

**National Museum of the Pacific War  
Fredericksburg, Texas**

**Interview with Robert L. Groves  
April 30, 2004**

**Tape Number 1116**

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**Interview with Robert L. Groves**

Mr. Graham: This is Eddie Graham. Today is April 30, 2004. I am interviewing Mr. Bob Groves. This interview is taking place in the Fredericksburg Inn in Fredericksburg, Texas, and this interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War Centers for war studies for the preservation of historical information relating to World War II. Okay, Bob, let's start out by telling us -- where and when were you born?

Mr. Groves: I was born in Fort Towson, Choctaw County, Oklahoma, March 26, 1926. When the war started, I was sixteen. Everybody I knew went to war, so my brother was a year and a half older than I was, and he decided that he wanted to go to the Marines. I wanted to go to the Air Force, but Mama said she'd sign if I'd go to the Marines with my brother. I said, "Okay -- I just want to get with the war." I was patriotic. I had finished the next to the last year in high school, and I thought I knew everything anyway. But I found out soon that I didn't know everything!

Mr. Graham: Who were your parents? What were their names?

Mr. Groves: My Dad's name was Thomas Leroy Groves, and he was a Navy Fireman in World War I. And he was on board the USS Canandaigua, which was a mine-sweeper in the North Sea. They laid 50,000 mines across from England and Scotland, then after the war they had to pick them up. He got out in 1919, and moved back to Choctaw County where my Grandpaw had a sawmill, and he became a carpenter in the sawmill and married my Mother in about 1924. In 1926 when I was born, he started working everywhere you know, because there were hard times then. Had to take a job wherever you could get it.

Mr. Graham: Well, let me ask you this. You told how you came about getting into the Marines, where did you take your basic training?

Mr. Groves: San Diego, California, at the Marine Recruiting Depot. You wouldn't recognize it now, because when I went in in 1942, the island wasn't out in the bay. That's a man-made island where that big hotel is. Consolidated was building B-24's at the

end of our parade ground. About every three minutes, one of those big bombers would take off across where we were working out, out there. We enjoyed it, went to the rifle range at La Jolla, Camp Russell. Then after we got out of boot camp we went to Camp Elliott. Stayed out at Camp Elliott long enough to get sunburned. We had to learn how to run those rubber boats, because they were landing on Guadalcanal that month, and they thought they needed these rubber boats. So they trained us on those rubber boats and put us on board ship and we took off for overseas.

Mr. Graham: Let's go back to your basic. About how many weeks long was your basic training, and what did you do mostly then?

Mr. Groves: Well, I believe it was seven or eight weeks, I don't remember for sure. I remember the platoon number I was in. Platoon 529 in July 1<sup>st</sup> of '42. What we did there, we learned how to – you know, young men like we were, I think the average age of the Marines in World War II was seventeen or eighteen. We had very few married men - we had one married man in our boot camp, and he was 21. Incidentally, his wife left him while he was overseas, so he came back just like the rest of us. He didn't have a wife. Anyway, they taught us how to keep clean in the battlefields, how to do without food, make our water go a long way, because they didn't have the logistics then that we do now. We were taught how to handle a pistol, a rifle, machine gun – the basic things for self-survival on the battlefield. Even though most of the things we had then was World War I equipment, like the Springfield '03 rifle. The most accurate rifle I guess that was ever built. When we were on Guadalcanal, the Army had M-1's, so we traded some of our Springfield '03's to them for the M-1's, but the M-1's didn't work as good as the '03's, because in those jungles down there, there's a lot of moisture - rains all night, sun burns all day - mud and everything gets tangled up in your equipment. But we learned how to work with it. We even had some sawed-off 12 gauge shotguns, because in those jungles, it's so thick you'd be right on a Jap before you could ever have time to fill or load – you just had a second or two to react. We had those shotguns with sears filed down where it sounded like a

cannon down in those jungles. But, man, they were accurate at 50 yards – short range.

Mr. Graham: After you learned your basics there at San Diego, you said you went to Camp Elliott, did you say?

Mr. Groves: Camp Elliott, California.

Mr. Graham: What happened there?

