

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

CENTER FOR PACIFIC WAR STUDIES

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

INTERVIEW OF

CHARLES HORTON

INTERVIEWER

NED SMITH

PRIMARY SUBJECT

503<sup>RD</sup> ARTILLERY IN THE PHILIPPINES

TAPE NO. 1073

PROOF NOT RETURNED WITHIN 6  
MONTHS!  
TO ARCHIVES 04/06/09

NED SMITH

TODAY IS FEBRUARY 27, 2004. I AM INTERVIEWING MR. CHARLES HORTON. THIS INTERVIEW IS IN SUPPORT OF THE CENTER FOR PACIFIC WAR STUDIES ARCHIVES FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS SITE. WE ARE IN ONE OF THE ROOMS PROVIDED BY THE SUNDAY HOUSE MOTEL FOR THESE INTERVIEWS OF THE 503 PERSONNEL.

OK CHARLIE, WHERE AND WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

CHARLIE

I WAS BORN OCTOBER 14, 1920, IN CHAVANOOGO, (SP????), OKLAHOMA.

NED

WHAT WERE YOUR PARENT'S NAMES?

CHARLIE

CHARLIE WAYNE HORTON AND VIRGINIA V. PARNELL.

NED

DO YOU HAVE ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS?

CHARLIE

YES, I HAVE THREE SISTERS AND SEVEN BROTHERS: EIGHT BOYS AND THREE GIRLS.

NED

WERE ANY OF THESE OTHER BOYS IN THE MILITARY?

CHARLIE

YES

NED

HOW MANY OF THEM.

CHARLIE

THERE WERE SIX OF US IN THE MILITARY, SIX OUT OF THE EIGHT.

NED

THAT IS A PRETTY GOOD PERCENTAGE. DID ALL OF YOU GET THROUGH OK?

CHARLIE

TWO WERE WOUNDED, ONE ON PALAU (or PURLIEU??) IN THE PACIFIC AND ONE ON IWO JIMA. WE ALL CAME THROUGH ALIVE, YES. I HAVE PICTURES OVER IN MY BRIEF CASE FROM THE ABILENE "REPORTER-NEWS" OF ALL SIX OF US OF THE FAMILY.

NED

WHERE DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL, CHARLIE?

CHARLIE

I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AT LONG, TEXAS IN 1939.

NED

WHEN AND WHERE DID YOU ENLIST IN THE MILITARY?

CHARLIE

WELL, I WANTED TO GET OFF THAT FARM THAT WAS BACK THERE IN THE DEPRESSION. THEY WERE REQUESTING MEN IN THE SERVICE AT \$21.00 A MONTH. I WENT TO THE RECRUITING OFFICE IN ABILENE, AND HE SAID WELL, "YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF GOING TO THE 112<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS WHICH IS A HORSE DRAWN OUTFIT, OR YOU CAN GO TO FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA TO 4<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY, WHICH IS A MULE PACK OUTFIT". I HAD JUST BUSTED UP WITH MY GIRL FRIEND AND I SAID, "SINCE FORT BRAGG IS THE FURTHEREST AWAY, I THINK I WILL LET YOU SEND ME TO FORT BRAGG".

NED

WHY DID YOU PICK THE ARMY? WERE SOME OF YOUR BROTHERS IN THE NAVY?

CHARLIE

NO. I DIDN'T KNOW ONE SERVICE FROM ANOTHER RIGHT THEN BEING AN OLD COUNTRY BOY LIKE ME.

NED

AND, YOU CHOSE FORT BRAGG JUST FOR THE DISTANCE?

CHARLIE

TO GET FAR AWAY FROM ABILENE REAL GOOD.

NED

NOT TO WORK WITH MULES?

CHARLIE

NOT TO WORK WITH MULES. IT TURNED INTO BE AN ADVANTAGE TO ME. MY FIRST JOB IN THE ARMY WAS TO UNLOAD A BOXCAR OF HAY. I WALKED OVER, PICKED UP THOSE HAY HOOKS. I HAD RUN OFF FROM HOME THE YEAR BEFORE, SPENT ALL SUMMER OUT IN LAS CRUCES, N.M. BALING HAY. THE OLD SERGEANT CAME OVER AND HE SAID, "SON, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE HANDLED THOSE HAY HOOKS BEFORE." I SAID, "YES SIR, THAT'S ALL I DID LAST SUMMER WAS HANDLE HAY." HE SAID, "SON, DON'T CALL ME SIR. HE SAID, I AM ONLY A SERGEANT." I SAID, "YES SIR." HE GRINNED. I WAS TAUGHT TO SAY "SIR" TO PEOPLE.

NED

HOW OLD WERE YOU THEN?

CHARLIE

I WAS 19.

NED

WHAT WAS YOUR BASIC TRAINING AT THIS POINT? WHAT WERE THEY DOING THERE?

CHARLIE

I DID VERY LITTLE BASIC TRAINING. THERE WERE 185 OF US WENT FROM TEXAS. THEY ASKED US IF THERE WAS ANY BASEBALL PLAYERS IN THE BUNCH. I WAS A BASEBALL CATCHER. I STARTED PLAYING WITH THE OLD SOLDIERS THAT HAD BASEBALL IN IT. WHAT BASIC TRAINING I HAD, THEY GAVE ME IN THE TENTS AT NIGHT. THE OLD SOLDIERS GAVE IT TO ME. THEY TAUGHT ME HOW TO DO MY BASIC DRILLS, ABOUT FACE AND WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY. I NEVER WENT THROUGH BASIC TRAINING.

NED

WHAT KIND OF UNIT WAS THIS AGAIN?

CHARLIE

THIS WAS A MULE PACK OUTFIT, 4<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY. IT WAS AN ARTILLERY UNIT.

NED

HOW LONG DID YOU STAY AT FORT BRAGG?

CHARLIE

I STAYED AT FORT BRAGG A LONG TIME, BUT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY, SOON AS THE WAR STARTED; THEY SENT THOSE BOYS TO FORT CARSON, COLORADO. BECAUSE I WAS PLAYING FOR THE POST BASEBALL TEAM, THEY KEPT ME THERE. SO, I JOINED THE 79<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY, WHICH WAS THE 240TH HOWITZER OUTFIT, AT THAT TIME.

