

**The National Museum of the Pacific War
(Admiral Nimitz Museum)**

**Center for Pacific War Studies
Fredericksburg, Texas**

An Interview with

Louis A. Imfeld

February 27, 2003

Interview With
Mr. Louis A. Imfeld

Mr. Richard Misenhimer

Today is February 27, 2003. I am interviewing by telephone Mr. Louis A. Imfeld by telephone.

His home is 115 Workington Court, Williamsburg, VA 23188-7485. His home phone number is area code 757-258-0010. This interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War Studies for the preservation of historic information related to World War II.

Mr. Misenhimer

May I call you Lou or Louis?

Mr. Imfeld

Sure.

Mr. Misenhimer

I want to thank you for taking time to do this interview today. Let me start out by asking you where you were born?

Mr. Imfeld

I was born in Newark, New Jersey on May 11th, 1922.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, I had two brothers.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were they in World War II?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes. They were younger, one by two years and by five years and both got into World War II.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did they both come home?

Mr. Imfeld

They both came home. They were in the Navy.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you go to school?

Mr. Imfeld

We moved to Union, New Jersey when I was two-years-old and I grew up and attended the schools there in Union.

Mr. Misenhimer

What year did you finish high school?

Mr. Imfeld

I finished high school in 1940.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you go into the service?

Mr. Imfeld

I had covered this in the narrative and didn't know if you needed to get it again.

Mr. Misenhimer

Okay. What were you doing before you went into the service?

Mr. Imfeld

As I said, I graduated in 1940. This was during the Depression and I didn't have the money to attend college. So I got a job with Bendix Aviation in Teterboro, New Jersey making \$.35 an

hour and working 60 hours a week. In September 1941, I enrolled in Newark Technical School starting engineering, still working 10 hours a day, six days a week. I was working overtime on Sunday morning December 7, 1941 and heard the attack on Pearl Harbor on my car radio on the way home. My father was a World War I veteran and I had two younger brothers at home. When I got home, we were all talking about it and were pretty much outraged by the attack, as were all of our friends. So the next evening, that was December 8th, after work my friend Bob Kennedy and I went to the Newark Post Office Building to sign up in the Marines. There were hundreds of guys there. We signed up and were told to report the next morning to 90 Church Street in New York City for our physicals. There were more crowds there. I passed the physical, except for my weight. I was four pounds underweight and was told to gain four pounds and report back on Friday. Bob failed because he was found to be color blind. He later joined the Navy and became a corpsmen and then served with the Fourth Marine Division in the Pacific. I ate like mad for the next couple of days, but saw I wasn't going to be making the weight by Friday. So I took four pounds of bananas with me to eat while I waited to be examined. All I needed to do was to be weighed, so I got called earlier than I expected. They had me take off my jacket, shirt and shoes. I got on the scale still dressed in my underwear and trousers and with the brown paper bag containing the remainder of the bananas that I hadn't had time to eat. They told me I made the weight and passed the physical.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was that weight?

Mr. Imfeld

I had to get to 124. We were told that they didn't have room for us at boot camp on that day and I was to report back on January 5, 1942. I attended boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina,

where the weather was cold and the course was tough. But it only lasted six weeks. On February 13, 1942, we were transported to New River, North Carolina where the First Marines were being formed. Camp Lejune had not yet been built and we were housed in huts. I was assigned to G Company, Second Battalion, First Marines. We trained there for four months from February to June before we were shipped overseas.

I became a machine gunner on the 30 caliber light machine gun, model 1919A4, belt fed, air cooled, recoil operated, as I was required to memorize from the manual. We had several weekend opportunities to get home while at New River, but it wasn't easy. The last liberty was over Memorial Day Weekend in 1942. We would usually take a taxi from Jacksonville, North Carolina when released late Friday afternoon and drive to Washington, DC. There I would catch a train to Newark and would return on Sunday afternoon. The taxi driver would wait in DC for us to return and drive us back to North Carolina in time for revile on Monday morning. Although the trip was tough, the fare wasn't bad. With five of us in the taxi, it would cost us \$15 each. If there were four of us, the fare would be \$20 each. When we left New River in June, we traveled in style across the country. It was early in the war and the military had not yet acquired the multilevel cattle cars we would use later.

Mr. Misenhimer

Lou, can I interrupt you and go back and ask some questions about this?

Mr. Imfeld

Sure, anytime.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you choose the Marines?

Mr. Imfeld

My friends and I were talking if there was going to be action, we were going to beat the Japanese real fast, and if anybody was going to see action, it was probably going to be the Marines. We were just kids. We were 19-years-old. And that's what you think when you're young, I guess.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you went through boot camp, what was that like? What all did you do there?

Mr. Imfeld

Boot camp we went into close order drill and the rifle range and a lot of marching especially in the sand along the water down there. As I said we went on the rifle range and qualified on our weapons.

Mr. Misenhimer

Which rifle were you using at that point?

Mr. Imfeld

We were using, at that point and when we landed on Guadalcanal, the Springfield 03 Rifle.

Mr. Misenhimer

That's the bolt action?

Mr. Imfeld

Bolt action, the same one they used in World War I. In fact, we were issued helmets from World War I when we first got down there.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you live in there?

Mr. Imfeld

We lived in huts down there.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was the food?

Mr. Imfeld

It was typical food, not anything to write home about, but we did anyway. But it was better than the food that we got on Guadalcanal that was for sure.

Mr. Misenhimer

As part of that training, did you go to the infiltration course and that sort of thing?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where they were firing the live ammunition over you?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Bayonet training?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

That was about a six week course, you say?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, that's right.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now we see all of these movies and things about how rough the drill instructors are on you

Marine recruits, how were your drill instructors?

Mr. Imfeld

Well, you know, they were tough, but fair. Some of the guys came up with us from boot camp and were our NCOs when we went into the First Marines.

Mr. Misenhimer

So then you left there and went up to New River?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, we went up to New River on February 13, 1942.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you live in there?

Mr. Imfeld

We lived in huts there. That was before Camp Lejune was built.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did your training there differ from what you were doing down in boot camp?

