

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
RICHARD JORDAN
Infantry, Army, World War II.

1999

OH
399

OH
399

Jordan, Richard, (1924-2002). Oral History Interview, 1999.

User Copy: 2 sound cassette (ca. 80 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 2 sound cassette (ca. 80 min.), analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Abstract

Jordan, a Madison (Wisconsin) native, discusses his World War II service as an infantry replacement soldier assigned to Company D, 383rd Infantry Regiment, 96th Infantry Division and his experiences fighting on Okinawa. Jordan touches upon basic training, being sent to Saipan to join his unit, and assignment as an ammunition carrier during the battle for Okinawa. He details combat on the island including carrying ammunition several times a day, not getting out of the foxhole at night, difficult terrain, problems with smoke from ammunition, and eating Australian mutton rather than American rations. Jordan talks about the good food going to the quartermaster soldiers close to the supply line rather than to the soldiers doing the fighting. Jordan further describes the combat providing information about the mentality many soldiers adapted, long-fused grenades, attempts to hold "Charlie Hill," Japanese bonsai charges, and signaling positions to Navy and Marine Corps pilots. Jordan describes securing the caves and how they communicated with the Japanese in attempting to get them to surrender. He touches upon being wounded by a grenade, receiving mail while on Okinawa, treatment of American's bodies by the Japanese, and a pet goat that could hear incoming shells before anyone else. After leaving the island, he touches on training on Mindoro Island while waiting for the invasion of Japan. Jordan speaks of recreation activities (making bootleg alcohol), life and prostitution on Mindoro, assignment as a jeep driver, and seeing surrendered Japanese soldiers. He mentions that he stopped going to division reunions because they brought back too many bad memories. Jordan concludes the interview mentioning homecoming, not getting involved with veterans groups, and working for Western Electric.

Biographical Sketch

Jordan (1924-2002) served with the 96th Infantry Division (Army) near the end of World War II in the Pacific theater. He was involved in heavy combat on Okinawa and received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star before leaving the service and working for Western Electric.

Interviewed by Dr. James McIntosh, 1999.

Transcribed by John K. Driscoll, 2002.

Transcription edited by John McNally, 2006.

Interview Transcript

McIntosh: --World War, born and raised in Madison. And you entered the military service when?

Jordan: In July of '44.

McIntosh: July of '44.

Jordan: I don't remember what day it was.

McIntosh: That's not important

Jordan: July of 1944.

McIntosh: July of 1944. Okay. And where did they send you?

Jordan: Fort Knox, Kentucky.

McIntosh: Right from Madison?

Jordan: Mm-hmm.

McIntosh: And what were they training you for specifically?

Jordan: Tank driver. And I went through basic training at Fort Knox and was a qualified tank driver. And then I went to, from there I was put into a replacement depot in California, Fort Ord.

And they decided that they didn't need as many tank drivers as they did infantrymen, so I was then, I went to Seattle, and from Seattle, I don't remember what the name of the camp was there, but from Seattle we were shipped to Honolulu, Jefferson Barracks as a replacement depot at Jefferson Barracks. And from Jefferson Barracks, I stayed there about, oh, I don't know, two, three weeks I suppose. And then we were shipped to Saipan to a replacement depot in Saipan. And I stayed there for three, four weeks.

And then about April 1st I was put on a ship going to Okinawa to be a replacement. And Okinawa campaign started on April 1st and we got there about two weeks after that. We went in as replacements on Okinawa in the infantry. And I was assigned to machine gun squad, 30 caliber water cooled. And I spent the rest of the war on Okinawa.

McIntosh: What unit were you in?

- Jordan: I was in the 96th Division, 383rd Regiment, B Company. And we went into Okinawa about, as I say, about two weeks after they invaded Okinawa. And, of course, they shipped us right up to the front line where I stayed until the operation was over.
- McIntosh: Was that your first combat experience in Okinawa?
- Jordan: Right.
- McIntosh: In Saipan?
- Jordan: Just replacement depot.
- McIntosh: The result was that fighting was over by the time you got to Saipan.
- Jordan: Right. Mm-hmm.
- McIntosh. And as a machine gunner, what was your immediate outfit? Were you organized in platoon fashion, or with other machine gunners, or how did they set it up?
- Jordan: Company. A section, two guns in a section. There were two guns in a section.
- McIntosh: Water cooled. How many men operated two guns?
- Jordan: Well, each gun was sort of separate. You didn't really see the other gun very often. But there were six men, six or seven men on a squad. And one guy was, one soldier, infantryman, was on the gun, and then the rest of them were almost like riflemen.
- McIntosh: To protect you.
- Jordan: Right.
- McIntosh: You had one on either side of the gun?
- Jordan: Well, not really. It depends on where the gun was set up and everything. We were called ammo bearers, sort of. We carried...
- McIntosh: I don't understand that. Explain that to me.
- Jordan: An ammo bearer is the guy that brings the cans of 30-caliber machine gun bullets to the machine gun. And there's 250 bullets in a belt, and then, depending upon how fast they were using them, how many, and we had to go back to where the ammunition dump was to get more ammo.
- McIntosh: How far?

Jordan: Oh, probably half mile.

McIntosh: Half a mile? Did you bring up two cannisters.

Jordan: Well, as many as you could carry. There were probably, weighed what, 30 pounds, something like that, apiece. Sometimes we would carry more than two.

McIntosh: To operate the gun, which left a feeder and a shooter? Or more?

Jordan: Well, the guy that was operating the gun usually fed his own, unless there was some guy there. Or if it was getting really hot, then you knew that you had to be there to put the belt in the gun.

McIntosh: Well, see, that comes out of that box. You keep an eye on that and it don't get twisted in there.

Jordan: Yeah. The box actually sort of fits on the gun. There's a catch on the gun.

McIntosh: Oh, you could empty the whole box without any help.

Jordan: Oh yeah. Right. Yeah. And we used to fire a lot. We were told to just keep firing on the next hill because the riflemen were trying to advance, of course, to the next hill usually. And we were cover for the riflemen.

McIntosh: So you were 50 yards ahead of them or something like that?

Jordan: We were actually behind them or along them when they started out. We were—

McIntosh: I meant you were shooting 50 yards above the rifleman.

Jordan: Oh, depends upon what the terrain was. Probably the next hill we would shoot at, if we could see like caves. Okinawa was, every hill had many caves, so what we would do is try to find an opening and you shoot in those caves as much as we could. Or right across the top, right at the peak of the hill, because that's where they were watching us from.

McIntosh: Above the cave, you mean?

Jordan: On the top of the hill, yeah, because that's usually where they, you know, they would look out, like we did, at them. They looked at us from the top of the hill, so we'd keep shooting across the top of the hill.

