

ALL COUNTER
NUMBERS FOR
SONY T.C.

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A

Q: This is taped oral interview with Leighton Goro Sumida. This is Side #2 of Tape #1. We were talking about the 3rd brother. How did you spell the name of your 3rd brother?

A: M-A-K-O-T-O.

Q: How do you pronounce that?

A: Makoto.

Q: Makoto? Sumida. And did he enlist or get drafted?

A: He volunteered and he went to Fort Snelling.

Q: MIS. And the 4th brother?

A: He was in the service already. He was the first one in the service. Richard Sumida.

Q: Richard. And did he go to the 100th?

A: No, he stayed here with 1399 outfit.

Q: What was that?

A: That's what they call chowhound's. . .

Q: Could you spell that?

A: C-H-O-W-H-O-U-N-D.

Q: Oh, chowhound. So he was like a mess outfit.

A: Well, that's what they called those guys because they didn't go

overseas. They were stationed in Hawaii.

Q: What was his job in Hawaii?

A: He was a corporal. Actually was quartermaster.

Q: At Scofield Barracks?

A: They started with Scofield but they ended up at Fort Armstrong.

Q: 1st Artillery.

A: But they wasn't artillery. They were more stationed out there in the camp.

Q: OK, now you were the 5th, right? And the 6th?

A: Haruo.

Q: How do you spell that?

A: H-A-R-U-O.

Q: And what unit did he go in?

A: He went to Guam.

Q: Was he MIS?

A: No, he was with the, I don't know what outfit that was, but anyway he ended up in Guam.

Q: Was he in the Army or the Marine Corps?

A: He was in the Army.

Q: And 7?

A: Raymond Sumida. MIS.

Q: So you were the only 100th Battalion. Any other things. . . I like that story about the haole, that he saved his life by being bust up. Any other stories? That's the kind of thing I'm looking for for the book. Things that are very funny. Any other stories about being on leave or Camp Shelby or Camp McCoy? They liked to have a lot of fun. Somebody told me they always liked to live hard and love hard and gamble hard. Did they have a lot of girlfriends in the local towns, more than anybody else?

Q: When we were on the mainland, they didn't have too many Oriental girls because they were all in camps.

A: They were all haole girls.

Q: Uh-huh. But I was surprised when I visited Arkansas relocation camp.

Q: Oh, you did?

A: It's near Arkansas, let's see now. We were in Mississippi at that time.

Q: That was, what was the name of that camp? Was it Poston? Rohwer.

A: Yeah, Rohwer. That's the camp we were talking about. So I heard my auntie was in there.

Q: Was she from the West Coast?

A: She's from the mainland. She's from Fresno, you see.

Goro Sumida

Side ~~12~~ B TAPE 1

Page 4

Q: When did you go there?

A: Just before I went overseas. They had some girls from there used to visit our camp, and they were working with the USO. Come over and talk to the boys, like that.

Q: Tell me about that, because in the book we have a lot of photographs of Rohwer. We have pictures of the girls and the USO at Rohwer. Can you tell me about that, about your trip there and how you were received?

A: The first time when I went, we had 3 more boys went with me.

Q: Four of you.

A: Uh-huh. It was really a small town, so the road wasn't a good road. You go on the train up to so many miles, then you walk your way into the camp. At first when we went in there, we don't know how our auntie look like. Same thing with the other boy who had his aunties over there. When we went to camp it looked something like an old prison out here. They got 4 corners all with machine guns. They had barbed wire fence.

Visit to
Rohwer

Q: How did you feel about that?

A: When I walk in there, I thought, gee, it's like you in a jailhouse.

Q: Did you feel that was your people and they were being mistreated?

A: Well, at that time I was more interested in looking for my aunt. I don't know how she look like. I didn't have any address.

Goro Sumida
Side ~~A~~ B TAPE 1
Page 5

Q: Did you ever meet her before?

A: No, I never did see her. So I start inquiring. It just happened my friend found his auntie first, so he asked the auntie if she know so and so. So I got to know what block she lives in. She was sick at that time and the barracks they live in is made of tarpaper, really half finished barracks. When I knock on the door, she look at me and say, "Who you?" So I told my name. She got up and she forgot about she sick.

