

**Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center**

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with

HALLEY YOUNG

Rifleman and Company Jeep Driver, United States Marine Corps,
World War II

2000

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Young, Halley (1924-2007). Oral History Interview, 2000.

Master: 1 videocassette (ca. 80 min.); sd., col.; 1/2 in

User: 2 audio cassettes (ca. 80 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Abstract:

Halley Young, a La Crosse, Wisconsin native, discusses his World War II service in the Pacific Theater as a rifleman and company jeep driver with the 24th Marines, 4th Division, G Company, his postwar work, and his membership in veterans organizations. Young volunteered for the United States Marine Corps in 1942. He talks about boot camp in San Diego, guarding prisoners at Mare Island (Vallejo, CA) and being stationed with the Fleet Marine Force at Camp Elliott and Camp Pendleton (San Diego) before leaving in January 1944 for the Marshall Islands via Hawaii. He was among the first wave of Marines to hit the beach at Namur (February 1944) in the Marshall Islands and relates the scene on the beach and the explosion that wiped out a platoon. Young describes the action on Saipan (June-July 1944) in the Northern Marianas where they were sent after respite, training and reinforcement on Maui and how his company sustained casualties of eighty percent in the initial assault. He witnessed the suicide of Japanese soldier and civilian, even of whole families. He alludes to no-quarter incidents by some of the American troops. Young shares his opinion of the Japanese soldier and compares the Marine fighting man to his Army counterpart. He is among the first wave to attack Tinian (July-August 1944). He chronicles battle fatigue and bouts of dysentery, the omnipresence of large flies, foxhole digging, banzai attacks, and the handling of prisoners. His encounter with a Japanese tank leads him to share his opinion of Japanese equipment. He mentions rumors that circulated about a “secret weapon.” Back on Maui, Young passed the test to become a sergeant, but remained a corporal out of preference—he reflects that this spared his life on Iwo Jima (February-March 1945). Assigned as the company jeep driver, he delivered food and water to forward positions, and facilitated a “little black market”. He describes sinking in the volcanic ash, and driving through enemy fire. He witnessed a sobering mass burial. Again on Maui, deployment to Okinawa was cancelled by news of war’s end. Young describes a victory celebration. He was discharged in November 1945, and married shortly thereafter. Utilizing the GI bill he learned to fly an airplane. He sketches a postwar career in sales, construction, and as a maintenance supervisor. He reflects on medals he did not receive and relates his veteran reunion experience. He shares his view on the personal revelations of war. “You grow up in a hurry.”

Biographical Sketch:

Young (1924-2007) served as a rifleman and company jeep driver with the 24th Marines, 4th Division, Company G in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was involved in actions on Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was discharged in 1945.

Interviewed by James McIntosh, 2000
Transcribed by Linda Weynand, 2012
Reviewed and corrected by Beverly Phillips, 2012
Abstract written by Jeff Javid, 2015.

Interview Transcript:

Jim: All right, we're underway. We're interviewing. This is 9 February, [20]00. Interviewing Halley Young. Tell me, sir, where were you born?

Halley: I was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, June 28th, 1924, at the La Crosse hospital.

Jim: When did you enter the service?

Halley: I went in the service in 1942.

Jim: You obviously volunteered, because you went directly into the Marines.

Halley: I was in the Reserves, yeah. I was eighteen when I went in; twenty-one when I got out.

Jim: Where did they send you?

Halley: We signed up in La Crosse and then we got sworn in up at Minneapolis. A friend of mine, Eddie Arnes, used to own the Arnes Shoe Company down here. He and I were always buddies and we went in the service together. Then he got killed after the war. His dad bought him a Stinson Navy biplane trainer and he got killed in that. He was our best man when we got married, too. He went into Cooks and Bakers. I went through boot camp in San Diego at the Marine base, Platoon 1016. I got a picture of that too, by the way. Then I was sent from there up to Mare Island. I was a guard at the naval prison at Mare Island up by Vallejo, California just north of San Francisco. What I did there, I had a crew of four prisoners and we'd go on the finger piers down by all the ships. We'd collect the garbage. Then we'd haul it out to the dump and I'd sit up on the top of the roof of the dump truck with a shotgun. [chuckles] When we left there I was transferred down to the Fleet Marine Force at Camp Elliott at San Diego. Then from Camp Elliott we went to Camp Pendleton. We were the first ones; the 4th Marine Division was the first outfit that ever used Camp Pendleton. We were in the Number Sixteen area, and that's where I joined the 24th Marines, 2nd Division, G Company. I was in that all the time overseas except after Iwo Jima; we got sent back, and then I was transferred to ambulance driver. Then I went in to Captain Ridland's—he is the head of the Headquarters Company—and then I was transferred over there. Then of course we came home. We were on the first boatload of Marines out of the Pacific. They took a converted cruiser that they'd made into an aircraft carrier. They flew the planes off of it and put army cots down in the hangar deck. They picked up all the guys that were in the original 4th—some of 'em were wounded yet, but they could travel—and

we ended up bringing eighteen out of 215 back from the States that we could find in the Pacific that could travel. When we got to the States we formed a "4-T-H D-I-V" on the flight deck, and they photographed that from the air. There is a picture in this book about it. I don't know how much time you want to talk.

Jim: That's all right. We'll catch that later, when we're done with the interview. When you went to Camp Pendleton did you get any specific training or were you just a rifleman?

Halley: I was just a rifleman. We trained there until January of '44 when we left the States. We went aboard six-by trucks and we went down to San Diego, and then we boarded transports from there.

Jim: Where did you go?

Halley: From there we went to the Hawaiian Islands and they fueled up again. Then we went to the Marshall Islands. We were the first Marines that never trained overseas before we went into combat.

Jim: You did all your training in the States.

Halley: We did it all in the States at Camp Pendleton.

Jim: You practiced landings and—

Halley: Absolutely. We landed on San Clemente Island. And North Island, I think we even made some there.

Jim: What did they take you from the ship to the beach on? What kind of a craft?

Halley: At the start, usually Higgins boats. We'd go down off the ship with a cargo net, and you'd have to crawl down that with your pack and your rifle. You get hung up halfway down sometimes.

Jim: A lot of guys did.

Halley: Yeah, or get your rifle caught or—

Jim: A lot of legs were broken doing that.

Halley: Yeah. If the sea was rough, it was pretty rough to get in the Higgins boat. We did make some landings with amtracs with the tanks, too.

Jim: Where did you land? Your first landing was—

Halley: I think that was right at Oceanside, or San Clemente, or—

Jim: But when you got overseas where did you—

Halley: We landed in, well—

Jim: In the Marshalls, you said.