McIntosh: Were you in a perimeter?

Jordan: We could tell where everybody else was shooting because every fourth bullet was a tracer.

McIntosh: Oh, so you could mimic and not overlap too much.

Jordan: Yeah. We knew who, where everybody was shooting. So if somebody wasn't shooting someplace, we did.

McIntosh: Now, in maintaining your gun, did you have to worry about it overheating?

Jordan: Oh yeah.

McIntosh: How did you deal with that?

Jordan: Well, a lot of times we fired so much that it would actually blow the plugs out. The water would boil and would blow the plug up. The water. It would steam, so then you'd have to let it cool off and get some water and put it back in and get the plugs back in.

McIntosh: That would stop everything.

Jordan: Oh yeah.

McIntosh: Because you'd run the risk of jamming the gun.

Jordan: You'd run the risk of heating the barrel so much that it wouldn't operate right, yeah.

McIntosh: Right. So somebody would have to go get some water.

Jordan: Yep. Well, it rained a lot on Okinawa and most of the holes had water in them.

McIntosh: How did you get the water up to the gun?

Jordan: Oh, we'd take our—

McIntosh: Helmet?

Jordan: Either that or maybe our canteen cup.

McIntosh: How much water would that 30 caliber take?

Jordan: Oh, I suppose—

McIntosh: A cup holds like three or four or five?

Jordan: Something like that. I suppose it would take maybe three quarts maybe to fill it up full.

McIntosh: Then you could still have, when you ran down like that did you still let it sit a bit before you'd start again?

Jordan: Well the water we put in, of course, was cold so we could start right up again.

McIntosh: You never lost a gun that way?

Jordan: No, not that I can remember. Of course Okinawa was pretty bloody. We lost a lot of men. And like one time I remember we were on the way up on Charlie Hill. We took Charlie Hill and we stayed on Charlie Hill nine days. After we were there about a week, our squad only had three men left and the other squad in the section only had one man left, so they came to us. There were two of us, they had to take one of us, one or the other of us, and put on the other gun. And so neither one of us wanted to go, so the sergeant flipped a coin and I won and I stayed.

McIntosh: And the other chap?

Jordan: Died.

McIntosh: He got shot. What was your biggest danger, from rifle fire or mortar fire?

Jordan: Mortar. Mortar fire.

McIntosh: They would try to zero in on you.

Jordan: Right. And the bad thing about our guns were that our guns smoked. We had smokeless powder, but actually it wasn't because they could always see the smoke. But their powder was smokeless. You couldn't see them when they fired their gun.

McIntosh: There's something I didn't know. Better powder.

Jordan: Better powder, yeah.

McIntosh: So you complained about that, and did anyone ever explain anything or do anything about that that you know?

Jordan: No, because that was, of course—

McIntosh: Of course near the end, but—

Jordan: No, nobody ever.

McIntosh: Did you do anything to camouflage yourself otherwise?

Jordan: Oh yeah, we always tried to camouflage.

McIntosh: Brush and stuff around.

Jordan: Yeah.

McIntosh: That smoke spoiled everything, didn't it?

Jordan: Right. And then like eating, we couldn't light a fire, you know, to heat anything up. We always ate C-rations, which come in a little can. Well, on Okinawa all we ever got was Australian C-rations, and that was cold mutton. I don't know if you've ever eaten cold mutton, but—

McIntosh: I'm sure it wasn't very tasty.

Jordan: And the tallow got on top of your mouth, you know, and you couldn't get it off.

McIntosh: Greasy.

Jordan: Couldn't get it off, you know, and it stunk. It was awful. It was just terrible, though, the food. And I went in, I was 6'2" and I weighed about 175, 180 pounds when I went in. And when I got off Okinawa I weighed 130.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: That's right. Well I didn't eat. Couldn't eat it. After a while you just couldn't eat.

McIntosh: So unpleasant.

Jordan: Yeah.

McIntosh: Any K-rations around?

Jordan: Oh—

McIntosh: They weren't so bad.

Jordan: Yeah, but we didn't get the K-rations. The guys down on the quartermaster and all those people. You know, when the ship comes in with all that stuff, everybody takes everything—

McIntosh: Takes the good stuff.

Jordan: Except the guy up in the front. He has no way of getting the good stuff.

McIntosh: It's pretty well thinned out by the time it gets—

Jordan: That's right. That's why we got just—

McIntosh: Did they rotate you out when you were on the line like that?

Jordan: Yeah. We'd go back once in a while for two, three days to get off the line.

McIntosh: Feed the guns--change the people.

Jordan: Yeah.

McIntosh: And you were what rank at this time?

Jordan: Private.

McIntosh: You never evolved from this?

Jordan: Not until after the war was over.

McIntosh: And your immediate superior was a platoon sergeant?

Jordan: Yeah. Well, section sergeant was a buck sergeant and a platoon sergeant was probably a staff sergeant.

McIntosh: They're the ones that directed your fire?

Jordan: Yeah, pretty much we were sort of on our own, more or less.

McIntosh: You were expected to stay put. Is that right?

Jordan: Yeah. One thing about, you couldn't get out of your hole at night because it was standard thing anything that moved at night got shot in the dark. If you couldn't see—

McIntosh: You might be shot by your own.

Jordan: Yeah, right. You couldn't get out of your hole at night, no matter what. If you had to go to the bathroom you crapped in your helmet.

McIntosh: Because anybody could shoot you.

Jordan: Oh yeah. Anything that moved at night was shot. Yeah, that was a standard order.

- McIntosh: And you'd find out the next day whether it was our side or their side.
- Jordan: Well, you knew damn well you didn't get out of your hole.
- McIntosh: I understand. That's something else I didn't know, taking such a risk being out loose at night. Did you use any wires or anything to keep track of the other troops to find the way along?
- Jordan: Well, the Navy shot flares, parachuted flares over the front lines all night so that generally you could see things at night. Of course you couldn't always see, but usually they kept the flares going so that you could pretty well see.
- McIntosh: How far ahead were the Japanese, generally speaking, most of the time, 10 yards?
- Jordan: Sometimes they were like 20 feet away. We threw hand grenades back and forth all the time. They knew where we were and we knew where they were because they'd throw hand grenades.
- McIntosh: How did you avoid getting killed from those?
- Jordan: Well, didn't all the ... we had on Okinawa I think they started out with, I don't remember exactly, but I think it was six- or seven-second grenades so that when we threw them, you know, they'd get there in probably in two seconds. And then they would pick them up and throw them back. And they knew that they could throw them back in that length of time without having them explode.
- McIntosh: They were four-second grenades?
- Jordan: Six or seven second.
- McIntosh: Oh, that's long.
- Jordan: Yeah. And so the powers-to-be found out about that and then they decided to ship us a whole bunch of three-second grenades. And we got them real quick. They must've flew them in or something, but we got three-second grenades quickly. And then they didn't throw them back, they blew when they had them in their hand.
- McIntosh: Almost when they arrived.
- Jordan: Yeah. Right.
- McIntosh: Well, that must've helped your situation immeasurably.
- Jordan: Oh yeah. It did.

