

**Victor N. Cannizzaro
Veteran**

**Mike Russert
Interviewer**

**Interviewed on August 9, 2002
Freeport Armory, Freeport, Long Island, New York**

Q: This is an interview with Victor Cannizzaro at the Freeport Armory in Freeport Long Island, August 9th, 2002. It's approximately noon. The interviewer is Michael Russert.

Could you tell me your full name and your date of birth and place of birth please

V: Yes. My full name is Victor Nicholas Cannizzaro, and I was born in Brooklyn on August 5th, 1921.

Q: Before you went in the military service, what was your pre-service education?

V: Well I attended the law, I'm sorry. I attended St John's, graduated from St John's with a BBA in 1943 and immediately went into service from there. I did spend, from '42 to '43, I was considered a Private, First Class in the Marine Corps, attending college

Q: Okay. Did you have any pre-war work experience?

V: Uh, very little. I worked while I was going to college.

Q: Okay. Were you drafted or did you enlist?

V: No, I enlisted. Uh, draft would have been inevitable, but I did want to finish my college education, and the marines gave me an opportunity so I took it.

Q: Why did you select the Marine Corps?

V: Well, the Marine Corps was popular in my neighborhood. I had a friend who was in the Marine Corps, and he had already joined. I enjoyed his relationship, so I wanted to join also.

Q: Okay, why don't you tell us from, I guess, after you graduated then, and your basic training, and so on.

V: Well, upon my graduation, September 1 was my date of graduation, on September 15th I was in Paris Island attending boot camp. And there I stayed for three (3) months, which is the usual, and completed my basic training. And from there I was transferred to Quantico Virginia for officer candidate training school, I guess you call it, and spent three months before I got commissioned. Upon getting commissioned, I was assigned the field artillery. So I attended field artillery classes, in Quantico, for an additional three months, and completed my studies there. And from Quantico I was shipped to San Diego. San Diego, Coronado Island, there was a naval base there, and I was assigned naval gunfire training. And from Coronado, we would go to San Clemente Island, I think it is—yeah, San Clemente Island, and spotted for naval ships that were preparing to join the fleet Marine force. I'm sorry, the fleet Naval force. In fact, one the exciting moments there was the firing, or spotting, for the North Carolina battleship. I hadn't had that experience, and to spot for 16 inch guns was quite a thrill.

Q: Okay. What happened after that?

V: Well, from San Diego I was shipped up to San Francisco, and from there I was flown to Hawaii on

one of those flying was stationed on Maui. Maui is one the principal islands there, as you know. Our training continued, naval gunfire training. There was an island off the Hawaiian islands called **Kahalawi**. I'm not sure I'm saying that right, but it was a gunnery island, and naval ships had to qualify before they joined the fleet in the Pacific. And then , so they would put us ashore on the island in a bunker, and we spotted for the naval ships that were practicing, or qualifying.

From Hawaii, the next thing—chain of events, we boarded --- or on January 1945, we boarded troop ships and headed for the Pacific combat area. And we went past the Marshall Islands. One reason I say that is because the 4th Marine Division, that was their initial assault. The first action they received, and they took that island very easily.

And then went to Saipan. From there we went to Saipan. On Saipan we did some further training and we actually had maneuvers landing on Tinian, the island of Tinian. By this time both islands had fallen into American hands.

So from Tinian, was put on a ship, troop ship again, and traveled to Iwo Jima, and we assaulted Iwo Jima on February 19th, 1945.

Q: Did you watch any of the pre- landing of firing on the island?

V: Oh yes, yes. Oh very definitely. I was in a landing craft. I landed at H+1, my outfit. So I was about preparing to land when the first troops hit the beach. And it's very interesting. The ships, and there were lots of ships. We had a tremendous naval force. The ships that were in support of the troops, all of them zeroed their guns on the water line. And at the proper moment, they began to raise their target so they were 400 yards ahead of the landing troops. So they just formed a protective blanket, and just went forward, until once the troops hit the beach. Then the ships would be under the control of the naval gunfire spotter.

