

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

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

An Interview With

**Chris Walker**  
Cpl. U. S. Marines  
Headquarter Co.1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment  
2<sup>nd</sup> Division  
Tinian, Okinawa

Interview with  
**Chris L. Walker**

**Mr. Richard Misenhimer**

My name is Richard Misenhimer. Today is February the 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003. I am interviewing Mr. Chris L. Walker at his home at 401 Wendt, Orange Grove, Texas 78372. His mailing address is P.O. Box 896, Orange Grove, Texas. His phone number is area code 361-384 2072. This interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific Wars, Center for the Pacific War Studies, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II.

Chris, I want to thank you for taking the time to day to do this interview.

**Mr. Chris L Walker**

Okay

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Let me start by asking you where were you born?

**Mr. Walker**

Ranger, Texas.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What is your birthdate?

**Mr. Walker**

March 16, '24.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did you have brothers and sisters?

**Mr. Walker**

I had two older sisters, a younger sister and two younger brothers.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Were either of your brothers in the service?

**Mr. Walker**

Yes, my brother, just younger than myself, was in the Navy during World War II, and my other brother was in the Korean conflict.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did both of them come home.

**Mr. Walker**

Yes. The younger brother was in the Air Force. He never saw action. My other brother was on an air-craft carrier.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

In the Pacific, then?

**Mr. Walker**

Pacific World War II.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What carrier was he on, do you recall?

**Mr. Walker**

I think it was the CDE70, it was one of the smaller ones.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

An escort carrier, they call it. Where did you go to school?

**Mr. Walker**

Borger High School.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What year did you graduate?

**Mr. Walker**

I graduated in 1941.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

In May or June, I assume.

**Mr. Walker**

May the 28<sup>th</sup>..

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When did you go into the service?

**Mr. Walker**

I went in January the 9<sup>th</sup> , '43.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

From high school 'til then what did you do?

**Mr. Walker**

I worked at an Army Camp, building the Army Camps. At Wichita Falls and one at Camp Barkley.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

In construction, then.

**Mr. Walker**

Umm

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On December the 7<sup>th</sup> Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Do you recall where you were when you heard about that and what reaction you had?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, I was in a service station, getting gasoline.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Getting gasoline.

**Mr. Walker**

At Borger.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And someone there announced what happened?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And what was your reaction?

**Mr. Walker**

Well, I thought we'd go over there and like everybody else and take our battlewagons over there and cut them off about three inches under the ground. But they got our battle wagons.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Yeah, right.

**Mr. Walker**

But we thought it was awful, but at that time we didn't know the seriousness of it.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you went in '43 did you volunteer or were you drafted?

**Mr. Walker**

I volunteered.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You were nineteen at that point?

**Mr. Walker**

Almost.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You were eighteen, almost nineteen.

**Mr. Walker**

Almost nineteen.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What branch did you go into?

**Mr. Walker**

The Marine Corps.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How did you choose the Marine Corps?

**Mr. Walker**

I don't know why, I guess it was because I wanted to fight.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Where did you go in at?

**Mr. Walker**

Abilene.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How long were you at Abilene, then?

**Mr. Walker**

We left the next morning.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Where did you go to?

**Mr. Walker**

Dallas. I was sworn in at Dallas.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Then where did you go?

**Mr. Walker**

We picked up twenty-two other men and went to San Diego.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How did you get to San Diego?

**Mr. Walker**

On a Pullman. They let us ride a Pullman.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Had a sleeper in it.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How long was that trip?

**Mr. Walker**

I think it was about three days.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Which base in California did you go to?

**Mr. Walker**

The Marine Corps boot-camp at San Diego.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How were conditions in that boot-camp?

**Mr. Walker**

Pretty good.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What did you live in there?

**Mr. Walker**

We lived in quonset huts.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How was the food?

**Mr. Walker**

It was good.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What all did you boot-camp consist of?

**Mr. Walker**

Mostly it was some sort of drill.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Physical training?

**Mr. Walker**

That was all completely. Physical training, little training and you were ready psychologically and physically.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did you go through the infiltration course?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

With live ammunition over your head?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. That was a quite a thrill, too. Look up and see those tracers running around everywhere, it really was. We went through that twice, I think.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How long was that boot camp?

**Mr. Walker**

I believe it was thirteen weeks. We went so many weeks then we went to Camp Matthews, that's where the rifle range was. We were there three weeks and came back for two more weeks then graduate. We snapped in two weeks, then we fired a week, for four days, then we fired for record.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And did you get marksman or what did you get?

**Mr. Walker**

Sharpshooter.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What weapons did you train on?

**Mr. Walker**

I just had the M-1.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

No machine guns?

**Mr. Walker**

Not at boot camp.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

No grenades?

**Mr. Walker**

Oh, we threw a few grenades but they were dummies.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did your boot camp out there have a name or a number?

**Mr. Walker**

We went through 26, I believe it was 26.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you finished there, then where did you go?

**Mr. Walker**

I went to Camp Pendleton at Oceanside, California. It was a brand new camp. I was one of the first one-hundred men there. I watched it grow.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What did you live in there?

**Mr. Walker**

I lived in a barrack.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Brand new?

**Mr. Walker**

Brand new.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What all did you do there in Camp Pendletown?

**Mr. Walker**

I was in maintenance. Did carpenter or I oversaw the civilian carpenters. Maintenance.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Was that because of your civilian experience?



**Mr. Walker**

Yes.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What rank did you have then?

**Mr. Walker**

I just had a PFC.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Do you recall what the pay was, when you first went in?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. It was fifty dollars.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Then as a PFC, what did you get?

**Mr. Walker**

I don't know. Fifty-six, seven. A little bit more.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How long were you there?

**Mr. Walker**

About eighteen months.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Working in construction all that time?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Were you in a particular outfit at that point?

**Mr. Walker**

We were called Post-troopers, Maintenance. It was kind of a bad name among the Marines. Kind of a sarcastic name.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What were some of the experiences you had while you were doing that?

**Mr. Walker**

It started with an experience I had. I had to go before the general one day. A Three-star General. We

had these workers, you didn't cross them, you weren't supposed to say anything harsh to them, you was supposed to treat them real nice. We had one boy there that was real obnoxious. He was really obnoxious. He irritated everybody, he was about twenty-six, seven years old. Married, no kids. I think the only reason he was there, was that he had that government job, so he would be essential and they couldn't draft him. We were on a job, a bunch of us, and he was around. Some thing was said and he made the remark that he wasn't stupid enough to get into the service, he was going to keep his job and stay out. I don't why that hit me wrong, but it just did. And I just flew all over him. I told him how the cow ate the cabbage and told him right quick, I did. And that was all that was said, and he went on off to work and I went to do what I had to do. When I came in at dinner, the Marine Gunnery in charge of the carpenter shop, said, "Chris , the general wants to see you at one-thirty." So dress uniform. So I went down there to see him. I had been in six or seven months, then. There had been four Generals. So I went down there and after one-thirty I was called into his office and I was standing there at attention like you would be before a general, he just said, "Son, sit down." So I sat down. He said, "I hear that you had some trouble with a civilian." I said, yes sir. I did. He said, "What did you say to him?" I told him the best I could. He said, "What did he say to you, before that?" And I told him. When I told him, that old man jumped right straight up out of that chair, he hit the floor. He hit the floor cussing. And he went on a rampage, I don't even know what kind of rampage. The longer he went, the scarer I got. Finally, he came over and looked me right straight in the eye, and he said, "He better not do that again. I'll have him in the service in less than twenty-four hours. He said,"That'll be all." And I turned around, and he said, "Son," I turned around, "Yes, sir"? He said," If he does that again, hit him right between the eyes just as hard as you can." After that, that man became one of the nicest men around, and he became one of the closest of my friends. Civilian workers.

When I came home for furlough, he was the first one to offer me gasoline stamps so I could get around when I got home. That was the only time I had been called before a general, I guess.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Let me back up to boot camp. Your drill instructors, did they wear Smoky Bear hats?

**Mr. Walker**

Yes sir..

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Were they as mean as we see them in the movies and that sort of stuff?

