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Question: Let me, the first thing I'd like to do is just to get on videotape so I have it, your first and last name and the spelling. So if you could go ahead and do that for me that would be great.

Answer: What was that again?

Question: Your first and last name.

Answer: What.

Question: And the correct spelling of it, just so I have it on videotape.

Answer: Oh, oh, Patrick K. Hagiwara, P-A-T-R-I-C-K middle initial K, H-A-G-I-W-A-R-A

Question: Great. Thank you very much.

Question: That, now you grew up, where did you grow up?

Answer: Ketchikan, born in Ketchikan and, and left there with the National Guards in September of 1941. So except for the time I came down to Portland for trade school for about three months, ah, I was all, in Alaska up until that time.

Question: Now when did your, did your parents come over from Japan? Were they born in Japan?

Answer: My, my understanding is my dad came over in 1907 and wound up in Tacoma

Answer: And he was telling me this story, the first job he got he could speak some English he learned in Japan but he got his first job in Tacoma turning soil over. A lady gave him a job turning soil. He said, he said, and the lady says to turn the soil upside down so when she came out afterwards and saw, my dad took it literally and took soil up and put it down on its side so the side was, so he got fired he said after that (laughs), when the lady found that out..

Question: So did you grow up in a, in a bilingual house then speaking both Japanese and...

Answer: And growing up before I went to school I think we spoke Japanese all the time in home, that was before I went to kindergarten in 1924. And subsequent of that I wouldn't speak any more Japanese so I never learned Japanese and I couldn't speak Japanese and my two brothers and sister was close to my mother and learned to write simple Japanese and speak Japanese all the way through so when the war started I had to write in English to my mom and ah, and my, I could see my sister's wrote it in Japanese and my older brother wrote my mother in Japanese. So I found that out but ah...

Question: So where did you fit in the um, were you the youngest or the oldest?

Answer: I was the middle.

Question: Oh you were the middle. That poor neglected middle child.

Answer: Yeah I was a, I had an older brother who was 17 months older and ah, my younger brother was two years younger than me. And ah, we were born two years apart basically, two years apart, 1917, 1919, and '21 and '23. My sister was the youngest.

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Question: Good scheduling (laughs).

Answer: Yeah (laughs).

Question: Did ah, up in Alaska did you face the depression much or did you, were you even aware of it as a kid?

Answer: Yeah ah, I remember I was in high school when ah, we didn't have, we didn't get impact on the depression until about '31, 1931 or '30 and ah, I remember one day I was talking to my dad and my dad says, "We're apparently in the depression so we don't have anything to eat," or something like that, "we'll start eating the inventory." We had some, in the bakery we also had some grocery on one shelf, ah one wall, shelf on the wall. And he was saying that we'll start eating the inventory of what we had, if nothing else, so.

Question: So your parents ran a bakery then?

Answer: Bakery, yes. They started in 1919, the day, the year I was born I think. Before that he was working for the restaurant about a couple blocks away and then bought this little, little house actually. And I remember there was, oh I was quite small I remember, my dad had the big show window put in the store and, and I remember the horse drawn tray with the big oven, electric oven, being delivered to, through this big window outlet. And I remember that and that was back in, gee about 1924 or '23 or something like that.

Question: Was there a big Japanese population in Ketchikan?

Answer: There was, when I was growing up, there was about eleven families with kids and there was also several single men, Japanese men, that were working in the laundry, a Japanese owned laundry there, about a dozen maybe, I never see them but ah, I think individually I probably saw them but never together so.

Question: Was it like um, I know some of the bigger cities, you go back to New York and Boston and they had the Italian district and they had the Filipino district and they had the Japanese, was it like that in Ketchikan or was it just...?

Answer: Yeah. No it was, looking back the Japanese stores, except for one that was on the other side of town, all the stores, grocery stores, confectionery stores ah, the bakery, the cleaners, the tailor shop and restaurants were all on one street, Steadman Street they called it. Which was Indian town area, in the district. Seattle had, I mean Ketchikan had four basic districts: there was Indian town district, and Hill district, New Town district and Charcoal Point district which is further north. And ah, we always had gang fights between the districts (laughs), younger days.

Question: When you said gang fights, were they fun gang fights or were they what we would think of a gang today?

Answer: Well it wasn't a lethal kind of a gang fight so it's a, it's just, except for I remember when I was in fourth or fifth grade there was one boy who had a BB gun, was shooting at these kids, and we decided to go after him and we all had BB guns (laughs), and we did for two miles, where they called Bucky's Beach. And I remember shooting at him and he was behind the rock and he was shooting at us, but I don't know how it turned out the, I don't remember that far back. It was, it was crazy (laughs).

