

## Arthur J. Judd

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**Question:** The first thing that I'm going to have you do is just give me your first, middle and last name and the correct spelling so I have it on tape.

**Answer:** Arthur J. Judd, Arthur James J-U-D-D.

**Question:** Are you from here originally, this area or?

**Answer:** No, I'm, I was born up near Okanogan country.

**Question:** Oh.

**Answer:** But I lived in Seattle for forty years.

**Question:** Oh is that right? So you grew up over..?

**Answer:** All over the state. I was migrant laborer.

**Question:** Oh really?

**Answer:** Cause you know I was going around looking for work in the thirties so..

**Question:** Did you end up in CCC or anything like that or?

**Answer:** No, when I first left home I got a job as a, on a cattle ranch and then after that we traveled all over the state looking for work and finally wound up in Seattle and digging wells and laborer work and finally got an apprenticeship in the printing business and the war started.

**Question:** That's a lot of people don't realize how tough times really were back then, you know.

**Answer:** Well when I went in the Army I was making more money than I was in civilian life.

**Question:** Not that way anymore, sometimes, depends on who it is. How, so how did you get in the service?

**Answer:** I enlisted.

**Question:** Before Pearl Harbor or after?

**Answer:** No, no, it was after Pearl Harbor. I enlisted the first day of July of '42, Pearl Harbor was in December but I didn't wait to be drafted so.. I wanted to be a pilot but I didn't have enough education so they. When I went through the training, I passed everything until I got up and the last lieutenant he was looking over my stuff and he says, how much education you got? And I said, well I only went through the eighth grade. He says, you can't be a pilot. You have to have equivalent of two years of college and or have pilot experience. So, well I said, what else you got? And he says, how about air borne? And I says, oh it sounds like something to do with airplanes. I was just a farm boy from Okanogan, so I signed up for air borne but then when I went through Fort Lewis and they sent me down to Camp Callen in California for basic training and then I couldn't get out of there. They kept me there

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and I should've been transferred, I'd have been in the 101<sup>st</sup> if I'd have been transferred. But they didn't transfer me right away so I stayed there for and they made me a DI and I stayed there for what, four training cycles. But eventually the Army sent out orders when they were forming the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne that anybody that enlisted for airborne would be a transfer immediately and my wife to be had came from Minnesota to visit and she'd only been there three days and I left. But I really get upset with watching drill instructors today, all this getting in people's faces and screaming and hollering and all that. And we didn't do that in the Army and not in those days anyway. I mean, the worst thing I ever did I think to a guy was a guy that chewed tobacco that spit on the sidewalk on the parade ground. So I told him one day you're going to have to scrub it up and I gave him a bucket of water and a scrub brush and he went out and he came back in and he said he was finished and I said, you couldn't be finished and he said, yeah he'd scrubbed this plot about three feet square and I said, I meant the whole parade ground. He was from Kentucky or someplace and man he couldn't believe he was going to have to, that was about two acres of parade ground. But after he got a piece about fifty feet square I went out and told him, if he was going to spit on the walk and scrub the playground he says, nope.

**Question:** So how, as a drill instructor, how old were you, were you pretty young?

**Answer:** I was 22. I was old guy.

**Question:** So yeah, so compared to the kids, you didn't have that age problem, you were older than a lot of the kids coming through.

**Answer:** Yeah, and besides that I'd, I'd worked at so many different things and was pretty mature for my age.

**Question:** So you would bring them in, train them and then send them out.

**Answer:** Then ship them out... at first it was eight weeks and then it changed to thirteen weeks so that was, and of course, I went right along with them, through obstacle courses and all that running and everything else. So went I got in Airborne, I was in good shape. I didn't have any trouble at all down there at Fort Benning. And Fort Benning was tough. That first week is all calisthenics and then you go to packing chutes and all that stuff. But I liked Callen; I mean, I kind of found a home in the Army. I mean, that may sound silly to you because my family broke up when I was a kid. There was nine kids in the family and my folks got divorced and three of just took off and the rest of them got put in foster homes and it was, you know, I mean, you go in the Army. Everything's furnished, your food, your clothes, spending money and the whole nine yards. I mean, I'd been making \$35 a week working in the printing trades and I had to pay rent and all that stuff but it.. I didn't resent the Army, I mean, of course I enlisted and being, being's I enlisted they put me in the regular Army and I don't know how much you know about the regular Army guys... their serial number starts with one. All the draftees it started with three, so the guys that started with one got paid first. So on payday I got paid first, went, got out on the highway and catch a ride to Los Angeles before anybody else could get out cause Camp Callen is right along side of San Diego, or it was... probably big condominiums now.

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**Question:** I'd never heard that about the numbers.. one, so you get paid first and..

**Answer:** Yeah, regular Army guys got, I even got paid before the First Sergeant and that just really irritated him.

**Question:** So did they know what was going on, that that's why it was, I mean and?

**Answer:** They did after first payday.

**Question:** So when did you discover that the Airborne had to do with flying kind of but it also had to do with jumping out of these big airplanes?

