



NEWS RELEASE

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WW II Vet Bill Allen featured in June episode of ‘Murfreesboro Storytellers’

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – 91 year-old Bill Allen was on board the American ship LST-523 on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and later when the transporter struck a mine and spilt in two, killing dozens of Army soldiers. Allen survived the blast, jumped overboard and was rescued by a Higgins boat with a handful of others. In 2013, Allen returned to see the wreckage of the sunken ship on the English Channel floor off the coast of France with the help of a 3-man submarine as part of a PBS documentary.

The June edition of “Murfreesboro Storytellers,” hosted by John Hood, features the WW II Navy veteran and his wife Idalee Allen. Hear Allen’s amazing story and see photos of his return trip Utah Beach.

The June 2016 episode can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/X8WJbC9eKew>. It can also be seen on CityTV Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Monday, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The ‘Storytellers’ interview with Bill Allen features the following topics:

- Allen explains the messy job of the “death detail” assignment as part of his medical corps duty with fellow Tennessean Ed Phillips. Allen and Phillips cleaned-up the dead bodies of dirty, bloody D-Day soldiers before wrapping them in blankets for the 80-mile trip back to a morgue in England.
- Allen reveals how the LST-523 ship made three trips back to England before it was sunk by a mine near Utah Beach on the fourth trip across the English Channel.
- Allen survived the initial blast after jumping in a truck with two soldiers minutes before the ship exploded upon impact from a Nazi mine.
- Allen joined the Navy in August 1943 just after completing high school. He headed to boot camp and Hospital Corps School in Maryland then the naval hospital in Millington, Tennessee for medical training before shipping out on the LST-523 from Boston.

- In August 2013, Allen returned to France with his wife Idalee and two daughters, submerging to the English Channel floor in a 3-man submarine to glimpse the ship's wreckage.

This month's Storytellers was recorded on location at Oaklands Historic House Mansion, located at 900 North Maney Avenue in Murfreesboro. Storytellers is produced by CityTV's Michael Nevills.

You can watch "Murfreesboro Storytellers" on CityTV (located on Comcast Xfinity Channel 3 and AT&T Uverse channel 99) or view the program online by visiting www.murfreesborotn.gov/storytellers.

For City News online, visit www.Murfreesborotn.gov.

Photos attached:

CityTV's John Hood interviews WW II Veteran and survivor Bill Allen and wife Idalee Allen for the June edition of Storytellers' on City TV.

1. *L/R Idalee Allen, John Allen and John Hood*
2. *L/R Wide view of Idalee Allen, John Allen and John Hood with TV camera on porch of Oaklands.*