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Question: Now how did you decide to join the um, 'cause you joined the National Guard first.

Answer: Yeah.

Question: How did you decide to do that?

Answer: Well ah, I remember I was working at the bakery with my dad and ah, Mr. Vanguilder who later became Captain Vanguilder out of our company, he came to the bakery and wanted to talk to my dad and ah, he said ah, told my dad that he wanted me to be in the National Guards. And my dad didn't want me in there. And then he said well all his friends, he said there's about a dozen of 'em, said that if Hagiwara goes in they'll go, they'll join. So my dad said that you better talk to him and if he wants to join ok. But ah, so he did, so Captain Vanguilder talked to me and ah, yeah I was willing to join. And there were, I guess there were about eight or nine that joined when they found out that I joined. So, and to this day some of them are very close to me so...

Answer: Oh really, wow.

Question: After years, yeah.

Question: So was it the National Guard like today where you do ah...

Answer: Well there's a one, let's see, every weekend, every weekend we trained and I think that one year we had two weeks of encampment. Just, it was the following year that the war started so before we were called in September, three months before the war. And ah, so we had only one encampment but ah. But we were all, grew up together so consequently it was no problem.

Question: Sounds like it was kind of an adult version of the boy scouts.

Answer: Basically yeah, it was like boy scouts, right (laughs).

Question: When you signed up did you have any idea that there was a war coming?

Answer: No, but Vanguilder was talking, but I listened from him talking to my dad and he said, of course at that time I remember the Russians was a threatening us, Vanguilder was talking about ah, if we were to be invaded wouldn't you want your son to be part of the outfit that would crush the invaders. And my dad, course my dad told me before, we going to school, going home and eating and the Japan was in Manchuria and all that turmoil going on and we even at dinner table, always have arguments, oh golly. The subject of Japan invading Manchuria, Japan didn't invade, it was my dad's position that Japan didn't invade Manchuria

Answer: They had to go in and whatever it was that they had to do and, and we're using the wrong words for him and he gets riled up every, every. My mother didn't want us to talk about the subject at dinnertime because every night he'd argue, the kids would all join in and get in an argument there so. It was nasty there.

Question: Did he still have a lot of relatives back in Japan?

Answer: Yeah, as a matter of fact, my dad was the only one of the family in America and my mother was the only one in the family in America

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Answer: My mother had a sister, she was one of eleven, she had a sister in Korea, married to a Japanese but living in Korea

Answer: But other than that the ah, parents, all the relatives were all in Japan at the time so.

Question: So how did you first, do you remember first hearing about Pearl Harbor and what you thought?

Answer: Yeah, it was ah, see there's a, Jimmy Tatsuto was ah, manning the PBX switchboard at the ah, Chilkoot Barracks at guard house. And I was rounding up my 30 guards to replace the guards that were there, guard house, coming off of their shift, which is 72 hour shift I think. And I was gathering up and Larry Butkey was commander of the guards that are, was on duty and he's coming off at eleven, and we generally have a ceremony, changing guard ceremony at eleven o'clock. And so I was gathering my 30 guards getting ready and Larry Butkey came running down to the barracks and said, "Jimmy picked up a message that Japan," well he didn't say Japan he said, "Pearl Harbor's being bombed." And then immediately I thought where is Pearl Harbor? And I said, I thought, it must be close to Dutch Harbor because I never heard of Pearl Harbor before. And we're gathering in front and we still had process there, changing of the guards, and after that we came back to the barracks to listen to the radio. They were announcing all the the casualties at that time. And one of the cooks in our company, was name ah Fritz Thompson, and he had a brother named Irving Thompson who just drove there from Texas that June and he came to Ketchikan to visit his family, and I had a chat with him for about half hour. He was, he was ah, graduated at ensign and was so happy he was assigned a ship. He said half of the graduates of Annapolis weren't assigned ships and that's was the goal was and he was assigned a ship. Of course, he was a salutorian class of '35 in Ketchikan. And he was smart. And we talked about a half hour on what his goal is and his elation of being selected and I don't remember, oh, Oklahoma, USS Oklahoma it was. And so we were listening to this radio with a group and of course Fritz was behind me, and then they're announcing the killed in action and sure enough, Irving Thompson name was... And I turned around to see Fritz and Fritz heard that and was walking back to the barracks, this is outside the barracks. So it was a rude awakening. At that time, by that time I knew that Pearl Harbor was Hawaii was being bombed but that was an hour, or a couple of hours later I guess it was. But I ah, it was kind of a funny feeling, I didn't think that I'd live though the war.

Question: What did, when you went home and now had conversation at the dinner table, what did your dad, do you remember your dad, what his reaction was?