**Answer:** Well, I more or less found it out before I went back there because people were writing and asking me how many jumps I'd made and I hadn't made any cause I was still stuck in that basic training camp. And I didn't really hate that or anything because you were really doing a job, I mean, these guys you were training were going off to war. And I was an expert with automatic weapons and machine guns, 50's and 30's, and you taught everything, you know, bayonet drill and rifle shooting and all that and of course being a hunter and everything when I was younger, why, I mean, shooting a gun wasn't any problem (Inaudible) I mean especially we had those little Springfield's at that time. They didn't even have the Girands yet but I really pretty much enjoyed it. And in San Diego, you know, you can wear your wool uniform in the summertime at night when you go out on pass but it.. what, the climate was really nice down there. Of course now I guess it's really crowded.

**Question:** Yeah, not the open space that there was.

**Answer:** But if you think war is hell, and you don't think it's hell, you ought to be in San Diego as a soldier cause every other guy you met on the street was either a Marine or a sailor and why they want, figured they had to go to town and have a fight someplace and I went to town to have fun, not to get in a fight.

**Question:** But being in the wrong uniform sometimes probably, or the opposite uniform I guess probably..

**Answer:** Yeah, I mean, it was, it was really kind of silly to think that, you know, I mean we were all in the same war.

**Question:** What, so you went from San Di.., where did you do your airborne training then, back east?

**Answer:** Okay, when I, when they sent through orders where you'd be transferred, they gave us orders and there was another guy there with me, a guy by the name of Cy Holden and he was from Idaho. And he'd just went through his basic training so he'd signed up for airborne too and he went with me and we went to Camp Callen, I mean Camp McCall in North Carolina. That's was where the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne was. And a funny thing happened when I got there, there was this staff car waiting when we got off the train. And then finally the guy come over and he says, did you see a Captain Judd on there? And I says, no, and I said, I'm Corporal Judd. And I often wondered if I'd had a set of bars if I could've got away with it cause they

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had the orders written up wrong. I had a problem with getting this mis-assigned so I went into 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne and they said, they looked at my training in anti-aircraft and machine guns and stuff so they put me in 152<sup>nd</sup> Anti-aircraft Glider outfit. So I went to the Colonel and I said, or the Major and I said I was enlisted to be a Paratrooper. So he said, well it's going to take a while. So while I was there, before they got me transferred again, I had my five rides in a glider so I got my glider wings. And one thing that worked is that you really learned to tie stuff down in a glider cause you know they're made out of tissue paper and if you don't tie the stuff real good and it hits the ground hard it's going to out through the front, kill the pilot and wreck the thing. So I really learned how to tie knots and how to tie stuff. But then they said, okay we're going to send you to Fort Benning and get you parachute training. So we both went to Fort Benning and when I got down there I took my stripes off. I'd heard before if you go into Benning don't go in there with your stripes on cause I was just a Corporal that time. 'Cause those Sergeants down there are non-coms and officers, they're pretty hard. They're really hard on officers. They're all, they're all Buck Sergeants, almost all of them. So every night we'd come in, first week's all these, all calisthenics, fifty minutes of calisthenics, ten minute break, running, push-ups, burpees and all that stuff. And then every night we'd come in, I'd tell Cy, let's quit and he says, oh, let's give it one more day. So, and we got through that week and the second week you learned to pack chute and you're still doing, you're jumpin' off 35 foot towers and you go up in the 250 foot towers and stuff like that. And still everything's at attention. If you're doing push-ups and the Sergeant come by and says, he says, give me 25. He says well, did that bother you? You can't win... if you say, no it didn't bother me... so you need more then, do another 25. And you say, it bothered me, well you need more then, give me 25. And that's the way it was down there. Well we got through that second stage and the third stage was, no that's right, we passed the first, second stage is jumping off 35 foot towers and sliding down a cable in a pile of sawdust and then going up on those 250 foot towers and still more calisthenics all the time. And then the third week was packing your chutes and the learner pack chutes, then the fourth week was jumping, you'd go down and pack your chute, then go out in the afternoon and jump it and then the next day you'd do the same thing over. They'd make you sit in a shed down there and you know, Fort Benning is in Georgia and I was in there in August. The humidity's about 100% and it was, they put you in this shed and leave you settin' there for about three hours. And it's psychological to see if you're going to be able to take it cause you only made two jumps but the third jump they make you sit in there for about three hours and you wait and wait. And there's quite a few guys quit, and they pull off their gear and drop it and walk out.

