Ross Hoagland

Tape 2 of 2

Question: So I'll go back to kind of where we were and what we started talking a little bit about, the worst part of the war.

Answer: Well, the worst part of the war is losing lives, actually. Not only the lives you see loss, but knowing families have lost their loved ones, and as an officer I had told the families quite often, and uh. Now you look back and it's so useless to sacrifice lives for war. But, what are you going to do. When I came on the Army, I was a First Lieutenant. That was my rank as a mortar platoon leader, and when I came out of the Army in November 1945, it was all over then. I went down to Ft. Lewis to be deactivated and the officer there was interviewing me said Well, now you want out of the Army completely. I said Yes, I've had enough of it. Well, he said, I'd advise you to go in the Army Reserve. You don't have to go to drills. You won't get paid, you won't be a member of any unit, you'll just be a member of the Army Reserve. So I let him talk me into that. Now as it turned out it was a good thing, because in 1947, uh, the Adjutant General of the State of Washington wanted to start up the National Guard again. So 3 of us from Everett were assigned to recruit a rifle company in Everett, Company "L", and Captain Dyre was going to be the company commander and I was going to be his executive officer and we'd get that company mobilized. I said Well, I didn't want to do it. I had enough Army life, but Colonel Rigby at the time had been assigned as leader. Schultz, Captain Dyre and myself. I said I'll help you get it organized, but then after that I'll get out. Ok. So we organized Company "L" and then decided we should organize the heavy weapons company, Company "M" and so he assigned me to recruit and form Company "M", and then when I got through he decided I should be the company commander and I got promoted to Captain. I still wanted to get out, but he still had one more he wanted to form now, the battalion headquarters, which would make the battalion you see. So he could be the command of that and he could recruit a staff, and I said Well, ok, I'll wait till that's done then I want to get out, but I was Captain then. And he finally got his headquarters there and the company commander, "L" Company, wanted to be his executive officer and they wanted me then to be the operations training officer and get promoted to Major and I said, No, I've had enough. About that time, Senator Jackson and a few of them had put through this bill in Congress that if you had 20 years service, that's active and National Guard, at age 60 you'd have a pension. And the pension would be based on the time you spent and the rank. And I looked at it and I had 14 years experience already, so I said Well, I better stick around the other 6 and that was then my career and I retired in 1966 and I became, went down to Seattle as the Inspector General, got promoted to Lt. Colonel, and I formed the supply and transport battalion down there, and was a division quartermaster all at the same time because of my experience before. And then they were having troubles up in Everett with morale and had a weak commander and the General wanted me to come back to Everett and get that battalion going again. Well, I'd had enough then, but I went back there and I accepted it. It didn't take long to kick it into shape. A lot of experiences in that, too, but we got the discipline back and the morale back and made a good outfit out of it. But then they made us a, they changed the whole setup so that the battalions, when they went on this pentomic thing where they formed battle groups instead of battalions. The battle group had a full colonel as a commander, another colonel as the deputy commander, lieutenant colonel as the executive officer. Well, I was the executive officer. I was appointed Executive Officer, but the two colonels, to get their promotion to colonel had to go back to Leavenworth for 6 months to commander general staff school. Well, I took this whole group into camp the first year as the commander, the deputy commander, and right back into the old things I was into before, you see. Well, it was rough and I just about had a nervous

breakdown. Believe you, we got through and lots of good staff. That's one good thing. I always had good people around me that I could use but then it interfered, coming back from that they got rid of that battle group. It didn't work out, and went back to battalion again where I was battalion commander They made a pentomic thing where we had to train more than one weekend a week, it was two weekends a week and I was doing it every weekend, and at the same time I had a change in ownership of my business and I was the manager but the owner had died and I had to run it for a trust and I had a challenge to make that thing pay, and I just couldn't do two jobs at once, so I resigned, and Commanding General says You can't do that, and I said I'm doing it. At 32 years service nobody is telling me what I can do, so I resigned in 1966, and I've been drawing that pension now for 27 years. So a lot of that, my military career after the war wasn't planned. It just fell into things, you see.

