

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with

Mr. Richard B. Hanna

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Dwight Daniel: This is an oral history interview of Richard B. Hanna, Corporal, World War II Marine; was born 22 September, 1926. The interviewer is myself, Dwight D. Daniel, an oral history volunteer at the National Museum of the Pacific War located in Fredericksburg, Texas. Today is 12th November, 2005 and this interview is taking place at Open Cockpit Day, March Air Reserve Base, California. This interview is in support of the Center for Pacific War Studies which is the archive for the preservation of historical information of the National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, Texas. This is tape 1, side A.

Mr. Hanna: You have a very good voice, by the way. You see how that came over that?

Dwight Daniel: I know, thank you.

Mr. Hanna: Boy, really a bass voice.

Dwight Daniel: Took too many years in the Army! (laughter) Okay, Richard, you were born 22 September 1926; where were you born?

Mr. Hanna: Uh, Tren...Torentum.

Dwight Daniel: How you spell that?

Mr. Hanna: How...how about Brackenridge...don't worry about it, it's an old town...Brackenridge...B-r-a-c-k-e-n-r-i-d-g-e...Brackenridge.

Dwight Daniel: Colorado?

Mr. Hanna: Pennsylvania.

Dwight Daniel: Yes, Pennsylvania. I had no...where is that?

Mr. Hanna: It's just up...up...it's about twenty miles up the river...up the Allegheny River...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: ...from Pittsburgh.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding! I didn't know that.

Mr. Hanna: And so...Revolutionary War era...uh, Pitcairn Heights...it's all...General Pitcairn...it's all English...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...you know, I was born and raised back in that country where it all happened...the Revolutionary War.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, never knew that. Now, what did your parents do? What...what was your father doing at the time?

Mr. Hanna: My father was a steelworker.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: And they called him, oh let's see what...let me think what they called it...millwright; he was a millwright...set up machinery and...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: ...for...at different times he worked for the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company setting up the...

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and...he was really...that's what he was.

Dwight Daniel: Cool! And what was his name?

Mr. Hanna: Calvin.

Dwight Daniel: Calvin.

Mr. Hanna: B., as in Baker.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, Hanna.

Mr. Hanna: Hanna.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, and your mother...a housewife?

Mr. Hanna: Uh, she...yes...that's all...well, yeah...

Dwight Daniel: I mean not all, but I mean...?

Mr. Hanna: Yes, well primarily...she was a housewife.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, and what was her name?

Mr. Hanna: And her name is...I...uh, Izora...that's her middle name...uh, Hazel.

Dwight Daniel: Hazel.

Mr. Hanna: Hazel...I...Izora; I know that's a hard name to spell...I-z-o-r-a would be close enough...Izora...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...Orr, O-r-r.

Dwight Daniel: That's her...her maiden name was Orr?

Mr. Hanna: Yes.

Dwight Daniel: Okay. We always like to fit in...

Mr. Hanna: Well that would...closely...

Dwight Daniel: ...into the system...

Other person: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, she was born...Mapleton, Iowa, I believe.

Dwight Daniel: Huh, okay.

Mr. Hanna: Of course...Dad's long dead.

Dwight Daniel: Right. Now, did you grow up in the Brackenridge area?

Mr. Hanna: Yes, I spent...I was born there and spent seventeen years there...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...and went to school.

Dwight Daniel: Now, question for you: Did you graduate from high school?

Mr. Hanna: No, the last year I quit.

Dwight Daniel: Okay...uh, to join the military?

Mr. Hanna: That's what I did...I had to win the war.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Hanna: Do you believe that?! (laughter)

Dwight Daniel: Hey, a lot of people did that.

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, well. Everything was going on and I was afraid I wouldn't get a chance to win it, so I joined.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: You know...patriotism...that's what it is back then.

Dwight Daniel: Now where were you when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Hanna: I was at home in...I believe it was in the morning...and about an...hour afterwards of course...it came over the radio.

Dwight Daniel: Wow! Did you know where Pearl Harbor was...even?

Mr. Hanna: Did I...was I aware of where it was?

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: I...why...Hawaii...yeah, but not Pearl Harbor per se.

Dwight Daniel: That's not bad; you're one of the few people that knew where it was. Most people didn't know where it was.

Mr. Hanna: Yes, well I read the...we were very poor and so...coal mine poor...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and...but we could afford a Sunday paper. And the Sunday paper I read from front to back and I not only got an education but (unintelligible)...read or write...

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: ...but no, I didn't finish high school...I got a wonderful education or the eleven years that I went.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: 'Cause if you didn't know what George Washington did in second grade, you never got to third grade!

Dwight Daniel: I understand that. Good...so that's how you knew...a lot of people didn't...okay.

Mr. Hanna: Oh, I knew that, yeah; see I read the paper so we knew about Germany; we knew about the whole thing. We were up to date on everything. My father was very patriotic, by the way.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: He served in the Navy in the First World War.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, now...how soon did you join the military right...after that?

Mr. Hanna: In '44...let's see May of '44, I believe it was, is what my discharge says.

Dwight Daniel: Now when you joined?

Mr. Hanna: When I joined the Marine Corps.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, in '44?

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, it's on my discharge.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: '44...and went to...joined in Pittsburgh...went to Pittsburgh and joined and that's where I was inducted...involuntary ...and then was sent to San Diego...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, you went to San Diego?

Mr. Hanna: ...for training. Yeah, I didn't want to go to that bug-infested...

Dwight Daniel: Parris Island?

Mr. Hanna: ...Parris Island! (laughter) I heard about it!

Dwight Daniel: Did you have a choice...uh, where you'd go?

Mr. Hanna: Yes, I'll tell you what it was...was I asked the Sergeant...the Recruiting Sergeant...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Hanna: ...matter of fact, my father was here and...and near Palm Springs where they built the first road through there in 1905...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...and I have his original pictures and everything...being a historian. Anyhow, he said, "I want to go back to the West Coast again and so could you please,"...he's going to leave; sell everything and go to the West Coast, "and could you get him to go to San Diego because we will be there?"

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And the recruiter said, “You must wait about a week and then I’ll have a train going...or troop train going to San Diego and he’ll be on it.” And so, it was very convenient.

Dwight Daniel: Okay. Now, why’d you pick the Marines say over the Navy, Army...whatever else?

Mr. Hanna: Well, I don’t know, I guess I...I wanted to get in the fight.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And my dad said to me, “You’re foolish! Why do you want to join the Marine Corps and sleep in the mud...”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And apparently he knew!

Dwight Daniel: Right, he knew better.

Mr. Hanna: “...and you can sleep in a nice white sack aboard a ship?” And I said, “Well, I just don’t think I can...I’m that good of a swimmer.” I don’t know I guess it was the fright of being...you know, drowning, I don’t know. But I felt that if I was on land my...I was very physical, right? I’m a very physical person today...at eighty years old.

Dwight Daniel: Okay. Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: And so...I said, “Well,”...he said, “You know you might get killed!” This is..., you know, you don’t...see, he knew because he was in the First World War!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: So I said, “Well,”...you know, I didn’t take his advice and...and almost got killed, yes, that’s true...he was very...true, he was right! He was right!

Dwight Daniel: Okay, gotcha!

Mr. Hanna: But I just...I didn’t think...I had some friends...I was one of the last ones in...of...of that...that were at home to go.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: There were the men...two years older than me and a year older than me had already joined...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and mean left, and so I wanted to hurry up and get in the fight so I was really one of the last ones to go and I went. There was two after me.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha, you were eighteen or seventeen when...?

Mr. Hanna: I was seventeen, three months...so I joined.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, you...your parents had to sign for you?

Mr. Hanna: They had to sign that I was seventeen, six months...that’s what you could go at...seventeen, six months.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, I didn’t know that!

Mr. Hanna: You can’t go at three months. So, my father said, “I hate to do it, but I’ll sign for you.”

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: So he did sign.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so dad signed. Now you went to San Diego?

Mr. Hanna: Yes.

Dwight Daniel: Was that the first time that you were out of the Pittsburgh area?

Mr. Hanna: That's right.

Dwight Daniel: What...what was that like?

Mr. Hanna: Local boy...there...you know I stayed within...we used to go to Pittsburgh...the big thing was to go to Pittsburgh...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna:twenty...twenty miles away; we had to pack a lunch!

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Hanna: You know what I mean? And we'd go out in a 1929 Dodge, and half the time we didn't have enough money for gasoline so we used to go down and...we had a (cough), excuse me...an old garage that...my father was able to procure without any money. And we had no money for gas, but we'd go down on Sunday and open up the doors and sit down there...that's how bad it was....we was...come from nothing.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, so what'd you think about the trip to San Diego?

Mr. Hanna: Ah, you know, it seemed like it was forever!

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: We came across on Southern Pacific...you know, through Texas.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: I'll tell you a funny story. I was...I...I...when I left there I had a suit on; a white shirt and a suit.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding?!

Mr. Hanna: Everybody wore suits.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: And so...all the windows in a troop train are opened and all the coal dust was coming in...and everything...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and when I got to San Diego, I think I was blacker than...the colored cook ...whatever

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: No, filthy dirty. Anyhow on the way we went through New Mexico...I don't remember where the...we had to stop every four hours...to get off the train...the troop train. Of course it was...it was full...thousand...eight hundred to a thousand men...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and Harvey...Harvey people fed us...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, the Harvey Girls, yes!

Mr. Hanna: ...yes; Harvey Girls fell out. I remember the one place in Texas, it was...it must have been, I don't know, half a block long and all of the tables and benches were set up and you...all the doors opened up...all the way down and everybody come off the troop train; went right on in and they directed you; just sit down...eat! Back...on the train and away you went again! The Harvey Girls.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: But anyhow when we went through New Mexico, the...the train was taking a big curve...like this...and I looked back and I could see the end of the troop train way out...and going slow (shew sounds)...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and they...looked out the window, and of course the windows are all opened, and there was an old Mexican...I looked and (unintelligible)...that's the first time I ever saw a Mexican; I'm from back east of course, and he had his hat on and he's walking along the railroad and it was miles from everything! I mean I didn't see any...no vegetation...nothing but the desert. And so it was slow enough that I hollered to him. I said, "Where are we? What place is this?" And he looked up at me and he said, "Oh, New Mexico!" That's all...that's the first time I ever saw a Mexican. He had his sombrero out there in the middle of...where he was coming from...wherever he going (laughter)...so that's why I knew where I was going through.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: The Harvey Girls, by the way, they were all dressed in their aprons and little hats...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: ...and they was...the food was excellent!

Dwight Daniel: Okay!

Mr. Hanna: I thought it was. Of course coming from a kid that never had much, it was...have to be. If it was...if it was hamburger it was delicious!

Dwight Daniel: Just like the Judy Garland movie with the Harvey Girls, okay.

