

The National Museum of the Pacific War
Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with

Cornelius D. Wiens

108th Regimental Combat Team
Leyte - Mindanao

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Jerry Wiens: Today is November 26, 2000 and I am interviewing Cornelius D. Wiens, Private First Class. This interview is taking place in his home. The interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War Center for the Pacific War studies for the preservation of historical information related to World War II. Mr. Wiens thank you so much for taking the time to relate your experiences with us today that you underwent in World War II. To start with I would like to ask you when and where you were born?

Mr. Wiens: I was born November 11, 1918 in Lustre, Montana.

Jerry Wiens: It was just a coincidence but I guess that date happened to be Armistice Day. The same day that World War I ended. What were your parent's names?

Mr. Wiens: Dad's name was Henry C. Wiens and my Mother's name was Marie Dalke. My Dad was born in Inman, Kansas in 1885. Mother was also born in 1885 in Henderson, Nebraska.

Jerry Wiens: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

Mr. Wiens: Yes I had six brothers and three sisters.

Jerry Wiens: Did any of them serve in World War II?

Mr. Wiens: No they didn't. One of my older brothers was drafted into the army at Leavenworth, Kansas. When he finished his training he was headed for overseas duty but before they shipped him out they gave him his physical and he didn't pass it. They gave him a medical discharge.

Jerry Wiens: So out of that large family you were the only one who actually served in the war.

Mr. Wiens: Yes.

Jerry Wiens: Where did you go to school?

Mr. Wiens: The school was actually about a quarter of a mile from our house. My Dad furnished the ground for it when they first built that school. It was called a progressive school. It was a one-room school.

Jerry Wiens: You say a progressive school. Was it supported by a local church or was it a public school that anyone could attend?

Mr. Wiens: It was a public school supported by local farmers.. In those days the books were free. You could go to school there and if

they had the books that you needed to learn out of then you could go.

Jerry Wiens: Are there any significant highlights of your life there in Montana that you would want to share with the history.

Mr. Wiens: That was a great life in Montana. It was only about thirty five miles from the Canadian border. My father homesteaded some land and built his home and established his farm in 1917. The winters were very long. They always said we had six months of poor sleighing weather and three months of good sleighing weather.

Jerry Wiens: It must have been pretty cold. I take it that the Indians were all on their reservations in the early 1900's and they were basically at peace?

Mr. Wiens: Yes, the Indians were at peace although every one of them had a bunch of horses and when they wanted to come through and look at the situation they would. My Mother would put us kids that were little under the beds the nights they would come riding through so they wouldn't find us.

Jerry Wiens: It must have been some kind of experience living up there in the cold on the farm and avoiding the Indians too.

Mr. Wiens: It was and there were quite a few buffaloes out there too.

Jerry Wiens: Some time later in your life you entered the military.

Mr. Wiens: I was twenty-six years old when I entered the army.

Jerry Wiens: Where was that when you entered the army?

Mr. Wiens: The war had already started. Roosevelt sent me the first letter from Washington DC that they were looking for me. They needed men in the army. Then I got my papers and I reported to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. That is where they gave me my physical and that was is where I went into the service.

Jerry Wiens: You were living in Kansas at that time?

Mr. Wiens: My dad had lost the farm in Montana during the depression and we subsequently moved to Kansas. At the time I received my draft notice, I was living in Hutchinson, Kansas. I was married and had three children.

Jerry Wiens: What year was that when you were drafted?

Mr. Wiens: It was 1944.

Jerry Wiens: You didn't have a chance to choose a particular branch of service because you were drafted, is that correct?

Mr. Wiens: That's right. They said for us to mention the branch of the service that we might like so I put in for the Navy. I signed up for the Navy. A week later I got the notice to come down for another physical and I would be in the Army.

Jerry Wiens: After you were drafted where did you go for your training?

Mr. Wiens: We took our training at Camp Fannin, Texas. That was not far from Tyler, Texas.

Jerry Wiens: What were the conditions like down there?

Mr. Wiens: They had some barracks there and the conditions were not too bad. At least you had a bed to sleep in every night unless you were out on training. They trained us for sixteen weeks and when you finished that you were ready to go overseas.

Jerry Wiens: So after sixteen weeks of training they thought you were ready for combat. Did you have any buddies that were in training with you in Texas or there anything special you remember about that particular location?

Mr. Wiens: Not in training. You were too busy to have buddies. At the end of our training we had a ten-day leave and then we went by train to Fort Ord, California. We were there a couple of days and then we went to San Francisco where they loaded us

on a ship and we took off.