Question: I'm going to make an assumption here

Answer: ok.

Question: that probably, because I asked you the worst part, and I'm just going to make an assumption that the spring of 1943 was probably the best part of the service. New Zealand.

Answer: Oh, no question about that! No question about that. I had quite a lot of experiences there. I was the supply officer and I had access to vehicles and also, in addition to other duties, I was recreational officer for that group around the Pouhokio Race Track and so forth. Where we had to arrange for dances. I had a couple of sergeants there that, that uh, had girlfriends on the farm there adjoining the farm where my future wife was, so they wanted me to get introduced to her. So they go to her and say that there's a lieutenant that wants to meet you. And we didn't realize until after the war and after we were married and we talked about it. Well, you're the one that wanted to meet me. Oh, fat chance. It's the other way around. These non-coms knew if I got connected up with Joan I had the transportation they didn't have, and they could ride out with me to the farm. We didn't know until after we were married that it was set up that way. Oh, golly. I was married to that gal for 55 years. She came over on the boat by herself, and some pictures up there we might have. That was quite a deal.

Question: How did that happen? You met her there in '43 and got married in…

Answer: '46. After the war.

Question: So there's the 3-year period in there. How did you?

Answer: Well, you want to know about it?

Question: Yeah.

Answer: It's part of the life, I guess. Uh, I had, I had contracted in the Philippines acute hepatitis and I pretty near lost my life. I was in the hospital for two months. They rolled me off the hill. I wasn't going to go on to the hospital. My non-coms rolled me down the hill, and I was on intravenous feeding in the hospital for 2 months without eating. I didn't want to eat. I thought I was dying, and they gave me horehound candy. Do you what that is? I sucked on that horehound candy and I

had 5 penicillin shots a day in my body till I was so sore for that, but it was that penicillin that kept me alive until I got out. But the funny part of that was, there was a captain that I knew who had a girlfriend in New Zealand and he told the girlfriend told Joan that I was in the hospital not expected to live. So she wrote to me, and, you know, we were good friends in the 4 months I was there. She was my friend. I entered her home, met the folks, had Christmas dinner at her place, and I had transportation, we could go to the meets and I had a lot of time on my hands. I was recreational officer and they had an officers' club in Auckland I could go to to take her to the dance, so we were good friends and that's all we were, but she wrote to me and we started to write to each other, and during the course, I read all those letters, we sat together we were married and we decided we were going to destroy them all. We got, it was correspondence by mail, and somewhere along the line I probably offered to be her husband and she accepted. So when I came home I immediately went back to work. I wasn't one of these guys that went on unemployment and spent the time in the bars, I went back to work because I knew she was coming over, and she got over here on a boat and she came 6,000 miles to marry me. It was a good life. We were married for 55 years. She died last year…both in a rest home, and that's how it was, and it was done by mail. We were real good friends but neither one of us, you know, I was 30 years old at that time, she was 29. We weren't kids, and we had a good life together.

Question: So did you send her a ticket and bring her over or she…

Answer: No, we had to go through a lot of red tape. It took Senator Jackson to help me out. I knew Senator Jackson personally before the war when he was Prosecuting Attorney from Everett, see, and uh, they had boats. They had a lot of…funny part of it was…in Australia where black people were assigned, they… see Australia didn't have any black people at all, so these black people they posed themselves like American soldiers, and these gals fell for them and they came to get married. They got married over there and they'd get the boat over there and they'd get down into some of these places, and that didn't go. So they were walking off the boat, got wind of it, you know. Some of them just weren't going, and so we figured well, maybe we can get these gals, fiancés, to get on those boats, take their place. But to do it, we had to get some congressional action and Senator Jackson is the one who arranged for her to be on that boat. We had to go through all paperwork, we had to have so much money, had all these papers to fill out and so forth. Then the worst part of it was, when they got on there, the people in the United States decided they weren't going to let them off, you know, so we went through an awful long thing down in San Francisco. We got big page down there, what happened down there, but we had the money, and so I met her there with chaperones. The boat got in at 8:00. I didn't get her off that boat until the next day. And oh, she was upset about that. She never got over that, because then especially when these people would come in from Haiti and Cuba and so forth and they were treating them alright…oh.

