

National Museum of the Pacific War

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

Interview with

**Sam H. Snoddy
8th Marines**

Date of Interview: April 29, 2004

Interview with Sam H. Snoddy

Mr. Smith: This is Ned Smith. Today is April 29 2004. I am interviewing Mr. Sam Snoddy, a Marine. Which unit was it Sam?

Mr. Snoddy: Brooking, 3rd Battalion Eighth Marines.

Mr. Smith: This interview is taking place in the lunch room of the Fredericksburg Motel. This interview is in support of the Center for Pacific War Studies, archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission for the preservation of the historical information related to this site.

Mr. Smith: Okay Sam. Tell me where and when you were born.

Mr. Snoddy: I was born May 23rd, 1925 in, like I said, Slain (sp) County, Missouri. Born on a farm. My grandfather was a doctor and so he was the one that delivered me. I stayed on the farm, went to school and grades waited and about 1943, I think it was. That was in June and August of the same year I was in San Diego in the Marine Core.

Mr. Smith: Okay. What were your parents' names?

Mr. Snoddy: Dixie and Fred.

Mr. Smith: And Dixie's maiden name?

Mr. Snoddy: Was Daniel.

Mr. Smith: Daniel?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. Her name was Dixie Darvin Daniel.

Mr. Smith: D A N I E L?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes.

Mr. Smith. Do you have any brothers and sisters?

Mr. Snoddy: I have two sisters both of them older than me. They are both still living. One's in Florida and one's still in Missouri.

Mr. Smith. Oh great, great. You said you ended up in San Diego in the Marine Core. That was in boot training or ...?

Mr. Snoddy: That's correct.

Mr. Smith: And what were you striking for?

Mr. Snoddy: I just got in and went tried to get in to the Rangers but that was too specialized and they didn't have time so they took you for ever what ever they could get you for.

Mr. Smith: How long did boot training last? Approximately?

Mr. Snoddy: I would say six weeks. Probably about it. And I had one liberty and then went aboard ship on the *Langley Aircraft Carrier* and spent, I think, we got there in Hawaii in time for Christmas. I'm not sure if we stayed aboard ship (**unclear -tape counter 28**).

Mr. Smith: And this was 1943 now you think?

Mr. Snoddy: That's correct.

Mr. Smith: That was the old *Langley*?

Mr. Snoddy: I don't know. I know it was the aircraft *Langley* but I think the old one was, has been lost prior to ...

Mr. Smith: This is probably the second?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. I think this was the second *Langley*.

Mr. Smith: Was it a fairly modern ship? Do you remember?

Mr. Snoddy: I was too green to know anything.

Mr. Smith: You told us you went to high school in Missouri?

Mr. Snoddy: That is correct. Little small town. Four hundred and four population.

Mr. Smith: When you went aboard then, did you have a rate or a designation? Or were you a rifleman or what were you?

Mr. Snoddy: Infantry is all.

Mr. Smith: Alright. Why did you pick the Marines?

Mr. Snoddy: I just have always liked them, like the song that brings **(not clear- tape counter 38)** in. It kind of juices you up a little bit.

Mr. Smith: Did you have any buddies that went in with you?

Mr. Snoddy: No.

Mr. Smith: You were by yourself?

Mr. Snoddy: Went by myself.

Mr. Smith: Made some good friends I presume in boot camp?

Mr. Snoddy: After you've been in for a while you tend to buddy up with some.

Mr. Smith: Right, right. Is there anyone that you went to boot camp with that you saw at the reunion today?

Mr. Snoddy: No.

Mr. Smith: *Langley* went where, Honolulu or where did you go?

Mr. Snoddy: Went to Honolulu.

Mr. Smith: What did you do there?

Mr. Snoddy: Then we went to the, I think it was the Big Island where that Parker Ranch is. That's where we trained, at the Parker Ranch.

Mr. Smith: And you were **training (unclear-tape counter 76)**. What were you doing?

Mr. Snoddy: Well, learning how to fire and dismantle a machine gun.

