

Interviewer: Ok sir, please state your full name and when and where you were born.

Paul Lyle: Ok, Paul Bryan Lyle, uh, 14th of August 1921, I'm 85 years old, and uh I was born in Houston County, actually I was born in Montgomery County but it was right on the edge of Houston County, I finished high school in Erin, so I'm really a native of this part of the country and uh, what else was it you needed there right off the bat?

Interviewer: Uh, what branch of service did you serve in?

Paul Lyle: Ok, I served in the uh, of course I served in the National Guard to begin with, uh and then we were sent on active duty in uh, February 19th, 1941 and it was with the 109th Cavalry, and the Tennessee National Guard and uh, on February the 24th of 1941, we uh, went to Camp Forest, Tennessee and we put a year's training in there and we would go on maneuvers and everything and we were a fully qualified unit but we were, we were converted to artillery, just before we went to Camp Forest, so all my service had been with artillery, uh, after the National Guard service in Clarksville, that's what my cavalry, and uh we spent a year there and uh, of course the Japanese hit Pearl Harbor, December the 7th 1941 and we were immediately, we were at Camp Forest at the time, as a matter of fact I was Corporal of the Guard at that time, uh, I had my initial service was enlisted service and uh, I spent uh, the full year there and then I, we before Christmas that year, we would board trains headed for the west coast for defense duty and uh, the entire unit fully equipped and everything went out to Camp Roberts California and we were put on defense duty there and uh, we actually served the defense posture and had a couple Japanese submarines that popped up out there and shelled a couple oil refineries, oil installations, but we were going into precision every day we were practicing different places going into position and then I left uh, the unit, that was the, at that time it was the 181st Artillery Regiment and uh, of course it was a national guard unit on active duty and I left them on, in April of 42', went to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, officers training, had 3 months of officers training there, I was 21 in August of 1942 and in September I got orders to go to Ft. Ord California as a running Second Lieutenant, I got out of Ft. Ord, California and the 43rd Infantry Division, which was the main, not main, it was uh, New England Division and uh, we spent uh, about 3 days there I guess before we got aboard ship so, but I the second of, the first of October I shipped out to uh, the Pacific, headed for New Zealand, it took 22 days to get to New Zealand and then we were dodging around in the Pacific there, dodging around the submarine activity and so forth, and then New Zealand, I was there a little over a month and uh, we got, of course we went in there, uh combat equipped so on and so forth but we shipped out of New Zealand to New Paladonia in a month's times but it was still in 42'. And uh, in New Paladonia, we was there a couple months because that was one of the patterns of the Japanese, uh, patterns in the Pacific at that time, they would come on down to New Paladonia and New Zealand but I left New Paladonia, January of 1943, went into Guando Canal and of course the fighting was all intensive, it was over in Guando Canal at the time was a very rough battle and we suffered a lot of casualties in the Marine Corps, then from there went on up into the Solomon Islands, on up into the Solomon Islands to Russell Island and we uh, went ashore there combat equipped but the Japs had gone

out of the island when we got in there so there wasn't any fighting there but we stayed there then until, let's see it lasted, the last of June of 1943 and shipped out for Georgia Island, we landed at Ranover which is one of the smaller islands out from Georgia Island and of course the Japanese had uh, a fairly large force there and they had an air field there and we were going to take the airfield, so uh, swept about uh, let's see, about uh, 6 or 8 weeks to take the airfield there and when we went in and took the airfield uh, the CB's were right in behind us to repair the damage that had been done to the airfield and we had planes flying out of there practically overnight, flying out of one of the air strips on Georgia, and then we stayed there and we uh, we advanced our forces on up into Colon Bay, Gerium, and Little Avella, they were nearby islands, Gerium was a fairly large island and uh, the Japs had forces in all these places and uh, from there after we extended there, we left there in uh, November of 1943 and went back to New Zealand, uh, we had a lot of casualties and we had to recover equipment and repair equipment and had to get some new equipment, we exchanged our field guns there, they were 155 millimeter Howitzer outfit, it was the 43rd Division, at that time I was in 192nd Field Artillery Battalion and I served in that battalion as a reconnaissance officer and an exec for firing pattern and uh, I was primarily a survey officer, and uh, we went back to New Zealand, uh, all of the servicing of our guns and did the for sighting of guns and uh, we stayed there and did some training there, with the replacements that we got, we did quite a bit of training there and uh, we left there and uh, in July of 1944, and in July of 1944 and we went into a Taipei, New Guinea and uh, we had a small operation there and it was primarily a blocking operation, between the Army and the South, the Japanese Army in the South and the Army in the North of New Guinea, it was a blocking operation set up to separate the force there, which we were successful in doing and uh, tied them up at, what was it, theRiver there, I'm still in the Artillery at this time but um, uh during the period of time that we were there, I joined uh, or I was assigned to the 43rd Infantry Division Artillery, Headquarters and we had four battalions for artillery that we were responsible for and had a commanding officer, uh, division artillery, I was Division Artillery Survey Officer for the rest of the war and uh, I uh, we went into Luzon uh, and the Philippines and in January of 1945 and we did operations there in Luzon, where we were occupied and 3 or 4 principle operations there and a lot of fighting and we uh, had 4 different locations that we went into, uh, assigned to different organizations for different obstacles and offensive positions and the Japanese had set up sham boa line outside the manila ones, outside one of those, I did not get involved with taking manila, Calvary unit got involved with that, the 101st, now it's slipping my mind now, but they were a regular Army Calvary Unit but they were primarily tank equipped and uh, light on equipment, that sort of thing didn't have any horses, I did run into a horse regiment in New Caldonia and uh, that's all I saw of that, in Caldonia, but there in the Phillipines we were serving there right up until the time before the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, uh, we had been taken off the line in June of 45' and uh, we were working on plans to land on Southern Kyushu in November, the division was, and I stayed with the division all the time, when I was in the Pacific, I went over there with the division and uh, so when we uh, when the bomb was dropped on the 6th of August in 1945, the first one was, the second was dropped on the 9th of August 1945