Question: What an amazing love story. I mean, to have met her…

Answer: Pardon?

Question: What an amazing love story. To have met her and in the kind of coincidence meeting and way it went because you had transportation, and then the friendship and then to think then what that big, I mean today people think of flying anywhere.

Answer: Yeah. That's right not in those days.

Question: That was this young lady, getting on a ship, coming over I assume without any of her family.

Answer: No. no. Just herself. And of course I realized what she was doing. That probably made me a better husband. More responsible husband. I'm sure that it did. I could never let her down in any way, to do all that. Oh, we went back there in 1953. I had 3 kids. One was 4, one was 7 and one was 10. We went there for 2 months and visited her family. And one of the things I can always remember, during the war, uh, we could get a steak and eggs, 16 oz. steak with 2 eggs on top of it for 2 and 6, that's 2 pence and 6 shillings, which amounted to about 32 cents. We called it stike and eggs. We went back in 1953 and that was up to 3.95. We went back again….. we visited New Zealand 3 times after we were married and her sisters and brothers came over to visit us, too. We were kind of a halfway house for a lot of these people from New Zealand coming in. Now my daughter and her husband have been over there visiting relatives, uh, my grandson has been over there and my granddaughter has been over there with her husband. So they've kept these relatives together. A matter of fact, I had a call from a sister-in-law just two days ago. She's 89 years old, sharp as a tack, smokes… So that is the interesting part of my whole military career is this international thing. My wife was a very beautiful woman. Matter of fact, she was the queen of New Zealand as far as I'm concerned. I'll show you the picture of when we were married. But that whole war did so much to me to make a different person out of me. There's a little romance. You know, down in San Francisco they have a whole page of what happened there. A picture of me and her hugging each other and so forth. We got that in some of our archives, but the grandchildren, my granddaughter especially, oh, my, she says, what a romantic thing that was! I didn't look at it that way.

Question: Earlier I said, and you corrected me, because out of context when we were up in your room I said, you're famous, and the reason I said that, not because of a war hero, but because in this project, and here's another one of those coincidences, which you haven't seen yet. The tape that we finished already, called When Were Kids We Went to War…

Answer: Yeah, I'd like to see that sometime.

Question: You're going to get a copy because we'll get a copy probably next week. I forgot to bring it today, but we usually mail it off. The label on the tape, and it goes in a large box as a teacher's kit, two years ago we selected a picture at random. My editor, my graphic artist, and we've kind of softened up a bit and use it as an image for the whole show. Your friend, Bob Linden, walked by one day and I said, Oh, Bob, you don't remember me, I interviewed you, I want to show you this. He looked at the picture and he said Oh, well, you know what picture that is. I didn't know what picture it was. The picture is of the dirty dozen.

Answer: Yeah. I have that picture and I have all the names on the back if you'd like to take…

Question: And Adolph's going to be taking pictures of it. He's probably taking pictures, but…tell me about this picture.