Mr. Smith: How long then were you at Parker? Approximately again you know. It doesn't have to be exact.

Mr. Snoddy: I'd say about two, three months.

Mr. Smith: Okay and then?

Mr. Snoddy: We boarded ship and went to Saipan.

Mr. Smith. Saipan?

Mr. Snoddy: Right.

Mr. Smith: And this was in the Saipan Campaign? Were you taking part in that?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes.

Mr. Smith: You guys got there right at the first?

Mr. Snoddy: Right. In fact I seen the first wave we went in at the airport and I was hit on the beach, probably a mortar shell or something hit our craft that we'd just gotten out of and a lot of shrapnel. One of my good friends was killed there and the rest of them I don't know where they went.

Mr. Smith: How badly were you wounded?

Mr. Snoddy: I was hit in the knees and the shoulder. It was an explosion that happened behind me and knocked me forward and messed up my knees pretty good.

Mr. Smith: This was shrapnel?

Mr. Snoddy: Shrapnel. Yes.

Mr. Smith: And did they have a field hospital set up at that time?

Mr. Snoddy: No.

Mr. Smith: What happened to you? Did you go back aboard ship?

Mr. Snoddy: No, yes after a while. They gave me I guess a shot of morphine and enough to knock you out and they leave you there for I don't know exactly how long we were there.

Mr. Smith: Until they could get you back to a hospital ship?

Mr. Snoddy: Well, I ended up on a merchant marine ship.

Mr. Smith: I'll be darned. They had a doctor aboard?

Mr. Snoddy: They had it set up. Well they got us ... I remember going out there in this, some kind of navel boat like a, it had tracks on it.

Mr. Smith: A LVT?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. That's right.

Mr. Smith: A landing vehicle tractor.

Mr. Snoddy: We got along side of this ship and they had thrown over a cargo ladder.

Mr. Smith: Were you able to scramble up that alright?

Mr. Snoddy: You get scared enough you can go up most anything. Yes, I got up to the top and then they just, here again, I remember getting another shot of something and laying out on this deck. After a while I had most of my clothes cut off. One of my shoes was missing. That's about all I remember of that part of it.

Mr. Smith: How long did you stay aboard ship?

Mr. Snoddy: I would say several weeks. They were loading up more casualties.

Mr. Smith: Did you stay right there in the harbor?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah, they were backed up a little ways out of range of artillery. So we ended up with quite a few wounded aboard. And we didn't have any money. Oh did too. I had a silver dollar that my grandmother had given me as I left as a good luck piece.

Mr. Smith: How long did you hold on to that?

Mr. Snoddy: I held on to that for about three weeks and then I had to finally up and spend it.

Mr. Smith: Aboard ship or where?

Mr. Snoddy: Aboard ship, yes. Then they took us on back to Honolulu. And finished recuperating.

Mr. Smith: At Honolulu?

Mr. Snoddy: That's correct.

Mr. Smith: Did they put you in the hospital?

Mr. Snoddy: Just temporarily. I was in pretty good shape by that time.

Mr. Smith: Did they reassign you or what happened then?

Mr. Snoddy: I stayed around there and they lined us up. They wanted to know what we were prior to coming in. My buddy and I were listening and we decided we were going to be cooks. We lied and said we had been cooks so that way we worked one day and had three days off. The rest of them were out marching and this, that and the other. We had good food and enjoyed ourselves.

Mr. Smith: Let's back up. When you were wounded you were what, eighteen years old? Nineteen?

Mr. Snoddy: Eighteen.

Mr. Smith: Eighteen year old kid and you ran right into it.

Mr. Smith: It was quite an experience wasn't it?

Mr. Snoddy: It was. I don't know whether you can say it was scary or just you didn't know what the hell was going on.

Mr. Smith: Well that's right. I'm sure it was scary and particularly for a youngster. You know that's what you were at that age.

Mr. Snoddy: True.

Mr. Smith: Okay then you're a cook and you're reassigned to a unit somewhere or...