Halley: We went to the Marshall Islands. The submarines had been in there and they'd discovered you could go between two islands and get into the bay—inside the bay of the Kwajalein Atoll. So the Japs had what they called Singapore guns on Roi and Namur. We hit Namur Island. I think part of the 24th hit there, and I don't know if the 25th or 23rd hit Roi, which is an airfield, the Jap airfield. We hit that beach with Higgins boats. I was in the first wave there. There wasn't much left of the island; there was some blockhouses. Getting back to these Singapore guns, they couldn't traverse 'em around to fire. So we went in at night, in between the two islands with our transports, and we loaded up in there, and then we hit the beach from the backside. The first ten minutes of action I ever seen was we got out of the Higgins boat. I was with my friend; we were runners. In fact Clifford Elliott from Maine and myself were runners for Captain Ridland—no, not Ridland—we were runners anyways. We got off the Higgins boat and ran inshore and jumped in a hole and here was a dead Jap staring me in the face. First one I'd ever seen, all by myself, see? Clifford, he went on farther. Then all of a sudden one of these big blockhouses blew up and Clifford had his leg blown off and I got hit across the arm and across the back. I was knocked over—

Jim: From cement, or?

Halley: It was a big, thick concrete blockhouse. It was full of torpedoes. That was the island where the Japs would restore their submarines with torpedoes. I have a picture of that in here, that explosion. We lost one whole platoon of men in that explosion. The lieutenant and about sixty men got it. Of course that island didn't take too long. After we had it secured, we went over where these guns were. We were sitting in one of the gun emplacements and here walks in Admiral Halsey and Admiral Nimitz—

Jim: Oh my goodness.

Halley: —and all our generals. They came in. We didn't salute 'em or nothing because you don't do that in combat.

Jim: No.

Halley: They just said, “Hi boys, how are you doing?” We said, “Fine.” So we did get to see 'em and meet 'em. That was about all. It took about three days, I guess. The 24th took Namur Island.

Jim: You didn't stay there. You moved on?

Halley: No, from there we went back to Maui. We never had been at Maui first, but we went back to Maui. That was our advance base in the Pacific. We had our camp set up there above Kahului. From there we went out and took Saipan.

Jim: Now that was a little more complicated.

Halley: Yeah, that was more complicated.

Jim: How was the landing at Saipan?

Halley: It wasn't too bad.

Jim: They didn't meet you at the shore there, did they, like at Iwo? Or did they?

Halley: They didn't meet 'em at the shore at Iwo either; they let 'em come on at Iwo. They let the Marines get on there, and then they opened up.

Jim: I see. I thought they were hitting them when they were struggling through the black sand.

Halley: Well, they did after they started, but the first wave they let 'em come in. They let 'em get in there and then they let loose with them. They wanted to get all the casualties they could. But from then on they kept firing all the time.

Jim: So your experience then is that mostly the Japanese would be using mortars?

Halley: Yeah, they had big mortars, and they had these—

Jim: And machine guns.

Halley: —and they had these big rockets they'd use and when they'd take off; they'd go woo-too-too-toot. They were so inaccurate sometimes they'd even go out to sea, they wouldn't even land on the beach.

Jim: No kidding.

Halley: But any shell that landed on the beach usually got someone. There were that many people on the beach. The beach was black volcanic ash. When we dug our foxholes—

Jim: You're jumping ahead to Iwo now?

Halley: You want to go back to Saipan?

Jim: Right, I want to take everything in order.

Halley: All right. We hit Saipan. We hit pretty close to the sugar refinery there. There was a dock there for ships, and we were just to the right of that. We were in reserve; I think the 23rd and the 25th hit first, and the 24th was in reserve of those two regiments on that island. When we hit we were supposed to go in a thousand to 1500 yards, and then we were supposed to relieve some of the guys that were what they call O1—first objective, you know. Ten minutes after we got on the beach we got out in this open field and the Japs opened up on us with the anti-aircraft guns from the airfield. There was a Jap airfield. They had aerial bursts and all that kind of stuff. Our company was cut down from 212 men to forty-two men right there. They weren't all killed. When I say we were cut down, I never did know how many were dead or who got killed or who got wounded. That was kind of bad; we'd go into battle and we never found out what—our friends—happened to them.

Jim: Because they often didn't rejoin your outfit if they made it.

Halley: That's right. They'd go to a hospital. That's right; they wouldn't ever come back to the same outfit. We fought the rest of Saipan with forty-two men in our company. From there we relieved the guys up on the hill there where they set up O1. The Japs opened up and I dove for a hole, and before I got there two other guys are underneath me, in the same hole. [laughs] The first outfit that got up there—I don't know who it was—they dug foxholes on there. They started opening up with these anti-aircraft shells, and I seen a hole there and I dove for it, and before I got there two other guys are underneath me. Then we got off that, and then we traveled around. Our outfit went all the way around on Saipan, and we probably traveled the most distance of any outfit—

Jim: On foot?

Halley: —of the 4th Division. Yeah, on foot. We did have tanks there later on. We used to sit and eat our meals. The tanks would go through these sugar cane fields; they'd crush that stuff up, and the flies are as big as your thumbnail. When we'd sit and eat we'd have to keep one hand going like this or you'd be just covered. The guys, when they used to go to the

bathroom they'd see how many they could get with a shovelful of dirt afterwards. [laughs] Oh, jeez.

Jim: Did the resistance gradually diminish in Saipan or was it tough sledding all the way?

Halley: It was pretty constant all the time; they'd do a little firing. But I think our naval ships did an awful good job. After we got the airfield taken—I don't know who took that, either the 23rd or someone—after we got that taken we didn't get too much resistance. We'd have our artillery, and call ahead of us. We'd see a few Japs. The Japs always tried to pull their dead back, for morale purposes. So we never knew how many we'd actually killed or anything. Oh boy. We went around—

Jim: Did the Japs try to charge you with the bayonets?

Halley: We didn't get a banzai attack there on Saipan. Down at the 2nd Division, they had a big one. They got right up to the artillery and they had a real short fuse on the artillery. They were hitting 'em point blank with the artillery and they had them stacked up like cordwood. That was Garapan, the village there. Garapan. They had 'em stacked up like cordwood. That usually is about the end of their resistance, because they throw it all in there at that time. I don't think they had too much trouble after that, either. We went all the way around the island. We came up to this point where you could look down on the ocean and watch the Japs. They wouldn't surrender. The whole family would sit there and set a land mine off and blow the whole family up.