Answer: All right. This is the day after the counter-attack of San Manuel. And the original officer number when we were activated up to strength was about 113 officers. This 12 here are the only ones left that were original officers. And, uh, Bob Dyre should have been in there. I told you about that, but he was wounded in that attack. A minor wound, but he had to go in the hospital, so there should have been one more officer there. Those are the officers that were left. He's dead, he's dead, he's dead, he's dead, that I know of, and he's dead, and uh, this is Wheeler right over here, who I want to get in contact with he was a real nice fellow. So that was just a coincidence that this was taken by a 25th division photographer and it was Colonel Dalton who was the general then decided that he'd like to get a picture of us, so he got us together there. This is the next morning after that attack. That's a Japanese tank we're on. Now this fellow here, there's actually 13 people. There's a little guy up here that's carrying the guidon see him right down there? He's a master sergeant. He's a master sergeant. I got his name in there, too. Well he's holding the guidon. But we never thought much about this picture. We all new each other, we were all friends. I didn't like this son of a bitch, but we were friends anyway. Did I say that on, are we still on?…

Question: Yeah. But we don't see which one you're pointing to.

Answer: I'll have to retract that statement.

Question: So you remember this being taken?

Answer: Oh, absolutely. Oh, yes. We never thought…we never put anything to it. Remember the picture. But it wasn't until it came out in the Saga magazine that somebody sent us a copy. Now as far as being famous, I never did anything in my military career that I thought was being heroic or anything else. I just did my job to the best of my ability, and if it was good, good. But never for any recognition. It was just my job to do. And I kind of resent these people that figure they're heroes. There are no such thing as heroes.

Question: One gentleman from? that we talked to, a Marine, said the only heroes were..

Answer: dead ones.

Question: that had the white crosses.

Answer: That's exactly right. The rest of us were just doing our jobs to the rest of our ability, and what I want to be remembered for actually is that I did the best I could to do my job properly with integrity and respect for the enlisted man, which I was for a long time. And I think I earned that. You don't command it, you earn it. I could give you an illustration.
This was on Island of New Georgia when we had to send the section, "F" Company was going to make a counter-attack on the hills adjoining San Manuel to secure that high ground and they figured they wanted some mortar, heavy mortar fire to back them up. So I sent one of my sergeants with a radio operator, and also they were stringing wire up there, too, for when the wire radio (inaudible) and it was dark at night, when I decided I'd better get up there. First I had to step off the distance, where they were going to attack from, so we could give an accurate mortar fire there, so I had to find out just where the range, the distance, from the two mortars to where the company was taking off so we could make sure we got effective firing

from them. So I had to that. One of my sergeants said he'd do it. I said no, you had enough to do today, I'll just do it myself. So I started out at dark. I just followed wires up there by myself, you know. You always got to thinking at the time, Gee, I hope I hope get into Jap wires somewhere. But I got up there and stepped it off and everything was fine, and I came back and what had happened. Platoon sergeant says, Lieutenant Hoagland, come over here. They'd dug a foxhole for me. They even had an old pillow in it. I'd always dug my foxholes before, but they dug that for me. I never had to dig another foxhole after that. And I say that now because you don't tell your men to dig a foxhole for you. They have to want to do it. They wouldn't let me dig it from then on. But as it happened, that platoon sergeant and radio operator were both killed. They ran into an ambush, never did hit any mortar fire. They were killed. The whole company had to retreat, they had a hell of a time getting together. They put another company in there the next day and they got it out before the attack when into San Manuel. But I take that as an illustration of the fact.. that to get respect you have to earn it, you don't demand it at all, and I was very talking of the fact that we had some others wouldn't listen and I fought for them. I didn't like the idea that officers had a liquor ration, enlisted men didn't, didn't like that idea at all. And here I was in addition to other duties was a liquor officer for the battalion. And believe it or not, I'd collect the money and five companies, about five officers probably around 25 officers would get a liquor ration each month. They got a bottle of rum, they got a bottle of bourbon, they got a bottle of brandy they'd buy. I'd have to buy it, get their money first, then take it back to them. Well one company had five officers in there, there was only one officer that orders liquor rations, which meant that there was four that I could buy for, so I sold it to my enlisted men at cost. And I said, Now here's what you have to do. Just be quiet about this. Don't overdo it and I can buy it for you as long as they don't buy it. Well, finally being right next door to the other.. the company that weren't…. these non-coms.. where you gettin' this. You see, and it finally got out, so these officers started buying it then, you see. But that was well controlled thing. There was no monkey business at all. It was well regulated. You could buy a ration each month while we weren't in combat, you see. But I had my non-coms I furnished them liquor. So I got to be quite a nice fellow to my non-coms, you see.