Mr. Snoddy: We went back, see, we were in Hawaii, then we went to Saipan. Our team unit I mean. **(unclear ?? tape counter – 109)**

Mr. Smith: Was this on the campaign again?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. It was a team you kind of support coming in, had landed already.

Mr. Smith: That hadn't been secured yet? (**unclear – tape counter 112**)

Mr. Snoddy: That's correct. And so I fell in with another squad.

Mr. Smith: As a cook?

Mr. Snoddy: No. They put me back on machine gun by that time.

Mr. Smith: **Unclear tape counter 116**

Mr. Snoddy: Stayed there for a couple of weeks, ten days, or something like that. I don't remember exactly. Then went over to Saipan.

Mr. Smith: Had the island been secured by that time?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. And they set up a camp that we all went up to and pitched tents and stuff like that.

Mr. Smith: How long then were you at that location?

Mr. Snoddy: Well you kind of caught me cold here. I'm trying to figure out. I know that, see we trained there for quite a while and then we were going to go; let's see. I know we ended up going to Okinawa.

Mr. Smith: (**unclear tape counter 126**)?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. I think it was the Fifth Marines that went to Iwo. I was in the Second. A friend of mine was in the Fifth and he got some leave into Saipan and he and I got together there in Saipan. He was from about three miles from my home town. We had a playing card. The girl, she wasn't quite naked but she was almost and we divided

diagonally and across. Each one signed a piece of it and gave it to the other person and we met several years later back in Slater, Missouri and exchanged halves.

Mr. Smith: After the war?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes.

Mr. Smith? That's great. These are your neighbors? **(Unclear – tape counter 137)**

Mr. Snoddy: Right.

Mr. Smith: When were you issued the Purple Heart? Did they do that right away or did they wait till after?

Mr. Snoddy: I think it was some time on Saipan that they lined a bunch of us up and dished them out.

Mr. Smith: What was your next assignment after you left Saipan?

Mr. Snoddy: Okinawa. Actually we were kind of like decoys. I remember it was on April 1st and it was Easter Sunday. We all got into landing boats and headed toward shore on Okinawa and circling out there. The purpose was to draw the Japanese from one end of the island to the other.

Mr. Smith: Did it work?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. Probably had some airplanes bother us or something but anyway. Then the main force came up and invaded. I think it was more or less right in the middle. I don't remember if it was north or south then. They sent us on over to a small island called Isahaya; I believe that was the name of it. To secure it.

Mr. Smith: Just off of Okinawa?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. So we went over there and wasn't a big amount of men going in but we got in there and the Japs had all left. They had allowed us several, well seven or eight days to secure it and so we ended up just sitting on the beach and enjoying ourselves. So we had another break there.

Mr. Smith: Back to when you were circling out in the water. Were the Kamikazes coming over you?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. We watched them come in.

Mr. Smith: Were they trying to get to the stores mostly?

Mr. Snoddy: Anything they could get to.

Mr. Smith: Anything they could get to?

Mr. Snoddy: Right. But there was of course the battleships and carriers further out. They went after mostly destroyers. They did a pretty good job when they would hit.

Mr. Smith: Did you see some actually hit the vessels?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes.

Mr. Smith: I guess Okinawa was probably where they did the most damage?

Mr. Snoddy: That's true. Right.

Mr. Smith: Okay. Can you think of anything else about that campaign that would be interesting?

Mr. Snoddy: Well, I heard some guys talking this morning about after we went back after awhile and invaded, not invaded but went into Okinawa. We were heading up to **relieve some others who had (unclear – tape counter 174)** been there before. And they had this young Captain and he put us on a first march one night. We were going on pretty good until someone told him that we had just gone into an area that hadn't been secured. He just went ape and so they had to more or less I guess you'd say subdue him or something. So we turned around and walked back out where we'd been. I heard they were talking about the way one of the guys, Jack, woke up and they stuck him pretty good. He didn't holler after that.

Mr. Smith: What do you think happened to the guy? He just lose it?

Mr. Snoddy: He just lost it.

Mr. Smith; Yeah but I mean to start with to put you guys _____ **(unclear – tape counter 185)**.

Mr. Snoddy: He was young.