Mr. Hanna: Yes, it was...the Harvey Girls, and they were great! But there was no waiting, and they already knew that we were coming; how many...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and you...you had fifteen minutes...in, eat and right back out and on that little train; that troop train was moving!

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: It had a schedule.

Dwight Daniel: Okay. Now, you arrive in San Diego; what was that...I mean, what was your boot camp like?

Mr. Hanna: Ah, well, being a snot-nose kid, you know, what first impressed me was the palm trees.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: No, I...we have no palm trees...that's all, apple trees and...you pretty well lived off the land when I was a kid and so it's rolling...yeah, but these are beautiful palm trees. I couldn't imagine; it was like being in the South Pacific; I mean...your imagination. And I didn't have...of course...think of anything else, so they let us drive on in to a big building...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and everybody took off their dirty suits and whatever clothes and piled them up and...and they sent them home for us.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And the...I can't think of... he was the drill instructor but he was in charge of new people coming in, and...I finished in a hurry and had two months, I guess

it was, two months of boot camp. And, anyhow...shaved your head off, and of course I never had my hair cut off. I had long blonde hair, so it was...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: No, it was...

Dwight Daniel: Boy, that must have come as a shock!

Mr. Hanna: ...bald headed. Marine Corps was a little different in those days; I'm going to tell you...than it is today, of course.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: Maybe I'm just...imagination, but they were very strict and very...you know, they just told you the way it was going to be...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and you...you didn't write home to mother and complain.

Dwight Daniel: There was no option.

Mr. Hanna: No!

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Hanna: No option, no nothing; you'd better be...do what they said...or else.

Dwight Daniel: So what was it like at boot camp with all these people from different locations? You have any problem adjusting to people?

Mr. Hanna: Uh, yes I had...well I can't remember where...other people were from, but they were mostly back east. Of course the troop train picked up...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Hanna: ...went through the United States.

Dwight Daniel: So it's not too bad then?

Mr. Hanna: No it wasn't, but the...they put us aboard the train with the colored...you know...cooks...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...would serve you with a...like a boxed lunch...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...every three...hour...every four hour...and for awhile. Then we got the Harvey; well the Harvey people there...well they took care of that. But I don't remember meeting...was impressed...from...how much of Texas...was just a matter of...

Dwight Daniel: Good. Now what was...what was boot camp like other than the fact...lots of physical activity?

Mr. Hanna: Well, very strict.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: That sergeant said we gonna...he was a regular Marine with I think quite a few years under his belt...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and he said, "Well," ...and they told you straight up, "We're going to do everything together. We're going to work together; fight together, shit together, and we're going to be Marines! And where you're going...where you're going, you're going to get all the fighting you want!"

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: "So don't go pick no fights with anybody!"

Dwight Daniel: Ah, interesting.

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, he said, “Here’s a...,”...when I got off of boot camp we had ten days before we went into Pendleton, you know, second (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...(unintelligible) a little Berlin; a little Tokyo; they were two different places there to go in Camp Pendleton. So he said...and I didn’t have any money; my folks had already left Pennsylvania, so I didn’t want to go home so I just stayed at Camp Pendleton. My folks finally came and saw me there and then we went to Long Beach. So anyhow like he said...the...the Sergeant said to me, “Don’t go into town,” he told everybody, “don’t go into town and pick a fight with a sailor because I said where you’re going; you’re going to get all the fighting you want. Just save your breathe!” He was right, too, he was right. And he said, “I’m here to teach you what I know, and if you want to pay attention that’s fine; if you don’t, that’s fine too! You don’t have to listen, you go over there and sit down...I don’t care.” “But,” he said, “if you want to have a chance of surviving this, you better listen to what I’m telling you; it’s for your own good.” So he was very blunt and to the point, you know.

Dwight Daniel: Good man!

Mr. Hanna: Oh, good man, yes!

Dwight Daniel: Remember his name?

Mr. Hanna: He was a German...I mean, and he had a German accent. I mean...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Hanna: Yes, and a little...uh, he wasn't, you know, his English...but his...with a German slang to it. Later on after I got to Pavuvu which is on the...or on the...about three or four miles, I guess, from Guadalcanal there...behind Bottom Bay, well I went down...and there was a troop ship came down...and I almost went down there; I don't know why and what and anyhow...I'd already been assigned to the...the battalion...the company I was in, but I went down there and by George! I...I looked up on the boat at the gang plank there, and who was there but him!

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: He had...went seagoing...he was on that ship and thought that I'd hollered at him...and don't remember if he remembered me because you know, he had a lot of recruits.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: But there he was! Uh, he would say things like..., "Alright dare Hanna,"...dare, not there Hanna, but, "Alright dare Hanna, if you don't like it...dare Hanna!

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Hanna: He was a German...yeah, good, good man. He had a heavy beard, short, tough, broad and he said, "Well, I'm here for your own good; you can take advantage of it..."

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: "...if you...if you don't, that's fine, too, it's your life."

Dwight Daniel: I understand. How was the food at boot camp?

Mr. Hanna: Well, I'll tell you it was excellent.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: Let me tell you why it was excellent. When I was a kid...uh, my mother would do without food one day during the Depression...1930s, and nobody worked; nobody had any money...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and so when I got to boot camp...and I had no milk...and some of my teeth of course, no calcium, and so I sit down, you don't talk in the mess hall, you know, everybody's in and out and if you just hold the pitcher up.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Well, it's a stainless steel pitcher, a big one; and they'd come...and just pick it up and lay it back...full of milk. And I..., "God, look at that milk!" (laughter) And then they sit it down in the...next door to me. A couple of guys were complaining about the food...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and...

Dwight Daniel: You said...

Mr. Hanna: ...pork chops!

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: Complaining about the food! I said, "You know, men, this is...I'd eat everything I could get!"

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: I thought it was like ice cream and cake!

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: That's how good it was 'cause I told you I had nothing; I was a poor kid.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: Just because I was white didn't mean that I was any better off than the coloreds; a melting pot of the world back there! Slavish; Polish; German; you know...black or whatever!

Dwight Daniel: Well, just in case you're wondering, the reason I...I asked this question...a lot of people don't have...like experience. My mother was from West Virginia...

Mr. Hanna: I'll be darned!

Dwight Daniel: ...so we know poverty; and my father was from Alabama...serious poverty!

Mr. Hanna: Oh my god, yes!

Dwight Daniel: And when I asked him about the food, they're like you! Wait a minute, I got three meals a day...what...what was to complain about?!

Mr. Hanna: What was to complain about?!

Dwight Daniel: And you know, I don't understand this bad food; I got...you know, I got chicken; I got pork chops; sometimes we got a steak or beef...or what.

Mr. Hanna: ...right, that's right...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Hanna: My dad worked in Fairmont, West Virginia...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, yeah, yeah!

Mr. Hanna: I lived there when I was a little kid and he was in a steel mill there...a steel mill and then they moved back to Brackenridge which was the Allegheny

Steel. That's where I worked; they are a big stainless steel...today the biggest stainless steel producer...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, I didn't know that!

Mr. Hanna: Yes, completely mechanized! They...they take the ingot and drop it at this end and it run through all the (unintelligible) and sheets.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: So anyhow people just don't know...don't want...want to be...

Dwight Daniel: But no, they...yeah...

Mr. Hanna: I hope we never have to go through it again, but though, the way things are going...with the inflation...and I mean, \$500,000 homes that you can't pay for...

Dwight Daniel: I know that!

Mr. Hanna: ...it's just not going to last too long. Go ahead, I'm sorry...

Dwight Daniel: No, it...it's a thing 'cause...like I said my parents...when I was born, you don't waste food! If you took it, you ate it; you didn't leave food in your plate!

Mr. Hanna: That's right; you don't throw it away...don't throw any food out.

Dwight Daniel: Right...you can't afford it. I mean you...you have to go through that experience to understand that!

Mr. Hanna: Oh, they're all millionaires. Today the kids they...

Other person: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Hanna: The only thing is...

Dwight Daniel: Right, and that's true! (Unintelligible) food that you didn't like.

Mr. Hanna: I'm not...not knocking this generation but...they...the kids I hear say now, "I *think* I have a problem." They don't even know if they've got a problem! If they said they think I'm going to have a problem...they don't know what a problem is!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: When I was a kid, and also when I was sitting in the mud, and full of lice...and with the water up to here...and all the skin coming off...haven't taken a shower change in my shoes...I hadn't taken a bath in three months...almost three months on the front line...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Hanna: ...they don't know what a bad day is!

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Hanna: And I didn't complain that I was having a bad day; you know why? I was still alive!

Dwight Daniel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Hanna: But...(unintelligible)...you don't have to worry about.

Dwight Daniel: So how...how long was your boot camp, do you remember?

Mr. Hanna: Yes, very good; I remember they, you know, I never had a decent overcoat or anything...gave me outfit...and it had a wool overcoat.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: Remember the Dream (sp?) overcoat?

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: And...and when they gave me all my shots...you get a big fever, I mean you get a fever.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And I remember...and the...once a week...because we had the movies; we had to go down to an open area...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...there were seats, and there was cold...I mean like...it was right on the ocean...and it was cold, of course I had a fever. I remember that overcoat felt so good...I...I sitting there with the fever and first when I got overseas I thought our coconut logs were better (unintelligible). (laughter)

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: I'm sorry; go ahead.

Dwight Daniel: Now...but...you...you understand poverty then and had a wool coat, too.

Mr. Hanna: Ah, I had a wool coat and a good...by the way, there wasn't polyester...it was all wool!

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Hanna: (Unintelligible sentence.) Take the arms...and I've still got it today...just about that far from fitting...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: ...I give it to my girlfriend...you lay the two arms over like this and then lay it on your sack and sleep on it; get up the next morning it's pressed.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Hanna: It's still pressed after sixty something years, and I never pressed it! And all of the stitching along the edges is a different color...even the buttons and everything; it was a beautiful uniform.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Hanna: The buttons were the real buttons; they weren't plastic.

Dwight Daniel: I know. Where'd you go to after boot camp?

Mr. Hanna: Well then we went to Camp Pendleton.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, what'd you do at Pendleton?

Mr. Hanna: Uh, the secondary training.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, what was your secondary training then?

Mr. Hanna: It was...like Little Tokyo they called one; Little Tokyo and Little Berlin. There were two camp...two camp secondary training.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Marching, you know, night marching...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...night...uh, compass reading; sitting in the sage brush all night; you smelled like sage brush the next morning.

Dwight Daniel: This is basically infantry tactics?

Mr. Hanna: Infantry tactics.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: Uh-huh, I was infantry...yeah, courier.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, did...did you try for any other specialty like radio or anything like that?

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, I...I wanted...I wanted to get into tanks..., "We're full." I wanted to get PBY tail gunner, back gunner for the...and it was full. You see in 1944 all of the positions, per se, were filled.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha, okay.