**Question:** Really, after making two jumps sitting in a hot, humid..?

**Answer:** Well you could, well, it's, it's nervousness I mean, you just, you're thinking too much and it's just sittin' there. If you went right out and got on the airplane it'd be different. But we didn't quit; we went on and went through it and we went back to the division, got our wings and went back to the division and they put us in the 511th Parachute Infan.. yeah the Infantry. And our record was artillery and you know, I was the first guy in California to fire a 40-millimeter Bofors and we worked on 90's so then I went to the, up to headquarters again and said, hey look, we're artillery men. So we stayed, stayed in that infantry outfit for a couple of weeks before they'd cut papers for us to transfer to 457th Parachute Artillery. And then we trained, jumping our guns and at first we had anti-aircraft guns and they took those away and give us a howitzer. And I got some pictures out there that shows the, their pack howitzer. They were designed in the First World War to be

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packed on mules. You break them down in ten different loads, all these pieces and then when you jumped them, you had six loads underneath on the C-47, which is the DC-3. You had six loads underneath. You had the wheels and the breach block and the, and some (Inaudible) ammunition in the door. And so when the green light went on you'd pop off the ones on the bottom and the guys in the door'd take out the wheels and then the guys would go and then the jumpmaster would go last. And I had an officer that, he was really a good officer. But he was really nervous when he jumped and he screwed up a couple of times so the Captain made me jumpmaster cause I was a Staff Sergeant by that time, Platoon Sergeant. Then, before that I was always nervous on a jump but after that I wasn't, cause I had so much stuff to do. I had to worry about how fast we were going and how high we were and whether we were in the right spot over the field. And even if the green light goes on, I mean, if you're over a lake or something you don't jump and it's up to the jumpmaster to say, hold it. And I wasn't nervous anymore cause I had so much to do I didn't get nervous. And then, went back, we were, went down to Camp Polk, Louisiana, to go on maneuvers. And I don't know if you ever been in Louisiana, but it's one place I don't ever want to be again. It's, you know, where we were it's kind of like jungle, I mean it's swamps and all that, it's snakes and bugs and spiders and, but I got lucky again. Captain Rawling he said, we're sending you to Fort Sill, Oklahoma to study all the guns so you'll be the armorer for the outfit. So I went up to Fort Sill and learned how to fix, take apart and repair everything from a 45 up to a 105-millimeter cannon howitzer and I got 100% on the test. And so when I went back then I get back, and while I was gone they were on maneuvers and then when they came in they took all their carbines, artillery were issued carbines, and they took them all apart. Each guy took his apart and put it on a wire and then they re-blued them. Well some of them, you know, they're going, end up ffft! there goes the spring or something so when I get back I spent a week sitting in there with one other guy sorting those parts out and figuring out what's lost and putting those guns all back together and then firing them in a barrel to make sure they work and getting them back to the guys. And then after Camp Polk we went out, they packaged us up and shipped us to California. On the way out to California why, they called a non-commissioned officers meeting, the Captain did and he said where we're going, we're going to APO. Of course everybody had to take off their stripes and their bars and everything; and he says, I can't tell you where we're going and I says, well I know where we're going is. Well, what do you mean? We're going to Camp Stoneman He says, how do you know that? I says, I've been there before. Cause when we used to take these guys from the basic training, that's where we took them, is up to Camp Stoneman cause they'd be shipping overseas. And Stoneman is where they give you all the shots and all that stuff and make sure you get everything you need before they send you up to Frisco and put you on a boat and out under the Golden Gate. So we made it up there and then, and we figured we were going to go right into combat but they sent us to New Guinea. It took us 27 days to get to New Guinea cause they went out, you know, like this, around and around in circles and it was a lousy trip I'll tell you. We had hard-boiled eggs and cream o' wheat every morning for breakfast, a bologna sandwich for lunch and I don't even remember what we had for dinner. But it was, and you know, you get four bunks high. Well it was a funny thing when we was in Frisco they all, we loaded on the ship, everybody had to go below decks; they buttoned it all up and guys started getting seasick. Get up in the morning, we're still tied to the dock. Cause most of the guys in my outfit were from the Midwest; it was really funny and you could hear the creaking and groaning you know and smell the stuff but it was, we were still tied up to the dock. And the worst part of it, was the guys get sick, you know, I mean you're on a third or fourth bunk and you get sick and you roll over and vomit down the side. And then you go up to

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the head, there's a whole row of toilets and these guys are sitting on one and puking in another one. And a lot of guys got chronic seasickness going to New Guinea. I never did but smelling the vomit made me sicker than the waves but..