and that was just prior to my birthday and the Japanese decided to surrender and I had been in the war room working on division artillery and the operation for this operation in the Pacific, I was a captain at this time, I got promoted to captain at this time and uh, working on the position there, taking Southern Kyushu, so we took uh, when we uh found out about the surrender and so forth, we immediately got orders to ship out for occupation forces in Japan so I wound up landing in the Yokohama in Japan, we went in fully equipped and everything and that was in late August of 45' and uh, stayed there about a month at uh, Tachakua Airfield, that was our base there and we were relieved there as a division and I came back with the division to pass the orders back to California, and we landed at Camp Skull in October, and so the 3 years were up but before I got back in the states but it was just fortunately a month, I was uh deactivate in the system because it was a National Guard Division at that time, deactivated it and uh, we went to the processing center and I came home to here in Tennessee, late October of 1945, I had 101 days of crude leave time, but I hadn't had any leave in the Pacific time, had 101 days leave time and so I kept drawing checks until the 11th of February 1946. In the mean time, got the idea that I wanted to go into the dry cleaning business on one end of Erin and there was quite a bit of business there so, my dad did a lot of construction business and he added, he bought some property right near the courthouse in Erin and uh, we built a plant a dry cleaning plant there as a portion of a standing building uh, I spent three years in the dry cleaning business and I was dissatisfied, I was uh, at that time I was 27 years old and uh, I was dissatisfied and so I decided to apply for active duty with the Army, I had no rank or anything because when the war was over my service seized you see, and so I applied for a commission rank, with the grade of captain being the lowest grade that I would accept, it took me 16 days to get my, take the oath of office and everything as a captain and so, it took me about 3 months then to get my orders for active duty so I went back on active duty in December of 48' and uh, I stayed until the first of uh, the first of June 66' and retired from the Army at that time with the equivalent of 26 years active duty, I retired with the grade of Lieutenant Colonel, was Lieutenant Colonel for 5 years before I retired and I served in a variety of activities and so and so forth, uh, I had the most general type service, I got away from troops and was assigned to uh, larger headquarters and then I wouldn't have been if I had stayed with troops uh, for the rest of my service but uh, I retired from the service the first of June 66' and the 5th of October of 66' went to work in the court house in Clarksville, and I was working, I was working on Joint City Council Community Developments Coordinator and uh, my primary concern was federal grants and so forth but I was working with the Reason Planning Commission at that time but I stayed with that for less than a year and uh, took over as the executive director of the Planning Commission at that time and then after, I had been there for about a year and a half, a buddy from the county came over and they convinced me that I should become the director of Accounts and Budgets of County Personates and it was two jobs in Montgomery County I did the Accounting and Purchasing activity for uh, 16 uh 13 years, then uh, I wound up as county executive for 6 months, I was appointed, I ran in the Election and I was beat in the election and uh, that ended my service and I haven't drawn a thin dime uh, payment for service since I retired in 82' and I've done an awful lot of volunteer work

so on and so forth and I stay pretty active to be 85 years old and uh, I do quite a bit of church work, did some committee work for the county and uh, this is my volunteer but that essentially covers the round trip, I remember an awful lot of detail about uh, combat actions and so on and so forth, I don't think I've forgot about any of it, it's just stuck with me for all these years and so on and so forth but that's essentially what I've done.

Interviewer: Well jumping back to your earlier life, um, what were your parent's occupations because during that time you know the Great Depression was going on and how did they cope with those times?