Jerry Wiens: Turning back to Camp Fannin. Did you know at that time what kind of specialty you might end up with in the Army or did they train all of you to carry a rifle?

Mr. Wiens: They had a motor pool and some of the truck drivers were trained in the motor pool. I trained to be a rifleman.

Jerry Wiens: Everyone was trained to carry a rifle and had a lot of target practice?

Mr. Wiens: Oh yes, all the time.

Jerry Wiens: What about carrying field packs?

Mr. Wiens: We had full field pack with your helmet and all your bedding and extra clothes. When you were loaded to go on a combat mission you were carrying about eighty pounds.

Jerry Wiens: Eighty pounds into combat. Do you have any special recollections of the time when you were down in Texas in training?

Mr. Wiens: From there we went out to the Pacific and headed to the Philippine Islands from there.

Jerry Wiens: So after that training you got your leave and went back to

Hutchinson?

Mr. Weins: That was a ten-day delay in route and then we went to the west coast. That is where we actually stopped and they fed us real good. The best food we ever got was at Fort Ord. They gave us real good food. We didn't live on any rations at that time.

Jerry Wiens: They were trying to fatten you up.

Mr. Wiens: Yeah. Get us in good shape.

Jerry Wiens: When you went through training were you issued all of your clothing and combat needs at that point or did that occur at Fort Ord?

Mr. Wiens: That occurred at Fort Ord. They gave us all of our overseas equipment and overseas clothes so everyone knew we were going to a warm climate.

Jerry Wiens: Can you describe any of that clothing that you can remember?

Mr. Wiens: They were all one color, all green. They called it Lucky Strike green.

Jerry Wiens: How many changes of clothing were you issued?

Mr. Wiens: We had one extra change of clothing.

Jerry Wiens: You had one extra shirt, pants, socks and did you have one or two pair of boots?

Mr. Wiens: We had one pair of boots.

Jerry Wiens: Did you have one helmet or two helmets?

Mr. Wiens: We had one steel helmet and then we had a liner that fit inside the steel helmet.

Jerry Wiens: Were you issued your weapon at Fort Ord or did that come later?

Mr. Wiens: That was issued when we got in the war area. Mindanao was the first big island we came to but the first landing we made was Leyte. We made our first landing on Leyte beach.

Jerry Wiens: Can you describe that for us?

Mr. Wiens: It was a beautiful area over there. It had a lot of pineapple and a lot of coconut and things like that. They were pretty good.

Jerry Wiens: Did you meet any enemy opposition when you landed?

Mr. Wiens: When we first landed on the beach we started unloading everything and when we started moving in that is when we met the opposition.

Jerry Wiens: So they didn't actually meet you on the beach at that point in time. How did you go ashore?

Mr. Wiens: We went ashore in the landing craft. They would haul about twelve to fifteen people on each landing craft. The Mother ship was always about a mile off shore. We would get off the Mother ship onto the landing crafts and the Navy would circle the Mother ship until all the soldiers were off that were supposed to be in the landing. Then when you got ready to land the landing crafts were side by side and headed to shore. When you got to the shore that was where the combat was.

Jerry Wiens: Did you actually land on the beach or did you land in the water and have to swim ashore?

Mr. Wiens: You didn't have to swim because it wasn't that deep, but you had to wade ashore.

Jerry Wiens: With your pack?

Mr. Wiens: Yes.

Jerry Wiens: You said earlier that you shipped out from San Francisco. Do you remember anything special about the ship that you shipped out on?

Mr. Wiens: The name of it was the Sea Snipe, but we called it the Seasick Snipe. They had their own orchestra. Of course we were all men so we couldn't do any dancing or anything but they entertained us with music every evening we were out for thirty-two days.

Jerry Wiens: This was a US Navy troop transport ship and they had a band on the ship to entertain you?

Mr. Wiens: Yes, they had a six-piece band and they played every night.

Jerry Wiens: How many men do you think were actually on that ship?

Mr. Wiens: Five thousand men plus the Navy crew.

Jerry Wiens: During that thirty-two day trip what did you do to entertain yourself or get ready for what you knew was coming?

Mr. Wiens: Well we really didn't know what was coming until we landed. We did calisthenics on the ship every day. A lot of us wrote letters to our family back home.

Jerry Wiens: Did you know where you were going at the time?

Mr. Wiens: No, we didn't. We just knew we were going south. We got to Australia but we didn't land there. They told us then that we were on our way to the Philippines. We got mail in Australia.