Mr. Imfeld

We just did more of it. We eventually got issued the weapons that we were going to use. We didn't have real machine guns at the beginning of the training. We received those when we were there. We fired those and I was made a machine gunner.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you were in what they called the weapons platoon, is that right?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, we were in the machine gun section of the weapons platoon.

Mr. Misenhimer

What machine gun was this?

Mr. Imfeld

It was a light machine gun, 30 calibre.

Mr. Misenhimer

Air cooled or water cooled?

Mr. Imfeld

Air cooled.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else that you recall from that time?

Mr. Imfeld

We would go on maneuvers. We did some landings on Onslow Beach. It was just typical I guess of getting ready. We were only there for four months.

Mr. Misenhimer

So then you left there on a train?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, in June of 1942.

Mr. Misenhimer

You say this was not the multilevel cattle cars?

Mr. Imfeld

No, they put us in Pulman cars, each man with a double seat, which opened into an upper and lower bunk. We even ate in the dining car.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were there civilians on train?

Mr. Imfeld

No, it was completely a troop train. We would get off and some of us would be assigned to get off at every stop, wherever it stopped, like to take on water. We would get off and make sure nobody got on or nobody got off the train.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you go then?

Mr. Imfeld

We went to San Francisco.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you want to pick up your narrative now?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes. We had a few days in San Francisco before we sailed. We were wearing the winter green uniforms, which the people in San Francisco hadn't seen before. They were used to seeing Marines in dress blues. They didn't know whether we were Canadian airmen or what we were. We boarded our transport, the George F. Elliott, which sailed on June 22nd. We learned after we got aboard that we were headed for New Zealand, where we would go in to finish our training before we went into combat. Of course, we didn't know, nor did the people in Washington that there would be no more training and that when we left the ship, we would be going into combat. While we were still at sea, it was discovered that the Japanese were building an airfield on an island called Guadalcanal, which would threaten our supply lines to Australia and New Zealand. It was decided that the First Marine Division would take it before it was finished. We didn't know that and weren't told until we left New Zealand. We were at sea for about three weeks and landed in Wellington, New Zealand on July 11. Our ship had to be reloaded.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were conditions like on the ship coming over?

Mr. Imfeld

They were tight. They weren't, from the stories, as bad as they were on some ships, you know bigger ships. We had bunks that were three or four high and we were down in the hold most of the time with strict lights out and no smoking. You would hear the same songs, the popular songs of the day, over and over again. My buddy had a record player and albums. We went past the International Dateline and over the equator and instead of polywogs, we became shellbacks. There was the typical Naval shenanigans that go on.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were you escorted or were you with another group of ships?

Mr. Imfeld

We were with a group.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there much seasickness on that trip?

Mr. Imfeld

There was. As we left San Francisco, the ground swells there caused some seasickness. Other than that, there wasn't much.

Mr. Misenhimer

Go ahead and pick up when you got to New Zealand then.

Mr. Imfeld

We got to New Zealand, as I say, about July 11th. Our ship had to be unloaded and reloaded for combat in 10 days in order to make the deadline, which had been established in Washington for taking Guadalcanal. When we left, it wasn't combat loaded. They didn't know that we would be

going into combat at the time. They started with the dock workers there, but they had to work around the clock and it was apparently in violation of their work rules. They went on strike, so we ended up unloading and reloading the ship around the clock, four hours on and four hours off. So we found that we were not only going into combat with no training and no exercise for a month, but we were going to have to load our own ship to do it. I think if I had know that back in December, I might not have bought those bananas. Of course, August in New Zealand is the middle of the winter. It was cold and it was raining. As I said, we were working four hours on and four hours off, 24-hours a day. Cardboard boxes of corn flakes would get soaked and would open all over the docks. We didn't have any work rules like the Wellington dock workers, so we had to go out there.

Mr. Misenhimer

You say combat loading, explain what that loading means.

Mr. Imfeld

Well, combat loading is when they load a ship where it is going to be unloaded on the beaches where you are going into action. It's where they have the food supplies, ammunition and everything ready to be taken off the ship in some sort of order so that it could be used by the troops going into combat. Otherwise, everything was just piled in and loaded where it would be unloaded on the docks and sorted out and distributed when we were going to train in New Zealand.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were in New Zealand did you live on the ship?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes. We lived on the ship from the time we got on in San Francisco until we got off at Guadalcanal. The day after we got off, the ship was sunk. I guess it might have been the first ship that was sunk at Guadalcanal. It was before the battle of Savo and a Japanese dive bomber crashed into the hold of the ship and set it on fire. It had to be abandoned. I don't think it's clear where it sunk, because when we went back to Guadalcanal last year, there were divers who were still looking for it and asking questions about where it may have gone down.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you left New Zealand, where did you go?

Mr. Imfeld

We sailed from New Zealand on July 22nd and we were to practice landing in the Fiji Islands, but we couldn't because the coral was tearing the bottom out of our wooden Higgins boat. We were up early in preparation for the landing at Guadalcanal on August 7th. As the sun was coming up, we were going over the side of the Elliott onto cargo nets and down the nets into the Higgins boats, which were bouncing up and down on the water. Except for the aborted practice in the Fiji's we hadn't had any experience on these nets and maybe this was supposed to be part of our training in New Zealand. We went over the side with packs on, but unbuckled in case we fell into the ocean. You had to watch below to make sure you didn't step on the guy below and to time when the boat was rising to meet you. You had to watch above to see that no one stepped on your hands when you were looking out below. The nets would be moving, of course, as they swung from the side of the ship, and as guys swung on them. I remember my assistant gunner, Roy Hoonhout, managed to lower our gun and tripod on a line from the deck of the ship down to me without knocking anybody off of the net. As we got in the Higgins boats, we circled around while the Navy shelled the island and the planes dropped bombs. Then we went in. There was no

me without knocking anybody off of the net. As we got in the Higgins boats, we circled around while the Navy shelled the island and the planes dropped bombs. Then we went in. There was no opposition on the beaches on Guadalcanal, although there was on the other islands, Pavuvu and Tonabiko.

Mr. Misenhimer

And Tulagi?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Go ahead.

Mr. Imfeld

Most of the Japanese forces on Guadalcanal were laborers building the airfield, who headed inland when the shelling started. Our battalion was to head inland and occupy a grassy knoll, which we later learned was called Mount Austin. We never got there, not in 1942 anyway. We made it in 2002, when some of us went back for that 60th anniversary of the landing.