**Mr. Walker**

One of them was. The Main DI. He was a Platoon-Sergeant. He was a little man. We call little men in the Marine Corps Feather-Merchants. I don't know, he was a Feather-Merchant. He would get right in your face and he'd tell you just how it was. I met him once, after boot-camp, and he was a quite regular guy. But he was mean, he outranked any other DI in boot-camp at that time. We didn't get any medial work. We were on a work detail, once or twice, but we got the best work details. His main saying was."We are going to be the best." We were. We were the best Platoon. I remember one of his favorite sayings, whenever he was talking about shooting people on guard-duty. He said, "If you ever have to shoot any body, be sure they are damn dead."I don't know how dead that was, be sure they are damn dead, then you've only got a one person account at the court martial. That was his favorite saying. He would get right in your face. He never did anything illegal, but he was mean. The other two, one of them was a Sergeant and the other was a Corporal. The Corporal had just come back from being on the Lexington, when it went down.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Have you ever been in combat?

**Mr. Walker**

I think the Sergeant had. I'm sure he had, because , I think he'd been in Guadalcanal, because he took us out and was teaching us, on the edge of the water and made a run at the beach. We were supposed to fall down and dig a foxhole. After two or three tries, he just threw his hat down and danced around it two or three times and said, "Aw, get up. This is useless, this is pure useless. First beach you hit, you know how to dig a foxhole when you hit it." He was probably at Guadalcanal. Because I was in Okinawa later. Tarawa, what happened while I was in the service, The Marshall Islands, I guess it was Guadalcanal.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Guadalcanal, because you told me you went in in January of '43. The actual fighting at Guadalcanal didn't end until February of '43.

You and the General had just had your conference in boot camp.

**Mr. Walker**

I don't know. Boot camp was just the same thing day in and day out. Rain or shine or what not. We didn't have any snow there. Pretty decent weather, that time of the year. I don't think the monsoon rains had set in , they didn't set in until the last of March, April. We had pretty fair weather.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Let me ask another question. When you went before the General, in the full-dress uniform, what did the uniform consist of?

**Mr. Walker**

My Greens.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did you ever get the blues?

**Mr. Walker**

No, they had stopped the blues before I got out. I have a picture in a set of blues. My daddy had a set of blues. He was in the Army. There was only thirteen-thousand men in the Army and they issued dress-blues and the only difference in their dress-blues and the Marine Corps dress-blues was the chaplets.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The insignias. Did it have a red stripe down the side?

**Mr. Walker**

Yes.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Most of the time you wore dungarees, is that right?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. Most of the time. I think there at the last, when we were on liberty, I don't know if we ever got to go on liberty in our khakis. Every time we went on liberty it had to be in dress greens.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did you get leave any time along this way?

**Mr. Walker**

I got fourteen days after I had been in almost, about seventeen months. I was in a very quote,"essential job". Usually you didn't get furloughs until you was ready to ship overseas. I had a two-week furlough and I was one of the first in that maintenance company to get a furlough. They said they couldn't get along without us, but they did. They sent the women in.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So you were about eighteen months in this maintenance company?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. When I was overseas.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Do you recall any comical or humorous things along the way?

**Mr. Walker**

No, I had it pretty well made. When I was sent out to do a job, you was in the service, you know how it was, you had to go by the order and so when you get around to doing some work around the mess hall or something, why every time they sent out an order, they always had something a little bit more. So I finally got wise, I decided that I could get a whole lot out of that extra work and there were five mess halls there. I got to where I could go to any mess hall and get whatever I wanted. Pies, cakes, steaks, whatever, yeah, I had it made just before they clipped my wings.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The people working with you were civilians.

**Mr. Walker**

They were civilians. I had some Marines working while we were up there together.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did you have to do KP or guard-duty?

**Mr. Walker**

I never pulled a day of KP in my life. Just being in that maintenance deal we didn't pull any guard-duty or KP.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How about in boot-camp?

**Mr. Walker**

No, I didn't pull any in boot camp. Or at Camp Pendleton. Usually when you got out of boot-camp you usually pull many KPs. I just lucked out there. The Maintenance company had their regular cooks and things.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Military cooks or civilian cooks?

**Mr. Walker**

Military cooks. I can remember, the Colonel, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, he went overseas with me, he would start out in '33 as a private and worked up, we got over on Tinian and he had to go to the head during the night, the head's a bathroom, and he went down there and some recruit challenged him and by then

we went in cycles, cars, cities, states, I guess it was that way with you all, too, if you got challenged, Halt, who goes there, why, if it was in cities, he said, Orange Grove, Repeat, you repeated another city you didn't say the same one, and the colonel was kind of aggravated because he had to get up and go to the bathroom anyhow, then the guard stopped him, the Japs were on the run at Tinian when we were there, there were a few, not very many, but there was a few, he called him and said cities, he said who goes there, he named a city, Repeat, and he gave the same city Repeat, and he said I said what I said before loud enough for him to hear me and I heard the bolt on that M-1 slide back and heard a little voice say, ask him one more time and if he says the same thing, I'm going to shoot him. You would have to know the Colonel, he was GI, he is GI as everything, he was trying to get the Congressional Medal of Honor. He said, I named off every city for ten minutes, fast. Then I had to go up there and show myself and that kid recognized me, and said then I had to apologize.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What was this Colonels name?

**Mr. Walker**

I can't think of anything right now. He told a whole lot of funny things, the Old Man did. He always told them on himself. He'd been a Para-Marine.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Para-trooper.

**Mr. Walker**

They disbanded that, they found out that the Islands weren't big enough for anything like that. He was a rough individual.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Let's go back to your construction, where did you go from there?

**Mr. Walker**

I went overseas. I got a furlough, came home got engaged to be married and I decided that I had the best thing in the world. Before that I went back and every two or three months, I asked for a transfer to a combat unit, turned down. When I came back from furlough I had access to the dining halls, anything I wanted to eat, I had it made. So I just decided that I would spend the rest of the war there. I think it was less than three weeks after I decided that, that I was on board a ship headed west.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Where did you embark from?

**Mr. Walker**

From San Diego.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What ship did you go on?

**Mr. Walker**

USS Goshin.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What kind of ship was that?

**Mr. Walker**

APA 28. It was a transport ship.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You went from there to where?

**Mr. Walker**

Well, we traveled alone to Pearl Harbor. Got to Pearl Harbor, one night, hooked up the next morning with a convoy, went from there to the Marshall Islands. Spent two weeks there, waiting for the moon to get dark, and then we went to Saipan. We had waited that long because every time the moon was full, the Japanese bombed every other night. We unloaded part of the ship and troops on Saipan and the rest of us went over to Tinian.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When did you leave San Diego?

**Mr. Walker**

It must have been in May.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Of '44?

**Mr. Walker**

Of '44.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The invasion of Saipan was in June or July of '44.

**Mr. Walker**

August, then..

**Mr. Misenhimer**

June of '44 was when the fighting started in Saipan.

**Mr. Walker**

Well in August then.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

July 21<sup>st</sup> the fighting started on Guam.

**Mr. Walker**

July when?

**Mr. Misenhimer**

July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Mr. Walker**

They go on Saipan, Tinian and Guam. They took Saipan and then they went back over to Tinian, I believe,

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Then Guam.

**Mr. Walker**

Then another outfit took Guam. I believe it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> on Saipan and Tinian, and I don't know what was on Guam. Seems like 1<sup>st</sup> and it might have been the 1<sup>st</sup> because the 5<sup>th</sup> went on to Iwo Jima.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

I don't have down here which, maybe I should get that, which units went in there. So anyway, you landed on Saipan approximately August ....

**Mr. Walker**

I never did get off the ship there, we just docked there. Then went to Tinian.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

That had just been secured not long before that.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, it hadn't been secure long.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

There were still Japanese running around.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.



**Mr. Misenhimer**

What did you do on Tinian?

**Mr. Walker**

Besides training for combat,. I was company carpenter.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What rank did you have now?

**Mr. Walker**

PFC here, I didn't make corporal until we got over on Saipan. We stayed in Tinian for a while. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion stayed on Tinian and the rest of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division went back to Saipan.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So when you left for overseas you were assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, right?

**Mr. Walker**

Assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment, you told me.

**Mr. Walker**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Headquarters Company.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Let's recall about your time on Saipan. I mean on Tinian.

**Mr. Walker**

I remember, as I told you about this old Colonel. He was a go-getter. He was GI, but he was a go-getter. He loaded a bunch of us, a few of us on a couple of big old trucks, of course the Marine Corps had the biggest trucks, and we went down to an Army dump. He was a Colonel,...

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Colonel Byrd?