NED

WHEN YOU WENT THERE, THIS WAS IN 1941?

CHARLIE

THIS WAS IN 1939. WHEN I GOT THERE, WE TOOK THE AGCT TEST, ARMY GENERAL CLASSIFICATION TEST. I MADE THE HIGHEST GRADE OUT OF THE 185 PEOPLE. I WAS A GOOD STUDENT IN SCHOOL. SO, THEY CALLED ME IN AND SAID, "WE ARE PUTTING YOU IN THE INSTRUMENT SURVEY SECTION, BECAUSE OF YOUR SCHOOLING." I SAID, "WELL, SERGEANT, THAT WAS MY WEAKEST SUBJECT IN SCHOOL BECAUSE I HAD TO STAY OUT AND PICK COTTON 'TIL THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER EVERY YEAR AND THAT WAS HALF WAY THROUGH THE MATH BOOK." HE SAID, "GORDON, YOU ARE THE ONLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE IN THIS OUTFIT INCLUDING ME" THAT WAS SGT. GRADY FLACK. HE SAID, "YOU WILL KNOW A WHOLE LOT MORE MATH THAN THOSE OTHER PEOPLE DOWN THERE. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LOGARITHMS?" I SAID, "IS THAT SOME KIND OF DANCE?" I KNEW WHAT LOGARITHMS WERE. I NEVER WAS TOO GOOD IN ALGEBRA AND

GEOMETRY BECAUSE THEY WERE SO FAR THROUGH THE BOOK. I GOT ALONG FINE AND GOT PROMOTED LIKE WILDFIRE FOR A PEACE TIME ARMY. I WAS A STAFF SERGEANT IN TWO YEARS, WHICH WAS UNHEARD OF BACK THEN. IT WAS THE SURVEY SECTION.

NED

THEN, AFTER YOU PLAYED BALL WITH FORT BRAGG, THEN WHERE DID THEY SHIP YOU TO?

CHARLIE

I WENT TO THE 79<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY, 240 HOWITZER OUTFIT. WELL, THEY WERE ONE BATTALION AT THAT TIME. THEY DECIDED TO MAKE AN AUXILIARY REGIMENT, TWO BATTALIONS. SO, I CARRIED (3P??) OUT AS A FIRST SERGEANT. THE NEXT STEP WAS STAFF SGT. I SKIPPED TECH SGT. I NEVER WAS A TECH SGT. I SERVED IN EVERY ENLISTED GRADE EXCEPT TECH SGT. THEY SKIPPED IT AND I WENT OUT AS FIRST SGT. OF "F" BATTERY IN THE 79<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY. I GUESS I WAS THERE CLOSE TO A YEAR WITH THE 79<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY. THE WAR HAD STARTED IN THE MEANTIME. COL. CLIFTON CALLED ME OVER: ME AND FOUR OTHER GUYS, THERE WERE FIVE OF US. HE SAID, "YOU BOYS BE READY AT 2:30 TOMORROW TO GO TO THE OFFICERS SCHOOL." I SAID, "COLONEL, I JUST GOT MARRIED. I AM AS HIGH AS I CAN GO ENLISTED WISE. I DON'T WANT TO GO TO OFFICERS SCHOOL." HE SAID, "SERGEANT, I'M NOT ASKING YOU, I'M TELLING YOU. YOU BE READY AT 2:30 TOMORROW TO CATCH A TRAIN TO FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA." I SAID, "CAN I GO SEE MY WIFE?" I HAD GOTTEN MARRIED ABOUT A MONTH BEFORE. HE SAID, "IF YOU CAN BE BACK BY 2:30 TOMORROW, YOU CAN GO SEE HER." SHE WAS UP LEAKESVILLE, N.C. WHICH IS NOW EDEN, N.C. ABOUT 135 MILES. I HITCH-HIKED UP THERE. I SPENT THE NIGHT THERE AND HITCH-HIKED BACK THE NEXT DAY. SURE ENOUGH, AT 2:30 I WAS ON A TRAIN HEADED FOR FORT SILL., OK.

NED

HOW LONG (GARBLED)

CHARLIE

IN 90 DAYS AT FOR SILL, I WAS COMMISSIONED. "NINETY DAY WONDERS" THEY CALLED US. I HAD PUT IN FOR PARACHUTE SCHOOL BECAUSE MY BEST BUDDY THAT I

WENT IN THE SERVICE WITH FROM LONG, TEXAS HAD GONE TO PARACHUTE SCHOOL. HE WAS WITH THE PARACHUTE TEST BATTERY AT FORT BENNING. HE HAD COME TO THE 456 PARACHUTE AUXILIARY IN THE 82<sup>ND</sup> DIVISION. I WANTED TO-----I HAD PUT IN A REQUEST TO GO WITH HIM. THEY SAID, "WELL, THIS IS ANOTHER REASON THAT I FINALLY WENT TO OFFICERS SCHOOL." YOU SEE, I WAS 220 POUNDS. IT WAS 180 FOR THE PARACHUTE SCHOOL BUT THEY WERE REQUESTING OFFICERS. THEY COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OFFICERS. THE MILITARY HAD PUT OUT A WAIVER FOR WEIGHT ON ALL OFFICERS, SO I WENT AND GOT MY COMMISSION AND HAD PUT IN FOR PARACHUTE SCHOOL TO GET WITH JEFF, THE BOY I WENT INTO SCHOOL WITH. BUT, THE CLASS ASSIGNED TO ME IN THE PARACHUTE SCHOOL, CLASS NUMBER 51 IN FORT BENNING, GA. AND IT DIDN'T START UNTIL JULY. I BECAME AN OFFICER JANUARY 21, 1942, SO THEY SENT ME DOWN TO THE 97<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION JUST BEING ORGANIZED AT CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS DOWN NEAR BASTROP. I SPENT SIX MONTHS DOWN THERE. I WENT IN THERE AND THE GENERAL SAID, "WELL, YOU ARE JUST GOING TO BE WITH US SIX MONTHS, I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU DIVISION ATHLETIC OFFICER. I SEE HERE WHERE YOU ARE AN ATHLETE: YOU PLAYED FOOTBALL, BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL FOR FORT BRAGG. HE WAS GOING TO MAKE ME DIVISION ATHLETIC OFFICER." I SERVED SIX MONTHS THERE ORGANIZING BOXING AND BALL GAMES ON THE WEEKENDS AND EVERYTHING UNTIL MY JUMP CLASS WAS DUE. AFTER THE JUMP SCHOOL WAS OVER, THEY SENT ME TO WHERE MY BUDDY WAS, FORT BRAGG FOR 456 PARACHUTE ARTILLERY. I GOT THERE AND THEY SAID, "WELL, WE'RE OVERLOADED WITH PARACHUTE OFFICERS HERE NOW. WE ARE FORMING A NEW UNIT OVER AT CAMP MCCALL, NORTH CAROLINA. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO SEND YOU OVER TO CAMP MCCALL." THAT'S WHERE I JOINED THE 462<sup>ND</sup> PARACHUTE ARTILLERY THAT I WENT OVERSEES WITH. THAT WAS THE ARTILLERY UNIT FOR THE 503<sup>RD</sup>.