**Question:** I was going to say that's what would've made me sick would've been smelling that.

**Answer:** I mean, the most of us could possibly get away with was sneak up and sleep on deck... because it was fresh air and everything. And then of course you had salt water for showers which is not really too good to get clean. But then we got to New Guinea, then unloaded and we set up in these perimeter tents, set them up off the ground you know about so, three feet probably which they had floors in them and I think because of the snakes and stuff, bugs and everything, New Guinea is jungle. That's why we were down there for training in the jungle and learning how to build booby traps and stuff like that and how to climb those big tall trees for forward observing. And there was a lot of, there was a camp of Australians close to us and we had to set up a guard around the outfit to keep them from stealing us blind. I hope you aren't going to show this to any Australians, but it was true. I mean they'd take anything that wasn't nailed down. And then we had natives around there too. And some big snakes, pythons, and wallabies, that's a kind of a little kangaroo, and the natives always wanting you to shoot them for them cause they ate them. And they didn't have guns. It was, I guess New Guinea was controlled by Australia, I mean the government control. The Australians were good fighters but boy their campground looked like a hobo jungle, I'm not kidding. Then they'd have a campfire with four or five guys around it, an old black pot that looked just like Hooverville down in Seattle when I was a kid. But we stayed there and trained and I learned quite a bit about explosives but I'd learned a lot about explosives in, when I was back in Fort Sill, how to build booby traps and stuff like that. And I was always... even before I went in, I was using dynamite to blow stumps and stuff like that on the ranch. And I was working with a guy doing that so I knew quite a bit about explosives and we finally left New Guinea and we went on a Navy ship and we was going to Leyte. And that was the best food we had while we were from the time I left California. I mean I always thought that paratroopers, you know, would get steak for breakfast and stuff but we didn't. We got those green powdered eggs. They turn green when they're in a black pan you know, around the edges anyway. But that was really good food and they were short on gun crew... so they came down and the Captain says, Sergeant, you said you're the expert with automatic weapons so you take your platoon and go up and man those four 20 millimeter guns on the bridge. So we stayed on the bridge the whole trip. We slept right in the gun, gun tubs. They even let us do some practice firing cause we hadn't fired 20 millimeters. But they caught on real quick and it was a nice trip because all the other guys were down in the hold. We were up on the bridge. And we got to Leyte we went in and landed but the Japs had taken off. They went into the mountains so they wasn't on the beach and we unloaded our ships real fast. But another division came in behind us and I can't remember for sure but I think it was the 25<sup>th</sup>. But they landed behind us and while they were unloading... they just unloaded in daytime. We unloaded 24 hours all day and all night and got all our stuff. And a suicide plane came over and just flew right along the beach and then right in the hold of that ship and there was just a great big blast. It was full of 50-gallon drums of gas and ammunition stuff and it was a lot of guys. Several guys floated ashore, dead guys and there was an LST that was unloading alongside of it, sunk it too. And it was, it was, we realized then we were in a war and that really brought it home to us. And after that we were, packed up our gear and headed into the mountains. And they went into this

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little airstrip... if you get my book out there you can see it, a picture of it. It's just a little airstrip with a curve in it, cut in the jungle and they dropped four guns from I think C Battery in there. And then the rest of us hiked into the mountains to form a guard around the guns and go in forward observer parties and stuff like that. And we took turns, they manned the guns 24 hours a day so we took turns manning the guns and... They dropped in our food from, usually from C-47's, the DC-3 is what you know them as. But they were only attacked one time by the Jap but that was, I was on a forward observant party so I missed that but I was out in forward observation. But the one thing that really sticks in my mind is the Lieutenant led us on a patrol, I don't know, there was about twenty of us and we got down, I was on the rear guard and before I got up to where the Lieutenant was... he'd split the group with four of us in the middle, he took some guys, went to the right. He pulled a Custer, General Custer deal. He split his command into three spots, one went this way, one that way and one in the middle and we walked right into a camp of about 200 Japanese. And all hell broke loose. And that's when we lost four guys and finally the other Lieutenant got back there with him and said we had to get out of there but we never brought our guys out and I regretted that ever since that he didn't order us to pick up the bodies and bring them out. Of course it was a long ways back to camp with no litters, no aid men and it was. It would really been tough getting them out but I've often wondered if they ever found them. At one time I thought about going back to see but the way the Philippines are now and some rebels might want to shoot you back there. But I don't know how it was on Leyte, I know Luzon's got a lot of rebels but.

But we stayed in the mountains there for two months. I was with the infantry on several occasions and they were always lost. The only way you could find, we'd climb up on the highest point, call back to the battery, buy a round of smoke to certain coordinates, and if we could see it then we could plot where we were. And, but it was real easy to get lost up there. And most of the officers that I served with were real incompetent when it come to reading a compass. I mean they just, they'd never been out plotting a course in the woods. And of course I'd hunted all my life since the time I was a kid. I was sixteen when I could get a license and I did a lot of running around in the woods and had a pretty good idea on watching for landmarks and stuff. But, 'course over there it was a little different too; it was so thick and everything. But it was, we were really in a bind every once in a while trying to figure out where we were. And then we finally pulled back.. that day we ran into another machine gun nest on the way out and one of the guys got wounded but he was able to, we was able to get him out. The four guys I was with, two of them got killed and one got wounded in the arm and a sniper missed me three times and he.. his sights must have been off, something, he was shooting high.. but I think God was looking after me that day. So we got back, back to the battery where the guns were and I went on another forward observer mission and we finally worked around and got into this area.. the infantry got in there and either wiped out or run off all the Japanese in that area. We found these two guys bodies but we still didn't have any way of carrying them cause by that time they were decomposed real bad and everything and then we stuck guns in the ground and put helmets on them but I've often wondered. I was going to go down to Leyte and look for their grave markers but I never did, never got back there. But I've often wondered if those guys got out or not. There was a, one of them was a full-blooded Indian... he was our scout. But, then we finally wound up our campaign in Leyte. We went back to the airstrip and they decided we were going to head for the beach so they just took off. And there was a couple of guys that were sick so I stayed with them and by the time I got down to the, where the perimeter was at the end of the road I had about fifteen guys with me and all of them were sick or their feet were bad or something and I was

