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Veteran**

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**Interviewed on November 20, 2001  
Culver Road Armory  
Rochester, NY**

**MA:** Where were you born?

**MGL:** Parma, NY. At the Hilton.

**MA:** Did you go to school there?

**MGL:** I went to school until the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**MA:** And what did you graduate?

**MGL:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**MA:** And that was in when?

**MGL:** '32, '33 maybe. I went to work in last part of '32.

**MA:** This was during the Depression?

**MGL:** I was 14 or something like that.

**MA:** Where did you go to work?

**MGL:** In a sawmill with thrashing machines and everything—carpenter work and blacksmith work.

**MA:** Pretty dangerous work.

**MGL:** The one I worked for, he did everything. It was just like going to college only I learned about seven trades instead of college. I worked there until I was eighteen and a half. Then of course I went and bought a truck and went into trucking hauling crops.

**MA:** How did that go?

**MGL:** I did that for a few years until I was married in December '38 and then I went back into blacksmith shop work.

**MA:** What kind of work were you doing as a blacksmith?

**MGL:** At that time we were still doing some wagon work and a lot of truck body work and snowplows and all kinds of work, some horses. But I learned the blacksmith trade, I learned the carpenter trade, I learned several different trades. Blacksmithing before WWII—I could make a living at it. After the war I set up a little shop and my wife and I did some iron work, quite a bit for General Electric. They were building a new plant and we made all the hangers and things for them. That kind of petered out and then I went into the general contracting.

**MA:** Do you remember where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

**MGL:** I was in Walker, NY. I had played for a dance on Saturday night. I played violin for parties. I came home and Sunday morning I went to get my paper and Pete Fuss said to me, “Pearl Harbor’s been bombed.” You know he hit me with it, Pearl Harbor got bombed. I said, “So,” and he said, “It will make a hell of a lot of difference to you before you get through.”

**MA:** And it did?

**MGL:** It did. Another thing that was interesting about that same time—I stopped on Ridge Road up by Murray and my wife and I—I wasn’t always working—we bought scrap iron and sold it. I stopped at this old Ed Haight and I said, “Ed, do you want to sell all that scrap iron out in back of the barn there?” [Ed said] “No sir, by God I don’t, I’m not going to have those Japanese blowing it back at us.” That was two years before the war was even started. That old man had it pegged right.

**MA:** A lot of scrap was going to Japan.

**MGL:** It was going, boatloads. We supplied them with scrap iron to shoot back.

**MA:** Once the war had started did you realize you were going to have to go in?

**MGL:** Well, I figured I’d have to and then I felt—I had two boys and I figured every time you were walking around you just felt like you should be there—so I got a notice to come in for a physical. When I took the physical I enlisted in the Marine Corps.

**MA:** Why did you pick the Marines?

**MGL:** I just wanted to be in the Marines. I wanted to go—if I was going to be in—I wanted to go where the action was. I could have gone in the mechanics in the Air Force. I could have gone in two or three places where I could have been a mechanic but I joined the Marine Corps.

**MA:** What did your wife say?

**MGL:** She didn’t know I enlisted until after the war.

**MA:** She thought you were drafted?

**MGL:** I thought she knew but she was so surprised. She stayed home and took care of the kids and that’s why I think she deserves the Purple Heart and the plaques on the cemetery stones and all that stuff more than I do. Because she spent all that time with

two boys and with a \$100 a month, and we had just bought a house with a \$25 a month payment but she managed to keep it going. The taxes were paid and everything when I got home.

**MA:** Where did you go to basic?

**MGL:** Parris Island.

**MA:** What was that like?

**MGL:** I think everybody knows what boot camp is. Tough, much tougher than they are now, I guess. That was before that McKeon drowned down there. The Sergeant—when he got in all that trouble. We worked on that swamp too. Anybody that you've interviewed would tell you.

**MA:** We'd like your opinion.

**MGL:** My opinion. I thought they were a little nastier than they had to be. With me it didn't bother me because I was physically in good shape and had been working. But in some cases—I remember one boy who came out of a shoe store and had never lifted more than a box of shoes. He couldn't do pushups and he made one pushup and of course he couldn't push up, so they came and put a foot on his head. He threw up and they pushed his head down into it.