NED

AND THIS WAS IN '42?

CHARLIE

NOW, THIS WAS IN 1943.

NED

THEN YOU SHIPPED OUT WITH THAT OUTFIT?



CHARLIE

YES. WELL, WE DIDN'T SHIP OUT WITH THE 503<sup>RD</sup>. THEY SHIPPED OUT FROM PANAMA. WE WERE ASSIGNED TO THEM. WE WERE THEIR ARTILLERY. WE WERE GOING TO BE THEIR ARTILLERY UNIT WHERE EVER THEY WENT. WE SHIPPED OUT AT CAMP STONEMAN IN CALIFORNIA AND SHIPPED OUT TO AUSTRALIA AFTER GOING ABOUT 3 OR 4 THOUSAND MILES ON A TRAIN. YOU KNOW, THEY SHIPPED US OUT OF CAMP MCCALL AND WE WENT BY LAND GRANT RAILROADS. WE CAME TO MEMPHIS, BACK UP TO CINCINNATI AND ACROSS TO CHEYENNE, WY. THEN WE WENT TO NEVADA ACROSS TO CHEYENNE WY. THEN WE WENT NORTH AGAIN, THEN CAME DOWN THE CALIFORNIA COAST GOING ON LAND GRANT RAILROADS. I THOUGHT WE NEVER WAS GOING TO GET TO THE WEST COAST. WE WERE AN ELITE UNIT. EVERY PLACE THEY STOPPED, WE HAD A GUNG HO COMMANDER, COL. MADIGAN. WE GOT OUT OF THAT TRAIN IN OUR T-SHIRTS AND WE WERE SPICK AND SPAN; WE WOULD JOG UP MAIN STREET FOR A MILE AND BACK DOWN. THE PUBLIC LOVED IT. .SO, WE HAD A PRETTY GOOD TIME GOING ACROSS THE NATION.

NED

WHAT KIND OF SHIP DID THEY PUT YOU ABOARD?

CHARLIE

WE WENT OVER ON A LIBERTY SHIP CALLED THE "SEA CAT". AN OLD LIBERTY SHIP.

NED

DID YOU HAVE ANY ESCORT?

CHARLIE

NO ESCORT. IT CALLED ALERT FOR SUBMARINES EXPECTED AND THEY WOULD OPEN THAT THING WIDE OPEN. IT WOULDN'T GO BUT ABOUT 20 KNOTS WIDE OPEN. THAT THING WOULD VIBRATE LIKE WILD FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, THEN THEY WOULD DECLARE IT OVER AND WE WOULD SAIL ON.

NED

DID YOU DO ANY ZIGZAGGING?

CHARLIE

I THINK SO. I THINK WE DID A LOT OF THAT.

NED

BUT THEY GOT YOU OVER THERE ALL RIGHT?

CHARLIE

WE GOT OVER THERE IN GOOD SHAPE. WE LANDED AT BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA. WE SPENT NINE MONTHS THERE, I BELIEVE, THE BEST I CAN RECALL AT CAMP CABLE, 35 MILES OUT OF BRISBANE DOING EXTENSIVE TRAINING. WE DID A LOT OF JUMPS THERE. WE TOOK OFF FROM THE AIRFIELD AT BRISBANE. THEY TRANSPORTED US IN, THEN. WE CAME BACK TO OUR HOME BY MAKING THE JUMP RIGHT NEAR THE BASE.

NED

ALL THIS TIME, DID YOU KEEP UP AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TOO OF THE OUTFIT?

CHARLIE

NO. I WAS EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF "C" BATTERY.

NED

YOU WERE FRETTEY BUSY.

CHARLIE

OTHERWISE, I KEPT THEM IN GOOD SHAPE. THE WHOLE BATTALION KEPT IN SUPER SHAPE ALL THE TIME. WE DID LOTS OF RUNNING, LOTS OF FIELD EXERCISES. WE DIDN'T DO A LOT OF FIRING THERE.

NED

AS EXEC, WERE YOU FIRST LIEUTENANT, FIRST LT. ?

CHARLIE

I WAS A FIRST LIEUTENANT. CAPT. JONES WAS MY BATTERY COMMANDER. WE CALLED THEM BATTERY'S RATHER THAN COMPANIES. HE WAS A HERO THE REST OF THE WAR.

NED

THE WEAPONS THAT YOU HAD, THE GUNS, HOW BIG, HOW HEAVY WERE THEY? WERE THEY GOING TO BE SHIPPED BY AIRCRAFT?

CHARLIE

THEY ALL BROKE DOWN INTO SMALLER PARTS. WHEN WE WERE AT FORT BRAGG, WE WENT ON 20 MILE MARCHES. WE HAD HARNESS, LIKE DOG SLED HARNESES. WE PULLED THEM THINGS FOR MILES. WE WOULD GO ON A 20 MILE MARCH PULLING THOSE HOWITZERS. THEM BOYS DEVELOPED VARICOSE VEINS. I USED TO PUT ON THAT HARNESS AND HELP THEM PULL. LT. MAZELLA (3P??); HE WAS MY ASSISTANT EXEC. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN THE ARTILLERY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GUN. I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SIX HOWITZERS THAT WE HAD.

NED

AND YOU HAD TO KEEP THEM IN SHAPE, HAVE PARTS AND THE WHOLE WORKS?