Paul Lyle: The Depression was essentially over during the first term of Roosevelt, uh, term, and that one carried us into about 36 or 37, but things had begin to recover under Roosevelt at that time, still a lot of uh, work that was going on WPA and that sort of thing a lot of that was still going on, and things didn't recover a whole lot until World War 2, and then of course World War 2 things begin to pick up because there was, everybody's at work now, all the people that weren't in the service were practically at work, my wife was in the Defense Industry in Michigan, worked on tank tracks, was a welder and uh, but my parents uh, my mother was just a house keeper, my dad was a contractor, a construction man, and he did a lot of uh, farming for other people, did a lot of that, built 3 houses though, uh that's still standing over there in Erin, we lived in one of them, and one of the house and the others were rental properties, so uh, in the Depression, I ran around barefooted a lot, very poor family, uh, that was a time and I continued to go to school and uh I finished grade school and uh, a good portion of high school during the depression years uh, and uh, of course I went to work right after high school, I was a machine mechanic and uh, in Mason and Hughes Industrial near Erin Shirt Factory, but that didn't last long because I joined the National Guard unit in 1940 and I graduated in 1939, and so I didn't, it didn't last too long before I became actively involved in that, from April in 1940 when I picked up in the service, but uh, really had a poor life lifestyle for the time, uh, I was growing up, my dad went to Michigan, my family went to Michigan, and uh, worked up there, jobs started becoming available up there and so we went to Michigan and picked up right after World War 1 in the early 20's I was about 5 years old, when we went to Michigan and we left there when I was about 7 or 8 when the big crash occurred in 1927 and uh, came back to Houston County and still every time we could get groceries and that was about it.

Interviewer: Do you remember people rushing to the bank to pull everything out that they could?

Paul Lyle: Yes. I remember that, as a matter of fact uh, when the bank holiday occurred back in 19... I want to say 31', about 1931, and uh, people did rush the bank to pull their money out but there weren't a whole lot of people that had money and uh, uh, but it did have an impact on what was going on and uh, but locally here most people were farmers in this area, I grew up essentially uh, on a farm part of the time, my dad, he had a truck that he hauled freight on from Clarksville to business in town and uh, he would get a couple dollars a trip for that, see that's

something, but it was a rough time to live but you know, I didn't pay too much attention to that while the Depression was going on, I was still running around barefooted like I say when I was uh, oh, when I was 8 or 9 years old, and things began to improve, I started driving at 10 years old and uh, Tennessee, when I became 16 Tennessee put out the licensing law that I had to apply for a drivers license at that time, and I put 50,000 miles as drivers experience when I was 16 years old, and I had to, I drove the truck most of the time, my dads' truck and uh, he would be farming or something like that and I was out hauling what few cattle we could haul around, wasn't much of that going on but I could just uh, I could just barely reach the pedals on the truck and so on and so forth but I, I didn't feel, the bad period of time, I was a youngster, uh, was healthy and out of 7 children in my family and uh, I uh, I just took things as they come, and had a good time, I didn't personally suffer too much from the hard times.

Interviewer: What was your opinion or your families' opinion on Franklin Roosevelt during the depression era?

Paul Lyle: Uh, good. It was good, uh, I know Herbert Hoover uh of course, he wanted to put a check in everybody's pocket, you know so on and so forth, at the times that things were getting rough and uh, my dad had a favorite name for him, he called him Herbert Hell and Hard Times, it was his typical name for Hoover but uh, Roosevelt, very good, and I had uh, a good opinions of democratic party, all the time that I was growing up and knew anything about politics, I didn't know too much about it until about the time I got out of high school, but I worked on a youth program, one of the youth programs that Roosevelt set up while I was in high school and so, I was getting more money than I had practically ever seen at that time, it the only jobs, they had to make up jobs but uh, I worked, for example one of the jobs I did on that was, I did a lot of work in the high school library, I did all of the coding and uh, numbering of the various books and so on and so forth in the library was one thing, so I was getting quite a bit of managing experience while I was uh, well from the time I was a sophomore, I was getting management experience at various jobs and uh, I can't remember a time that I wasn't a leader of some type even back when I was a youngster I was out front of things and uh, in high school, I was president of my class in high school, I was the youngster that was most likely to succeed, and uh so, and when Roosevelt died, I was on Luzon at that time, and uh, Truman, they announced that Truman was taking over, and everybody wanted to know who Truman was, didn't anybody know who Truman was, so that was about the jest of politics with people at that time and uh, politics got rough from then on and uh, I'm an independent, I'm not a party man, so I stay pretty well pleased.

Interviewer: Well, what uh, what motivated you to join the National Guard in 1940, why did you do that?

Paul Lyle: Money, it was an additional source of money and it was 5 or 6 of us, we were working there in Erin, there was about 11 people from Erin who joined this outfit in Clarksville and served with them during World War 2, I left them to go to OCS but there were 2 or 3 others in that outfit that went to OCS and uh, but uh, the people in the, in the outfit that were from Erin