**MA:** You thought that's a little excessive?

**MGL:** I think so, don't you? [Laughing] I could do forty or whatever they wanted and there's nothing to it, but if a guy had never done anything... But when he came out of there he was lean and mean.

**MA:** You think the training helped you?

**MGL:** Yes. They tear you down. They get you so you feel pretty worthless. Then they build you up to what they want with you.

**MA:** So, once you got out of boot camp, where did you go?

**MGL:** I went up to Camp Lejeune. I was there for a very short time and then I came home and I just nicely got home and got a telegram and had to go back. Then we went to Camp Pendleton and from Camp Pendleton to San Diego and then we shipped out of San Diego and went to Guadalcanal.

**MA:** And you were trained as a what?

**MGL:** Rifleman—BAR man.

**MA:** So you were going overseas? Was it a good squad you were in?

**MGL:** Yes, we got over there and the Raiders were on Guadalcanal, but then they formed the 6<sup>th</sup> Division Marine Corps—and the 6<sup>th</sup> was the 29<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiments. The 6<sup>th</sup> Division is the only division of Marines that never was on the home United States. It was formed in the Pacific and it was closed out in the Pacific.

**MA:** What Regiment were you in?

**MGL:** I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup> Division.

**MA:** Your squad sergeant, was he an old timer?

**MGL:** The squad sergeant—I have a picture of the squad leader. He got the Medal of Honor. It's in my book here. Bush was his name. When we went into Okinawa, Jack Willard was a China Marine—our Lieutenant—he was an old timer and he got killed of course.

**MA:** Was Okinawa your first?

**MGL:** First invasion for the 6<sup>th</sup> Division and a lot of the same guys that were on Guadalcanal went into the 6<sup>th</sup> Division. And then went to Okinawa.

**MA:** Okinawa was your first combat experience?

**MGL:** The first combat, yes.

**MA:** What was it like for you?

**MGL:** It didn't seem to bother me too much—I mean we had been in landings down at Bougainville.

**MA:** What was Bougainville like?

**MGL:** Wild, a terrible jungle and Guadalcanal was a terrible jungle—land crabs, mosquitos, swamp, snakes.

**MA:** What was the job of the BAR man?

**MGL:** Well, in the Marine Corps you have three squads of thirteen in a platoon. Each squad has a squad leader and it has three four-man fire teams. Each fire team has a BAR man and two riflemen and an assistant BAR man who carries a small rifle and carries the ammunition for the Browning. So that put three BARs in each squad.

**MA:** So that was pretty good firepower

**MGL:** That was very good firepower. Each BAR shoots 20 rounds and you carry 12 magazines here [MGL points to waist] and six across here [MGL points to chest]. So you had a lot of firepower.

**MA:** Did you like the weapon?

**MGL:** I liked it—I didn't mind it. It was heavy and that's why some guys didn't carry it, but it didn't give me any trouble carrying it. I felt pretty secure with it. I liked it better than a bayonet.

**MA:** You usually shot with a bipod?

**MGL:** We threw the bipod away almost immediately. Somebody up above said use a bipod, but we were in stones and most of the time you can't set it down and most of the time you were using it like this. [MGL demonstrates holding and moving rifle at hip]

**MA:** So you were firing from the hip?

**MGL:** Yes, from the hip most of the time. The way they make it sound like you were in the movies and you go here and you have a nice flat spot to set it down and you get down and you never had that much time—it was never that kind of a place. [Laughing]

But I have something to tell you about April 1, 1945 when they hit Okinawa. We were aboard ship getting ready to disembark to go into the landing craft and all of a sudden, I know I was facing the platoon and all of a sudden I looked up and one of our aircraft came in wagging his wings like this. [MGL spreads his arms and moves them up and down] He was coming in like this and the ship that I was on shot him down.

**MA:** One of our planes?

**MGL:** And they hollered but the gunner—he just got orders to fire and that ship came over and we could see the pilot, almost see his eyes you know, and he hit the water and there was a flash of flame. I talked with several guys that weren't in my outfit later on that saw that and they couldn't get over it. How one of our own ships could...

