

**Frank Capuano
Jim Carter
Samuel R. Dinova
Nicholas H. Grinaldo
James Heinze
Joseph J. Meighan
Frank R. Pusatere
Adam F. Weasak
Veterans**

**Michael Aikey
Wayne Clark
NYS Military Museum
Interviewers**

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Frank Capuano	FC
Jim Carter	JC
Samuel R. Dinova	SRD
Nicholas H. Grinaldo	NHG
James Heinze	JH
Joseph J. Meighan	JJM
Frank R. Pusatere	FRP
Adam F. Weasak	AFW
Micheal Aikey	MA

MA: Thank you all for coming tonight. I'm Michael Aikey, Deputy Director of the New York State Military Museum, and this is Wayne Clark, and we're running the New York State Veterans Oral History project, and you gentlemen were kind enough to come in tonight. We've interviewed some of you individually, but I think tonight it might be interesting to interview you as a group. Now, if you could start from this end, and introduce yourselves, and tell us what unit you were in.

JH: Jim Heinze. I went away with the 105th October 15, 1940. Down to McClellan and Tennessee maneuvers and Louisiana maneuvers, and I wound up in California, [unclear] a private. We left for Fort Ord and also to the Aquitania, headed for the Pacific. My Sergeant got on the boat. We spent about a year there, Jim, I think.

MA: What company were you with?

JH: Company D. The 105th Infantry. We spent almost a year there. The Battle of Midway was going on at that time. Luckily the Japs were defeated, and a lot of us were

[unclear] crazy with hula dancers. Jim and I were on the same boats. We applied to OCS and a bunch of us were sent back to the States. We came back to Angel Island, Frisco, and were dispersed to the units. Unfortunately, I went on a tank outfit, Fort Knox. Most of the guys went to Fort Benning. I went to a tank outfit and I got through OCS, got a commission, and I wound up with the 5th Armored Division in California. Maneuvers in California and Tennessee again, and Fort Drum, stationed for Europe. A lot of second lieutenants were killed over in Kasserine Pass, so they sent twenty of us immediately over there to replace them. We joined the 1st Armored Division and we went to Salerno and Cassino and Anzio and what not, and headed for Rome out of Anzio—that's where I got shot up pretty bad. My arms were smashed up. I got back on a hospital ship to South Carolina—this was '44—and I wound up meeting Bimbo [looks at Sam Dinova] at D. Baker General Hospital in West Virginia, and it took two years to put the arms back together. They were all smashed to hell. They finally retired me out as a First Lieutenant on disability, and I went back to my hometown. That's about it.

MA: And you, sir. Your name.

AFW: Adam Weasak. I went in in 1940, October the 3rd, and went to Alabama, and from there we went out west. We got on the ship—we left San Francisco on March 10th. We reached Hawaii—where that clock is there, where it used to be on Hawaii 5-0.

SRD: The Aloha Towers.

AFW: The Aloha Towers—that's where we landed on St. Patrick's Day. I went through—fought on Saipan. I was Communications Sergeant and fought on Okinawa. I was in charge of the 81 mortars in the forward observer.

MA: You sir?

SRD: My name is Samuel Dinova. I was in the 105th, Company D. I went away in 1940, October the 15th. We wound up down in Alabama. I stayed there—it was raining and everything—and then they sent us on the maneuvers, the Louisiana and Arkansas maneuvers, then from there they gave us a furlough. And we went over on the Tennessee maneuvers and after we came back from furlough we went on the Louisiana and Arkansas maneuvers. And then, October the 15th, I was called in and they told me I was going home—I only served a year—because I was Army United States, but I went away with the National Guard. So, when I went back in, I was down in Camp Upton and I met a few of the guys that were with me. What puzzles me—I didn't use my head that day—a guy comes up and asks me, "What are you—a Corporal or a Sergeant?" I said, "No, a PFC." He said, "Put the towel on the end of your bed." The other guys were privates too, and they said, "I'm a sergeant, I'm a corporal." Like a damn fool at 4:00 in the morning they picked me up, and I had to go down and do KP duty. The guy wouldn't let me in the latrine. The guy I knew. He said, "You can't go in." I said, "Come on, I've got to go in." So, he said, "Come on, I'll show you." He opened the door and then I saw a guy commit suicide, he hung himself, and I had to go on KP duty. I did KP duty there—I was there a week—and we shipped out and we went to the West Coast, and I wound up in Fort Ord. We stayed there two or three months, and we shipped out April 10, 1942. We were on the USS Aquitania. We wound up in the Aloha Tower, and we

transferred to the USS Republic—a German captured ship by the Americans in the first World War. We went to the Big Island and we stayed there and did jungle-jungle training and all our training, and then they shipped us out back to Oahu. We stayed there about a year; then on June 1, 1944, we left Schofield Barracks. We got on a train; we got on a ship; we were headed for Saipan.

MA: We'll pick up on Saipan a little bit later; we'll just go around and introduce everybody. Joe?

JJM: My name is Joe Meighan and I was with Company M all the way through, and everything that these fellows said, I was with them [unclear].

FC: Frank Capuano. And I went away with all these gentlemen here, 1940, but the morning that they left Fort Ord, myself and two or three other fellows were transferred. My equipment and everything went overseas. I never got it back and I cried like a baby; I'll be honest with you. From there I went to the medics. I complained I wanted to get back to my outfit, and they sent me to the 747 MP Battalion, teaching the nomenclature of the guns and so on. I wasn't satisfied with that and I still was fighting to get back to the outfit; they finally sent me to the quartermaster—the shipping and receiving, overseas and incoming—and we took care of the troops overseas with equipment. We were getting clothes back from the European Theater. They stayed there a couple of weeks and they shipped to the other area. And we got the same kind of men from the other area, and they were there a few weeks and they were sent to the European Theater. I said, “If that's the way it's going to be, it's not my day.” I missed all the guys. I stayed five years too much and eleven days. If I was smart, I would have stayed in. I know it has no bearing, but my brother went to Germany and he wound out coming out as a one-star general. But that's the end of my story. But when they left, as I said, all my equipment went overseas and I never got it back. But I was one of the fortunate guys, I will say that. We had German prisoners at Ford Ord, Italian prisoners, and they were dressed just like we did, but we had the metal buttons and they had the bone buttons, but they had the run of the camp just like we were and they went to Monterey—people would pick them up—and to Salinas, they had a ball. And they brought us some wonderful Italian food, I'll tell you. That's about as far as my story goes. If I could, I'd go back in again right now, with all the problems going on.

MA: Thank you.