Q: Were you in uniform?

A: Uniform.

Q: And that was the first time she ever saw you.

A: Uh-huh. That's my mother's younger sister, see. So then we stayed with them for about 2 weeks in camp.

Q: Did you have any problems getting into the camp?

A: No, we just go to the main office. Was easy to get in. And we look at the candies, the home made candies wasn't so good. They didn't have any sugar, like that. And I was surprised they were catching rattlesnake and they were using the venom for the Army. They milk rattlesnake and then sell the venom to the Army. They get so much or whatever it is. The odd part about catching the rattlesnake, you know they have a bamboo, they split the bamboo in half and put a matchstick between, they catch the rattlesnake on the head like that.

Goro Sumida
Side ~~B~~ B TAPE 1
Page 6

Q: And then milk it on the bamboo?

A: Uh-huh.

Q: What was it like in the camps? Was it pretty hard? Did people complain to you?

A: Yeah, a lot of them. Even the doctors were getting paid only \$20 a month.

Q: Were they bitter?

A: Well, some of them were bitter but they take life as it is. Can't do nothing anyway, so make the best of it.

Q: What did your friends and you say when you left? Did you feel that was pretty wrong?

A: Pretty wrong, but we're thinking more about what they need out there. They didn't have nice candy. My niece was small, only 10 years old. Went back to camp and PX those days were cheap. Hershey candy, one box was only 75¢, so we send them about 10 boxes. They never forget me. I just down this year and visit the girl. She's old already. At that time I was only 21 and she was 10. So she's in her 50's already.

Q: Were there any other impressions you got from the camp? We have a lot of photographs of the camps we're going to use in the book about soldiers going home to the camps and the USO's. Did you go to the USO in Rohwer?

A: I didn't spend too much time in USO.

Handwritten notes:
no candy
to camp
no sugar
in camp

Goro Sumida
Side ~~A~~ B TAPE 1
Page 7

Q: How long were you there?

A: About 2 weeks. And then we used to play basketball with those mainland Japanese, the boys. They were surprised we played against them in basketball with barefeet. They had shoes but we just pick up couple boys and. . . They had a few Hawaii boys in there.

Q: Really?

A: Hawaii family. And they be all young ones. They wasn't as old as us, but they can still handle the ball, I guess.

Q: Any other things that happened in the camp?

A: That's about all. Mostly we only talk story out there.

Q: What did you talk about?

A: How they living in there, what they need. Always they have sad story, they had to sell their cars so cheap when they pushed them in camp.

Q: Did that make you feel bad? You felt bad so you bought them things.

A: Uh-huh.

Q: You had a good heart.

A: Well, I've always been easygoing.

Q: You have always been generous.

A: Yeah. I think I've been pretty generous. I used to help all those underdogs.

Q: You went back to camp. What other things would you do in camp for fun?

A: We used to get boxing matches. One day was the best one I tell you about. This guy we had, see, went to Mississippi, went to maneuver, we came back. We didn't have pay for kinda long. So this person wanted to make some side money. So they had 69 Division out there, right next to camp. So he was a short guy, only weighs about 140 pounds. Really a medic, see. So he told that person while they drinking beer, you folks want to learn judo, he'll teach them because he was a black belt, for minimum fee of so many lessons, so much.

Q: Did he really have a black belt?

A: Yeah, he really was a black belt. He told the 2 haole soldiers, "Why don't you?" So they said, "What's judo?" They never heard about judo. So he said, "How about you bring me the biggest friend you have?" So that guy brought one person weigh about 220 pounds. So he told that person, "I'm going to teach you folks judo for so much and if you folks want to learn," let him know. So they wanted to know what's judo. So he said, "I'll show you what judo is." So he told the big person, "I want you to take a swing at me as hard as you can hit." And that guy didn't know what happened to him because when he threw, he throw him over the shoulder. The big guy, 220 pounds, went sailing over his shoulder. So he said, "This is judo. You folks want to learn?" So the 2 guys said, "No, no, that's too much!" The first time they seen judo out there.