**MA:** Pilot didn't make it?

**MGL:** Oh, no. Nothing left.

**MA:** When you landed on Okinawa, that was a fairly easy landing wasn't it?

**MGL:** It was easy—went right over the top of the Japanese. They were dug in—went right over them. I was in the first wave and then after we got past them they came up from behind and in front too, but it wasn't a tough landing. We went to the airport—Yontan Airport—I don't know if you have a record of that. I have it in my book. When we got there I remember we were all the way around and all of a sudden a Japanese plane landed, came in, taxied up and the pilot got out. He didn't know that the Marines had taken the airport. He got out. And I think everybody that was there shot him. They shot from all directions because everybody was keyed up. I suppose they all wanted to kill the Japanese.

**MA:** Bad career move.

**MGL:** [Laughing] It didn't seem like that was necessary either but that's what happened.

**MA:** Now the first wave, you came in on what?

**MGL:** Landing craft with a ramp in the back. They drove up and landed. Fortunately for us we landed into water that we could come in on, but the landing craft next to us got hit and blew up in the air and dumped all the guys in the China Sea.

**MA:** You landed in Okinawa?

**MGL:** Off and on we went across. When you are in combat you are not on the front line all the time—but the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> formed the 6<sup>th</sup> so the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment might be up. Each one has 4 groups, so they would have a group on line and three in reserve. And then this would work a while and then all of a sudden another one would move through. Everybody thinks you are right on the front line every minute, but you are off and on.

**MA:** So when you are in back in reserve what did you generally do?

**MGL:** Well, you are just waiting—hurry up and wait—and you get shelled anyway. You are in combat but you are not right up on the front line. At night, they form a line. What I am trying to say—wherever there's anybody, there is more behind them, right behind them, to back them up. One of the things that was of interest always to me is—whenever the main body wasn't in combat you had outposts 500 yards out to three quarters of a mile out— you have four Marines here, four over here and around. They didn't have intercoms then, they had telephone wires. You would be out there to alert the main body if any jets came in.

I remember one time I was on outpost and all of a sudden we looked up and here came a group of people—Okinawans and Japanese—and we thought they were civilians. The first one—he didn't have anything on but shorts—walked up. I know I was standing and they had Marines on both sides with BARs—two BARs—pointing across like this[MGL points two fingers at each other across his chest]. He came up to me and said, “Okina okina,” and he bent over like that. All of a sudden he straightened up and he had a hari kari knife with a string around his neck and had this little stick of wood about this long [MGL uses fingers to show five-six inches] and he pulled the handle off and he went like this. [MGL makes a motion forward with hand] Boy, he got me right under my cartridge belt. If I hadn't had a cartridge belt on he would have slit me wide open. These guys shot the whole bunch of them. I don't know if you want that on the record or not.

**MA:** Its fine, its fine.

**MGL:** It's not very nice.

**MA:** You thought they were civilians?

**MGL:** I thought they were civilians. We were telling them to, “Susumay,” to go back, and that they would be picked up and put into a commune. The first one turned out to be soldiers that were trying to get through. That's one instance.

**MA:** That kind of thing happen often?

**MGL:** Yes, we had one little old lady come through and they were letting her through and she was like this [MGL bends over] and she had her smock or blouse and it was full of hand grenades and she got in where the Marines were and she started throwing hand grenades—a little old woman.

**MA:** So after a while you were very wary?

**MGL:** They used to say don't pay any attention to who it is. And then our Lieutenant always said, "Don't forget every one of these kids that you kill is one that your kids won't have to fight." That was the Marine's attitude. [Laughing] When I think about it, now it sounds different to me than it did at the time.

**MA:** Your basic equipment—was it pretty good?

**MGL:** Yes, we worked with tanks and everything. We were alright—of course the only equipment we had was our rifle. There were four companies and each company had three or four platoons and then you have the tank outfit with it.

**MA:** You worked closely with the tankers?

**MGL:** Yes, with the tanks, at times. In the jungle you had to ride on the tank sometimes so the Japs couldn't get up on to it. They used to jump on the tank and put a composition for explosives on it and blow the tank up. The Marines had to get on the back end of it and ride.