CHARLIE

I HAD AN ASSISTANT EXEC AND HE WAS FROM MICHIGAN. HE AND I HELD THE FIRING OF THEM AND WE HAD A RECONNAISSANCE OFFICER WHO WAS CALLED THE OBSERVER AND HE DID ALL-----HE WORKED WITH THE INFANTRY AND HE WAS UP CLOSE ON THE FRONT LINES TO DIRECT OUR FIRE. HE HAD A SECTION UP THERE WITH HIM.

NED

WHEN THEY SHIP YOU ON UP NORTH?

CHARLIE

I CAN'T REMEMBER THE EXACT DATE. WE WERE THERE ABOUT NINE MONTHS BEFORE WE JOINED THEM. THEY HAD GONE TO MARKAM (SP???) VALLEY. PART OF THE 503<sup>RD</sup> HAD GONE TO MARKAM VALLEY IN NEW GUINEA. THEN A PART OF THEM JUMPED ON NORMFOR (SP???) ISLAND IN THE NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES JUST PAST BIAK ????) AND WE JOINED THEM THERE. A PART OF THEM JUMPED ON NORMFOR, PART OF THE 503<sup>RD</sup> AND PART OF THEM DIDN'T JUMP.

NED

YOU GUYS GOT UP THERE BY SHIP?

CHARLIE

YES, BY SHIP. WE WERE ON AN OLD DUTCH BANANA BOAT CALLED THE "VAN HOISE" IT WAS OLD BANANA BOAT THAT THEY CONTRACTED TO HAUL THE TROOPS.

NED

TO PUT THE GUNS ABOARD SHIP, DID THEY USE A CRANE OR HOW DID THEY LOAD?

CHARLIE

I DON'T KNOW. THEY MAN HANDLED THEM. THEY HAD RUBBER TIRES. THEY PULLED PRETTY EASY. WITH EIGHT MEN, THEY HAD TWO ON THE END OF THE TRAIL WITH A BAR THROUGH IT AND SET THE TRAIL. IT PULLED BACKWARDS YOU KNOW. THEN, YOU HAD THREE MEN ON EACH SIDE, IN WHAT I CALLED THE DOG SLED HARNESS, AND THEY COULD PULL THAT THING AT A TROT.

NED

AND HOW MANY GUNS DID YOU SAY YOU HAD?

CHARLIE

THERE WERE SIX GUNS TO A BATTERY. WE HAD EIGHTEEN GUNS. WE HAD "A", "B" AND 'C' BATTERY'S.

NED

DID EACH BATTERY HAVE SPARE PARTS TOO?

CHARLIE

I DON'T RECALL ANY SPARE PARTS. THERE WAS NOT VERY MUCH BREAKDOWN IN THEM. WE HAD EXTRA FIRING MECHANISMS AND STUFF WE NEEDED. SOME TIMES THEY BROKE DOWN BUT MOST OF THOSE THINGS DIDN'T HAVE ANY BREAKDOWN.

NED

AND THEN, WHERE DID YOU GO IN THE 503<sup>RD</sup>?

CHARLIE

WE JOINED THEM ON NOMFOR ISLAND IN THE NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

NED

AND YOU WERE GIVING THEM SUPPORT THERE WITH THE BIG GUNS?

CHARLIE

NO, WE DIDN'T FIRE ANY ARTILLERY THERE. THEY ALREADY HAD THE ISLAND UNDER CONTROL WHEN WE GOT THERE. THERE WERE NOT MANY JAPS THERE TO BEGIN WITH. I NEVER DID SEE A JAPANESE WHILE I WAS ON NORMFOR ISLAND.

NED

HOW LONG DID YOU STAY THERE?

CHARLIE

MAYBE 3 OR 4 MONTHS.

NED

WAS THIS IN '43 OR '44 NOW?

CHARLIE

THIS WAS IN '44 BEFORE WE MOVED UP TO THE PHILIPPINES.

NED

YOU WENT FROM THIS PLACE ON UP THE COAST?

CHARLIE

WE WENT TO THE PHILIPPINES. I DON'T KNOW THE NAME OF THE SHIP WE WENT ON BUT IT WAS A PRETTY BIG VESSEL. WE WENT FROM THERE TO THE PHILIPPINES. WE HAD NOT UNCRATED ALL OF OUR MATERIAL FROM THE STATES YET. SOME OF IT WAS STILL IN CRATES. WE WENT TO LEYTE IN THE PHILIPPINES, UNLOADED THERE AND THERE WE UNCRATED EVERYTHING THAT WE HADN'T UNCRATED IN AUSTRALIA, STUFF THAT WE DIDN'T NEED IN AUSTRALIA, WE NEVER DID UNCRATE. WE BOXED IT UP IN CAMP MACCALL TO SHIP OVER SEAS. WE HADN'T BEEN IN COMBAT 'TIL THEN AND THAT STUFF WAS EASIER TO HANDLE.

NED

AT LEYTE, DID YOU MAKE SORT OF A FIELD HEADQUARTERS?

CHARLIE

WE WERE THERE FOR NO MORE THAN A MONTH, I GUESS. THERE WE UNCRATED AND DID SOME BASIC TRAINING GETTING US READY TO GO INTO COMBAT. OUR NEXT MISSION WAS THE ISLAND OF MINDORA. WE DID VERY LITTLE FIRING ON MINDORA, BECAUSE THE JAPS FLED INLAND AND THEIR MISSION, THE 503<sup>RD</sup> WAS TO SUPPORT THE COMBAT ENGINEERS IN BUILDING AN AIR FIGHTER STRIP THERE SO THAT THEY COULD GIVE SUPPORT TO THE BOMBERS GOING TO MANILA AND THAT AREA OF THE PHILIPPINES. WE STAYED THERE AND OF COURSE FROM THERE THAT WE MADE THE ASSAULT ON CORREGIDOR, FROM MINDORA.

NED

HOW DID YOU MOVE YOUR GUNS UP TO WHERE YOU COULD GIVE SUPPORT TO CORREGIDOR, BY SHIP AGAIN?