Mr. Hanna: See...towards...three fourths of the war, why everybody...somebody got transferred into Artillery or whatever they wanted.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: When I got to Pavuvu by the Canal there, I asked the man who was giving us our positions..., (unintelligible)... "You're going to go over there...Love Company, Third Battalion...Fifth Marines; Seventh Marines...and...and I said, "Where do I,"...oh, I know, "apply for the tanks or the Artillery?" He said...he was smart, very smart; he said, "Just wait till you get to where you're going, and you apply," Well...well I kept going till there was no place to apply with the mud Marines!

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Hanna: That was pretty cheap! So anyhow...

Dwight Daniel: Why'd you want to be a tail gunner on a PBY?

Mr. Hanna: I just...I loved to shoot; I had a little twenty-two; I lived in the woods; I was able to shoot squirrels; I was an expert shot...of course, a little...little bolt action.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: See, my dad bought me a rifle when I was (unintelligible); and I used to go out in the woods and shoot all the time; go fishing in the lake.

Dwight Daniel: So you just thought that's cool and now you'd have a machine gun?

Mr. Hanna: Oh, yeah, it was just a natural thing.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: I just loved...I loved shooting, but I'm a damned good marksman...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and so I...I thought that would...just be great!

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Hanna: I don't know...never thought up here...crazy, you know!

Dwight Daniel: So from Pendleton you went to the Canal?

Mr. Hanna: Uh from Pendleton and to the primary training...I think it was out...near a month.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So that would make it about four months after I'd joined...I mean got there.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Then headed overseas.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And then...troop ship from San Diego.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha; well did you stop anywhere or did you just go straight over?

Mr. Hanna: We didn't stop any place.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Hanna: (Unintelligible)...scuttlebutt; they called that in the Marine Corps you're...the drinking fountain is the scuttlebutt...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and the scuttlebutt...when you're drinking...somebody's telling you...talk...we're going to Hawaii.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: What a joke that was! (Unintelligible sentence.)

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so you went to Canal then?

Mr. Hanna: Went right...right to Guadalcanal.

Dwight Daniel: Now when you went over to...when you went to the Canal, were you in a unit or were you just a replacement at that point?

Mr. Hanna: I was just a replacement; whatever for the First Marine Division.

Dwight Daniel: Okay; but at least you knew you were in the First Marine Division?

Mr. Hanna: No, not until I got...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay...(unintelligible).

Mr. Hanna: ...I didn't know where I was going...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...'cause nobody knew. Now then...when I got there...Iron Bottom Bay...well then they assigned...the First Marine Division was there...

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: ...which I didn't know who...where we were going.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha! Okay, then where did you go when you got assigned?

Mr. Hanna: On an island there...Pavuvu...Pavuvu...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and...in training...and joined the company; it was Love company...

Dwight Daniel: Okay, L Company...

Mr. Hanna: ...Third Battalion...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...Seventh Marines, and the First Marine Division. Uh, see there's four battalions...or four regiments in a division. It's first...the First, Fifth, Seventh and Eleventh; and the Eleventh is Artillery.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: There's one Artillery outfit...so there's three.

Dwight Daniel: So you're in L Company?

Mr. Hanna: I was L Company...

Dwight Daniel: Third Battalion; Seventh Marines...

Mr. Hanna: Yes, First Marine Division.

Dwight Daniel: First Marine Division, okay.

Mr. Hanna: That's right.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so you were on the Canal...

Mr. Hanna: Well on Pavuvu...that's...

Dwight Daniel: Pavuvu.

Mr. Hanna: ...with...Canal.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: We...we went...before we left for Okinawa, we went...a fake invasion...for training...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...invaded Guadalcanal, again.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Hanna: (Unintelligible)...all from the ships; we went aboard...we went aboard the ships to leave to go to Okinawa; they knew where we were going...we didn't.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: But for a train...before we hit...we invaded...we went on for two days...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and...and went on Guadalcanal.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: And I had a friend that...from my hometown that was killed on Guadalcanal.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: No, his name was Dick Stiff (sp?), and of course all the Marines that I remember was one of the first ones to get killed from my hometown, and so I went...asked...somebody...after I was...we had invaded, we had four or five hours to spend there before we'd go back on the ship and I asked them where Henderson Airways was. I know he was buried down there some place, but I never got there; I didn't know how to get there and, well you know, it was just a jungle about thirty...forty feet...you know it was jungle...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and then one road running along and I didn't know where to go, and somebody said Henderson Field...by the way, the Japanese now want to call that something else.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I know.

Mr. Hanna: So I wanted to see his grave; he just kind of made an impression on me from my hometown. He was a good...

Dwight Daniel: Now he was killed during...?

Mr. Hanna: He was killed during the Guadalcanal Invasion.

Dwight Daniel: ...during the actual invasion? Ah, okay, not during the practice invasion?

Mr. Hanna: No, no, but he was...I knew he was buried there someplace but then we went right back on ships.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And then the ship and the whole convoy headed for Okinawa.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: Of course I didn't know it was Okinawa, but...

Dwight Daniel: Right, you just went...

Mr. Hanna: ...picking up ships and more ships and more ships and we went by...we went by...islands, and somebody told me it was...but anyhow a communication...all I could...the island was so flat when you looked at it, you could hardly see the island, but there was all these aerials...communications sticking up...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and some place in the mid-Pacific. But see, they...they didn't tell us where we were going either.

Dwight Daniel: (Unintelligible) Marine.

Mr. Hanna: And then about, oh, maybe a week before we invaded then they come out; said where we're going...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and here's a model of the island...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and you are going to Okinawa; and we're going to take it back.

Dwight Daniel: So about a week before then, huh?

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, on the ship they told us...had a set-up, you know, big...mock of the island and when we were going to invade and...

Dwight Daniel: Okay, what...what'd you think about it when they told you all this?

Mr. Hanna: Well, of course it went over my head...a kid that was eight...uh, seventeen and three-fourths or eighteen years old that...but I was really interested in where I was going and I was...felt, you know, I felt good...like we're going to pay them back!

Dwight Daniel: Okay. Now what was the...okay, what was the invasion like for you?

Mr. Hanna: Well, about one o'clock in the...I don't know...I guess it was one o'clock or more...we got up in the morning...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and getting ready to go over side, you know, and it's still...dark, but it seems like it was...you could see...what do I say...anyhow, the planes were attacking...uh, we were...our planes, too. When I got up, well first...when you were down in the hole...they put on General Eisenhower saying what...you know...must be successful in what you are doing...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and is worthwhile. And then the Captain of the ship came on and said, "You know, maybe a lot of you won't be coming back, but I want you to

remember we appreciate it...the Navy and...and I'm going to give every one of you a number ten can of beans."

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: Oh shit, can you believe that?!

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: But anyway, they were eating steak and we had beans.

Dwight Daniel: Oh well.

Mr. Hanna: (Unintelligible) different; it just made us meaner, so the meaner you get the more you can survive! I mean, how do I say it...not the dedication...but you know, the first combat you wet your pants and you're scared to death, but after that you begin to get some back.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right!

Mr. Hanna: I don't know how to explain it.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: So anyhow, he was big hearted and so we...we stood up on that deck ready to go over...down the side, and could see all of the planes coming down...the Japanese planes that were shooting down...they were on fire and our...I was right underneath a five inch gun...is where my quarters were.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, right!

Mr. Hanna: Every time that thing fired, you could hear it...shake...so anyhow I was in the eleventh wave...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Hanna: ...on the island, and from what we heard...there was some communications somehow...I don't...I got in a...I got in a boat but then we had to transfer to an amphib because we hit the coral...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...so we went out so far and then we had to get out and get over into the amphib because of the coral.

Dwight Daniel: You went off of a ship...

Mr. Hanna: Well...we went over...in the wave...well we got in the boat first, a Higgins boat...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and it was thirty...forty of us, whatever, and then when they got out so far we all had to transfer because the coral was there and the boat would hang up...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...at that particular...I guess, some of the Navy had the...knew that...secretly.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: But I went around the whole bunch of boats; we were circling...and then we got ready to go...everybody...we started...the ship started to go forward and I went by in front of the old Pennsylvania...

Dwight Daniel: Okay, cool!

Mr. Hanna: ...and she...and we got...I thought it was close, but it might have been a half a mile...around the front of it...and she was...she left go abroad side...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...sixteen of fourteen inch guns! And the black powder came over the top of it...

Dwight Daniel: Yes.

Mr. Hanna: ...and the whole boat...just raised up like this and went forward.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: The old Pennsylvania...I don't know whether it was three or four or more but she...she was sideways...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and we came around the front and let go with those big guns!

Dwight Daniel: Wow! I'll betcha that was impressive!

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, well, they were pouring it to them.

Dwight Daniel: I understand that...hadn't thought about that, yeah. What was it like in...in those landing craft? Was...that...I mean...obviously wasn't first time...you circle around for a while...?

Mr. Hanna: Oh yeah, someone got sick. (Unintelligible) you...you keep maneuvering wave after wave...because the first wave was going in and the second wave would go...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and it wasn't so...it was all set up in timing.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So I guess it was eight thirty or nine before I hit the beach because...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Hanna: ...we started at one in the morning, but...

Dwight Daniel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Hanna: ...it's because everything was set in time. You would stay in circle; they were...as far as you could see...nothing but Higgins boats...all circling waiting to go...at their particular time.

Dwight Daniel: Now, question for you: Because some people noted that because the diesel fumes and the gasoline fumes...did you smell any of that when circling around or was...?

Mr. Hanna: Didn't bother me. I mean it wasn't...I wasn't even concerned with any smells of any type...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...just...just, you know, let's go along.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Hanna: Shells flying; airplanes coming down, you know, especially it...just breaking daylight. You could see all of the flames and the gun firing. I mean the flashes from all the guns.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: You know this...I wasn't concerned with that; I didn't care about what it smelled like or...I had nothing to eat. I wasn't hungry anyhow.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: You don't have a stomach when you're...when you're gonna go into battle.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, now...what'd you...you saw that...you think...what'd you think about...like the Japanese couldn't survive or...?

Mr. Hanna: Well, I thought about, yeah...I wouldn't survive.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay, *you* wouldn't! Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, so I...I knew...they estimated that it was over a hundred thousand...

(end of tape 1, side A)

Dwight Daniel: OK, go forth. I heard that estimate.

Mr. Hanna: Now, what we have here is, we fought under the Army. It was the Tenth Army Corps. There were two Marine divisions, the First Marine Division and the Sixth Marine Division, and then there was the rest of the Army division; we fought under General Buckner...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: ...which was killed and buried there. There was...if I can remember the Army divisions, there was the 96th, the 77th, the 27th, the 7th...I...I think...four or five...

Dwight Daniel: What'd you think about fighting under the Army or did it make any difference to you?