**Mr. Walker**

I believe it was Byrd. And he put those big old eagles on and got in the front of that truck, and drove right down to this big old Army dump, right past the guards and everything, just like he owned it, and backed up to a couple of big old freezers, ice boxes. Refrigerators. We loaded them on that thing and

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You loaded the refrigerators up?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah we loaded them up on those big old trucks and took off. Nobody halted him and questioned him, that was the Colonel. Right in the front. We got up there, and in the process, we got a hold of a bunch of, of some paint and some parachute silk. So when we got the iceboxes all set up, we stopped our training, and for about three, or four, five days all we did, the whole Battalion, was to cut the squares out of that parachute silk, about three or four feet square. A bunch of us did that, some of them took orange paint and stenciled a big old orange circle in the center of it. We hung it out to dry, you never saw as many Japanese flags flying around. After everything was dry and ready, why he got those old trucks and went down and got a bunch of food. Every time, he found out which ships were going home, and so he would start trading our authentic captured Japanese flags for food. These flags for food. And those iceboxes, I don't know how big they were, they were every bit as big as this room. We loaded up enough food, fresh food, eggs that you could break, meat and vegetables, a whole lot of vegetables because Merchant Marines ate better than anybody else, they had better food. He loaded that thing up with food and we took it back and we began to eat like kings. Every time we would get low on food, We would go down and get some parachute silk and we'd make flags. We ate good, until they transferred us over to Saipan and we got back on battle rations again.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Now on Tinian, did you go out into the countryside into the caves and all out there?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. We made daily excursions out there.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The patrol was out there?

**Mr. Walker**

The patrol was out there. Well, about half-way between Saipan and Guam, there was a little island about a mile, maybe not that far off from the southern tip of Tinian. I think was the name of it, I don't know what the name of it was now. But we didn't bother that little ole island and these Japs would filtrate over there. The hospital was quite a big Navy hosp..., we had a Navy hospital there, and we stood watch around it every night on account of the Japs coming over and pilfering. It wasn't so much that we were scared of them, but they were just stealing, but they were coming over from that little island. **Mr. Misenhimer**

Did you all have to shoot them or anything?

**Mr. Walker**

No.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

I had heard that there was Japanese artillery on that island.

**Mr. Walker**

That was Rhoda between Guam and Tinian.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

No it was \_\_\_\_\_....

**Mr. Walker**

I didn't hear about that. Of course they were Japs, and....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And maybe came over food.

**Mr. Walker**

I think they only came over for food and supplies. Now Rhoda, every time a ship went by there and if they had any shells, they fired a round on them. Planes from Guam to Japan and back and all that when they came back and had any bombs I think they dropped them on it. We were on the southern end of Tinian.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Now were there air-fields being built while you were there?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Were the B29s there yet?

**Mr. Walker**

I don't think, yeah, the B-29s came in while we were on Tinian and I remember they were there in Saipan.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You were there about six weeks there on Tinian?

**Mr. Walker**

I don't know how long, it seems like it was, must have been longer than that....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On Tinian?

**Mr. Walker**

On Tinian.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Then you went from there to Saipan.

**Mr. Walker**

Oh yeah. We left Tinian to go to Saipan, to really, it was a Division to train to go into Okinawa.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On Tinian it was just one Regiment, one Battalion.

**Mr. Walker**

It was just one Battalion.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What did you live in on Tinian?

**Mr. Walker**

Tents.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Tents. Hurricanes and all. Did you have some typhoons while you were there?

**Mr. Walker**

We had some that approached us, but none that ever blew over. I think that is one of the dreaded things.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you were there, was Tinian pretty much bare? A lot of trees, or what was it like?

**Mr. Walker**

There wasn't many trees. Even what trees were there were bare. They'd fought from one of that to the other, just like they had at Saipan. Wasn't much vegetation there.

**Mr. Walker**

What the artillery didn't get to, the flamethrowers did. That flamethrower was the most wicked weapon that we ever had.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you were training on Tinian, did you go on any assault landings there?

**Mr. Walker**

No, we didn't. We just studied and practiced maneuvers and things like that, just Battalion strength

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you got to Saipan, did you have tents again, there?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, we had tents.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And was your Colonel able to get good food there too?

**Mr. Walker**

No, he sure didn't. It got bad. We would take the Island, the Marine Corps had, and we were still eating B-Rations there and we just wasn't getting any food at all. Nobody was. We finally found out what was wrong.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What was it?

**Mr. Walker**

Well, we went to Okinawa and we were the ones that pulled the fake landing on the southern end. We were supposed to go in at, we were floating reserve, and after a while they were going to take the Island where, that correspondent.....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Ernie Pyle.

**Mr. Walker**

Ernie Pyle was killed.....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

IE Shima.

**Mr. Walker**

IE Shima. We were supposed to take that, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine was supposed to take that. For some reason they let the Army go in there, and we were floating reserves and led some strikes. See they didn't hit it, hit much for three days because we pulled them all to the southern end. They went in and they begin to hit resistance and an Army General called for some reinforcements and he made the mistake of saying "Don't send me some Marines." So Admiral Nimitz listening, he told them if you don't want these Marines I'll send them home. So he sent us home. So I think it was a whole eight weeks,

we were eating B-rations then, and everybody else was eating regular food. If it hadn't been for the Sea-bees there trying to help us and we'd go over there and eat with them a time or two, I think we wouldn't have made it. But anyhow...

**Mr. Misenhimer**

This was on Saipan.

**Mr. Walker**

On Saipan after we had come back from Okinawa.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The second time you were on Saipan.

**Mr. Walker**

Second time we were on Saipan. Waiting to go ....But anyhow we threw a hunger strike. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion did, I don't know if anybody else did or not. Anyhow, one PFC there was a high powered lawyer and that was as far as he wanted to go. He kept telling them, now boys it will work, they can't get us for not eating. We'd get real hungry. They were threatening, the cooks were doling out stuff, out the back door and we were doing everything and some stupid little ole kid, private, wrote a letter to the Marine Corps Commandant and told them what the scoop was, and the Lieutenant, who was censoring the letter said he ain't telling you half. Well our situation, our company was situated here and the 8<sup>th</sup> Regimental Headquarters was right over here. It was just a few days until Vandergriff got this letter and I saw him stand before a Colonel, a Full-Colonel, and I never heard a Lieutenant eat a Private out like that. We lost the Commanding General and from now on, they threw a different General off from there and everything else. They were taking what we was supposed to have and putting in into an Officers Quarters. These Officers Quarters. Boy things straightened out. We begin to get food but they needed a reinforcement so they sent the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment back to Okinawa. We hit two little Islands off Okinawa and we got in on the tail end of it. But I never thought I would see a General do that to a Colonel.

We came back and we went back up there to Okinawa.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Let's go back to the first time you were on Saipan. You were there for how long?

**Mr. Walker**

I don't know those days and months just run together.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

April 1<sup>st</sup> of '45 was the invasion of Okinawa. Easter Sunday.

**Mr. Walker**

We left about two or three weeks early to go up there. We pulled maneuvers and got in Higgins' boats, I think we was on the water about three weeks.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What kind of ship did you go on out there?

**Mr. Walker**

We went in Attack-personnel.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

APA.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you got there, did you go down the cargo nets down the side into the LCVTs?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. That's a thrill too. Especially in bad weather, which we was practicing in.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did you see anybody fall off those, into the water?

**Mr. Walker**

No, nobody got hurt. It's amazing what we did and so few people got hurt.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So when you got up to Okinawa, you were up there on the 1<sup>st</sup>, right?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

With the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. The 1<sup>st</sup> down south.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, two days, I believe it was. We started in and they started throwing artillery and everything else at us. We acted like it was too hot and we pulled back. Next day we did the same thing. And the next day, I believe, we got in our boats and they could see us getting ready for the assault, watching whatever beach it was, ...

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So did you see all the battleships shelling?.

**Mr. Walker**

We pulled up, the second time we went in, we went up there in the flat bottom LSTs....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

From Saipan?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, from Saipan. We could lose that all the time.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Yeah that is a long ways from Saipan.

**Mr. Walker**

We pulled up beside the Missouri one night, aw that's a rough sight, and a mile or two from it and we were about to loose our eye teeth being shaken out, the waves and that old Missouri just sitting there. Every time it would let loose with a volley why it just shook the thing all to pieces, that little ship.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Your LST. Right.

**Mr. Walker**

But that was a thrill, we took one little Island up there, the first one, that's the first time I ever went out in the front of one of those things in an Amtrak,.....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You were in an Amtrak.