Mr. Misenhimer

Okay, let's back up. Were you in the first wave going in?

Mr. Imfeld

No the Fifth Marines had landed before we did.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now describe this Higgins boat to me.

Mr. Imfeld

The Higgins boat was wooden without a ramp in the front, shallow draft that would take you right on to the sandy beach. We would get off, you would throw one leg over and then the other and then drop down into the water. Then you would hand the gun or tripod over the side and then wade ashore.

Mr. Misenhimer

So when you got there other Marines were already there and no opposition?

Mr. Imfeld

There was no opposition.

Mr. Misenhimer

You all formed up and started out toward the grassy knoll.

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, we had headed out toward the grassy knoll. As I said, we didn't get there. The Army eventually took it about six months later after we had left the island. The first thing on the island we cut through the jungle with machetes and it was very slow going. We spent the first night in the jungle. I remember the next morning a corpsman was leading someone back through the lines and I couldn't recognize who it was. I learned later, he was obviously blind because his face was all puffed up and his eyes swollen closed, and he was one of the lieutenants who had been stung by a scorpion during the night. So even without the Japanese the inhabitants of the island were not very friendly. The next day the going was slow again. We were still headed for the grassy knoll. We spent the night on a grass covered hill in the rain. Sometime after midnight we were awakened by what appeared to be thunder and saw flashes of light. We soon realized that was not lightening, but what we were witnessing was the first of a half a dozen Naval battles which took place off the island. It was the worst defeat that the Navy had suffered in surface to surface

engagement since the War of 1812. Pearl Harbor and the other battles were hit planes, not surface to surface. The Japs had fallen back and surprised our fleet at what became to be known as the battle of Salvo Island. They lost four cruisers, the Quincy, Vincennes, Astoria, and the Australian cruiser Cambera were sunk and another cruiser was badly damaged and put out of action. The Japanese fleet apparently didn't suffer any damage in that battle. As a result of this defeat, the Navy decided to withdraw the balance of the fleet including the transports, which had not yet been unloaded. Air cover had been withdrawn previous to that so we had no air cover after the second day we were there. When they took the fleet, they took the transports with them, which hadn't been unloaded. So two days after we had landed, we had no air cover and no naval support and were short of supplies. The morning after the battle of Salvo Island we rushed back to the beaches to set up defenses against an anticipated Japanese counter landing. We were short of food, receiving just two skimpy meals a day, which consisted largely of Japanese rice and some kind of gruel, which had insects and worms crawling around in it. We were bombed every day at about noon time. There were often Japanese destroyers or submarines off shore when we woke up in the morning. It was quite a while before we saw our own Navy again. For a while a B-17 would fly over in the morning from New Caledonia or New Hebrides to check things out. One morning, we saw a Jap destroyer or cruiser off shore, apparently dropping off troops to the east of our line. The B-17 was high up and we couldn't understand why it wasn't doing something about the Jap destroyer, which was heading out to sea in the slot between the canal and the eastern end of the island. When the plane was almost out of sight, we saw a plume of smoke appear at the fan tail of the destroyer and we all started yelling, as if our team had just scored a last minute touch down. Apparently the rudder of the ship was damaged and it was going around in circles for a while before it disappeared. Then late on August 20th our first

planes came in amid a lot of cheering on our part. There were 13 of them, some wildcat fighters, some Douglas dauntless dive bombers. We thought things would start getting a lot better when the planes came in. Although it was welcome help, things were going to get worse on the island. The Japanese were bringing in troops at night outside of our beachhead on small boats. The first attack against our lines came the morning after the planes came in and hit our positions on the Tenaru, which is where you were when you went with our group.

Mr. Misenhimer

Right.

Mr. Imfeld

It was marked the Tenaru on the sketchy maps we had, but we later learned it was Alligator Creek, which was a branch of the Ilu River. We had our machine gun set up on the beach west of the Tenaru, but our machine gun section, which I was a member of, was on an outpost without our machine guns. There was no indication where the Japanese would hit. We knew they were ashore and they wouldn't be hitting the beach. Our line ran along the beach east to the Tenaru and then up the west side of the Tenaru for a short distance. We did not, at that time, have enough men to form a perimeter around the airfield. The group on our outpost was placed inland between the river and the airfield in case the Japs crossed the river upstream. They didn't. They came along the shore and tried to cross where the river met the sea. The river didn't flow into the sea there, except where it was very wet and flooded, which left that sand spit between the river and the sea. The Japs tried to cross the sand spit in large numbers. Some of them made it across into our lines, but most were mowed down trying to cross. They lost about 800 men that night and we lost 35. That was the first major encounter on Guadalcanal and the first of many attempts to take the airfield over the next five months.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now you were in an outpost and did not have your machine gun, is that correct?

Mr. Imfeld

No, we did not. What we had done was borrowed rifles, those of us that didn't have rifles, which were the NCOs and the gunners and the assistant gunners. The ammunition carriers had rifles and those that didn't have rifles would borrow them from some of the guys in the reserve platoon of G-company. The NCOs had tommy guns and one of the guys was given a tommy gun and had no experience in firing it. That night when the Japs hit, the machine gun wasn't cocked, the bolt wasn't back. He was in there getting stabbed in the legs. I don't know if it was with a bayonet or a Japanese sword, but he was getting all cut up until he got the bolt back and cut the Jap in half. We didn't have our machine guns with us on the outpost, we just had rifles out there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Of course, the Japs were attacking you and you had to defend yourself from them?

Mr. Imfeld

They didn't hit our outpost. It was inland on the west side of the river between the river and the airfield. So that if they Japanese had come in and crossed inland and were coming in to hit the troops from the rear or at the airfield there would be somebody there to stop them or hold them for a while until they could bring people around. We didn't have the perimeter going all around.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you were not involved in this particular fighting at this point?