NHG: We spoke before. My name is Nick Grinaldo. I served with C Company, and like the rest of them, we left October 15, 1940 and wound up on the Big Island in Hawaii, and we were stationed just outside of Hilo. We were there for a while and they moved us back over to the Big Island. That was the time I guess they were trying to take Midway and Wake, and I can recall that all we did was string barbed wire along the beaches—the black sands of [unclear] and dug machine gun positions along the shore. Like I said earlier, I had a Company Commander who was an Irishman, and he hated Italians with a vengeance, and he wanted me out of the company so bad he volunteered me to go on detached service to Macon. I went on that as an observer. I was supposed to come back

and give critiques in the field and what have you, but he wasn't satisfied because I came back the first night and he volunteered me for [unclear], for the same business, you know; you learn the do's and don'ts and come back and give critiques. Finally, like the rest of the guys we wound up on Saipan, which was touch and go. It was pretty bad, as my buddy here would say [nods at SRD]. I wound up after I got wounded on Saipan—they shipped me back to Hawaii for treatment. They didn't know what the hell to do with me, and I wound up in the 13th Replacement Center just outside of Scofield Barracks, and one day this Lieutenant Colonel came along, and he started talking to me in Italian and I answered him back in English. He said, "I want you to talk to me in Italian." So, I did. He said, "I've got just the place for you." I said, "Where am I going?" He said, "You're going to be an acting First Sergeant over 319 Italian prisoners-of-war." They were bringing them in from the United States, and I was stationed on what they called Sand Island in the middle of Honolulu Harbor, Compound One. I was there for a little over a year, and I'll tell you, they ate better than we did, because I ate in their mess hall. Then I wound up in the hospital again. I had the shakes, and what they call battle fatigue, and that's where I was when my orders came in for discharge. I wound up at Ford Dix and that was the end of my Army career.

JC: My name is Jim Carter. I joined D Company, the 105th, in 1938. When they federalized us on October 15, 1940, then I think it was four or five days around the 21st and we all marched gloriously down Congress Street in the wet snow to the railroad station. We kissed everybody goodbye when we got on the train. We had an awful trip to Alabama; I think it took us about four days to get down there, and we got down there and we had these streets that had stumps in them and everything else, and we had to dig them up to put up our tents. We thought we were going in barracks. It was October and it was still kind of wet and rainy down there. I stayed with them until we went away. I remember when war was declared, I was in charge of quarters that morning. I got off of that and they came down and picked me and said, "Get up, you're going." I said, "What? It just started." They sent us to Guntersville Dam, if you remember that, and we guarded Guntersville Dam and I think everybody was shooting at the moon thinking something was wrong. Anyway, we finally wound up coming back to McClellan and we went to [unclear] in California. We had quite a nice time there—we used to go into Salinas and have a lot of fun. Then they shipped us to Fort Ord. From there we shipped out to Hawaii, as you know, the Aquitania. And we were there for approximately five or six months. There were quite a few of us volunteered to go to Officers' School, and if I remember right, there were eight of us that were accepted. I remember we had a big party the day we were going back. We could barely get on the boat. I remember going up the gangplank in Hawaii to come home, and Ed Mahar was so stupefied the General had to help him up the stairs to get him on the boat. But, it was fun time, we all enjoyed one another. There was a lot of friendship involved. I came back; after Officers' School, I was assigned to the 78th Division. I was on maneuvers with them down in Tennessee and Arkansas, but they weren't as enjoyable as they were when we were with the 27th Division. I can remember being chased through fields where watermelons were—we were stealing the watermelons and our First Sergeant was chasing the hell out of us, out of

there. I think Macy was his name, Bob Macy, and we had a lot of fun. I wound up in the 78th Division in heavy weapons, and I stayed with them for approximately a year, and then it was getting close to time for the invasion and they shipped me overseas. I landed in England, and I took a course there in motor maintenance, and then the invasion started and I wound up on Omaha Beach on D plus 9, just at the top of the heap, the hill. We were only in about two or three miles. And I can remember nighttime when the German planes were flying [unclear] and the whole sky would be lit up with tracers, and I can just picture them up laughing because they were up so damn far they couldn't be hit. The sky was all covered. The only thing happened with that—we laid on the beach; I didn't dig a hole. I put a pup tent up, and I woke up the next morning and that pup tent was full of holes from all that stuff that was falling down out of the sky. Anyway, I joined the 83rd Division and we had 263 days—the company I was in—in contact with the enemy. We went down the West Peninsula and came back, followed Patton across, we went across the Rhine. We went as far as [unclear] in Germany, about thirty miles from Berlin. And everything in front of us wanted to surrender. We couldn't; we had to back off and let the Russians do it. My training was in heavy weapons, but they found out that I had training in Ranger School when I was here in the States, so I finally wound up Company Commander for rifle company and it wasn't very pleasant, but I had to do it. Anyway, I was wounded three times in the [unclear] and I was sent back to the hospital, and when I came back, they thought they'd give me an easy job and they made me Reconnaissance Officer. We used to go out and do all the reconnaissance out ahead of our troops. I remember there was an armored patrol that went out to meet the Russians, and they weren't back in two days and they sent us out in five jeeps. We did find them and they were stupefied drunk. In Russia, it was May Day. Everybody was drinking vodka and I remember I had to drive my own jeep back to our company. All in all, everybody was afraid they were going to be sent to Japan, but most of the people that were in any length of time, they were given the point system. One point for every year of service, one point for every overseas, I think five points for every decoration that you got. That's what a decoration meant, it meant five points coming home. So, I had 145 points and when the war was over, I was glad to come home. I'll always remember my time in the service; I had my good times and bad times. But, my best times were with members of Company D.

FRP: My name is Frank Pusatere. I joined National Guard three weeks before we got federalized, and we were the first outfit—the 27th Division—the first outfit to get federalized in the United States. We went to Alabama. We stayed there a year and a couple of months. We went to California. We stayed in California three months. We went to Hawaii, which was probably the best time of my life. We really enjoyed it. We then got on a boat and went to Saipan. After fifteen days in Saipan, it ended my career in the Army. I got wounded, I got sent home, and that's about it.

MA: What was the 105th like prior to the war? Some of you joined...

FRP: We were all in before the war, a year before the war.

MA: A year before? Some were in even earlier?

FRP: Well, they were in the National Guard.

MA: What was it like in the National Guard at that time?

NHG: Back in those days, you just didn't go up and join the National Guard, you had to be sponsored. Am I right or wrong, Jim?