Mr. Hanna: Well, we thought we were better.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: I'm sorry to say that.

Dwight Daniel: That's okay. So you weren't crazy about that?

Mr. Hanna: Well, the...on the...on the island, we...we went up...we invaded in the middle and cut them in two and then we went up north around...and secured the north.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And then we went back; lined up next to the Sixth Marine Division which was at Naha...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and the...and the divisions of the Army were to our left. And somehow or other, one of the Army divisions, and I don't know which one, got overrun; and why I don't know how, but I heard that and so they had pulled them back out of the lines and they were moving us up in through...and they had been up there...and I guess shot to hell...and when we went by them, they were all sitting there like they were half dazed.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And of course we marched by them and of course I wasn't afraid as much as...I felt sorry for them, but...about how much better I was or how much...we're going to...we're going stay and we're going to take it.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Hanna: That's the old (unintelligible words)...(cough)...the Marine Corps...(unintelligible)...(cough)...

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah, thank you.

Mr. Hanna: ...uh, they told you you were better.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And (cough)...maybe it was all in your head, but it...made sure you had better training...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and you're...you're a Marine! And that something...(cough). So if they got shot up; well we were going to take their posi...up...and take over where they were. (cough).

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: (Cough), excuse me. So, we...we went out then and lined up next to the Sixth and then pushed out. I went through Shuri Castle...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, oh you did go through the Castle? Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...Shuri Castle, yeah, I went, that was my place and flies tried to eat me up.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: I remember part of the Castle sides were like marble or something and they had blown it down or it came down and the mud was... it rained every day I think. (unintelligible words) much else, but I remember walking over the...the marble...it was so thick like (unintelligible words) and somebody said, "Yeah, it's Shuri Castle...," which...what was his name?...uh, in 1900 went there...Admiral...

Dwight Daniel: Dewey?

Mr. Hanna: Huh?

Dwight Daniel: Dewey?

Mr. Hanna: ...Dewey! Yeah I think it was Admiral Dewey. No, no it was Admiral...maybe it was Dewey. He went there and signed the peace treaty with them in the 1800s. Uh, I'm trying to think, but anyhow that's where he went.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, you mean Perry?

Mr. Hanna: Perry! That's him; I think so.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And then he told me that was where he went and signed...that's why I knew what Shuri Castle was.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: Otherwise I wouldn't have known.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, gotcha!

Mr. Hanna: But...that made no difference to me; I just, you know, was on a...just stay alive and keep fighting.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: Keep moving and mud, mud, mud; that's it!

Dwight Daniel: So you remember the mud?

Mr. Hanna: Oh, a lot more!

Dwight Daniel: Okay, when was...this is going to sound crazy, but when was the first time you actually saw a...the Japanese?

Mr. Hanna: We made a night march across the island; we had some...some Japanese...but we just out skirted them...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and our objective was to keep moving...to cut that in two...to divide their forces. And so we made a night march and apparently the Japanese had read our mail and they knew that we would never go down a road...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: ... we'd go over the hill...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...so set up on the other side of the hill and we went down and made a night march right down the middle of their road in the middle of the night at moon light...and absolutely caught them by surprise!

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: No, no...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...when we come...a place that was a sugar cane factory...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: and they had shelled...the Navy I guess...and had shelled it all down and there was one stack...a big...like a smoke stack standing up and that was our objective for the night.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And when we got there...somehow, and I don't know if it was the Artillery or the Navy...he...the communications rung it up and said, "We're here," and here they come; here come the shells over the...right over the top of that stack and (whizzing sound) flare...for us to dig in.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: So, the accuracy...oh, you can't believe it! I don't know if it was Artillery or...or whether it was the Navy. So there was a...a road, two roads...one here came in at the sugar cane factory and another road, and so our objective was to set up there for the night and they continued...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...to cut the island in two...and the next...that night...there were so many Marines in that particular area you couldn't even throw a grenade...because you'd throw it in the next hole!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: We were set up in circles, you know, waiting for the next morning of course to move all out.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And I forget the name of the Colonel, but the...the Lieutenant...he had a runner, the Lieutenant said to me, "Go,"...we were out marching, you know, for two or three hours and that...that's stupidity. It was...I mean...the canteens were rattling...just right on down the road, and the Japanese thought we...we'd not be there.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: Well, I guess it was maybe one or two o'clock in the morning...I dug a small hole...I didn't dig a very big hole...deep hole...Lieutenant, you know, I had to dig his hole, too...there was a bunch of fire...*bang, bang, bang* and then somebody said, "Ah they...," everybody's slap happy, you know..., "knock of that fire!"

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Well, the next morning...a lot of things happened of course, but the one thing was...when...when it came daylight, why... and I went up...looked up the road here...awhile...and here come...and here was three or four Japanese soldiers dead!

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: And what they'd done...was they took their shoes off and tied it around their neck and they was trying to be quiet and then one of them was carrying a Lewis gun...and they walked right into a machine gun setting right up in front...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...and just blew them to hell! So that...that wasn't slap happy shooting! That was somebody really...shooting at! So then we continued to cross the island and that's where I ran...we run into the Japanese...they were pulling back...(unintelligible)...scattered few, I don't know how many of course, but we had some combat there. That was my first experience as far as...my friend got killed...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...right...right alongside of me; another one got shot in the arm from here to here...on the other side of me. And of course everybody was...that was something...that was my first experience, I was very nervous.

Dwight Daniel: Where was that now?

Mr. Hanna: That was...

Dwight Daniel: No, you said you left the place and you went...you kept marching.

Mr. Hanna: We...we kept marching across...the sugar cane factory we left to go out and cut the island in two...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...which straight going...

Dwight Daniel: You went straight ahead, okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...yeah, straight ahead to cut the island in two the next morning...or we did cut it in two. So if any forces were north with...with...they divided...they couldn't combine their forces, but I guess we were a little late with the main forces because they had already pulled most of their troops south.

Dwight Daniel: Right. So tell me...what was your first firefight like then?

Mr. Hanna: That was the first firefight...that...that day.

Dwight Daniel: You lost your friend; unfortunately.

Mr. Hanna: Yes, well...yeah, he just...he got shot in his cartridge belt...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: ...and he must have had some tracers or something that...

Dwight Daniel: Set it off

Mr. Hanna: ...I...I looked up at him...I was laying down, and his cartridge belt caught...on fire where it was...where the bullet hit...whether they shot him or...something...I don't know. See, there was so much going on, you can't...there's so...all I know is he screamed. And apparently he was shot in the side...or his cartridge belt was on fire...caught...uh, smoke...(unintelligible words)...the other one...on the other side, he got it here in the arm right through here but it wasn't...didn't go to the bone or anything...it just went right through and it was bleeding; he said, "Well, I got mine!" (laughter) He's going home or...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...or you know...so that...you know, of course I didn't get wounded but I, you know, I kept shooting; I didn't see anybody particular... though the bullets were flying at me. (Unintelligible) what position...whether...were spotter holes or what I don't know, but it don't make no difference...that was my first. And then the Lieutenant said for me to...we could...you need some ammo...because it was a pretty good firefight, so he said, "Go back down the main road and see if you can get us some more and bring some more help." And we were just probably a company.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And he thought maybe we had run into a battalion.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: So, I asked the fellow along side of me, a young fellow, another guy, I said, "You...you come with me?" And he said, "Yes." So we went back down through the little town...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and looking for somebody to help or somebody and I ran into another company of Marines that were coming off...off the side of the road; they didn't walk down the road there...they were off to the side...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...but I did see them and I said, "Uh, Lieutenant asked me to come and see if we could get some help; would you come with us?" And he said, "Do you know the way...where you're going?" And I said, "Yes." So I guided them up to the company, but when I got there...there was nobody there!

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: They were all up...they didn't go on the road, see, they went back down the road where we come up the side. And so when I got there I said, "I can't believe this!" I thought I was going insane; there was nobody but a few dead Japanese and...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...and...you know, I said, "What...what is going on?!" I knew they were here! So he said, "Well, don't worry about it," he said, "You can just..."

Dwight Daniel: Hold on for a minute. (Recording temporarily stopped). So company went back...the road...you went (unintelligible)...

Mr. Hanna: So...yeah, they went back...they...they pulled what...whatever they did, they decided that they...they would go back or pull back or they killed whoever there was...and they...I lost them; I mean, where are they?

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So he said, "That's alright," he said, "You can stay with our outfit until you can find yours; don't worry about it."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And so we...some eyes there, you know, and I said, "Well, I know there were firefights here and see...I mean...here are my wounded,"...the my...dead friend; he wasn't there...they pulled him, too, ...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and it looked like...it would...didn't happen!

Dwight Daniel: Oh great!

Mr. Hanna: It just upset me, so anyhow, he said, "Well," he went back...he said, "We're going to go on back to the Y, uh, you know where I set up originally, and when I got back there...there they were! They had pulled back; went back up the road and set up where we were that night!

Dwight Daniel: Huh!

Mr. Hanna: And so then I went into my own outfit and then they said, "Well, we thought you were dead," you know, and so I being a platoon runner...so...

Dwight Daniel: That must have made you feel really good to get up there and (unintelligible words) and the guys...(unintelligible words).

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, still there, yeah...whole outfit...had disappeared.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: Well, I thought maybe, you know, I...just can't...things happened so quick...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: ...and altogether a different frame of mind! But anyhow I got back up there and then that first night was my first incident on a night...set up at night...than the defense. 'Course seeing my friend killed...which I'm sure he died...I didn't know it at the time...when I left, of course to get ammo and get somebody. Uh, there was pretty high grass as you...kind of like a Bermuda grass and of course I dug a hole and...we had...somebody was shooting flares forward...and I don't know who... but I had a Sergeant and he had a Tommy gun and I went...I think he was Infantry Sergeant, and I went over...I called over to him and I said, "You know, I'm...I'm upset; I'm nervous,"... 'cause,

you know, 'cause...and I can't see because they'll crawl right up on you...could stick a knife you and you'd never...you couldn't see.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: The wind blow the grass...you can't see...so, he said, "I'll tell you what, you can make it through the night," he said, "I'll come over and I'm going to sit on you," and I was shaking, so here was my first combat.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: He said, "Well, they're going to have to kill me first."

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: (Recording temporarily stopped.) Okay, he sat down on me with his Tommy gun over...and helped me make it through the first night because you know, your first combat and then you can't see...you don't know...you know.

Dwight Daniel: That was a pretty...pretty nice Sergeant!

Mr. Hanna: So...yeah, well...later on, you know, he...he had made one invasion; you make one and maybe two, but you don't make the third one.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: So he was...yeah, I'd say he was an old timer. Of course he was...not...not a regular; he was a...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and I don't know...later on I saw him and he had done something wrong and they had him in a...in a tent after the battle up on...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: ...and...well, he...I don't know what he'd done or what offenses...this and that, but I went in to see him, and I told him how much I, you know, appreciated...let's see. I wasn't...there were no cowards...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...because you...seeing him killed along side of me and thinking, "Well, you know, you're next!"