Answer: Well, I, um I was in the Army so consequently I was not home so... But I remember it um, when the war started and then I learned that, that my older brother and kid sister was going to the University of Washington in Seattle and my younger brother was going to the University of Alaska, he was valedictorian of his school so he was getting all paid at the University of Alaska, and ah, and then I got word that my dad was taken in after Pearl Harbor and ah, so first time in 25 years since my mother came to Alaska she was alone. So I was worried because she didn't speak much English and ah, and I found out that afterwards that they heard that I had been killed at Chilkoot Barracks because I was running away or something like that and got shot. So when Mrs. Vanguilder, all the family had moved out on the ship and it transported back to ah, Southeast Alaska and I remember Mrs. Vanguilder said that ah, when I came down the gang plank in Ketchikan the mayor was waiting for her and wanted to know um, what happened to Hagiwara getting shot you know. She said, she told me this, "I said I was shocked and I told the mayor I said 'Sergeant Hagiwara was the last one to see us off because he was responsible for our being on the ship. " And so they, mayor

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decided to go to the house at the bakery and let my folks know that, I think it was two days before that they heard that I got shot or something like that. So they went and Mrs. Vanguilder said that um, they were in confinement there for, closed the shop and everything else and, but they let us in to the bakery and ah, talked to her and they were kind of elated that it wasn't true, something like that so.

Question: How long did they, who took your dad and how long did they keep him?

Answer: Well he was, I think it was, he was the last Japanese in Ketchikan to be taken in. I think it was first of week in February and most of 'em were taken in in January, but I think he was taken in in first of February. And ah went to Annette Island, and ah, the funny part of it was, not funny, but the irony of the whole thing was that when I found out that before I left Chilkoot Barracks we were, we were ordered to, me and three of the Nisei that were in that company B were ordered out, and I remember Lieutenant Cochran calling us, four of us into the office and he had tears in his eyes and said ah, "Captain Vanguilder was ordered for us to transfer out of Alaska and he refused." And ah, so they said they promoted him to major and sent him to Anchorage in the Air Force. "Solely, and I'm taking command of the company." And he said "If I don't release you they'll get somebody else eventually they'll release you to, you know, out." So I said, I reluctantly signed the papers for transfer. So I, the funny thing about it is coming down, I was in Ketchikan I saw all of the families, no male, you know in Japanese the male is always ah, the head of the family and so on and so forth, and they're all gone so the women were left with little kids. And all the big kids were going to the University of Washington or somewhere out of the town. As it turned, it happened, my older brother and kid sister wouldn't be allowed to go back to Alaska so they were stuck in Seattle. And the only one was my younger brother was Alaska so he ah, flew down after the quarter, I think in March, to gather, to pick up all the stuff and gather the, for moving, relocation to the states and moved all this stuff upstairs. And all my tools, and my you know carpenter's tools, my mechanic's tools, all my pictures that I didn't take with me to Chilkoot Barracks, and ah, and ah, so I went to visit all of the families on that Steadman Street and ah, they were all ok. And fortunately kids in town were helping all the families there and even the two girls, younger girls, came to the bakery and helped my mom. My mom said that, that ah, two things; one is that she had to get some bakery to bring bread so we could sell from other bakery goods while it's opened and then two o'clock in the afternoon she'd be turning on the electric mixer. She would be in the kitchen in the bakery, she'd turn it on and go back to the kitchen and work and then about three o'clock she'd go turns it off. And I said, "Why you do that mom?" And she said, "Everything seems normal if that machine is going on." (inaudible) So that's what she did every day, she said.

Question: That was her stability.

Answer: Yeah, she'd feel more comfortable with that so, that's fine.

Answer: But anyhow after I saw all those kids I went to the transport stopped at Annette Island and gee, I said my dad is over here someplace. So I went to the captain, the captain was on the bridge up there now I asked him, "My dad is here I may not see him ever again so I'd like to see him." And he said, he looked at me says, "Nobody is getting off this ship." That's what he said, just like that. And so I came down, down to the gangplank and I'm looking out and gee, all of a sudden within about five, ten minutes there was this Jeep, running down and the dust's flying and it was kind of a level place. Couple of miles there, Jeep was coming over and by golly, stopped right near the gangplank there. And somebody hopped off and running up there and about just a couple of minutes later there was a loud speaker, Sergeant Hagiwara wanted in the pilot's, what it was, pilot's so I went up there and the chaplain came up. He says, chaplain says, "Jump into the Jeep and we'll take you to your

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dad." Wow. So I rushed over and jumped over and he did, he went over, and went over to this and it was a canvas tent and he said your dad's there. And so I went in and opened the canvas door and all these men are looking, and I didn't know they couldn't see me because it was kind of dark and the light was there, and I kind of smiled and they were looking like that. And then I stepped in and when they saw my face, I kind of smiled, so happy. And all of them were asking about, I told 'em I saw each one of the family, they were all doing fine and so on and so forth. And they said they haven't gotten a letter or anything from the family since they were taken in, don't know about what the family are doing and so on and so forth. So, I was kind of shocked. But I told my dad that my younger brother down, is helping to transport them out, or packed them up. And then I left and went to, came down to Seattle.