**MA:** Did you get mail from home?

**MGL:** Occasionally, not often, once in a while. But you would usually get two or three letters at a time and sometimes you would get the new one before you got the old one.

**MA:** Did you send letters home?

**MGL:** Once in a while.

**MA:** About how long did it take to get home?

**MGL:** For a letter? I have no idea—sometimes it didn't take long.

**MA:** Matter of a week or two?

**MGL:** Couple of weeks. When you make an invasion you can't carry money in with you. The night before the invasion they have the dice games and the poker games and some people end up with quite a bit of money. I ended up with \$300 and my Lieutenant had some money and the post office closes on the ship and you can't carry money in with you. Some of the guys were throwing the money overboard. He said, "Put your money in an envelope and I'll put mine in and address it home. I'll give it to an officer on the ship here and when the post office opens he'll mail it." But unfortunately it never got home.

**MA:** Did you get many replacements in your unit?

**MGL:** Oh yes.

**MA:** How were they treated?

**MGL:** Replacements?

**MA:** Replacements. New guys coming in.

**MGL:** Oh, they were treated good. Sometimes like Sugarloaf Hill we lost all but three or four guys and we had all new guys but it worked out all right.

**MA:** What was Sugarloaf like?

**MGL:** It's in history.

**MA:** But for you?

**MGL:** Went up the hill, got knocked back, and we lost a big share of our platoon. Then another group went up and when they got up there the Japanese had the Marines' uniforms on and were coming down, and they didn't know which were Marines and which were Japanese so then they got wiped out. Then we went back in and we got wiped out again. And then all of a sudden it was over with. We won, of course, because we had so damn many men they never could get to the end of you.

**MA:** What did you think of the Japanese soldier in general?

**MGL:** At the time I didn't think much of him. I didn't trust him. I didn't want to be caught. I didn't want to be a prisoner. I don't think anybody wanted to be a Japanese prisoner—they were pretty miserable to them.

**MA:** Did you get many Japanese prisoners?

**MGL:** Some and we never kept them. Somebody would take them away—they had guys in back of us—and turn them over to the Army.

**MA:** Was your squad a pretty close knit group?

**MGL:** Pretty good. In the beginning we knew each other pretty well, but then in the end it got so I can hardly remember the names of the squad. Your own squad—thirteen men you could think of, but when you have a platoon you had thirty-nine men. It was pretty hard to know them all. And the ones that I knew best—the ones that didn't get killed—have died since the war. The biggest share of them—Bob Kellogg and all those guys...

One guy I went over with—that's of interest too—when we went aboard ship at San Diego he got seasick walking out on the dock and he was seasick all the way over to Guadalcanal. And when he went aboard ship he turned around and he said to me, "That's the last time I'll ever see the United States." He got killed the first day he was in combat. Eddie Lamberton, Chester Pennsylvania...

**MA:** Was your platoon Lieutenant a pretty good guy?

**MGL:** Well, we had so many of them. They'd get killed in combat. They would move them around when you were just in training. But in boots they were there all the time—the guys stayed right there on Parris Island. But when we got in combat, they never sent any of the drill instructors over with their men. The men usually despised them. [Laughing] I think they would have shot them if they got a chance. Maybe they shouldn't have been,



because the guy was just training them. In the end you take a bunch of crap for so long and you get pretty upset.

**MA:** You have two Purple Hearts?

**MGL:** Yes, I have one Purple Heart but I got wounded three times. I had two Purple Hearts but I can find only one.

**MA:** That was on Okinawa?

**MGL:** Yes, on Okinawa and I got one on Guadalcanal too.

**MA:** What was the difference between fighting on Okinawa and Guadalcanal?

**MGL:** Well it was cooler at Okinawa—there was frost on the ground. It was 120 degrees on Guadalcanal and they issued us all light clothes. We came to Okinawa and the next morning there was frost on the ground.

**MA:** You still had the light clothes?

**MGL:** We pretty near froze to death. You would hear the guys' teeth chattering. [Laughing] And then of course Okinawa in April is similar to what it is here. It's cold at night and in the daytime it would warm up real warm and then you would wish you didn't have so many clothes to carry.