Mr. Smith: And inexperienced?

Mr. Snoddy: Right and I guess wanted to get a job done and got a little too fast with it I guess you might say.

Mr. Smith: But you didn't lose any personnel?

Mr. Snoddy: No. Didn't. Wasn't a shot fired.

Mr. Smith: Well that was lucky.

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah. For him too.

Mr. Smith: Do you remember your clothing during the campaign? Did you guys have on the kakis or?

Mr. Snoddy: We had the greens.

Mr. Smith: You had the greens.

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah.

Mr. Smith: Was that wool or?

Mr. Snoddy: No.

Mr. Smith: Cotton?

Mr. Snoddy: Cotton.

Mr. Smith: It was cotton so it was cooler.

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah. Just dungarees. Green dungarees.

Mr. Smith: Right. But it was correct for that climate?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah. We did have over coats issued to us on Saipan.

Mr. Smith: Yeah.

Mr. Snoddy: They would screw up on the orders.

Mr. Smith: Oh did they?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah.

Mr. Smith: What would you guys do with that stuff?

Mr. Snoddy: Just left them.

Mr. Smith: Yeah. Any special elements of your clothing or your equipment you remember?

Mr. Snoddy: I remember that we had trouble getting clothing. At one time after we'd been on Saipan so our Captain told us to get our clothes good and clean but make sure that they were pretty bad disarray cause the General was going to inspect us. And he, the General, came and we were all clean but had a lot of torn pants, this, that and the other. And so he went along for a little bit and finally he got disgusted and started ripping clothes. Put his hands in the pocket tear it off, turned around and told somebody that get these gentlemen some clothes. He left. So we got some clothes.

Mr. Smith: Do you know who that was?

Mr. Snoddy: I don't remember. I just know he had stars.

Mr. Smith: Was it Halin Smith or ? **(unclear – tape counter 211)**

Mr. Snoddy: No it wasn't Halin. He was around but ...

Mr. Smith: Yeah. But he wasn't at that inspection.

Mr. Snoddy: No.

Mr. Smith: Did they act on that order pretty quickly?

Mr. Snoddy: About a week or two. At least we ended up with some good clothes.

Mr. Smith: Right. Okay. During this time were any of your buddies still with you? Or were you in the same outfit?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah. We all stayed together more or less. Well, now we may have jumped ahead in front of Okinawa. We went back, of course, to Saipan and I didn't lose anybody out of my squad but a couple had accumulated enough points and they were on _____ (unclear tape counter 224) and so we were shipped home. According to the information, we were aboard ship heading for Japan to invade it when they got the _____ (unclear referring to points accumulated – tape counter 228)

Mr. Smith: Yeah. Right. August?

Mr. Snoddy: August.

Mr. Smith: '45?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah. And so we kind of circled around _____ (unclear – tape counter 229) and then went on in and landed at Nagasaki. I remember seeing part of the town was just black and rubble.

Mr. Smith: Just burned up?

Mr. Snoddy: Right. What I really noticed was some of the telephone poles or light poles or something. One side would be completely burned and the other side there'd be nothing.

Mr. Smith: I'll be darned. From where the blast came from?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah. The blast. So we got aboard a train and went on further inland and went to a Japanese camp and occupied it. They had some good barracks and two story barracks.

Mr. Smith: Did you release any POWs? Or they were already...?

Mr. Snoddy: No. We more or less didn't take any POWs.

Mr. Smith: No, but I meant our guys had already released them?

Mr. Snoddy: Evidently they had. **(unclear counter 244)**

Mr. Smith: So you guys were more or less just occupying?

Mr. Snoddy: That's right.

Mr. Smith: Did you get liberty at that time?

Mr. Snoddy: We did after a reasonable amount of time allowed to go into town.

Mr. Smith: How did the Japanese civilians treat you?

Mr. Snoddy: They were very polite. They bowed and scraped. I know that. We had learned a few words of Japanese like hello, good day. A friend of mine ended up being buddies and we still are. Got the idea that we would go get us some sake. We found this Japanese truck driver, had a truck and he could speak pretty good English because he was a UCLA grad.