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: That's how you think.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And of course, I was young and never...after that...after your first combat I think, you get very hard shelled. You...you...figure you made it through that so you can make it again.

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay.

Mr. Hanna: Anyhow, go ahead.

Dwight Daniel: Nah, just...did you ever figure out what the Sergeant was in trouble for?

Mr. Hanna: Say that again.

Dwight Daniel: Did you ever figure out what the Sergeant was in trouble for...the Sergeant...?

Mr. Hanna: No, I never did. I think...you know, it...in those days...I'll tell a little...a little...when we left...got ready to leave Pavuvu, that's at the Canal...they were serving us one or two beers a week...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...but then they had all this beer and we were getting ready to leave the island and there was a mountain of beer! I remember going down...and they said, "Go down to Division and everybody can take all the beer they want!"

Dwight Daniel: Ah, man!

Mr. Hanna: So I went down...and I remember all of the men...I...I took some, but I didn't fill my pack full, I hadn't enough room in my pack. There wasn't...Corporals or Sergeants that I knew...they said, "There's no use to putting any food in my pack, I ain't going to make it anyhow!" They just filled up their pack full of beer...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and went aboard ship with beer in their...just loaded in their pack because they...he says, "Well, you're not going to make it anyhow."

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: That's funny, you...you just face...face the facts...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...you make one...you might make the second. I mean he made Peleliu...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: ...but this was his second...

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Hanna: ...and...you don't know! So, it...it's just the way it was. So...so anyhow, I...I remember...I forget...it's hard to remember his name after sixty-four years, but that's a...

Dwight Daniel: Pretty nice guy though!

Mr. Hanna: Huh?

Dwight Daniel: Nice guy; good Sergeant.

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, good guy. Well he sat on me that night...you know I was shaking, you know, and...and he said, "Now you'll be alright," and he says, "They're going to have to, "like I say, "they'll have to kill me first." Just one of those things...your first combat is something else!

Dwight Daniel: I understand. Well...then what happened after that...after...after the first night?

Mr. Hanna: Well after the first night, they come back that morning and then set up over there and then we went and...we're near the end of the island there...we turned north...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and went...and went up the...east coast...west coast...I forget...circled to secure the north end of the island.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And then the Army and the Sixth Marine Division turned right and went south, so we...ours...was to secure the north end which we didn't...which was absolutely a joke, you wouldn't believe it; I'll tell you later. (laughter)

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, we'll talk about it!

Mr. Hanna: So anyhow we...we supposedly secured the...the north and everything, and then we came back down and got in line by Shuri Castle which inland from Sixth Marine Division and then the First, and then we kept fighting till we just run out of personnel...I mean people.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: I mean pretty soon you couldn't even holler to the next guy in the hole because there was so many of us killed and it was getting thin...the ranks were thin. And I didn't know it was that close to the end of the island, but they brought the Second Marine Division...was held at sea for our replacements.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And so, at night, they wanted volunteers to go bring back...your company...to replace you. And it's a moon light night and it was a...I was up on the side of the hill; there was a road running...long way...and you had to go up there...wherever it was and so they asked for volunteers and this nut friend of mine...this would be after...he said, "We'll volunteer...well Hanna, well...me and him." He was always volunteering me. He lost his...his whole squad, so...

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Hanna: ...and so I said, "No, I'm not going." Anyhow I guess they got two or three other people to go up there and when they did, they shot their own men...up on the side of the hill...and then they shot the guys. I mean you know, I Didn't understand it... just a crazy war! But anyhow, then they said, "We need more volunteers." And boy I said, "I'm not going!" He said, "We're going; me and Hanna. We'll go." So, I went up the road in the moonlit night...just hollering and screaming Yankee Doodle Dandy and don't shoot

whatever you do! And we got up there and I got the company so and so to relieve my company and brought them up to where we were.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And then that was towards the end of the island and the Second Marines Division had...the next day had secured the end of the island. But a lot went on in between that time, of course.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Otherwise (unintelligible) don't come out...I don't...even know what they called Death Valley...but that's another story.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so you...you walked down this road?

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, singing everything I could think of! I didn't want to get shot either! My own men were going to shoot me! See the front lines was here...we were sitting up on the side of the hill and then...they would have probably thought... who knows...

Dwight Daniel: Thought you were some of nut (unintelligible).

Mr. Hanna: Just one of those things.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: But where I got wounded was...that was toward...that was the end of the island where I'd already got relieved and then...that would have secured (unintelligible) north to build the tent.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Where I got wounded was in the...the middle of the island they called Death Valley.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding! You got wounded after you got relieved?

Mr. Hanna: No, no, this was...this was the end, but...in the middle where we were fighting before the end...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...well we were the the...called Death Valley. Well, then we went up on line; that was when we moved south...remember I told you to get ready to...get in line to fight with the Sixth?

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Hanna: So we moved up on the line in the afternoon and to dig in and we were on the top of the edge of the hill and there was a valley...then they called it Death Valley later. And they started mortaring us and a lot of my friends got killed in the hole from the mortars. You could see it...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...it was just about dark, you could see the old *chick, chick, chick* (sounds)...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, you could see them? Ah, okay!

Mr. Hanna: ...coming at us. We just...didn't bother at night until...we were getting...to move out the next morning...so there was some mortars...two or three of my friends were killed in it...because I didn't...but anyhow the next morning we were going to push down into the valley and the Fifth Marines were going to come around to the side and have fire for us while we were going down because you don't...cover us...for fire.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Well, at night...there I was sitting up against a hill and I had a poncho over me and a fifty percent watch...you know, he'd watch an hour...I'd watch an hour.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And there were some...like a couple of holes...of *bang!* went off.
Happy...slap happy, you know...you think so.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Well, that wasn't so. The next morning...just before we got ready to push off over the hill, there was a Marine there that had picked up a dog. Now I don't know whether it was an Okinawan dog or he brought the dog, but the dog was in his hole with him, and a Japanese soldier was laying there with the whole top of his head blown off where he shot him and the water...was raining and you could see the water filling up in his...in his skull.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And here was the saber he was cleaning...his Japanese saber, and he woke up the dog...bark...when he woke up and the Japanese was going to get him with his saber and he shot his head off.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding! The dog saved him!

Mr. Hanna: Here...here we go. See they were trying to infil...infiltrate us, too.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So that was another experience, but of course, not for me. But then I said, "Well, I guess he wasn't very slap happy; he knew what the hell was going on!"

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Hanna: So, then we pushed off down into Death Valley.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And they waited; they got us way down in across the small river...small river...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and they had all cam...fresh camouflage; you couldn't see the guns and everything...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...just wait till we got within thirty, forty, fifty feet or seventy feet. I don't remember now, and they opened up.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: And then everybody just caught the Fifth Marines...never got up there to fire for us.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: Ain't this another tactical blunder that was the war...or that's what happens all the time in war.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: So anyhow, there's only the machine gun Sergeant; he had a Tommy gun, and a fellow from L.A. who was a fighter whose name was Martinez; and him and I were the last three of the platoon that...nobody went over the hill and came back.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: So pretty soon I heard somebody hollering and the lieutenant came crawling back over the top and...and he was delirious; he said, "I don't know," but he said, "They threw something at me," and his legs were in shreds, and so I think he must have throw a grenade or a land mine or something...I don't know, but he's the only one that crawled back over. So we had to go over the hill; I mean...that's the way it was. There was only three of us left, but the bazooka man, Martinez, from...from Los Angeles which I met later when I got back to Long Beach here...his bazooka assistant who loaded the bazooka was laying out about fifty feet with both legs gone.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: And so there...there was only the three of us left at...on this particular part of the hill; they had shelled the side of the hill and it was soft.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Hanna: And so I put my...laid down and I fixed my bayonet and of course was ready to go over the hill and it was only from...five feet, six feet. And I loaded his bazooka and he was going to go...black, he'd have blew us off the hill, I'm sure, but he didn't think of that.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So...and the machine gun Sergeant...the three of us were going to take that, go over the hill.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And so, I know it's ridiculous, but I looked up and the Japanese grenades are about so big...small...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, they're small, yeah.

Mr. Hanna: ...piece of twine tied to the belt and they cut it and then all they have to do is hit it on their helmet...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and throw it. Well, I looked up and here come this twine (swooshing sound)...with the grenade...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: ...hit me right on the head!

Dwight Daniel: Get out of here!

Mr. Hanna: Yeah. (laughter) So I remember in the coal mines they said in an explosion if you just grab your legs and roll, you know, anything...I don't know...just unconsciously...I...I turned and started down the hill and the Sergeant, he turned...the grenade came mostly between them two...but...and I rolled out and I waited ...it was a dud; didn't go off. All of sudden *BAM!*...it went off.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Well they got the most of it...both sides of them, and I just got it behind the neck and the back...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: ...I got a piece in the side, yeah.

Dwight Daniel: So that...that...remember the mine, huh!

Mr. Hanna: I remembered the mine! The Lieutenant, I never remember what happened to him, but we pulled back. The Sergeant said, "Let's go back to the river which was...you know...and we're going to regroup." So I was one of the first ones

to get back to the...here they come jumping over and down in the river and one guy was shot right between the “you know what” and he was mortified, I mean he was...really hurting. He got it right between the sack, and he was a BAR man. And he sit down and somebody said, “Hanna, you’re wounded!”

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: And I said...you know, “My arms are here; I don’t know what you’re talking about!” And there was blood coming out of my hair...and neck...it was swelling up some, but you just...they weren’t big, small; they weren’t great big frags like ours...(unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So they said, “Well...everybody together...we’re going to retake this...this damned hill, because by...by tomorrow morning they...they’ll be waiting.”

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: And so the Sergeant said that they had to tag us...started tagging everybody. The Corpsman came up and tagged you.

Dwight Daniel: Right, yeah.

Mr. Hanna: And said, “We’re going to take a vote for the wounded to go back and fight or the wounded to go back.”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And so, of course, I said, “You know I got...,” and you get pretty hard...I mean, “I got nails, you know, I can do it!” So I volunteered to go back.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: But...at that time they voted for us to go back up...up the hill because the Japanese were shooting across...up the hill.

Dwight Daniel: Right, you had to take hill.

Mr. Hanna: And now...he said, "You're the only one that can take the one wounded guy...you...you shot across the hand; you...you're still able to hold a rifle..."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ..., "and I want you to take the others," said, "you take these two and take them back up the hill."

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: And the other one was insane; he'd cracked up...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...he was sitting in the water...just mumbling.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: So I...I took him by the hand and...(recording interrupted momentarily). And so I went up the hill and...they were shooting at us. Of course they didn't hit either...didn't hit either him or me. And when I got up there, the Captain was in my hole...that I had dug...and it was a pretty good size hole.