**MA:** Did they finally get you appropriate clothing?

**MGL:** Well we got a field jacket and then we had a poncho and a blanket and a shelter half. Another thing of interest that I hope gets back to Washington—two of us had our shelter halves put together and the Japanese came in and shot the tents full of holes and we applied for new ones. They gave us new shelter halves and took it out of our pay.

**MA:** That wasn't very nice.

**MGL:** [Laughing] I hope they get that.

**MA:** We'll see what we can do. I'm not sure they're going to reimburse you.

**MGL:** No, but I just thought the least they could do was send the shelter halves. They never charged for ammunition. You could use all you want.

Another thing that happened to me that I think about occasionally at night—I think it was after Sugarloaf Hill. We were on line I believe going into Naha and all of a sudden I heard this shell coming. I was here [MGL points in front of himself], fifteen feet or so another guy, and another guy, and all of a sudden I looked up and here comes an 88 in. It's coming down and whistling and I saw the nosecone on the end of it—the hex, brass, and all of a sudden it hit right here—thunk, thunk, thunk—and rolled over a few times. I went to get up and my legs wouldn't carry me. Two guys ran out and picked me up and dragged me back. And I wasn't scared. My legs were.

**MA:** Your legs have more sense.

**MGL:** Why that shell didn't explode I'll never know. All the other ones did. My wife says it was because she was praying.

**MA:** Probably was the reason. So you were basically on Guadalcanal and Okinawa?

**MGL:** That's right. I was on Saipan after in 148 Army Hospital.

**MA:** What was that stay like?

**MGL:** After I got wounded the last time, I was hit real bad.

**MA:** How did that happen?

**MGL:** I got hit. A machine gun got me in the rifle and turned the rifle and it hit my cartridge belt and it blew this side out here. [MGL points to the side of his waist on the right] My cartridge belt exploded and the spring from a magazine that pushes the shells up—that long follower spring—went into my stomach and blew in. Then of course the Japanese hit our platoon real hard and I was lying there and the Lieutenant gave me morphine and then I don't know what happened to the platoon. I was there—that night our platoon was surrounded—so then I stayed in the foxhole overnight with them and the next morning four guys put me on a stretcher and started back. They got back toward Naha Field Hospital—like MASH—and they were carrying me and then all of a sudden a jeep came up and they put me crossways on the back of a jeep and headed back. They were bouncing along and all of a sudden they heard the awful screaming—it was one of those screaming rockets that they used on Okinawa. Big, and they screamed. They weren't so dangerous, the explosions, but they drove people wild listening to them. And when they heard that coming, and I heard it too—I didn't pass out like I should have—they stopped the jeep and they threw the stretcher into a little ditch. They jumped in the ditch like that and dammit if the jeep didn't get blown up. And then the four guys carried me a little ways farther and then another jeep came.

When I got up to the field hospital I remember there was some kind of a tree there and there were guys lying all over on stretchers. And I remember they were coming out and taking them in and giving them first aid. They operated on me but on most of them they just took care of them enough to hold them. And I remember two guys came out and looked at me and said, "There's no use." I knew I was pretty near gone. They said, "There's no use." I said to them I got a wife and two kids, as true as I sit here, and he said, all of a sudden, "Get him in here." And then the doctor came and he had knee boots on and he had a bottle of whiskey—I could see that—and he says to me, "Fifty years from now this will all be a dream." And he's right too. Then I conked out.

When I came to, it was morning. I think it was morning. It was later anyway and I was lying on the floor on something and there were guys lying all around. Harry Householder—I heard this voice—and I said, "Householder," and he said, "Yes." He was our company runner and I said, "What happened?" He said our platoon was wiped right out. He named off different ones—Carlson and different ones—and he was talking right

along with me and all of a sudden I turned around and looked and they pulled the poncho over him. He was dead.

And then pretty soon I looked up and here comes Sargent Bill Bryce. I sure would like to find him. He was from Minneapolis, Minnesota and he had been shot in the head. But he was walking. Big fella. He was a Master Sergeant and he stopped and he said, "How are you doing LaDue?" And I said, "Better," and he said, "I'll make you some soup." So he took one of those little Bunsen Burners, put a canteen cup onto it and put some water in, put a soup pill into it and set it on the fire. Pretty soon I looked up and he put his rifle on his shoulder and he walked out and of course that's the last time I ever saw him. And then I couldn't eat it anyway.