McIntosh: Did you throw many back that they threw at you?

Jordan: Well, I don't ever remember throwing one back, no. You just ducked, fell down, and got them out of the way.

McIntosh: If you saw one ten feet away, your best defense would be flat on the ground?

Jordan: Right. And we were always in the hole, unless it fell in the hole with you. Then there were times, like on Charlie hill, we stayed there so long that, the powers-to-be figured we were there too long, I guess, and they wanted to get off that hill to the next hill, so they decided to put the machine gunners out on the face of the hill, go down the face of the hill and dig in one afternoon, and then we would stay there all night. And then the next morning they would push and we would be there to cover them from a different angle so that they would have a better chance. Well, that didn't work out so good. They had an antitank gun just over from us and around the corner a little bit, so they could see us. We were digging in on the face of the hill, and there was a little ledge here and there was about a ten-foot wall, and then there was flat on top. So we had to dig in on the low spot and the other section dug in on the top. Well, when we were digging in they saw us and they shot the antitank gun right into the wall behind us and shrapnel went down on us.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: I was the only one that made it.

McIntosh: Out of how many?

Jordan: Well—

McIntosh: Three?

Jordan: No. Five or something like that.

McIntosh: How'd you think the medics work? Were they right behind you?

Jordan: Yeah, they were good.

McIntosh: They did well.

Jordan: Oh yeah.

McIntosh: They'd scramble down and get these guys out?

Jordan: Yeah.

McIntosh: Make sure that they made every effort to pick them off, too.

Jordan: Oh yeah, sure. They got to the point where they wouldn't even wear their red crosses anymore because they—

McIntosh: That just attracted them.

Jordan: They singled them out. Right.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: That time when we got hit so bad there on the face, I finally ran back and up over the hill and jumped over the top. And they were firing at me all the time. When I checked myself over, I didn't have a scratch, but both my canteens had holes in them.

McIntosh: It must have been close and they never hit you?

Jordan: Never had a scratch.

McIntosh: At anytime you were there?

Jordan: Well, I got a Purple Heart from, I was in a shell one time. We were moving up, the shell lit in a shell hole and the ground was real loose and everything, and they just blew me out of the hole, and I bled out of my ears.

McIntosh: Bet you had an ear ache. Did they send you out of the line from that or they just say, "that's not bad enough." How long were you on the line, the firing line? How many days?

Jordan: Oh, on Okinawa I suppose 60 days, something like that.

McIntosh: You can't stand much beyond that because of the effect. It's too much tension.

Jordan: Yeah. And then, you know, we were under fire 24 hours a day.

McIntosh: Right. And it's remarkable that you stood up to that as long as you did. I'm sure a lot of guys didn't.

Jordan: I went a little bit off my rocker, would you say, from that time when I had the two holes in my two canteens. And they gave me a pill on the frontline and I slept for 24 hours.

McIntosh: They recognized that you'd had enough.

Jordan: Yeah.

McIntosh: And that made a difference? You were able to go back?

Jordan: Well, you had to.

McIntosh: Not so bad that you thought ...

Jordan: Well, you knew there was no choice. You got to the point where you really never thought you were going to make it home.

McIntosh: You must have assumed you were a dead man; just waiting for that one piece of shrapnel, is that right?

Jordan: That's right.

McIntosh: Was that the fear of the other guys too?

Jordan: Most everybody had the same feeling. And it got to the point where you just didn't care anymore.

McIntosh: Tell me about any charges from the Japanese.

Jordan: Oh yeah, bonsai charges.

McIntosh: Yeah, give me one of those.

Jordan: When we first got on the line, oh I should say about two or three weeks after we got on the line, one morning just about sunup, oh they all started hollering and hooting and they come running at us, and they didn't have guns. They had long poles with files and stuff on the end, you know, sharp.

McIntosh: Bamboo poles?

Jordan: Bamboo poles with like three-corner files some of them had taped to the front of them. They'd come to stab us, of course, and I was sitting behind a machine gun, you know.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: It was 109, I think we killed that morning.

McIntosh: Your gun?

Jordan: Well, there was more than mine, yeah.

McIntosh: How close did they get? Couldn't have been that close.

Jordan: Yeah, we lost one man. Oh, they got pretty close because you were unaware. All of a sudden they started screaming and running at you. It scared the heck out of you.

McIntosh: How long did it take from the time you noticed what they were doing until, ten seconds or less?

Jordan: It could've been any because, you don't, time, you don't recognize time. But it was quick. It was probably less than five minutes.

McIntosh: Helmets on or off? Did they have helmets on or off?

Jordan: Oh, on.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: No, as I remember, of course sometimes it's a little hard to remember, but—

McIntosh: I mean this is obviously a suicide charge.

Jordan: Oh yeah. Sure.

McIntosh: They had no backup.

Jordan: Oh yeah. Yeah. Then I was in another one later on where this was in the middle of the night and it was like probably around midnight, and I was on the gun. I was the only one because we weren't right on the front line, we were back about 100 yards from where the actual frontline was, and they were kind of, obviously it was very rugged country, you understand. I was on the gun and all of a sudden I saw the flare come up and I saw a bunch of them.

McIntosh: Poles again?

Jordan: No, no. They had guns. Yeah. But they weren't charging as such, but they were trying to infiltrate, I think, it's probably what they were doing.

McIntosh: How many did you see?

Jordan: Oh, golly, not as many as the first time. I suppose maybe 15 or 20, something like that. And I opened up immediately. The closest guy to me was one of the ammo bearers. I didn't have an extra can, or if I did I couldn't use it right away. But by the time the end of the belt came through the guy was standing there and he shoved it—

McIntosh: Just in time.

Jordan: He was sound asleep, you know, when I started firing. He ran up. He knew, of course, what to expect.

McIntosh: Something's going on.

Jordan: Yeah. And he came right up and stuck the belt in and I cocked it and did 'er again. Yeah, we got—

McIntosh: This was an old 30 caliber Browning similar to the one from the first World War?

Jordan: No, this is a water-cooled machine gun. Did they have that in the first war? I'm not sure if they did or not.

McIntosh: Oh yeah.

Jordan: Oh they did? The regular water ...

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: Oh yeah, it worked very well. Heavier than hell, you know. One man carried the gun and the other man carried the tripod. And they both weighed, I think they were like 60 or 70 pounds apiece. You had to take it apart to carry it.