After we were in combat several days then they came with another load of mail.

Jerry Wiens: This was in 1945, when you landed on Leyte?

Mr. Wiens: Yes. After Leyte, we went to other islands in the Philippines.

Jerry Wiens: Do you remember how long it took you to clear Leyte?

Mr. Wiens: It wasn't a very big island but we were there for about three months.

Jerry Wiens: Do you recall anything about the combat there? Anything special that you remember?

Mr. Wiens: Well I don't remember anything special about it. The Japanese took off running when we landed. Of course some of them stayed behind. They went to the other side of the island and when we got to them then that was the last of them.

Jerry Wiens: Had you at that point already been assigned your primary skill mission? I know at some point you became a radioman. Was that before you landed at Leyte or was that after?

Mr. Wiens: That was after. The reason was because they really didn't have a special radioman. We had had some training in radio but we kind of took turns at the radio. When you carry one of

those big radios on your back you have a spool of maybe twenty-miles of wire. On Leyte I just carried a M-1 rifle. One of those radio with the spool of wire weighed about seventy-five pounds. We didn't carry our pack when we carried the radio equipment, but we did carry our gun all the time.

Jerry Wiens: Do you remember anything special about Leyte and what the conditions were like?

Mr. Wiens: When we got there the Filipinos were living up in the hills, in mountainous territory. When we got across Leyte, the Japanese that we were chasing killed themselves. Those that didn't kill themselves jumped in the ocean and drowned.

Jerry Wiens: So there were a lot of suicides on the part of the Japanese. You marched across the island driving the Japanese from the island or into the sea. Probably took some prisoners too.

Mr. Wiens: We took prisoners one time. They came down with a white flag up. They wanted to surrender. When they got close to us one of the Japanese acted like he fell down. He had a bomb on him and it went off when he hit the ground. Some of our soldiers were killed from that because they weren't small bombs. They were on a suicide mission.

Jerry Wiens: After Leyte, do you remember where you went next? Let me ask

you here also when did you get your assignment to the One Hundred and Eighth Regimental Combat Team of the Fortieth Division? Was that at Fort Ord or was that later?

Mr. Wiens: That was later. When they came to tell us what outfits we would be in, they told us we were all replacements. This is when we joined the Fortieth Division, One Hundred and Eighth Infantry.

Jerry Wiens: How did you know what squad or what company you were going to be in?

Mr. Wiens: We really didn't know. They just told us what to expect. They wanted us to clean off the island. We all had our bayonets and rifles and ready to go and clean them up.

Jerry Wiens: You mentioned to me about how the sergeants made their individual selections. Did they just come by and say I want you and you or did they talk to you?

Mr. Wiens: They would talk to us and told us what we would be doing. They told us we would be replacements. Replacing someone that had gotten hurt or killed.

Jerry Wiens: That is how you ended up in F Company of the One Hundred and Eighth Regimental Combat Team of the Fortieth Division.

After you left Leyte you went on to the next island?

Mr. Wiens: The next island was Negros. That was the one between Leyte and Masbate. It was a small island. There wasn't too much there. They had some Japanese there. The Filipinos had moved up in the hills and they didn't come down until they got the all clear signal up in the hills that it would be safe for them to come down. One night a bunch of people, most of them women, came down. We had our perimeter set for the night because we were going to stay there for the night. When these Filipino women gave us the password, we settled them in the middle of our perimeter. After they had been there for awhile word came down that a woman had delivered a little baby up there.

Jerry Wiens: When you landed on Negros did you go ashore the same way you had Leyte?

Mr. Wiens: Yes on the small landing craft.

Jerry Wiens: When you left the island did you go the same way?

Mr. Wiens: They would haul us back on one of those little carriers but when they loaded us back on the Mother ship then we would take off for another island. Sometime it would be a day before

we got there.

Jerry Wiens: After Masbate what was the next island you went to?

Mr. Wiens: Mindanao was the last island I was on. It was the biggest one. But back when we were on Leyte, they found out the Japanese were on their way to Leyte with three boatloads of Japanese. When they tried to land, we happened to be on that island and we all gathered around where we knew they would be coming in. That is where the Banzi attacks came on. They had three ships that were loaded with Japanese soldiers. We settled in and when they started coming ashore we just picked them off. They were almost running when they came out. Their ship got as close to the beach as they could and they jolted off the ship there. When they got off the ship they would run toward the beach hollering and making a lot of noise.