I'm going to finish the story to get to Saipan.

I was in this field hospital at Naha and there was a wall around it, but there were snipers shooting against the wall all the time. They took me out and put me on an open boat. Lying in the bottom of an open boat—the spray came in, the salt came in and got into where I had been opened up and taken all the junk out—and that was pretty miserable. Then a Sailor came to me and he said to me—he took his canteen and said, "Do you want a drink of water," and I said, "I can't have a drink of water. I'm gut shot. It will turn to poison." He said, "If you don't take care of yourself, nobody else will." See those are the things I remember.

So, they took me out and finally they went up to a ship and they dropped the net down and took me up and put me on deck. The ship doctor came and said that they couldn't handle me—they could only take lesser wounds—so back again and then I had to go cross cable to another ship. I ended up on what I always said was a relief hospital ship. It may be on my discharge papers—the relief hospital ship—but I've talked with people over there and they said it wasn't a relief hospital ship but I always thought it was.

And then when I got on the ship—of course I had infections so bad that my site blew out and it went all over the place—finally there were so many thousands on that ship as far as you could see. There were eight, nine, high. Finally, after I complained enough, and then after my site blew out and all that infection blew out and got all over the ones underneath me and everything, they came and rolled me out of the bunk onto a stretcher. They turned the mattress over, or the pad, and put some disinfectant onto it and then put me back into the bed. I laid there a few minutes and I began to burn so then I—you know you hate to complain because there were so many guys worse off than you were—but I kept squirming around and complaining to them until they came, and come to find out I was blistered—my back.

Oh, incidentally too, the first afternoon or night or whatever it was, I was on the hospital ship, and a suicide plane hit the hospital ship and knocked the bowel off of it. We were lying there and all of a sudden they came and put wet towels over our faces. It didn't

damage the ship enough so they couldn't use it but it took quite a blow on the bowel—a suicide plane. Then I don't know how many days it was to go to Saipan.

When I got to Saipan I was in 148 Army Hospital and I had Jean Fields for a nurse and she was from Salamanca, New York—can you believe it—and she was with me all the time. She'd go and sleep, but if I moved around much she'd be back. For a long time I had full time care because, believe me, I pretty near died. I was paralyzed. Then I don't know how long I was on Saipan. I had quite a few problems there. Then I went to Pearl Harbor—Aiea Heights Hospital.

On the way from Saipan to Pearl Harbor, I was on a C-47 and one motor conked out—and they had to land on Wake and change planes. I got to Pearl Harbor and then it was pretty good at Aiea Heights Hospital. I don't know when that was but I was there when the war ended—at Pearl Harbor. They had a juice cart that came through the hospital two times a day, in the middle of the afternoon, and maybe in the evening, and they dumped whiskey into the juice cart. It was drunken Sailors, drunken Marines, drunken doctors, and drunken nurses. [Laughing] They had a hell of a time when the war ended. They tell me they had the same thing back here in the streets—everybody went wild.

I was at Pearl Harbor for quite a long time, then I came to Oakland, California in the hospital and I was in the hospital there for ... Well, in August I was in Pearl Harbor and I was in Oakland and I was back at Sampson Naval Base in the hospital by November. How long it took in between I don't know. Then I was at Sampson Naval Base from November until May of '46.

**MA:** Sampson went out of business soon after that.

**MGL:** Soon after.

**MA:** As a naval base.

**MGL:** The hospital closed long about the same time too. But I don't know how soon the Air Force took it over.

**MA:** Actually between the two it was a temporary college for the guys coming back... because I was there.

**MGL:** I lost track of everything then and in May I finally got discharged. They operated and took the last bullets out.

**MA:** You must have a stomach full of lead.

**MGL:** Oh I've got a mess there. I've been a mess ever since. But I don't know of too much I can tell you. In combat a lot of things happen but there's so many that...