Mr. Smith: I'll be darned.

Mr. Snoddy: So we told him what we wanted and kind of enforced it a little bit. And we went to this sake factory. We loaded up his truck quickly in big five gallons of sake. Went back to camp and went along down main street. We've got five gallons off at each barracks you know. But the funny part is the guy at the factory bowing and scraping wanted to know if he was going to sign the paper for it. And so George, he acted like he was in charge. Like he could sign it. We weren't allowed.

Mr. Smith: He never got paid for it?

Mr. Snoddy. Oh no. He never got paid for it.

Mr. Smith: You say that the truck driver was a graduate of UCLA?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes.

Mr. Smith: And driving truck?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes.

Mr. Smith: Was it his own?

Mr. Snoddy: I have no idea. He had one and we wanted one and that was it.

Mr. Smith: I'll be darned. Well you guys were fortunate to run into this ...

Mr. Snoddy: True. Of course they were always trying to make points to get cigarettes and stuff like that. They helped us and we helped them.

Mr. Smith: Okay. Did you have any feelings or emotions once the bombs had been dropped? Were you guys pretty anxious to go home?

Mr. Snoddy: Always anxious to go home, yes but it well, you just had to follow the rules. And you got so many points for each month of being over there. If you got a Purple Heart you got so many. If you got a set of stars, a Bronze Star, you got so many. And when it added up you went home.

Mr. Smith: Did you only get the one Purple Star or were you wounded again?

Mr. Snoddy: Just one.

Mr. Smith: Just the one?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah.

Mr. Smith: And did your unit get some unit citations?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah. We got it for Taira. Presidents give unit citations.

Mr. Smith: Were you on Taira?

Mr. Snoddy: I was not.

Mr. Smith: **Not clear? Tape counter - 288**

Mr. Snoddy: Right. I was still in high school more or less.

Mr. Smith: Okay. Can you think of any humorous incidents other than stealing the sake?

Mr. Snoddy: Well, we use to, while we were on Saipan, we would make a little Racing Jack which consists of fruit cocktail, sugar, and water and a little time in a water can. We were having an inspection one day and we had a can that was fermenting pretty good. I think it was a Lieutenant, a Captain, that came in you know and was looking things over and looked down and saw a water can. The cap was loose. I remember he slammed it down and he said want to keep these things closed. Anyway close it. He slammed the top down and he lectured us a little bit. The can started kind of puffing up at the sides and wobbling a little bit. So we were all pretty nervous. We didn't know whether it was going to blow or not. He finally went out of the tent and a couple of us grabbed the can and went out the back end and we were up on the side of a hill and we tossed that sucker down there and it hit. It made a pretty good display of fruit.

Mr. Smith: Was the cocktail just general ration? Is that how you got that?

Mr. Snoddy: No.

Mr. Smith: How did you get hold of that?

Mr. Snoddy: We pulled guard duty and some of our friends would come by. We would suggest that if they looked in a certain place they would find some fruit cocktail and sugar and we wouldn't be there for another ten, fifteen, twenty minutes. Come back and it was gone.

Mr. Smith: You appropriated it?

Mr. Snoddy: Right. We flat out stole it.

Mr. Smith: Now from the camp at Japan where did you go?

Mr. Snoddy: We came back to the States and I was, oh, came into I guess San Diego and put aboard a train.

Mr. Smith: Oh back up though. How did you come back? On a troop ship?

Mr. Snoddy: Troop ship.

Mr. Smith: Pretty loaded was it?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes.

Mr. Smith: Just your unit?

Mr. Snoddy: Oh no. There was a whole bunch of messed up ones.

Mr. Smith: Did you have soldiers as well as marines aboard?

Mr. Snoddy: Marines is all I can really remember.

Mr. Smith: Yeah. I though they brought you all back together.