Jim: What efforts did you make to keep them from doing that?

Halley: What effort? We'd call 'em and try to motion for 'em. They'd just keep going; they wouldn't stop. We always gave em a chance. We weren't that—

Jim: You tried to encourage them not to do that, then.

Halley: That's right.

Jim: But of course they didn't understand—

Halley: But we had a bad reputation, because the Japs are told that anyone with a rag on their head, don't surrender to 'em. The Army didn't have the camouflage cloth covers on their steel helmets, see, and the Marines did. So they weren't supposed to give up to the Marines. But I seen 'em take a few prisoners and take 'em for a walk too, and then you never seen 'em again. That happened. I never believed in that. Maybe that's why I came

back. But there was some guys— You get to the point where you haven't got no love for 'em, that's for damn sure. They're killing your buddies.

Jim: Would you say they were good soldiers?

Halley: The Japs? I don't know. They were very disorganized, from what I'd seen.

Jim: How could you tell that?

Halley: Because you wouldn't run in to a big group of 'em fighting all together. They'd be hit and miss here and there, and scattered all over. Of course maybe they weren't trained for combat either. Maybe they were just garrisons for guarding the island.

Jim: You never knew.

Halley: Yup. We started pushing the Japs so fast and so hard that we caught up to 'em. We'd seen very few dead Japs up to that point. We got up by this shrine—shrine on a hill—we had to walk a path up along the shrine. There was one dead Jap right after the other in stretchers just sitting along that side. We had guys there who'd been in battle before, and they were throwing their guts up. Guts hanging out all over the place, and smell— 110 degrees.

Jim: The Japanese weren't—

Halley: They couldn't bury 'em fast enough. You'd see where they had buried them. They'd have a thirty by thirty square place with fresh dirt on it; well, you'd know what was under that. We got up to the shrine on top of the hill—

Jim: Was this the high point on Saipan?

Halley: It was one of the high ones. They had a shrine up there; I suppose that's why they buried them there to be close to it. We got up there and there were trucks just full of dead bodies that they'd pulled back. When you're in combat like that you don't see the whole picture. You're just a small little area. I went into one house one time and I got one with a bayonet. I felt kind of bad about that. I still think I could have shot him, and I didn't. I stuck him with a bayonet. I don't know why; I guess I just did it. Then I came out and wiped the blood off on a big leaf off one of the trees there. Then one of my buddies went in there and he had to stick 'em. I didn't like that. He was curious. That wasn't a very good feeling, really.

Jim: Did you have any problem with getting food while on Saipan?

Halley: Saipan— All the doctors gave the Marine Corps hell for not giving us enough fruit and stuff.

Jim: I heard this, that's why I was asking.

Halley: Yeah, that's right. That's exactly right. On Iwo Jima we had cans of fresh fruit and that stuff.

Jim: That was directed by them.

Halley: The medical doctors had seen evidence of malnutrition, or whatever you want to call it. We had K-rations and C-rations and I forget what the big one was—M-rations I think they called 'em. They were pretty good; they had a little bacon in 'em. [chuckles]

Jim: No hot meals?

Halley: Once in a great while, if you're in a rest. Like on Saipan I think we had one rest; we're supposed to take a few days off. We had an Army Division on there. We took the hill and they came up to relieve us. The Japs chased them off and we had to come out of reserve and we had to go back up and take it again.

Jim: Oh, I'll bet you guys gave them hell.

Halley: The general relieved that Army general. He relieved him of his command; there was a big stink about that. 27th Army Division was the outfit. It wasn't the men, the men were the same as us guys. It's the way they're trained. You take a bunch of kids out of high school, and they're all the same. Some are bad apples and some are good apples, but I mean physically and—

Jim: They're all the same size.

Halley: About all the same size. It's just the training they got, that's all. The Marine Corps is tough; they're tough on training. In boot camp they'd take you and run you around in a circle until two guys fell down, then they'd let you rest. They toughened you up pretty good. One thing that was a little funny on the Marshall Islands: Alvin Strunkfum [?]
—I think he was from Tennessee—he was kind of a character. On Saipan he delivered our mail right through machine gun fire to us.

Jim: My goodness.

Halley: Let me get back. We're coming up there. We're dug in at this one point. There was a house in the wooded area. The cliffs are down off that, going down to the ocean, down towards Garapan. One of the Marines went out ahead over to our left; it wasn't one of our guys. He got shot. This Corpsman went out to help him, and he got shot. Our Lieutenant, General Schroeder from Milwaukee—

Jim: This is the Lieutenant, then?

Halley: He was our platoon leader. He went out to help him and he got shot. Three of 'em. This Jap was shooting out of the door of this house in the woods. Then I seen him go out the back and I lined up my rifle. I had the slack taken up on the trigger already. This friend—this guy I told you about that stuck this Jap after I did—he jumped right in front of my gun. I was just lucky I didn't shoot him. He had a .45 Thompson submachine gun; it was dirty or had bad springer, because you could actually see the bullets coming out of the front of the gun. He jumped right in front of me. I almost got him that time. When we hit Tinian he was in my— There we went in with amtracs. He got his eye shot out; he stuck his head up above the gunwales and got his one eye shot out.

Jim: But it didn't kill him.

Halley: No. Wife divorced him after he got home, though, and that's the last I heard of him. He did lose his eye. We were in the first wave on Tinian.

Jim: Did they have a hospital set up on Saipan?

Halley: Yeah. They had tents, big long tents.

Jim: A MASH [Mobile Army Surgical Hospital] unit, really.

Halley: Yeah, that was it.

Jim: Were you wounded on Saipan?

Halley: I got it with ants out in the field when we got the artillery barrage. Three of us went back to clean out a little wooded area down in the cliffs. We went down in, and I went up along the rocks. The Japs were shooting in and I got lead on my hands and that. My two buddies, killed both of them. If they wouldn't have been full of sake I'd probably have been dead, 'cause I was that close to 'em. But I never seen 'em. I was up there and they were back. They shot and they hit into these rocks, and then the lead hit me in the hand. Those guys, killed 'em both. I had dysentery on there too.

Jim: Was that a problem for most of the guys?

Halley: Oh sure. They figured it was from the flies and all that eating.

Jim: Getting on your food.