Q: Did any other haole boys want to learn?

A: After that, I don't think they ever wanted to learn.

Q: . . .chicken?

A: Even in the front, I had a funny story I tell you about. A funny story in the front. We had a German person. We are hitting one town, see.

Q: What?

A: We are hitting one town, trying to take one town.

Q: Oh, OK.

A: And here they were attached to us to learn how the 100th were fighting. Well, we were fighting about 6 months earlier than those guys. They came over and sent all their noncoms and officers, attach 'em to the 100th to learn how to fight. They want to watch how we advance and whatnot. We veterans already, we been there about 6 months. So they attach them to us. And here we had a German, he was a staff sergeant, a platoon sergeant at that time. So the first time the sniper hit 'em, a couple boys got shot. Later on they captured 2 Germans, but before they captured the two person, this haole sergeant, we had to run through one trail. The German sniper was picking off the guys right between 2 trees here. We had to go in open to go across. Just before that they caught 2 German soldiers. So somebody was yelling, "Shoot that guy!" So this German soldier, "Who you [inaudible] shoot the guy?" So then forget all about that. So we telling him to run

across. When the sniper miss, you run, see, because they got single bolt action rifle, not like the American guy, semi-automatic. So they fire one, one person run across. So they missed another one, another one runs across. So it's his turn to run across. So he went before we said, "[inaudible], go ahead, go across now. See, the guy missed." So he ran across, hit the ground. When he hit the ground, the German follow him with the rifle, fire one more shot over his head. So then little by little the firing stopped. So I went up to the [inaudible], my platoon went up over there. The sergeant said, "Hey, where's [inaudible]?" I said, "Oh, he went before me so he must be up there." He said, "Naw, he's not here." So we trace him back; he's still on the ground. He cannot move. So we pick him up, stand up and he kinda shaken up a little bit. That's his first experience under fire. We start walking and they brought two, another 2 more German prisoners coming down. He is the first one yelling, "Shoot that bastard, shoot!" He thought we are [inaudible]. "Shoot that guy!" Somebody else, but when he was shot at, he found out that after all out there is not maneuver, you play for real. That's his first experience.

Q: Tell us as many stories as you can remember that are funny. In the book, the history is right now kind of boring. We want to do the book so that it's funny and light and all the stories of what it's like to be a soldier. Lot of people will never understand what it was like in World War II.

A: World War II, a lot of people, now you can laugh about it, but in the front you don't laugh about it because people when they go to

toilet at times they get shot while. . . we had two cases like that where they went outside and they never got a chance to wipe their butt.

Q: That's probably terrible. Were they killed?

A: No, they missed. They don't waste time, they head for the hole. You know what I mean? They never get a chance. We shot a couple Germans. Because it's in the night, you don't see 'em. All you see, that guy is a German, you pull the trigger and he's dead. Come across like that. You don't hate the guy, but it's a matter of survival.

Q: How did the Germans react when you captured them, seeing you were Japanese?

A: They wouldn't believe that we were Japanese.

Q: What did they say?

A: They cannot speak, all you can hear they say, "Comrade, give up!"

Q: But they were surprised.

A: Yeah, they were really surprised. And they are good looking soldiers. German soldiers, they are really big, and good looking.

Q: Were they good soldiers, the German soldiers?

A: Good soldiers.

Q: How?

CTR #
SONY T.C.I

A: I would say they are well disciplined. Their equipment was damn good, their machine guns.

#359

You were a scout. I was told that you always volunteered and everybody else said that you were really brave because you volunteered so much. Could you tell us about why you volunteered so much as a scout? You were a scout for the whole war?

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When you go to [inaudible] sometime the officers pick you and they call you and so you have to go to the front. You leading off.

When it got so bad that they call you too often, you tell the officers, "How come we always get picked on?" So the officer said, well, if it was ordinary, they would rotate the person, but when it's a life concern they would rather have a dependable guy leading off.

Why
442nd
always
lead
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END 374

Q: You were dependable, always. . .

374

A: They felt we were dependable so they let us go ahead.

Q: Let me ask you, I've never been on a scout and most people who are going to read the book have never been on a scout. Tell me what you do on a scout for somebody who doesn't know.