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scared to death they were going to shoot us when we walked in there and I stayed with them and finally got inside the, inside the lines cause that division that came in after us were pretty trigger happy and it was real scary to go in to a perimeter at night and we got in and we got down on the beach and stayed there awhile and got some new equipment. See we had those jump boots, I don't know, you've probably seen them, but they're worthless in mud and rain and water and that's what Leyte was, it rained all the time. It was just pure mud. Like I've talked to some of these Navy guys you know and I said well you should have been on Leyte. You guys are sleeping in clean sheets and having a good shower every night and good food. And how'd you like to sleep in a fox hole with three inches of water in it and the first night out you throw your blankets away cause they're all wet and you can't carry them. You just have a poncho and you just roll up your poncho and dig a hole and get in it. And we got back on the beach and got new equipment, new boots and stuff and then we got on the, I don't know, about two weeks I think before we, they came in and said we were going to Luzon. So we got on a (Inaudible) was going to have to go with the glider infantry we was going to have to go on a landing craft, LCI, which is landing craft infantry and it was right at the end of that typhoon they had down there at that time and I mean, I mean when the thing is sitting low on the water it's about that far out of the water and we were underneath the water most of the time, talk about seasick, even the sailors were seasick. And they'd told us on the maps before that when we got to, when we got into Nasugbu which is a southern Luzon that this is going to be one landing you wouldn't even get your feet wet. You'd walk right off on the sand. I don't know who dreamed that up but when we landed when the boat stopped we weren't even up on the beach and if it hadn't been for some of the taller guys grabbing the little guys they'd have drowned cause the water was so deep. There was a six by six truck pulled off of a landing craft, LST, with an L-5 airplane on the back of it and the only thing sticking out of the water was the tail of the airplane. And finally somebody got a bulldozer ashore and we was able to get some cables and started pulling the jeeps and guns and stuff ashore with this bulldozer. And of course, I don't know if you ever seen a jeep that'd been waterproofed but you got a pipe out of the carburetor way up in the air and one out of the exhaust way up in the air and you're supposed to be able to go through quite a bit of water. Well we went underneath and they all drowned, our engines were drowned. And so we were up on the beach and the Japs opened on us with mortars and machine guns and we all hit, jumped in some shell holes.. because they'd laid down, the destroyers had laid down some artillery fire before we got there and rocket fire and stuff. And this one star General, General Farrell he was in charge of artillery; he came along there and he says, we got to get this stuff off the jeep, off the beach and I said, well. I said to myself, well if that old guy ain't afraid to get up there, I'm not. So I started hollering at my guys to get out of the hole. About that time they opened up and here's this one star General and my jeep driver and all trying to hide behind one jeep well. And he says, hey Sergeant, getting kind of hot up here isn't it. But we finally got our guns out of the water and up on the beach and got some ammunition and headed for the road up in Nasugbu. And the Nasugbu is on the southern end of Luzon and it had a little railroad and it had a small airport and stuff where our L-5's could land. And I got up there and the Colonel from the.. infantry guy came by and he says, you guys the ones with the assault guns that are going with us and I said, yeah, we're supposed to go with you. About this time a private come running up and he said, Lieutenant Riggerts said for you to bring the guns back to the beach. Well I, I don't know whether you've heard much Army language but you can guess what I told him to tell the Lieutenant. So we went with, and then here come both my jeep drivers, they'd got the jeeps running and they sounded rough cause they'd pulled everything off of them and there wasn't any