Answer: Reported to Fort Lewis, I had the orders so I reported to Fort Lewis and I gave them the orders and they looked at me and says, "You can't stay here." That the only sentence, you can't stay here. I said, "What are you gonna do?" He said, "I'm gonna write a travel orders to ship you out." And I said, "How long is it gonna take?" And he said, he said, "About three days." I said, "Can I have a pass for three days?" And he says, "Ok." And he gave me a pass for three days. So I ah, I came into Seattle and just at that time my brother-in-law's father passed away just shortly before that. So Paul who was with the ninth division he came in for his dad's funeral and he was here, and my older brother was staying at Sakai's home and ah, so Paul, Paul who's took me and one other to Tacoma to see a friend of his and it was dark, almost dark at that time. So we went up the steps and I went to the window and knocked and there was some lady opened the curtain and looked and of course I didn't, she thought it was a policeman and she said, hollered, "Junsa Junsa," that's police in Japanese, "Junsa Junsa

Answer: " But then I heard kids running up and down the stairs and so on and so forth. So I opened and knocked on the window again and put my face right against the window and she saw it and got a smile again and then she opened the door. I didn't realize until then that, talked to Paul's friend, that everybody was in fear. They didn't know what was going to be happening to them. And they're scared of the police and they're scared of everybody. I didn't realize that the fear existed in the Japanese community until then.

Question: So this is just when they, they haven't started doing the internment camps yet but they've started coming at you...

Answer: Before evacuation, yeah, yeah, packing up and ready to.

Answer: So it was a surprise to me ah, and then when I went back there they said transferred to Fort Sheridan. And I said, "Where's that?" And he said, "About seven miles south of Great Lakes Naval Training Station." "Oh yeah," I said, "about 30 miles north of Chicago on the Lake Michigan. Hm," I says, "ok." And then when I got there I guess one of the things that my older brother told me is be sure I look up her when I got there, she was going through, finishing up at the University of Chicago. I said, "Sure, I'll do that." And I, first week, first week there's two guys of the four of us that came down, two of the guys were visiting her the week before we did, see. And they came back and I said, "I need to see Misako." And aw, the both says, "Don't go there, naw don't go there," he says. "Well you talk to her and she talks about God and she talks about more God and stuff like that. Oh, you don't want to go there." I said, and then the other fellow and I we went next week and saw her (laughs). She didn't talk God to me all the time (laughs).

Question: Did you start dating then?

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Answer: Yeah, yeah it was, what about almost every week, didn't I? I was kind of disappointed when she moved, she, I still remember she told me that she won't be this weekend because she's going to visit with a friend to Dennis living in Wisconsin or someplace. Oh boy. Better than me. I says oh my gosh. I was disappointed.

Question: So by that time um, 'cause it sounds like you kind of went naively about a lot of things. Were you aware that because you were Japanese that some people thought of you differently or did you...

Answer: Yeah, I never had the experience, you know, any discrimination. While I was in the Army when the war started, they ah, respected my authority and did what they're told and I had ah, I was very happy with, matter of fact, in Fort Sheridan the first group of recruits, one of the five drill instructors and I also, drill instructor for the doctors of the Fort Sheridan, and the nurses. Nurses only in terms of marching. The doctors, in order, other than marching also had to go obstacle course. I remember four year doctor came to me and, "Sergeant," he said, "boy it's really great," he says, " I'm a 44-year-old doctor and I've never climbed the fence before but." And I told him, "You know, you gotta get up and over." And he says, "This is enlightening," he said. "I never believed that I'd be calisthenics and doing stuff like that at 44-years-old." I said, "You 44-year-old." You know (laughs). It was kind of fun because it was ah, there were three guys that enjoyed my company. One was a guy named Babe McCarthy who's father was the county sheriff, King, Cook County Sheriff in Chicago and ah, then there was a guy name Leonie, and then there was a guy named, a Jewish ah... there was a Jewish guy, an Italian guy and an Irishman, I guess three of 'em. They took me all over there in Chicago, all the places. And ah, even when Olivia de Haviland came to play for all the service men, I think it, someplace near the Stockade, they, Babe's father the chief or the sheriff, he got us in the back door to get in because it was full. And I remember that. And those three guys were just treated me royally, even though I was Japanese. The discrimination was less in the midwest than it is on the coast so maybe it was, maybe it was a novelty for them, I don't know.