**MA:** What sticks out in your mind?

**MGL:** Oh, shooting at kids. We were sitting in a foxhole eating beans out of a can. I was with a Tennessee boy sitting in there, and of course the orders in the morning were to

shoot everybody that you see. All of a sudden I looked up and I saw this old man and two little kids run across and I went on eating my beans. All of a sudden this guy that was with me, he looked over and he picked up his rifle. [MGL points his finger to indicate shooting] That was not necessary either, I don't think. I think about that a lot of times.

Because I guess war is bad, but I don't think you have to be as bad as some of them were. Of course these Japanese prisoners, I came home with one that had been skinned. They took strips of skin off him and he was crazier than a bat. He'd be lying there and all of a sudden he would scream. I had another one that was in Pearl Harbor with me and he was out of his head too, I guess, because he thought he was a weight lifter—standing all the time picking up weights, lifting them—he didn't have anything. That's enough.

**MA:** How do you view your experience in general? Any way of summing it up?

**MGL:** I wouldn't part with it, but I wouldn't want it again. You get pretty good care until we got to Sampson. In Sampson the war ended of course in August, and five-six months later the doctors wanted to go home. So you'd ask the doctor, can't you hurry up and get me patched up, and he'd say this week I'm going pheasant hunting, next week I'm going to do this, maybe I can get to you in a couple-three weeks. And then they'd be discharged, and another doctor would come in but the doctors wanted to go home too.

I stood up for roll call and I had a cigarette in my hand. I didn't stand up. I sat on the edge of the bed and the doctor came and he was a Captain, and he said, "You stand up there. Do you realize I am a Captain in the Navy Doctors?" I said I was a Sergeant in the Marine Corps and I want to know when the hell I am going to be operated on. And he suspended me to my bed and told me that I couldn't leave the hospital and I was in deep trouble.

After he left I got up and walked out and went to Commodore Bat's office—the Commodore—and the boy at the door wouldn't let me in so I went over and stood to one side. When the boy walked away, I walked in and went right over and talked with Commodore Bat. If he was around he would probably remember that because he was quite upset. And then he said, "I can understand the way you feel," and he wrote a note on a paper and said, "Take this over to the [unclear] shack and turn it in and get a pass and go home for a couple-three days. And then come back." I did that and when I came back they had all new doctors and within a week I was operated on and two-three weeks I was home.

**MA:** You were discharged at that point?

**MGL:** Well later, to Bainbridge, Maryland. I had to go to NY—Brooklyn Navy Yard—and I was down there for a couple-three days and then I went to Bainbridge, Maryland and was discharged at Bainbridge. There was an interesting thing too—I was walking across the parade field with a couple of other Sailors or Marines, I forget which, and all of a sudden I looked up and I saw Colonel Beans and I ran over and I said, "Hey Beans." He sat on the foxhole with me overseas and ate out of the same can. He said, "You

straighten up there and don't you ever do that to me again, here you just don't do that." [Laughing] Of course where I was nobody paid any attention to regulations. Stripes didn't mean anything and bars when we were overseas—that's just when you are in bases and like that. I got quite a kick out of that too because he was upset, but I disliked him for it afterwards. I thought he could have remembered when we were all for one.

**MA:** So once you got discharged, you got home.

**MGL:** I got home and I wasn't supposed to go to work. In fact, I was never to work again. I was home for a short time and finally I decided to make my blacksmith shop. I cut my garage in two and widened it out and built a forge in the back. I started doing some work and puttering along and all of a sudden I went on working and I worked ever since.

**MA:** Were you able to get disability?

**MGL:** Oh yes, I was 100%. In 1947 I put a new furnace in, I bought a new car and I was doing good. War guy came home. Everybody was hiring me to do things. Bank was lenient with me and I bought a new car and I put a new furnace in and then I got a letter from the Veterans that I had to report to the city here. I went in and they said we had a complaint from one of your neighbors that you are 100% disabled and that you're still working and making money.