McIntosh: Is that equipment?

Jordan: Oh yeah. I was in a hole with a guy from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. John Welch, his name was. We got orders to move out, so he got up first to put his pack on, and we weren't by the gun at that time, and a sniper shot him. Hit him right between the eyes.

McIntosh: That's not good.

Jordan: I went this way. And it took this little piece of meat out here.

McIntosh: It was just skin deep.

Jordan: Never hit his bone or anything, just took that, the blood run down and even though—

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: Oh yeah. He didn't know whether to lay down and die or what because he knew where he got hit.

- McIntosh: Boy, that's as close as it could be.
- Jordan: Boy, I guess.
- McIntosh: (Unintelligible.) So when they wanted to move, you guys had to move along as fast as they did, as the riflemen?
- Jordan: Well, we moved at different times, like they would move up and secure a place and then we'd come up and set up our gun placements.
- McIntosh: Could you tell how far behind your rifle did you post yourself?
- Jordan: Well, it depended on how far they moved in a day. We didn't move until they got it secured, more or less.
- McIntosh: When they had these bonsai charges and you had to, did they go through riflemen before they got to you?
- Jordan: Well, I just don't remember if they did or not.
- McIntosh: Regular riflemen weren't there at that time.
- Jordan: Could be that they were off to the sides or something because there wasn't, you know it wasn't man, man, man.
- McIntosh: Did you get any mail when you were in Saipan?
- Jordan: On Okinawa, you mean?
- McIntosh: Yeah Okinawa, excuse me.
- Jordan: Mail. I think yeah, I got mail. Some, once in a while I did get mail, I remember.
- McIntosh: Did you see the Red Cross?
- Jordan: Not on Okinawa.
- McIntosh: No packages?
- Jordan: No. But I remember on Okinawa, when I first got there I got a letter from my friend who had just lost a leg. And he was in the hospital in the states recuperating, and he was out one day and he found a bunch of four-leaf clovers, 13 of them. He put them on a card and sent it to me.
- McIntosh: Oh, how nice. Boy, that was really—have you kept track of this fellow?

Jordan: Oh yeah, I just saw him two weeks ago. He lives in Kansas City.

McIntosh: How many others in your unit that you've kept in contact with?

Jordan: Oh, not very many. We have a reunion every year, but—

McIntosh: At what level?

Jordan: Division.

McIntosh: 92nd?

Jordan: 96th. And we also had a company reunion. I had to give up on those.

McIntosh: Because they got so small?

Jordan: Too bad memories.

McIntosh: Is that the general feeling of most of the guys in the company?

Jordan: No, not really. They all kind of enjoyed that, but it kind of bothered me for some reason.

McIntosh: Do they meet on an annual basis, do they?

Jordan: Yeah, they do most of them. One guy's from Texas, and he usually gets it together. But I went to one in Missouri I know, but

[End of Side A, Tape 1]

I went to two of them, I think.

McIntosh: But you do attend the division.

Jordan: Sometimes. Not every one, but—

McIntosh: Those are annual also?

Jordan: Yeah, and they're all over the country, all the way from New York to California.

McIntosh: The division is a lot of guys.

Jordan: Yeah. They had one in Milwaukee once. I was there at that one. That was about 20, 30 years ago.

McIntosh: What else? Oh, the tunnels. Did you ever--

Jordan: The caves?

McIntosh: The caves. Did you march up those towards the end when they had--did a lot of them stay in the caves as the war passed beyond them? They had to be dug out, I assume.

Jordan: No. There were several different ways that we took care of them. Most of the time what we did, the holes were small, you know. We'd put a satchel charge on top and light it and it would blow it down, and that would seal that cave and they couldn't get out. Or sometimes—

McIntosh: What's a satchel charge?

Jordan: Big satchel charge, something like this.

McIntosh: What's in it?

Jordan: TNT.

McIntosh: And a fuse, a lighted fuse.

Jordan: A lighted fuse, yeah. You cut the fuse to whatever you want.

McIntosh: Time beforehand ...

Jordan: Yeah. And then what we did, one time we got a Jap prisoner who—we had a Spanish fellow in our unit, and I don't know why the Spanish people could communicate with the Japanese, but they could for some reason or other. I don't know why, their languages were—

McIntosh: Not at all alike.

Jordan: No. But somehow or other the Spanish people could, I don't know why. Anyhow, this guy was, after he was captured, of course, he was very willing to do anything that we asked him to do. So what we would do, then, we kept him with us for a while and we'd send him in these caves as we come by them. And he would go in and talk to these guys, and sometimes he'd bring some out and sometimes he wouldn't.

McIntosh: He's lucky he didn't get killed.

Jordan: Yeah. Of course he was talking as he went in, hollering in Japanese that he was coming in.

McIntosh: Oh, I see.

Jordan: Yes. Right.

McIntosh: ...Talking into coming in so as to not commit suicide.

Jordan: But if he didn't bring anybody out and we sort of figured there was people in there, we'd just blow the cave. And then this one hill, I don't remember what the name of it was, but it was a hospital, it was big enough, the cave inside was big enough for a hospital where they actually had wounded Japanese, and they had beds.

McIntosh: So what'd you do with that?

Jordan: Well, I think we--I don't remember. That had so many openings, it went every place. So you had to get them all or else it didn't do any good. I don't remember exactly what we did with that, but I remember that we did find a 50-gallon drum of medical alcohol. So we dumped the water out of our canteens and filled it with alcohol. Because about that time we didn't care.

McIntosh: A hundred ninety proof.

Jordan: A hundred eighty, 190, whatever it was.

McIntosh: It has to be. You can't make alcohol more than 95%. It holds in water, but 95% is 190 proof—that's very good stuff.

Jordan: Oh yeah. We tried to mix-it with whatever.

McIntosh: Juice.

Jordan: Yeah, some kind of fruit juice we had come across. Then the Japanese had a lot of canned fish, like salmon, canned salmon.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: I guess, yeah. So we'd eat them when we found them.

McIntosh: Now the hospital patients?

Jordan: There wasn't any there when we got there. It was apparently evacuated by the time we got there.

McIntosh: Did the Japanese prisoner, I suppose, he was surprised he wasn't killed.

Jordan: Yeah. That's why they were so happy to do things that we asked them to do because we didn't kill them. And I remember this one guy that we had, I made a

gesture that just scared the hell out of him. I was talking to one of my friends that we were walking down the road. I went like this or something and he thought we were going to kill him.

McIntosh: I'm sure he did.

Jordan: And I didn't mean that at all. I was talking about something else. I just made that gesture, or maybe I just went to wipe something or something, and he thought I meant—

McIntosh: He was scared

Jordan: Yeah, he was. And another thing, as we were moving up, of course you'd come across dead GIs laying there that hadn't been taken out yet. And if the Japs got to them, they would cut off their penis and put it in their mouth.