I had a tough experience, I'm allowed to talk about it.

Q: Oh, yeah. That's what we want to hear

V: My landing boat hit the beach, but the bow wouldn't go down, it was stuck. Somehow it got jammed running out.

Q: LCI?

V: No, it's one of those landing boats.

Q: With a forward ramp?

V: (Frank nods yes) Forward ramp goes down, and the boson was all excited because he says "I got to get the hell outa here!". He said this boat is going to breach. I guess the word is that it would swamp, that was what he was afraid of. And he did a good job of keeping it perpendicular to the beach and avoiding the waves coming from the side. But then when he couldn't get the bow down, he said "Well then I have to go over the side". Well I was standing back where the boson was and I said " You can't do that. These men have packs on their back. How deep is the water?" He said "It's over 8 feet." I said "They'll just go down like lead." So we said, let's try it again. And on signal, we'll just have the men push forward and knock it down. So we tried one more time, and he's yelling "Here come the mortars. Here come the mortars", because now we're sitting ducks. So it worked. When it was time to knock the bow down, and it released. So we landed, and we jumped in water that was no more than 3 feet deep. Just go our feet wet, so to speak, and we landed. At that point, we hit the beach and you had to get off the beach, because the beach was under constant fire. And I got off the beach and moved inland, and was not committed. My operation was not committed until the next day.

I replaced a fellow who's a friend of mine, who was severely injured---lost a leg and had to be given 23 pints of blood, but that's a different story. Ben Rozelle was a great guy, I went to school with him in the military.

We, at that point, we were now committed moving them on the extreme right flank so that the whole line of operation, we landed about here—pointing to the map on the wall above Frank’s head—This is the area of the landing. We landed about here and moved this way, so I had the extreme right flank to support the troops. I had them assigned to me, one destroyer a day, one destroyer a day. And at night the destroyer would be moved to the rear and fire star shells to illuminate the background to illuminate enemy movement.
Some of the experiences...

Q: Why don’t you explain what you mean you had one destroyer a day. How did you work with this destroyer?

V: Okay. Each destroyer, and I have a list of them which is not important, each destroyer would fire at my command if you will, and sometimes it was direct fire. But, I would pick out the targets, and since we were going along the beach, naval gunfire was very appropriate, because naval gunfire is like a rifle. It doesn’t lob the shell over a hill. It can only hit targets that are on the surface. So it became very appropriate to have these ships assigned on that basis because One—you prevented the enemy from attacking along the beach and getting behind our lines . But the important thing was to lend support to the troops as they advanced.

I said every day, and I meant every day, with the exception of one day. I got a battleship assigned to me. Battleship Nevada, and of course these ships are close to shore. They’re probably about 1,500 yards off shore and give support to the troops. We picked gun placements which were pretty much beaten. The things we had to look for were small machine gun nests to support the troops.

Now about the fourth or fifth day into the operation I was assigned there LCI’s in addition to a destroyer. And the LCI, one had rockets on its deck. One had mortars, large mortars which weren’t to accurate. You had to use them for harassing fire for deep penetration. And the other one had 40 millimeter guns mounted, which were really anti-aircraft guns, but to use for support of advancing troops.

So we had a plan. The Colonel called the attack, a dawn attack. And I had been told—and I had never fired rockets or mortars or 40 millimeter guns, but we were told about them when we were in Saipan as part of our training. What happened, the Colonel, one of the rockets, he said: I want them right up there in front of the troops. I had indicated we were not supposed to fire these within 500 yards of the troops, because they too were on a base that not’s stable—the boat bobs up & down in the air, they throw these things up in the air, and they land approximately where they’re supposed to land. So he wanted them, and I said well, you’ll get it, but it’s your order. So we gave the instructions to the boat and they did a great job. It’s beautiful to watch how they just speed, go forward at high rate and that stabilizes them. They fire one rocket, and it’s the water. They fire another one that hits the water’s edge and then all hell breaks loose. Boom Boom They shot, I think it must have been about 150 rockets all within a matter of seconds. Covered an area the size of a football field. The colonel got all excited. He says: Guys, how many guys have we killed, our own guys? And I said: I don’t think we got any, thought I thought it was pretty good, it was very close.