Jerry Wiens: They had their bayonets mounted?

Mr. Wiens: Yes, in fact that is where I stabbed my first Japanese soldier. They just didn't quit coming.

Jerry Wiens: So you were in hand-to-hand combat?

Mr. Wiens: Yeah, that was the first time and I never tried it a second time because I didn't like the way things ended whenever you got

one.

Jerry Wiens: That had to be a horrible experience even though you knew it was war. I guess they thought they were fighting for their homeland just like we knew we were fighting for the freedom of the world. Obviously the first taste of combat had a significant impact on you as I'm sure it did on most of the men over there.

Mr. Wiens: Yes, It did have quite an impact on me. They just kept on coming until there were no Japanese left.

Jerry Wiens: Basically you took no prisoners that day. They were all dead on the beaches. Is this correct?

Mr. Wiens: They all got shot or drown themselves. They wouldn't give up.

Jerry Wiens: Even though Leyte was your first landing and it was kind of a small island it was a pretty significant combat. That was the only hand to hand combat you saw?

Mr. Wiens: I didn't use my bayonet anymore after that. We were eating breakfast and these two Japanese came walking down the path. They were holding up a white flag like they wanted to surrender. When they got close to us that is when the Japanese soldier fell on the ground and the bomb went off. So after that

we got orders not to take any more prisoners.

Jerry Wiens: Did that order come from your sergeant?

Mr. Wiens: Yes, the order was take no prisoners. He shot the last three. There weren't too many Japanese left anymore. There were three coming down like they were going to surrender. Captain Queenie saw them coming down. He took this little pistol out of his pocket, walked up and met those guys and shot them right there. He saw them coming and he told us not to shoot because he wanted to go get them himself.

Jerry Wiens: While we had the recorder off, you were sharing a little bit about what some of the Japanese did in their foxholes. Would you like to repeat this for the reader of this text?.

Mr. Wiens: A lot of times when they got into a position where they would get killed pretty quickly, they would turn the gun on themselves or they would crawl into a foxhole and hold a hand grenade on themselves and let it go off. They would kill themselves.

Jerry Wiens: While the recorder was off you mentioned you were on Panay. Was combat there similar to that on Leyte?

Mr. Wiens: It had let up some by then. They had most of it done until we

got to Mindanao which was the biggest island in the Philippines. Before we made our landing down there the Lieutenant came and told us that they were expecting fifty thousand Japanese on that island. We didn't lose hardly any men there. I don't think the Japanese were the best shots. You could hear bullets fly by but usually they would just fly by. They weren't very accurate. We were on Panay about a week. When we got to the other side we could see all that was left of the Japanese were in the ocean. They had drowned themselves.

Jerry Wiens: Had you cleaned out the Philippines and were just waiting at that time?

Mr. Wiens: We went to rest on Mindanao. We were there about a week when we heard that the atom bomb had been dropped and the war was over. Then we got all our beer supply. (Laughter)

Jerry Wiens: What kind of a beer supply did you get?

Mr. Wiens: We were issued a case of beer about every six or seven days. Every time we had a rest or had a little time they would run the truck out and bring us a bunch of beer.

Jerry Wiens: But you couldn't do that when you were in combat?

Mr. Wiens: No. Whenever it was time they would bring it out.

Jerry Wiens: So you were on this rest period on Mindanao. You had cleaned the islands. I guess you weren't necessarily in training for an assault on any of the Japanese islands.

Mr. Wiens: We were training for that too.

Jerry Wiens: You were on Mindanao when they dropped the atom bomb and then you were sharing with us how happy the GI's were.

Mr. Wiens: They actually had the beer stashed quite a ways behind the lines but when they heard the war was over they loaded the trucks up and brought all the beer up. The average guy up there got four cases.

Jerry Wiens: Four cases per soldier. Was the beer hot or was it cold?

Mr. Wiens: It didn't matter. We drank it just like it was. It wasn't cold. It was warm. It was American beer. The Filipinos had beer. I forget what it was called. They made it out of the juices from the trees.

Jerry Wiens: Do you remember if any of your buddies that you had made while you were in the service got killed?

Mr. Wiens: There were quite a bunch of them killed. You just knew them

by doing your job together. While over there I discovered that I walked in my sleep. I woke up one night and I was walking down a trail. I didn't know where I was. I had my gun and had my heavy field pack on like I was going into combat. I had walked about a quarter of a mile already. What woke me up was a guy started running from me. I think it was a Japanese that was left. I could hear him running in the brush in a zigzag manner. When I woke up I realized I was in enemy territory, I had walked that far. We had a password that you had to use if you left the perimeter. We would change it ever so often because if the Japanese heard it then they could get in.