Mr. Imfeld

After the planes came in, we began to see more of the Navy. The Navy would sometimes come in during the day, while the Japanese would come in at night. The Japanese would then get out before dawn when our planes could take off. During the night the Japanese would bring troops down the slot on what came to be called the "Tokyo Express" and land them outside of our lines, either east or west of our position. They would then assemble a force, which would strike in large numbers at some point in our lines and try to break through to the airfield. During this period, we were mostly in defensive positions and the Japanese were trying to break through. So their casualties were usually much higher than ours. We were bombed almost daily and received heavy naval fire from time to time, particularly when they were landing a large number of troops and attempting to break through at some point. The heaviest naval bombardment took place in mid October when we were shelled for hours one night by a battle ship, cruisers and destroyers. The battle ship was firing 14-inch guns. This coincided with a landing of about 10,000 troops to the west of our perimeter and was followed by substantial bombing and with Zeros and our wildcats dog-fighters fighting overhead for the next day or two. That was their big push in October, which was then followed by another naval attack and an attempt to land troops in mid November. Naval battles went on from the time of our landing in August until in mid November, when our Navy won a decisive victory and sunk a number of transports attempting to land more troops. After that the Japanese threat diminished, they weren't getting supplies and were sick and starving. We were relieved and left the island on December 22nd, 1942. We stopped off at Espiritusantos in New Hebrides on our way to Australia. There we had a chance to go aboard the Enterprise, which was then the only carrier remaining in action in the Pacific.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let's go back to your time on Guadalcanal. When you in the perimeters around the airport, was that your foxholes, is that right?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you reinforce them in any way?

Mr. Imfeld

We had dug foxholes and we always dug an emplacement for the machine gun.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you reinforce your foxholes in any way, with logs or anything like that?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, we had sand bags and would usually put logs over the top where we could or where we were going to be for a while we would.

Mr. Misenhimer

Which particular battle were you involved in?

Mr. Imfeld

We were outside of the Tenaru and our company was moved to the rear of the perimeter behind the airfield and we didn't get hit there. As soon as we left there, we were relieved by an Army unit and moved up to the ridges where they expected the Japanese to hit, but they didn't. They hit down where we left where the Army was and we were up in the ridges where the raiders had been fighting previously and they expected them to come back there. So we didn't get hit again, our point in the perimeter, while we were on the island.

Mr. Misenhimer

When the Battle of Bloody Ridge took place, where were you all then?

Mr. Imfeld

We were in those positions behind the airfield, south of the airfield.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you were not anywhere close to that then?

Mr. Imfeld

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

I've heard something about Washing Machine Charlie, who was Washing Machine Charlie?

Mr. Imfeld

There were float planes that would come off the cruisers. The cruisers would keep them around for during the night. As the Japanese Navy vessels would come in during the night, there would usually be an amphibious plane from the cruisers flying around during the night, mostly just keeping you awake, but never really did much damage.

Mr. Misenhimer

Mainly just a harassment, is that right?

Mr. Imfeld

Mainly, yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

So your outfit did not take a lot of casualties there on Guadalcanal?

Mr. Imfeld

We took quite a few at the battle of the Tenaru.

Mr. Misenhimer

Mr. Misenhimer

So your outfit did not take a lot of casualties there on Guadalcanal?

Mr. Imfeld

We took quite a few at the battle of the Tenaru.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about malaria, did you all get malaria?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, we had malaria and dysentery. I had malaria I think about six or eight times while I was overseas, _____ fever at another point, but that was later and not on Guadalcanal. That was on Cape Glouster.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else you recall from your time on Guadalcanal?

Mr. Imfeld

No, there were periods when things would be hectic, such as when you were being shelled and when the Japanese were ready to hit and you didn't know at what point they were going to be hitting. They would usually hit at one point at a time. A lot of the time there was just barely livable conditions and a lot of boredom.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you do much patrolling?

Mr. Imfeld

Oh yeah, we would go on patrols from time to time.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you encounter any Japanese on your patrols?

There were a few and especially in that time in mid October when the Japanese were putting on a big push. The Navy must have had an aircraft carrier there, because they didn't usually come over with the zeros, the bombers would come in by themselves. But this was after they had really banged up the airport with Naval shelling and we had moved from one position on our lines to another at that time. The airfield just looked as if there wasn't anything that could fly out of there and we went next to it on trucks on the way to our new position. The Japanese apparently thought they had broken through the lines and had taken the airfield at that point. Apparently they were ready to land planes, but they never did. They made every effort to bomb out at the airfield with their planes fighting what we could get in the air. It was over the island and a lot of dog fighting I think when they came in with bombers and our planes went out to meet them.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you left there and went to Espritu Santo. What ship did you leave there on?

Mr. Imfeld

I don't recall. I could find out though.

Mr. Misenhimer

That's fine. So when you got to Espritu Santo, what did you do then?

Mr. Imfeld

Some of us were allowed to go aboard the Enterprise. I mentioned it was the only carrier left on active duty in the Pacific at that time. It had been pretty well banged up with a bomb hole through the deck and where it had come through the deck and out next to the side of the ship where it hangs over the deck. There were other places on it where it had been repaired and had obviously been through an awful lot. The sailors were great. They were trying to help to see what we needed. I guess the biggest thing we needed were skivvies and socks. We were in pretty sad

shape at that point. We had a lot of malaria, dysentery and malnourishment. That was the end before we went down to Melbourne.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long were you at Espiritu Santo, just a few days?

Mr. Imfeld

We were just there a few days and aboard the ship all the time. I think we spent Christmas there aboard the ship.

Mr. Misenhimer

Any kind of a special dinner for Christmas or anything?

Mr. Imfeld

No, it wasn't a special dinner. It was pretty sad.

Mr. Misenhimer

No turkey and dressing?

Mr. Imfeld

No turkey and dressing at that point, no.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you went from there to Melbourne, Australia?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes. As I said, by the time we left the canal, we were exhausted and suffering from malaria and dysentery and the effects of rather sad nutritional situation and an unhealthy environment, but by the time we got to Melbourne, which had about the greatest R&R in the Pacific, it got us back in shape. It took them nine months to get us out of there again. Many of the men married girls from down there and there remains, to this day, a very close relationship between the people of

Australia and the First Marine Division. At our annual reunions, when they play the Marine hymn, they follow that by a chorus of Waltzing Matilda. I'm told that Waltzing Matilda is also played daily at the First Marine Division Base at Camp Pendleton in California along with the Marine Hymn at Colors. It was just great there and toward the end of it we had started getting back in shape and had been working out and going on field trips and such.