A: When you go as a scout they send you out outside to check a house or whatever it is.

Q: How far ahead?

A: Once we went quite a bit, almost 2 miles. When the message they gave you to begin with, they give you the wrong message, they tell

you that place is taken so you go over and get an overlay, you know, time out [inaudible] position.

Q: What's an overlay?

A: The 168 is over here, and we are next to them in line, skirmish. They want to know whether this outfit going to move up in line with you or you're not in line because some move forward first, some behind. If you do that, you're going to get exposed over here.

Q: So you have to move up along the front line.

A: Alongside, yeah.

Q: If one gets ahead, there's a big hole. The Germans could sneak in through the hole?

A: So you have to find out, get how far they up ahead and how far you stay so you have a better field of fire. You get the higher grounds so they don't come from the side and roll you over.

Q: So your job was to check about the holes?

A: Check whether they over there, in line with us.

Q: Were you by yourself on a scout?

A: No, I usually take, usually they tell you to take one squad. But some nights you get so tired, you been hiking up the hills, so everybody want to sleep. So you take maybe one or two persons and go down there.

Q: Did you have a radio when you scout?

A: No.

Q: You had what, wire?

A: No, nothing. You just going over there, get information from the officers and then get a piece of paper telling how far they are up and come back.

Q: Did that ever scare you because you were all by yourself?

A: At one time we went over there, see where we had to go to that house they were way behind yet, about 1000 yards behind us. We went into no man's land. But when I went over there it looked too quiet, so I told the other person, "Hey, something not right." I went up there, they just pulled out. They saw us maybe coming so they figure they gonna hit them over there and they only had skeleton crew, delaying action.

Q needs
cleaning up
419

Q: [I was told that you could always tell the Germans were out there because you could smell them, the sardines that they ate.]

A: [And you can hear, you know the boots, they got the hobnail? You walk on the gravel, you can hear that sound. You look on the ground, you see all the holes. American shoes not built like that]

Q: What else would you look for for a German? How would you tell they were in the area without actually seeing them?

A: [Those people they don't take too much cover like the American type. They hate the ground. The American type brought up more like the American Indians. You crawl. The German people, the soldiers,



✓
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they just have this observation post or something like that. They run, jump in the hole, and they get binoculars and look. But they're pretty smart, too. When they move, anything that head turn one time like that, you can spot something move. When they turn, they turn slowly. So you don't see any movement, and they got that camouflage canvas raincoat.

Q: How else could you find Germans? How else would you look for them?

A: Usually anything ahead of you, you have to expect it's Germans already.

Q: Especially when it's quiet.

A: Yeah. More dangerous when it's quiet.

Q: Why?

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A: Because that's when they move around. They either trying to sneak in or they trying to get behind you. When they start shooting, as long as they keep firing you know that their men cannot come in front of you. They might hit 'em. That's why nighttime is the worst, when it's real quiet.

✓ Q: Did you ever tell replacements how to keep themselves alive, how to act on the battlefield? Certain tricks of the trade?

A: When we first went over there we learned from the major.

Q: Who?

A: Dewey. That's the 34th Division major, used to be a major.

Q: D-E-W-E-Y?

✓ A: D-E-W-E-Y, yeah. He told us don't expect to be a hero in one day. It's better to fight every day alive than be a hero one day and you get killed. Kill three; you don't have to kill 20 and be dead for the day. So we always remember that. You can always fight another day.

Q: He was a major in the 100th?

A: He was a major. He was with the 34th Division. We came under them.

Q: What unit was he with in the 34th, you know, the regiment?

464 A: I think Dewey was, later on he took over as our major. At one time I think he was a major. That's the first word he gave us before we hit Italy was in Africa.

Q: What else did you learn?

✓ 468 A: We had not too good message to, "Don't expect to go home; you folks don't expect to go home before Christmas. The war going to be a long war."

Q: Who sent the message?

A: The same time that the major gave us pep talk.

Q: What else did you learn about staying alive in combat?