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mufflers or anything on them and we hooked on the guns and went with the infantry. And camped that night and the next day we went up on this, heading for Togatay Ridge where the 511<sup>th</sup> and the rest of the artillery guys were supposed to jump and the 188<sup>th</sup> ran into a whole bunch of Japs at a bridge and they were pinned down up there so we pulled up with our two guns and set up and there was a mountain sticking up there and we were spotting machine guns and mortar nests up there and firing at them and there was an artillery piece that we couldn't see. I don't know whether it was in a cave or on the other side of the hill, but we'd hear him fire and about two seconds later a shell would come in. Well he put one behind us and then he put one down in front of us. You know, being an artilleryman, we were bracketed and I thought oh my God. And the next one landed about from here to that corner in front of our gun, big black shell about a 155 and it never went off. Every time we fired that thing'd wiggle but never did go off. Finally one of them hit close enough that a piece of shrapnel, the other gun guys were digging in. We were just using one gun and the other guys were digging in and this one guy hit the ground when you'd hear the boom it hit the ground and the shell'd come in and this piece of shrapnel sliced his canteen off just like he'd taken a razor blade and went down the stitching and it stuck in the dirt and he reached up and grabbed it and of course it was hot and that was the only casualty I had that day... he burned his hand. When we ran out of ammunition, we said let's get the hell out of here. So we took off and went back down the road to get more ammunition then. But, on that action my gun crew, eight men on my gun crew, got Bronze Stars and I got the Silver Star for that one action because with our fire we knocked out enough stuff that the infantry they would get up and get out of where they were pinned down. And besides (inaudible) got the President of the Unit Citation and the rest of the battalion, the rest of our 457 didn't get it. So they got the jump but we got the Presidential Unit Citation, it kind of evened it out. And then we went on up the ridge and set up a couple of times in fire missions. We went back, we'd had a long road. I don't remember exactly from the, should be in the middle of Manila... I think it's about fifty miles or something like that. And we didn't kill all the Japs on the way; they just ran them off. And of course then we'd have to go back every so often and go down one of these roads and fire again and cause we were assault guns and we did quite a bit of that. And then they finally got down to Manila at Nicholas Field and one of my guys got shot there... the million dollar shot you know, right across the cheek of the rear end... a guy by the name of Fellers, he's the only guy that had a camera with him and some of those pictures I got he took and then sent to me afterwards but we had sixteen 75's set up in a row and we were firing on that Fort McKinley. It was a big Japanese fort. I mean, well it was, I guess it was U.S. Army fort before but then it was Japanese in there. And I never did get up there but we were firing on that. I was thinking that was January, no it was in February because they came up and said, Dog Battery pull out... we've got another mission. And I was thinking, you know, it's another one of those drive the Japanese away from the supply line type thing. And they pulled us out and went back and they said, no we're going up to this town and get on these alligators which is a self-propelled vehicle that goes in the water on the ground and Marines use a lot of them. I think we had 52 of them and they said we got a prison camp we gotta go in and rescue them. And it's all American civilians or most of them were American civilians that lived in the Philippines before the war. Anyway we loaded on these things and in the dark we went up, went up to this lake, Laguna 'd Bay. It was I think it was a seven-mile trip on the lake. It was actually 25 miles behind the Japanese lines. And Yamashita had a couple thousand troops up on this mountain complex between us and where the camp was and we went around because we went on this lake. And they sent a battalion, an infantry on the other side up to make him think they were attacking

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from that side and you know, making a major move on him. So he didn't come down towards the camp, but we went in and there was 121 guys from 511th jumped and the moment they jumped, it was supposed to be 7 o'clock, we hit the beach with the alligators. And the night before, some Rangers or, yeah, we didn't have special forces but some Rangers and Jap and Filipino guerrillas, they sneaked in, they went up two days early, two nights early and went and they sneaked up to the guard posts around this Japanese camp and they were supposed to take out the Sentry's. Well.. a guy had escaped from the camp a few days before and he got back to intelligence and told them that they got out there every morning with all the internees and all the Japanese soldiers, they stacked their rifles and did calisthenics. Well everything was timed for 7 o'clock and so when the first parachute opened, these guys raised up and killed all these Sentry's and then the guys from the paratroopers as well as the guys, the Rangers that came in the night before, they took out all the rest of them. They were all out... the Japanese never fired a shot. And we got 2,147 American, mostly American, there was a few international, most of them were American civilians and loaded them on the alligators and they went down the lake. And we thought well we were going to have to hike out and fight our way around and we of course we were worried about old Yamashita coming off that mountain with his 2,000 men. But we set up a perimeter with about three of those alligators and we was going to stay all night and then here they came back, all the rest of them and they were able to get us all out in the one day. So we got out of there, we never lost a guy. The guys would attack from the other side as a diversion lost two men and I think four guys wounded. But we, one internee got hit, he wouldn't keep his head down. When we set up our artillery, there was two hills that the Japanese machine gun revetments on and that's what we did, we fired at them to keep them down. I don't, we didn't go look see if any of them was dead or not cause the sooner we could get out of there we got out of there fast. But that's what we did with the artillery so I never got into the camp, neither did my crew. But the guy that went all the way from California up there was a communications man and he was with the Captain. He went in the camp and one of those things that happened... it's in that book, is this where one of those paratroopers come in there and this lady come over and started hugging him and kissing him, cause they were all pretty happy, they'd been in prison for three years and he says, wait a minute sister, I got something to do and I'll be back. And he was a devout Catholic and she was a nun. And after he got back, why she'd settled down a little bit. Another little old lady she said, somebody asked her why she was so glum and she said, well oh, for three years I've dreamed about the Marines rescuing me and you guys aren't Marines. So then we went back and set up around Manila and fired on till they took McKinley and finally mopped up all of Manila and we still did some missions going back in the, you know, keeping the supply lines open and the infantry was moving out all over that part of Manila, I mean Luzon and on missions and then it was pretty well settled down. They made a jump on a prairie but we didn't go on that one either. When they got there they didn't find hardly any Japanese so that was kind of a unnecessary mission. But it was pretty well winded down and the.. Yamashita he surrendered which is pretty unusual for him to surrender. And get that book out if you want to look at it... they got all the questions, when they questioned him before they hung him. They really shouldn't have hung him because he wasn't responsible for the death march. And Santa Tomas was a military prison and they really treated those guys badly... they come out of there looking like skeletons. And the ones on the Los Banos they practically ate the same subsidies as the Japanese soldiers but they, it still wasn't steak and eggs you know. But the Filipinos did sneak in at night and put food in through the fence for the American prisoners. But the worst part of it was after we left the next day the Japanese come out of the mountains and just