McIntosh: A typical Japanese trick.

Jordan: Yeah.

McIntosh: Then they stripped the body completely otherwise?

Jordan: No.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: Not that I know of, no. Nothing in particular that I can remember.

McIntosh: That Japanese prisoner, did you give him (??) enjoy that? Not much, I bet.

Jordan: I don't remember exactly.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: They like fish.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: Is that right?

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: I wonder what they would've done with Australian c-rations.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: Oh, K-rations would've been a treat.

McIntosh: You're sure ... but you didn't see any.

Jordan: No, very few.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: No. It was very, very little K-rations that I saw. In my company on and off was a friend of mine from California, Francis Goldenbran his name was, and we got to be pretty good friends. He was like I was. After so long you just didn't care about anything anymore and what you wanted was a thrill or something. So one day the operation was kind of winding down a little towards the end, and we were off the front line for a few days, so we went up on top of this big conical hill right above Yonabaru Harbor, and we found this cave and there was all kinds of ammunition in there, like land mines and satchel charges and all kinds of explosives. So we brought all that stuff out, piled it up outside. And we found an American satchel charge that had a fuse in about this long, about three inches long. And so we put that on an eighth, we lit it, and we ran like hell. And on Okinawa most of the land was terraced, like you see—

McIntosh: For rice.

Jordan: Like rice paddies, terraced. We were just diving over the terrace when the thing went off. And it threw chunks of dirt big as jeeps up. We probably had probably 500 pounds of ammunition.

McIntosh: Was this something that happened before?

Jordan: No. This was right above Yonabaru Harbor. And the Navy, of course, had a lot of ships down there. And right after it went off the, air raid sirens came on. They thought it was an air raid. And here they're shooting. The anti-aircraft guns are shooting all over. And boy, did we get the hell out of there in a hurry.

McIntosh: Did you ever get caught?

Jordan: No.

McIntosh: This was right after you commandeered the alcohol?

Jordan: No. No, we were stone sober.

McIntosh: Nobody got injured from the alcohol by drinking too much?

Jordan: Not that alcohol, but some of the guys got to the airfield for some reason or other, and the Marines had alcohol that they used to wash the airplanes.

McIntosh: That wasn't methyl.

Jordan: No. They went blind. A couple of them went blind. But this time we blew up on this conical hill, that was something. It was just unreal the commotion that that caused.

McIntosh: I'm sure. Any other trouble you got into besides the hill?

Jordan: Well, we were always in a little bit of trouble.

McIntosh: That would give you relief from being on the line.

Jordan: Oh yeah.

McIntosh: Just the type of therapy you needed.

Jordan: Oh yeah. We had to do something.

McIntosh: You can't, with all the tension.

Jordan: On Charlie hill we had a little goat that was native to there, and he stuck with us. As I say, we were there for quite a while. And this goat had a very, very good sense of hearing because he knew, this damn goat knew when there was a shell coming before we could hear it. And this goat would jump, there was kind of a little cave where we were, and he'd jump in that cave right away, and sure enough—

McIntosh: Any shell?

Jordan: Well whatever, even an artillery shell. He could hear it coming and he'd jump in that hole right away, so we all took cover too. And that went on for a while and we really treasured that little goat, you know. And by God he jumped in the hole one day and a shell lit right on top of the wall and he got killed.

McIntosh: Did they cook the pieces? You didn't cook the pieces of the goat?

Jordan: Well, he was in the hole far enough so that we didn't dig him out.

McIntosh: I was going to say, it'd taste better than that mutton probably.

Jordan: Oh yeah, probably.

McIntosh: So tell me about slowing down in Okinawa. How did it grab you to slow down?

Jordan: Well, the operation lasted a little over three months. And it slowed down to the point where we didn't have to be on the front line as much.

McIntosh: You were through with the caves at this point, huh?

Jordan: Yeah, just about.

McIntosh: Did you see flame throwers?

Jordan: Our flame throwers? Oh yeah.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: Yeah. They put the flame throwers in the tank, right in the barrel of the tank, and then they would bring this tank up and the Japs wouldn't know which one had artillery or flame thrower, so they tried to get the flame thrower. And they would run. They'd have a satchel charge like this and they'd hold it here, and then when they'd run up against a tank they'd hold it up against the tracks so it'd blow the track off.

McIntosh: The Japanese did this?

Jordan: Yeah. Oh yeah. Commit suicide. Oh yeah, several times that happened that I know of. That was on Charlie hill, before we got to Charlie hill.

Let's see, there was something else I was going to say.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: I can't remember now.

McIntosh: Satchel charges against the tank?

Jordan: Yeah, that was something to see. You had this guy run up and put himself right up against the tank and boom. And their fuses weren't like our fuses. They were, you know, they'd hit them so hard. They had it so that when they hit it they put it up there, then (claps his hands together) they'd go like that and hit them, and then it would explode. They would pop a cap or something.

McIntosh: It was pretty amazing to see that to see them so aggressively suicidal.

Jordan: Yeah. And you just—well, one day we'd always put air panels out so that the Army and Navy...

McIntosh: Paint?

- Jordan: Air panels so that they would know where to bomb, where we were, where the front line was, and they were this fluorescent orangeish-red stuff.
- McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)
- Jordan: No, it was actually cloth. It was like canvas, canvas cloth. We'd put it out there and we'd put stones on it to hold it down.
- McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)
- Jordan: Yeah. And so we could reach out and touch those things from our hole. And one morning we looked up and they were gone. The Japs had snuck up and took them away, took them back about a half mile.
- McIntosh: Back through your line?
- Jordan: No, no, the other way so it wouldn't be—they could fight on the front lines. They were shooting behind the front lines, behind their front lines. And then we, I know that they told us later that the Navy right away noticed that it had changed, and we always told them when we moved, so then they asked us why we didn't tell them that. Of course, we didn't realize that yet, so when that word got out and we looked out, sure enough they were gone. The panels were down the road half a mile. That's how close they came to us. Yeah, it was close quarters
- McIntosh: Did you examine the weapons the Japanese used? Do you have comments on that?
- Jordan: Yes. We set up one time, we captured one of their air cooled—they had these, about the same size as ours only they were air cooled, and they were a little bit bigger, and they had fins on them, and they shot, their rate of fire was higher, much higher than ours, so you could hear the difference.
- McIntosh: Smaller bullet?
- Jordan: No, they were about the same, the same size bullet. I think they were--
- McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)
- Jordan: They were 31-caliber. So we set up the gun one day up on the front line, and we were using it. Boy, I'll tell you, they came up there in a hurry. They thought it was the Jap gun shooting because they hear it. We never gave it a though, you know.
- McIntosh: You're lucky you didn't get mortar (unintelligible) from your back.
- Jordan: We sure quit that in a hurry.