So the troops advanced, and it was a great movement. We did suffer casualties, then we had to retrieve wounded people, but it was an area that very little movement up until that time.

In fact the only movement we had was we overran the first caves. They had a lot caves. The first cave we overran we looked in and we shouldn’t have. That’s where I picked up a Japanese flag, and right after that an order was issued: No souvenir hunting, stay out of caves. We’re going to blow ‘em up. And from then on, we stayed out of caves. The hell then with souvenirs.

Another area that was of interest, I give credit to the Navy because they did such a great job. One day I spotted a flash of white coming from a tree about a thousand yards ahead of us. It could only be a reflection of sun on glass or metal. So I had to assume it was an enemy spotter doing the same thing I was doing—spotting for artillery or gunfire. So I gave instructions to the destroyer, and they could see

it. So they got it in their gun sites and they took one shot, and that tree disappeared completely. I never saw such accuracy in my life. But they were exciting. The destroyers were wonderful people, and they always wanted a lot of action.

When I had those 3 LCI's that were firing rockets, and mortars and 40 millimeters, they wanted to join in, you know. They were very eager. And we said, well you know, let's not cloud the target. That could be a problem. So stand by and we'll select other targets for you.

What I need to say about the Battleship Nevada, I almost forgot this because I thought it was kind of interesting. The Navy is required, when it supports troops, to make that the first priority, except for their own safety, if they're in danger.

And the Nevada, when I spent the day firing its five-inch guns, I only used the five-inch guns for small targets, and then I asked them to take position at night—which meant to “arear”. (Pointing to the map on the wall) Which meant she had to go from here, approximately—because you're firing ships across the front. You can't fire them into the front—you've got to fire them either away from the front or across the front. And then we asked her, like we did all ships, to go about here (pointing at map) to fire star shells into enemy territory. The star shells fired at a high elevation and they burst over the enemy, and the shell continues, the casing continues, and lands in enemy territory. And a parachute comes out with a star shell. A star that is very bright. And it takes about 15 minutes for it to reach the ground. So it illuminates the area. Now I wasn't the only one. I mean the other fronts....my responsibility was just along the water's edge here (Pointing to map) so to speak, on the right flank. BUT she refused to go. You know, admiral was on top, so I had no choice but to notify my naval liaison officer, Willie Berger, and he went up through the ranks. 20 minutes later I get a message that the ship was moving and would notify me when it was in position to fire. But I must say, for the Nevada, the next day—it was later found out---was leaving for Tokyo. So I was putting her at a disadvantage. (Pointing at map) She was out here, and she wanted to go to Tokyo this way, I was putting her away from her destination. That was the main reason she didn't want to move into position. But it was an exciting thing for me.

Q: How are you in contact with these ships? What did you use?

V: Okay. On landing, I had a walkie-talkie. And my crew would be in a later boat with radio equipment, crank generate – had a generator. And I would connect once I landed. Oh, I'm sorry. Gotta go back.

The walkie-talkie, I could communicate to my naval liaison officer who was floating on a boat between me and the ship that was firing. And then he would relay the message to the ship. Upon landing and getting established, I would have a hand generator with a radio that one of the fellows carried on his back, and I had a string of wire from that radio. Because he'd be in a position that was relatively safe, so that it wouldn't be destroyed. And I would have a wire and string it up forward to my observation point. And whenever I went and talked to the ship I had butterfly switch. I just said “generate”, and he would crank, and I could talk to the ship. Later on, and much later, I had a radio Jeep. But the radio Jeep sank on landing, and wasn't retrieved until about the seventh or eighth day of the operation, and I was only committed for about 10, 12 days. But the radio Jeep was, of course, the easiest. You have your motor running and generate power and talk to the ship.

Q: I noticed that you mentioned you went up to **Surabachi**.