CHARLIE

WE HAD THEM DIVIDED INTO LOADS. THEY WERE SHIPPED IN FIVE PARTS. THEY ATTACHED TO UNDERNEATH THE WING OF THE C-47's WE DROPPED THEM BY PARACHUTES. WE FLEW OVER THE ISLAND AND DROPPED THE GUNS AND THEN ON THE SECOND PASS, THE PERSONNEL JUMPED. I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T JUMP ON CORREGIDOR BUT THIS IS THE PROCEDURE THAT THE "A" AND "B" BATTERY'S USED IN THEIR INITIAL SUPPORT THERE. THEY FLEW OVER AND DROPPED EQUIPMENT FIRST AND THE PERSONNEL SO THEY DROPPED THEIR HOWITZERS, MADE CIRCLE AND DROPPED THE TROOPS SO THEY WOULD NOT GET TANGLED.

IN MY CASE, WE WENT OVER AND DROPPED OUR WEAPONS AND THEN ON TO CLARK FIELD AND LANDED AND GOT ON AN ASSAULT CRAFT AND CAME BACK ACROSS ME AND MY GUN CREW. NONE OF THE GUN CREW JUMPED ON CORREGIDOR. WE DIDN'T GET UP TOPSIDE THAT AFTERNOON. WE HAD TO STAY IN A GRAVEL PIT ABOUT HALF WAY UP FROM "BOTTOM SIDE" THEY CALLED IT, DOWN TOWARD WHERE THE DOCKS WERE. WE GOT ABOUT HALF WAY UP AND BUILT ????? IN THE GRAVEL PIT THERE. THE NEXT DAY WE CAME UP AND COLLECTED OUR GUNS.

NED

HOW FAR BACK (GARBLED).

CHARLIE

FOR THE FIRST 4 OR 5 DAYS WE USED THEM AS ASSAULT GUNS INDIVIDUALLY. WE WERE OUT WITH THE INFANTRY SQUADS. WE FIRED DIRECT FIRE. THEY WEREN'T MADE FOR THAT BUT THEY CERTAINLY SERVED A GOOD PURPOSE. THEY DID VERY WELL AS AN ASSAULT WEAPON BECAUSE WE COULD CARRY THEM; PICK THEM UP AND CARRY THEM IF FIVE PIECES AROUND THOSE MOUNTAIN TRAILS, SET THEM DOWN AND PUT THEM BACK TOGETHER AND FIRE INTO THOSE CAVES. THEY WORKED VERY EFFICIENTLY AS ASSAULT GUNS. THEY CARRY A PRETTY WALLOP YOU KNOW.

NED

DID YOU HAVE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SHELLS?

CHARLIE

YES. WE JUST HAD HIGH EXPLOSIVE. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANTI-TANK SHELLS. WE HAD HIGH EXPLOSIVE AND SMOKE AND WHITE PHOSPHORUS. WE CARRIED THE DIFFERENT COLORED SMOKE FOR SENDING SIGNALS AND WHITE PHOSPHORUS AND HIGH EXPLOSIVE. WE USED MOSTLY HIGH EXPLOSIVE. WE FIRED SOME PHOSPHORUS INTO THOSE CAVES TO FLUSH THOSE JAPANESE OUT.

NED

IN THAT CLOSE CONTACT YOU WERE USING HIGH EXPLOSIVE SHELLS?

CHARLIE

YES, THE HIGH EXPLOSIVE. WE WERE FIRING RIGHT IN: YOU COULD SEE THE MOUTH OF THOSE CAVES AND WE WOULD PUT IN RIGHT IN THE CAVE. OF COURSE, WE COULD SEE THEM DOWN BELOW WAITING FOR US TO BEGIN OUR ASSAULT. THEN, OUT OF OUR 18 GUNS, WE RECOVERED ELEVEN. SOME OF THEM DROPPED OVER WHERE WE COULDN'T GET TO THEM. SOME HAD BROKEN PARTS. WE SALVAGED ELEVEN GUNS. FOR THE LAST 8 OR 10 DAYS, WE WERE ABLE TO ADVANCE ON MONKEY POINT. WE HAD THEM LINED UP ON THE PARADE GROUND. ELEVEN GUNS ABREAST AND THEN WE HAD TWO SELF PROPELLED ARTILLERY PIECES FROM THE 34<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY WHO JOINED US IN THE ASSAULT ON CORREGIDOR. WE WERE MISSIONS CONSTANTLY UNTIL THE WAR WAS OVER. IT BECAME UNSAFE AS THE TROOPS MARCHED DOWN FROM MONKEY POINT. WE



KEPT FIRE RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM AS THEY CALLED FOR IT UNTIL THEY GOT SO CLOSE TO THE ??? THAT WE COULDN'T FIRE WITHOUT INFLECTING INJURY ON OUR OWN TROOPS.

NED

DID YOUR OUTFIT HAVE AN OBSERVER UP THERE?

CHARLIE

OH YES. EACH INDIVIDUAL COMPANY HAD AN ARTILLERY FORWARD OBSERVER. I HAD TWO FORWARD OBSERVERS UP THERE WITH THEM, THE INFANTRY. I SUPPORTED THE FIRST BATTALION. YOU MAY HAVE 3 COMPANIES SO YOU HAVE 3 FORWARD OBSERVERS UP THERE TO DIRECT ARTILLERY FIRE.

NED

DID YOU HAVE RADIO CONTACT?

CHARLIE

OH YES. WE HAD BOTH RADIO AND TELEPHONE CONTACT. I HAD A WIRE SECTION AND A RADIO SECTION. WE HAD BOTH AS INEFFICIENT AS THE RADIO SYSTEM WAS IN WORLD WAR, WE STILL MAINTAINED PRETTY GOOD RADIO CONTACTS. WE WERE ON TOPSIDE. WE HAD LINE OF SIGHT. WE HAD ALL THE ADVANTAGES BECAUSE WE WERE TOPSIDE. IN THE MOUNTAINS, WE HAD DIRECT LINE OF SIGHT IN MOST CASES.

NED

BUT THEN YOU HAD THE TELEPHONE TO BACK UP THE RADIO IF NEEDED.

CHARLIE

OH YES, WE HAD WIRE. IT WASN'T MUCH TROUBLE KEEPING THE WIRE

NED

DID YOU HAVE TO MOVE YOUR GUNS MANY TIMES AS YOU MOVED UP?