- McIntosh: I had a patient in a hospital ship who did that trick with a bazooka. Not a bazooka, excuse me, with a Japanese, a Russian burp gun. They captured them and said they thought they'd try it out. And they shot them. The guys behind shot them. The minute they heard that sound, they just reacted to it. He was shot in about three different places. He's lucky he wasn't killed. [Seven-second blank spot on tape] just by the sound.
- Jordan: Right.
- McIntosh: Time to go.
- Jordan: Yeah. And, you know, you're so aware of everything, like you have peripheral vision like you wouldn't believe when you're on the front line. Anything moves anyplace, and I still have that. When I drive down the road I can always tell if there's something on either side.
- McIntosh: You've trained yourself.
- Jordan: That's right. I was so in tune with that that it never left me. I can always tell if there's something near me.
- McIntosh: Now let's hurry along here for a second. You got out, when you left Okinawa, the Japanese had all been killed by the time you left?
- Jordan: As far as we know, yeah. They put us on a boat, on an LST out in the harbor, and we stayed there for quite a while, I don't remember how long it was.
- McIntosh: Was it several days?
- Jordan: Oh, it was more than that. That was towards the—
- McIntosh: The end of the war?
- Jordan: Probably the middle or the latter part of July, something like that.
- McIntosh: The food got better?
- Jordan: Oh yeah, a little, not a great deal.
- McIntosh: Well, it should've been better on a ship, you know. They feed you better.
- Jordan: Well, we got on this LST and there was a life raft hanging on the side that would slide in the water, and it had a wood barrel that was about this big and about this tall. So the friend of mine from California I was telling you about, he and I decided we were going to cut that barrel off of there and dump the water out and

put in some, like they fit a lot of figs in these gallon cans, you know. There was a lot of juice in there. So we put all that juice in there and we got a some yeast and some sugar and all kinds of stuff we put in there.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: Because there wasn't a drop of alcohol on the ship. So we—

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: So anyhow, we put this all in there. They didn't allow us below deck on the LST because it was all full of fuel. It was gasoline in 50-gallon drums, vehicles and stuff, so they were afraid that somebody would light a cigarette or something. We never got below deck, so you just picked out a spot. We picked out a little gun turret, a gun turret, and we put our shelter half around and tied it, and that's where we slept. Well, we tied this little barrel on the railing, and it had a little petcock on it. So after we were on the ship for a couple days, we'd take that petcock and turn it shut for about ten seconds and turn it back on, and you'd hear it go sizzz, so we knew it was working good.

So then we started out for Mindoro in the Philippines. We didn't know where we were going, but we ended up in Mindoro. We were going into - for our invasion, practice of the Japanese, and we were scheduled to go into the first wave in the Yokohama. Anyhow, we got about halfway to Mindoro and the war was ended, so it came over that the Japs had signed the peace. So we broke out that barrel. We didn't have a drink out of that barrel yet, and maybe it was in there for about three weeks or something. And we got smashed.

McIntosh: It worked.

Jordan: Oh, God, did it work. Yeah. And nobody could figure out how the hell we got drunk.

McIntosh: Just the two of you?

Jordan: Yeah, just the two of us. We didn't let anybody else know that we had that.

McIntosh: Yeah, they'd have taken it down in a flash.

Jordan: Oh, yeah, that would've been gone. And nobody could figure out how the hell we got drunk because they know there was no liquor on board. And we took that barrel into Mindoro when we went there and we made a few more batches after that.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: Yeah. (Laughs.)

McIntosh: Did you get mail when you got back?

Jordan: No, not on the LST. But we got mail on Mindoro. Of course, when we got to Mindoro and the war was over, then of course it was Easy Street, kind of. They didn't push us much, so we just sat around a lot. We did a lot of goofy things there too.

We took and made a big kite. The kite stood about six feet high. It was a box kite about two and a half foot square or something and six feet high. And the wind was always blowing on Mindoro for some reason, and it was a very hilly country and we were on one hill and the next part of the division or the battalion was on the other hill. Anyhow, we took this at night and we put a flashlight, hung a flashlight from it and turned it on. We flew that kite. We found some wire, piano wire, real fine, strong wire, and we flew that kite right over the next hill. And those people over there, you know, they talked about that for days. We didn't tell them that they saw the light in the sky.

McIntosh: I'm surprised they didn't shoot it down.

Jordan: Well, I don't suppose they had much ammunition in there. We used to take empty 50-gallon barrels this one time, and we made a little raft out of it. There was a river comes down off the mountains there. And we put some plank on it, tied it with rope, and we were going fishing. So we went and stole a box of hand grenades from the dump, ammunition dump. And we got out on this raft, and the guy on shore would throw the hand grenades out to where, like I was on the raft and I had a big pole with a gallon can that was all punched with holes, and they'd throw that hand grenade out there, and pretty soon it would go off and the fish would be flopping all over and I'd scoop them up and put them in the five-gallon can. We had a big fish fry for our company.

McIntosh: Yeah, a hand grenade should have stunned a lot of fish.

Jordan: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

McIntosh: You get side fish?

Jordan: Yeah, they were like our pan fish. Like crappies or bluegills or something like that.

McIntosh: So who dealt with the fish?

Jordan: We took them to the cook in our company, and he fried them up for us. We had enough for most everybody in the company. We had a lot of fish.

McIntosh: About 130 guys?

- Jordan: Well, of course, at that time our company—
- McIntosh: Probably down to 90 or 80.
- Jordan: Oh, less than that. We had, our 96th Division, had almost 100% casualties that was killed and wounded and they were replacements coming in.
- McIntosh: That's a lot of people to fry fish for.
- Jordan: Yeah.
- McIntosh: Scoop them out that fast.
- Jordan: And he scraped up a couple pounds of butter to fry them in, and boy were they good. And I got sick when I first got to Mindoro. I had trouble urinating, so they put me in the hospital and they put me, on Mindoro, they put me on the VD ward. And most of the guys in the tent that I was in, all of them except me, were black. And at night all you could see was eyeballs. And here I am in pain, and I know I don't have VD. I hadn't fooled around for a long, long time. So finally they found out I had a kidney stone, and then they put me in another place. I passed the stones and never had a problem with my kidneys since. I think it was the stuff we drank on the way over.
- McIntosh: I think it was the fact that you were dehydrated.
- Jordan: Oh, could be.
- McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)
- Jordan: Yeah. I weighed 130 pounds when I came out of Okinawa.
- McIntosh: I'm sure you were clinically dehydrated then...
- Jordan: And then, while we were on Mindoro, there was a PT base on Mindoro, and they had a lot of fuel there in 50-gallon drums. And they had them, like they'd have ten drums here and ten drums over there, so that if somebody came and shot at them or tried to explode them, they would only get one bunch. Anyhow, we took those drums and put them by truck to a barge out in the harbor, and then they took them to Manila, I guess, or someplace. But anyhow, one night I was working on the barge loading the barge, and this truck driver came, he stopped the truck, and he jumped out and his eyes were this big around. He was a black fella. He says, man, you won't believe this. He said, I was coming down that mountain road, he said, and there was a tree, a big tree limb across the road, he said, so I got out and I was going to take that tree limb off, and he said it was a snake slithered off. He was really scared of that. It was a boa constrictor, I suppose, something like that.