Halley: Oh God, you couldn't keep 'em off. You had one hand just go like that all the time, try to eat. At night you'd be in a foxhole and you'd have to go to the bathroom. One night before I went back—I went back to sick bay for a few days until they cleared me up—and I had to jump over a wall and go out there because I didn't want to go in the foxhole with the other guys there. I was doing that all night long; then I started bleeding. They sent me back to the hospital; I got in there in about the middle of it. I had to go, and so I went right out the side of the tent. There was foxhole there and I went in there. One of the guys, he was madder than heck. He said, "You went in my foxhole!" I said, "Christ, there ain't no war back here, the war's up there" I told him. [laughs] But I couldn't have made it out to the end of the tent 'cause they're so long. They put me on sulfa drugs, I guess, at that time. That cleared it up. This drunk that brought the mail through machine gun fire on Saipan: on the Marshall Islands he hit the beach and he seen a little indentation in the ground. He jumped in and here it was a Jap backhouse that had been blown off. There wasn't any sign of the outhouse. So he went down to the ocean, took all his clothes off and threw them away. Then he put on a white Jap uniform [laughs] that he was running around the beach on the Marshall Islands. [laughs]

Jim: He could have been shot.

Halley: I know it. [laughs] More than one guy had lined up their rifle on him. But he was that kind of a guy. Later on, he got battle fatigue so bad on Saipan, it took five guys to put him on an amtrac and take him back. When they started that engine up on that amtrac he almost went nuts.

Jim: This was a common problem?

Halley: It happened to a few of 'em, yeah. But he couldn't control himself anymore. Too much strain, I suppose.

Jim: How long were you on Saipan?

Halley: About twelve, eighteen days I guess, something like that.

Jim: You pulled back to Maui from there again?

Halley: No. Then we went out and boarded LSTs [Landing Ship, Tank] and then we hit Tinian, which was twelve miles away. The artillery had set up their

155 Long Toms on Saipan. They could shell with the Navy on Tinian. We hit Tinian; I was in the first wave there. We hit right into the rocks where the Japs didn't expect us.

Jim: How did you climb around those?

Halley: You just jumped in the water and then found a place to get up above. Then you worked inland from there.

Jim: You couldn't carry very much equipment there though the rocks, could you?

Halley: We didn't have any. Just our rifles, that's all.

[End of Tape 1, Side A]

Jim: You didn't bring any of that other stuff?

Halley: The rifle and maybe machine guns. The next wave would bring in some more. It wasn't easy to land anything. Of course you got more beach, or more shore, and then you could bring in the other stuff.

Jim: Right, the heavy stuff.

Halley: After we got on Tinian a ways we went down to where we were supposed to dig in that night. I was sitting there; I hollered at the old man who had the radio guy there with him. I said, "Look at the Japs up there on the cliffs." You could see them just walking along in a path up there. So they called for artillery. They really blasted the hell out of that place. They were carrying their dead and everything else up in there. We dug in that night. Our Company was supposed to dress on the Company that left. When they quit digging in we took over, so our holes are spaced about the same. The outfit on our right didn't do that. They dug in first, which they weren't supposed to do. That left a gap between our Company and theirs. I was in the second from the last hole—there's three of us in a foxhole—from the end of that. This outfit had to send guys in there after dark to dig holes and fill that gap up. That's right where the Japs hit that night. We had a big banzai. We put wire— That's the first time we ever had barbed wire out in front of us, was on Tinian the first night. They burned the cane fields; you could see the Japs out there dancing. They just wanted you to open fire on 'em. We wouldn't open because that gives your position away. We sat there. They'd be dancing out there and hollering. Then they hit through that place and they went back through a marsh, got back. The artillery—their machine guns and that—had them stacked up like cordwood like they did on Saipan down at the air pan. The next morning we're sitting there at daybreak, and I happened to look in the rear. I seen a

Jap going back up around the trees. We were right in front of some trees; I could see him going through the trees. I hollered up. I said, “C-P,” so they knew who that was. I said, “Watch the rear!” Pretty soon, bang, they got him. Gunny Flynn came up with a light machine gun without the tripod on it. He put it in a low tree, into the branch. He fired down into that marsh, and the Japs started coming out of there where they came in the night before. They killed every guy in those three holes that night, and that’s where they came through. That night we had a frog jump in our hole; we thought it was a grenade. Oh, jeez. [laughs] It just takes the breath right out of you. You feel around for it, and here it was a darn frog. Those Japs started streaming out of there. They had to come out and they had to go up a hill, like this. I fired every round of ammunition I had right there. Just sat there, just like shooting ducks. They got a couple hundred yards, two-fifty off. I fired and I think the rest of the guys did too. We fired just about every cartridge we had. It’s kind of hard to remember all this stuff. I tell you about one thing and then it reminds me of something else.

Jim: That’s the good thing about the interview. What about machine guns? Did you have a machine gun nearby? .30 caliber?

Halley: We usually had our machine guns with us. We had .60 caliber mortars, too.

Jim: One per squad?

Halley: No. We just had a separate outfit with the mortars and the machine guns. We’d have three squads in a platoon. One squad would have the mortars and the machine guns. So they had a separate officer ahead of them.

Jim: Your communications were good, generally?

Halley: Yeah, good, except when the radio man gets hit, like he did on Saipan.

Jim: Then what do you do?

Halley: Then what do you do? You sit there.

Jim: See if the radio works?

Halley: We were about halfway up there; we were dug in at night. I noticed some Japs way off in the distance. They had the machine guns set up there. So I ran down there and I got on the machine gun and started firing up at those—I could see them walking across a road—and throwing machine gun fire in there. Then this Lieutenant Young came down. His name was Young, too. He came down there and then he got on that. That was his

boys, the machine gunners was his. So he got on that. Wasn't long and a Jap tank came up at us. We could see our tanks, our amtracs; they had .75s on 'em, but they didn't have much armor on them. We could see them going back; at night they'd go back. We could see them going away and this Jap tank coming up at us and firing. I'd go for a rock and some Lieutenant was under there. He says, "Move over, Hal!" I says, "Move over Hal, hell. I can feel the heat from those things." The bullets, you know, you could feel the heat coming by. We both got out of there and went back.

Jim: How'd you deal with the tank?

Halley: The guy that had the tripod for the 60mm mortar had lost it. This guy bar sighted the thing by hand, and hit the tank right on top. They turned and ran. That's what saved us.

Jim: Hit the turret?

Halley: Hit the turret. Hit the turret with a 60mm.

Jim: Throwing the mortar sideways?

Halley: Yeah. He just aimed it and bar sighted it by hand. He didn't have any adjustments.

Jim: Based it on his thigh? What'd he base it on? On the ground, you mean?

Halley: He just set it on the ground and held it, I think. They fired them a lot so they had a lot of experience. He hit it right on top and that's what turned the thing. We didn't have any bazookas with us. Our radio kid got hit.