A: To stay alive, the Germans, when their first man came across the 88, that's a flat trajectory rifle. It's just like a rifle. So if you behind the mountain, you safe. If you going up front and observe, and they spot you, the 88 can pick you off just like

that, long range rifle.

Q: The 88 cannon could shoot you like a rifle. It was that accurate?

A: That accurate. And their shell used to be this long and they point it up in the air about this much. But they got terrific hitting power. In Anzio I seen that knock out 14 tanks, American tanks. All burning American tanks.

Q: What else would you do to stay alive? In other words you never stayed in the front of the hill, always behind the hill.

A: Behind the hill. We used to post one man in the front, use what you might call, listening post. Before they used to use radio to call back, but the Germans pick up the sound and they triangle that thing so we had, one time I think we lost 3 persons, direct hit. So after that they used telephone only, put the wire behind so they cannot trace where they are talking from.

Q. They were that smart; they could triangulate where you were.

A: Uh-huh.

Q: What are some other things you learned?

A. Learn from the Germans?

Q: [Let's put it this way. What if you were telling a new replacement? He said, "I'm real scared, afraid of getting hit. I'm afraid of mines. What do I do? How do I stay away from mines?"]

A: Mines?

Q: Land mines.

A: Oh, land mines. We used to have a scout that goes over, if he spot a mine he put toilet paper on the mine so you don't step. You keep following the person ahead where he step. So you don't get too much people getting hurt. You follow their footsteps as they go.

Q: You said the Germans are pretty good soldiers. Their weapons were so good, the 88s. It must have been terrifying.

A: Oh yeah. They used full anti-aircraft and you know, when you hear the sound the bullet is right there. They are not afraid to shoot at one infantry if they saw one. They know there's always somebody around that area.

Q. It was told to me that it was so hard to fight the Germans because they always had the high ground. They were always on the mountain.

A: They always got the higher ground, yes.

518-

Q: You always had to go up the mountain to get them. And when they had the high ground they always had the best advantage. Is that true?

A: Like the Germans were at that position and they pulling back all the time so they always in a defensive position. So they get all the higher ground, so whenever we try to get in the gully or whatever it is, it's all zeroed in. The mortar shell comes in there when you start going in there. They hit pretty accurately because they had tested that place where they fire their rifle, mortar shell already. So you get in there you gonna get hit. So it's

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Re-record
as
Advice

✓ better to run in the open because they have to adjust the gun.
You got a better chance out there in the open.

Q: How many scouting missions did you go on?

A: Every time we rotate the platoon you get one scout, one squad go first, lead off, then they rotate the 2nd, the 3rd. The next time the other squad lead off.

✓ Q: What was your highest rank you made?

A: Out there?

Q: Yeah. During the war.

A: Acting squad leader.

Q: So, corporal.

A: No, we never did have a rank.

Q: Oh.

A: So one time when I was in France. . .

Q: You were PFC?

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A: PFC. I got 6 noncoms under me. And we could not get promotion because you only have so much people holding rank. If they get hurt they go to the hospital, you taking their place fighting, but when they come back from the hospital, your quota is still filled yet. ~~Most of our outfit who were fighting, squad leaders~~ were PFC. ✓

Q: What decorations did you get?

A: I don't know. I got quite a bit, though.

Q: Did you get the DSC? The Silver Star?

A: No, never did have Silver Star.

Q: Bronze Star?

A: We get Bronze Star. We get combat badge. Never did get Purple Heart.

Q: You never were hit.

A: No.

Q: Do you consider yourself lucky?

A: Yeah, I think somebody pray for me. My old lady must have prayed like the dickens because. . .

Q: You married?

A: No.

Q: Your mother, then.

550

A: Yeah, my mother. The Hawaii boys call them old lady, because when I left she had black hair. When I came home she had all white hair already.

white hair

Q: Worrying about you.

A: Not me. All my brothers went out. Only my oldest was back in. And my 4th brother. But they were in camp. So they hardly goes home.



Q: Was your father still alive then?

A: Yeah.

Q: So you consider yourself lucky?

A: Yeah, I guess, lucky.

Q: Were you superstitious about being hit?