Mr. Groves: The 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment had just returned from Iceland. Capt. Bob Hemmings was “G”-2-6 Cdr. And he was such a leader that all of us that knew him were inspired by his leadership. We did day and night training, and had no liberty. We walked forty miles or so to the beach. We trained in those rubber boats for a week or two. Learned how to make beach landings. We thought we learned how to fire a machine gun off those rubber boats, but we lost a lot of equipment in those big waves there at La Jolla. Some of them big as this building coming in. Spin those rubber boats around like they were a piece of paper. I never will forget the first day we went down there. The skipper told us, “This sun is dangerous. When it’s cloudy, you’ll sunburn.” So I listened to him – I left my skivvy shirt and shorts on. Lot of them took their skivvy shirts off – they were going to get that suntan, you know. Well, the next morning, from where my shorts and skivvy shirt was, I was as red as a beet, and all those guys that took their shirts off were sunburned! So the skipper made a ruling that if anybody else gets sunburned in G company, they would be court-martialed! So no more sunburns.

Mr. Graham: You finished your training. Where did you go then?

Mr. Groves: One night we went down to the docks on Broadway there in San Diego. I didn’t know Broadway was there until after the war. Went out there and spent a couple of weeks. Where we loaded up was right at the end of this main street in San Diego about midnight that night. Took off, blacked out, we didn’t know where we were going. They didn’t ever tell us. We took off from San Diego October 19, 1942, and we knew that the Marines were already getting beat up on Tananbogo and Tulagi, and Guadalcanal. That’s where Marines landed in the latter part of August. Well, that’s where we were going. But we went to Wellington, New Zealand, first. Took 22 days. Six days on a Merchant Marine

transport where they fed you boiled eggs and boiled potatoes for breakfast, and boiled eggs and boiled potatoes and orange marmalade for supper. This storm – it must have been a typhoon – reason I say, it must have been a typhoon – was that ship was the first one I was ever on, and I moved upstairs. I didn't stay downstairs, because there was so many seasick. I never did get seasick. But me and my partner got up under a Higgins boat, and we stayed there 22 days. The heads they built on each side of that ship, when they ship would roll, the turds would float across the deck, and we watched it, because we were up on a platform. The rest of them had to wade through them, which was a bad deal. After we got out of that storm and landed in New Zealand, it was just like getting to heaven, because it was springtime. Green, everything, just calm. They fed us steak and potatoes, forty two cents was a florin, New Zealand money. You could buy a steak and a dozen eggs and a half gallon of sweet milk for forty two cents. We were hungry, because we hadn't eaten for two or three weeks, much. We got to New Zealand, and some way or another we had to stay there from November till December. All during that time, skipper took us up there in the hills – they were almost right straight up. What I remember about that training was the earthquakes. New Zealand right before we got there had a bad earthquake. I never had been in an earthquake. One day the earth started shaking, and I jumped up. Everybody in the outfit jumped up and pulled their rifles out, and they didn't know what to do. But it quit, and the skipper took us on out of there. Then we learned that our men were in desperate circumstances. The Navy had pulled out of Guadalcanal without leaving them any food or ammunition – so we loaded on the transports there in Wellington. Started off for Guadalcanal. We got to a place called New Caledonia, and it had a sheltered bay, and they pulled us in there while the Navy battles were going on west of there across in the Coral Sea. There were five major Naval battles I've read about since then, and they were having one there. Then we spent Christmas Day on that ship, and then we took off after that battle and landed at Guadalcanal. Relieved the Marines that had been there since August. That was the first of January we started off, and February 22 we finished. We didn't stay behind the lines but one day, and those Marines that