uh, several of them worked in the shirt factory where I worked, and we just got to talking it up and we got the opportunity to the point that we could sign up for the National Guard and so we went in to no thoughts of war at that time, and now this is 1940, I had no serious thoughts of war at that time, of course the war in Europe was going on at that time, you see, 39', started in 39', and uh, it was going on pretty heavy and Roosevelt was having a hard time with people wanting war and so on and so forth and uh, he did a couple things politically in the present day circumstances that I guess it would be very similar to some of the tricks that Bush pulled, and uh, but uh, he started providing wartime material and so on and so forth to England and Russia and uh, back before the time that I got in to the National Guard and uh, I can't think too much else what Roosevelt did but uh, I was under the impression that he was a really popular man and he of course was the first person to um, have an extended tour and so on and so forth as president and uh, I think that if had run again he might have been capable or if he had been alive, I'll put it that way, because when he served as president he had a lot of assistance and so on and so forth to get around and uh, the pictures that you would see of him were, they weren't doctored but they always made sure that he was sitting in a position that his legs and so on and so forth would show up free, I know I have several World War 2 books here in my library, and I notice that at conference no one would suspect that he wasn't capable of walking around, you know. I always had a good opinion of him, well I had a good opinion of Truman, uh, I think Truman was probably one of our better presidents over a period of time with all the fights going on, but the things I liked about Truman was that he called a spade a spade and didn't back off from it either and uh, so that's the way I felt about Truman, I think he did, I think when he firedArthur, he did what he should do right then and there and uh, I served under Mike Arthur in World War 2, uh, I wasn't anywhere close to him but I did see him wade in to the Philippines back when they were coming back in, in waist deep water and so on and so forth, I saw that but uh, he was the senior, one of the 2 commanders over there, he was essentially charged with the Army Military island hopping so on and so forth uh, but uh, limits was central Pacific and between the 2 of them, they are the ones that got the 5 stars uh, and uh, in the Pacific but uh, I don't know uh, Mike Arthur thought a lot of himself and uh, that he was a good military man, he knew what he was doing but he was very similar to Eisenhower, and Mike Arthur very successful operations were due to being able to select good staffs around, and it was the staffs that were doing the work you see and they were making the decisions up here and uh, but they had the good staffs, they could call on the um War Department at that time, They could tell the War Department what officer they wanted and they got him just like that, you see and that's the way several of the higher commanders were pretty good at it, I always thought an awful lot of Marshall as a military man and uh, I didn't care too much for uh, the names slipping me right now, he was with 3rd Army, he was a tank man...

Interviewer: General George Patton?

Paul Lyle: Patton, that's who I was trying to think of. I thought Patton was another person that thought quite a bit of himself, although he didn't express himself like uh, Mike Arthur did, I've

got a temporary lapse in memory, but I've been told about this by meteorologists and so on and so forth so I occasionally I can't think of the words that I want to say and so and so...

Interviewer: Oh, that is perfectly fine.

Paul Lyle: But that's the reason I'm having trouble with some name, but I have trouble with names of people that I know well, I have trouble with names, can't remember yours right now, I'll probably think of it 30 minutes from now or something like that but uh, I guess that's age.

Interviewer: Well uh, did you ever imagine before Pearl Harbor ever happened, did you think we would ever be at war with Japan?

Paul Lyle: No, and I knew very little about Japan, at the time of Pearl Harbor, and I think there was a lot of people that knew very little about Japan before Pearl Harbor but of course I learned a lot about Japan um, during my military time and I didn't uh, I never did get to the point where I hated the Japanese, even the soldier on the battle field, I never did get to hate, my wife hated the Japanese primarily because I was serving over in the Pacific, I guess but she hated the Japanese, you'll find a lot of people that were in the war that hated them too but I never did hate the Japanese and uh, I think they did quite well for themselves under Mike Arthur when he established the government over there, they did quite well and uh, I think they're a pretty reliable ally now, of course they started their official military in 1933 in Nigeria and uh, we fought soldiers that had been in Nigeria, and in the battles of Nigeria, well experienced soldiers and uh, course they had a lot of grit too. Kamikaze for example, that takes a lot of backbone to get into those type jobs, the same thing is true, the same thing is true over far east now, with these bombers that come in and blow themselves up and so on and so forth and that's good religion, that's the reason they blow themselves up is salvation, they are aware of, that they can have salvation, and the way to get salvation is to get killed in battle so that's a strong point in their religion there, but the Japanese were the same thing except that they operated in platoons and things like that you see they would kamikaze and I don't care what you threw at them, they kept coming and uh, this uh, this....

Interviewer: Did that behavior surprise you, how they were capable of sacrificing themselves so literally?

Paul Lyle: Uh, no, not really uh, I will say, I will say that after the first year of the war there weren't too many surprises, I was in combat with them uh, from 42' on, you see but they, since they'd bombed Pearl Harbor they, they knew at the time they were bombing Pearl Harbor that they were waking the sleeping giant, sort of thing and some of their senior officers admitted that, but no that didn't surprise me as far as the Japanese were concerned because I guess one of the first things I learned about Japan was the degree of respect that they had for the emperor and that's what keyed them on, was the emperor, you don't find too many top people in government today that enjoy that respect, I don't know of one, I can't name one right now, uh, and I'm

thinking back in Europe, European people and so on and so forth, course there might have been a reason for that type of respect, most of those are democratic controlled and so on and so forth.

Interviewer: Well, when you first heard about the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, did you feel at that time, that that was the right decision?