A: Everybody had suspicion out there. Because as soon as you get hit with rock or something you know you're close to getting hit. Because I seen my friend, he never got hit long time. Then one rock hit his [inaudible], so he said, "You watch, I'm gonna get hit pretty soon." Sure enough, he got hit on the hip. So I guess you get the hunch that you going to get it next. I seen another one just before the attack, he told the other person, "I don't think I'm gonna make it," so go home and tell his wife whatever you can say about him.

Q: He got killed?

A: He got killed out there.

Q: I heard a lot of those stories from a lot of soldiers. Did anybody ever tell you that that actually got hit, that they were going to die and actually died?

A: We had another one. This guy had an Army blanket, an old Army [inaudible] and, you know, the funny thing, he hit a mine. The last guy 75 yards away, the thing went through his jacket, he got a big cut here. The hole in the jacket, the thing just went in this

way. The one next to him had the blanket, like that. The shrapnel hit his neck, the last man, he only had a small cut here. So I guess when your time up, you gonna get it, you gonna get it.

Q: He was killed?

A: No, he was alive, only one [inaudible], but the one in the back got a big cut in the head and the thing came in through here.

Q: A lot of soldiers did things to be lucky, like put their shoes on, only the right shoe on and then the left shoe or always had the same socks or always carried a pipe. Did you do something to be lucky that you always did?

A. They used to give us a Bible. I always carried that thing. We had one person had a Bible, that thing saved his life. The last page hold that shrapnel from his chest. So our chaplain, Chaplain Yost, told that person to give him that book just forever.

Q: Chaplain Yost, Y-O-S-T?

A: Yeah, he used to be our chaplain.

Q: Can you tell us about Chaplain Yost?

591
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A. In the front practically everybody want to go to church. But when they come back from the war, it's pretty hard to go to church because they forget what they went through.

Q: What religion were you?

A: Buddhist.

Q: Chaplain Yost was a Protestant?

A: But when we go to the front, most everybody is Christian.

Q: Christian? Why?

A: They only carry the Buddhist dogtag but actually they speak English. They don't have Japanese priests over there, so mostly Christian.

Q: Would you have liked to have had Buddhist priests?

A: To me, that doesn't make difference.

Q: Did everybody like Chaplain Yost?

A: Oh yeah. They used to like him. He's brave gentleman.

Q: Can you tell me any stories about him?

602
✓

A: I seen him in the front. One person get hit or some of them they could not get up. I was in 2 of 'em where they made peace treaty. Right in front of you, you got so many wounded persons. The Germans had so much wounded person. For two hours they put up the white flag both sides, stop firing. Pick up all their wounded. So after two hours over, they start shooting again. Then you look at that, you think, "Why you in the war?" If they can make peace like that, why shouldn't they make peace so they don't have war?

stoppy
war
for
medics
& wounded

Q: They would really stop.

A: Yeah. Two hour truce. Nobody would shoot. Right after that two hours, they wave their flag, go back to their ranks, they start opening up again.

STOP/START
WAR

613

Q: How would you signal the end of the truce?

A: Two officers go out, they meet in the center, this here position like that, both come out and then they make the signal that everybody stop firing, so nobody fired. Then they go over, between the two pick up all their wounded, get all the litter bearers, pick 'em all up.

Q: How many people would be wounded?

622

A: They make night attack, they got ambushed or something so some of them moaning. You always hear them crying for their mother or something. Right after they take all the wounded out, they wave the flag, start opening up again. Amazing in war what they can do. If they can make peace like that, I don't see why they still start fighting again.

Q: Did you think the war would ever end?

627

A: We were there about, pretty long, so then you hear rumors coming out, war will be end, war will end. That's when you start getting scared because say you suffered this long, why should you get killed the last one week or two weeks? Then you start worrying, "I gotta live the last one week." So you don't take a chance, you don't take crazy chances like before.

Q: Were you at the end of the war, did you go all the way through the war?

A: Before the war finished we went back already, we pulled back.

Q: Did you rotate out?

A: We came home with the trench [inaudible]

Q: When did you come back?

A: I came back from France, what month it was? December, I think.

Q: What campaign in France was the last campaign you were with?