Question: It's like being further away from the coast and the fear of...

Answer: Pacific coast. I don't think yeah, the, I think that the, I don't know if it is fear of Japanese here but I think it was, they are not used to whether Japanese would be a threat to them or not like the coast because they, the farmers, the fisherman, and ah, whatever it was, the business that they were in, it was kind of a threat sometime to them so I don't know.

Question: So where did you ah, once you got, you got shipped out?

Answer: Yeah, we got shipped out on a convoy and um, I had a responsibility on the ah, troop ship of that for guards so I posted guards on the decks and stern and so on and so forth. And while we were on sail from ah, Newport Beach to the Mediterranean Sea, and we took three weeks to get there but I noticed that as I looked at the map or the compass sometime I noticed we were going north sometimes, and sometimes west and hey, this is where we're coming from, you know, and sometimes east and far as you can see there's, on the convoy, there's ships all on that side and forward and backwards and then the destroyer was cutting through in between. And I remember we're going to Mediterranean and all of a sudden we were ordered, we were ordered, the announcement says that we're going to land in North Africa and we're supposed to be going to Italy, North Africa

Answer: And I found out after we got to Oran and disembarked I found out the convoy got hit by a U boat and they split and some of it landed in Salerno and some Oran that we were in on the ship, the second battalion went to Oran. So we were training they called Lion

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Mountain. You go up to Lion Mountain and you look down and the Mediterranean was nice, blue and coastal shore was green, and golly it was hot. So after this drill we ran down and in our uniforms just jumped into the water (laughs). It doesn't take long when you get hot to dry up. I remember it was three weeks before we got shipped to ah, Italy and joined the rest of the outfit and we were there only about a week I guess, before we were committed into action I guess. In north of Rome it was. And we had, I remember when we, there were a few guys from Fort Sheridan that went and a replacement in the 100th battalion and ah, they heard me, was on there so they came during the ah, encampment which was three days before we went into action. They came over and we had bonfire and we're shooting, talking, and one of the guys, can't think of his name though, but he was a little guy, "Hey how was it?" "Hey," he says, "those Germans are real accurate." I said, "What do you mean?" "As you know," he says, "you put that hip pocket out and the Germans would.. mortars would land right, (laughs) that's how accurate they are." Wow.

Answer: And that's where we got, 26th of June we got committed into action and ah, we got, it was ah, funny because I had an anti, anti-tank squad and I was sent to guard the highway one which runs along the Ligurian coast line up Italy and ah, and Lieutenant ah Kerlin says, "Get over there and protect the flanks from enemy." Along the I, the tanks would use the highway so, I went about two miles when it curves, and then I could see further and back to the headquarters. So I parked right there and I had the squad find a cover on the other side of the, the streets were high.. the road was high and then there was a little drop here and I was down there and said, "Better move the troops and protect them," and I said, "Find cover someplace." And they found a ditch back, and I was under the hood, not under the hood, under the truck. I figured well if the shell hits that because all the ammos was on the truck I wouldn't know it anyhow. But I had to watch for the lieutenant and then I had to watch the other side of highway one where the Germans might be attacking. And I'm standing there about, about almost five hours and I was, and the lieutenant wanted me, my squad to come back but they couldn't, they couldn't send his driver out and this Motokada who still lives in Hawaii and my driver come crawling up to me and he says, "Hey sergeant, we gotta go back." "No, we're gonna stay here." So he crawls back again. And then another time about an hour later he come crawled back he says, "Guy says that we probably should go back." I said, "No," I says, "we didn't get orders to go back." So he went back. Third time, you know we were drenched because you had to, they, they're firing about five shells every 15 minutes I guess I counted. Five shells and they were on the other side of a little mound I guess so that consequently the, the barrel wasn't quite down far enough to get, so that the shell would just going overhead, except one hit the tree and sprayed and one of my guy, short guy, got wounded on his elbow, would you believe? He had was called a million dollar wound, one guy. And then my, and my ah, we also had each one of the squad had a runner for headquarters to communicate with us, and we sent out three runners. One was the president of McKinley High School and when he volunteered, and one was Wasado was a lightweight champion, amateur lightweight champion, Kauai, and my guy was just Tommy, he was a quiet guy. All three of the guys were in the headquarters and I found out, when I.. they finally decided the five hours later that we'd head back and by that time I made the decision to go back and I told the Jeep driver start the engine, when the engine start the rest of the squad can jump on the wagon and we'll go. And I said, just about that time Motokada was racing down the Jeep and he said, "Lieutenant, colonel said to get the hell out of here." (laughs) So we went back and then I found out that my.. the three guys were killed outright with one shell with Captain Ansmeger and three of the runners while they were under a tree and the tree burst, all killed.. all four of them, on the first day. And then my Myoka got million dollar wound so he was sent to London for recovery.