Paul Lyle: It surprised me, it surprised me, I knew nothing about the atomic bomb before it was dropped and then they begin to give it a little publicity about it being tested, but I don't know and give some of the background, but very few of us knew anything about that was in my outfit, knew anything about the atomic bomb uh, and uh but it surprised me and uh, I'm thankful that Truman dropped it because it's probably the reason I'm sitting here right now because we were planning this operation on Southern Kaiushu, the entire population was planning on fighting us with uh, broom sticks and bamboo spears and that sort of thing at the beaches, we found this out after we landed and got into the war plans and everything, then we found out how far they were planning on going, they were going to fight until the end, I think Truman did the right thing, he saved a lot of lives, saved a lot of lives and uh, there wasn't too much indication that the war was going to be over anytime real soon, although we were going full hop toward Japan there in 45', we were, they weren't winning anything, of course they didn't win anything after midway really, uh, but they fought very heavily after midway and uh, but they were back tracking all the time from the Battle of Midway and the Battle of Carl Sea, that was our first efforts at offensive operations, just after that.

Interviewer: Well, while you were in the Pacific, were you able to keep up with what was going on in Europe?

Paul Lyle: Yes, to a certain extent um, we had a man in the division artillery headquarters that I was in, that was a Russian for example and he kept a map charted of what was going on in Russia and what they were doing, the reports and everything and of course our intelligence, we had, we were fed intelligence uh, work information and the operations and so on and so forth as long as it didn't violate some principle of secrecy but uh, I was an Intelligence Officer, my specialty was intelligence although I served very little time as an intelligence worker, they did try to get me to specialize in it after I came back on active duty, to specialize in intelligence work, I declined that, I had an interest in it, I found out I had a knack for it because I got involved in genealogy and uh, genealogy gets to the point where you put 2 and 2 together and come up with 4 you see and that's essentially what intelligence work does, you pick up every scrap of information you can and sooner or later if there's any, any uh, operational intent for it you are able to put together information that is very helpful and, but in intelligence work when I was in the service, I have a feeling now it's not working quite that way but intelligence work when I was in the service, you never tried to work on the intention of the enemy, you built up information but you couldn't intend what he was going to do with it, to operate on that basis, that's not what the offenses were using it, you see, uh, you'd figure out tactically, in combat operations you'd figure out tactically it was going to hit you over here because the build up and

everything hit you over here but he liable to hit you on this side, you see, so your intelligence work was good uh, to the point you could determine concentrations and that sort of thing and uh, but you couldn't, you couldn't determine uh, once in combat or that sort of thing, I retired, my records, on my records carried out, Intelligence MOS for example, uh, because the work that I was in, a lot of it was intelligence work, recognizance work, a lot of its intelligence oriented, you're trying to seek out the enemy and determine what their dispositions are and that sort of thing and that's intelligence, you try to break their codes and so on and so forth, you did everything that you can to collect information that puts you in a position to determine what their coded messages are and that's how we won the war, just breaking the codes, uh, and uh, that's the reason we were so successful was because of code breaking, we had found out what the Japanese code was and didn't let anyone know except our own people, higher up, so uh, you see the battle for the illusions, that became involved with midway is the Japanese were putting that off as a...to the illusions with the intention of being midway and we found out about it so we located our forces and uh, in fear of that and they gave us the indication of where it was going to be and that's where our main defense was, was where their main effort was and we were at that time under manned and under equipped and everything at midway, we didn't have the forces to win that battle and uh, but we got lucky and determined where some of their carriers were uh, load out planes and place them for various purposes for midway and we caught them in the act and so they weren't up to combat our bombers that were up there and our bombers had a free day then at the aircraft carriers, so when they sunk the aircraft carriers, they sunk the ability of the Japanese to operate, they just had a lot of carriers, we had really I think it was a total of 3 that was functioning at that time, in the area that is, that was supposed to have more carriers than that but we were low on carriers, wound up with oh, I saw some figure on that not too long ago, we wound up at the end of the war with uh, a great number of battleships over in the Pacific there and air craft carriers of various sizes, we had planes to go on, the war would have been much different if we hadn't of developed our intelligence and then uh, even when we started island hopping and everything we had figured out where there masses of troops were or where their navy was operating from and so on and so forth and uh, the largest naval battle in history was fought in the Lady Gulf uh,...

Interviewer: Were uh, were you ever able to keep in touch very often with your wife back here stateside?

Paul Lyle: Yes, well to stay in touch it was mail, strictly mail, even a-mail, what they had was e-mail, it was a short message that you folded together one sheet you know so that you can get what you wanted to write on one sheet of paper, e-mail, uh, it was blazing delivery more than anything, my wife would get mail that I had written maybe 3 weeks before, something like that, she never did know where I was in the Pacific uh, and there wasn't any way I could tell her uh, I had to have a code of my own to tell her because we just weren't allowed to give anything about movement of ships or anything, today when they take off they give you take off time and everything you see but back in World War 2 it was a crime to uh, uh, give ship departures or