Dwight Daniel: Right, I understand that!

Mr. Hanna: If (unintelligible) the hill, we could look down, and I said to the Captain, "Get some," you know you get pretty hard there; you can tell the Captain to go kiss your ass! Yeah, I've been in combat now.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So I said, "You get some stretcher bearers down there." I said, "We're cut off and the men are laying there dying." And so he said, "Well we'll hold that...hold it," he said, "You look over there," and laying on...about fifty feet of...is all these stretchers. And he said, "There...the stretcher bearers are laying on their own stretchers dead." He tried to get down there...help...they cut us off and killed them.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: So, I broke down; I threw down my rifle...in the mud. And there was so much mud they had to have ...amphibs...because you couldn't...couldn't manipulate them.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: There was an amphib waiting and then all the wounded were buried and carried in there and I...I got my two men and got them in there and sit down and they were...they were taking it back to the first aid station. And you know, I said, "You know, it's just a hell of a war!" So I went to two aid stations; first in the...if you're not badly wounded, they...or you're a fake...they send you back right away.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And there at the second aid station, they checked your tag and checked your wounds. This is...I don't know if they were Army...who they were, but the second aid station...I remember that I saw Teddy Wheeler go back in a stack full of bodies...our bodies...

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Hanna: ...on top...piled up, and this...there was...by that time, I guess it was middle afternoon...who knows...still daylight and they...was a line of Marines or Army, who knows...I mean, you know, tier and a line here and there was a space between them and there was a guy going along with a spray gun for flies (swooshing sound)...all dead...laying.

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Hanna: So they checked me there and then they said, "Okay." They loaded us on a ten-wheeler and they went back...there was no room left in the Navy hospital with so many wounded. So they sent me to an Army hospital. And so I went in and was laying there in a cot and I don't know it was probably midnight...I can't remember; they gave me a shot of...I can't remember, but and there was this light bulb in the tent and there was wounded on both sides of me. And I remember the medical person...whoever he was...came in to me and said, "It's your turn to go." And I said, "Well," you know...I looked over here and there was a guy with half his chest blown to pieces and...and they had gauze...like Vaseline gauzes on him...

Dwight Daniel: Yes.

Mr. Hanna: ...and he was going (wheezing sounds)...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: ...so I said to him, "Don't be foolish; I can wait...take him first!" And I don't know if he was an officer...who he was, but he said, "Well, you know...he's never going back." He says, "You're going back; we're fighting a war, Marine!" "So I said, "Okay." So he took me in, and what they done was

just...they...from what I saw...they took a pair of clamp...shot into something...took a clamp and just pulled it out about that far; cut them off. And then the one in my neck...they dug out. And...and didn't get the one in the side. He put a bandage on me and said...you know...so I was there for approximately ten days. And then it was still raining; pouring down, mud...then they said, "Okay, you're on your way; you're going back!" So, that was alright you know...I...I wanted to go back. So...

Dwight Daniel: Did you get back with your unit?

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, I'm just...and so there was a doctor, and he...is pouring down rain and I got...I didn't have no raincoat; no poncho, no helmet...no nothing...everything, and just dungarees...like you saw me yesterday.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And so I started off...out of the tent and said goodbye and I said...and I...was going to go down this road...there was a few trucks going by and I thought well, I'll get on a truck and try to find where in the hell my outfit is...and pretty soon he said, "Just a minute." And I said, "Alright;" I come back in the tent and he said, "You got no raincoat; you got nothing and its pouring down rain." He felt sorry for me. Well the Army had black raincoats.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So he went and got *his* raincoat and give it to me.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: And I started off again; I turned up collar and...and he said, "Wait a minute," and he said, "Have you got anything to drink?" I said, "No," and he went and

got me a canteen of alcohol and a canteen of water...uh, coke...some kind of coke. He said, "Now you'll have something to drink on the way up."

Dwight Daniel: Wow! Okay.

Mr. Hanna: So he gave this...and I don't think I had a belt with it, but anyhow, I can't remember, but anyhow I went...started out...and watch, you know, where the trucks had went...in the pouring down rain. And so a truck came by and I said,...you know, "Give me a lift?" And there was a guy in there in clean khaki and...and a driver and he was like...scootch over by him and..."Jesus Christ!" He says, "No mud, you know what the hell does this guy do, you know?" So I want to find my north company...up with the First Marine Division. As we were going up, I says "where are you from?" He says, "I'm from division." I said, "what the hell you do?" He says, "I'm a recreation officer."

(end of tape 1, side B)

Dwight Daniel: This is an oral history interview of Richard B. Hanna, a Corporal in World War II, Marine; was born 22 September, 1926. The interviewer is myself, Dwight D. Daniel, an oral history volunteer at the National Museum of the Pacific War located in Fredericksburg, Texas. Today is 12 November, 2005 and this interview is taking place at Open Cockpit Day, March Air Reserve Base. This interview is in support of the Center for the Pacific War Studies which is an archive for the preservation of historical information of the National Museum for the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, Texas. This is tape 2, side A.

Now we were...you were talking about those clean guys and you were trying to figure out who were these people.

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, well, yeah. So I said, "Well,"...he said, "Who are you with?" And I said, "I'm Seventh Regiment in Love Company, Third Battalion." He said, "Well oddly enough," he said, "I'm going up there to the Seventh Regiment because I'm trying to find somebody to do the recreational, run the motion pictures and stuff." He said, "The..."

Dwight Daniel: And you said, "I know a person!"

Mr. Hanna: ...yeah, this is...no, this is really odd I'm telling you. So I said, "Well,"...and I really don't hardly know about a motion picture, but then...anyhow...I said, "Well, where...where you from?" He said, "Oh, I'm from Pennsylvania." I said, "You're kidding!" He said, "No, I'm from Pittsburgh." "Ah!" And I said, "Well hell, I'm from Pittsburgh!" And he said, "Well how would you like to go to Regimental headquarters and be the...take care of the sports and the running the motion pictures and, and he said...of course he was from Division. I said, "Man, I'd like that...get out of this mud!" (laughter).

Dwight Daniel: Geez! I can understand.

Mr. Hanna: "I'll see to it; I'll see to it!" And he said, "What's your name and...," he says, "I'll get you transferred!" And I said, "Thank God, this is heaven!" (laughter) So...now I...I found my unit, and of course I didn't know half of them...they'd been replaced several times...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and I found a few that I knew and then...and so at the end of the island when they secured it. And then we went north to build the camp and that crazy kid again volunteered me to go north and build the camp!

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Hanna: You know...he lost everybody...he the only one; he took in with me and...you know he was crazy. He'd walk into the caves and everything; he was nuts!

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: He was a BAR man and every time the lead was...they started shooting at us, he'd just stand up and he got madder than hell and said, "Here you son of a bitch!"...and he just poured...he stood up!...and shoot at them. I laid down and piled up coral; he was crazy! And he volunteered me for everything! Well we went up north and I had a Japanese saber I have...and when I got up there...they came...the word that we're going to get ready to invade Japan.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And so, "You are lucky," the Sergeant said; we built the camp for the Division...that they moved out...I guess the Army stayed south. And so I had this saber and...and I said, "You know if we're going to invade...what the hell am I going to do with this saber?!" It did me no good.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: What I need is a forty-five or something besides I was carrying an M-1 and walkie-talkie and you know...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and so I took the saber and went down to the coast...below where the Navy was and there was an LST or something there and I went aboard and the guy said, "What can we do for you, Marine?" And I said, "Well, I got a saber." "Whoa, boy," he said, "that's a nice saber...wooo!" He said, "You want to sell it?" I said, "No, I don't want to sell it, I want to trade it." He said, "Well, what...what would you take for that?" I said, "Well, I want a Navy thirty-eight or a forty-five; I want a holster for it." And the...the officer in charge said to the...the other Navy man...he said, "Go down and get him a Navy thirty-eight and holster and...and a box of shells and bring it up here!"

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: So I traded it because...I say...what...what good is a saber going to do me?

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: You know what I mean? I was going to shoot; I wanted to save my life! I had enough sense to do that! So I took the Navy thirty-eight and put it in the holster and left and that was the end of the saber. And then we got ready...so they said, "You're lucky...the Seventh and the...Regiment...you were in the eleventh wave." And I...the whole Marine Corps...the way I understood it, the whole Marine Corps was going to hit abreast...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...whatever there was...the Sixth Marine division I guess. And that...and that's what we'll be in prep for. They had...they had some information...I don't know how they got it...with the Navy...somehow or other...they'd been in there and I...was a big hill...showed me pictures of it...it was a big hill

with the guns...were all sticking out...for firing...and our objective was to take that particular place...was to take that. And I don't know how they got the pictures. See, this is all secret stuff, but they showed me the pictures inside where the guns were sticking out and there were *miles* of tunnels...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...well, and on there was hundreds of bicycles and they were generating the old electric in case we knocked out their generated power...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...they would generate the...the guns by generating a...a line.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and said, "You're going to have a hard go, but you got to take it! You got to go in those tunnels and get them!"

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: So I figured well you know this is...just...you know I made it through one campaign, like I say, but you remember the words...you'll never make it the second. I mean...that's the word.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So, and then all of a sudden I was up north there and a big typhoon came...I mean...the war got over and here come the big typhoon and for three days it blew everything; locker boxes; tents, mess

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: ...everything went to the sea!...right on the edge; everything went. And so...

Dwight Daniel: Know you're still at Okinawa, right?

Mr. Hanna: Okinawa, yeah. So, the war wasn't over but we heard the surrender...the plane was going to go and so when I heard that...that they were going to...we thought that we were going to be gassed. So everybody went to the...down to the quartermaster and drew...masks...gas masks because I don't believe they ever surrender.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: There's no way they were ever going to surrender!

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: That's a joke! And so then I guess the surrender plane flew from Okinawa there in the island...and over...and the surrender...and they actually surrendered...supposedly...we got the word. But the...you know...we didn't have any...the tent...my tent lasted about one day and then that was it...it was gone.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: I went by...to the movie booth; I had a little small movie booth, you know, to put my projector in and I went down and stayed there through the typhoon; it was just rocking like a...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: So, we didn't have any equipment, of course I had my rifle and a few things...but I mean there was nothing...(unintelligible words), so we were so messed up that the word got out...and then we just...going to put us aboard ship and send us to China.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Hanna: So they sent us to north China and...the first...I landed in Tanpau there which is the sea coast in the, right near Tianjin, China...and...eleven o'clock at night they let me off and...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding, wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...and it was snowing.

Dwight Daniel: You're serious?!

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, all I had on was dungarees...just raggedy ass Marines!

Dwight Daniel: Oh, man!