were there had got that malaria and yellow jaundice and they looked like walking corpses. We didn't know that after a couple or three weeks we'd be looking the same way, but then we didn't worry about it. But we were glad to get them out of there. Our people had been trained to move out – you know, not to stay in one line. Marines had formed a perimeter around that airfield to defend it, and they'd had two or three battles – desperate battles, in there at the Matanicow River. Anyway, we lost a bunch of Marines, and killed a bunch of Japs. They never did bury any of those Japs. We moved out the first night, the Japs tried to get through our lines, because they knew something was going on when we were relieving those older men. We killed nineteen of them down about our lines – it wasn't twenty feet behind us. Me and my partner was out on point in a foxhole on the outer part. I pulled the pin on my grenade about midnight after the battle, and I stayed awake all night with that pin out of that grenade, ready, because they were still down there – some of them talking and moaning and carrying on. I was inexperienced in battle, but I got experience right quick that night. The next morning we moved out and saw what had happened. The ones that were talking and hollering were the ones that we hadn't killed. That was a traumatic experience. That same day, my squad leader was a big Swede from Minneapolis, I believe from Minnesota. He had eleven years in the Marine Corps and was a Private First Class. He'd spent that much time on the Battleship California. But he was a Marine! Back in those olden days, they used to say you get a stripe every four to eight years. I got a stripe after I had been overseas a year, because the company commander said, "Everybody's that's been out here a year is going to be promoted to Private First Class." So he did promote us. That was all of them, sixteen or seventeen years old. I think I was seventeen after I got out of Guadalcanal. But I didn't want anymore responsibility other than to do my job and survive. Which I fortunately did. We had on Guadalcanal nineteen days of battling every day. We wiped them out all the way to the river up there because they had been bringing them in at night and we didn't know it of course. Pfc's view of the battlefield is very, very limited. I found out reading history books that those Generals and everybody knew that they were unloading them up there, but

we didn't. They didn't tell us. We got them all out of there. They moved us back, and the Army came through and took our place. We went on to the end of the island, and while we were waiting on our ship to come from New Zealand, we had to unload the ship that brought a load of ammunition. We had to unload that in the tropics. If you've never unloaded ammunition in the heat of the tropics, you hadn't really worked! You could work fifty minutes and rest ten minutes and then drink water and salt tablets and everything. But we knew that once we got the thing unloaded, we'd get to go. Went back to New Zealand, replaced all of our sick and wounded. We found out that ninety to ninety-five percent of our outfit took the malaria from Guadalcanal. They gave us Atabrine, which was supposed to keep you from taking it, and I took mine every day, but when I quit taking it, they told us when we went back to New Zealand we didn't need to take it any more. Two weeks after I quit taking it, I came down with 105 fever and had malaria then every time just like regular periods. Every time you'd get rid of one, wait a couple of weeks and it would come back on you. But I never did stay in the hospital long enough to miss any battles. We stayed there and trained and they changed the organization and brought in replacements for us. I was a machine-gunner on one of those alligators, I forget what they call armed-tracked vehicles, you know? Had a 50 caliber sitting up on the port side? I couldn't hit nothing with that thing. But I could make a lot of noise. Anyway, we practiced on those alligators. But we didn't use them at Tarawa. We left New Zealand in the latter part of October or early part of November that year, '43. We went up to another group of islands and practiced landing. Course we lost a lot of equipment and two or three men there. Then we went on to Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands. Fortunately, or unfortunately, our battalion was the regimental reserve. And we landed that night on the second island, where there wasn't any Japs. We secured that island, I guess about – I guess it took about an hour – there were only two or three Japs there. They were only left on that island because of low tide there was thirty seven miles of islands joined by a reef, and at low tide they could walk between the islands. There was about two hundred or three hundred of them escaped before we landed. The next day, they decided that we had to go over to

Betio, where the battle was, because they had lost so many men and supplies. We landed on green beach. The first battalion, Sixth Marines, was in front of us, and they went all the way to the end of Betio, and they killed a bunch of Japs, I don't remember how many they said there was. But we had stragglers, coming out of them shell holes and everything. We didn't lose any men. They secured that island before we had to get into the lines. Pulled us out, took us back over to the second island. And we took out walking for thirty-seven miles up those reefs to catch those Japs who had escaped. We had an English-speaking native that followed along with us. He had those young natives climb coconut trees and give us those fresh green coconuts. That was cool water, because the water wasn't fit to drink. But we got up to the next to the last atoll, and the skipper said, "We've got 'em cornered. First thing in the morning, we're going to clean 'em out." We took off, and the next morning moved out, and man, did they hit us. I had three men in my squad, and they never did know what hit them. Never did fire a shot. We killed about two hundred and fifty of the enemy in there. We lost thirty two men out of our company that day, and we went back the next day and buried them. I never did really know, but I can still see those guys. They had a surprised frozen look on their face, they didn't know what hit them. They never fired a round.

Mr. Graham: The three men in your squad?