Question: It's interesting, because I never thought about it until you just talked about that, but the idea of money, you talked about buying it. So if you were in combat did you have money in your pocket?

Answer: No, never. Well, we had a period of 6 months where we never drew any pay. No place to spend it. They'd gamble and they'd gamble jawbones and pay out on payday, you see. So we had no use for money.
One of the things I remember in New Zealand that upset some New Zealanders and we didn't realize what it was all about until when they woke up. The… New Zealand was on the pound system and a pound was worth about $2.80, so when we were paid, we were paid in 5-pound notes and we figured that's $5, but it was 5 times 2.80, you see. So we were throwing those 5 pound notes around like they were $5 till we got used to them. And, we, you know, damn rich Americans throwing their money around like that, well, we just didn't know any better. We hadn't had any money for a while. They had fundraising in the town of Onaero and they'd auctioned off a pig. Well, probably to impress Joan, I'd bid on the pig and I won it. Now what the hell was I going to do with a pig, so I donated it back so they could auction it off again. I think I bought it for ten pounds. Well, that was $28 or something…a lot of money. Didn't bother me. I had all kinds of money and couldn't spend it anyway.

But I look back at that. They must have thought we were, you know, these Yanks with all their money and so forth.

Question: Earlier you said one thing about one of your duties was having to write letters home…

Answer: Yeah. That was when I was a platoon commander. Another thing we had to do. The company commander was responsible for that, but he'd have his attendants do it, and that was a pretty difficult job, after all, I wasn't experienced in that sort of thing, but what you had to do was put yourself in that position. Of course, they always made this fellow a lot braver that he was, you know. This is human nature, you want to make the family feel good, but you've got to be careful with that, too.

Question: Did you usually know the people, or were there so many people that it was a name and a parent and…

Answer: We didn't know the parents at all.

Question: Did you know the soldier?

Answer: The only time I'd write to somebody is the parents of somebody who was in my platoon, so I knew what I was saying. We had another silly incident that I probably should bring to your attention. The medals, so forth. Uh, the Air Force came out with these air medals and they were giving them to everybody. Infantry had no medals whatsoever. So they started the Combat Infantry Badge, it's a blue badge, here is it right here. It's a combat infantry badge, it meant that you were in the infantry in the combat zone. Then that was distinguished infantry. That was more important than any medal you could get we thought, but the powers that be in Washington D.C. figured that the infantry weren't getting enough medals, so they decided they were going to get more medals for the infantry, so they put, this is the truth. They put quotas on. As the platoon leader I had to find during the combat period, each week find somebody that was worthy of a medal. You know what that caused, don't ya. And this is a true story. My platoon sergeant came to me and he says, Lt. Hoagland if you write me up for a silver star I'll write you up for a silver star. He got transferred awful quick. Then my company commander says Hoagland you're not bringing any… I said Look, I haven't found anybody that's done anything to award a medal to. I'm not going to make it up. They were supposed to do that, but I refused to do it, actually, but there was a lot of that going on because the infantry didn't have the medals that the Air Corps did. Isn't that silly? You think of all those medals they put on, every time a, I tell you, you open up a c-ration and cut your finger, they wanted a silver, they wanted a purple heart for it! Medals never meant much to me. And they still don't. I like this one, I like that one because it distinguished me as being in combat.

Question: And you earned that.

Answer: I earned that.

Question: That's like respect. You don't command…. you don't have somebody give you respect, but that you had to……

Answer: People look at that and say Oh, you were in the infantry in combat. It distinguishes you just like an air medal does to the pilots as so forth, you see. So medals, I never was much of a medal man. We had an incident, am I going on too much here?