Mr. Snoddy: When you got back they started checking us out in different places. Since I was from Missouri they sent me up to the lake _____ (unclear tape counter 334) to be discharged from up there. It was in the winter time I remember. I think it was, well anyway, February, March or something like that. I remember it was cold. Then got my papers and all that kind of stuff. Got paid off. Really didn't pay in money (unclear – counter 342) because the pay master didn't keep up and so came on back to Gillan (sp?), Missouri.

Mr. Smith: During the separation, were any of your buddies from that same area?

Mr. Snoddy: No.

Mr. Smith: You were up there by yourself again?

Mr. Snoddy: True.

Mr. Smith: Left your whole group?

Mr. Snoddy: Everybody went to different places. That's where I got out.

Mr. Smith: And what was the total time you served?

Mr. Snoddy: Probably a little over three years.

Mr. Smith: What was most outstanding about your military service?

Mr. Snoddy: Getting out alive. (laughing) I made Corporal.

Mr. Smith: I was going to ask you about that.

Mr. Snoddy: In Okinawa.

Mr. Smith: You made Corporal when you got in the squad?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah. We were on the ridge at Okinawa watching a tank fight when the General got shot. He was about 50 to 75 yards down the ridge where we were and stood up and shouldn't have.

Mr. Smith: He what?

Mr. Snoddy: He stood up and he was killed.

Mr. Smith: The Marine General or the Japanese?

Mr. Snoddy: I think it was a Marine General there that got killed on Okinawa. I can't remember his name.

Mr. Smith: Do you remember whether soldiers were along with you too there or not?

Mr. Snoddy: Just Marines.

Mr. Smith: On some of the campaigns you know there were a combination.

Mr. Snoddy: True. I know on Saipan there was Army but I was mostly associated only with Marines.

Mr. Smith: Okay. Did you take advantage of the GI bill after?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. When I got separated and all that I started trying to find a college to get in. They were all filled up. My brother-in-law was a professor at The Raleigh School of Mines in Raleigh, Missouri. He got my buddy and myself in. We found out right quick that we weren't from the mining engineers because we were, the school I came out of, my graduation class was twelve people. Very small. We figured we were going to get kicked out. Once you get kicked out of one college it's hard to get back in. We transferred to a small Methodist college in Fayette, Missouri. The Dean was nice enough to let us in and put us on very restricted hours. Had to report every now and then. I ended up graduating.

Mr. Smith: Well great. What was your major?

Mr. Snoddy: I was Economics and Political Science with a minor in English.

Mr. Smith: Did you end up as politician?

Mr. Snoddy: No. I ended up; in Missouri it gets awful cold and my niece would hurt every winter. So when we got out of college my friend and I. We were sitting having a beer and I asked him, "What are you going to do?" And he said he didn't know. And another guy down the ways said, "I'm driving to Dallas if you want to split expenses you can go with me." So we said fine. About a week later we were headed to Dallas. My buddy and I made an agreement that who ever got a job first would take care of the other one; pay rent and this, that and the other. I got a job with Southland Life Insurance Company. Didn't get much money but it was something. Finally I managed to get my friend in as an underwriter. They had an opening. I stayed with them about two years. Wanted to get married but wasn't making enough money so I went to Midland, Texas and interviewed for Shell Oil Company. I was hired and my buddy stayed there for the full twenty, twenty-five years or so.

Mr. Smith: At Southland?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes.

Mr. Smith: At Shell, were you in sales or what?

Mr. Snoddy: No, I was in what you call Title and Rental. You go out and secure oil and gas leases and then secure title and stayed with them for awhile. My immediate boss left about four months, six months before I did. He called me up and wanted me to come over. He took me out to lunch and offered me a job. I went to work for him.

Mr. Smith: Doing the same type of work?

Mr. Snoddy: Same type of work but what he said was Shell Oil Company trained you and I'll take you. Basically that's what happened.

Mr. Smith: Did you stay with him for the rest of your working career?

Mr. Snoddy: I stayed, it was the Western Drilling Company. I was there thirteen years. I ended up being land manager. Mr. Tucker, who was President, called me in one day and we were sitting there talking. He was complaining because oil had gone way down. Money was getting short. He said we were going to have to cut out the land department. And I said, "Mr. Tucker, I only got two land managers and a secretary." And he said, "I can keep that secretary and two land managers a lot longer if I didn't have to pay you what I'm paying you." So I said, "Well, as long as I didn't do anything wrong." He said, "No. It's just economics." I got my walking papers right there.