**Mr. Walker**

Of course those things are what, six feet tall and they draw all but about six inches of water. We'd go out there and you'd keep going down, and going down and you can feel that thing running off on that ramp and you start slowly you feel like you are falling in your sleep. We were out there watching it. We were out there where they couldn't shell us and we was watching it. My first one, I think was ever, the first time theses Marines, this group, had ever used those Amtraks but others used the Higgins boat.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did they come off the LCVP or a little bigger boat?



**Mr. Walker**

LST, I believe.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

That was the boat you came over on and they put it up there and it came.....

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah we had all the equipment on and the men on.....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On the LST, right.

**Mr. Walker**

So we just loaded that thing up, the second time wasn't so bad, you kinda knew what to expect but nobody had ridden one of those things and I found out. I don't know whether we were in the surf or not but you still had to jump over the side, because it didn't open up in the front, I don't think. That Higgins boat just ramped on down, I think some of those LSTs , Amtraks let the back down and you just ran out the back, but these we went over the side. They had those tanks, that were amphibious and I don't think we lost any of those. But all you could see was the turret sticking out.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Now when you landed on this island, you say, was there much resistance?

**Mr. Walker**

Very little resistance on either one of them. On one of them there was, the first one, on the second one there wasn't.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Then did you land on Okinawa, itself?

**Mr. Walker**

Yes. We landed there, I've forgotten which beach, and got our equipment all unloaded, went to the front lines.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

About when did you land there?

**Mr. Walker**

I couldn't tell you. It was about a week before the Island was secure.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So there had been fighting there for quite a while?

**Mr. Walker**

There had been fighting for quite a while. We were fresh troops, we hit the lines and in two or three days we reached Handow, which was a military blunder because we had tired Marines over here and a tired Army over here and between them was two or three hundred yard swathe and there were Jap soldiers here and there.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On your flanks?

**Mr. Walker**

On both sides of us, we were cut pretty thin, but the Colonel, he wanted to be the first to be in Handow,

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Now how much resistance did you have going through there?

**Mr. Walker**

At first, we had quite a lot. When we started, we were replacing, I forgot what Marine Unit, but there was a steep incline, a flat place, then another steep incline. The best I can remember, it was about a hundred or two feet up and about a hundred feet or less back over. There was a road cut up there. This Marine Unit had got on up to this flat spot and got caught and they sent tanks up there. They would sent the tanks and I can't remember the Japs, they may have a 101 anti-tank gun, that's what that was, I believe, and they were real good at it. They could knock a tank out real quick.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Sherman tanks or what kind of tanks?

**Mr. Walker**

No, I don't think we had Sherman tanks.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

M3Stuart, small ones.

**Mr. Walker**

They were smaller I think. The one we got now, they look like babies. We got ready to go early one morning and the Colonel said, "We are not stopping," he said, "We are not stopping, we are going to the top." That night he told us about the situation up there, we got to go relieve those men, late one afternoon. We got there late one afternoon. He said, "Early morning we are going to hit that." and he said, "There's no stopping." The staff will have the same thing. We hit that, but very few

walked down that hill after we hit the top. Our group hit it, we went up and we went clear to the top, of course, we fought, we were fresh troops, and we were fighting against the Japanese. The Japanese were tired, they were tired, battle weary and everything else. But when we secured that part of it, then the other Marines came up and the other Army came up.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What weapon were you carrying at that point?

**Mr. Walker**

I was carrying a Thompson sub-machine gun.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You were in a Squad?

**Mr. Walker**

I was still in the Headquarters Company.

I was the Colonels' body guard during that campaign. He was after the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was GI, just as GI as could be but when his Battalion hit a .....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did this Colonel get the Congressional Medal of Honor?

**Mr. Walker**

No, he never did. He didn't do it, but he'd come back to Headquarters Company and say I need some automatic weapons men to go with me. Well, my buddy and I both had Thompson subs that we had gotten illegally, and he would look at us, what would you do , but volunteer. Then he would go to the engineers and say I need a demolition man or two to go with me. He would go to the flame-throwers there, and he'd say I need a flame-thrower to go with me. And that's who went, instead of sending a Lieutenant up to bust that pill box, he went himself. He sent a Lieutenant and the squad up there, but we went with him. But as I said, he was GI but boy he was a ..

**Mr. Misenhimer**

A good leader.

**Mr. Walker**

He was a good leader. An excellent leader, he was the kind of leader a lot like you, he didn't know how to follow, he really did lead, from the front, not the back. When we went up to the top of that hill, why we were one of the first up there. The old man was there. I say he was an old man, I think he was forty years old, he may have been forty-five. Which was an old man at that, he was a real old

man.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

About how many days were you in combat then?

**Mr. Walker**

Oh, I imagine in all the Islands, ten or twelve days. That's all we were in combat.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Your main place was in Okinawa, then.

**Mr. Walker**

In Okinawa, Yeah. The Okinawa Campaign.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What are some other things that happened there?

**Mr. Walker**

Well, I remember those shells when the Missouri came over. That sounded like a freight train. I still think you could see them but they kept telling me I couldn't. But you could hear them coming across the sky and when they hit. Well, we had two or three scapes were we got shelled a couple of times which I can remember. We got buzz bombs shot at us once. We holed up one afternoon, I don't know where we was, we were tired, most of us were and we just kicked a hole in the ground and I told my buddy, "That's deep enough for me.", and he said, "If that's deep enough for you, it's deep enough for me." They started shelling us with those smaller shells they had, and that went on about thirty minutes and by the time they quit shelling, we'd dug about two feet, solid coral. It was as hard as concrete down there.

We got tickled and You'd be looking up every time they were lobbing them in, they weren't fast, but they were lobbing them in. We could hear them come over and we could hear them explode. You could hear them coming in and everything got real quiet and then when they went off you could hear the picks and shovels working. We got to looking out and we could see the dirt coming out like prairie dogs kicking dirt out of a prairie dog hole. We laid there and laughed at the rest of them for a while, then they shot off three off those buzz bombs. I don't know how big they were, about that big around, and they came out a track, they shot them up twice, I think, or three times. And they tunneled over and started to the ground. When they started to the ground, that would set off another blast, when they shot into the ground. We called them screaming meemie eemies, that's what they sounded like, alright..

**Mr. Misenhimer**

About as big as a fifty-five gallon barrel or what?

**Mr. Walker**

Oh, I think they was eight, six, seven feet long.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Oh, okay.

**Mr. Walker**

They was big things and they were awful full and they had shot them off before and by the time they got through shooting that off, we was down about four feet. They shot three of them. They sounded like the old fireworks, remember nigger-chasers?

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Yeah.

**Mr. Walker**

That's what they sounded like, only a whole lot worse. When they headed down they had a blast of something,.....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

They probably had a lot of explosives in that.

**Mr. Walker**

Well, they'd be bad but there wasn't no guidance on them. When they hit, they'd make a big hole. About as big as that old, that the Missouri had, those twenty-inches....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Sixteen inch.

**Mr. Walker**

Did they have sixteen.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Sixteen inches, right.

**Mr. Walker**

One night right on that ridge; we got friendly fire. I think that was one of the most devastating things to go through was friendly fire. They were using these air-blast shells that had just come out, and they were shooting back and reaching over and lobbing over that hill right in front of us, and the hill was too high, that hill was setting them off. We crawled back and got them stopped, I don't think we lost

any men from it but anything friendly fire, I feel for these people in friendly fire but, I feel for those Canadians that got killed the other day by friendly fire, but friendly fire is going happen. That is just part of it.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

I read somewhere like twenty per cent of the casualties of World War II were friendly fire.

**Mr. Walker**

It could'd been, it could'd been.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Now who was firing? The artillery pieces firing?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, the Army.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The artillery pieces, it wasn't the ships?

**Mr. Walker**

It was the artillery. 105, I believe it was 105 Howitzers.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When they hit, what kind of explosion.

**Mr. Walker**

They didn't hit. They just busted up in the air, they were air-bursts. They just blowed up and of course foxholes were no good for those.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Shrapnel comes down.

**Mr. Walker**

Shrapnel comes right straight down. It was the most devastating thing. I know how people feel when they are getting friendly fire but, if you could control everything you wouldn't do much hurt in war. But you don't control much. They would lob a short round every so often and of course, they tell me, on Saipan. The 10<sup>th</sup> Artillery, the 10<sup>th</sup> Marine Artillery s caught that Banzai charge, blasting right out front with ten second fuse, canister shells. Ten second fuses, that's just right out there.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

That's right.