Question: No. You're fine.

Answer: We had an incident when we were in New Georgia, after the combat. I think it was New Georgia, it might have been the Philippines. No, it was New Georgia, where we weren't in combat. We were in training from 7:00 in the morning until 5:00 Monday through Saturday, we were supposed to have Sunday off. So what happened, our regiment was bivouacked about 3 miles from division headquarters and this combat infantry badge came out, and the only ones who were awarded it were those who served in the combat zone. So what happened is all these colonels from the war department were flown in to the division headquarters and put on paper as belonging to the regiment for a day and we had to come over there in our khaki uniforms and our ribbons and everything on a Sunday, our time, 3 miles over and 3 miles back, and then pass in review to these people. Well, that didn't sit very good. I don't know how it got started, but I know they were all for it and helped with it. We decided to heck with that noise, so the next week it came up, we refused to put on any medals, any ribbons or anything. We got over there and the commanding general just about ready to go ape, you know, but we didn't pass and review that day, and that was the last time they ever did that. . We just couldn't stomach taking our time to get dressed up in our khaki uniform, wear ribbons, so forth, march 3 miles over and 3 miles back, for those, I gotta be careful what I call them, for these war department colonels that flew out on military transportation to get signed up on paper to the regiment for one day to qualify for that. So that was the end of that, we picked up through the whole regiment. We were known as mavericks from then on. We had a lot of that that went on, you know. Everybody went medal crazy. I suppose it's good for morale, I don't know.

Question: When it means something, but like you said, if it gets to the point where it's just a joke, then….

Answer: No, no.

Question: One last question. There's going to be your grandchildren and great-grandchildren, people that you and I will never meet that will see this tape, and they'll read the history books and they'll know there was WW II and they can read the names and dates add places. Is thee something that the history books have left out? A message that should that should be left with….

Answer: Boy, that's a hard one to answer quite frankly. We're living in a different time than when I was a child. We didn't have all the influence of television and didn't have all the dope and all the stuff that goes on, and so it's hard for me to answer that. The only message I would give to my grandchildren, which I've already given them is just live your life properly, believe in God, believe in your country, and be honest about things. I don't know if I have a really message about my experience in WW II that would mean anything to the young people today. It would of not what my experiences were but how to conduct yourself as a citizen at all times. Don't smoke. It's gonna kill you sooner or later. They don't pay attention to it anyway. Don't get into drugs. All you're going to do is kill yourself, and make somebody unhappy. I don't think …I can't be sure about anything, but I don't think

anything I could say to another generation would really mean something to them except to be a nice a person as you can be and to be nice to everybody else. I don't think you learn any lessons from war, in my opinion. So that's a hard question to answer quite frankly. My grandchildren, who happen to be on good grace with all of them. They visit me all the time, they take me places, and they respect me, and that's why I'm so glad that I did write the history for my daughter. She's making these books for each one of them for Christmas of my life in the military, and all I've got in there is what I actually saw, what I actually did, not what somebody else did, and what I thought about things, not what somebody else thought about things. I've been known as kind of a maverick sometimes, and I don't mind my grandchildren to know that. I've given them some stories there, and that's part of life. None of us have ever been perfect, and I don't think the future generation is going to be any more perfect than we are. Oh, it's been interesting. I've never been interviewed like this before. I'm kind of curious how it's going to come out because I've done an awful lot of rambling. I hope that it comes out right.

Question: Again, that is our process. We go down side roads because sometimes it sparks a memory and that's just how we document it. You talked about in your later life, and I assume in your early life, you're a religious man.

Answer: A what?

Question: A religious man. A Christian.

Answer: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Question: You were a Christian when you were in the war.

Answer: Oh, yeah.

Question: Has that created dilemma in war?