**MA:** Nice neighbors.

**MGL:** Yes. They told me who it was too. It was a minister's wife. So then I talked with them and it was an English doctor that I had and he told me, "You could be President of the United States and you're still entitled to your disability." But I was disabled as a blacksmith and that's hard work. But anyway, I told them if you cut it to 90% will there be any... And they cut it to 90% and it has been that ever since. I suppose it isn't right, you know, you are on disability. I just got a letter the other day that said if you have 100% disability from combat or war you couldn't have disability from Social Security or anything else. And I suppose that's right—same as you can't have two fire insurances pay for the same fire. [Laughing]

**MA:** So what did you think of your experience as a Marine?

**MGL:** I thought it was great. I think a lot of the Marine Corps and I think it's the best outfit there is.

**MA:** Well, we'd like to thank you very much. We appreciate you coming in.

**MGL:** I hope I didn't bore you.

**MA:** Not at all. I've never been bored.

**MGL:** A lot of times you are sitting there and you think of a lot of stories. I tell them a lot of stories but sometimes I think they get sick of hearing them. [Laughing]

**WC:** Do you have some pictures you want to show us? We can get them on tape.

Nancy Carter, MGL's Daughter (NC): He brought two Japanese flags. They are pretty beat up.

**MGL:** I took them off a Japanese that was killed. [MGL holding up a bullet-ridden Japanese flag] Is this one a good one? It got riddled.

**MA:** That's alright. Part of the story.

**MGL:** This one here isn't too bad. I will tell you an interesting story about these—when I was on Saipan they had Japanese girls in the hospital working. They found these and they had these laid out on the bed and they were looking at them—that's the names of the guys that were in this man's platoon. [MGL points to markings on flag] You've probably seen flags like that before.

**MA:** Yes, we have seen a few. Those are great.

**MGL:** I gave them to my grandson.

**NC:** This was taken at Sampson. I don't know whose lying with you, Dad. It might be Berger.

**MGL:** That is Ketter, are there three of us or just two? [Holds up picture of two men in hospital beds]

**NC:** Just the two.

**MGL:** That is Ketter. He was wounded on Iwo.

**MA:** Which one are you?

**MGL:** I think I was on the right hand bed.

**NC:** Yes, you are to the right.

**MA:** This was at Sampson?

**MGL:** We had a private room. Three of us had a private room— Satterley and Ketter and me.

**NC:** You took these off a Japanese soldier after you killed him. That's his family. You found those pictures on him. [Holds up picture of a Japanese man, woman and three children and another of a Japanese man and woman]

**MA:** This was Saipan or Okinawa?

**MGL:** Okinawa.

**NC:** These are just pictures of villagers. I don't know if it is Okinawa or where.

**MGL:** I can't tell you.

**NC:** I know they are villagers, I just don't know where it was taken.

**MA:** I don't know if that's Okinawa.

**MGL:** Probably is, if they were civilized people it was not Guadalcanal. [Holds up several pictures of villages and villagers]

**NC:** This is your Purple Heart.

**MGL:** They've seen hundreds of those. They are a dime a dozen.

**NC:** He's got pictures of Sampson and your unit.

**MA:** I was in Sampson in 1947 and 1948.

**MGL:** At the Navy Base?

**MA:** Right after it was a Navy Base it became a temporary college. My Dad was an instructor there. I have pictures of me at Sampson.

**MGL:** You know where the hospital area was? It was south of Callahan unit and those places.

**NC:** This is your Parris Island platoon. And those are the pictures you carried on you of Mom and my brothers.

**MA:** That's the platoon? [Holds up picture of platoon] Whereabouts are you in there?

**NC:** In the middle. And the pictures he carried on him of my mother. [Holds up picture of Mrs. LaDue and two sons]

**MA:** You were born just after the war?

**NC:** I came after the war. My brothers were pre-war.

**MA:** She was a kid.

**NC:** Yes. There's a picture of Jeannie Fields, the nurse. We've tried to find her but haven't had any luck. But that was his nurse in Saipan.

**MA:** Was she in the military?

**MGL:** Yes, she was an army nurse. [Holds up picture of Army Nurse]

**MA:** Through the Freedom of Information Act you could request her records.

**MGL:** My wife and I go to Salamanca every so often and drive around and I never found...

**NC:** We've been trying to find her, but...

**MGL:** Another nurse that was down in Saipan—a blonde girl, when I came to I thought she was an angel. I woke up and saw this real clean, white, blonde hair bending over and I really thought, well this is Angel Gabriel.

**NC:** Eddie Lamberton, he died, that was the picture taken the day before he got killed, I believe. [Holds up picture of Marine]