Mr. Misenhimer

You got replacements there, I assume?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, we received some replacements. They had come in and brought the Division back to full strength again.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you stay in there?

Mr. Imfeld

We lived at the Melbourne Cricket Grounds. It is an outdoor facility, which was covered, but open to the elements. They had bunks stacked two high in the stands, with one leg cut shorter than the other, so that one leg would be where the seat was and one leg would be down where your feet would be if you were sitting there. We were in the Melbourne Cricket Grounds for the entire period we were there. It was a nice walk into Melbourne. It was really great duty.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did they set up a mess hall and everything there in the Cricket Grounds?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

What all did you do in Melbourne?

Mr. Imfeld

We spent most of our time around town. Some of us got a chance to go up to places like Cohuna. It's farmland up north, quite a bit north of the city. We met the people out there and had an opportunity to have some relaxation and just a real nice time with real nice people.

Mr. Misenhimer

You say you would go on maneuvers and things there at Melbourne?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, that was toward the end of our stay. Most of the time, we would be around town. After being on that island for so long and just being around nice people again, it was just wonderful. When we left Melbourne, we went up to Good Enough Island, which is just off the coast of New Guinea. We were getting ready for the operation up in Cape Gloucester in New Britain. I was in the hospital with dengue fever when our outfit went up for the landing at Gloucester and after I recovered, or thought I had recovered, I told them I would like to rejoin my outfit, but I didn't get much in the way of satisfaction. After a few more days, I decided to try to make it up there on my own. I was going over the hill, but I thought that if it was to rejoin my outfit that there would be no repercussions. So I got to an airport there in New Guinea and tried to hitch a ride up to Cape Gloucester. I hit a number of spots on New Guinea, Napzab and Gadzab and Lae before I got to Cape Gloucester. When I got back to battalion headquarters the guys were surprised and glad to see me, but they heard that I had been shipped back to the states, which is really what the case was. I was supposed to be transferred back to the States. My records had already gone back to the States, and it was quite a while before I got paid again, and before they got my record book back where I was. But there wasn't anything that you could spend money on in Gloucester

anyway. I was told that I was going back to the States, but because I didn't stick around the hospital they just sent my records back to where I was. Cape Gloucester was a wet, miserable, rainy jungle. The fighting was light and our outfit was up in a separate area. There was only one firefight, which was before I got up there. We were left up there for about four months in the rain and the mud and the insects. My most memorable recollection of being there was being stung by a scorpion. We left there and went back to Pavuvu in the Russell Islands that was our rest area. It wasn't much of a rest area. It wasn't anything like Melbourne, I'll tell you.

Mr. Misenhimer

Back on Cape Gloucester, how long after the landing was it before you got there?

Mr. Imfeld

It was probably two or three weeks.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were there any repercussions from your having gone AWOL to go there?

Mr. Imfeld

No, there were no repercussions, except my service book wasn't around and I didn't get paid. Since they thought I was sent back to the United States, I wasn't in the machine gun section anymore. When we got back to Pavuvu, they made me the property sergeant. I got a tent of my own and some supplies and kept the records and such. It was sort of light duty, but there were no repercussions. I got called on the carpet by the battalion commander, but nothing was put in my record book.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were still in G Company, right?

Mr. Imfeld

Right. I was in G Company from the time I arrived in New River in February of 1942 until after Pelilu and went back to the States in November of 1944.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were the supply sergeant, were you attached to headquarters then?

Mr. Imfeld

I was attached to the headquarters of the company.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now back to Melbourne, did you meet any particular Australian friends down there? Was there anyone you made close friends with?

Mr. Imfeld

Not really. A lot of the guys were married down there. Jim Wilson didn't get married, but he had a very close relationship with a lady that he went back to visit and her family. Al, of course, had a rather close relationship with a young lady who he went back to visit with, which gave everybody a big kick out of the newspaper article when we got back there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Al sent me a copy of that newspaper article. Now anything else you remember on Cape Gloucester? You say you got stung by a scorpion, how severe was that?

Mr. Imfeld

It wasn't very severe. We were living in tents and on cots with mosquito netting around us. We would hang our shirts on the edge of the post with the mosquito netting and the scorpions usually try to find someplace warm and it got into my shirt. I put my shirt on the next morning without shaking it out, all of the bugs and things, and I had the shirt on and it was like somebody took an ice pick and jabbed me in the back. It got swollen a bit and I got sick duty for a day, but that was

it. It wasn't like the guy that got stung in the face on Guadalcanal. I understand it depends on what minerals and such were in the ground, what kind of poison the scorpion has. So this was not that bad and it really had no ill effects.

Mr. Misenhimer

How big were these scorpions?

Mr. Imfeld

It was probably an inch and a half. It wasn't a great big one.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else you recall from Cape Gloucester?

Mr. Imfeld

It was just a boring sort of an existence and some of the guys got around to making jungle juice. They would ferment whatever they could in order to make some alcohol. It was really very boring and uncomfortable situation.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were you getting plenty of food there or were you still short on rations?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, we had sufficient quantity of rations. The food, of course, isn't very good and wasn't good on any of those islands.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get a lot of mutton? I have heard people in Australia talk about getting a lot of mutton.

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, there was a lot of mutton. Most of us weren't used to that and most guys didn't like it. I wasn't fond of it, but I'll still eat lamb. Anything that gets a little aged I stay away from.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you arrive back in Pavuvu?

Mr. Imfeld

Let's see, we got back in Pavuvu probably about the end of April or early May.

Mr. Misenhimer

Of '43?

Mr. Imfeld

Of 1943.

Mr. Misenhimer

What all did you do there?

Mr. Imfeld

No that would not be '43, that would be '44.

Mr. Misenhimer

Yes, '44, right.

Mr. Imfeld

On Pavuvu, it was again a miserable place. Mostly I guess they picked it because it looked clear and there were just coconut trees from the air. It was sort of neat where they had slanted coconut trees. The coconuts mostly had fallen from the trees and were rotting. The place was full of rats, which would come out at night. The roads were all muddy. We would go on working parties and try to pave the roads with coral. It was a very unpleasant sort of place, although it was quiet with nobody shooting at you and nobody bombing you and no naval action or anything around. The most memorable flight there was when they brought Bob Hope and Jerry Colona and Frances

Langford and Patty Thomas in on two Piper Cubs that landed on one of the road. They put on a show for us.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was that the only time you had an USO show or did you have them other times?