CHARLIE

NO. I DIDN'T MOVE THEM AT ALL. WE LEFT THEM SIT THERE RIGHT ON THE PARADE GROUNDS. THAT WAS ABOUT THE ONLY PLACE WHERE WE COULD USE IN DIRECT FIRE. ONCE WE HAD LIBERATED ALL THE CAVES, WE COULD REACH THEM. WE SET THEM ON THE PARADE GROUND AND THEY STAYED THERE FOR THE REST OF THE WAR. WE HAD TO SET THEM AS FAR BACK , RIGHT AGAINST THE FAR END BECAUSE OF THE THEATER AND HOSPITAL AND COMMISSARY WERE BUILT RIGHT ON THE OTHER END OF THAT PARADE GROUND. THE HAD TO GET FAR BACK TO GO OVER THEM SO WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO FIRE INTO THEM, HIGH ANGLE FIRE. WE WERE SITTING RIGHT BACK AGAINST THE BLUFF. THAT WAY, WE COULD HAVE A GOOD ANGLE OF FIRE AND MUCH MORE ACCURATE ANGLE OF FIRE.

NED

DID THE JAPS KNOCK OUT ANY OF YOUR GUNS?

CHARLIE

I DON'T THINK THEY KNOCKED OUT A SINGLE ONE.

NED

WERE THEY USING AIR SUPPORT TOO IN THIS BATTLE OR NOT?

CHARLIES

NO, WE USED A LOT OF NAVAL SUPPORT.

NED

NO, I MEAN THE JAPANESE, DID THEY HAVE ANY BOMBERS? CHARLIE

CHARLIE

NO. IN THE MINDORA OPERATION, WE HAD JAP PLANES RIGHT OVER US. THERE WAS THE OLD RISING SUN RIGHT ABOVE YOUR HEAD: MAYBE 5 OR 6 PLANES. WE HAD ALREADY STOPPED THE JAPANESE AIR ELEMENTS.

NED

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING EXCITING ABOUT YOUR GUNS OR ANY SPECIAL EVENT?

CHARLIE

WE HAD ONLY ONE EXCITING EVENT. WE REPORTED LOW ON AMMUNITION; I MAY NOT BE SUPPOSED TO TELL THIS BUT I'M GOING TO TELL IT ANY WAY. THEY SENT US UP A BOATLOAD OF 75 TANK AMMO, WHICH WON'T FIT IN THOSE HOWITZERS. THIS HAS NEVER BEEN PUBLICIZED MUCH. SOMEBODY MADE A MISTAKE AND FOR 24 HOURS THERE, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT BUT SMOKE AND WHITE PHOSPHORUS SHELLS. IF THE JAPANESE HAD ATTACKED, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN DIRE STRAIGHTS BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY ARTILLERY SUPPORT FOR THEM.

NED

IT'S A GOOD THING THAT (GARBLED)

CHARLIE

IT'S A GOOD THING THE BATTLE WAS ALMOST OVER. WE COULD HAVE BEEN IN TROUBLE. IT WAS ABOUT 24 HOURS BEFORE WE GOT ANYTHING.

NED

WHEN THE OBJECTIVE WAS SECURED, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR OUTFIT?

CHARLIE

WHEN THEY DECIDED THAT THE ISLAND HAD BEEN TAKEN, THEY SHIPPED US BACK TO MINDORA. THEY BROUGHT THE WEAPONS BACK INTACT ON SOME KIND OF CRAFT. THEY DIDN'T ARRIVE BACK WITH US. THEY WEREN'T ON LANDING CRAFT AS WE

WERE. WE WENT BACK ON AN LSM, I THINK. OUR GUNS CAME IN A DAY OR TWO LATER ON SOME TYPE OF SHIP. THEY CAME BACK ALREADY ASSEMBLED.

NED

DID THEY MOVE ALL THREE BATTERY'S AT THE SAME TIME?

CHARLIE

I THINK THEY BROUGHT THEM ALL AT THE SAME TIME, PROBABLY ON THE SAME SHIP.

NED

HOW LONG DID YOU STAY AT MINDORA.

CHARLIE

I DIDN'T STAY LONG. WE HAD ABOUT 5,700 DEAD JAPS. FLIES WERE SO THICK YOU COULDN'T EAT YOUR FOOD UNTIL A COUPLE OF DAYS, (GARBLED); THE FLIES WOULD KILL YOU. I GOT HEPATITIS. THEY DIDN'T THINK I WOULD MAKE IT. I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL FOR 45 DAYS.

NED

WHAT HOSPITAL?

CHARLIE

THEY SENT ME BACK TO A FIELD HOSPITAL AT TACLOBAN, BACK ON LEYTE. THEY FLEW ME BACK THERE. I STAYED THERE 45 DAYS. IN THE MEANTIME, SHORTLY AFTER I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL, THE 503<sup>RD</sup> WAS CALLED FOR ANOTHER MISSION AND THEY WENT TO PANAY AND TO SABU AND THEN TO NEGROS ISLANDS. AFTER 45 DAYS, I JOINED THEM. THEY WERE 20 MILES INLAND AT ?????? CITY ON NEGROS ISLAND WHEN I REJOINED THEM. I HAD GONE FROM 220 POUNDS TO 174 POUNDS. THEY WANTED TO SHIP ME HOME BUT I WAS DETERMINED TO STAY WITH MY UNIT, SO I CAME BACK.

THE DOCTOR TOLD ME I WAS VOMITING BLOOD WHEN I WENT IN. HE SAID I HAD PERMENTLY DAMAGED MY LIVER. THAT DIDN'T TURN OUT TO BE THE CASE AT ALL.

ANYWAY, I JOINED THEM. I WAS SKINNIER THAN I WAS WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL AT 174 POUNDS. I WAS THERE FOR PART OF THE FIRING OF A LOT OF ARTILLERY. I RETURNED TO THE UNIT THERE ON NEGROS. TWO WEEKS LATER, THE WAR WAS OVER.

NED

YOU MISSED MOST OF THE HARD PART IN THE NAVAL STUFF.

CHARLIE

YES. I WAS JUST FIRING ARTILLERY FOR A WEEK OR TWO. THEY CAME IN AND SAID THE JAPANESE WERE SURRENDERING. WE WERE THERE A COUPLE OF DAYS AND THEN WE PULLED THE GUNS BACK TO THE BASE CAMP. WE SET UP A BASE CAMP THERE AND WE WERE THERE FOR 3 OR 4 WEEKS BEFORE GOT ORDERS TO COME HOME.