JC: Well, I don't know about that. I was 16. Yeah, I was sponsored. Whoever sponsored me, they got two dollars for bringing you in. I know when I came into the company, Jack O'Brien brought me up, and Harold Bryant was in the office and came out, and I was sitting in the company room waiting to be called in. Harold Bryant came in—he was a friend of mine—and he said, “Are you coming in?” So, he took me in the office, and he got the two dollars for bringing me in and there was quite a fight between him and Jack O'Brien. But it was a fun time. Most of the time we just drilled and then had beer and sandwiches after. You got a dollar a night for each time you drilled. And they had a basketball team and a lot of people played basketball. We had a lot of fun. That was what it was like. It was like a club more or less.

JH: Citizen soldiers. It was something to do. You made a few bucks for going to camp every year. And you were a citizen soldier at that time. When we were federalized, we were still citizen soldiers, not well trained, but we were full Army Division.

MA: Now what did you all think about Pearl Harbor—the whole thing changed? What was that like?

FRP: When they bombed Pearl Harbor, I was on guard duty. They spread it around that they bombed Pearl Harbor. Everybody said the same thing, “What's a Pearl Harbor?” Nobody ever heard of Pearl Harbor at that time. It's hard to believe, but nobody ever heard of it. That night we moved out. The whole 27th Division moved out of Fort McClellan. We moved out for five or six days, and came back and we got ready to go to California. And we were the first outfit in the United States, the 27th Division, to leave the United States after the war—to embark on boats to go overseas.

MA: So your first stop was Saipan after Hawaii?

FRP: That was my first stop. But two of our battalions went to different combat before that.

MA: They went to?

FRP: The 2nd and 3rd. One went to Macon and one went to [unclear].

MA: Now, were any of you fellows in either of those battalions?

FRP: No.

MA: But you got the honor of ...

NHG: I got the honor. They took, back in those days they wanted one man from each company to go as an observer. You were on detached service. We went with the 106th

and I had to fight along. I was a Staff Sergeant at the time and I had to fight along just like the regular, another staff sergeant.

MA: The Italians came back now; did you train them for what you had seen? You were there to observe.

NHG: Yes. That's what we went for, the do's and the don'ts. We came back and I had to have critiques in the field, it was about half a day every so often, not all the time, but whenever I could think of something, I would critique it.

MA: At that point, how well was the Division trained for what was coming?

SRD: We were over-trained.

NHG: We were over-trained is right.

MA: What do you mean by that?

SRD: Too much soldier. Not enough[unclear]

FRP: We spent two years in Hawaii after the war, and we did a lot of training. Whatever we did—combat training, amphibious training, hand-to-hand combat training, and it took two years before we got into combat.

MA: Was the training helpful?

FRP: I would say yes. It toughens you up. The thing about going into combat, if you're tough enough, you're not scared—you're not scared so much. Everybody's scared. But the tougher you are, the less you're scared. You figure, "Well the other guy, he can't do anything to me. I'm tough."

MA: So when did you find out you were heading to Saipan?

FRP: We were on the boat probably four days, five days. It took fifteen days to get over there, or right around that. Four or five days, then all of a sudden, they came out that we were going to Saipan.

MA: And what were the thoughts at that point?

FRP: We didn't know anything about Saipan. We didn't know anything about that part of the world. Just Hawaii and all the hula-hula islands. That's all we ever heard of in that part of the world. The South Seas...

NHG: When we pulled into Saipan, we weren't committed. The 2nd and 4th Marines were supposed to take the island and they got the shit whaled out of them.

MA: You were in reserve at that point?

NHG: We were on reserve at that point.

FRP: For two days.

NHG: We weren't committed until the second day. They had taken such a beating that they couldn't even continue. They took Aslito Airfield twice, and they got kicked off of it twice, and just about dusk we pulled into Saipan.

MA: What was the landing like?

FRP: Uneventful.

NHG: As far as I remember, what they call Purple Beach 2—it was just out of [unclear]—that’s where the sugar cane mill was. They had Jap observers up in the stack and they—Saipan was an artillery training center for the Japanese Army; that’s where they got all their training. They had that island pinpointed and bracketed in beautifully, because when those Marines came in, boy, they just [unclear] the hell out of them. So, when we went in, never a shot was fired.

MA: So, when you landed what happened at that point; what time of day?

NHG: We landed, we just dug in for the night. Then we jumped off the next day over across Aslito Airfield, and there wasn’t a damn shot fired. We walked right across the field without anybody shooting. We got in the other end of the field and we dug in again, and then Mount Tapochau was on our right. A and B Company were told to attack Mount Tapochau. That was when the big to-do came between our two Generals—our General Smith and Howlin’ Mad Smith, as they called him.

MA: Who was D Company’s Commander?

FRP: A guy by the name of Lieutenant Ryan. He was a First Lieutenant.

SRD: And Emmett Catlan was our Captain.

FRP: No, he wasn’t, Sam.

SRD: Yes, he was.

FRP: Ryan was our Captain.

SRD: After, after.

FRP: On Saipan.

SRD: Right.

FRP: Catlan went to battalion.

AFW: When we went up Aslito Airfield, as we were going up, there were soldiers there which were the Marines, and they were in position down, and they were in the field, and I said, “What’s the matter with these guys—they can’t move, they’re not moving; they’re all dead.”

FRP: That’s a good reason.

AFW: And what the Japs had was those big drums. I don’t know if they were 55 or a hundred or what, and they used to catapult them up, and they used to kill by concussion. They got hit by that and they were right in position.

SRD: I don’t remember that.

AFW: You don’t remember that? Because we saw them coming over.

MA: So, you moved across the Airfield and it was relatively uneventful?

AFW: Well, the Airfield changed hands about two or three times. I mean the Marines got it and the Marines lost it, then the Marines got it, then they lost it again, then the 27th Division went in.

MA: When the 27th Division went in, were you opposed at that point?

FRP: Some, some. A little bit.

AFW: The zeroes came in and strafed us.

NHG: That was the night before.

AFW: I don't know what night they came. They came in during the daytime, and the 69th was alongside me, and there were two guys there and they were dug in. I was on the outside and I said to them, "Do you guys have any room in there for me?" and they said, "Yeah, come on in." I climbed in and got in there and a bullet came down and went right through my denim. [Pulls on right shirt sleeve.] And if I didn't move in, I'd have got it right in the back.

MA: So after you secured the Airfield, what was next?

AFW: Well, then, after we took the Airfield, then we were relieved of the Airfield and then we started to go up north.

MA: What was that terrain like?

AFW: That terrain was...

SRD: Hilly, a little bit.

AFW: It was a little bit hilly there. But Marine General Smith, he was in charge of everything and the 2nd and 4th Divisions had the sides there on the beach line, and the 27th Division had the center and we had the mountain. We weren't going fast enough for Smith. Smith always charged his men and we always maneuvered into position. And that's where the fight between the two Smiths came in, because he said the 27th Division were cowards and we weren't maneuvering fast enough for him. We weren't in there to get killed like the Marines were. Everything the Marines did, they sent them in by quantity. They didn't maneuver at all.