A: This is the one they went up to, right after we pull out of Bruay, the outfit went to southern France, Champagne campaign. That's what they called Champagne campaign over the border there.

Q: You were in Bruay? Can you tell me about Bruay?

A: When we first went over there in Bruay, we got hit by artillery. We were in the forest, we couldn't see even 5 yards. So 6 o'clock, it's hard to see, something like out here in Nuana Pali (sp?) where the trees grow about 5 yards apart.

Q: It was a big forest.

A: Big forest.

Q: It's dark?

A: It's dark. When comes about 6 you cannot see nothing. You can't see anything.

Q: When it's about 6, 6 o'clock in the evening?

A: In the evening.

Q: A lot of soldiers told me it was very frightening in the Vosges Forest. It was dark and you couldn't see. The trees and the fog, and it was cold.

655 ✓ A: Cold, and you cannot see nothing. The only way we can find our boys is, we only have one watch. That watch tells you you are on guard 2 hours, you finish 2 hours and you wake up your friend, next one. And plenty time, they couldn't find the person 5 yards away. So only way we could teach them how to find them is to use those mushroom glows they have on the trunk. The mushroom that glows; it's just like a illuminous dial, you know, the mushroom. . .

Q: Like a decal on a truck?

A: No, it's on the plant, on the trunk.

Q: Oh, on a tree or something?

4 A: Yeah, the bark glows, see.

Q: Glows in the dark?

{ A: Yeah, so you follow that.

Q: What kind of tree was it, do you know?

✓ A: We don't know what kind of tree it is, though. That's how we used to find the next person. Some of them we had at times quartermaster so they didn't have any infantry training, so it took them pretty long to find, locate themselves.

Q: Could you describe the Bruay campaign? How you were involved in

it, what you knew about it.

A: When we first went in Bruay we were behind, there was a company in front of us, B Company, and we attacked. They had 3 hills. So we had to take A Hill. The first thing we went up there, we looked at the trees. And it's broken and they have artillery mark on them so we know this area is where artillery come in. So we was on the side of 'em and we don't know how they spotted us guys, but they threw 4 or 8 rounds. Eight artillery rounds came in.

Q. Oh, 88?

A: No, I think that's a regular artillery piece. And they hit the branches, they come down like showers. So they wipe out our 2nd platoon.

Q: B Company?

A: A Company. The 100th. After that one platoon, only one lieutenant and one private was left. The rest all got wounded or killed.

Q: I was told that the tree bursts were the worst thing because the shrapnel came down.

A: We had a person just digging a hole. The shell came between the tree and him and right on the side exploded. He was leaning on the shovel like that, dead. Shrapnel catch him back up on the side of his body.

Q: What did they tell you about the Lost Battalion and why you were getting them? Did you know what you were trying to do?

Bruay

A: No, I never go to the Lost Battalion. The 442 mostly went.

Q: So you were on the flank of the 442?

A: Yeah.

Q: How far away were you from the 442nd?

A: Oh, 442nd. What happened was ~~that~~ when we left, the 442 came inside and when they called for going up already most of us was gone already. 442 came up already. We formed the 2nd Battalion, so 1st Battalion they get so many companies.

697

Q: As a regular soldier were you aware that you were given a lot of tough assignments, more than other units in the area? Like in Italy? I was told that General Ryder really depended on the 100th a lot because they were good soldiers. They could always take the objective. Were you aware of that from your officers as a soldier, that you were a good unit and that the generals were depending on you to take your objectives?

A: Yeah, because I seen where we are supposed to be reserve, but we never get a chance to be on the reserve because it don't take us too long. We gotta pack up and we start going forward again, see.

Q: Did it ever make you feel bad, that you couldn't rest?

A: Lot of us griping like the dickens, but still then you got your brothers, you got your neighbors, all in the 442. So you cannot blame anybody because that's your own friends in there. You got to help them out. Everybody don't start as a good soldier. You

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No Rest.

started as a rookie, then gradually you become better.

- Q. This is the end of the first tape, Tape #1 with Leighton Goro Sumida. We are in Honolulu, Hawaii. This is the 18th of November 1981 (sic). Please turn the tape over. Thank you.