Mr. Imfeld

No, that was it. We saw movies. They had movies there. Most of the time you had seen the movies and then you would go to the movie and it would rain. It just wasn't a real pleasant place to be.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now Pavuvu is in the Russell Islands, which I recall is about 20 or 30 miles from Guadalcanal, is that correct?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, it is in that vicinity. I think the Russell Islands are part of the Solomon Islands chain, but it is just 30-50 miles from Guadalcanal.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now they had some PT boat bases there and some airfields. Did you see any of those?

Mr. Imfeld

Not on Pavuvu.

Mr. Misenhimer

On the Russells?

Mr. Imfeld

On the Russells I'm sure there were. I think there was an island called Benika, which was a little more civilized than Pavuvu. We didn't see anything of that sort.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you live in there in Pavuvu?

Mr. Imfeld

We lived in tents.

Mr. Misenhimer

At this point, you are still the supply sergeant, is that right?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, that's right.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have a private tent then?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes. That was where I was really made supply sergeant.

Mr. Misenhimer

How many chevrons for a sergeant?

Mr. Imfeld

I didn't get any chevrons. I was still a corporal acting as property sergeant because my service records weren't around.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you actually get promoted to sergeant then?

Mr. Imfeld

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

Just acting sergeant?

Mr. Imfeld

Acting sergeant, right.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else you recall from your time there on Pavuvu?

Mr. Imfeld

Not really. It was very boring.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then you left there for where?

Mr. Imfeld

I do remember something else on Pavuvu. We were overseas then for about two years and what they wanted to do was rotate troops back to the states after we had been over for that period, but there weren't enough replacements to accomplish that. So what they did was hold a lottery for who was to be replaced. Each company would have a drawing and we got a chance to pick a slip out of a hat. If it had a number on it, you would be rotated back to the States. If there was no number on it, you would be around for another campaign. So for many of us, the draw was to determine whether you lived or you died. Because our next campaign was Pelilu, which was one of the bloodiest in the Pacific war.

Mr. Misenhimer

Right.

Mr. Imfeld

It was one, which was completely unnecessary. Some of the brass realized it was unnecessary for us to take it. It could have been bypassed like some of the other islands. However, it was about 450 miles from the Philippines and McArthur thought that we should take it before he invaded

the Philippines. That was an Army operation on Cape Gloucester. But I know that there were some brass that wanted to take it and some that didn't. We got the story that it was McArthur that wanted to take it. That's a hell of a reason to take it, because they hadn't done the research on it and it was going to be a pushover. They didn't do very good research because it wasn't a push over. And it really had no impact at all on the Philippine operation, because I think they started the Philippine operation before Pelilu was secure.

Mr. Misenhimer

Well, I'll tell you in a second. Pelilu started September 15th and it was

Mr. Imfeld

A worthless venture, it got a lot of guys killed and didn't serve any purpose at all.

Mr. Misenhimer

Accomplished exactly zero.

Mr. Imfeld

The only thing that came out of it I think was the plane flying out of Pelilu that discovered the Indianapolis sailors in the sea, you know at the end of the war.

Mr. Misenhimer

That could be. I don't recall for sure.

Mr. Imfeld

It was hardly reason for going in there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Right. So you all left Pavuvu heading up towards Pelilu then?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes. We had gone in to Pelilu and I was with headquarters as the property sergeant, but there was not much for a property sergeant to do in a combat operation. So there was an opportunity to learn demolitions and go into Pelilu as a demolition man. So I went to that school and I was taught how to make explosive devices that worked with composition C and TNT and fuses and detonators and primer cords and such. As a demolition man, I was taught to make an explosive device that you could poke into the front of a Japanese machine gun emplacement in order to blow it up. It was sort of using a Spam can, one of those long Spam cans, and tied it to a stick with like a furring strip about six or seven feet long. Then you pack it with blocks of TNT and then attached a fuse to it. You also attach some wire tape that you could push into the hole in the machine gun emplacement and with wires that would not allow it to be pulled out again. I don't know who designed this device or what sort of an award he got, but it didn't seem to make an awful lot of sense. But I got to make one of those and carry it ashore along with a bagful of composition C, which was the plastic explosive. I had detonators in a wooden box, which I was to keep on one side of my body separate from the explosives, so that if the detonators got hit it wouldn't blow up the explosives and everybody in the boat wouldn't be killed. It would just be me. So that's the way I went into Pelilu. We found a cave just a short distance inland that the group ahead of us had bypassed so it was sort of secure, but the Japanese would come out of it and shoot from time to time. We got in and tried to blow up the cave. I got tempted to try to find a machine gun to place that device into it, instead I elected to try to use that to get into the cave. I sort of used it like a javelin and threw it into the cave as far as I could get it into the cave, where it exploded. I haven't any idea whether it killed any Japs in there or how many, because none of us walked in there afterward to find out. We tried to blow up the cave to close it off, but we were unsuccessful in doing that, so we just left a man there to shoot any Japs that might come out. The

whole place was just covered with caves and the Japanese had this island I think since World War I and they had it well defended. They had these caves where they would go from one to another in there. Just trying to get through there was something and the caves were all in the hills and you would have cross fire and no cover. The bombardment and shelling just before we landed had cleaned out all of the vegetation. There was coral and no place to dig holes. The first day we landed we got to the edge of the airport late in the afternoon. We heard motors running and had no idea what it was. It turned out to be Japanese tanks. They were small, maybe two or three man tanks, that were coming across the airport from around the bunkers and hills and onto the airport coming at our lines. That was pretty exciting. We hadn't seen their tanks before or anything like that. There were some bazookas and flame throwers and then our tanks came in and finished them off. It was really a miserable spot. The temperature would get over 100 degrees in the daytime and there was no shelter or cover. We took a lot of casualties. I remember one night the fighting was heavy and we were getting low on ammunition and I called back for ammunition. I had to go back to find the ammunition carriers and bring them up to the lines. We would go back and the place was mined so they had put tape down and that would be where you could walk that was safe. So I went back in the night and there would be either star shells or flares every few minutes. There was a lot of light, almost lighting it up like desert. I went back and found the ammunition carriers. They were probably the first Black Marines that I had seen. I didn't realize there were any Black Marines in the Corps at that time, because we had been out of the country for so long. So I had them follow me up and impressed on them the advisability of keeping close in line with the tape and brought the ammunition back again. It was a very difficult operation. We lost a lot of people that we should have never lost that should have never been exposed to that, because it didn't accomplish anything at all. They had to dig the Japanese out of

the caves, cave by cave, and it really wasn't until a couple of years after the war when the last Jap on Peililu gave up. They were still in there and I guess he was holding out to find out if the war was really over. He must have been a strange sort of individual that would stick around that long.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you went into Peililu were you in the first wave or when did you go in?