SRD: You want me to tell you some of mine?

MA: Sure.

SRD: When we first hit Saipan, we went in and we had to get on amtracs because the Higgins boats couldn't go in on account of the coral reef. I'm a little guy. I had [unclear] heavy mortar shells, two on the front, two on the back, all my equipment. When I jumped off of the tank and went in the beach, I must have drove in my body in about three feet in the sand. This little guy came over and helped me with my thing, and we went up to the Island and they had a bunch of jeeps that had all these wounded guys. They were operating right on the beach. As we went in, I saw these Marines with a flame thrower. The Japs were coming out of a cave and he had them all scorched and a couple of guys were dead. As we went up, we had a guy in my outfit—he came from the Christmas Islands—he was there before Pearl Harbor and they put him in our outfit. He said, "I don't want to go back to the States saying I didn't do anything for the war," so he stayed with us. He was a mean bastard. He was, he was a mean bastard. His name was Pappy Reese. He was in the mortars. As we were walking up, I don't know what happened, the sights on the mortar got lost. He said to me, and it's dark now, "You've got to go down and find that." I said, "FU," the Japs were in the trees and they would

shoot at me. So, I went back and I saw the guys in B Company coming up. I asked, "Did you guys see the mortar with the straps, the sights?" They said, "No, no." I let them go. So, we dug in. As we dug in, we had an air raid. I didn't see the airplanes, but you could hear them and the shells were coming down. So, now in the meantime I saw a couple of Marines and they were shooting at them. There were Japs in the trees. And he wanted me to go down there. As we moved up, we hit the Airfield. I was always[unclear]so I was facing... They had, like a trench, what they used to put the airplanes in there. I didn't want to get near the edge. I figured if they came down they'd be liable to throw a grenade down there. So, we got out of that. As we moved up, I saw Frankie there. I got bit by one of those fricking Japanese bees. I ran into a cave. There was a kid there that lived near me that got killed. His name was Carmine Ciccarelli. He was right there and the Japs were coming out of the cave with women and kids, and they were [unclear] people. They were very religious, and they had them coming out. So, they got them out and they sent them back—wherever they put them, they must have put them in the compound or something. So, we went up the hill, and on the side of the hill, it's all shale. So, when we got up there, the 165th Infantry had their holes dug. They pulled out and we were supposed to get their holes. I'm going to make you laugh now. So, what happened, this son-of-a-bitch Pappy Reese, a wise bastard, we went in the holes; he jumped in the hole and somebody shit in the hole. Yeah, that's right. Got it all over. [Laughs] He stunk. Oh, was he mad as a bastard. Anyway, while we were there, there was a plane fighting, a Jap Zero and American Hellcat. They were fighting and as they were fighting, that bastard came down and started strafing. Well, I hit the ground and I scratched my chest. So, when he landed, they killed him, they opened up with fifty calibers where they were—whatever did it. And I buried the guy. When we landed, there was a plane that was dug into the ground, one of ours off of the aircraft carrier. So, I said to the guy next to me—I don't know if he was a Sergeant or what—I forget who it was—so I was digging in the cockpit, there was a parachute on the tail of the plane. So, as I was digging in the cockpit, I pulled a skull, just the bone, and then his torso down here—it was scraped and it was all like powdery and he was scorched and I pulled the [unclear] all warped. I told the guy, what we did, we dug a hole, we scraped all the remains, we put it all in the hole. Then we got two pieces of stick—we hit it in the ground with the pik-matic and made a cross out of it. We took his dog tags off. I know his name up to today—United States Navy Reserve Paul Danna—and I put it on his grave there. And then as we got in, it started getting a little rough until the end when they had that big[unclear].

AFW: The sniper there that used to pick them off going along the shoreline... When we got up further, there was a tree, and the tree was dug out and the Jap would get in from the bottom and get up, and that's where he was doing the sniping from. Because there was powdered smoke, and we never got him until we advanced up there and there was the tree, and that's where he was picking everybody off down along the oceanfront there.

SRD: When we were down near the... we were moving up with the mortar platoon—the guy who was supposed to be here today, he never wants to come, Joe. [unclear] Sergeant, and Lieutenant Ryan was our Captain, and our original Captain was up with the CP. So, anyway, we were dug in, and I was sitting down like this having a smoke, and I

was listening to Tokyo Rose [unclear]. So, I'm listening to her and Captain Stark—he was from Hawaii—he was a nice guy, a nice Lieutenant. Bimbo, he used to call me Bimbo, “Bimbo, I'm going to make you a runner.” “Oh no, I don't want no runner, oh, no, no.” I said to him, “Why?” We had two Chinese guys in our outfit. We got them in Honolulu. And their names were Goo and Gan. That was their names, Goo and Gan. One of them had dysentery or the runs. He was always at the jackpot. The other guy was supposed to be the runner, and he got sick, and one of them got killed there. So, the Lieutenant said, “You're going to be a runner.” So, that's all right. We dug in at the bottom of the foot of the mountain, Mt. Tapochau; we were like here [points low], the mountain was up here [points high], but we were digging in and a few of my friends were going by. One of them got killed. I asked him, “Come on...

[Tape defect 40:22-40:30 (no sound and/or video)]

SRD: There was a fire up on the top of the hill. There was a big, big fire and they were shooting down on us, harassing us. So, that night, we dug in. I was in with these other two guys. I knew who they were, and I had my carbine next to my hole. Well, 3:30-4:00 in the morning, they called me. They said, “Jesus, you got to get out and deliver the message to the CP.” I didn't want to get out of the hole because those guys would shoot you. That one guy got killed like that. I didn't want to get out of the hole. I delivered the message. But it started raining like a [unclear], when I heard Captain Catlan, Lieutenant[unclear], Colonel O'Brien and another Lieutenant, who said the Japs were going to use women and kids for a decoy and they were going to come at us because they had the civilian population on the top of that hill with a Jap General. And any one of the people gave up, we had a speaker on a van telling them to come down—that we'd take care of them. He told them that we were barbaric, that we were going to kill them and all that and the people believed that, and they started throwing themselves off of the mountain. So, it was about 4:00 in the morning, there was a big flare, lit up like this room all the way around. Holy Christ, everything broke loose [unclear] screaming and hollering. They were all coming at us, machine guns, tracer bullets. I said, “Let me get out of here,” and I grabbed my carbine and I couldn't get out because they were raking the top of my hole, and I stayed there for a while, and then I got out and we all ran back. As we ran back, we started firing back at them, and somebody hollered, “Let's form a line, let's form a line.” So, we formed a line and we couldn't, there were too many. There were five thousand against two battalions, and half of the battalion was shot up. So, anyway we went by... I saw one Lieutenant—he was a medical officer—who was shot in the back, and another guy in my outfit was carrying him. As we ran back, I hit this little mound of dirt—they used to have one of the miniature trains go by; they used to carry the sugar cane on it—and I was over that hill and my gun was muddy from the rain. I put two shots in the ground. So then, I saw them coming at us. We ran and I went down by the beach and I went over a Jap mine. I jumped over it. I didn't know it was there. I saw the silver there and I jumped right over the mine. It blew up. Somebody must have stepped on it. Well, when I got behind this coconut tree, there were two guys in my company. They were both from Redding, Pennsylvania. They were both Polish