Answer: Not really. Not really. Uh, I prayed at times. Quite frankly, there were times that I prayed. I don't know if my prayers were answered or not. I was taught when I prayed it's not a prayer for myself, it's a prayer for somebody else, so when I prayed it was not to protect me, it was to protect my men, you see. I try to explain that prayer would never say Oh, God, protect me, or things like that. What can you do for me? That isn't what I call prayer. So I was never over-religious. I've always been a member of the church, and.. I don't I've never convinced myself that prayer did any good, but I didn't think it ever did any harm. That's the best way to express it.

Question: It sounds like you've had a good life.

Answer: I've had a good life. I've had a very interesting life. My life after the war, I've been involved in the community. I was President of the Rotary Club in Everett in 1973 with about 250 people and I was just a hardware clerk. Well, I was more than a clerk. I got to be Vice President and Manager, but I served in different things in the community. I've been appointed by 5 different mayors to different things, so I've been involved in the community in my….. after the war, completely, in everything, right up until the last one. I was the on the advisory board for the Senior Center, which was very interesting. But now, of course, I can't get around so I don't do these things anymore. But I'm interested in what goes on in the world.

You know, quite frankly, I wasn't looking forward to this interview 'cause I didn't know how I could respond. You made it pretty easy for me to ramble. Matter of fact, you encourage people to ramble, which I didn't want to do.

Question: But that's what we want you to do.

Answer: You did.

Question: You know, if you don't, I mean, they always say art is a process. If you don't ramble, a lot of times there isn't something that sparks a memory, 'cause we've told our friends things, but things like, to hear you talk about your wife, to hear you talk the men you served with, to hear you talk about the foxhole they dug for you, and to see it become real for you all of a sudden again.

Answer: Well, I think what I was concerned about is what I maybe would talk about would be interesting to me, but it might not be interesting to anybody else. You understand what I'm saying?

Question: You'd be surprised how many people think that. I have a good friend that we interviewed. When I went to him, I knew his daughter, and she's always talked about her dad being in the service, South Pacific, and she said, Oh, my dad never talks about it. Doesn't want to talk about it. Well, finally I said, George do you want to be interviewed? Well, I blah, blah, blah. Finally I called and he said I'll think about it, and he came in. As I talked to him, the reason he didn't talk about it was because he didn't think his kids wanted to know about it. So he had two people, two different perspectives, and now it's been really neat because it opened up a dialog between he and his children and his grandchildren that now they know what he did over there. For him it was great.

Answer: Yeah, this is what true. My daughter convinced me when I was 85 years old to start putting it down on paper. I had never talked to my kids about it. I didn't want to talk about it. She convinced me I owed it to the grandchildren, and this project she's had of my military history, putting it together, making 6 different copies for the grandchildren, and they're all excited. They don't know they're going to get this for Christmas. She spent a lot of money and a lot of effort in that.

Question: It's a big job.

Answer: Yeah.

Question: But it's interesting because whether you like it or not, you're part of history.

Answer: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Now if somebody says You're going to be famous. I said Famous my butt. I don't want to be famous.

Question: Not necessarily famous, but you lived through history, but history to you was everyday life.

Answer: Yeah.

Question: Like I said we talk about people, did you know you were born in the depression? They said, We didn't know because that's all we knew. But looking

back we understand, we see and all that. But the same thing of now, the places you talk…. Guadalcanal. I mean, you find me a WW II history book that doesn't mention Guadalcanal, and now to talk to somebody who was there and your personal experiences. That is real important.

Answer: Yeah. Well, I hope it comes out alright. I…. well, for your sake. Do I understand that you're making another one like you made before.

Question: What we're going to do is, we're doing combinations of things. What we do is go back and type all this up, we'll make transcripts of it, and that is accessible for research, for students doing research, so if they typed in Guadalcanal, or 161st, they can do research in that.

Answer: Is your camera off now?

Question: It is.