

Woman 1: You are.

Man 1: We're all set.

Woman 1: Okay, we're at the Nevada State Veteran's Home in Boulder City, Nevada. Today's date is May 3rd, 2006. We're interviewing Charles.

Man 2: Spadaro.

Woman 1: Spadaro. My name is Shannon Vernt and our camera man is Ed Feldman. Let's start off by jogging your memory a little bit and tell me a little bit about what you were doing before you were in the service.

Man 2: Before I went in the service?

Woman 1: Before you went in the service, yeah.

Man 2: I was a civilian.

Woman 1: We're you married?

Man 2: No.

Woman 1: No. We're you going to school? We're you going to school, to college?

Man 2: Yeah, college.

Woman 1: Okay and where were you living? Where were you living?

Man 2: Upstate New York.

Woman 1: Upstate New York.

Man 2: The capital.

Woman 1: Oh, the capital. So you enlisted into the Marines?

Man 2: First division.

Woman 1: First division, okay. How come you decided to enlist into the Marines?

Man 2: Well, I was with another fellow and he wanted to go into the Navy and I wanted to go into the Army so we settled for the Marines.

Woman 1: You both went into the Marines then?

Man 2: Yeah.

Woman 1: Cool. When, tell me about your first days in service. How was it?

Man 2: First what?

Woman 1: Your first days when you were first in the Marines?

Man 2: Well, I was, I was in South Carolina. That's where I trained. And, then from there I went to wherever.

Woman 1: You trained in South Carolina and then you went to South Pacific?

Man 2: Yeah.

Woman 1: You went to Guatela _____ (00:02:08) Canal?

Man 2: Yeah, Guatela Canal.

Woman 1: Okay. Let see, you joined the services in 1941; was that after Pearl Harbor had been bombed?

Man 2: No, before.

Woman 1: It was, oh, it was before?

Man 2: Yeah.

Woman 1: Okay. So you and your friend were just being adventurous before there was a need. What was your job assignment in the Marines?

Man 2: Job assignment?

Woman 1: Yeah, what did you do; where you?

Man 2: I was a rifleman.

Woman 1: A rifleman?

Man 2: Yeah.

Woman 1: Okay. So, if you were a rifleman did you see combat then?

Man 2: Oh yeah; four years.

Woman 1: Four years.

Man 2: In the South Pacific.

Woman 1: That's a long time.

Man 2: Yeah.

Woman 1: And, Guatela Canal; was it your?

Man 2: Guatela Canal; yeah.

Woman 1: Was the only place that you were at? In the South Pacific was Guatela Canal the only place you were?

Man 2: That's the first. We went there from Camp Angus, the _____ (00:03:14) islands.

Woman 1: Okay, did you have many casualties in your unit?

Man 2: Pardon?

Woman 1; Did you have many casualties in your unit?

Man 2: In my outfit?

Woman 1: In your outfit did you have many casualties?

Man 2: Oh yeah, yeah, quite a bit.

Woman 1: What's your most memorable moment that you can think of; a good memory that you have something that really stands out in your mind from that time?

Man 2: Well, it was quite, all those campaigns added up pretty good. I can't think of anything that was so special.

Woman 1: Well, what about the food? What kind of food did you have to eat?

Man 2: Pretty lousy.

Woman 1: You had, did you have C rations?

Man 2: Yeah, K rations too.

Woman 1: C rations, okay. What's the difference between a K ration and a C ration?

Man 2: A K ration was like a little carton like a; C ration was like canned stuff like at World War I. They had C rations then. _____ (00:04:36).

Woman 1: You're still getting stuff from World War I?

Man 2: Yeah.

Woman 1: Did you have free time?

Man 2: Free time?

Woman 1: Yeah, free time where you would, could go into a town or visit the countryside?

Man 2: No towns; it was a jungle.

Woman 1: Oh, okay. So did you ever have free time to just goof all, play ball, or do anything like that?

Man 2: Do what?

Woman 1: Free time to?

Man 2: No free time.

Woman 1: No free time just?

Man 2: Just war.

Woman 1: Just the war the whole time. What about mail? Did you get mail on a regular basis from home?

Man 2: Did I get married/

Woman 1: No, mail, packages and letters from home?

Man 2: Oh yeah. We'd get a few, not too many, but a few.

Woman 1: Did they have to catch up with you places?

Man 2: Huh?

Woman 1: Did they have to catch up with you from where you were?

Man 2: Well, it took a little time, yeah.

Woman 1: What about when holidays came around? How did you celebrate those?

Man 2: Just like anything else; war.

Woman 1: Yep, no other. It sounds like you experienced for a long time the; how about when you left; the day you left the service and you were told you could go home? Do you recall that day?

Man 2: Yeah, yeah, that was a good thing. See I was the one that was so _____ (00:06:20) I developed points. So many points made you qualify for discharge.

Woman 1: Oh really?

Man 2: Yeah.

Woman 1: So many months you would get points or how did that work?

Man 2: It was more like years.

Woman 1: Years. And, how many points did you have to get before you could go home?

Man 2: Oh it was like, something like so many and then, as far as points. I don't know how he kept track of that.

Woman 1: Yeah. Did you make a lot of friends?

Man 2: The whole division.

Woman 1: The whole division; do you keep in contact with them now?

Man 2: No, most of them died, killed, and I had a few friends.

Woman 1: Where were you, were you still over in Guatela Canal when the war ended?

Man 2: No, we came home then because see at the points was how long you were overseas and then relative to points and so many months so many points, and.