guys, big six footers. I was with them. They took off. I stayed and I crawled out towards the Japs in this big field with high grass. I crawled out there with this other guy. I didn't see him. I crawled back. Now, when I crawled back, they started letting the barrage of shells go in. They were hitting the beach. That's when I got it in both legs and my back, and I don't remember anything. I just knew lights in front of me—I could see the sun, the moon, everything. So, when I came to, there were all bodies near me, dead bodies, guys who were wounded, guys who could still fight, so the Lieutenant—Charette, from the medical—he put on a couple of Japanese socks with sulfa drugs on my leg and I stayed there. This guy dragged me from the beach. He and another guy dragged me and put me under the tree, and then I stayed there, and there were all the wounded guys there, and then after that we stayed there all day and the guys were fighting. Then we got help from the 106th Infantry—it came up and took over.

MA: That's towards the end of the day?

SRD: Pretty near the end of the day—the day was pretty near gone. But they came up and started to help us out. So, then I laid there and the big amtracs came up the ocean at the end of the beach. All the guys were running in there. Well I couldn't run. I said to the guys, "Don't leave me here. Don't leave me with those son-of-a-bitches, they'll kill me." So, they grabbed me and they put me on a motor. There was no room in the[unclear]. It was filled. I stayed on the motor with a field jacket on, and we bounced up, and we started to get out of there and they were shooting at us. And I went down to the field hospital, they hit me with morphine, and they put us in a big, big field—like a couple of football fields—there were all wounded guys there and they were operating right in the truck with a big light. I stayed there and I was foggy and a couple of guys came over to see me that were in my outfit, and the next thing I know two guys were picking me up on a stretcher. I started hollering. I didn't want to go with them. They were Koreans. I thought they were Japs. They look alike. They took me down to the field. They put me on a hospital ship, and I was on a hospital ship until I went to New Caledonia.

MA: So, the charge began about 3:00-4:00 in the morning?

SRD: Yeah, about 4:00, I'd say, 4:00-4:30, in the morning.

FRP: My outfit was on the front line and we were fighting all night. I was in the middle perimeter. I was a radio operator, and by 5:30-6:00 in the morning, everybody started running towards us. They said, "We're out of ammunition." They couldn't get to us. That was called a strategic withdrawal; in other words, we ran like hell. We ran back to the second battalion, and they saw us and the confusion was tremendous. They didn't know what was going on. I jumped in a foxhole with somebody from the second battalion with a light machine gun. I said, "There's Japs out there," and you could see them. So, they opened up and I opened up, and all of a sudden, our hole was hit with fire. Then they picked up again and ran back again.

MA: Was Lieutenant Ryan heading the company? Where was he?

FRP: He was with the company. He was one of the ones that was running with us.

AFW: When all hell broke loose, the Japs were running around like that. I was in the hole there. I was Communications Sergeant; Frank was my radio man. When all hell broke loose, I got up and I looked, there was our Company Commander going down. I said, "Frank, this is no place for us; there goes our Company Commander. Let's go."

SRD: You know what happened? When I was listening to Tokyo Rose, Joe Mariano—he's not here tonight—he came down with the jeep and the Captain told him, he said, "Keep your men there; don't move from that spot." So, before he got there, we started to get up and go, and he told that to Lieutenant Ryan, that Captain Catlan wanted us to stay put. So, he said, "We're up; we might as well go up." You have your mortars here [gestures to left side of table], the front lines here [gestures to right side of table], now if we stayed here [gestures to left side of table], when the Japs came over the hill we could have lobbed our shells then. You know what I mean. We could have shot our mortars. But no, we went up with them there that night and we were stuck there; what the hell, you can't shoot a mortar up in the air straight. So, if we stayed there [gestures to left side of table] we would have saved a lot of guys who wouldn't have gotten killed.

MA: Whose decision was it to bring the mortars up?

AFW: The night before, when we were going up, O'Brien said, "This is a big mistake going up there," because it was twilight, and he said, "But orders are orders," and that's when we went up there. Nobody had their guns in position. The mortars weren't set up, nothing was set up.

SRD: Well, you couldn't fire the mortars from when we were on top of them, and that was Colonel Bishop that told us to go up there. If we had stayed where we were, the way we were supposed to, we could have fired three or four mortars and lobbed the shells in there. Another time we came into a bunker, all concrete bunker, like a Quonset hut. The Japanese were in there. I found in there [unclear], I found opium, I found everything. We were in there, the next thing I know there was a shell went in there. Jesus Christ, my carbine was outside, leaning against the building. When I went out, they were pounding like hell. A couple of guys—he knows [pointing at Nick] —remember Skeebea? He got killed there. Another guy, a couple of guys from B Company got killed. Somebody from the 165th Infantry dropped a mortar shell short and it landed in our position, so we stayed there that night and we dug in. As we dug in, there was a road, and the Japs came down through the road and we were all dug in. The next thing I know, before they came down, I heard something go like [makes an airplane noise] bing; landed right near my head. I don't know what it was; I never saw what it was; it didn't explode. I don't know what the hell it was. So, the next morning, during the morning, the Japs were sneaking out. As they were coming out, them bastards, the guys on their machines guns [makes shooting noise] you could see the tracers, and you could hear them screaming and they shot them all on the truck.

MA: As the attack began to develop in the morning, there was no order, people were just reacting?

JC: Everybody was on their own.

FRP: Complete confusion.

MA: You began to fall back?

FRP: If you want to call it that. We ran like hell. If that's falling back, that's what we did.

MA: At what point did you stop?

FRP: I stopped probably twenty minutes later because I got wounded. I stopped, and I jumped in a hole and I started firing at the Japs, and of a sudden, I saw that I was all alone. And right as soon as I saw I was alone, that's when the [unclear] shell hit me.

AFW: The Navy was firing in on us and I was there trying to signal them that the enemy was up ahead of us, and that they were firing into us, and I couldn't because everybody ran out, so then I quit and I went back and I waited back. You could see the prongs coming up from the shells. They're all running around. They had the shells dug in the sand.