Mr. Hanna: So I didn't know where to go except in the town, so I went on into town there and they finally...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...found a...it was a...some kind of...a friend of mine in still here...friend where I live...he remembering it was a race course...like...and there were steps and that's where I laid down. I found a whole bunch of Marines laying up in there and it was a ticket booth. And I guess somebody already got that...colder than hell! So I laid there for the night and then they gathered us up...and this is pretty clever...this is pretty clever. They said, "Everybody off their ass and get on ten-wheeler." I said, "Oh, where we going?" So, they didn't say...just get on. So they took us...driving up through the town and when we got out there I guess we turned around and came around again by the sea shore and came back down...

Dwight Daniel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Hanna: ...wait a minute...now all this started in the morning...and all of sudden...I...I...there's different parts in China where they have German...you know...German section and this and that...and I recognized the bar that I had went by...it said German something and so I said I must be seeing things. So we made another round and come back around; I remember that again. So I said to the...it stopped...and there was an officer and I said, "What in the hell's going on?" He said, "Well, do you know it's only about four hundred of us but there's going to be a whole division. And we're gonna get those Japs to think that we're going to be bringing in troops by the thousands!" And so we kept...I stayed on that thing all day. In to the town here come the Japanese; Japanese were standing with their guns sticking out...was all out of...brick...all brick...red brick, and they had the guns sticking out...all dressed up; pressed uniforms...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Hanna: ...and we went by.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: There we went...but they thought they never saw so many Marines!

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: (Unintelligible words).

Dwight Daniel: You dropped your mic there...wow!

Mr. Hanna: Truck after truck after truck...after truck!

Dwight Daniel: Wow, smart move!

Mr. Hanna: Smart...smart move, huh! There...there's a hundred thousand Marines coming in here! Our job was to repatriate the Japanese; get them out of north China; get them aboard ship and send them back to Japan and protect the coal mines.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: And that was...a British coal...big coal...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...going north and south the tracks. And so they sent us up then from there...up to what they call Pei Tai Ho Beach; it's a summer resort hotel; no water; no heat; no nothing...just cold!

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: So I had a couple of number one boys...two boys...and they were both brothers...and Chinese last names are...are not the same; the first names are the same.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: And so one was a Shu Shin Chi and other was Shu Re Me and they taught me to speak Chinese.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Hanna: There's about...I don't know...three or four different Chinese languages...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...but you know...he said...he point at the clock and then point at the light and it was a DumDung (sp?), so we could get (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: So anyhow I got to be able to talk to (unintelligible). And they would take and work my clothes in hot...uh cold water; there was no heat...there was no...I used to go to bed with all my clothes on and a mattress on top of me it was so cold! No wind...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...north China...blew like you wouldn't believe. They had to secure the guard it was so cold. And I was in the Seventh Regiment then...I...I was running the movie projector and the...this and that...I mean I was out of the line company. So and then...we passed Christmas and I had a few pictures of that which I still got and I had to get one more point to so I don't know it was in January sometime or something like that, I can't remember the exact date, but the word come through that everybody with Purple Heart...that got Purple Hearts had to fall out, and I said, "Well, you know, what the hell do I care about a Purple Heart?" You know...I...I was thinking of getting home!

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Hanna: See, there was so many wounded I guess and so many killed on the island then they run out of Purple Hearts!

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: So, they said...there was a guy...one of them...he had a Silver Star coming and another with a Bronze Star and...me! And so I fell out and...I have a picture of it...and they...they presented me with the Purple Heart, and of course, I have...that was in China. But anyhow all I wanted to do was go home. It was a hell hole! I mean...

Dwight Daniel: I understand...you wanted to go home!

Mr. Hanna: ...just wanted to go home...that's all. I didn't give a damn anymore. So then the word come through they said, "You know, you...you're end of the pipe, so you're leaving headquarters. They wrote...nice thing on the board of...of headquarters how...they called me...Big Time Charlie Hanna's on His Way Home.

Dwight Daniel: Alright!

Mr. Hanna: It's going to be a...a bad thing for General of the Marine Corps; he's going to miss him because he is something; he has been something! (laughter)
(Unintelligible)...really nice; I have a recommendation written...Who It May Concern from the Lieutenant...

Dwight Daniel: Good (unintelligible)!

Mr. Hanna: ...I have those yet...today! But anyhow...Big Little Charlie is going home! And so they took everything away from me, and I had to...finally had (unintelligible), you know, and gave me a blanket...around me and took me on a ten-wheeler and headed for the beach and I almost froze to death in the back of that damned ten-wheeler!

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: That's all we had...took everything away, I mean you know...and the Captain...I had a Captain charge of the Company there at headquarters and he said, "Why don't you stay...and the Division will be going home in a...you know...several months and our mission is more or less accomplished...the Communists are starting to shoot at us now..."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ..., “and so let’s get...we’re going to get the hell out of here,” and he said, “if you stay in the Corps,” he was a Regular, and we...we hit a few drinks together...he was...he was a regular Captain (unintelligible), and I think he was drunker than me. But he said, “...that if you stay and you will be nineteen or twenty, I’ll make you...uh, you’ll be a Warrant Officer.” He said, “Do you know what hell a Warrant Officer is in the Marine Corps?” He said, “You don’t nothing; you just take orders from here and give them over there.” He said, “Look it...you’ve got a wonderful future; you’ve got a...you know...your time in the service here is spotless...you are...you know...you...you can go along ways and you are young and you can be somebody!” Well, I said, “Well, you know, Captain, I want to get the hell out of here!” (laughter) I said...I don’t know...I...I guess I should have considered it, but seemed like I just wanted to go home.

Dwight Daniel: I understand. I...yes, you’re not the only one!

Mr. Hanna: So anyhow...

Dwight Daniel: You went home!

Mr. Hanna: ...they sent me home, yeah.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: They put me eighteen on a boat that was going three...had boiler trouble...

Dwight Daniel: You’re kidding!

Mr. Hanna: ...was...was going back twice and go forward once and I don't know how the hell they ended up in San Diego! (laughter) And when I got...get ready...there was no parades really.

Dwight Daniel: Right....because you were late.

Mr. Hanna: Uh, you know, they said there was no parades. No, my folks came down to pick me up; I had...before I, you know, got discharged...they tried to get me to sign over and the Lieutenant said, "Well why don't you stay in the Marine Corps?"...you know...and you know; they tried to... I said no...where the hell he was...and I forgot now what he said, but I said, "You don't know where I was I can tell you that!" So...I...come and pick me up. But there was no parades; there was one gathering together...we mustered back to be discharged and I got in my folks car and they drove me up to Long Beach and I took off my uniform and never put it back on and that was...

Dwight Daniel: Huh!

Mr. Hanna: ...uh, you know, everybody complained they wanted the parades...the Vietnam veterans...I...I...you know, I feel sorry for them; there was no parades for us. We done a job...I felt we done a job and I was very proud. Of course...most...mostly glad to be alive! But the pride of the Marines and...and they were right...at that time they never said, "Once a Marine always a Marine," I heard that later, but yeah, that...that is true!

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: It's self pride; I don't know whether they still have it now...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, they do.

Mr. Hanna: ...but...

Dwight Daniel: They're the only service teach the...the history of the units; the Army's just starting to get it.

Mr. Hanna: Yeah, they just tell you that you're a...you're not quite...what do I say...bullet proof, but you're worth ten Marines because you're dedicated!

Dwight Daniel: Right, right!

Mr. Hanna: And, you know, they pump it into you and of course, they weren't right, you know (laughter)...

Dwight Daniel: I...I understand.

Mr. Hanna: ...I was human! So...

Dwight Daniel: What'd you do after the war?

Mr. Hanna: Well I came home and I felt sorry for myself and I sat in Long Beach for awhile for a month or two...and my folks lived there and I didn't have anything and I didn't have no driver's license; like I say...no car; no clothes or anything. I had a couple of...two or three hundred dollars and, you know, I said, "Look at that guy; he's driving a car; that guy...he lives in a place and I don't have anything; I have some medals...that's all I've got, you know." So like I said I felt sorry for myself and then one day I just said, "You know if you want to be a bum, that's what you're going to be, so you'd better get off your...you know what and go get a job and go get them!" So I...when I got out you must register for the Draft again...

Dwight Daniel: You're right!

Mr. Hanna: ...because the Marine Corps...you're in the Reserve for five or ten years.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: If they started...I never dreamed there'd be another war! That would be absolutely insane! So I went...the...in Long Beach there to the Veterans Administration and signed up for my draft...you have to get within twenty days or something...and the woman said, "Do have a job?" And I said, "No, I don't have any job; I don't even know if I want a job!" I mean I...I was so cracked...you just...you just wanted to be...I'm alive; I'm alive!

Dwight Daniel: Got that!

Mr. Hanna: Nothing's more important! Now if they cared whether the ship here...I don't care whether the car wrecked here...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...I don't care...*I just know that I'm alive!* You see...that's self pity, I guess.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Hanna: Anyhow, she said, "Got to get you a job." And I said, "No, I don't want a job." She said, "Ah, let me get you a job." So she said, "What did you do?" And I said, "Well I worked at the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company where they made glass front for bombers...and the airplane bombers, Navy bombers, and the fighters...I was a Help Inspector...inspect them." And she said, "You were glass." And I said, "Well, yeah, the...the...plate glass." But she said, "Let me call up W.P. Fuller and see if I can get you a job..."

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...(unintelligible). So I said, "Okay." Well she...she says...talked to whoever it was...the...the head of the store there and said...and he...he said

something about “Oh, he’s a Marine?!” And she said, “Yes.” He said, “Well, I son was...is an officer in the Marines.” She said, “Well he’s *highly* recommended.” (laughter) That damned gal got me a job!

Dwight Daniel: You’re kidding!

Mr. Hanna: Apprentice. So I was Apprentice Glassman for almost...well, three and half years...served my apprenticeship.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: And then I went on...worked for several years in...and moved up in...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Hanna: line here...and then I went into my own business in Newport Beach...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: ...for...for I think it was three or four years...the Newport Beach; I had two other partners and we bought out his business and we all three partners...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: ...and had done very well. Of course I was going to be retired in ten years, but now I found I was just *tired* in ten years!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: I wasn’t a millionaire, but I did very well.

Dwight Daniel: Good!

Mr. Hanna: I had one of everything I didn’t need!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: I’m the only one that drove; my wife never drove a car; never had a license...she’s a home person.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: She raised two kids and I had...a car and a truck and had to drive one every other day because, you know...I mean...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...it's ridiculous but, you know. I done well...I've lived in seven different homes now...different places...that I'd fix them up brand new and make them better and sell them and that's made most of my money in real estate...that's when you could it then.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: (Unintelligible) Long Beach in Lakewood...the first ones to buy at Lakewood...it was nothing but a field of tomatoes...the Japanese...they raise tomatoes. And we were the first ones. My brother, he was in the Coast Guard and my sister and I...we bought three corner lots in Lakewood and (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: We was the first ones to buy. I think it was seventy-eight hundred dollars for the house and the payments were...sixty something dollars a month.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: So...and then from there I just kept going; kept working and...and I wouldn't say I was a tremendous success, but I've been very...I've been fortunate to have very good health...and genes.