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slaughtered the Filipinos in Los Banjos. They ran them all in the church and then burned the church down. And that's why I have a hard time when somebody starts telling me about what nice people the Japanese are. I still have a hard time with that although I joined a reserve and my First Sergeant was a Japanese American but that's a little different than the ones over there. But then we went in to rest camp and started drawing new equipment and a couple of new officers came up from reserve, I don't know what had happened, the guy that stayed in the shell hole that wouldn't get out, they transferred him and the other guy I don't know what happened to him. I never did see him again. But the guys, they'd lost the guys and on that patrol... I don't know whether I should tell you that about him or not but he made a statement when we were out in the field that losing men didn't bother him as long as he accomplished his mission. And I told him I said that.. Lieutenant, you're one of the kind of officers that believes in all the benefits and privileges of being an officer and never responsibility. He says, you know, Sergeant I could have you court-martialed... and I said, well why don't you? I think General Schwing would be real interested in that remark you just made and I got four witnesses. So nothing happened.

**Question:** End of story.

**Answer:** I don't know whether that should be in there or not.

**Question:** Was he, and then you said he got relieved of his..?

**Answer:** He never, he never advanced past... he was 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant then. He never advanced. And I never told anybody until I ran into my old Battery Commander on our Fiftieth Anniversary. I told him about that but this guy never got, he never got advanced. Other guys went up to Majors and Captains and all that but he never did. But I think that the General knew what he was like or something but.. Then they started bringing in airplanes... going to fly us to Okinawa. And of course they brought in B-24's, which they're not really made for hauling troops and one of the thirteenth one taking off crashed and killed a bunch of infantry guys. And then they brought me in a C-47, an old one... the door was wired shut; some of the windows were broke out, but still a C-47, it's a C-47. And I was glad to get it so we flew to Okinawa then and on the way up they had about, I don't know, five or six parachutes hanging in the cabin with reserves and we were looking at them and thinking well we could take the reserves you know and tie them on and jump those and the other guys jump the, and this Crew Chief come back and he says hey parachutes belong to the crew. I said, buddy if one of these engines quit or something, you come back here, we're going to be gone, cause we're used to jumping them. We got to Okinawa and went into more or less rest camp waiting for planes to go to Japan and they brought in C-54's which is a DC-4... it's got four engines, that was your main military, I mean civilian transport plane at the time. They brought them from all over the world, brought them in there and we loaded up on those and flew to Japan and went into Yokohama and landed there and then spread out all over Japan. We were.. see they give the 1st Cavalry credit for being the first troops into Japan. But our band was on the dock playing the Old Gray Mare Ain't What She Used to Be.. cause the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav you know, they were a Calvary outfit to start with and we always had a few problems with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> Army when we were in camp, Camp Poke. But after they had the.., we stayed there for, what is it, we went in there, can't remember exactly... I got it written down out there. But we stayed there a couple of months and that's when they, Eikelburger

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asked me how I liked it there and I told him I'd rather go home because I'd enlisted for duration plus six and so I got relieved and we went home.

**Question:** Did you get around in Japan much when you were there or..?

**Answer:** Not really, we went through Yokohama... went down to Tokyo once but it was flattened. And I've always believed that the Japs would have surrendered without dropping that Atomic bomb because, and they surely didn't have to drop the one on Yokohama. And I don't know how many people know it, but they was American prisoners of war in a prison camp in Yokohama.

**Question:** Do you think that from what you saw in Tokyo, how flat Tokyo was, that Japan would have known already that they were..

**Answer:** They were beat. I mean Yokohama was nothing but a pile of rubble, I mean it was, there was a concrete building here and there but the rest of it was just, you know, that sheet metal they put on the roof that on top of rubble, that's all it was, was rubble. And I always have believed that in another month of two with the way they were bombing them that they would have surrendered. At least I don't think they should have dropped the second one. But my firm belief is that the industrial, military industrial people in this country and the scientists and everything. See the first one was a different type than the second one I know... was it uranium and then..?

**Question:** (Inaudible) Which of the two...there's a difference, I can't remember now, yeah, hydrogen, not hydrogen uranium, it's plutonium and uranium..

**Answer:** No, it, there were two different bombs and I really think that they wanted to test them both and why they couldn't have dropped one in the bay and shown them how bad it was I mean before they dropped 'em cause they killed, I mean, Nagasaki wasn't a military complex.

**Question:** So you think... it's interesting cause everybody has a different perspective. Having been out fighting in the jungle and then seeing Tokyo, you didn't believe that to die for the Emperor would override everything, that they would..

**Answer:** Well I think, I think probably if he said to fight they would, that they were, that's the nature of them but I think he would have seen the handwriting on the wall that you know, I mean look at these cities... they're gone, I mean and those B-29's were coming over every day, every night and just bombing the heck out of them and that's my own personal opinion. But of course if they'd have said to fight and we'd had to jump in there we were scared we would be the first troops in. I'd probably be buried over there someplace because they would have fought till they was throwing rocks at you. I mean that's the nature of them. They believed, I mean, I don't know exactly what they believed... I know it was a dishonor to surrender for a Japanese.