MA: This is back at the beach?

AFW: At the beach.

MA: So, you were able to make a stand at the beach?

AFW: We had no place to go. And Joe, here, he almost killed me.

MA: How did that happen?

JJM: The [unclear] were so many, they went right on through us. They went right up to regional headquarters, they stopped somewhere in that area. There were too many of them.

AFW: Mortars; he was with the mortars; he was in charge of the mortars and they had area fire. The shells would go one, two, three, four, five, six, number seven. I used to squeeze right up after seven went off I was released; then eight, then nine, back to eight, back to seven, a big [demonstrates squeeze] in the hole and [unclear] area fire.

SRD: A lot of guys were swimming out in the ocean, and there were a couple of Japs with the American soldiers out in the ocean. They were swimming towards—there was an American destroyer. They were going to open up, they thought they were Japs. But they picked the guys up, they fed them, they gave them new outfits and they went back in. I saw the planes come off, right over almost, ten feet over your head. Planes from the carrier came down and [unclear] I saw a guy from his company, we were in an area where there was Jap tank knocked out. The Japs got in there and they pinned us down and we couldn't move. They were shooting out of there, and we couldn't get out. I was making coffee. I was using the tape off of the mortar canister to cook my coffee, and they started shooting, and we jumped in the hole. Then there was a circle plane going around—it was an American plane—he thought there were Japs—he shot these rockets. Remember Davey, Sergeant Davey? [Looks at NHG] Hit him in the right, hit him in the

back, killed one of the guys in his company. And we were pinned down there for quite a while until they got guys to knock it out.

MA: Were there any officers conducting the defense?

NHG: They were just about all gone—even my Lieutenant who was a regular Army man, Lieutenant Gauer. And that morning, just like they said, it was just about daybreak and the only thing is, we were in perimeter. They knew the terrain, and a bunch of them got behind us, and they were up on the higher ground shooting right down into the foxholes. And that's when my Lieutenant turned around and said to me, "Nick, get the platoon together, and get back to the Jap trenches," which was down near [unclear]. It was a Japanese port down there. We made it back. I was running what was left of my platoon, and I hit that narrow-gauge railroad and that's when I got hit in the shoulder, and made it back to the beach. When we got down into the Jap trenches, unfortunately they were up in the god-darn coconut trees shooting right down at us, and I'd say maybe about fifty or sixty of the guys spotted this Navy destroyer out there, and they started swimming out. But about half of them made it; the Japs were shooting them right in the water.

AFW: Colonel O'Brien was there and he could have gone back the same as everybody else, but he said, "As long as one of my men is up here fighting, I'm going to be with him."

NHG: His last remark was, "Don't give the son-of-a-bitches a goddamn inch of ground." I can remember that. I saw him when he got it—there were three or four Lieutenants trying to take him off that jeep behind the thirty-caliber machine gun, and he fought them off and they were all overrun. Not only the Colonel went down, but the three or four officers that were trying to get him off of there. I actually saw that happen.

MA: Did anybody see [unclear]?

JJM: No. Can I add something? I was on the right flank. I was [unclear]. I was the head of the [unclear] and didn't know it, and when [unclear] went by... When I came down, there was a fellow—he was draped over a machine gun. His name was Benjamin Solomon. He was a medic. Do you fellows remember him, Captain Solomon? He was the one that moved this weapon. The ones that operated the gun, a couple of them got killed—and he told all the wounded personnel to go on back up to the battalion HQ, regimental HQ, and he picked up a rifle and started shooting with the rifle, and he was a pretty good shot. So, we went over by the machine gun and took the body off. And when I came by and saw him, I didn't recognize him. He had, I think, about eighty or ninety bullet holes in his body, but all swelled up. I didn't recognize him. But I read later that on, that he was the guy that I wrote that note to [unclear]. May I ask them a question? Any of you fellows, you remember the ammunition dump that went off? That sucker made a whole lot of ... When that damn thing went off—remember the cannon used to come out of the cliff and the airplanes couldn't get rid of that sucker. It was funny.

FRP: That was on Tinian. It was on railroad tracks.

JJM: It was on tracks. That thing was about 150 feet high; that damn thing came out, boom.

SRD: That was on Saipan.

FRP: That was on Tinian.

SRD: No, it was on Saipan.

FRP: Sam, the gun was on Tinian, it was fired on Saipan. It was only a mile away.

SRD: Look Frank, [unclear]remember Sweet Johnson? He got killed up near there.

AFW: Jim, we were lucky to be a hero.

JJM: I know, I saw some bad days, but nothing like that. We had counterattacks, but nothing...

SRD: That morning...

AFW: We went in with 121 personnel, and eighteen of us were left; there was 51 or 52 killed, and 51 or 52 wounded. There were eighteen left; I came in number seventeen and a little Jewish kid from New York City came in eighteen. There wasn't enough there left of the battalion to make a company. A couple of days later, I went down to the beach town there, and we killed 4,200 Japs, because they had the stakes marked and, as went along, we counted them. 4,200 Japs were buried in the sand on the beach.

SRD: You know what he's saying? This friend of mine, he's dead; he used to belong here. He ran out and the tanks were going up, and they had the thing buttoned down, and he kept hitting his hand on the tank, and he said, "The Japs are up there." He said, "The Japs are coming—open up with the machine guns." So, what happened—they started to move up the tanks; he went down and the Japs came out of the bushes. He had that sabre and he went like that [motions from right to left with raised arms]. Remember [unclear] he went like that, right for his head. Whatever happened, the Lord must have been with him. He happened to put his head and he went down like that [Frank bends down at the waist] —it went over his head. There was a Navy officer right there and he shot the Jap. They had guys from Massachusetts National Guard; they came off of the Island, Christmas Island. They brought them into our outfit and I got acquainted with one guy—not too good because we were moving out, and they put in the paper here—it came to this post, "If anybody knows my uncle, can you please notify me." This guy's name was Frank Daglieri. He was on with my friend on the machine gun. Now that day they broke through, and he had about 200 Japs in front of them, and this is not exaggerating. The barrel of the gun had white frosting. That's how hot it got. So, he was shooting at them and Sal said—this friend of mine— "Let's get out of here." Sal went out; by the time he got out, don't they kill him there. So, then they had a piece of the paper here if they knew his uncle—his nephew wrote. None of these guys knew, but I knew. I went down to Hartford, Connecticut. He worked in Hartford, Connecticut. He worked in a twenty-two-story building for—who's that's Vice President? He was running for Vice President, Lieberman, he worked for Lieberman. I took a bunch of pictures, I showed him. He said, "Did you know my uncle? I said, "Yeah, I knew him casually; I didn't get too acquainted." See, he came up from the Islands and they put him in our outfit and I got to know him, but I didn't know him that well. So, he got talking to me and everything, and

I stayed with him for a while and I told him everything and we came home. I was supposed to hear from him, but I never heard from him.