NED

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE 503<sup>RD</sup> DID A LOT OF REAL HARD FIGHTING THERE ON LEYTE.

CHARLIE

YES THEY DID. I LOST THREE BOYS OUT OF MY BATTERY. ONE SHELL AND I LOST THREE FINE BOYS, A SGT FORD, TWO FINE OTHER MEN, CPL. GETZ AND I CAN'T RECALL THE OTHER NAME. THEY WERE ALL NCO's.

NED

THEY ALL GOT KILLED AT ???????

CHARLIE

THEY WERE ALL IN A SHELL CRATER. THEY DROPPED A MORTAR IN AND KILLED ALL THREE OF THEM. I NEVER DID KNOW ALL THE DETAILS OF IT BECAUSE I WAS UP AT THE HOSPITAL BACK IN LEYTE.

NED.

AT THIS TIME, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WHERE WERE YOU SHIPPED TO?

CHARLIE

WELL, WE CAME BACK TO THE STATES. I DECIDED TO GET OUT OF THE ARMY. I TALKED TO AIR COLONEL, A FULL COLONEL IN THE AIR CORPS AND WAS UNDECIDED REALLY WHAT I WANTED TO DO. HE SAID, "I CAN ENLIST YOU AS MASTER SERGEANT OR FIRST SERGEANT. YOU GOT A COMMISSION DURING THE WAR (GARBLED)." I SAID, "I BELIEVE I'LL JUST TRY CIVILIAN LIFE." I CAME TO ABILENE, TEXAS AND BOUGHT AN HUMBLE TIRE STATION AND RAN IT FOR NEARLY THREE MONTHS. I HAD THREE MONTHS, 90 DAYS TO MAKE UP MY MIND. REGARDLESS, WE HAD THAT MUCH LEAVE AFTER STAYING OVERSEAS FOR THREE YEARS, WE HAD 90 DAYS. ANYWAY, I STAYED THERE ALMOST 90 DAYS. I MARRIED A GIRL FROM THAT AREA IN '42, A GIRL I'M STILL WITH; 62 YEARS. I ENLISTED AS A MASTER SERGEANT.

THEY SHIPPED ME TO FORT HOOD, TEXAS, SERGEANT MAJOR OF COMBAT COMMAND "B", WHICH IS ARTILLERY. COMMAND "B" WAS UNDER GENERAL "PEE WEE" COLLIER ONE OF THE SHORTEST MEN TO EVER FINISH WEST POINT. HE PUT ON THEM RIDING BOOTS, HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ALL BOOTS: BETWEEN THEM BRITCHES AND THEM RIDING BOOTS. YOU DIDN'T CALL HIM "PEE WEE" BUT THAT WHAT EVERYBODY THOUGHT. HE WAS A LITTLE NAPOLEON.

THEN, THE KOREAN WAR CAME ALONG AND THEY CALLED ME BACK TO ACTIVE DUTY. SO, I CAME BACK ON ACTIVE DUTY.

NED

DID THEY RECOMMISSION YOU?

CHARLIE

YES, THEY GAVE ME MY COMMISSION BACK. I HAD BATTERY "B" OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY, WHICH WAS A 105 HOWITZER OUTFIT AT FORT HOOD QUITE A WHILE. I

STILL GET INVITATIONS TO THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ARMORED DIVISION REUNIONS BUT I HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL THE PEOPLE I HAD. THEY USED ME MOSTLY TO CLOSE ----- I WENT TO FORT GRUBER (?????) OKLAHOMA AND TOOK MY WHOLE BATTERY UP THERE. WE POLICED THAT AND TURNED IT OVER TO WAR ASSETS. THEN WE HAD THE CAMP AT BROWNWOOD, TEXAS. WE CLOSED THE CAMP AT BROWNWOOD. THEN, THEY SENT ME TO GERMANY FOR THREE YEARS BEFORE I WENT TO KOREA,

WHEN I CAME BACK FROM GERMANY, I WENT TO KOREA. I WAS A BATTALION EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN KOREA: IN THE ??? (NUMBER) INFANTRY DIVISION UNDER "LITTLE" JOE STILLWELL. HE WAS A GREAT, GREAT PERSON. WE WAS A FULL COLONEL. HE MADE BRIG. GENERAL AND CAME BACK TO THE STATES AFTER THE KOREAN WAR AND HE WAS FLYING FROM TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE IN CALIFORNIA TO HAWAII AND THE PLANE DISAPPEARED AND THEY NEVER HEARD FROM IT. IT DISAPPEARED JUST LIKE, WHO WAS IT, ONE OF THE FAMOUS BANDS OF WORLD WAR II: ONE OF THE DORSEY BROTHERS, TOMMY DORSEY. (ACTUALLY, IT WAS GLENN MILLER).

AFTER KOREA, THEY SENT ME TO GUIDED MISSILE SCHOOL. THAT'S WHEN THE MISSILE PROGRAM CAME INTO BEING AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS. GEN. MICHLEN (SP????) CALLED ME IN AND HE SAID, "I SEE YOU HAVE HAD CLUB EXPERIENCE. WE ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH OUR OFFICERS CLUB HERE. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD STRAIGHTEN IT OUT?" I SAID, "GENERAL, I BEEN AWAY FROM MY FAMILY FOR 2 YEARS HERE DURING THE KOREAN WAR. THAT IS AN 18 HOUR A DAY JOB AND I DON'T THINK IT IS FAIR TO ME TO HAVE TO DO THAT. HE SAID, 'WELL, WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?' I SAID, "IF YOU WOULD SEND ME TO GENERAL COMMAND STAFF SCHOOL. I'LL TAKE IT OVER AND STRAIGHTEN IT OUR FOR YOU." SO, I STAYED THERE FOR THREE QUARTERS OF A YEAR AND I HAD THAT THING BACK IN THE BLACK, ON its FEET, SO THEY SENT ME TO SCHOOL.

THEN, I WENT FROM THERE AS ADVISOR TO THE 51<sup>ST</sup> DIVISION IN SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD. I WAS DOWN THERE FOUR YEARS AND I RETIRED. MY 21 YEARS WAS UP AND I RETIRED.