V: Oh yes. What happened is after I was, my outfit was relieved, I hadn't---no one had---showered, shaved, or cleaned up for about 10 to 12 days. So because I was in communication with the ships, I went down to the beach and went aboard one of the, I guess they were one of the L's---on a LARGE landing ship, one that could land tanks and materials

Q: LST

V: LST (nodding his head in agreement) and they said Sure, come aboard, have a shower, but don't stay long because we're leaving as soon as we unload. So I went aboard, got a shower, put on the same clothes. I had my Sergeant with me, Sergeant William Colden (spelling?) And we said, while we're here, you know its..we're back from the front lines, we're in an area that's considered secure. And I was, let's go Suribachi. So we walked up to Suribachi, which was uneventful. There was no shooting or anything like that. And we got up there, there was a bunch of guys grouped together, and there were— pictures were taken. So they said to me: Quick, quick—get in the picture, so I got in the picture. And that's the whole story on Suribachi

Q: Now was the flag up there?

V: Oh sure. By that time. This was, I think this was around—I have some notes. It was March 2nd

Q: Were you aware of this flag raising up there?

V: Oh sure. Very much so. It was, um. Everyone could see it. Everyone in the island. It was the most, really, uplifting thing that had happened. Because the first three days were very rough with artillery going back and forth, and they—the Japs even had a sort of rocket, a huge rocket. We think it was a 500 pound bomb that was put together and launched off a wooden platform. But then we called it a trolley ,and just struggled and landed behind us all the time. They had no control of where it was going. So, the flag went up & cheers went up. But when the flag came down, that was almost a disheartening thing. Because, or about that time, and I can't say for sure now, the navy aircraft carriers—and that aircraft carrier that got hit and blew up, and you could see the fire, the flames at night (in) the sky. And that was very disheartening because the next morning the ships were gone. Everybody ran for cover because we were under attack, and a navy pilot crossed the island. It was at night, chasing a Jap plane that dropped a bomb not to far from where we were. And the air liaison officer, he had the job of disarming it. He never told us. So when the flag came down, these things made us very unhappy, nervous about it.

But it went up shortly thereafter and stayed up. And that was the second time the flag was flown. But I didn't know at that time the details of where the flag came from, and all that.

Q: Could you describe about walking in this volcanic sand?

V: Yeah.

Q: What was that like?

V: Well, most of—the biggest encounter was when you hit the beach, and going up the terraces. They were just black sand, and very loose, so you could literally dig a foxhole with your elbows, you know. You just burrowed down to protect yourself. It was, it wasn't very stable. Now inland, where the caves were, it was sort of a sandstone, and they could carve the caves right out of the sandstone. And they did a tremendous job. Of course they had many years to prepare that island. But you know, just an example, the first cave that I came across, and was interested in, and the last one, the entrance was down this way (pointing downward at approximately a 45 degree angle with his right hand), and there's another entrance down this way (pointing downward at approximately 45 degree angle with this left hand), and the entrance to the cave was this way—90 degrees to it. So a bomb, and explosion at this end went out the other end and didn't effect the people in the cave. And the caves were, they had bunks carved out in the walls of the cave where they slept. They just put rice pads down, and slept on the rice pads. And or course once we were told not to go into the caves anymore, the guys never went beyond the cave entrance.

The guys would drop hand grenades down ventilation tubes. So you could just find ventilation tubes and you just threw hand grenades.

The demolitions team played a big role. They came by and locked up all those caves. That's why so

many of the Japs are unaccounted for, because they're buried in those caves.

Q: You mentioned in this about Japanese infiltrating into your lines.

V: Oh, yeah. Let's see. What was that about. (refers to his handwritten notes) It was about the fifth or sixth day of the operation, and of course we had the star shells light up the area so we would see enemy infiltrating. We had three Japs that infiltrated in our area, and the guys got the with hand grenades.

But in the meantime, I had to discontinue communicating with the ship because of radio ship. We didn't know if there were any more coming through. So you had to alert with the spot of them coming through. But they got them with hand grenades. And the dynamite didn't explode. Never figured that out. They're on their way to probably explode, or damage the supply depot or the stockpile that we had there for ammunition, and guns.