- McIntosh: That'll do it.
- Jordan: Yeah, I guess.
- McIntosh: So the war was over, then what did you do? They put you on a ship back to the United States?
- Jordan: No, I didn't have enough points. So they shipped me to Manila on a little English ship. We were on -
- McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)
- Jordan: No, the ship only held probably 300 people. It was just a small ship. And we got on there and there was only enough beds for about a fourth of the people, the soldiers that got on. So you really never slept in a bed. And it took us three days to get to Manila from Mindoro, and we had two meals. That's all they had was two meals in three days. After the war was over.
- McIntosh: More mutton?
- Jordan: No, we got--I don't remember what it was, but it wasn't mutton.
- McIntosh: A little better.
- Jordan: Yeah. Anyhow, we pulled into Manila harbor and here's all these Japanese ships that had given up. We went right by one, one of the submarines that was there, and the Japanese out on the railing standing there eating oranges and stuff. And here we had only had two meals in three days and here these guys were eating oranges. (Laughs.)
- McIntosh: How did you solve that?
- Jordan: We said to them, good thing they took our ammunition away or else they'd have been dead. (Laughs.) And we got on Manila and we were assigned to the—our division went home from Mindoro, but we went to Manila and was assigned to the 24th Division that came from Europe. Just got to Europe about the time the war was over and then they got to the South Pacific about the time the war was over there. So they assigned us there, and then I was with them for about four months, I guess.
- McIntosh: What were your duties?
- Jordan: I was a jeep driver.
- McIntosh: Your duty was to attack Japan?

Jordan: No, no, that was—

McIntosh: This was after the war.

Jordan: After the war. They gave us the good jobs.

McIntosh: There wasn't much to do. The war was over and you couldn't go home.

Jordan: Right. We were just sitting around waiting to go home. So we made use of our jeeps. You had to have a trip ticket to get out of the motor pool, and I ran around with the motor pool sergeant. He was

[End of Side B, Tape 1]

from Milwaukee, and he and I went out every night when we were on Manila someplace in the jeep, and he had his own trip ticket, so he'd make out one and we'd just forge the officer's name on it and take off. You always had to have one because if the MPs stopped you and you didn't have a trip ticket, then they'd arrest you.

McIntosh: What did you do in Manila, did you get in trouble?

Jordan: Well, we took this jeep every night. We did lots of things. We used to hang out in this one little tavern downtown Manila, this guy from Milwaukee and I. And one day we're sitting in the tavern, and you know jeeps didn't have keys--

McIntosh: I know that.

Jordan: They just had a little switch. And we're sitting there, we always parked it where we could see it from where we were sitting because they'd steal 'em like crazy. And sitting there having a beer one day, and I looked out and here's a little kid about six, eight years old. He walked by the jeep, he looked in, and he looked around, and he jumped in our front seat, and he was just starting it when I ran out of the tavern. And this jeep had a aerial thing on the side, you know, an aerial mount, and I just grabbed that and I swung up and landed right up on top of him. Of course then he stopped and he ran like hell.

McIntosh: You'd never have seen that jeep after that.

Jordan: No, I'd never seen that. No. They stole a lot of them.

McIntosh: Did the GIs just go anywhere they wanted to in Manila?

Jordan: Yeah, we could go anyplace we wanted, I guess.

- McIntosh: They didn't block off any areas? There wasn't a red-light district that you were kept away from or anything like that?
- Jordan: No.
- McIntosh: You must've had a lot of girls there.
- Jordan: Oh, yeah. Another place we used to go was a little town just north of Manila. Marilao was the name of it. And it was all young gals running the taverns. They were like between 20 and 30. And they run all the taverns. But they were straight up and up, no fooling around.
- McIntosh: No fooling around ever?
- Jordan: No. They were straight. Nice girls. So we really enjoyed that. But the next town up was called Bukawe, and Bukawe was a place where all the cat houses were. That's where all the guys went.
- McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)
- Jordan: Yeah.
- McIntosh: Then you'd really have (unintelligible).
- Jordan: VD ward. Yeah, that's right.
- McIntosh: Because the rate was pretty high.
- Jordan: Yeah. We'd drive up through there once in a while. One time we stopped and we were talking to them. You know, they come right out, of course, one on each side. And they'd—
- McIntosh: Prostitution: What was the going rate?
- Jordan: I don't remember what that was. I don't even know if we asked them. I would've known from other fellas I'm sure, but I don't remember now. But I'm sitting there, I'm driving the jeep, this friend is on the other side, and they're talking away, and she reached in and grabbed me by the privates. And I had a stiff one on, you know, and she backed off two paces and she said, "For you we get the caribou." (Laughs.) I'll never forget that. And this guy kidded me.
- McIntosh: I suppose he never let that go.
- Jordan: That's right. In this tavern downtown there was a guy, a professor from the University of Manila, he used to stop in there. We got acquainted with him. His name was Jose Dacanai, and he graduated from the University of Wisconsin here.

And so we really got to know this guy very well; excellent guy. He was a, besides being a professor at the University, he was a speech writer for the President of the Philippines. So we got to know—

And for Easter Sunday, we were there for Easter Sunday, and we left right after that, but he invited this friend of mine and I out to his house for Easter Sunday. And they had some people from the government there. I remember the Minister of Forestry was one of them that was there for the Philippines. And we had really a good time. But their food, you know, you had to chew your food a lot before you swallowed it.

McIntosh: Did you bring any food from the canteen?

Jordan: We used to do that some, yes.

McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)

Jordan: Yes. Right. We used to do that.

McIntosh: Was Manila, most of it, destroyed downtown?

Jordan: No, not so bad.

McIntosh: It was the university that (unintelligible) civilians had pulled out. (Unintelligible) by the Japanese.

Jordan: I remember that the Manila Hotel was not damaged at all because, as I understand it, now this may not be true or anything, but General McArthur owned the Manila Hotel, and they said they were not allowed to shoot anywhere near that.