Dwight Daniel: Good man!

Mr. Hanna: And you know I can't believe that I'm going to be eighty years old!

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: I cannot believe...when I was fifty, I thought, "God, I'm fifty years old!"

(laughter) My boss gave me a knife, you know...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...a little souvenir for being fifty years for my birthday...I couldn't...I still got it. Well, I have nothing to complain about; I think the Marine Corps done a great service to me. They made me respect who I was; they...I don't know how to say...they...they taught me to be somebody. You...more thankful, I think, of any service to get out alive, but now that I think about it...the pride is everything. You're pride is everything! If you...my dad told me...of course before he died, he said, "If you lose a clean shave and your pride, you've lost it all!" So, you know, in those days you didn't have to have money, but you were very honest with people. My father, of course he didn't have very much, the first time he had a house whenever they came out here; we lived in a coal mine...(unintelligible) walls...they had a wall and...

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Hanna: When he left there...he...during the Depression everybody had a...a...the local store and they had a tab...they go out and put it on the tab.

Dwight Daniel: Right. Company store

Mr. Hanna: And then the piles of tablet.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Hanna: Before my father left Pennsylvania to come out here...he went there and got the work; of course the steel mills were going twenty-four hours I think.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: He went down and paid every bill off.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: And do you know what he told me when he got to Camp Pendleton...he met me? He said, "You know, what would they think of me if I didn't pay those bills?"

Dwight Daniel: Right, right. That's true.

Mr. Hanna: Honest...that's people, real people!

Dwight Daniel: That's the way it should be, yes.

Mr. Hanna: Down to earth.

Dwight Daniel: I know it.

Mr. Hanna: So,...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: ...I was lucky to have a good father; he never drank much...maybe a beer with a piece of cheese when he come at night.

Dwight Daniel: Alright.

Mr. Hanna: And my mother was at home working, and I had a good home life as a kid. I was...like I lived in the woods and I mean, you know...oh just hunting and fishing and...wild apples and berries and you know...I just...but I loved to shoot...that's what I ended up with.

Dwight Daniel: Okay. Now a question for you: You...you obviously retired near March...you're at...I don't know...I'm not sure where Banning is?

Mr. Hanna: Yes, Banning is near Palm Springs.

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay.

Mr. Hanna: It's near...Banning, Beaumont.

Dwight Daniel: Why'd you retired down here...because you lived here all your life?

Mr. Hanna: I was in business in Newport and then I went out and...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...moved inland to San Bernardino, and I worked there four years and then...I...I worked for another company and then I had a chance to take a...a discount on my retirement...I was union, too.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Uh, if...you retire at fifty-five instead of sixty, you have to take a wrap.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And then I had to take another wrap because of my wife...would get half if I died, so it was a little over a hundred dollars a month, so...

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Hanna: ...I ended up with about seven hundred and fifty instead of a thousand.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Hanna: So I come home and...one day...and I said...you know, here...I'm fifty-five; what the hell I better start enjoying life. I was a workaholic; I worked sixteen hours a day...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I can relate to that.

Mr. Hanna: ...just go like hell; nobody could beat me. (Unintelligible), see that's another thing the Marines gave you; if you can two, you can carry three!

Dwight Daniel: I understand!

Mr. Hanna: So it gives me...now that's why I was successful I think.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: So anyhow, I said to my wife...I come home and I said, "Do you like chili?"
And she said, "Yeah, I like chili." I said, "Well, you're going to have to eat a
lot of it because I'm going to get...retire...I'm going to quit and I get five
hundred and fifty dollars a month!"

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: But!...the thing of it is...at that time...then I had a house paid for...

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: ...I didn't have to...I had a car paid for; I had money in the bank.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Hanna: See, it wasn't...I could live off of five hundred and fifty dollars a month.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Hanna: So I quit and then at sixty-two I took my Social Security early...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Hanna: ...and so...and I do very well now and she's...sold my house and I get an
income from that, so I...I'm not wanting for money; I'm not rich.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, cool!

Mr. Hanna: But then...what...at what point, do you ever get enough?

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: See, I didn't want to go out and buy on a scaffold; well I'd rather have a nice
bed; enjoy life...

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Hanna: ...because I knew what it was like to lay in the mud with...with my buddy next door to...be here with me and we kept trying to keep our sheets together to keep the water warm; it was raining and pouring down and full of lice...I could feel them at night coming... where it's tight when they come down...the lice...and get...trying to make the curve and you itch and you go by...uh, thatch houses, you know, go by and the lice and coodies jump on you. And while I was in combat...and we come to a river one place...and then at night...they just hit you. So I got (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...(unintelligible); took off my hat and (unintelligible) the water up here and here come all the lice and fleas come up...you trying to drown them you know in...in the (unintelligible) come down. Ah, like I say, but you know what I was young though and it didn't seem to bother...I was cold because it was cold rain...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...but I...I was young and...

Dwight Daniel: You get used to a lot when you're young, right.

Mr. Hanna: ...you get used to a lot, oh, and you have to do it!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And everybody else is doing it; you know better, see? Okay well that's...about (unintelligible). I've been lucky; I've been lucky to have good health...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Hanna: ...and I hope to go till I'm a hundred! (laughter)...I have to live to be a hundred. My story isn't any different I don't think than any anybody else in combat. It was a period there when the First Sergeant was...like I said...I saw a friend come by with the back of his head blown off and you know, you just plain wet your pants, you just cannot hold your...your cannot...your nerves.

Dwight Daniel: Your nerves get to you.

Mr. Hanna: When...when you're in combat and you're going forward, every morning with the raining and you know he's going to shoot you...they're dying both sides of you...getting shot...you're almost a raving maniac! You are an altogether different person; all you want to think about is kill, kill, kill...especially after you see what they had done to some of your...

Dwight Daniel: Buddies.

Mr. Hanna: ...friends. And I didn't tell you about that; that's just another thing. And so after you...they know...they're butchers; then you want to butcher them. And this is amazing, but you know, you are a changed person. Now we were told...taught not to kill an innocent person. You know...you know that's the way it is in the American rank.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: But they didn't...think anywheres like that.

Dwight Daniel: They didn't think anything like that.

Mr. Hanna: They didn't have no conception whatsoever. If you were to shoot an innocent person, you'd go up...they'd run you up for a general court-martial...if they could prove. You know they...they would start shooting everybody for fun.

So the Japanese were just...a different...just a...it was a fun thing for them. Just...the more they killed, the better they liked it...and torture...and they tortured one of my friends and stick a bayonet in him and...and that was...that March night I told you where the stack was...

Dwight Daniel: Right. No kidding!

Mr. Hanna: Well, we're...here's the road and here's a road and here's the stack...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: Well, the keep that Mortiority (sp?) came around looking for us...there's communications – two guys, and instead of coming back the long ways around the hill they went straight ahead...

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Hanna: ...they went into No Man's Land.

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Hanna: Well, that's where we went down to...the firefight...I had...I told you when my friend got killed...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and they had caught Walt; and the other one, he...turned the jeep around enough, I guess, to get out...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and that's when he come back and told us what was going...and we went down there and...and we did...that's where the firefight was...I told you. And they had took him and tied him to a short stake...he never passed out, and they stuck him with a bayonet...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...about that...that far...his...his intestines were dropping out.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And he said, "They tied me...tied me up," he was telling...I don't know if he ever lived.

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Hanna: After that...you get...I don't...I don't want to say it, but you just get...like a maniac...you could kill and kill...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: There was...some of them laying on a stretcher...they were pulling back the wounded and they were in blanket stretchers laying on...under a bunch of trees. Well I don't know if they were alive or dead; I didn't give a shit! I would have stuck every son of a bitch! Yeah, you get hard...it's just hard to explain to you...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...but it didn't nerves or (unintelligible)...you know, so high.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right...you're pumped up so much.

Mr. Hanna: You just want to kill them.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Hanna: If one man...maybe it wouldn't have been so bad if they weren't such butchers, you know what I mean, you wouldn't...but the one reaction caused another reaction...

Dwight Daniel: Correct.

Mr. Hanna: ...you know what I mean? And...but I never saw an innocent person; I saved one life...I saved one Japanese...a night march. I don't know if you want to hear about it?

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, let's hear it...we got plenty...if you want to.

Mr. Hanna: Well we went down in the middle of the island...we...the...and a battalion went across...on the...valley...up the hill and they got cut off. And so they sent some tanks; there was a road that was built up and so their tanks went in...our tanks...they knocked them out...and so they couldn't get no help over there, so they sent us over at the night march across to relieve them at...at night. And so you're not supposed to shoot; you're not supposed to do anything. If you make any noise, they're going to land on you!

Dwight Daniel: Right, right!

Mr. Hanna: So there was a whole...I think, two or three companies of us going along side of the hill and the... past us... were going (*pst, pst, pst* sounds) popping...you know, fire...and it was not too...not too light. It wasn't...wasn't much moonlight and you'd run into the next guy, but...*nobody shoots!* Then you get over there to relieve them...

Dwight Daniel: Right, right!

Mr. Hanna: ...and so...I don't know, somebody up in front said something and I went in...into the next Marine and I looked over here, and here's a Jap standing up against the wall!

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: Jesus Christ! So, of course, I didn't have my bayonet fixed...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...but of course I reared back and...and here he was...he had his kimono; had taken off his uniform but he still had his hat and he had his kimono on...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: ...and he was soaking wet in sweat...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: So I said to the guys, "Pass the word," I said, "Look and see if he has his rifle up there." And he had this bundle; his bundle was his clothes...his uniform!

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: What happened was...he run into a whole...half a battalion of us; he was out scouting...and he...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Hanna: ...so he put his rifle there and he had his bundle and he was soaking wet in his kimono. So I should have...no, the Sergeant said, "Just stick him; you can't shoot...stick him." So, you see, that's the old American way...you don't kill an innocent person, right?

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: So he got down on his knees and he was praying, you know, don't kill me...of course I couldn't understand him...all he used were Japanese words.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Hanna: And so, I said, "Well, you get up," and he didn't...I searched him...he didn't have anything to fight with and I told him to go back...towards our lines. I don't know if he ever made it, but at least I didn't...I wasn't a butcher!

Dwight Daniel: Right, gotcha; good point!

Mr. Hanna: There's the American way.

Dwight Daniel: There's the American way.

Mr. Hanna: That's it.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

(end of interview)

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CD – #OH01870 – Mr. Richard B. Hanna

Transcribed by: K. Matras

Houston, TX

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