**Question:** Was what you saw in Tokyo different than what you'd seen on the islands in the jungle, I mean, as far as war. Is it a difference to see a city that's been destroyed versus a jungle warfare, does that make a difference or?

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**Answer:** Well I know exactly what you mean but it was, I've never seen anything.. Of course Manila was pretty well flattened cause when the Japanese were supposed to make it an open city and they didn't, we had to, we had to fight them out of there building to building but it was pretty well tore up, but not like Yokohama. Man, Yokohama was, it was really flattened and Tokyo wasn't as bad as Yokohama cause it was more concrete buildings and stuff. But I firmly believe that in another month or two of bombing they would have quit. But still I know it may sound bad but from the stuff I've read since that the industrial military complex was so bent on testing out one of these bombs that they had to do it. I hope I don't get court-martialed for that.

**Question:** I guess in your short history, there's a quote that says, "It rained all the time in Leyte, lots of mud and bugs, first friend killed." Who was that..?

**Answer:** That was Chief McDermott. He was our scout, the Indian guy. And then there was another one, Kovan was killed on that same mission and the other guy, Miraky he was from "C" Company but the one that was a friend, actually two of them, Kovan and Chief. Chief was the one that screamed; that's the one that really.. That's the only time I was really ever, really scared... it was my first fire fight and the guy just started screaming and screaming and screaming until he died... and then you couldn't get to him.. I mean every time you'd raise up and try to do anything you'd get shot at and then the Japanese threw a, there was three of us together, and I heard them click a grenade and we all hit the ground. The thing landed right amongst us and went off and didn't hurt anybody, which was a miracle, I mean, and of course you could've got the Medal of Honor by falling on it but none of the three of us wanted it, wanted the Medal of Honor.

**Question:** Not that bad.

**Answer:** But that, that was the first guys that were killed. Now being an artillery outfit you're not up there doing hand to hand fighting very much but that day was, I individually shot three Japanese that day with my rifle and possibly a fourth... I didn't go look to see if he got up or not. He was behind a pile of dirt, kept looking over the dirt and uh.. every time I'd go to shoot he'd duck and finally I had a Girand and I popped in a clip of armor piercing and shoved it through the dirt and he didn't look up anymore but I didn't go look and see if he was dead or not.

**Question:** How does the, I mean cause you were a hunter growing up you hunted and all that, does you mind in warfare put you into the hunter mode, I mean is that how you deal with that, do you have to depersonalize who's there or do you create a hate for this enemy or.. How did you deal with that?

**Answer:** Well at the time it was just what you were trained to do. And of course I swapped my Carbine for an M-1, which is a Girand, which I really loved. A Girand was really a great gun and Carbine didn't have enough poop to it to.. The Girand shot 30 ought six ammunition you know, and it was a really good gun and at that time that day it didn't really bother me that much. I've thought it about later you know in life about, wondered about who, you know, what their families were like and stuff and of course they didn't have the dog tags and stuff like we did and their families never knew where they went, where they died or anything. Most of our grave registration people were out there afterwards picking up as many Americans as they could find but I've thought about it afterwards but it wasn't like shooting

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rabbits or something but it was you knew they were human beings but if you didn't shoot them they were going to shoot you.

**Question:** So it is that the survival mode does definitely..?

**Answer:** Yeah and the training too I mean.

**Question:** Huh. What, now you had Distinguished Unit Citation for your landing at Leyte is that right?

**Answer:** That was on the ridge, I got it written up out there if you want to look at it but it's when we went up the ridge when the infantry all got pinned down and we went into fire and fired the mortars and machine guns and stuff on this hillside and the infantry got out that's, that's when we got decorated. Both the Presidential Unit Citation, my whole crew got Bronze Stars and I got the Silver Star.

**Question:** That's right because the other guys, you guys got that and for getting them out?

**Answer:** Yeah.

**Question:** Yeah, yeah and so you got your Silver Star, that's where you got your Silver Star then?

**Answer:** Yeah. Yeah it's the same, same action.

**Question:** And the Silver Star again is for.. How do they denote a Silver Star versus say a Bronze Star?

**Answer:** Well it's a Bronze Star's role, and then Silver Star, and then the DSC, and then the Medal of Honor. It's the third highest Medal for valor.

**Question:** Again, a very high honor.

**Answer:** Well, I guess.

**Question:** Is that something that they come out in the field and award you or is that something that a long..?

**Answer:** No, that's one thing that's bothered me all my life was when they sent them down I was out on a mission. When I got back it was laying on my bed. I never did have a formation. And a couple days later we climbed on the airplanes to go to Okinawa. So I never did have a formation to pin it on my chest or neither of my guys either. They never, they never had it either.

**Question:** They just came out like a..

**Answer:** It was just lying on my..

**Question:** (Inaudible) on your pillow..

**Answer:** Yeah, with a little printed out citation for it and I stuck it in there and mailed it to my wife at home.

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**Question:** Now, you bring up that subject, wife. I gotta switch tapes here.