Jerry Wiens: Was that the only time that that happened to you?

Mr. Wiens: Yes, well one other time in Korea when we went there to disarm the Japanese. Of course I didn't go that far. We had beds to sleep in. That way I could lay down in a bed to sleep and if I got up it is easier to wake up.

Jerry Wiens: How did you sleep when you were on the Philippine islands taking those islands?

Mr. Wiens: On the islands we always slept in foxholes. In Korea when we moved over there they sent bunks out for us. We occupied some Japanese barracks that the Japanese had been using. I

have some pictures of those barracks.

Jerry Wiens: Were they wood or canvass?

Mr. Wiens: They were wood because they had a lot of trees there. After we landed there we loaded guns. They had stacks of them. Sometimes five and six foot high. There would be stacks of them about a half of mile long that were all new rifles that they had just made. This one that I have was still packed in cosmoline. On Mindanao we happened to run on to a bunch of Japanese soldiers that were having a party. It was a big two-story building. The Filipinos didn't build the strongest of houses. We happened to have a tank with us that morning. It was following us. When we got about a quarter of a mile from the party house you could hear the Japanese hollering and having a high old time like they were all drunk. They might have been. They had a bunch of girls in there. We set the tank up and aimed it at that building. When the tank fired into that house it just opened up. The Japanese were jumping out from the building. I got a the rifle from the guy that was running toward me.

Jerry Wiens: What kind of a weapon were you carrying?

Mr. Wiens: A Thompson Sub-machine gun.

Jerry Wiens: So at some point in your combat over there you traded your M1 rifle for a Thompson Sub.

Mr. Wiens: Some time you traded. Depended on what you were doing. If you had wire to string then you would always have a Thompson Sub because it had a big clip of rapid fire. When this guy came running at me he was firing at me but he never hit me. I made sure that when I got him he would have nothing to fire back at me. I got the flag that came off of him. He had the flag sewn in his lapel on the uniform he was wearing. I took his gun that he was carrying

Jerry Wiens: Was he carrying a sword also?

Mr. Wiens: Yes, I got that too. He was an officer. Both of the weapons are still in my possession.

Jerry Wiens: Do you remember any funny incidents along the way that would have added any levity or joy to your life in this horrible situation over there.

Mr. Wiens: We had chances in the Philippines where we could get wild animals. In fact on one occasion our squad butchered a wild boar. We were out by ourselves away from the main group and it was time to eat so we happened to shoot a boar.

When we got him butchered and cleaned up we put a stick through the middle of him. We built a little fire underneath it and we had roast pork for awhile. It was wild pork but it was good.

Jerry Wiens: Was it better than the rations you were eating?

Mr. Wiens: Oh yeah. With those C rations that we were eating I got down to around one hundred thirty-five pounds from one hundred seventy pounds that I normally weighed. We stayed in the Philippines about eight months and during that length of time I went down to one hundred and thirty nine pounds. Of course whenever we headed for home I gained that back pretty quick. Another thing I got a monkey from a Filipino. I traded some rations for it. You could trade rations for about anything over there. I kept this monkey with me until I gave him away to one of the GI's in Korea just before we left there. On one occasion my Mother sent me a big can of real good pork and beans. I hadn't had any of those since we left home. I thought I would eat them myself because I hadn't had any for a long time. I put them in my barracks bag and when we were on a train going from South Korea to North Korea. After it was dark in the train I opened them and ate that whole can of beans by myself. I didn't think the beans would give me any problem

but that night I thought I was going to die from a bellyache.
(Laughter)

Jerry Wiens: What did you guys do for fresh water?

Mr. Wiens: We always had some pills we took along. Any water we took from anywhere, rivers, ponds, creeks we put a couple of pills in our canteen, fill it with water and wait for about half an hour. Then it is clear and you can use it. Most of our water was always cleaned with the pills. While we were on Mindanao several of us ran out of water. There was a steep hill and when you got to the top it was a big flat area. Before you got to the top of the hill there was a pond where the caribou came. It was muddy water but we got a couple of canteens of it and purified it with pills that were issued to us for that purpose. The water tasted o.k. but it still smelled like it did in the pond and that stench was hard to overlook.

Jerry Wiens: Are there any situations that you have tried to put out of your mind that maybe you would want to share with historians. You have already talked about some I know.