NED

WHAT RANK DID YOU RETIRE AS"

CHARLIE

I WAS A MAJOR. I RETIRED AS A MAJOR. THEN, I CAME BACK AND I COACHED FOR SEVEN YEARS AT HARDIN SIMMONS UNIVERSITY IN ABILENE, THEN I SPENT ANOTHER

SEVENTEEN YEARS WITH THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THERE AND RETIRED FROM THE SCHOOLS IN 1985 AFTER 25 YEARS OF SCHOOL TEACHING.

NED

WHEN YOU WERE COACHING, WERE YOU COACHING BASEBALL?

CHARLIE

I COACHED EVERYTHING. I WENT TO HARDIN SIMMONS ----- WELL, I JUST HAD TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE WHEN I GOT IN THE MILITARY. I NEVER DRUG MY FEET IN THE MILITARY. I ALWAYS TRIED TO FURTHER MY EDUCATION. I GOT TWO YEARS CORRESPONDENCE WORK IN THE MILITARY. I WAS A STUDENT COACH THERE. THEY PAID MY TUITION AND I WAS A STUDENT COACH FOR 2 YEARS. THEN I CAME DOWN TO MY ALMA MATER AND COACHED ONE YEAR 42 MILES SOUTH OF ABILENE AT JIM NESS (??) HIGH SCHOOL. THEY CALLED ME ONE DAY AND ASKED ME IF I WOULD LIKE TO COME BACK TO HARDIN SIMMONS AND JOIN THE REGULAR STAFF SO I WENT UP THERE FOR 6 YEARS ON THE REGULAR STAFF AS HEAD TRACK COACH AND ASSISTANT BASKETBALL COACH. THEN, I TALKED THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES INTO GIVING UP TRACK AND GOING TO BASEBALL. HARDIN SIMMONS WAS DIVISION 1-A AT THAT TIME. I COULDN'T RECRUIT THE BOYS THAT IT TOOK (END OF FIRST PART OF TAPE)

ANYWAY, I STAYED AT HARDIN SIMMONS SEVEN YEARS, GOT A FREE EDUCATION FOR MY GIRLS WHILE ON THE FACULTY THERE, THEY GOT TO GO TO SCHOOL FREE. ALL OF THEM HAVE DONE REALLY, REALLY WELL.

NOWHERE ALONG THE LINE DID I TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GI BILL-----  
INTERRUPTION OF TAPE -----WITH OUT THE GI. A MAJOR ONLY DREW 12,000 DOLLARS A YEAR. I RETIRED AT 6, 000 DOLLARS, 50 PERCENT OF MY ACTIVE DUTY PAY. 6,000 DOLLARS A YEAR IS PRETTY HARD TO LIVE ON. EVEN MY WIFE WENT TO WORK WITH TIMEX TO----I HAD TO HAVE MONEY TO CLOTHE THOSE GIRLS. WE MADE IT THROUGH. IT WAS A STRUGGLE BUT WE MADE IT THROUGH. AFTER THE GIRLS FINISHED SCHOOL, I COULD MAKE MUCH MORE COACHING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. I RESIGNED FROM HARDIN SIMMONS AND WENT WITH THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STAYED WITH THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNTIL 1985, TWENTY FIVE YEARS AND RETIRED FROM THE ABILENE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN 1985.



NED

YOU UNDERSTAND THIS TAPE WILL BE TRANSCRIBED, THE WRITTEN FORM WILL BE SENT TO YOU FOR CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS, WHATEVER. THEN THE FINAL PRODUCT WILL BE PUT IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE MUSEUM. THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE A STUDY SECTION IN THE MUSEUM IN THE NEXT PHASE. THESE ORAL HISTORIES ARE ALL GOING TO BE THERE AVAILABLE TO ANYBODY THAT WANTS TO STUDY WORLD WAR II.

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO PASS ON TO THESE FOLKS ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE WAR OR WHAT YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW YOU WERE RECRUITED OR WHATEVER?

CHARLIE

WELL, ALL I CAN SAY, DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF ???? EDUCATION, FOR SURE. IT'S GOTTEN ME EVERYTHING, EVEN THE WEST POINTERS PICKED IT UP QUICK WHEN I GOT IN THE SERVICE AND STARTED PROMOTING ME. I WAS WITH THE FIRST GROUP THAT THEY CALLED FOR TO GO TO OFFICERS SCHOOL BECAUSE OF MY HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION. I WAS RAISED AS A POOR BOY, DOWN ON THE FARM WITH ELEVEN KIDS DURING THE WAR. I WORE HAND ME DOWNS EVERY DAY I WENT TO SCHOOL FROM MY OLDER BROTHERS. WE HAD PLENTY TO EAT BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE THE OTHER NECESSITIES OF LIFE. WE WERE A HAPPY FAMILY AND WE GOT BY. WE TOOK CARE OF LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T AS FORTUNATE AS US BECAUSE ON THAT FARM WE HAD PLENTY OF FOOD.

OUR PRINCIPAL OVER AT SWEETWATER HERE A FEW YEARS AGO: MY DADDY'S NAME IS CHARLIE, AND THEY CALLED ME CHARLIE BOY. HE SAID, "CHARLIE BOY, YOU KNOW WHAT I REMEMBER MOST ABOUT YOUR FAMILY? I SAID, "WHAT IS THAT?" HE SAID, "THEM DAMN BREAKFAST YOUR MAMA PUT ON THE TABLE. TO ME, IT WAS JUST LIKE A BANQUET EVERY MORNING."

NED

WELL CHARLIE, ON BEHALF OF THE MUSEUM, LET ME THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GIVE YOUR ORAL HISTORY. AS I SAY, WHEN THEY SEND YOU THE TRANSCRIPTION, IF THERE ARE THINGS YOU LIKE TO ADD OR CORRECT.

CHARLIE

IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE. I DIDN'T SEE A WHOLE LOT OF THE ACTUAL FIGHTING BECAUSE I WAS BACK POKING ARTILLERY SHELLS AT THEM. SOME OF THE BOYS CAN TELL YOU WILD STORIES BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY WILD STORIES TO TELL.

NED

BUT THEY NEEDED YOUR SUPPORT, THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT.  
OK, THANKS AGAIN CHARLIE

CHARLIE

YOU BET YOU.

END OF TAPE

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