Question: So at...

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Answer: That was the first day.

Question: I was gonna say, so now all of a sudden, I assume your attitude's changed, you now know that...

Answer: Yeah, you're not as comfortable as you were before. You know what, I think that I probably wasn't gonna live through this war. Course at that time I didn't know it was gonna be over in a year so I thought it would be about a three year war.

Answer: But after I remember, September we came off of the line to ah, we got relieved and we need to change clothes, pick up the ammo or change your weapon or whatever it is, if you got hit or something like that. And then ah, we came back, wanted to see what the mail was mostly important. So I got mail, I got a radiogram, cablegram, and v mail, one from her and one from my mother and one from my sister telling me that ah, I had a daughter, Kathy, the first born. And she ah, golly I don't know I said, oh, I'd like to see the daughter, says I didn't think there was any hope. So I went over and got down on my knees and I prayed, and I prayed if I'm lucky enough to see the daughter for even one minute I'll work for the Lord all my life. And I heard a voice and I looked around, and at that time I didn't know God spoke, I thought God spoke in Latin all the time (laughs), but anyhow this is English and I says I can't believe it they're all pigeon English, talking pigeon English in here, English, and I looked around and nobody within 25 yards of me so, hm, I said. It didn't dawn on me until after the war I had another experience and then I said oh, well it was before that I went to ah, it was around, I think it was on the first campaign, I don't know why but I was sent to rest for four days so I was sent to Rome and I stayed at what they called Forum Mussolini, it's a big path with Mussolini statues along the way and it was camp for ah, for war soldiers and ah, and I went there and I walked to the Coliseum and visited the Coliseum and so on and so forth and along the way I went down the Tiber River walking and I had to go to the bathroom. You know the latrine is on the public sidewalk, so you go there and you see women walking by and talking, they're not interested in people using that, so it was kind of a surprise to me. And ah, and then I was in a courtyard of Saint Peters and someone told me that the Pope Pious the XII is gonna have an audience, they wanted the soldiers up there. So I hurriedly bought three rosary in the courtyard there and went up there. And golly there was a big basilica up there, there must have been five or over 500 communicants on.. kneeling. There were four British soldiers were on my left and then there was a four French, and then there was Americans in the middle and then there's four French and then the African, four, all the way around as I could see Pope Pious and his entourage came up on the lower floor walking up and he started on this side so the British were, and the Pope Pious is talking the British dialect, I said gee, you know that's pretty good. Then he came to me from America well he talked like an American, gee I thought he talked British. And he went to the next one and his aide said this is a French soldier so he talked to them in French. Oh I say, I found out maybe God speaks in every kind of language (laughs), you know I said. And then I thought it kind of shocked me. And that was the experience I had there.

Answer: And then I went back to the line again and it was um, but I remember fourth of July morning, early morning, we were, there was a battle that night and didn't have time enough to bring the dead back so. I was instructed, my squad, to pick up the dead, there was about eight or nine dead soldiers there in the field. So I went over there to gather these dead bodies and then all of a sudden on Hill 140, there's.. fourth of July morning, there's a big bombing going on and ah, and what happened was, that there's a, my understanding was, that there was a sergeant and this Lieutenant Jones was talking about strategy and all of a sudden the shells were coming in so they both had to slit trenches next to each other and they went to the slit trench and they stopped and they said, the shell hit the sergeant direct and his head.. head decapitated and it rolled in.. Lieutenant Jones' foxhole, and he'd saw that and

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went berserk. And he was running around crying on there and the shells are coming in so my lieutenant rushed over there and got him and dragged him, started dragging him back, and as he came to me the lieutenant says go get this other guy who's coming off here, he had a battered arm or something like that. And he's trying to find the place and he was in shock so I rushed over there and gee, when I saw him, it was a kid I knew, he's from Seattle, yeah and ah Roy Tanagi his name is. And he said something, mumbled and I noticed he was in shock so I said I better keep talking to him, talking to him so I said just a little bit further, a little bit further. So we had to go another hill and on down the other slope where the first aid and the front, I guess the advanced aid station was. So I went and finally got to the top and I said, "Well a little more Roy, a little more Roy." And I finally got in and there was, gee there was about half a dozen there all wounded.