McIntosh: The Americans weren't.

Jordan: No.

McIntosh: But the Japanese—

Jordan: But there wasn't damage when we got there.

McIntosh: So ultimately a ship came by that was yours.

Jordan: Yeah. They sent us to this replacement depot and we were there about a week getting ready to board ship.

McIntosh: And this was what, September?

Jordan: No. This was right after Easter, it was like May.

- McIntosh: Oh, you were there about nine months after the war.
- Jordan: Yeah.
- McIntosh: Anytime you wanted one of these Philippino girls to marry.
- Jordan: No. But this Jose Dacanai, this college professor, he and his brother owned an importing/exporting company in Manila, and he offered me a job. He wanted me to be the American person in his company because they needed somebody like that.
- McIntosh: (Unintelligible.)
- Jordan: Yeah. But the fella from Milwaukee and I, he was married and I wasn't, and he talked, oh God, don't ever do that because he would—
- McIntosh: (Unintelligible) good move or a bad move (unintelligible)?
- Jordan: Oh, yeah, I think I'm happy that I didn't probably.
- McIntosh: So when you got back home where'd they send you?
- Jordan: We came in San Francisco, came in at night, and we were on board ship. It was very foggy, you couldn't see anything. All you could see when we got just about a quarter of a mile away from the Golden Gate bridge we could see it. We went under the Golden Gate bridge with all the lights on, you know, and everybody cheered and hugged and screamed.
- McIntosh: Sure. We did the same when we came back from Korea. It was a great sight.
- Jordan: Oh, yeah. Everybody was happy. And then we got in this, they put us in this depot, and we stayed a few days before they took a train to Great Lakes--or Fort Sheridan, I guess. The first day there, we got in at night, of course, and we went to bed. In the morning they took us to eat, a great big mess hall, they had a big sign on it. To the veterans coming from overseas it said, your first meal is steak. And in small print it said, if we don't have steak you get hamburger. So you know what we got, everybody got hamburger.
- McIntosh: After you were discharged did you partake of the G.I. Bill?
- Jordan: No, I didn't. For one thing, I was in no condition to sit down and go to school. There was no way.
- McIntosh: So you went to work.
- Jordan: Yup, I went to work repairing pinball machines when I first got out.

- McIntosh: This was in Madison?
- Jordan: Yeah. And then I worked for Western Electric installing central office equipment for the telephone companies. We put in dial systems. When the first dial systems came to Madison I worked there putting the dial system in. And then worked there a year and then I went with the State, and I was with the State for 35 years. I was supervisor of the electrical unit for the whole state. I'd deal with traffic signals and street lighting.
- McIntosh: Oh boy, that's important.
- Jordan: That was a lot of work, but I really enjoyed that. I designed all the special equipment, and I never went to school for electronics or electricity or anything.
- McIntosh: You learned on the job.
- Jordan: On the job, yeah. And all our equipment at that time was electromechanical, and then they got to be solid state after I was there a while.
- McIntosh: Did you join any veterans' groups?
- Jordan: Oh, I think I belonged to the VFW for a little while once, but I—
- McIntosh: You didn't get involved in any of them?
- Jordan: No, I never got involved.
- McIntosh: So other than the Purple Heart and the area ribbons, what did you earn?
- Jordan: I got the Bronze Star, and that's about it.
- McIntosh: That's a lot.
- Jordan: Yeah.
- McIntosh: So how would you summarize your experience? Lucky to make it?
- Jordan: Oh, I guess so. I was one of the very few that got through without at least wounded.
- McIntosh: A lot ended up in the hospital. You weren't killed, but you ended up in the hospital whereas some guys lost a leg and were rehabilitated for a long time.
- Jordan: Oh, yeah.

McIntosh: But you still kept in contact with him.

Jordan: He was from Madison. He wasn't in Okinawa, he was in Europe.

McIntosh: Oh, I see.

Jordan: He lost his leg in Europe, and that's where he got the four-leaf clovers and sent them to me was from—

McIntosh: Oh, I'd forgotten that.

Jordan: From a hospital down in North Carolina or something.

McIntosh: Where does he live?

Jordan: He's in Kansas City now. He's been retired. He worked for the government after he came back in the fiscal office.

McIntosh: Any of these guys in your Company around here?

Jordan: No.

McIntosh: They're all (unintelligible).

Jordan: Yeah.

McIntosh: Anything we missed?

Jordan: I wish I'd have brought that stuff. I had a whole bunch of notes, things that would be interesting, but I can't think. Every time I think of one I go and write it down, you know.

McIntosh: Sure. I'm sorry you didn't bring it.

Jordan: Yeah.

McIntosh: If you have any artifacts or anything that you have an interest in donating to the Museum, we'd always like that.

Jordan: I gave everything that I had to this guy in Stoughton who has this museum down there. Do you know about that?

McIntosh: What's his name?

Jordan: I don't remember what his name was. I don't remember. I met him, but I know I had a bunch of like Jap hand grenades that were empty and things like that. Old dog tags, Japanese dog tags.

McIntosh: Those would've been interesting to have because now we'd go down there and buy them from him.

Jordan: Yeah, he got all that I had because I didn't want to use them. I had like pill boxes with Japanese writing on them, you know; pills still in them, you know.

McIntosh: Yeah, those are neat things to have. The Museum likes those kinds of things.

Jordan: And I had my Eisenhower jacket that was fitted to me when I was 130 pounds, so I got it around to here. (Laughs.)

McIntosh: Not much good now.

Jordan: No. I got the Combat Infantry Badge, of course, too.

McIntosh: Oh, I would assume that.

Jordan: I made a little plaque. I have two grandchildren, and I gave one of them my Purple Heart and a little story, and the other one—

McIntosh: Combat and a Bronze Star?

Jordan: The Bronze Star, yeah.

McIntosh: Well, that's great. That's a hell of a record. Excellent. Do you feel you were trained well for a job—

Jordan: Well, I was trained to be a tank driver. I went over there and—

McIntosh: That didn't help.

Jordan: No, not really. But, oh well, it turned out I made it.

McIntosh: That's the most important thing. Thank you so much.

Jordan: Okay.

McIntosh: You did very well.

Jordan: Thank you. You know, I can remember things that happened on Okinawa better than I can remember what happened yesterday.

McIntosh: That's always the way. If you're our age, it's your recent memory that you lose.

Jordan: Right.

McIntosh: If it happened 40 years ago you can remember it like it was yesterday.

Jordan: That's right.

McIntosh: But where you put your pencil that you just had in your hand, gosh damn it, you know? It was just here. Then you have to retrace all your steps into the room before you can—

Jordan: That's right. Yeah.

McIntosh: Really frustrating.