Mr. Groves: The three men that we went back to bury. Each squad had to go back and bury their own men. We had six – three of them wounded and three of them killed. Then we buried those guys, and I still see them. Still see that look on their face. But I guess they'll have that look on their face through eternity, but there wasn't anything I could do about that. This is an experience – if you've ever been in a jungle like that was on the end of that island, you can't see nothing. They were cornered – they were hitting us, but you couldn't see them. But finally, we got through, and one old boy got shot next to me. I said, "Ed, come on, let's move out." He didn't say nothing, and I looked over there at him, and he had a hole about the size of the end of your little finger in his forehead. Dead as a door knob. And never said a word. Then the other guy on the other side, he got hit in



the stomach. And he was paralyzed from the neck on down. Thirsty, I poured water down him and then went on. And then we got to the end of that atoll and they took us off on a tank lighter. We went back and stayed there till the first of January as we were in reserve. We stayed there until the Army came in and relieved us. Went to Hawaii and trained. They had a camp up on that mountain in Hilo, on the back side of Hilo, the big island. Wind blew, and it was cold. Had these tents and everything. We'd been down below the equator for two years, and then that malaria came in on us. We finally got through that training, and loaded on these LST's to go to Saipan in May of '44. This is really something. We got on these LST's, you know what they are, landing ships with the ramp. Tanks go off the front of them. These particular ones had LCT's tied down on the top side. We had nineteen men in those LCT's, and the LCT's were chained to the LST. We got in that storm between Hilo and Pearl Harbor that night and lost three of those LCT's. Broke the chains, that's how rough it was. One of those old sailors – he was a Chief – told me that the roughest weather in the Pacific is right here in these Hawaiian Islands. I didn't argue with him because we had circled that night with spotlights and everything on trying to find survivors – I never did know how many we lost. We went on to Pearl Harbor and tied up down there at a place called West Loch which was where the ammunition dump was. Tied up eight LST's deep. Second day we were there, the skipper took us over to the ammunition dump to play baseball and exercise. We had been in there maybe thirty minutes, when explosions started – I mean, explosions like you wouldn't believe. So I told my partner, I said, "I don't believe there was anything on Tarawa exploded as big as that." The black smoke and everything – it was just like a string of firecrackers. We stayed over there till dark and watched them putting those fires out and everything. They had this high-octane gasoline used in the alligator engines tied on topside and some welder or something set it off. It killed a bunch of sailors and Marines. I heard that it was two or three hundred. After we got replacements, we went on to Saipan. Saipan was in the Marianas. Saipan was the first landing in the Mariana Islands where Guam and Okinawa and all those islands were located. We arrived at Saipan and Tinian, and we had been

on the LST forty-five days. Same boat fare, and everything – we were glad to get off of them. After we got off of them, we wanted to get back on! At Saipan they had a reef about a mile wide. Two or three or four feet deep. And those Japs had zeroed in onto that reef. Like I told you, I was a machine-gunner on one of those – we called them “alligators”. I was exposed from the waist up and I could see everything going on. The other guys were back in the back of the alligator, and the shrapnel started hitting the tank and I could see where it was hitting. I couldn’t tell exactly, but we weren’t halfway across that reef before one of their shells hit one of our tank lighters and it went into a million pieces – I mean, it blew stuff all over that reef. By that time, we were nearly to the beach. That shrapnel was hitting all around us and everything. I got hit in the shoulder going in, but it wasn’t enough to get evacuated. That corpsman put a Bandaid on there. We attacked across this little narrow gauge railroad and got a new platoon leader – he was a fireman from New York. He had picked up a flame-thrower. The flame-thrower man had already got killed. He had it strapped on his back, and he was about as far as from here to that sidewalk to me. One of those mortar shells hit behind, and just decapitated him. Blew him all to pieces. We kept going, and we got out of that beach area as fast as the fighting would permit. The skipper sent word to keep moving and get off that beach where they’d zeroed in with their artillery. This was my last part, and I’ll shut up. We got about five hundred yards off that beach where there was a cane field out in front of us. There was an open place between where we were and the cane field. Here comes these Japs with these little light tanks, you know? Did you ever see one of those little ones?

Mr. Graham: I think I saw one in a film, yes.