**Mr. Walker**

That's about all my experiences. Today the Island is now secure. I had an appendicitis operation in, I had appendicitis and they sent me back, went to an Army hospital, I was supposed to go to a Navy hospital, but when they sent me back in a little piper-cub ambulance plane, my plane landed and another plane landed. It was an Army boy shot up, they just had one ambulance so they put me in with that Army boy and took me to an Army hospital.

I later became missing in action. Nobody knew where I was. Yeah, I was in that hospital and had my appendix taken out, on an operating table, on a piece of plywood over saw-horses, operating tent, the operating room was a tent. I didn't have any trouble at all with it. They kept me there instead of sending me back to Saipan. Usually they got the casualties stable, then sent them back to Saipan, they had a big hospital there. But they wanted to keep that hospital open so the hospital filled up with mostly appendicitis cases. The nurse said that after every battle, the hospitals were filled up with appendicitis. They didn't have any appendicitis during the battles.

So after twenty-one days I got out of there and joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amphibious Marines. I went to Guam with them. They was going to keep us there, they was going to send us home as casualties, and the three of us knew that the war was not over with, and we wanted to get back to Saipan to our regular outfit we was all from the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt 8<sup>th</sup> and so they sent us to this other Marine deal and they were gonna keep us, and we asked to go back, so they said they would. So they put us on a sea-plane, tender that had taken a suicide plane and we were there when the news about the atomic bomb came out. They dropped that first atomic bomb, and , I believe, and they froze everything in the harbor and for a while they wouldn't let anything leave. After a while we went back to Saipan and we had our ship loaded, we were totally loaded when the Japanese asked for peace. We were fully loaded with the understanding we were going in on the southern end of the southern end of the Island of Japan.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Where were you when you got the appendicitis?

**Mr. Walker**

On Okinawa.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On Okinawa. Where did they fly you to?

**Mr. Walker**

They flew me back to one of , they said there was one of those big hospitals there on the beach....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On Okinawa?

**Mr. Walker**

On Okinawa.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So they just flew you from one part of Okinawa to another.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. It was quite a thrill. The pilot was trying to get me to lay down and I was trying to see Okinawa from the air. That night I had an attack, I knew what I had because I had about three attacks in the States and every time I would turn myself in, the hospital would be full from the casualties from another Island and they'd say well you'r not ripe yet. So I turned myself in and the Corpsman there took me back to the Battalion where was an aid station, and I was laying there on the table and the doctor was getting ready, they had a doctor there, it was just tents, and he came in, the Colonel came in and said,"Chris, what's the matter?" I said, Well I got appendicitis, sir." " They said you'd turned yourself in sick so I came down here to see about you." He turned to the doctor and said, "How bad is he?" He is going to have surgery. He said,"Are you going to do it here?" Yeah I've got to. He said," Are you equipped?" Yeah I think I'm equipped. He said, " Let me see." So he got on the phone, and he said I'm going to be sending you back to general hospital.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

It's there on the beach.

**Mr. Walker**

There on the beach. So I did and I was supposed to go to the Navy hospital but went to the Army hospital and nobody knew anything for a while, I had written some letters home but had to go free because I didn't have a billfold, the Marines had took that stuff away from us in combat, they didn't want us to have anything like that and so my father got a letter, but when I got back to Saipan, I reported in Company Headquarters and they said, hey, you're missing, you're missing in action. They sent me over to the Colonel and the Colonel said," Chris you are missing in action. Your sea bag is down on the docks getting ready to be loaded and ready to go to Pearl Harbor." And said."Tomorrow your daddy is going to get a letter that you are missing in action. Nobody knows where you have been."

I told him where I was and everything. He said "We'll see if we can get it stopped." Daddy never did get that. Of all the things, I believe the service did for me, was stopping that letter, that telegram.



**Mr. Misenhimer**

Yeah. That would have been devastating to your parents.

**Mr. Walker**

Well, my daddy. My mother had died. But it would have very devastating because he had me in the Marines and he had this brother in the Navy on that air-craft carrier. He would think about it all the time.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Now on Okinawa, the Army General Butner got killed. Do you recall that?

**Mr. Walker**

We had just been up there to see him, I don't know whether he had called the Colonel up or not. But the Colonel was there and we had just, the Colonel and I, had just left when, I guess we had been gone, twenty or thirty minutes. When they zeroed in on him. They got him, they fired one shot at the location and it zeroed right where he was. They were good. They were good.

**Mr. Walker**

What did you think of Butner? Did you have any opinion of him?

**Mr. Walker**

I thought he was a good General. I thought all our Generals were good over there except old dug-out Doug. I had no use for him. I thought he was all right, and I thought the one they got to replace him, what was his name?

**Mr. Misenhimer**

I don't know.

**Mr. Walker**

I think it was Stilwell. It might have been, I forget now. Get a good Joe Stilwell. Yeah. He was a real General. It cost a lot of casualties, I didn't read the battle plans. I'd mentioned that I had gotten the Thompson subs illegally, my buddy and I had Thompson subs that we had gotten ill- legally on a trip to Okinawa. When we got back to our base, when I got back he had already taken the Thompson-sub and put it up, and he had taken the other Thompson sub and put it up. So when we got on the ship getting ready to leave, for Japan and the Colonel pitched Joe and I back our Thompson subs. Cause we didn't know what kind of conditions we were landing under, we were ready to move in on combat conditions. We were one of the first troops that were going to be in Japan.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

This was after the war?

**Mr. Walker**

This was after the war. So they pulled a sneak inspection on us and so we went to that inspection, and everything else. The General drew us to inspect. The General had been a Corporal when the Colonel had been a private. And he had always been one jump ahead of the Colonel. He was General to the Colonel. So he knew us, and he stepped in front of me with that Thompson-sub and I had it slung on my shoulder and I didn't move it off my shoulder, he stepped in front of Fitzgerald and Fitzgerald did the same thing I did. He went on around in the back of me and I did not do anything. You know, sometime you open the bolts. I didn't do nothing, I just stood there stiff as a board. He went the other way and Fitzgerald did the same thing and we passed inspection. We went to the tents and everything and kind of got relieved a little bit and word came over, "Chris, the Colonel wants to see you."

So I go over there. I stand there and he puts me at ease and he says, "Chris, is that the way you stand inspection with a Thompson-sub?" You see Thompson-subs were not issued to the Marines then. And I sir, I don't know. Since I did not know, I thought the best thing to do was not to do nothing. He looked at me and grinned and he said, "If the General ever inspects you again with that Thompson-sub, you do the same thing." He said, after it was all over with, and he asked me if that was the way you stood with a Thompson-sub and I told, "Yes, sir." You see they didn't know the way it was done themselves. Since it wasn't regular equipment, they didn't know.

We stole it off a ship. We had that thing spied, when we were on the ship, he was GI, which ship boat, we weren't supposed to be with him, and so we waited for the last call to get in our Amtrak, we went and busted the glass off and moved the M-1s over to the side, grabbed those Thompson-subs and when I jumped over the side of that Amtrak I landed right in front on him. Fitzgerald landed over kind of behind him. He looked me with that Thompson-sub, I knew it was done, I really did, because I knew he was GI. He looked at Fitzgerald and he looked back at me and he said, "How much ammunition you got?" I said, "About forty round, sir." "How many you got, Fitzgerald." "About forty rounds, sir." He said, "There's a whole box of 45 ammunition over there. Fill up." That was all that was ever said.

When we went to Japan with those guns, he came by after things settled down, and took them away from us. He came over and said, "I want my Thompson-subs." He said, "We may need these things, and nobody is gonna look under my bed but they'll sure look under your bed." I wonder what

happened to those Thompson-subbs, I imagine he got home with them.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Tell me about this, you were telling me about how these windmill laundry tubs works.

**Mr. Walker**

We had sea-bees on the Island. They kept us going...

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Which Island?

**Mr. Walker**

Saipan. They were good to us. The sea-bees are always good to the Marines and we really liked them. And The Colonel wanted a windmill washing machine made, so he went down and got the parts and got the sea-bees to make the parts for him and asked me to build a tower and put it all together. I did. Carried it over to him..

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How does this work?

**Mr. Walker**

The wind would blow the vane, the vane was fixed on those shafts, and the crank shaft had a pinion that went up and down, like it washed, jogged those clothes up and down.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How big was the container the clothes were in?