Answer: And I saw this guy who was taking, ah, aid man, it was a guy named Takamoda he lives in Mercer Island now, and he said, "Oh," he said ah, "your brother came through." I said, "How bad was he?" And he said ah, "He got hit on both legs but I think he's alright," ah which means he didn't get hit a bone or something like that. So I said, "What happened?" He said, "They think, they said that the sniper got and hit him." And he said they didn't understand it because his, his leg was, he was talking to the um, first sergeant and his leg was off in the bushes and he got hit in the leg. Golly the sniper would know that the body, his leg was there, his body must be over here (laughs), behind the bushes. But he didn't hit, he hit his leg so I ah, so I says well then I won't have to worry about him for a while so. There was a, that was, there was one kid I had in training in Camp Shelby. He was an 18-year-old kid and I can't think of his name now but he was sitting on this table and he wanted someone in the aid.. to do something because he had a machine gun across the lower, his cheek and he needed to have, and I can't think of his name, and I says, "What are you in such a rush about?" He says, "I gotta get back," he said, "I gotta get back." And, "You're not going back I don't think." He said, "Well they can patch me up and I can go back." So Takamoda said, "Hey, don't be a hero. You're gonna stay here." And ah, that's the last I saw of him until the last campaign, last campaign, and he got killed not during the attack but he was assigned to keep an eye on the front so he'd ah, he'd be on his knees, he said, the guys that look over the terrain to see if the enemy's moving, and that's why he was kneeling they said, and they said he got it right in his chest, a sniper got him there. So...

Question: Was it, it seems like it would have been pretty difficult for you, 'cause now you're, you understand war the way I will never understand war and you're ah, father of a new child back home. How did you deal with that in your mind?

Answer: Which, what do you mean?

Question: Well the fact that you had a new daughter back at home and you're out in the middle of war, did you ever think you weren't gonna get back home?

Answer: Well, when, when ah, when we saw my dad when he was released from New Mexico in, when was that, November I guess of '44, no '43, so I saw him ah, it was a funny thing. What happened was that I had a furlough, they said that you can't go overseas unless you get a furlough or have a furlough or something like that, so they gave me a furlough, well first of all they had to examine me. And the doctor looked at, checked my heart and shook his head. I said, "What's the matter doc?" He said, "Why don't you come back tomorrow?" I says, "ok." So I came back the following day and he checked me and he said, "ok." And I said, "Because I'm warm?" I kind of joked, "Because I'm warm?" And he didn't look happy about that. Then I found out later that I had arrhythmic or whatever it was, and it's still there today I guess. But he said, "You're ok." So I got my furlough to see her and ah, and it was before that I guess. We went to, took her and we went to the relocation camp, to Hart Mountain,

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Wyoming for where her folks were and stayed with them, visited them for three days. And then we went on a train to ah, Minidoka, Idaho and when I got there, there was a telegram waiting for me to return immediately. So I said, "Gee I'm just here on a furlough and he's trying to tell me that I have to go back." Said, so I called long distance to Sergeant Buchanan, "Hey Sergeant. I got this telegram telling me to return immediately," you know, "to Fort Sheridan." "Yeah," he said. "Is it serious?" "Well, might say so." I said, I was living at the non-coms quarter at Fort Sheridan and she was there and she said, I said, "Is it like, like my duplex burned down?" "Yep." I said, "Did it burn down?" He says, "No." (laughs) I took, we took the next train back then the following morning so I just saw the folks just a few hours. And then when I got back and I saw Sergeant Buchanan and I said, "What's the hurry," I said. He said, "I have a transfer letter." And I'm transferred to 442nd, you know. I said well, he said, "Sergeant (inaudible) you didn't have to come back so soon," he says. "But I, but I asked is I have to," he said, "Well I wasn't gonna tell you not to obey orders," he said (laughs). So, oh my gosh.

Question: So that's when you got into the 442.

Answer: Yeah, it was before, it was just matter of fact three, four months before we got shipped out. And when I was transferred to, immediately put me, because I was drill instructor for three years or something like that, they put me in this recruit detachment to train troops. So it was only a month before we got shipped out they transferred me out. By that time the rifle companies were all filled up and they had to either bust me to private or to keep my sergeant, staff sergeants right, but then there are not very many left, so the only place was to send me to headquarters instead of busting me to private or what not. But when I did that, when I did that they had to, to take the sergeant there, from Hawaii and break him down so I, when I went there I was an enemy to all the guys from Hawaii. They were all Hawaii guys too (laughs). So I had a hard time with them, boy it was...

Question: Was the 442 all Japanese or was it a combination?

Answer: There was all, all Nisei, all Nisei, and, and there was up to, and all of the, most of the officers were Caucasian.

Question: That's what I was wondering if the...

Answer: And, and by law, not by law, by regulation, Army regulation no, no Nisei could command a rifle company so no captain, Nisei captain in the rifle company. My, my company had a captain because he was headquarters, but ah, but the rifle companies had to have Caucasian officers. But it didn't matter because first campaign, they're all wiped out, you know, wounded or... So they had to, the sergeant took over and stuff like that so.