Mr. Imfeld

No, we weren't in the first wave. I went in with the company headquarters and some of people were in the head. There was still a lot of shooting and shelling on the beach. We tried to move off the beaches as soon as we could. We had to go through a low, sort of swampy area before we got up to the edge of the airport. The airport had been built up with coral.

Mr. Misenhimer

At this point, you had the Higgins boats with the ramps in the front, is that right?

Mr. Imfeld

I beg your pardon.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you go in on a Higgins boat or an LVT?

Mr. Imfeld

We came off of the LSTs and the track vehicles, which had a ramp that went down.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you didn't use the Higgins boats there?

Mr. Imfeld

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

Called the alligator or LVT?

Mr. Imfeld

It was called the alligator or something like that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Of course, there was a lot of resistance right on the beach there, is that right?

Mr. Imfeld

The Japanese weren't on the beach. They were in the caves overlooking the beach and shooting down to the beach.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else on Peililu you recall?

Mr. Imfeld

Just that is was a miserable operation.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was anyone close to you hit?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, I lost -- when you say close?

Mr. Misenhimer

Close friend or standing close to you both.

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, Eugene Dockray, who was a gunner in our machine gun section was killed on the hill in a defensive position. The Japanese would be hitting us at night from time to time and a number of them would try to infiltrate through the lines. I remember looking up from the hole I was in and

there was a man who had walked up to the hole. I had called out to get a response and he took off. So obviously he was a Japanese who had infiltrated the line. Then going back for the ammunition and we knew there were Japs who had infiltrated the line and you are reluctant to just shoot when you see somebody up there, because it could just as well be one of our own men. It might be just going back from having a bowel movement or something.

So after Pelilu, the last of the original group were returned to the States and I came back and was assigned as a math instructor with the Marine Corps Institute, which was a correspondence school for Marines. I was stationed there in Washington at the Marine Barracks at 8th and I Street for a while. Then I ended up with the MCI in Pearl Harbor. I was in San Francisco when the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. We left San Francisco on August 9th when the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. I was on the water when the Japanese surrendered.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were on the water going to where?

Mr. Imfeld

On the water going to Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there a celebration?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes. There was a celebration of sorts. We got ice cream served to us. I had been in Washington, DC where there had been big celebrations on surrender of the Japanese. I had been home and got up to New York City where they had some celebrations for the Japanese surrender. I went through Chicago and back to San Francisco where they had big celebrations when the war ended with everybody out drinking and having a good time. I was on the USS Long Island, which was a

small aircraft carrier. They didn't have any liquor aboard so they celebrated with ice cream. I didn't think it was quite appropriate.

Mr. Misenhimer

It was the best you could do?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you left Pelilu, where did you go from there?

Mr. Imfeld

I came back to Pavuvu.

Mr. Misenhimer

Back to Pavuvu?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long were you there?

Mr. Imfeld

We were there for a few weeks or a month.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then you left there and came back to the States?

Mr. Imfeld

We came back to the States.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you land in the States?

Mr. Imfeld

We came in to San Diego.

Mr. Misenhimer

Do you know what ship you came back on?

Mr. Imfeld

No, I don't recall.

Mr. Misenhimer

About how long did that take, do you recall?

Mr. Imfeld

It took too long, but I don't remember the number of days. I remember the number of days when we went from San Francisco to Wellington and that was 19 days. I don't remember how many days this was.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you arrive in San Diego?

Mr. Imfeld

We arrived in San Diego it had to be in the latter part of November or early in December.

Mr. Misenhimer

Okay, of '44?

Mr. Imfeld

1944, yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you got to San Diego, what did you do there?

Mr. Imfeld

Nothing much. We were not there very long before we were put on a troop train and shipped back across the country. I think there we would stop at the Harvey Girls places for our meals.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was this the troop train with the cattle cars?

Mr. Imfeld

That's right, the cattle cars. There were no more Pullmans.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about a dining car or anything?

Mr. Imfeld

No, I don't recall that there was a dining car. I think we got off for our meals.

Mr. Misenhimer

You went from San Diego to where?

Mr. Imfeld

I went right back to home for a 30 day leave.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then you reported to Washington, DC?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, to Washington, DC. Actually, I went to Quantico first after coming back from Pelilu and leave. I was in Quantico for a week or two when Roy Honhout and I were up to Washington on liberty. Quantico is only about 60 miles south of Washington. We found a fellow up there with the Marine Corps Institute and he told us the kind of duty they had up there, so we made application to get transferred up there. We managed to do that. I had a few months of

engineering math before the war, from September to December that was. When the war started I decided the Marines couldn't be any worse than working 60 hours a week and going to school three or four nights a week. But at least I had some schooling before that and that qualified me apparently to grade papers for the Marine Corps Institute Correspondence courses.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where in Washington was that? Was that near the Pentagon?

Mr. Imfeld

This was right at 8th and I Streets, near the Navy Yard.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long did you do that?

Mr. Imfeld

I was there for four or five months before we were sent overseas again.

Mr. Misenhimer

Overseas was to Hawaii?

Mr. Imfeld

To Pearl Harbor, yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you went from Washington, DC out to San Francisco?

Mr. Imfeld

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer

You arrived out there apparently somewhere probably first part of August or end of July?

Mr. Imfeld

So you went from Washington, DC out to San Francisco?