MA: After the attack where did the survivors go?

AFW: We went down to Espiritu Santo. And a couple of days later, after the banzai attack, Ralph Kallenjone came walking into the company and I looked at him and I said, "You're dead." He said, "What do you mean I'm dead?" And I brought him down and showed him where he was buried; showed him his cross, his name and everything right on there. What happened was that we all had our names printed on the denim. Evidently, they didn't have the dog tags, so they must have taken it off the denim. Whoever had it—the denim, they put the name on there and his... And I showed him and there he was. He was still alive—he was glad to see that.

MA: So how long were you at Espiritu Santo?

AFW: We were down there about a year, I think.

FRP: No, you weren't there a year, only a couple of months.

AFW: We reorganized.

SRD: You weren't there a year,

[Unclear]: About ten months.

AFW: We reorganized and then we went into Okinawa.

MA: Who was the Company Commander at that point—was it still Ryan?

FRP: No, Ryan got wounded.

AFW: Albanese, Captain Albanese.

SRD: Because Captain Catlan was wounded too.

AFW: Yeah. He was from California.

MA: He was with you when you landed at Okinawa?

AFW: [Nods head] Okinawa.

MA: What was Okinawa like?

AFW: Ohhhhhh. That was just as bad as Saipan.

SRD: You didn't get wounded, did you?

AFW: I never got wounded. Never got a scratch. Never sick a day in the Army.

MA: The landing was uneventful at Okinawa?

AFW: Pretty much the same. We were out for about a week or so out in the ocean on the ships, and just sort of watched the ammunition dumps and everything blown up. Then we went in and that's when Lieutenant Gilley was in charge of 81 mortars, and that's when he got killed—when we were going down towards Naha, he got killed. When he got killed, then they gave me the charge of the platoon.

MA: At that point had you heard any of the media reports about the performance of the Division on Saipan?

AFW: Oh no, no, everybody on the, you know, good reports about everybody except towards the end there, like Jimmy was saying, he had 150 points... How many points did you have?

JC: 145.

AFW: I had 136 points and when they dropped the a-bomb, then Stillwell told Greiner to send everybody home that had 85 points or over. And then all guys were going home and here we were, we're getting ready to go into Japan. We're on the mop-up. Stillwell was coming up and this soldier is there and he yelled at Stillwell, "When the hell are we going to get home? Everybody's going home with 85 points, and we've got over 100 points." And he said, "Why?" He said he gave Greiner the orders to ship us out, but he wouldn't have had enough men to go into Japan, so then he went right up to Greiner and he said, "You get everybody out of here within twenty-four hours." And boy, you want to see... We were out in twenty-four hours; everybody over 85 points.

MA: Greiner took over after Smith.

AFW: Yes.

MA: And what were the thoughts about Greiner?

AFW: You know, when you read my thing, there, "No comment." [Laughs]

MA: We heard there was a little song about Greiner. Did you ever hear it?

AFW: We didn't care for him because he didn't send us home when he was supposed to.

MA: Now, Okinawa, where did the Division go on Okinawa?

AFW: While we were on Okinawa, we did all the mop-up. Instead of them mopping by sections this way [motions side by side], they put us going up through the middle of the Island—up and down, up and down. The Japs were in there and we flushed them out.

MA: So, that was the main assignment for the Division, the mop-up?

AFW: No, no, no. we fought, but when the a-bomb was dropped, then that ended the war and that's when the mop-up came. But there were no [unclear] raids on Okinawa, but up at the end of the Island, up there, they were all jumping off the cliffs.

SRD: That was on Saipan.

AFW: Yeah, and Okinawa, too.

SRD: Well, you know, on Saipan, when they came down afterwards, they had women and kids. You know what they had—bamboo poles with bayonets on them, sticks, knives, shovels, pitchforks. They killed one of the lieutenants—Lieutenant Kane with B Company—they stuck him in the belly with the pitchfork. And that morning, after everything was all quieted down, this guy was supposed to come here tonight, I told him, "What did you do, Joe?" He said, "I went up and I could see like one end of a football field to the other end—there were Japs and Americans on top of one another. I saw a lot of the guys I was talking to maybe a couple of days before that." They were all hand-to-hand fighting.

MA: Now the Japanese used the women and children?

SRD: Yes.

[Unclear]: They put them out in front.

[Unclear]: They used them right from the beginning in Saipan.

FRP: They used them on the other end of the Island mostly. The town of [unclear]. The 2nd Marines was in [unclear] on the outskirts, and they used the women and children a lot. That's the stories we heard.

SRD: You know another thing I can't understand. I like to watch the History Channel. I learned a lot from that. Now I saw the other night a show—the blunders that the United States made in the Pacific. Now they were going into Saipan. They showed them on [unclear], the 2nd and 4th Marine Division. There were 3,000 Japs on [unclear]. And we lost more than they did and the Japs—there were only about a handful left. The poor bastards, they jumped off in the water and they drowned; about half of them drowned. [unclear] weren't getting support from the Navy to drop those shells. When they were going into Saipan, the 2nd and 4th Marine Division, you could see them with the helmets and they had the camouflage. Then it showed the Army guys with the regular steel helmet, and I looked at the pictures to see if I knew anybody. They didn't mention the 27th Division, just the 2nd Marines and 4th, no 27th. What the hell do you think we were doing? Playing marbles? I can't understand that—why didn't they give us the recognition.

FRP: That was only a movie, Sam. That was a movie.

SRD: No, that was the real thing. We aren't talking about movies. The real thing.

AFW: On the History Channel.

FRP: I know it was.

SRD: That wasn't a movie, Frank, I listened. It was the real thing. It was a regular...

[Unclear]: I saw it too.

MA: Did Ralph Smith get a bum deal?

SRD: I think he did.

FRP: Definitely.

AFW: You're not kidding, he did.

SRD: Our General, his name was Smith...

FRP: He lived to be over one hundred. One of the things nobody said, talked about, but Saipan was the first island that the Japs had before the war. They had a hundred years to fortify it. And another reason was our Navy, without [unclear]Japanese Navy, we had very, very little Navy support. That made it a lot tougher.