Jim: Yeah. What'd you do about that?

Halley: Had to get a different radio up there and someone else had to operate it.

Jim: The radio was gone too?

Halley: It was gone. Yeah, the radio was gone.

Jim: Did you ever feel that you were isolated at any time, your group?

Halley: That was probably the worst, when that tank came up I think. Because we could see our stuff that could have taken care of it going back. Then after that we always had 37 [mm] anti-tank guns up in the line with us, which we didn't before. We'd always have them up there at night.

Jim: Did you knock out a Jap tank with that 37? That's not a very big gun.

Halley: I don't know if they ever did. They probably did in certain areas. The Japs, like on Iwo, they didn't even use their tanks. They dug 'em down, just used the turrets. That's all they did; they'd dig 'em in 'cause they didn't have any armor on 'em; they're a piece of junk just like the rest of their stuff was junk. Their cars are junk, their trucks are junk. I think their airplanes—well, they're pretty maneuverable but they didn't have no armament on 'em and that's probably why. We seen one of our tanks—a medium tank—fire into a blockhouse. We were up on the side hill. Big iron door in it. This tank was real close. He was firing armor-piercing shells in there. He must have fired three, four in there. Then the fifth one must have went through. When that thing went, that picked that great big heavy tank up and just set her back about ten feet. Then all the concrete came up in the air. We were up on the bank; Christ, it was just all over. I hit the deck. I got my legs spread and a rock about that big fell right between my darn legs. [laughs]

Jim: Boy, that's nasty.

Halley: It would have got 'em both. Those are the things you remember.

Jim: On Tinian, you put that under control and how many—

Halley: After the first night there was very little resistance. But there was something that we'd heard about a secret weapon that they'd used on Tinian village on there. Now, where that scuttlebutt came from, or what it was—Because that's where they flew the atomic bomb off from, was Tinian.

Jim: Yes.

Halley: We'd heard something about how this secret weapon had leveled Tinian village. We'd walked through it and there wasn't much left of it. Of course they never did have any buildings to speak of except maybe their sugar refinery. On Saipan the Jap observer was up in the smokestack of the sugar refinery. That's how he spotted for the artillery that got us that first time ten minutes after we hit the beach in that open field. He was spotting for the artillery from up there. They finally woke up to the fact, and they took care of that in a hurry.

Jim: After Tinian then what? Did you have a little rest then?

Halley: We went back to Maui again; picked up reinforcements again, got back to strength. After every battle we'd always— After Marshall Islands we

went back, we got built up then again, new personnel, whatever we needed.

Jim: By this time how many of your original read-in group were still left?

Halley: I couldn't tell you.

Jim: Your Company is what I meant.

Halley: We lost sixty men on the Marshall Islands. We lost forty-two from 160 on Saipan; probably more than that. On Tinian we didn't lose very many; there might have been a few, half a dozen or something like that. Tinian we had a lot of flame throwers in the caves.

Jim: Did you ever use one of those?

Halley: No, I never did myself, but I fought with them. We'd see a Jap come out of a cave on fire. That was a bad one. But hell, they had kids come out with a saber; they'd charge down the hill.

Jim: Children?

Halley: Sure. These Japs soldiers, they'd get one in amongst civilians, I suppose some fanatic, and he was going to get those Marines or whoever was down there. You see a lot of funny things in war. They'd get one soldier in amongst a bunch of civilians and then the soldier wouldn't let them surrender. That happened a lot of times. We had people trying to talk them out of it with megaphones, out of the caves.

Jim: You had a person who could speak Japanese?

Halley: Oh, yeah.

Jim: A Marine or a—

Halley: I don't know. I suppose they were Marines. They could speak fluently and talk to them. They'd bring Jeeps up there with microphones on them and loudspeakers. We didn't get very many prisoners over there. We had quite a few on Saipan.

Jim: What would you do with the prisoners?

Halley: They'd usually take 'em back and then they—

Jim: A barbed wire encampment, or—

Halley: They'd have an area and the military police would take care of 'em.

Jim: What'd you do about civilians?

Halley: Civilians, they'd go right along with 'em. I don't know if they separated them or not; I don't think so. I know one of the guys in our outfit got gonorrhoea and he was on the outside of the fence on Saipan. [chuckles] So I don't know what happened there. Poor devil, he got killed on Iwo, so it didn't matter much.

Jim: How long were you on Maui now for this R&R?

Halley: We were overseas two years. We figure about a year of it was fighting and about a year on Maui.

Jim: After Tinian, you were there on Maui how long before you went on to the next place?

Halley: I can't remember. I'd have to look at the dates.

Jim: A month?

Halley: It was longer that. We kept training all the time there. After Saipan and Tinian I got to be Company Jeep driver. I was Company Jeep driver on Iwo Jima.

Jim: You were a Corporal by then?

Halley: Yeah. Well, they wanted me to go back and take over a squadron. I passed the exam for Sergeant and all that. But I said, "No way, I'll keep the job I got," because I had it made. That's probably what saved me on Iwo.

Jim: Tell me about the landing on Iwo now.

Halley: We were aboard ship and you could see all the battleships firing on it at night.

Jim: They pounded and pounded and pounded it, but it didn't—

Halley: They bombed it for seventy-two days and they got more anti-aircraft fire the last time they went over than they did the first time. My property Sergeant and I had the Jeep and the trailer. The first day they loaded us on a Higgins boat. There was two sailors on there that operated that, but they wouldn't land us. So we rode around on the Higgins boat. We were on there two nights. The first day we rode all day in the Higgins boat. At

night we had to follow the wake of the ship—no lights. That's the way we went all night long. They really just kept moving the transports. We'd follow the wake.

Jim: Kept circling?

Halley: Kept circling. Whatever they did we stayed right behind them. All we could see was the phosphorous wake from the ship. If we needed food we'd pull up along side; they'd throw us a loaf of bread and a gallon of peanut butter or something. That was the first night. And then the next day we did the same thing. They wouldn't land us because everything that hit the beach was getting blown up. We weren't that valuable; we didn't have anything except food and water and maybe a little ammunition on the trailer for our company. We went two nights that way out there, and the third day they landed us. We had one hell of a time getting the Jeep up on the beach. Finally a bulldozer pulled us up to our—

Jim: That was steep, wasn't it?

Halley: It wasn't that; it was no footing. You couldn't get any footing. The minute you hit that volcanic ash there was nothing there.

Jim: The Jeep wouldn't go up there?

Halley: No. She'd dig right in, especially with a trailer on.

Jim: So you had to pull it in.