Mr. Groves: Had about a 37 millimeter gun on them. All we had was rifle grenades and bazookas. My bazooka man – I was the fire team leader on that landing. As fire team leader I had the automatic rifle, assistant automatic rifle, rifleman and myself. We got the bazooka man up there with us. Hand grenades had just bounced off that tank. When they got about ten feet from us, the bazooka man knocked them all three out. A Jap pulled that hatch open, and about half a dozen shot at the same time he opened that hatch. That’s the last Jap I ever saw. I tried

to get up, and couldn't walk. I looked down, and my right leg was full of blood, my shoe was full of blood, and I had no feeling in my right leg at all. I didn't even know I had been wounded. When you're battling like that, it's after the battle when you feel all that stuff. Corpsman threw me down over there, and said, "You've got a bad wound, but you're not going to lose your leg." This was as good news as I received. Said he was going to put a tourniquet on there and stop that artery from bleeding. He cut the britches leg off, and that blood spurted a foot, two foot high. And he gave me a shot of morphine. That morphine ended the war for me – I could see these tracers going back and forth while I was laying on that stretcher, and I didn't really care. Morphine does that to you. It's hard to say that, but I was very fortunate. I got that second wound that first night right before dark. That night they threw a bunch of everything they had at our outfit. Next day at that hospital ship, I saw a bunch of our people coming in. We went back to Pearl Harbor, stayed in the Navy hospital until July. Someway or another, I'd been overseas long enough that I was eligible to go back on points, but I was also eligible to go back because my leg wasn't healed. They gave me a forty-five day sick leave and transfer.

Mr. Graham: Where did you go?

Mr. Groves: We went back to Treasure Island Naval Hospital in San Francisco. They gave me that forty-five day leave, and then I was to go to the hospital in Camp Lejeune and get checked out there. I never had been to North Carolina – got into North Carolina after my leave. Got cold – and that malaria came back on me. I went down one day and I asked the doctor, "Could you send me back to California? It's warmer out there." He said, "Yeah, there's a train leaving at midnight." Of course, I didn't have any gear or anything. So he said, "I'll have them cut your orders." Have you ever been on a troop train?

Mr. Graham: Yeah, but that was going to boot camp. We weren't actually in the military then, so it's different I'm sure, when you're in uniform.

Mr. Groves: The troop train, it's the only way we travel. We got on there in North Carolina, and went south to Savannah, then went west, then went north, and then went west, and south. Eight days and nights on that troop train. When we got to California,

they told us on the train that they had landed on Iwo Jima. We were going to California, and they hadn't even built Camp Pendleton when I went in at Camp Elliott. We got as far as Camp Pendleton, and the skipper said, "Everybody that's been in the States six months is going back overseas." And I said, "Well, I want to go because I've been here four months. I'll be better off overseas than I will be here." He said, "Okay, I'll let you go." We got as far as Maui, the second island from Hilo. Between Hilo and Oahu.

Mr. Graham: Hawaiian Islands?

Mr. Groves: Yes! The fourth Marine division had just arrived back from Iwo Jima where they had about eighty percent casualties. They put us all in to fill in all those openings in the Fourth Marine Division. Second week I believe, March or April, anyway, while I was there the President died – President Roosevelt. I had the guard duty one night, and I came down with a malaria chill. The officer of the guard came down there and saw I was shaking, and he said, "You better go to sick bay," and he relieved me. Went down there and had 104, 105 degree fever. The old Navy doctor said, "Son, what are you doing back out here?" I said, "Well, I went back to the States, but I got cold and got malaria, so I decided I'd be better off out here." He said, "Well, you're not going to stay out here – we're going to send you back to experimental camp in Oregon." I said, "I'll go." It was getting to where that malaria – it swells the spleen, where you can't eat for two or three weeks. It was terrible. Anyway, I went to that Treasure Island hospital and then back up to Klamath Falls, Oregon. I volunteered for an experiment when I had another chill, and you know they used to give us fourteen days' treatments of quinine, and you couldn't eat when you took that, because it was so bad – bitter. But these three pills they gave me that time, I never had another chill. And that was in 1944, I believe. And that's where I wound up the war – in that Navy hospital up there in Oregon. Had two Purple Hearts, three battle stars, and the skipper put us in for Bronze Star and a letter of commendation for those patrols on Guadalcanal. Seemed like that wasn't important to us. It was important, we were just doing our job, and not giving in to what our buddies... we wouldn't fail

them, you know. And too, survival, one of the main things. That's where I ended up the war.

Mr. Graham: Where did you end up getting discharged?

Mr. Groves: Klamath Falls, Oregon. October 31, 1945.

Mr. Graham: And the malaria's gone, and you haven't had any repercussions?