**Mr. Walker**

A five gallon bucket. It didn't stand but about three feet tall. And so he told me it was working good and he wanted to give me something. So he took me in his tent and offered me a big old bottle of whiskey. Being afraid of it and not drinking and not wanting to drink, I just told him I didn't drink that stuff and didn't take it. He looked at me for a while, put it down and reached under the bed and pulled out a case of beer and handed that to me, and I told him, Colonel, I don't drink that stuff either. And so he held it there and dismissed me, I don't know what he ever did with it. I sure did get eat out when I got back because I told them about the whiskey and beer, and I sure did get eat out because I didn't bring it back for them. I didn't drink it and I wouldn't give it to any of them to drink. But from then on out the old man was real good to me. I don't why, from that I figured he would have taken it as an insult but he didn't.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Was this after Okinawa?

**Mr. Walker**

This was before Okinawa. Before.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you finally left Okinawa, when did you leave Okinawa?

**Mr. Walker**

Aboard the ship? I don't know when that was. I've lost all my dates. I had gotten out of the hospital and joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amphibious Corps, Marine Corps and went back to Guam.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You were preparing to invade Japan at that point?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. We was planning it. That was our plans.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So when the atomic bomb was dropped, you were on Guam?

**Mr. Walker**

The first one, I think I was, I don't know I think I was in Guam, when they dropped the first bomb.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> were the two days they dropped them.

**Mr. Walker**

Okay. I must have been there. We thought it was propaganda. We didn't see, I didn't think they would work like that. Then when we landed in Japan, we landed at Nagasaki. I saw then that it wasn't propaganda. You just can't get from pictures and things what that thing did.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you heard about the atomic bomb dropping, of course, you couldn't fathom anything that large doing that. Then in a few days, Japan surrendered. On August the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Walker**

I think we were on Saipan when Japan surrendered.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On Saipan.

**Mr. Walker**

We left the next day or two, right after that.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you did get news of the surrender, was there any celebration?

**Mr. Walker**

No. We didn't celebrate we figured we were going to be there another year or two. Before we could all get home.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So then you left Saipan and went to Japan?

**Mr. Walker**

Yes.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How did you go over to Japan?

**Mr. Walker**

By ship, Attack Personnel.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

APA

**Mr. Walker**

APA

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you were on Guam, did you see any B-29s this time?

**Mr. Walker**

We heard them and saw them.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You weren't close to where they were?

**Mr. Walker**

No. They were, I don't know where they were on Guam, I don't know where we were on Guam. I have no idea. We watched them, when we were back on Saipan. Before we went to Okinawa, we watched them go out and come in. They got to where they were leaving out and coming back. Not flying in formation, just flying out and coming back. I was at the radio shack one day, and one was coming in from bombing Japan and they were trying to give him coordinates on how to land there on Saipan, of course Saipan is above the water. He started coming in, and they said, you can't land you're not high enough. So he flew around again and they told him you can't land again you are not

high enough. He made three rounds and on the third round they said you still lack a little bit, an inch or two. So on the fourth round, I think it was the fourth round, the pilot said I've either got to land or ditch it, I'm out of gas. When he got lined up they said well come on in, you got about an inch to spare. They had talked about, we saw reports about, a hundred planes going over and a hundred planes coming back safely. Those planes was coming back shot full of holes, and tore all to pieces.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So quite a few came back that way?

**Mr. Walker**

Um, huh, those old boys were fliers. They were good. Imagine having to gain altitude to land.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So when you landed at Nagasaki, this was somewhere around the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, somewhere in there.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

September the 2<sup>nd</sup> was the ceremony on the Missouri when they surrendered.

**Mr. Walker**

We were on Saipan when they went through that ceremony.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Okay.

**Mr. Walker**

We left sometime after that.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

So it was sometime in September that you landed there at Nagasaki. Was this the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion or the 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment or what?

**Mr. Walker**

I think the whole 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines landed there.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you landed on Nagasaki, what did you do there?

**Mr. Walker**

Well, we started immediately patrolling. First thing, we went to a sea-plane base out of Nagasaki, and we hadn't been there but just a few days and one of these typhoons came through. I got to experience

a typhoon. It was rough, we were patrolling and checking out things.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Were you actually in the city of Nagasaki?

**Mr. Walker**

No. Just was a little town outside.....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You didn't actually go through Nagasaki?

**Mr. Walker**

We went through Nagasaki. We landed at the port. We saw the destruction, we went through it, yeah. And we made some trips over there, illegally. Then from there we went to Kummoto and stayed there for a while.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Where was that?

**Mr. Walker**

Oh, that was about, I think, the middle of the Island.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Now are you on the main Island or...

**Mr. Walker**

We are on the Southern Island. Mikado.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Mikado .Right

**Mr. Walker**

Kummoto, after I went to school, I was in the seminary, I found out that they had one of the greatest spiritual Christian Revival at Kummoto that they've ever had at any place in the World. Sometime before the War. We woke up and everybody hollered get on top we can see land. We were out from Nagasaki, and somebody had gotten a big high-powered binoculars. They were Japs. Somebody picked them up at Okinawa. And I looked through those things and the first thing I saw was a church steeple, it was the Methodist Church. I was utterly shocked, it was a beautiful, American styled steepled church but I sure was surprised.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

That was there in Nagasaki.

**Mr. Walker**

Nagasaki.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And it had survived?

**Mr. Walker**

It had survived. A lot of the city survived, If I understood it right, the range of mountains and the harbor was in here and they dropped it back here, and one blast came this way; the other blast hit the mountain and came back, What the first one didn't get, the second one did. We were down at Kummoto for a while, that was the 8<sup>th</sup> Marines was at Kummoto and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion left and went to the very southern tip of Japan.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The Main Island or still on...

**Mr. Walker**

On Kyushu, the southern island. I believe they were on the southern tip. There was a volcano there that I wanted to climb most of all. I had just gotten permission to climb when I got the chance to come home. I postponed my climbing that volcano. It was smoking. The old time Japanese told us, don't worry about it, don't worry about it, as long it smokes it's alright, once it stops smoking be careful.

I had another experience the with the Colonel. The General was there at that place, we were stationed in a school, of course we were not supposed to bother their schools, but we were stationed in a school, because that city, ninety per cent of that city was totally destroyed and the other ten per cent was livable That's were I think we were going to make our first attack on Japan, right there. I don't know if it was with the school, or with a manufacturing deal that was by there, but there was a smoke tower there every bit of a hundred and fifty feet tall. Big tall thing.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Smoke stack, you say?

**Mr. Walker**

Smoke stack, yeah. I don't know how come it was left standing but it was. I wanted to climb that thing and I don't know how big it was at the base, I imagine it was thirty, forty feet at the base, circumference, and at the top it was about three feet, it had about an eighteen inch hole. So one day, when I knew nobody was going to be around, I climbed that thing. And I stood on top of that thing



and I looked all around. I could see for miles. It was the best view anybody had ever had other than an airplane. I was enjoying my view. And I happened to look down and there was the Colonel and the General. He was standing there looking up at me, I don't know how long he had been there. I was on top there twenty, thirty minutes I was throughly enjoying myself so I came down. The Colonel is GI now and I got down and he walked up to me. I come to attention and saluted, he saluted me back The old General said, " Son how was the view up there?" Sir it was wonderful, it was wonderful. That was all that was ever said, after that I saluted him and left.

The colonel saw me after that and said, " I ought to have kicked your pants all the way to the stockade for doing that." I'd a said something, no, the general asked me how the view was, and I told him real fine, he turned to the Colonel and said you'd better put an off limits sign and the Colonel said I ought to kick you all the way to the brig. He said, I ought to do that. He was a dare-devil, he was mad because I made it where he couldn't climb it.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How did you climb it?