Halley: They brought a bulldozer down. They threw a chain on it and pulled us up until we got up on more solid ground. Right below Airfield No. 1 was where we had our regimental dump. That's where we stayed with the Jeep and trailer. Every day I'd have to go up to the front with food and ammunition or whatever they wanted. One night I had to take— [ten second gap in tape] —what they called the Meat Grinder, Hill 382 and up through there. Of course, it was rough for the 5th Division on Mount Suribachi, that had to go up that hill, and the Japs are looking right down in their face. That was hell. The Japs are all dug in. They had a whole network of caves. One of our guys went down in a cave; all he seen was a rice bucket and a shovel down there. He went down about seventy-five feet into that cave. It must have been a new one that they were digging on and never finished. In our company we had a bunch of guys that had fought on Guadalcanal, Tulagi, and some of those and had gone back to the States. They served one hitch overseas. They went back to the States, had their year or so in the States, and then they joined our outfit. Most of those guys got killed on Iwo Jima. I myself never thought they should have even been over there, because I think they'd done their bit.

Jim: What was your duty when you finally got the Jeep functioning?

Halley: Every day I'd have to go up there and take water up to the men that were left. Food and water.

Jim: There was a battle line?

Halley: Yeah. Go on up through. We were just below Airfield No. 1. We'd have to go up around. We had to cross this one area of the airfield; every time we'd go across there some Jap would open up with his machine gun. They'd been looking for him but they never could find him, except when a vehicle would go across and he'd open up. My property sergeant was supposed to ride with me as my guard. He was supposed to be the guard for the driver. We went up there the first time and that Jap opened up with a machine gun and we had to drive right through it. We got out of his area of fire. Then coming back we got close to it, and Paul, he says, "Step on it! Step on it! Step on it!" I says, "Okay." I threw her in second and I really barreled it. The trailer started bouncing and it tipped over. It swung around; the chain got tangled up on the hitch. Had to get out with a machete—there's a Jap firing with a machine gun—to cut the chain so we could get the thing tipped up and going. He never rode with me after that. I didn't want him anyways. [laughs]

Jim: Where'd you get the water? From the ships?

Halley: It came in cans, these big five-gallon cans. They'd brought that from Maui.

Jim: Did you bring food up to the line or just—

Halley: Food or whatever we could get for the guys. I'd get souvenirs sometimes. I'd take 'em down and trade 'em with the sailors aboard ship for cigars and stuff like that.

Jim: You had a little black market going?

Halley: Well, it was black market, but some of the guys liked cigars.

Jim: Sure.

Halley: We'd take a flag down or whatever they happened to have—a rifle, candy bars—because the Navy had it and we didn't. That's just like when we were on Maui. Our supplies always came through the Army. Well, they had the best steaks and we got what was left, I think, because we had to

always draw our supplies through the Army. We had a lot of fun in the service, but war isn't fun.

Jim: No.

Halley: There's nothing fun about it. On Iwo Jima I had to take these flame throwers. They wanted four flame throwers that night for the next morning, because they were there where they were really needing them. That's about the area where my captain got the Congressional Medal of Honor. After dark I had to take those up. We got up and they just told me, "Take 'em up to a certain area, and you drop 'em off there, and we'll pick 'em up later that night." By the time we got there the Japs started throwing mortars at us, so they knew that we were out there. We got those things unloaded in a hurry and then we got the hell out of there. One night the colonel of them called over and wanted someone to go up and get some intelligence information. This was about at the end of Iwo Jima. This was up in the rocky country. So I said, "I can go up and get it." At eleven o'clock at night. You had to drive between these rocks; they're about ten foot high. The Jap could be right up there laying on his—

Jim: Right.

Halley: You couldn't have your lights on. Of course they'd hear the engine of the Jeep. I had my carbine on the back seat. When we got back that night the seat had folded forward and the carbine was laying in there from hitting bumps. My property sergeant, I wouldn't ask him to ride with me. I went over to find out what the hell I had to do. He says, "Who's riding with you?" I says, "No one." He said, "You get someone. You aren't going up there by yourself." I said, "I'm not going to ask anyone to go." Bob Donahoe [?] from Omaha, he'd been wounded three times, and the only thing he had was a .45 revolver. I don't know where in the hell he got that. He must have got it from one of our guys that probably got killed. Some of the guys did have something like that, extra. He rode up there with me that night. I've tried to find him. I've looked in Omaha telephone books. I heard he went in the roofing business, and I never could look him up. Probably one of the best combat men you'd ever want. He was wounded three times; he was sent back to the ship and he wouldn't go.

Jim: He wouldn't?

Halley: Oh, no. My lieutenant that got killed that one time was wounded. They told him to go down and get aboard ship; he wouldn't leave the guys. He was that kind of a guy. He didn't even have to be in the service; he was a chemist, Lieutenant Schroeder was.

Jim: How long were you on Iwo?

Halley: How long? About eighteen days. They expected it to be taken in six days, I guess. We were supposed to take Iwo in six days and then we were going to be the floating reserve for Okinawa. Well, we had 115% casualties on Iwo in our Company. In fact, at the end, I was reading in that book where E Company—that was Captain Ridland's outfit, he was a hell of fighting man—and F Company and G, that was the three companies. They ended up just G and F. They took the men from E—there were six men left from that company—and put them over in the others. So they just had two companies at the end of the war.

Jim: The guys who put up the flag, were they all 5th Marine?

Halley: Yeah. They landed on the other side of the island by Mount Suribachi. We could see Mount Suribachi from all over the island. Some young pilot in a B-29—before they got the airfield opened up there—he called in and he says, "I'm going to bring my plane in and land it." They said, "No you don't; you take it out in the ocean and ditch it. The airfield's not ready for you." I guess the kid was twenty-one years old; he must have lied about his age to even get to fly a B-29. He says, "You clear everything you can off; I'm bringing it in." He brought that airplane in and he swung it around so the tail and that went into a fighter pit, the area where the Japs had had it. He kept the center of the field open for the Seabees. I think they flew that off there later on. We sat down there. We'd see truckloads of dead bodies come out, Marines, just like cordwood. Whole big six-bys. People never could realize—I don't know how they could—to see something like that. Of course what they did, they took bulldozers and dug a great big trench, and surveyed it, and laid 'em down in there and they covered 'em up again. They resurveyed and put the markers above. I think after the war they transferred all those out of there. Besides it's just down in that volcanic ash.

Jim: When was your end of the island secure?

