming in.

[01:27:26.92] So my fiancé at the time, and my sister went over to visit some friends they had in Charleston. And lo and behold, here came-- our plane came in and landed. And it's raining. And I get out and I got on my Class As. Everybody else is running off and getting hugs and I'm--

[01:27:48.91] JOE GALLOWAY: Nobody there.

[01:27:49.90] BUD ALLEY: Nobody.

[01:27:50.56] [BOTH LAUGHING]

[01:27:55.30] And the tears are just welling up inside. And I'm like-- going through all of this. And finally, somebody walked up and said are you Lieutenant Alley. And I said, yes ma'am. She said, well, your family said to call them at this phone number. So that's how I got home.

[01:28:15.64] JOE GALLOWAY: That's how you got home. A belated welcome, but better than none.

[01:28:20.02] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir. Got married 13 days later. And that was 49 years ago in three days.

[01:28:31.89] I did, and was trying to be a husband, trying to learn how to be a business person, and get on with a life. And same time, still got the nightmares. And I drank heavy for a while. Self-medication I guess. But my wife, bless her heart, put up with it and stayed with me. And

things worked through that and kids came along and life got-- now had other obligations that took your mind off some of those nightmares.

[01:29:17.43] But it was not until I got on medication in 1992 that I was ever able to sleep with the light off or the television not on. I just couldn't be in the dark by myself. But finally in 1992, a doctor that I was going to for some arthritis, put me to a psychiatrist. And she started treating me.

[01:29:45.75] I had been to the VA, and they said, no, you had a haircut and a job. Nothing wrong with you.

[01:29:51.22] JOE GALLOWAY: Nothing's wrong with you.

[01:29:56.32] BUD ALLEY: So I was able-- I had insurance and fortunately I was able to get the medical help. And finally was able to get-- in 2001, I was finally able to get in the VA system. And it's still a balancing act-- every day.

[01:30:26.77] In the last couple of years, I've gotten involved with a VVA group. And just came back as a delegate to their national convention three weeks ago. And I really have got a tremendous appreciation for all of my fellow veteran Soldiers-- that they've been able to hold it together and make a life. And our sworn goal is-- never again will we leave another group out there without welcoming them home.

[01:31:10.35] So I'm real proud, that if I can help somebody else through some of the rough spots-- but, yeah. Give them all hugs when they come home. Tell them you love them.

[01:31:32.49] Joe, it's hardly even remembered. The schools don't teach it. If you go talk to-- and I've been out speaking to some of the high schools and stuff.

[01:31:44.31] And you go to some of the more elite high schools that invite you to come talk, and teachers want to know how many babies did you kill. And it's like, I'm sorry, but I'm not here to talk about things that didn't happen. I'm here to tell you what did happen, and what Soldiers-- and how you can be proud of the American Soldier, and the American volunteer that went and paid those prices.

[01:32:16.59] But it's either ignored, or it's not taught, or it's taught from an aspect of disrespect almost-- still. And it shouldn't be. And that's where I am-- I'm getting almost militaristic about going out there and saying, you guys are wrong.

[01:32:43.38] No, we were the sons of the best generation, and damn it, I'm not sure we weren't the best generation. Because we put up with all this crap of being told we weren't any good. And by god, look around and see how many tax dollars we've generated, and how many jobs we've done, and kids we've raised. It belies the picture.

[01:33:18.00] Be damned careful who you elect.

[01:33:20.70] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[01:33:22.00] BUD ALLEY: You got to be informed. And you got to be able to say no when you hear some of this bullshit being promulgated of, let's go kick some butt. You better say whoa, wait a minute. Let's think this thing through. Why? Why do we need to go? Are you going to lead the parade Mr. Politician?

[01:33:43.32] JOE GALLOWAY: We can arrange that. You can be point.

[01:33:45.81] BUD ALLEY: Yeah, I'll follow you.

[01:33:48.69] JOE GALLOWAY: --way back.

[01:33:50.52] BUD ALLEY: But, yeah. I think we have to become more involved as citizens, and we have to stand up and speak our piece. And we have to reconcile-- we're going to have differences, but we don't have to go to fighting each other. We can figure out-- there's got to be a way-- better ways than killing each other.

[01:34:18.02] JOE GALLOWAY: Have you visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC?

[01:34:22.28] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir. That's going to church. That's the holy of holies.

[01:34:35.74] JOE GALLOWAY: Have you heard about the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration?

[01:34:40.30] BUD ALLEY: Yes, sir.

[01:34:41.23] JOE GALLOWAY: What do you think about that?

[01:34:42.75] BUD ALLEY: I'm glad.

[01:34:45.58] JOE GALLOWAY: Thank you, Bud Alley.

[01:34:47.30] BUD ALLEY: Thank you, Joe.