Mr. Imfeld

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer

You arrived out there apparently somewhere probably first part of August or end of July?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, we there about the first of August because we sailed on the 9th.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were you going to be doing in Hawaii?

Mr. Imfeld

It was with the Marine Corps Institute duty continuing what I was doing.

Mr. Misenhimer

Okay. So then you were on an aircraft carrier going toward Pearl Harbor when the war ended.

Did you go on over there?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, I was there for a couple of months. No, I got there in August and I was discharged from New River, NC on October 26th. We went over with I think over 100 points when I think the Army was discharging with 80 points at that time. The Marine Corps didn't have that exact same thing. We came back and I had over 100 points the way they figured the points at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were in Hawaii then for just a short time?

Mr. Imfeld

For probably through the balance of August and into the early part of October.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get out to see any of the wreckage or anything?

Mr. Imfeld

We did get around to some of the places and got downtown and saw some of what was going on.

Of course, most of it had been pretty well cleaned up when I got there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get any ribbons, battle stars or medals?

Mr. Imfeld

We got just the typical ribbons with battle stars. The only citation I got was the Presidential Unit Citation, which I got for Guadalcanal. I think maybe I got two stars there for the landing from August 7th. I think there is a star from defense of the island from August 10 through December.

We got another star for Pelilu. That was just the usual campaign ribbons for the Southwest Pacific.

Mr. Misenhimer

Asiatic Pacific, whatever they were called.

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, Asiatic Pacific.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Imfeld

Any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Misenhimer

Yes, sir.

Mr. Imfeld

While we were in Melbourne, there was a Red Cross Building up on Exhibition Street. It is not there any longer. We looked for it when we were back there in 2000. We would go in there from time to time in the evening, which was very nice. I remember being there when Eleanor Roosevelt made a swing through the area and an appearance at the Red Cross Building in Melbourne.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were overseas, how about getting mail?

Mr. Imfeld

Well, the mail was slow and was all the V-mail.

Mr. Misenhimer

Have you had any reunions?

Mr. Imfeld

When I got out of the service, I guess like everybody else, it was back to college and law school, getting married, raising a family and making a living. I wasn't involved too much in the reunions. From time to time, we would get together with some of the guys in the area that I served with and were still in the area. I got to one or two reunions of the First Marine Division Association that was usually around August 7th. I got to a couple of those, one up in Boston, and such. We would meet with the guys in our machine gun section. Some had stayed in and went to Korea. One guy had contracted cancer and died and three or four of us went up to his funeral in Linhurst, NJ. It wasn't really until after I retired and had more time with the kids all gone and such that I started to go to reunions of the First Marine Division Association and saw the guys again that I was in service with. I've been going back on a pretty regular basis since 1992, which

be the 60th anniversary of the landing. Wilbur Bewley who had been back quite a few times thought that would be a good idea. So I talked to a number of the guys and we ended up with six of us getting together to go back for the 60th reunion.

Mr. Misenhimer

The group you went back down there with, did you know each other on Guadalcanal or Pelilu?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, we all knew each other from the time we got into New River in February of 1942.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you knew each other way back then?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were all in the same outfit, same company?

Mr. Imfeld

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer

Louis, there is one thing I should have done first and didn't do it. It is the agreement with the Nimitz Museum. Normally, I give it to a person to sign, but since this is by phone, let me read this to you and see if you agree with it. The purpose of The National Museum of the Pacific War, Admiral Nimitz Museum, oral history project is to collect, preserve, and interpret the story of World War II, the role of Fleet Admiral Nimitz and home front experiences by means of a tape recorded and/or videotaped interview. Audio and video recordings become part of the archives of the National Museum of the Pacific War, Admiral Nimitz Museum, Texas Parks and Wildlife.

These recordings were made available for historical and other academic research by scholars and members of the family of the interviewee. Any transcription, which may be subsequently produced from these recording will be conducted with the knowledge of the interviewee by the National Museum of the Pacific War. We the undersigned have read the above and voluntarily offer the National Museum of the Pacific War full use of the information contained, audio and/or video recordings of these oral history research interviews. In view of the scholarly value of this material, we hereby assign rights, title, interests pertaining to it to the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Parks and Wildlife. Is that satisfactory with you?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, I was just wondering whether that gives the Museum the exclusive rights to the tape?

Mr. Misenhimer

No, it does not.

Mr. Imfeld

I don't have any problem with that.

Mr. Misenhimer

I normally do that up front, but we got to talking and I didn't do it. Okay, anything else you recall about your experiences over there?

Mr. Imfeld

No, not right now, but if and when they get around to it, I'd like to have a draft of the transcript. I might be inclined to add something.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let me ask you, did you get home with any souvenirs?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, I did. I have a Japanese pistol, 25 caliber, Browning automatic; a Japanese bayonet; and a canteen. I think that is the extent of it. I had a rifle, but I got that back to Australia, but I gave it to somebody for safe keeping back when we were in Australia and never did get back in touch with them. In fact, I don't recall who it was. I would probably have to put an ad in the Melbourne newspaper. After what happened to Al, I might be afraid to do that.

Mr. Misenhimer

What happened to Al?

Mr. Imfeld

He had talked to Alf Bachelder. I don't know whether you know him or met him. He was the fellow at the Melbourne Cricket Grounds. He wrote the book on the Marines while we were down in Melbourne. Al had contacted him and mentioned that he had known this girl and family when he was there in 1943, and whether he could find out whether she was still around. Alf had contacted a radio announcer that he knew down there. The fellow broadcast the fact that Al was looking for this girl and she apparently contacted the announcer and Al got a call from the radio announcer while we were on Guadalcanal. Then the newspaper article followed. I was just thinking that those things had grown from any inquiry.

Mr. Misenhimer

You mentioned that on Guadalcanal you had the 03, when did you get the M1?

Mr. Imfeld

I never was issued an M1, but they got them when we got to Melbourne.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have any kind of a personal weapon?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, I had a 45 while I was a gunner.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever get the carbine?

Mr. Imfeld

Yes, I had a carbine for a while.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you like the carbine?

Mr. Imfeld

It was a nice little weapon.

Mr. Misenhimer

This is the end of this tape.

Transcribed by Jo Ellen McCarthy, daughter of Albert R. Schlemmer, Sr.
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