Halley: It was about eighteen days. That picture of me and my Jeep [paper rustling] that was in the *Milwaukee Journal*, I guess. Here's from a mortar; the axe handle got it and then the piece went through the side of my trailer and put a hole about like that in it. Then it went through the tailgate and it looked like a salt shaker. I took three newsmen; they wanted to go up to the front. We had the Japs in the last pocket up there. The guys with the mortars were set up. Of course they had a lot of mortar shells. They're sitting there just having fun, just firing one after the other. These three newsmen wanted to go up to the front. I said, "Well come on, I'll take you up there." They got in my Jeep and I took three of 'em up there. That's how come they took my picture. This was my property

sergeant; you see where he crawled right in there to get his picture taken. This guy was from Ely [?] out East, _____ he was from out East. Dr. Thurston [?] was the best—

Jim: Were there a lot of prisoners there to send back?

Halley: No. Very, very few.

Jim: They'd escape or did you kill them?

Halley: Yeah. They just wouldn't give up on Iwo Jima. I think they had a bunch of the Imperial Marines there. I think we had some of those in the Marshall Islands, too. They were six-footers. They were bigger than the average Jap. But these doctors were something else. After Iwo I got to drive the ambulance so I got to know all the doctors.

Jim: I see.

Halley: They were really something.

Jim: Did they have a big aid station on Iwo?

Halley: No. A tent and part of a Jap bunker.

Jim: They sent a lot of them back to the ships?

Halley: They had the white hospital ship out there—the Hope or whatever they called it. They'd get 'em out onboard ship as fast as they could. But some of them couldn't make it that far and these doctors would have to take care of them so they could—

Jim: Stop the bleeding so they could travel.

Halley: Yeah. Those guys, it was just like MASH. They didn't get any sleep, I'll tell you that.

Jim: After you secured Iwo, then what?

Halley: Then we went back to Maui. Of course there wasn't anyone left in our company any more, **[End of Tape 1, Side B]** and I got transferred to Captain Ridland [?]. He got transferred over to Headquarters Company of our regiment. I guess they figured I had enough nerve to drive a Jeep, or an ambulance, so they gave me an ambulance Jeep, and I was a driver for that. We had our own tent then, and then we really had 'er made.

Jim: On Maui.

Halley: On Maui. Our tent was in with the Cooks and Bakers. We had one row of tents. We were on the end and then there was Cooks and Bakers. In our tent, we fixed up the center of it and got all the beer we wanted. Our Lieutenant Young got to be Assistant PX Officer, so I used to sneak him into town. [laughs]

Jim: In the ambulance?

Halley: Yeah, I'd take him into town on liberty. He wasn't supposed to go.

Jim: Why?

Halley: I don't know. He was something else. [laughs] I guess he ran around. He died. McCarthy told me that his girlfriend was one of the richest gals in New York City. I don't know who in the hell it was. He finally died. But I'd pull up; he's say, "Hal, take me to town, and tomorrow you come over to such and such a door at the PX." Then we'd get the beer. He'd bring out a few cases of beer. We fixed up the center of our tent with these powdered milk can containers. We had 'em all piped together so we could drain 'em. We'd put ice in there and have our cold beer in there. We kept our butter in there; we got all the butter we wanted. Hamburger, we'd get in great big chunks from the cooks; they'd take care of us. At the end we even had the doctors, they'd come by. "What's for dinner?" [laughs] They'd come in and eat with us a lot of the time. Oh my God. We'd get pork chops, fry 'em in pure butter. Oh, God. That was something.

Jim: From there you went back to the States?

Halley: Then we went to the States, yeah. The war ended. When they got the word that the war had ended, those crazy Marines put up machine guns. They shot holes in the whole tent row.

Jim: In Maui?

Halley: On Maui.

Jim: Anybody get killed?

Halley: No. I think they blew up some of the outhouses with a mortar. The old general came out and he says, "Any more of that, and the whole Division's going on a twenty-seven mile hike," because we'd made one of those once, and no water. He says, "I'll fix you guys, any more of that stuff." That put a stop to it. He was madder than a hoot owl.

Jim: Sure.

Halley: General [Clifton B.] Cates. He got to be Commandant of the Marine Corps. He was a nice guy. In fact, I seen him at our first reunion we had in Chicago.

Jim: How have you kept in track with any of your buddies that were with you most of the time?

Halley: Not too much.

Jim: Most of them were wounded or killed, weren't they?

Halley: Yeah. You never found out. I tried to get a hold of Clifford Elliot [?] 'cause I never did get a Purple Heart for my time there on the Marshall Islands. I didn't care about it really; I never did. Then later on I figured maybe I should, it might do me some good later on. I could have had three of them, really.

Jim: Did you win any other medals?

Halley: I got a letter of commendation. I was put up for the Bronze Star on Iwo but they never gave 'em. They had so many medals out. I never— Few officers got medals for stuff I did, too. They're good at that, recommending each other for medals.

Jim: Right.

Halley: But I was never that—On Iwo, we first got in to our area where we kept all the ammunition and that, ammunition depot. We had an old gunny sergeant there that shouldn't have been over there. In fact on Saipan him and another guy that were a little trigger happy were throwing hand grenades all one night. We went out the next morning and here's a dead cow. They must have really thought they were fighting a war. On Iwo he was in the ammunition dump there with us. He'd just sit and look up at the front. He wouldn't take his eyes off it. He'd just sit on something there and he'd just stare. He wouldn't even stop to eat. I used to have to fix food. I'd say, "Come on gunny, now damn it, eat something here." I'd fix him something to eat. He had no business over there. He was an old China marine, he was that old. I don't know how come he even got over there. We were sitting there one day; the Japs always threw their big 80mm mortars. They'd throw 80 or 90, I forget what they were. They'd throw one up on the hill, then the next one would be down the hill, and then the next one would be right in the center. That's the way they always were patterned. They threw one up above and then they threw one down below. I got a hold of the gunny and I said, "Come on, get in that damn hole." I got a hold of him. One of the other guys was sitting up there; he

wasn't with our outfit but he was in the same dump. I think he was a property sergeant for another outfit, or company. I forget what his name was, too. I hollered at him, I says, "Come on; get in the hole for Christ's sake. The next one's coming in here." He says, "Those sons of bitches aren't going to get me." Next thing—

Jim: He got it.

Halley: Oh, you see his whole side was gone. You could just see he was nothing but—Yep, just like that. They weren't going to get him.

Jim: But that's just what they did.

Halley: Yeah. It's been a long time. I gotta wrack my brains about all that stuff. Like I said before, we're only one soldier or marine and you're only in a small area, and you don't see the whole picture of what's going on.