Mr. Groves: They gave me...when I went down there to get discharged in August when the war was over, they said, "You've got enough points to get out, but you've got to have a negative malaria smear before you can go." They take your blood test every day. It was October 31<sup>st</sup> when I got a negative smear, and that's when I got my discharge. They gave me fifty percent disability for gunshot wounds, and shrapnel wounds, and malaria. Service connected disability. I wasn't too interested in that – it was after I got married and raised the kids and put them through college and everything. I got out of college and was making good money, I said, "Well, I didn't go to the VA to get my regular checkups every year or two." They want you to come in. So they just cut it off. It took me ten years to get that fifty percent back. But it was worth it, trying to get it back. Finally got it all back. Plus, I don't really hurt for money – I made a lot of money that I didn't know I could. I never had worked before I went in – never had a job other than milking cows. We had two jersey cows in the 30's during the depression. My job was to keep those cows watered, and take them back and forth to the pasture, and milk them. And I had one customer. It was a doctor's wife, and she wanted a pint of milk in the morning, and a pint of milk in the afternoon. Seven days a week. And I charged her fifteen cents a week. And I had money – had a lot of money – fifteen cents a week!

Mr. Graham: With all the evidence you had contact with a lot of different guys when you were in the service, is there any particular people you seem to think about more or you felt closer to, or there was an experience you still think about?

Mr. Groves: Maybe I can answer that. For forty years, I tried to forget it. Nothing but bad dreams. I didn't have anything...I had nightmares, I had the whole bit. I was really trying to forget it. And then one day I woke up, and I decided that (it was 1983) – somehow or another I got hold of a Leatherneck Magazine. And in that

Leatherneck Magazine, there was a little ad about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division Association meeting in San Antonio, Texas. So I picked up the phone and called the guy that put that ad in there. And he said, "Yeah, we meet at the new Hyatt Hotel. He started explaining to me all that they did. Had these scholarships – we give thirty-five or more scholarships every year. And we have a hundred thousand dollars in endowment funds that we only use the interest on, to give scholarships to needy dependants of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division men. You probably have seen all those qualifications, but I was sitting there at the office – I had a business for myself by then – and had a secretary. Me and her and the partner. Never did completely utilize her 100 percent, so I could do the side things. So I dictated her a letter. I was in the lease business. Capital leasing business. And we were specializing in these big printing machines. Sell for two or three hundred thousand to two or three million dollars. We did a mailing to all the editors and papers in five states. So I said, "Sue, if you still have that mailing list, I want to send this letter to the same people you sent that other to," because we had a good list. But we changed it to a Letter to the Editor. And we put in there about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division having a meeting in San Antonio, we needed new members. And sixty one new members signed up. That was a mistake I made. Because I went to that meeting in San Antonio and the secretary, the president gave me a plaque. And I didn't know that they did that, you know, for getting sixty one new members. I was glad to do it, I thought that since I found out about it, I'd like for all the former Marines that I know to have the same knowledge that I do, because it's a good outfit. I haven't missed a meeting up until the last year or two for all those years. They've put me through all the chairs, I went through as president – I've been in every office and I served a couple of years as chairman of the scholarship endowment fund, memorialized all those funds that we got, put them in the endowments where they can't spend them. Nobody can come into this organization and touch that money except an officer who writes a check for a scholarship. I'm still on that board, but I don't do as much as I used to. Cause I got interested in the lodge. We go to lodge three or four times a week. I'm really pleased at coming here.

his term out, so he actually did about two terms. One guy – to show you how they work – one Marine got up and said, “I don’t think a sailor ought to be president of this association.” And boy, about a hundred of them jumped up and shut him up right quick. Corpsman are the Marine’s favorite people, really. We don’t have doctors.

Mr. Graham: Strong bonding when you’re on the battlefield. Is there anything else you want to finish up with?

Mr. Groves: No, I think you all are doing a great work. It’s like some of the combat pictures that I see, and one instance had a group going to Tarawa to put a monument that we built. The stewardess on the airplane said, “What are you all going to this island for?” Didn’t even know what happened. So it helps in the history to do this. I don’t have any personal goals in coming in here and talking to you. I just think I’d like to let people know that there is more to defending our country than what you see in the paper. You’ve got to believe in it.

**FINAL**

Nancy Cason, transcriber

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