something of that nature, I was Sensor Officer for example one time, I had to read all the mail in the battalion I was in and uh, I barely had to cut about a third of it out, something like that because they were trying to get information across as to where they were so on and so forth uh, I guess New Caledonia was the closest I came to getting information to my wife but she didn't get the information, but uh, in Caledonia they had a tree, I forget the name of it but it was the only place in the world that they grew and then they had uh, hordes of mosquitoes and that was all the available to the public, you see, except they weren't transmitting it enough to be able to connect it to so I mentioned this tree one time, I didn't mention the name of the tree but I told her that um, some of the trees were rather odd or something of that nature, something like that, which I shouldn't have done but I was trying to get information back and I just gave up on it because I quit trying to, never could make the connection, but oh, satellite communications today is something out of this world, my son-in-law spent a year over there in Iraq, he was a National Guardsman, he's retired from the National Guard now but he spent a year over there and uh, they could talk to one another on the telephone you know and it wasn't because some of the telephone companies wasn't making it available, they got to where they could transmit it by satellite in some of this little hand held cell phones that you have now, you know, they have the adaptability for if they were set right, and I'm told that when they were talking just like they were sitting next door, wasn't any interference or anything of that nature and there was a lot of that going on, and it was permitted, they wanted to uh, they wanted the troops to communicate with the home people and so on and so forth, they did away with a lot of the secrecy of movement and that sort of thing, but it wasn't too important anyway, they could develop some secret movement or something like that, the movement would be over with before the information got out, it's just that fast, how fast we moved troops to the far east, just a matter of plane time, and that's set up to where it doesn't take too long for planes to be sent out.

Interviewer: Looking back on your service and what you did in the Pacific, did you feel like the training you received from the military had ultimately prepared you for what you had to do?

Paul Lyle: Yes, I think so, yes, I think so, uh of course our weaponry was a lot different you see than it is today, but yes, the background that I had even though it was short in duration, the training was short in duration, it was still very extensive and uh, I had to uh, I was training Company Commander at one time, I had troops that would come in and take 6 weeks to train and it's really amazing what you can do to people in 6 weeks uh, people would come in to training company, we had people on Saturday morning, or we would have people leave out on Saturday morning after 6 weeks of training and we would have an new increment come in that afternoon, the people going out were in, their dress uniform at the time and the people coming in had watch fogs hanging down to their ankles and out of zoot suit pockets and all that sort of thing, and all types of haircuts, the first thing you did was when you got a bunch of people in and we would get them in so called formation, marching formation, there wouldn't be much regulation to it but first thing we did when we got them in was sent them to the supply room to change their clothing, they all got the same thing in the supply room and then the next thing, we would march

them to the barber shop, then they, at that time they had to get a crew cut type haircuts and so on and so forth uh, there was reasons for that and there would be at today but at that time we were taking, well it was before that time that I was training company commander, we were getting a lot of chemical warfare training because it was anticipated that the warfare would be very similar to the warfare of World War 1 and there was a lot of gas so on and so forth used over there in particular chlorine and sulfate and uh, I had school training on chemical warfare and uh, learned quite a bit about it but the training I think was just uh, a lot stricter than it is today uh, I'm vaguely aware of what went on and what's been going on at Fort Campbell because ever since the airborne has been out there, I left the military at the time that they were just getting this airborne and talk about air movement, and truly airborne helicopters and so on and so forth, well if we would have had helicopters to do the things that we could have don't with them, of course we had to decide what the problem was to but anytime you can get the advantage of a special piece of equipment, you can really uh, you can really do uh good job and one thing that we did in World War 2 that you don't hear anything about today and that's flame throwers, flame throwers, I've seen more flame go down in the dugouts and people come out on fire, that sort of thing, we used Napalm gas uh, Napalm type, it was a fuel type thing that we would drop on installations and they would carry them in big tanks underneath the wings of the planes and then they would dive into a place and drop this napalm bomb and uh, it would set fire to everything and you could be several miles away and see the spread of the flames and so on and so forth, and I haven't heard of any of that, I think there might have been a little bit of it used over in Afghanistan, when they first hit over there, some of those caves up in the mountains, but they are very affective, you take a man with a flame thrower on his back, with a hose and a nosel on the end of it and everything, it'll go several feet and uh, they had them mounted on the tanks, they were heavier and larger and we threw a heavier flame you see, but that's unheard of today, it's inhuman and it is inhuman, like I say I've seen people come out of dugouts literally on fire and uh, they didn't last long after they got out of the dugout either, it was that effective.

Interviewer: When did you first experience combat?