NHG: [unclear]A lot of [unclear]Bill Halsey had that fleet, and the Japs reinforced truck and some of the islands down below, and with Halsey out there, they couldn't make it, and unknown to us, [unclear]. They moved in two more divisions that were headed south. We didn't know it. And that's what we were up against. The Marines got clobbered at this time, too, but our Navy intelligence, our military intelligence, they figured there was only about two Jap divisions around us [unclear] artillery [unclear] after our people went in to reconnoiter the thing.

SRD: You know, the Island there...

[Sound broken up or no sound 1:17:02 -1:18.40]

AFW: ... He had all the Captains and all the Lieutenants shivering when he went by. He had them all shook up. I guess I was the only one who could talk to him because I had the nerve to talk to him.

[Unclear]: Remember Walter Winn, the [unclear] Colonel that came in from West Point [unclear]?

AFW: Yeah.

[Sound broken up or no sound 1:19:03 -1:19.40]

AFW: You can't take anything away from the Japanese because they were strictly soldiers.

[Break in tape]

AFW: ...And everything else like that. You couldn't find them. American soldiers would be marching up with the gun over this way, you know, walking through.

SRD: They didn't care.

AFW: They didn't ...

SRD: American soldier was just a soldier, you know.

AFW: Just a soldier.

SRD: And they were good.

AFW: Oh, they were good.

SRD: But they didn't give a damn. Where the Japanese or German soldier—if the Sergeant said, "Attention," they stayed at attention. Say FU, or something like that, that's the way we were.

MA: Was there a difference between the National Guard troops and the reserves; the people who came in later?

FRP: Basically they were the same.

AFW: You couldn't beat the National Guard.

SRD: The National Guard was training for years, that's why I think the National Guard—they were in before me. I went away with the Guards. But I was Army United States. I got in because when they federalized them—The National Guard—they were training for... Well, Jimmy was in since '38. They were training. They used to go up to Plattsburgh, DeKalb Junction, Peekskill, they used to train all the while.

JC: Whether we used [unclear]...

FRP: They had rain barrels for mortars.

NHG: No, we had drain pipes, you know drainpipes, they had them tacked onto a board. That was a mortar. They used trucks for Army tanks. We had shit, is what we had.

JC: You say about training, like he said before, you could be over-trained. I left there and I wound up with a company. I trained then with the 78th Division, and I thought they were the best in the world as far as [unclear]. But the 105th was fine because that's where I started at, but after thirteen weeks training, I thought anybody was as good as anybody who had two years, and they wound up to be good soldiers. And in my opinion, the guy who was the biggest screw-up was the first guy to stand up and fire the gun; he didn't run. He stayed with it. And it's surprising how some things are like that.

SRD: The goof-ups turned out to be out to be good soldiers.

JC: It all depends on who you're fighting with. The Germans—they had tanks; they had everything else. Sure, they were good soldiers. But we were better.

SRD: Yeah. They were disciplined better than us—half of them.

JC: I don't know. I saw twenty thousand come in and surrender to us.

SRD: I know.

JC: They weren't too proud.

NHG: Talk about over-training. We had a colonel by the name of Hopkins, Colonel Hopkins. Everybody remember Colonel Hopkins? He was tall, he was lanky and every step that he took, the difference between the feet was maybe about four or five feet, and he loved to walk. And that's what he did, because when we were in Fort McClellan, Alabama, what we got was 32, 45 mile hikes, because when we went into the Louisiana-Arkansas maneuvers, we had to march from Tennessee into Louisiana. We did sixty miles in three days with full field equipment. You didn't dare take your shoes off at night, because that one night that we did take our shoes off, they called a forced march and nobody could get their damned shoes back on because their feet were so swollen, they couldn't put the shoes on. That was a fiasco, that was. But I want to say one more thing, and then I'll shut up. On Saipan, we had one day's rest. That was it, and that day we had was the day before the banzai. I had a lad whose name was—we called him Uncle Fudge Addington—his name was Addington, he was Uncle Fudge to us. We were supposed to clean up and rest one day, and all of a sudden Uncle Fudge comes strolling in, drunker than a skunk, and I turned around and I looked at him and I said, "Jesus Christ, I don't believe this." Who spotted him before I did was Colonel O'Brien, and he turned around and hollered to him, "Come over here." So, Uncle Fudge went over to him. He said, "What's your name? Where are you from?" He said, "Seekonk." I knew he was in trouble, so I walked over and I said "He's one of my men, Colonel". He turned around and said, "That's all right. What I want to know is where the hell did you get drunk?" He turned around and he said, "Colonel, just a short ways from here," —he's from the south— "there's a passel of liquor." He called it a passel, you know. He said the shelling got into it and turned it over, and he had three or four quarts of liquor on him when he came in. And there was all American stuff, too. The Colonel turned around and said, "You remember where it was?" He said, "Yes sir". He said, "Well, there's a jeep and there's a little trailer, and I want you to go back and fill that goddamn thing up and spread it out amongst the battalion." I'll never forget that as long as I live. Everybody

got pie-eyed that day. That was just before—the banzai was the next morning. That was the only day's rest that we had in thirty days.

SRD: You know when I first went in there, being a little guy, the Captain says to me...

NHG: Do you remember that Joe? The only one day we had.

SRD: The Captain says to be me, "I'm going to make you my orderly." I was a dog [unclear]. I didn't give a [unclear] anyway. Those guys used to give up, go out, I'd go up, straighten out the bed he had, the spats, the army spats, big leather thing. He had the liquor behind there, and I'd do a job on it [makes slurping and sipping noise] [Laughter]. The bottles looked like that [indicates low level with hand]. So, I was drinking it, I'd be sleeping on the cot, and the guys would be out with the mortars. One day he said to me, "Why aren't you going to town?" I said, "I haven't got a pass." [Unclear] He was a character. He said to me, "You dumb bastard, you see all those guys going over to Hunter Gate, they dug a hole through the fence," but he said, "Don't get in any trouble. I don't want any trouble with the MPs." I had it pretty good. After the maneuvers, I came back and I got out of the Army and then I told my brother, I was looking for a job, I was supposed to go to work at Cluett Peabody. Instead a letter came in, [unclear] my brother Manny, "There's a letter," a one-way ticket to Camp Upton. I stayed in Upton two or three weeks. What one guy did in Upton; he was from New York. I saw Joe Louis down there. Oh Christ, I saw a lot, and what happened—this one guy, he lived around the city, Brooklyn or New York, they called his name to go to Utah or California or way out like that; he'd never go, he'd get lost. One day they called his name to go to Fort Totten, New York. Hey, he's right there. But every time they called his name, they couldn't find him, when they can't find you they are going to go, they aren't going to wait for you. They put the guys on the train and so they did.

MA: Well gentlemen, it's getting late. I'd like to thank you all very much, it was a very informative evening and we appreciate you coming in tonight.