Q: How long were you on Iwa Jima?

V: Well, it was about D plus 20, because the island had become pretty much secure, and the whole division was put aboard ship, and we went to Okinawa. We were in reserve, and probably going to be replacements if needed, and we didn't land.

Q: Did you witness any of the kamikaze attacks?

V: Well, we were too far at sea to see it on the island. All we could see was smoke from where the shells were.....

Q: I meant on the ship. Kamikaze attacks on the American Navy.

V: I did not observe any. The one that I mentioned about the aircraft carrier, that was a kamikaze. And I forget the name of the ship.

Q: Was it the Franklin?

V: I think so. Franklin, yeah, yeah.

Q: Did you experience that typhoon that struck the Okinawa area that was so destructive?

V: No. Because at some point, when they felt we weren't needed anymore in reserve in Okinawa, we were returned to Maui and set up camp again.

Q: Now you mentioned that you were at Guam for, with prisoners of war.

V: Well what happened is now we're on Maui and had a Colonel Waldorf (sp?) who was organizing the battalion to go to China. And well, that was the thing in the Marines in those days, to be a China Marine you know. If you're going to stay in the service and move up, you had to be a China Marine. At least we thought so. So I volunteered, and my buddies, Hugh Hudgins and Jim Russell. And Colonel Waldorf gave each of us a company. So we took off, and we were allowed to bring anything and everything we could get our hands on because we had to live on our own nerds, without any help from the Chinese. But instead of us going to China, they put us ashore on Guam. Took Colonel Waldorf away from us, gave us another Colonel and made MPs out of two companies. I was one of them made MPS. And Hugh Hudgins, my other buddy, he was placed & put in charge of a prison camp of 2,000 Japs.

The MP work was for the harbor, and they have a huge harbor in Guam, and it was helped by the fact that Americans built a jetty, oh-I say at least a mile long, or maybe more—that it could encase the whole fleet in that harbor and they could put a anti-submarine net across the opening to protect the fleet. Which they didn't do that. Would have been too much concentration I'm sure.

So we had that 21 miles of harbor, ships were coming in, unloading. We had to constantly put guards

at each ship because the captains would want the material—merchant captains—would want their materials delivered safely. In fact one time we had an escort, convoy of about 12 to 15 truck loads of beer to the army base up on island command. Well the orders were, don't have any of that beer disappear. So we had one guard on each truck. I had the lead vehicle and got it up to the army base, and waiting for an officer to sign off on it, otherwise it was going to back to where it came from. (chuckles) It got delivered.

Q: All of it?

V: All of it. I didn't get a sample

Q: Okay, after your duty on Guam what happened to you?

V: Well that was it. We didn't go to China, so we decided that we'd had enough and I put in to get released, and I got released. I had to wait for a replacement before they released me. But I go released and came back home and arrived in New York City in April 1, 1946.

Q: What was your reaction to the atomic bomb being dropped in Japan?

V: Oh, the best thing that could have happened. It would have been really, really tough. It took three divisions to take Iwo, and that's the four mile island. You know how many Americans would have to be used to take Tokyo or Japanese Island? It would have been a dreadful encounter. I thought, I think it was the greatest thing and I admire Harry Truman for making the decision.

Q: How you think your service with the Marines has changed or affected your life?

V: Well, it was favorable. I didn't let it influence me in the military fashion, because I was warned about that. But it gave me a lot of confidence. It gave me opportunities to be in charge. I was, you know, for a fellow 24 years old out of college, I had a lot of responsibilities that I don't think I've ever had since. So ,I enjoyed the experience, and my attitude was—I'd say suitable for civilian life.

Q: Did you make use of the GI Bill?

V: Yes. I attended St. John's Law School after the war for two years until I was hired by Arthur Anderson, the famous Arthur Anderson you read about. Chuckles

Q: Famous?