Woman 1: Where were you when the war ended?

Man 2: Huh?

Woman 1: Where were you when the war ended?

Man 2: When the war ended? I was just discharged finally. The points _____
(00:08:13) accumulated and it did me a lot of good. So I got out.

Woman 1: You got out. What did you do after you got out of the service?

Man 2: I went home.

Woman 1: You went home?

Man 2: Yeah.

Woman 1: Did you get a job?

Man 2: Finally, yes.

Woman 1: What was our job?

Man 2: When I got out?

Woman 1: Yes.

Man 2: It's been so long.

Woman 1: Did you meet somebody and get married?

Man 2: No, not right away.

Woman 1: Not right away?

Man 2: No. So what else you need?

Woman 1: Are you a member of any of the Veteran's clubs now; the VFW?

Man 2: Yeah, we joined different ones; VFW, Overseas Service. Is this all being
taped?

Woman 1: You're a long ways from New York; how did you end up in Boulder City?

Man 2: Oh I was a civilian then.

Woman 1: Yeah.

Man 2: Yeah, I got a job with a company called House of Fabrics and, you know,
it's been so long. It's hard for me to remember. And, this company I worked for I went
and opened up stores, retail stores, fabrics, a far cry from what I was used to.

Woman 1: Yeah, I remember we used to have a House of Fabrics in Las Vegas.

Man 2: Yeah, there used to be one here. We had quite a few of them; about 600.

Woman 1: Oh. So that's, you did that after the war, you worked at?

Man 2: Oh, after I was discharged, yeah.

Woman 1: Yeah. And, so, where did you meet your wife at?

Man 2: California.

Woman 1: In California. Well, that's just about all I have for you to ask unless you have anything you would like to add; any memories jump into your mind, any comments that you would like to make?

Man 2: You mean about the war?

Woman 1: Yeah.

Man 2: I think everybody else went through the same thing.

Woman 1: Yeah.

Man 2: I'm glad to get out.

Woman 1: Well, you were there a long time.

Man 2: Yeah, four years.

Woman 1: Yep, four years is a long time to be in a war. You must of saw a lot of things.

Man 2: Yeah, a lot of action.

Woman 1: Well, I don't have anything. Do you have anything that you want to add?

Man 1: Can you think of any other places that you were in the Pacific besides Guatela Canal?

Man 2: Oh yeah, several. Peleliu; I don't know if you remember that. We took a beating there. We lost a lot of men there. I was lucky.

Woman 1: You were; very lucky. So when you would get done with one island you would go to another island or?

Man 2: Yeah, they called it island hopping. That's how come we won the war.

Woman 1: Yes, because of valiant men like you.

Man 2: Huh?

Woman 1: From valiant men like you. It says that you had a combat related injury. Did you ever get wounded?

Man 2: Not in the sense of being wounded. See, things like that.

Woman 1: How did that happen?

Man 2: Well, in combat.

Woman 1: What would make a mark like that?

Man 2: Huh?

Woman 1: What would make a mark like that?

Man 2: A knife.

Woman 1: A knife?

Man 2: Yeah. We don't talk about that.

Woman 1: Oh. Well, I guess that's all I have for you if you; I thank you very much for sharing your memories with us.

Man 2: I wish I could have done better.

Woman 1: Well, you did great. You did great.

Man 2: Where you folks from?

Woman 1: Down in Henderson at the library.

Man 2: What?

Woman 1: The Henderson Library.

Man 2: The Henderson Library. Oh, that's quite nearby.

Woman 1: Yeah, it's not very far away.

Man 1: Yes, we work together.

Man 2: Are you married?

Man 1: I'm not.

Woman 1: No.

Man 2: No.

Woman 1: No, I have kids his age. My kids are his age.

Man 2: Your kids are his latest?

Woman 1: His age.

Man 2: His age? Oh.

Woman 1: I'm a lot older than he is.

Man 2: You don't look it.

Woman 1: Oh, well, thank you. Alright, well, thank you so much.

Man 2: How did you get this information?

Woman 1: It's through the, the whole United States is taking Veteran's stories and it's through the library of congress. So we're taking anybody's story who were willing to share them with us. And, we'll submit them to the library of congress and then they will publish them and put them on the internet, put/store them in archives and things like that.

Man 2: Oh, that's very interesting.

Woman 1: Yeah, and we appreciate your willingness to share with us.

Man 2: Huh?

Woman 1: We appreciate your willingness to share with us.

Man 2: I don't. I'm not that crazy about sharing it.

Woman 1: Well, I kind of got that feeling but, you know, we're willing to listen to whatever you want to tell us; as much or as little, so.

Man 2: So you're out of Washington originally?

Woman 1: Well.

Man 2: D.C.?

Woman 1: Yes, it came from Washington D.C. but we didn't live there, no.

Man 2: I don't have any interesting stories for you.

Woman 1: Well, I've asked all my pertinent questions, so.

Man 2: I'm just lucky to come back alive.

Woman 1: That's right. That's, you were very lucky.

Man 2: Yeah, sure were because a lot of them weren't so lucky.

Woman 1: Yeah.

Man 2: That's the sad part.

Woman 1: That is, that is. Alright, well, thank you so much.

Man 2: I hope it gives you some credit.

Woman 1: Oh it will, it will; thank you.

Man 2: Alrighty; nice meeting both of you.

Woman 1: Nice meeting you.

Man 1: Very nice to meet you as well.

Woman 1: Do you want me to push you back somewhere?