Question: Why do you think they developed a 442 and took all the Nisei and combined them rather than allowing, do you think there was a reason for that?

Answer: Well yeah I think so. Because it was well, it was well trained outfit in Hawaii. They had to, they couldn't disperse them because they were as a unit. So they ah, what happened was they trained well and I think before they were shipped over they were thinking about making another regiment out of the Nisei but they were a, my understanding was I was talking to a good friend of Attorney General at that time, Biddle, I guess and um, he was talking about their, their grounds for desire, for setting up a unit of Nisei. They were gonna find out how they were doing first. They have to send the 100th battalion over first. And they sent the 100th battalion and they did a terrific job so they, so Mark Clark wanted more and ah, so they set up 442nd that way. And they actually sent, before the battle but within six

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months they ah, 100th battalion did so well that ah, they, one of the youngest unit from induction until combat, shortest of any of the American units were. So...

Question: So the 442 wasn't like the Tuskegee Airmen when they set that up they set it up to be a failure. They wanted the African American pilots to fail and they created the Tuskegee. The Tuskegee were extremely successful and they didn't know, it backfired on 'em in a way. So the 442 wasn't an issue like that then, there was already all much in Hawaii and they just...

Answer: Yeah that, I think because of the 297th infantry and 298th infantry, the Hawaiian National Guards, they were as a unit, they were sent as a unit instead of breaking that unit up so.

Question: Hah.

Answer: I think.

Question: Now when, so when you went in the service you weren't married yet?

Answer: That's correct.

Question: So you got married before you went overseas?

Answer: Yeah I got married in Chicago about five months after we saw each other or met each other. I saw her in May and got married in October so, fast.

Question: So now how do you convince a young bride, 'cause you're going to war and you say well let's get married.

Answer: Well not at that time I wasn't scheduled to go to war. I was, I was from war and I didn't know I was gonna go to the 442nd until after I was married. Matter of fact it wasn't until we were on the trip to Idaho I wasn't 'til I went back is when I found out I was getting transferred to 442nd but ah. My kid brother volunteered in February of '43 that's when they were setting up the unit so.

Question: Do you remember leaving your wife behind when you shipped out?

Answer: No I was, I was ah, she stayed in Chicago. When I got transferred to 442nd we were living in the non-coms quarter at Fort Sheridan so I got shipped out and she had to make all the arrangement to move and she moved back to Chicago someplace. I don't know what happened to all that junk but she took care of all that. And then when, and I got, I came back up, when you were three months pregnant, oh I don't know, yeah probably, well whatever it was I think I was, wasn't it March I came up to visit you? March of '43, went back down, went to Newport Beach May, yeah, I guess...

Question: So when you, when you shipped overseas your wife was quite a ways along then.

Answer: Well the baby was September so when I saw her in March, you were pregnant already.

Question: So how old was your daughter before you actually physically...

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Answer: Almost eleven months. She was about ten and a half months. I came back let's see, fourth of July, I got discharged fourth of July, that's what I can remember (laughs), at Fort Sheridan, yeah.

Question: Had you had pictures of your daughter?

Answer: No just, the only thing I had was those three cablegram, radiogram and v mail, that's all.

Question: Wow.

Question: That had to weigh on your mind or was that something that kept you looking forward to say I'm getting home to.

Answer: No I just, I didn't think I was gonna live through the war so I don't, I don't remember. You worry about these, I remember every time before combat we gather, night before. And then I can remember looking at my squad and thinking about who are the guys I might lose, not thinking about myself, but the platoon sergeant thinking about us. I'm thinking about my men, who I'm gonna lose and who I think I'm gonna lose and then when you go into combat, you worry about these things, and then when you go into combat you forget about them. You don't think about these things until you came off of the line and then you'd think about it again. Especially when you have to find replacements. I remember one battle I can't remember where it was, I remember we had three prisoners and I was, I was assigned to watch the three prisoners. There was an Italian professor and my comp

Answer: . my battalion commander in a tent with aids and they were gonna interrogate these. And I remember, and I spoke broken Italian and French so I'm trying to convey the message that you tell the truth and everything will be ok but if you don't tell, you know.. it was. And the aid man, the third one was the aid man and the older one too because it looked like he has been in the Army for a long time. He was telling these young guys, "Don't listen to them they can't do that." So I said, "Hey," I told the guy, "you're no good to me if you don't say anything so (laughs)." And they, I was sending 'em one at a time, but that older medic, was an arrogant guy, he knew what the score was, you know. Trying to tell the young guys don't say anything. So we got the message, we got the information we wanted and what the colonel wanted so.