Paul Lyle: It was uh, my first experience would have been uh, in combat would have been New Georgia, I didn't have any combat experience in ...Canal, it was effectively over there, when our division landed there so it was used as a staging area for our division to go up into the Russell Islands, we'll we had no combat in the Russell's because the Japanese had evacuated, we learned about it from the Navy about, they had evacuated before we had landed, about a day or two before we had landed and uh, so the combat that I had got into in New Georgia, and I was an Executive Officer at that time..... and uh, I spent 3 days where I didn't sleep or rest, shooting artillery up there and uh, as an Executive I would give the commands for the battery type fire and what shell to use and all the type thing, I gave the commands for that and the gunman responded to it but we had 3 days that I pivoted with the gun crews, but they didn't take a time out by man, the gun crew was 10 people, well they can effective get along with about 6 you see, and do without 4 if they had to at times, they were able to get a little bit of rest that way, but some of the

chiefs of suction didn't get any rest, just like I was, they didn't have anybody to relieve them, but we had people to relieve me as an exec, but I didn't get relieved uh, we were firing and uh, I didn't get any relief at all, I saw very few of our battery officers and at that time I think we had 5 officers at that time, in a battery, they were all used for observers, they had to get out there with the infantry troops, some had to get forwards as observers and that included, that included the senior people, the captains, the majors and so on and so forth had to get out there as observers because the ford observers needed some rest, they lost their effectiveness while that infantryman was fighting and everything, they didn't get any rest you see, the infantryman didn't, in jungle warfare uh, they had to get pretty close to be effective, direct fire toward the infantry, and this observer would be out there and he would tell the people back in the rear uh, where a shot landed and they would adjust accordingly but uh, we were firing from shore line too, that was another thing, it was a small island to begin with, a very small island, we had a battalion of artilleryman on that island, and we were brought down on the shore lines, towards the seas, of course that made us very vulnerable to sea attack, and we had a an outfit that was called the Tokyo Express, that uh made raids and so on and so forth, we were expecting to fire at them even though our firing would be very ineffective as far as, Howitzer shell goes up like that, and uh, a gun shell goes more or less on a flat projector but a howitzer shell you have to adjust that into a target or have it pretty planned and then you can call for fire on the target because it's pretty planned and adjusted uh, I forget how many, we fired uh, we had artillery in New Georgia that fired 5 or 6 thousand shells a day, we had enough artillery in there, and that's a lot of artillery hitting out there in some defense zone and uh, we had artillery there that fired a lot of rounds uh, I had uh, I had that combat experience as an executive officer, the rest that I experienced was that I was out walking around doing survey work, we used a survey map and on triangulation, that type thing, and very effectively but we had to get out there on the ground and sniper activity was pretty, at the time, I got the bronze star merit for it uh, work that I did in the Philippines, I was out several miles from any unit, out running through the brush, that sort of thing, getting survey forward for them, the artillery and uh, but I got the bronze star merit for that, it wasn't for bravery, because I got shot at a few times, one time with a 37 millimeter which is a tank gun, small handed tank gun, first shell...had a tripod set up and the tripod, the transit set up under 3 poles and so on and so forth that was used for a landmark, of course that landmark was a ideal target for the Japanese to draw in on you see, so when we set up there, they observed that around that, over us from the far side of the enemy, then the next round hit short and that's the way the adjustments were done, they would fire over and if they hit over then they adjust down for short and then they try and hit the middle of the target and uh, the instrument operator he said uh, I was keeping notes of his readings and so on and so forth, it was just the two of us, he said, I was captain at the time, he said "Captain, let's get the hell out of here." When that first one hit you see, and I said no let's get that last angle that you're shooting for and uh a short round hit right there and I didn't have to say anything to him about getting out of there or anything, that tripod went up over his shoulder with the transit on it and everything, and we went, that was amusing to me, of course I was young too, but he was older than I was as a matter of fact uh, but he was a young fellow, he had a

couple years of engineering at uh, University of Michigan, and uh, that was one of the reasons he was operating the transit, he could take a transit and he could strip the thing down and change the crosshairs in the transit, he knew spider webs, crosshairs, he could do a good job with them. An interesting situation like though, but that's the type of thing that uh, most of my sections matter of fact got the bronze star, I had 15 men and most of them got the bronze star for merit at one time or another in some operation, but I had uh, I was in contact with them, I've been in contact with them since World War 2 now, I have been in contact with several of my people in my section, we got to writing one another and I was in contact with them until I left, about the time I left Clarksville, I got uh, a letter from the last guy, daughter, he had done write me, but I got that letter from his daughter and he died and that was the contact that we had, but I had about 5 people out of 15 that I maintained a letter contact with, never met them after the was because they was scattered out everywhere. Pretty interesting.

Interviewer: Well sir I don't have any more questions specifically for you, is there anything that you would like to add or go back an elaborate on, I've got about 10 minutes worth of tape left if you would like to talk.