Mr. Wiens: On one occasion we were surrounded. There was one platoon of us that was out there. There wasn't any way we could get food to us but there were plants growing there that looked like a turnip. We built a little bonfire and cooked those and they

tasted like a turnip. That was the only food we had while we were in that area. We were there about three days before we worked our way out of there and didn't lose a man doing it either.

Jerry Wiens: How were you rescued or how did you work your way out of it?

Mr. Wiens: There were nine of us and we made a circle. We moved just a little at a time and made sure that we wouldn't miss any Japanese. It took us three days to get out and then we went to rest camp. That was when I went to one hundred and thirty-nine from one hundred and seventy pounds.

Jerry Wiens: You finally worked your way back to the lines?

Mr. Wiens: Yes.

Jerry Wiens: That was on Mindanao and then you went to Korea where you were basically disarming the Japanese soldiers. When did you finally get word that you would be heading home?

Mr. Wiens: That bomb was dropped in August and when we heard that, we figured some guys would be leaving. After the Surrender Agreement was signed we thought that they wouldn't be

needing all of us to stay. The ones who had been in combat so much would be the first ones to go home. We were all through with the disarming. We had done that for about a month. One morning this Lieutenant came by and asked me if I would like to go home. He was our Company Commander. He said he had good news, that I could go home. They went according to a point system. I had three children and a wife at home so that gave me enough points that I could leave within a week. So I got my bag packed and everything. When the week was up here they came after me and put me on a ship to go home. I left from Korea.

Jerry Wiens: What were your thoughts when you were coming back on that Ship across the Pacific after all that action and going home?

Mr. Wiens: It was very peaceful.

Jerry Wiens: Was there any celebrating on the ship?

Mr. Wiens: We didn't have any beer anymore. The only time we had beer was when the war ended.

Jerry Wiens: No bands on the ships going home?

Mr. Wiens: No. The Navy had a lot of beer though.

Jerry Wiens: Where did you make port when you came in to the United

States?

Mr. Wiens: We landed in Seattle. When we landed there they hauled us right to the cook shacks. When we got there they had piles and piles of sandwiches, good meat and all the fruit we wanted to eat. We hadn't had any fruit since we were in the Philippines. That was kind of a treat to get to Seattle. They took us to camp and they even had white sheets that we could sleep on the first night we were there. The Salvation Army had a big band on the beach when we landed there. It was a treat to not have to jump in and do work and get all of that food to eat, get clean clothes and sleep on cots with white sheets. It didn't seem right.

Jerry Wiens: From Seattle I guess you boarded a troop train.

Mr. Wiens: Yes, we boarded a troop train and got off in Denver. I got my discharge in Denver. When we got to Seattle we went to that base there and they were all real nice people. We got loaded there in a troop train. We left Seattle and went on a troop train clear to Denver. All of us were let off in Denver and from there you hired your own transportation. The Army paid for it. It was Christmas day and we had to stay until the day after Christmas because they didn't have anyone to work on the

base to type the releases on Christmas day. I was officially discharged on December 26, 1945. I was a PFC at the time. After I received my discharge I went to Omaha, Nebraska. That is where my wife and children were.

Jerry Wiens: Were you awarded any ribbons or medals for all of that service?

Mr. Wiens: Everybody got these battle pins for the different battles that you had been in. I got all those for the different battles.

Jerry Wiens: Have you maintained contact with any of your service buddies since the war ended?

Mr. Wiens: Yes, I've seen Noah Heddings, he lives in Heston, Kansas. I.B. Kirkland, he lives in Georgia. I get a letter from him now and then and I call him once in a while. Bernard is in Pennsylvania.

Jerry Wiens: Have you had a chance to share in any reunions of your unit?

Mr. Wiens: Yes, we went to one in Kansas City last July and there were about eighty five of us there.

Jerry Wiens: Are there any other memories that you might think are important for people to know about that you want to share?

Mr. Wiens:

I acquired malaria while I was in the Philippines and for eleven years after my discharge, I was periodically trouble by re-occurrences of it in which I would be stricken with a very high fever and chilling. That is about the extent of my experiences during World War II. I think this is a pretty good amount of history that I've got here.

Jerry Wiens:

Thank you very much for sharing with us. This will be important for those generations that follow to know what some of the GI's went through as they were battling in the Pacific. On behalf of The National Museum of the Pacific War, thank you.

Transcribed by
Cynthia G. Cox
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