V; chuckling For seven years I worked for Arthur Anderson, so I never went back to law school because I really enjoyed the work. And from then on I moved to one of the clients, American Bosch Armor Corporation, at a high level. I was a controller of a New York Stock Exchange listed company. And from there I went to North American Phillips, a large international company, and spent seven years there. Lastly I joined Amrat Corporation. Amrat Corporation was head quartered in New York, but they moved all the administrative functions to New Mexico. And I was given the job to move the administrative functions to New Mexico, and I stayed there until I retired.

Q: Have you been active, or joined any Veterans organizations?

V: Yes, I'm with the American Legion and we have a great group in Manhasset. We have 40, 50 people attend each meeting.

Q: Did you marry after you returned home?

V: After I returned home, and was stable in my job, I married Jacqueline Horan and we moved to Garden City. I was there for about 20 years. And then when I moved to New Mexico she came out, of course. And I had a daughter, Carol. And she (Carol) married while I was out there, and my wife passed away while I was out there. I had met, and known, a girl, or lady. Well, I had known her as

long as I'd known my late wife, and so we decided we'd get married. She'd lost her husband about four years sooner (earlier), through illness. I had to wait about six months until my pension came through. So I married Mimi **Devanosh**. Now Mimi, is only accused of marrying Marines (smiling). Her first husband was a colonel in the Marines. And she was quite a gal. We live in Manhasset and have been very happy.

Q: As you talk about each item you can hold it up and Wayne can move in with the camera.

V: Well, I don't really have to much. I have this map here---points to the map tacked to wall above him of

Q: Have you ever gone to any reunions?

V: No, I haven't. I almost went to the Iwa Jima reunion, but I just didn't like the attitude of the Japanese that we were guests of the Japanese while we were visiting on the island. We had to arrive on the island and leave the island the same day. So I just thought that was something I would not be happy with.

Q: Did you ever stay in contact with anyone you were in service with?

V: Oh yes, yes. Jim Russell, the fellow that I mentioned, he was in my wedding party. Jim passed away in 1991. And Hugh Hudgins, who had the Japanese prison camp, he's now living in North Carolina, and I just recently got a letter from him. But we're in touch.

Q: Tell us about that photograph there.

V: Well, this is a photograph of me on Maui. (Holds up Black & White headshot of himself smiling and wearing uniform of long sleeve shirt, tie and insignia pins on lapel.)

Q: So that was taken in '44?

V: 44. This was before Iwo. (Victor unfolding a small, wire bound booklet) I don't know if you want to talk about this. This is a little book I had in my pocket. It names all the ships that were to the other people.

Q: Maybe if you just hold it up (to the camera) and show a sample.

V: Yep, and well... this is a list of all the ships, and the circle ones are the ones I actually spotted for. Book is held up & camera zooms in on page Victor mentions. Below is in the information written on the page. **Bold faced entries indicate the ones Victor circled & spotted for**

CALL		
BLANKET	BB35	TEXAS
CAESAR	BB45	COLORADO
IRONSIDES	BB40	NEW MEXICO
MARKMAN	BB48	WEST VIRGINIA
NATIONAL	BB41	MISSISSIPPI
PuppDOG	BB36	NEVADA
SUNSHINE	BB44	CALIFORNIA
		NEW YORK
ClueBlood	CA33	PORTLAND
COLUMBUS	CA27	CHESTER
FREELANCE	CA28	LOUISVILLE
GRENADIER	CA24	PENSACOLA
HASHMARK	CA25	SALT LAKE CTY

SUPERMAN
TENPENNY

CA35
CA37

INDIANAPOLIS
TULSA LOOSA

There are more entries on the page that were not captured on the film due to being out of focus

V: And it included, as I mentioned, Nevada. ((Victor turns the page)> And the Terry is a destroyer. The Lutz is a destroyer. The Larry, Capps, the Stanley, the Fulham, Howth and Robert, Talbot, (Victor turns more pages in booklet), they were the ships.