Jim: But there's a lot to learn from that.

Halley: Yeah.

Jim: Did you join any veterans groups after the—

Halley: I belong to the VFW [Veterans of Foreign Wars] and the Legion. I was in the Marine Corps League for a while. I only went to one reunion; that was down in Chicago.

Jim: That was the 4th Marine?

Halley: The 4th Marine, yeah.

Jim: They have a newsletter, I see, that they send you.

Halley: Yeah. My captain arranged that one down there. He used to drive the rear end of a hook-and-ladder, McCarthy did. He got to know the mayor; after he got the Congressional Medal of Honor, of course they had a big parade for him in Chicago. He got in with the mayor. Mayor Daley knew him real well; of course he's Irish too.

Jim: Right.

Halley: Then he got in charge of the ambulance in Chicago. He was chief of the ambulance down there. He also was chief of the training school for the Fire Department in Chicago. He really had 'er made. He'd take us through Chicago, the siren going. He was in charge of the first reunion down there. They had detectives assigned to the hotel because the

Communist Party was having a meeting in the same hotel. I don't know how in hell that ever happened. But they were afraid the damn Marines would kill 'em. We had three detectives. Boy, they're worse than any criminal you wanted to see. They told us a few stories about how, in Chicago, they worked the colored district there. This one said he was an ex-Marine Raider. They couldn't have a family or anything else to become a Raider. That's the way old Carlson was. He said, "First night I was out I had to knock the front teeth outta one of those big bucks." He called 'em bucks. He says, "In order to gain their respect; after that I had their respect in that neighborhood." But those guys, I wouldn't have trusted them as far as I would have a lot of the other people. They brought prostitutes up in the hotel and everything else. Old McCarthy he got so mad; he kicked them outta there. He found that out. We had beer in the bathtub that was all iced down, and everything you wanted to drink. I think it was all donated, too. I never went to any others. General Cates was there, and all those guys. I got pictures with them.

Jim: Do you feel your training was adequate for the job they asked you to do?

Halley: Sure.

Jim: There wasn't any trouble with that?

Halley: The best training you can ever get is get battle experience. You think you know something when you start. Then all of a sudden it isn't like you thought it was.

Jim: That's right.

Halley: Later on you get tougher, and tougher, and your mind changes.

Jim: Pretty soon you don't really care.

Halley: Well, you care but I guess you get mad. You do things that you wouldn't have normally, like you didn't think nothing about killing a Jap. Yet, I never hated them. I never hated the Japs because they're human beings. I hated the son of a guns that started the war, the big shots. They're the ones that— That happens in any war. It's not the foot soldier. My brother was a captain in the Army over in Europe. I was in the Pacific. Great-grandfather fought in the Civil War. One of my great-great-grandfathers was in the Revolutionary War.

Jim: Oh, really?

Halley: Yeah.

Jim: How much weight did you lose?

Halley: I went in the service at 146 pounds, and I went up to 186 pounds; I gained weight. Then after Iwo Jima I couldn't eat any more. I couldn't hardly eat anything. I went back to about 146 pounds again after that 'cause I just wasn't eating good.

Jim: You still had some bellyaches?

Halley: No, you just didn't feel like it. I suppose the excitement of the battle.

Jim: Sure.

Halley: Your mind, that goes on. I still think about it a lot once in a while. I see my own kids. I've got four children and I've got nine grandkids and four great-grandkids. I see my grandsons about my age, and I think Jesus, that's all the older I was when I was over there? You grow up in a hurry. It's good training in a life; you can't take it away. I wouldn't take a million dollars if someone offered me to go through what I went through and seen. I don't think I'd make it the second time. Or, I wouldn't—

Jim: What did you do when you got back? Did you use your GI Bill?

Halley: I used it to learn how to fly an airplane, then never used it after that. I went and got a pilot's license, seaplane rating. I started school after I got married. I was one of the first marines out of the Pacific, and I was one of the first ones at home. I was discharged in November of '45. I got married January 10th of '46. I only knew my wife a short time. I don't know if people thought it was going to work or not, but hell, we've been fifty-four years now. [laughs]

Jim: So it's beginning to look that way.

Halley: [Laughs] Yeah, the wife says, "I think we can call it a marriage now at fifty."

Jim: [Laughs]

Halley: I've had a good life, since.

Jim: What did you do?

Halley: My dad was in the lightning rod business; he started out in 1908. Right after the war I went in that with him. We were partners in that for quite a few years. The trouble with that business is it's seasonal. You'd work seven months out of the year and then you'd have to find another job for

the rest of the time. So I went into construction. My brother and I were contractors, and we were building houses and small buildings. We did that for quite a while. We got out of that and I then went into heavy construction. I helped build the science building at Platteville. At La Crosse I worked on a lot of the buildings there: Cowley Hall (that science building there), dormitories. I was the foreman on Kmart in La Crosse and Montgomery Ward's. I ended up as the supervisor on maintenance at the university; that's where I retired.

Jim: UW [University of Wisconsin]—La Crosse?

Halley: Yeah. I was a supervisor there for sixteen years. I've been retired over twelve now. I got the state pension and Social Security, and that's good.

Jim: Right.

Halley: I'm in the variable [pension fund] by the way, too.

Jim: Are you?

Halley: Yeah. [laughs]

Jim: Great.

Halley: You're state, aren't you?

Jim: No.

Halley: Aren't you? That's too bad.

Jim: No, I don't work for them. This is volunteer work for me. I don't work for any state.

Halley: Were you a teacher?

Jim: No. Physician.

Halley: Oh, you were? Do you know the Gundersons in La Crosse?

Jim: I know a couple of them.

Halley: I went to kindergarten with most of them.

Jim: Did you? I went to—

Halley: Adolph and Sigurd and Gunnar.

Jim: I think Sig and I are about the same age, seventy-five.

Halley: Yeah, Sig and I were in kindergarten.

Jim: He and I were at Great Lakes at the same time.

Halley: Is that right?

Jim: Yeah. That was after I came back from Korea.

Halley: I went all the way from kindergarten through high school with Sig.

Jim: Nice guy.

Halley: Yeah. His son, Sigurd Jr., is retired now. Sig retired and Adolph retired. Adolph was one year behind me. Sig and Gunnar were in my class. Mary, she was with Adolph, that was Gunnar's sister. Elizabeth was Sigurd's oldest sister; she was a year ahead of us. I knew all the Gundersons; I knew the old man. Used to watch the old lady drive around in her electric car.

Jim: Really?

Halley: Sure.

Jim: All right, very good. That should do it.

[End of Interview]