I had a wife and two children I think it was and we went to Missouri on Christmas.

Mr. Smith: The whole family?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes. We drove up there from Midland. So we were staying up there and having a good time. My wife Pat said we better get back you know, you have to go on back to work. And I said it's not necessary I got fired about two weeks ago. I had not told her cause it would have messed up Christmas.

Mr. Smith: Sure.

Mr. Snoddy: And so we made it.

Mr. Smith: What did you do then?

Mr. Snoddy: I went what you call independent.

Mr. Smith: The same work?

Mr. Snoddy: Right. You go out and find several jobs. They would find prospects and I would go out and lease it out. We would put the deals together and then go out and find someone with some money and finance it. Basically I'm still doing it.

Mr. Smith: That's interesting. Back up now. When you're over seas you wrote your folks I presume?

Mr. Snoddy: Yeah. **team unit (unclear - tape counter 471)** letters which weren't much. Sometimes you'd get talking too much and they were censured pretty severely.

Mr. Smith: Did the mail catch up with you if you were hopping around?

Mr. Snoddy: After a while yes.

Mr. Smith: Eventually?

Mr. Snoddy: True. I never did get my Christmas package because I was in Japan.

Mr. Smith: Got lost in the mail some place?

Mr. Snoddy: Some where a long the line.

Mr. Smith: You said a little while ago that you wanted to get married but you didn't have a girlfriend when you were over seas?

Mr. Snoddy: No.

Mr. Smith: No gal that you were writing to?

Mr. Snoddy: No.

Mr. Smith: Can you think of anything else that might be of interest? You may or may not understand this tape will be transcribed and then it will be sent to you for corrections

and additions. What ever. And then you send it back to the museum and then the finished product will be put in the archives of the museum for future studies, for anybody that's interested in what some young Marine had to do on Saipan.

Mr. Snoddy: I _____ unclear – tape counter 493.

Mr. Smith: That's alright. Can you think of anything else that you'd like to ad?

Mr. Snoddy: I know that, at least I did. In service you make some very close friends. I still correspond or phone about once every two or three months to one of my friends in Shreveport, Louisiana and then one up in Massachusetts. George.

Mr. Smith: None of your close buddies are here at this reunion with you?

Mr. Snoddy: No. I was just out to California two weeks ago at the Marine get together and I was sitting down at the reunion. One guy walked in and looked at me and said, "I know you," and kept on going. I had no idea who he was. He kind of settled in and he came back and we got to talking. His brother had been in my squad on Saipan and he was in the same company. That was unusual. He went in in the Great Lakes and his brother went in in San Diego and ended up in the same outfit. Across the street from each other. His brother has since passed away. We meet each other (unclear tape counter 521)

Mr. Smith: He wasn't as close as his brother was?

Mr. Snoddy: That is correct. Squads stayed awful close. They eat, played poker and sleep with their buddy but when it came right down to it they were very close. When you get eight men in a tent you get to be familiar.

Mr. Smith: You know them pretty well?

Mr. Snoddy: Yes.

Mr. Smith: Okay. Anything else that you might want to add?

Mr. Snoddy: Oh. I'll probably think of something later.

Mr. Smith: When they send this to you for correction, if there are additions just write it down and they'll add that too and transcribe that part of it.

Mr. Snoddy: Okay.

Mr. Smith. Okay Sam. On behalf of the museum let me thank you very much for taking time to do this oral history and hopefully some young student will gain something from what we've talked about. At least they'll know what was going on.

Mr. Snoddy: That's true. Well you make some real close friends. It was an experience that you wouldn't give for it but you wouldn't do it again unless you really had to.

Mr. Smith: Right. Okay thanks Sam.

Mr. Snoddy: Okay.

Transcribed by Lynn Webb
Fredericksburg, Texas