**Mr. Walker**

It had a ladder on it. A ladder all the way to the top. I remember climbing that thing right now, I wanted to see the view. Of course, the Marine Corps had a deal where it was legal to do anything unless you were told not too.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You could do anything you were not told not to do?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. I was in the hospital. A bunch of us had operations about the same time, I'd been there about a week, and we decided we would go to the beach. Three or four, five, maybe six hundred yards, we went down there, we weren't feeling good, but we went down there. Looked around, skipped rocks on the water and everything else and came back. That little ole Army nurse, a Captain, she was a high spirited, oh, she was a good nurse, the only real eating out I ever got in the Service was from her. She ate me out for running off and boy she ate me out. "Don't you know that you weren't supposed to go down there." I said, No Ma'am, wasn't nothing said not to go to the Beach. She said, "We've got the MPs and everybody else out after you, half of the crew is out looking for you. We thought some Japs had carried you all off." I said, we didn't see any Ma'am. That Army bunch, rest of them was Army in there, they just let me do the talking. Oh, she was hot under the collar. She said, "Don't

you know you are not supposed to go down there?" I said, Ma'am, in the Marine Corps anything that you are told, the only thing you don't do in the Marine is what you are told not to do. You can do anything you are big enough to do and we thought we were big enough to and we did. She was just so hot behind the collar, she turned around and walked off. That was my deal with the Army Captain. Boy, she threw her rank at me.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You was still PFC, right?

**Mr. Walker**

I was Corporeal then.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

A Corporeal, okay.

**Mr. Walker**

But that didn't , if I'd been a General she'd got me.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What were some other things.

**Mr. Walker**

Right off hand I can't think of any.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Now, you left Japan, around when?

**Mr. Walker**

We left that southern Island and went to, I think you pronounce Sasibo, and there what they did, they took the men with 50 points or more and we joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division and all the low-point men in the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division went to the 2<sup>nd</sup>. They carried the 5<sup>th</sup> home to deactivate it. When we got off board ship, there in San Diego, I guess over half of the men got off with the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, we wore 2<sup>nd</sup> Division patches, they let us wear our 2<sup>nd</sup> Division patches, we wore them on our uniforms, then we were dismissed. I actually came home with the 5<sup>th</sup> Division.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

About when did you land then?

**Mr. Walker**

We left Japan on the eighteenth day of December. We landed in San Diego on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December. That is the first time Christmas was other than the 25<sup>th</sup>. But Christmas was the 28<sup>th</sup> of December that

year.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On the ship coming back, on Christmas Day, did you have anything special then?

**Mr. Walker**

I don't remember, I had it special on that ship all the way home. That ship was really incapacitated. It's two boilers were bad and the Captain of the ship had the privilege of doing one of two things. He could try to get us home or he could go to Pearl Harbor and get those boilers fixed and come back and get us, take about three months, and bring us home. That was our ship. He said, "Load 'em up." So he ran on one boiler, most of the time, they'd get one boiler, they'd cool the other one off, and work on it, until the other boiler went almost completely out, and they switched back and forth. But when I got on board ship, I hadn't been on board a few hours, until I got a call to come to the, what do you call the place?

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The bridge.

**Mr. Walker**

Bridge, I went to the bridge and the Captain of the ship said, "I hear that you are a carpenter.", and I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "I'll make you a proposition. If you will work in the carpenter shop on the way home, we'll give you the full privileges as the crew. That means that you will pull no duties as a Marine. You'll just work from 8 to 5 in the carpenter shop going home. You'll have full privileges of the crew." Well, the ship being crippled like that, they had just enough for the necessities, so the troops got two meals a day. I got three meals. The troops could take a bath every third day. I could take a bath any time I wanted to. And so I had it real nice on board ship. That was the nicest, I didn't have to stand inspection. So I worked in the carpenter shop, and about all we did in that carpenter was to build footlockers, or suitcases. I went up there, they were not footlockers, they were suitcases for the Officers and the upper enlisted men. I've still got mine.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You say the Marine Corps...

**Mr. Walker**

The Marine Corps policy, I guess it is unwritten, there was managing and stealing. Managing was getting it from the government, stealing was from individuals. Managing was alright, unless you got caught, stealing was strictly prohibited.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You could trust your stuff to be safe.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. Always. I don't know of anything ever getting stolen. Tho I've managed for....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

We called that midnight requisitioning when I was in the Service.

Now when you landed in San Diego, you say?

**Mr. Walker**

Umhuh.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What kind of ship was it, that you were on coming home?

**Mr. Walker**

It was Attack Personnel.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

APA.

**Mr. Walker**

Another APA.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Let me make this note.

**Mr. Walker**

The ship I went overseas on was an AP27, 28, I've forgotten now, the USS Goshen, of course they were Marines on then. But the first license plate I ever bought for a car, when I got my first car was an AP27. Same thing as....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

By accident.

**Mr. Walker**

Just by accident. Wish I would have kept that license plate but I didn't.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You landed back in San Diego, you say?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What did you do there?

**Mr. Walker**

We boarded trucks and went to Camp Pendleton and I went to a place they call tent camp, I believe number one, and it was quonset huts then, and we were probably going to stay there for two or three weeks, get everything lined up. Our Battalion Staff had worked onboard the ship, all the way home, getting our records in shape and they had a space open; nobody ready except our group, so they shipped us right in and we got out. real quick. We got out about two weeks earlier than we thought we would.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Where were you discharged at, there at Camp.....

**Mr. Walker**

Camp Pendleton.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And they sent you home. How did you get home?

**Mr. Walker**

By train.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Pullman, this time?

**Mr. Walker**

No it wasn't Pullman this time. It was just a car.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Let me ask you, what ribbons or medals did you get?

**Mr. Walker**

Well, I got the Asiatic-Pacific Battle Star, I got the Good-Conduct, ....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Do the Marines give the Combat-Infantry Badge?

**Mr. Walker**

No. I did get a deal that, I don't know what, I don't know, it's in the discharge. I've got that One Star, Pacific- Battle Star, there is another one for being in the Service in the States for so long. Home Defense or something. That one started out to be a medal for the men who were in the service when

the war broke out, so many men didn't go overseas, didn't have any kind of Campaign ribbon, so they brought that into effect. And of course, while I was with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marines, when I had been discharged.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Any other thing on the medals?"

**Mr. Walker**

No, that's all.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine patch, what did it look like?

**Mr. Walker**

It was a Southern Cross. Arrowhead with a Southern Cross on it.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Division had a One with Guadalcanal in it and the Southern Cross in it too. Five stars, right?

**Mr. Walker**

I think that is right.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Let me ask, Chris, on April 5, '45 President Roosevelt died. You recall hearing about that at the time?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Not much reaction.

**Mr. Walker**

I don't think there was any reaction on it.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did you get back with any souvenirs?

**Mr. Walker**

I got back with a set of carpentry tools, but they disappeared

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And a Navy jacket.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, a Navy jacket. I got some other things I can show you, just a second.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

That's a 105 shell, there. A 30caliber and 45. An ash tray made out of the bottom end and the top end, the firing pin end of a 105 shell and a M1 or 06 shell in the middle and the place your cigarettes are in is out of 45 shells. Okay, it's never been used.

**Mr. Walker**

I've got a lamp. Made....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

That's what, about a 40millimeter.

**Mr. Walker**

37 I believe.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

With electric plug in there and electric socket so you can use an electric lamp. It is engraved Siemper Fi. Who made this?

**Mr. Walker**

I did.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Where did you make these, when you were in Camp.....

**Mr. Walker**

In Camp Pendletown.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

On the way home.

**Mr. Walker**

No, at first.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Before you left.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Now on this one you've got the old US and South America. What do the two arrows represent here?

**Mr. Walker**

That's the anchor.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Oh, I see. That's the anchor, now I see what it is.

**Mr. Walker**

A man that had weapons. They couldn't use a bayonet.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

It's a sheath knife. Like a big hunting knife.

**Mr. Walker**

Feel of that, how sharp that is.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

I did.

**Mr. Walker**

I haven't sharpened that. Pal razor blades made that.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Oh, okay.

**Mr. Walker**

The handle was bad when it was given to me, a dear friend gave that to me, one of the most disillusioned men that I've run across in a long time. Been in the Korean Conflict and a BAR man, you know what a BAR is.....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Browning Automatic rifle.

**Mr. Walker**

That's the one they always go after and they cut an arm off of him. He is one armed. He had come back, married and had some lovely kids, but he was real disillusioned with our country. He was real disturbed about our country and everything. This was back in the sixties, I guess, he joined our church, we had a pretty good relationship one time, well I think I would have had a relationship with him because I was a Marine. He went to leave and he gave me this. He, back then, Australia was offering people a real good deal to go down there and live and work down there. He was a school teacher and his wife was a teacher, in fact he was a coach. So he went down there and stayed two years and came back. I saw him after he came back and he told me, said boy, this is a good country, even though I lost an arm. It's a good, good country.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

It's a Japanese flag that you are showing me..



**Mr. Walker**

It is in authentic and that's the name of all the boys in the Company in Saipan together.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Where did the flag come from, do you know?