The LCI's, they had names like, the rocket ship was called Prospect. I mean the 40 millimeter ship was called Texaco. And the mortar ship was Webbed Feet. And we had to use a code. I don't remember the of this code, but it was changed daily, so that when we talked to the ship the target couldn't be identified by the enemy.

We operated (pointing to map pinned to the wall above his head), we had a grid—as you can see the grids on the map, and each grid would be the initial identification, you know. “In grid area so and so target, look for this bunker “ and describe it, and the ship may, or may not see it. So you'd have to give them so guidance. And sometimes you had to tell them to Fire when ready. Sometimes you'd have to say Fire at my Command, which meant that I would call any adjustments. (places booklet down & picks up some photos)

Here's an interesting thing. When I got the flag, I think it's over there. (Referring to the Japanese flag from a cave dug by the Japanese soldiers on the island, he referenced earlier) It 's in that red bag. It came out of a knapsack. (Victor is handed the red bag & flag by the interviewer) It came out of a knapsack and it had some literature in it. I have pictures (referring to the B&W pictures he is holding). I don't have the literature because I turned it in to G2.

Q: Now this was a picture that was in the flag? (Referring to the B&W pictures Victor has)

V: Yes. This is the picture of the flag.

Q: (Holding the B&W picture of a unit of Japanese soldiers in full uniform. 8 men standing, 3 men standing, one man kneeling, and 6 men sitting on ground in front) This was the picture with the flag, so this must have been the unit.

Victor holds the flag open while the cameraman zooms in & then pans out to capture the flag details from bottom to the top of the flag. The flag has a white background, with a large red circle in the middle, and black Japanese writing all over the flag. There is no writing on the red circle.

Q: To bad we don't know what it says

V: Well I had it translated, and the story is that it was the custom for the Japanese, when they went into service, they'd have a party. And everyone at the party would wish them luck and make comments like that, and that's what these comments are here. Now the only distinguishing thing is this (flag) is silk, so it meant it was an officer. That's how we understood it. So thinking it was an officer, I sent all the papers back to G2 to if there was any useful information there.

There were none. All I got back was ---I didn't give the flag – I got his back & some of this stuff. (Referring to items he is holding up that were in the knapsack found in a cave) See, which is just calling cards

Interviewer holds up what card stock the size of business cards. One is imprinted with Japanese script. The others have handwritten Japanese script on them.

V: Victor smiles as he continues to look through his memorabilia.

I have one thing I can't show you. It's kind of funny, one of some humor. Since I had this Jeep, I was able to pick up a Japanese 50 caliber machine gun. It was damaged. I don't know if it could fire. But I had visions of sending it back to the States, and it would be in the lobby of St John's (Law School) you know, or something like that. So I got it back as far as Maui, and it was in front of my tent. And the Captain, at that time the Captain of the group—Jasco, our outfit was called Jasco, joined the sole signal company. The Captain said "Vic you gotta get rid of that. We're having a general's inspection and I've signed off saying I've inspected the area and there are no enemy weapons around."

Well I tried to bury it, and the damn thing was—the ground was too hard, and I couldn't do it. So I went to a movie that night, and coming back we saw a big latrine. So my buddies, I lived with two guys in a tent, and they said: Vic, this is the place to get rid of it. We'll help you.

So – it was a three-man carry. The tripod got stuck going down a little bit, but we managed to get it down. And the next day what they do is they open these things (referring to latrine). They uncover these things. They throw kerosene down on them and ignite them, burn them.

So the Captain calls me in again and he says: Well, you did it again. The General looks down and says: Damn it, first time I've looked down one of these latrines and faced an enemy weapon. Victor, Interviewer & Cameraman laugh.

And that's about it.

My good friend Russell—um, um, what's his name (Victor shakes his head no) What's his name, Rozelle—Rozelle I went to school with, he's written up in Colliers. Had a leg shot off, 23 pints of blood and all that sort of nonsense. But anyway, we survived.

Q: Now, on the cover of that (Referring to a folder Victor has his war memorabilia in) that's the patch?

V: That's the division

Q: Okay, let me just get a shot of that



Q: Okay, well thank you very much