Paul Lyle: Ok, I think that's what I would probably like to talk about, is first of all the route that we took when we left the states and everything, we left uh, Seattle and uh, we headed for New Zealand, and as I said before that was 22 day trip, fully loaded troops shipped, there were 5 or 6 in our convoy and we had a one escort vessel, a Navy escort vessel and we was zig zagging around every 15 minutes, we would go this way and then cut back and change course and everything every 15 minutes, uh most of the time because the submarines had detected Japanese activity, and other Japanese and the way that trip there and I was, I was busy because I was a brand new 2nd Lieutenant, green as a gourd and uh, I uh, did a lot of work in 22 days with nothing but a surveying instrument, setting it up and take readings and that sort of thing, also uh, improving on my mathematical skills, I had to do with calculation of triangles and so on and so forth to uh, get proper locations and I did a lot of work on map reading, that was one good interesting experience, and then when we went into New Mia, we went in there knowing full well, that we could face combat at any time, because that was what their mission was, being defense of Caledonia, so we went in there and then we got word about the Japanese, about to give up the canal uh, and we were suppose to take part in that but they still had an area that they couldn't eradicate the Japanese from and they were getting reinforcements all the time and that sort of thing so but there was, they were about to get worn out and uh, I uh that was probably the most exciting experience in the.....Canal was essentially he stopping point, that was the first place we stopped you see, because they were coming on down, developing New Guinea and around through there, but anyway that experience was rather exciting, and then from then on up, all of it was exciting and uh, a lot of uh, difficulties found and that sort of thing but we went on up into New Georgia and of course that was my first initial combat and we went in there with a mission that many of our infantryman were being brought out of the jungles with malaria and fever, that sort of thing, we had big losses from that and then we had several men killed in the

attack there, and when I say we I'm talking about the division, uh, had several men killed uh, but it was a very trying experience, more trying than in the Philippines, when we invaded the gulf in the Philippines, landing in the Philippines, I went in the 9th wave ashore with the commanding officers and General Barker and uh, I was going in there to establish a visual survey for the artillery that was coming in at the same time that I was, so that we could establish control for artillery so we can concentrate the fires of battalions, we would adjust with one battalion and then we could call on the other battalions to fire on that mark and they had sufficient survey information that they could do this and concentrate the fires and we could do this, we had 4 battalions artillery at that time and uh, I was responsible for getting survey control to them and so it took a little bit of planning and command so I set up an initial patrol point back in lady, Atopi, New Guinea, I set up in the plans, division artillery plans a specific point across tie at the end of a bridge, by photo inspection, and named that by the subordinate artillery survey people, they knew to go to this point for their initial control, and then I found a section of track that I could give the direction, so I give the direction and the location of this control point and that's all it took for them to start their surveys because they had the same opportunity to start a survey that I did uh, mine had to be a little more extensive you see, and uh, so uh, that worked out fine, when I got there I was in the 9th wave, when I got there, to this control point, I had set up by Atopi, New Guinea uh, somebody had already been there and was starting survey work and they had marked the tie, the railroad tie that it was on and uh, marked the point on there because the other was by inspection you see and so they marked a specific point and everybody had followed them used that same point to start out with, that way they tied in but that type thing was the thing that I was excited about more so than any combat uh, I really enjoyed survey work because I was accomplishing something for a fairly good sized unit, my survey was quite a lot of responsibility to it because they had to rely on my efforts to gain control and so on and so forth, in order to concentrate and so the S3 in the operation center with Division artillery, so he tried to control the information rapidly because it was coming in as fast as he could get it but the first opportunity that he would have to concentrate the fires, he wanted it in 5 minutes or 10 minutes and it usually took at least an hour to get to control one because we used a lot of what we referred to as short base triangulation and uh, all that required was the layout about 300 yards of uh, of taped, closely taped information for distance and set the instrument up at both end of that station to create a triangle and uh, from there on it was mostly about triangulation, you use one of these points and you extend out here and create another leg you see, but that was hard work, the terrain we had to work in and so on, so you had to get this ability, long distance markers uh triangulate, so it was a lot of hard work, I used two teams, 2 people on each team to do survey work, some of them were majoring on the ground and others were taking angles and that sort of thing you know, instruments but that's the type of thing that I found most interesting, I just couldn't uh, it was exciting, it was exciting at times and I had a few close calls, didn't have any, well I did have a type in New Guinea, I had all the symptoms of a fever that was over there, had all the symptoms of that and uh, that's the only time I was sick at all, had the temperature of this fever but I didn't get hospitalized for it and uh, but that was the only time I was sick, we had people with malaria

and uh, coral poisoning from the Coral Sea, the rock had an awful lot of coral that we operated over uh, we did a lot ofwork, but it wasn't like the infantryman setting up here with a rifle pointed at a Japanese , it wasn't that type of hazard, but uh, there was plenty of artillery coming in on and they could reach up you see, anytime we had counter battle, that sort of thing, well, but I have to give credit to the infantryman for of the Army, for doing the most dangerous work, they were the ones who would get involved, of course we had infiltration, we had to fight against infiltration, we would have infiltration people come in and be in that battery before we knew it and usedfor the batteries, we had quite a bit of that. We used tin cans on a wire and everything else to alert us, and when we got into the Philippines, the biggest trouble that we had there was some of the, some of the water buffalo that they used there for tilling and so on and so forth, they were ranging around and run into our tins, and we had to respond and find out what did it you see, I remember one instance we had a fairly serious problem with that, buffalo, water buffalo, he was a male and he wasn't about to stand still, didn't care how much wire he got tangled up in, so he got tangled up in the barbed wire, that was the type wire they was using but I guess that's about the gist of it, I enjoyed uh, oh I enjoyed the tour and everything, I said I enjoyed the tour and I don't mean I enjoyed the tour because I don't mean that really, but it was a great experience in my life, I'll show you something here, I got a book...(end tape)....