**Mr. Walker**

They said they picked it up there on Saipan.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Your Company signed it here.

**Mr. Walker**

Nearly all of them. That was just before we left to go to Japan. It's getting faded and tattered.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And what's this bracelet?

**Mr. Walker**

That, I made that on Saipan. They said it was out of a Japanese Zero. Whether it is or not, I do not know.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

For a watch in here, is that what it is?

**Mr. Walker**

A watch-band Of course I had to take the watch off it when we were waiting to come home. Before I went to combat, because we couldn't wear any thing like that in combat.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Sure.

**Mr. Walker**

That's supposed to be made out of a zero, I don't think it was, because that's been in a footlocker for years and I didn't shine it.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

It's really bright and shiny now.

**Mr. Walker**

It is made out of real good material it's not aluminum. That's really stainless steel.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

It's really strong steel. Yeah.

Let me ask you, did you ever have any experience with the USO?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, I've been real fond of a lot of them. The one that I appreciated most, and I don't know, I guess it was a USO Show, it was Bing Crosby came to Camp Pendleton and put on a show. I even got to talk to him. He was a real gentleman, real personable person just a regular fella.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Did you remember some of the other shows besides that one?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, we saw quite a lot of USO Shows.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

In the States, not overseas?

**Mr. Walker**

Yes, we some overseas. We saw one overseas that I hate to say who it was. I think it was Betty Hutton. She got so vulgar that we just walked away. I got reprimanded for it by other people but she just got so wild, I think it was Betty Hutton, it was one of the famous movie stars. She started out vulgar and she got worse as time went on and we just walked away, a bunch of us.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How about mail? When you were overseas could you get mail pretty regular?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, I got it real well except when I was in the hospital.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

When you were missing in action.

**Mr. Walker**

And when we aboard ship, of course we had to wait 'til we were around a mail ship but we did get mail and it was always a high light. Every mail call, I got mail, from Claudeen after we got engaged, I got engaged when I came home in the fall and then she wrote me everyday from then on out. Sometimes I would get thirty letters....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

At one time.

**Mr. Walker**

I think I got sixty, maybe, when I got back to the unit after I had been lost.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

What would you consider was your most frightening time?

**Mr. Walker**

Gosh, I don't know. I had a whole bunch of them. I almost couldn't pick out one of them.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Many times ?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah. It was real scary at sunup and sundown, they had general alert. Sunup and sundown on ships and they always locked you down in the hull, and the holds, and I don't know if we were ever in an air raid, but we had a lot of air-raids drills called. And to be locked down that hold, when that's going on is not very nice.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

No, right. Now on Okinawa, did you ever see the Kamikazes?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah, I did too. We went to make the initial landing on Okinawa. We were here, and a ship here, and another ship over here. We were ready, we had eaten breakfast, early that day, and that Kamakazi came down, came down and jumped, grazed this ship and jumped off and went into the mess hall on this ship. As I say, it had all the back up for the landing, and wasn't any body in the mess hall. It happened so quick, I don't know if I saw it or I didn't. But those old Marines, of course we had abandon ship drills all the time, I don't know if you was ever on a ship and had an abandon ship drill or not, we had them. Them ole Marines was coming out of them hatches, walkways on the deck, sometimes six or eight feet wide, there's a railing so high...

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Four feet off the ground or something.

**Mr. Walker**

... They weren't touching that deck or that railing, and coming out up those ladders. That old Captain was hollering, "Stay aboard. Stay aboard. We are not about to sink." Had our Higgins boats down in the water, you know, and getting ready to load up for that fake landing. We was quick, we went around picking up all them boys.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

An APA again, right?

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Transport.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah a transport. He beached it. He beached it. As soon as he knew the Island was taken, he beached it. He kept telling them it wasn't about to sink. That's your training,

Of course they was getting ready to get in their Higgins boats, they lost their equipment and everything else and one time they heard they were going to make them pay for that equipment.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You mentioned you threw your M1 over the side, when you got the Thompson, were you ever responsible for your M1 or whatever?

**Mr. Walker**

We usually didn't end up with the weapon you started out with anyway. Lot of times you didn't. We weren't thinking any thing about that thing, we didn't carry it around, we had them Thompson-sub.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The Thompson-sub used .45 of pistol ammunition? Why was there a box of it on.....

**Mr. Walker**

Oh. All the Officers carried 45pistols.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Oh, okay. They all carried 45s. So the ammunition for that fit your Thompson-sub.

**Mr. Walker**

Theoretically they said that you could catch a leopard, or a tiger, I mean a big cat, jumping out of a tree and you could shoot him, and a long as you were shooting him, you could suspend him in air. I think that 45 bullet had a forty-five-hundred pound striking force. What we liked, if the fighting was all going to be close range, where ever you hit a man that.....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You stopped him.

**Mr. Walker**

You stopped him With that 30 caliber carbine, the carbine was this big, but...

**Mr. Misenhimer**

It only had small powder....

**Mr. Walker**

right in there, and you could couldn't stop a Jap with that thing unless you got his heart. If he was tanked up on saki, you couldn't, he kept coming.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Where you involved in any Banzai charges?

**Mr. Walker**

No, no. Glad I wasn't. These carbines weren't much use even though it did weigh....

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Eight pounds or something, nine pounds, right.

**Mr. Walker**

The M-1. It replaced the old 03, and they said that those Japanese would count the bullets, when you shot five times, they would charge you, because the 03 only held five shells. But the M-1 held eight. So when they first got them, they'd fire the first few right quick and let them charge and then get them.

About what won the war: the thing that won the war was the thinking of that private and corporal, the thinking of the enlisted men, they thought. The Japs weren't taught to think, that when somebody wasn't there to tell them something to do, they didn't know what to do.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The same with the Germans.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The ingenuity of the American fighting man.

**Mr. Walker**

Yeah.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The Enlisted man.

**Mr. Walker**

Yes.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Have you ever had any reunions?

**Mr. Walker**

No. I didn't go to any reunions.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

The Second Marines has reunions, though.

**Mr. Walker**

I guess they do.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

But you hadn't been to any.

**Mr. Walker**

I haven't been to any.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Anything else you can think of?

**Mr. Walker**

No.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

They tried to get you to re-up when you got out.

**Mr. Walker**

Yep.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

And what did you tell them?

**Mr. Walker**

I told them no. I thought I had, I was a regular and I thought I was in there four years, that's why Armistice and all that didn't really make that much difference'. I was in the bunk one afternoon and sent word up to me if I would come down, the Company Sergeant come up and said, "If you'll come down and sign a release, you got enough points, you can go home." Said, "If you will sign a statement that you'll take a discharge, you can go home." So I did. When we got home we were sent to a lecture of re-enlistment, but they didn't have very many takers.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

You gathered your clothes up.

**Mr. Walker**

We gathered them up. They gave us a brand new set, two or three sets of dungarees, and maybe, one set of khakis. They took the rest of them and put them in drums and took 'em out and sunk 'em. Now, that's what we got home with. When we got home, they took those things up and gave us camouflage, I believe, dungarees. As that was the sign that you was in the deportation. Then, when we got ready to leave, just before we got the discharge, we were issued a complete new set of everything. Greens, a set of greens, an overcoat, I don't know how many suits of the dungarees, khakis, seven or eight sets of khakis, ten pairs of socks. We went home with a brand new outfit. Of course, you couldn't buy any clothes.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Right. A whole wardrobe there.

**Mr. Walker**

They sent us home with it. I got, my father-in-law, he worked in dry-goods store, at Winters', and they got in a shipment of clothes, and when I got home, he had set a suit back for me and two shirts, and I guess that's it. I had a suit. I had a suit to get married in. But there wasn't anything.

One of the best Officers I ever knew was James Roosevelt and his mother hated the Marines. Eleanor said that when they brought these Marines back they ought to find an Island to put them on and rehabilitate them for about ten years before they ever set foot back in the States. But everybody that I ever heard that had any dealings with him, with that James Roosevelt, he was a Colonel, thought he was a magnificent officer.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

How about Chesty Puller?

**Mr. Walker**

Okay. And we had a Smith that was good.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

There was two Smiths. There was Howling Mad...

**Mr. Walker**

There was Howling Mad and I'll say one thing for Roosevelts' Boys, every one of them went into the service and everyone of them saw combat.

**Mr. Misenhimer**

Yeah.

**Mr. Walker**

Well, I'm glad it is all over with.

Tape transcribed by

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