

Interviewer: Can you give us your full name and what year you were born?

Jennette: Walter Q Jeanette born March 20, 1921.

Interviewer: Can you tell us which branch of service you were in?

Jennette: Army

Interviewer: I'm gonna step back a little bit before the war. Do you have any recollection of the great depression?

Jennette: Yes sir I made 50 cents a day just like a grown man did when I was a kid.

Interviewer: What were you doing what was your job for the 50 cents?

Jennette: We was out in the Belle Meade section of Nashville doing landscape work. I was a kid back in that time.

Interviewer: When did you go into the service?

Jennette: I went in in 1941.

Interviewer: Did you feel before Pearl Harbor did average Americans take serious the threat of Japan and Nazi Germany?

Jennette: No sir.

Interviewer: Do you remember where you were when you heard the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor?

Jennette: Yea I was in Camp Walter Texas we was working KP that day.

Interviewer: Did you get a chance to hear FDR's speech the next day?

Jennette: We was on a troop train going west.

Interviewer: Did you approve of how FDR handled the early portion of the war?

Jennette: Yes I do.

Interviewer: When you enlisted did you just go to an inductions center or?

Jennette: I went through Fort Orr I mean Oberthrope Georgia.

Interviewer: Were you tested did you go through any tests there? Were you tested for like skill levels at Fort Oberthrope?

Jennette: Yea we took everything going in service yea.

Interviewer: Where did you go after Fort Oberthrope?

Jennette: Went to Camp Walton Texas.

Interviewer: And that's where you were when Pearl Harbor. When you were going through your basic training what was your impression of your fellow recruits?

Jennette: Oh they was great we had a great bunch of boys.

Interviewer: Was that your first time away from home for a great distance?

Jennette: Yes sir yes it was.

Interviewer: How did you think your training that you did stateside prepared you for the task you had ahead of you?

Jennette: Most of it yes.

Interviewer: How good were the living conditions in the camps?

Jennette: It was good.

Interviewer: What kind of unit did you serve with right after your training?

Jennette: I was in a rifle company.

Interviewer: Did you travel overseas in troop ships?

Jennette: I sure did

Interviewer: Which port did you depart from do you remember?

Jennette: San Francisco Pier 42 San Francisco Pier

Interviewer: How long was the voyage?

Jennette: About three days four something like that.

Interviewer: How were the living conditions on the troop ship?

Jennette: Rough

Interviewer: You don't remember how many soldiers were onboard your ship or an estimate.

Jennette: I would guess it was close to it was a large ship now it was an English ship ___ which was about half the size of the Queen Mary at that time. And I think they had close to 10,000 troops on that thing close to it they had a gang of them they were sleeping everywhere.

Interviewer: When you arrived overseas did you stay in temporary barracks or did they have permanent ones set up?

Jennette: We was in temporary barracks.

Interviewer: Did you have any civilian contacts while you were

Jennette: Overseas?

Interviewer: Yes sir

Jennette: No strictly army.

Interviewer: Did you see combat soon after arriving or was there more training?

Jennette: No but we guarded the Japanese prisoners that they captured from Pearl Harbor. I believe it was 54 of them that we pulled guard duty on until they could get some MPs over there.

Interviewer: What kind of equipment did you train with?

Jennette: Rifle, machine guns, mortars

Interviewer: Did they operate pretty well in combat?

Jennette: Oh yea they still operate.

Interviewer: What can you say was your first experience in combat and what was your reaction to it?

Jennette: Rough

Interviewer: How would you describe the cohesion inside your unit? You know everybody working together.

Jennette: It was good it was a good unit.

Interviewer: What did you do to try and entertain yourself during your free time?

Jennette: We didn't have much free time back then.

Interviewer: Did you write many letters and receive much mail?

Jennette: Well our mail was pretty slow coming in but we did receive mail.

Interviewer: Did you ever have any leave time back in the US once you were overseas?

Jennette: Once I went in I stayed until I come out.

Interviewer: When you were in the field how was the food did you get hot food c-rations?

Jennette: Well we eat c-rations we got little cans back at that time and you couldn't hardly eat that stuff.

Interviewer: While you were overseas did you feel kind of sleep deprived and over worked or did you feel they did a good job?

Jennette: They did a good job with us the best they could at that time.

Interviewer: Were you promoted during your time in service?

Jennette: No sir

Interviewer: Did you feel for the most part that the promotions were received by the people who deserved them or were they?

Jennette: Well I would agree on them.

Interviewer: Were there any pre-war career army, navy, marines in your unit?

Jennette: No sir

Interviewer: Were there any qualities in the enemy that impressed you?

Jennette: None at all.

Interviewer: None at all.

Jennette: They all had goatees.

Interviewer: So you wouldn't say you gained any respect for the average enemy soldier. So you have another way of describing them?

Jennette: No

Interviewer: Did you have any contact with civilians or refugees?

Jennette: No

Interviewer: Were you part of an occupation force once the war was over?

Jennette: No sir I was discharged in 1944.

Interviewer: Were you ever wounded during combat?

Jennette: Yea my left shoulder.

Interviewer: How would you say the medical treatment you received was?

Jennette: It was good.

Interviewer: Would you say the average soldier did they have a sense of the big picture at the time of what the strategy was behind you know what they were doing?

Jennette: I would say they are well trained today yes sir.

Interviewer: Trying to compare you said you were in Texas when Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Jennette: Yea Camp Walton Texas.

Interviewer: Would you to for more modern people who weren't alive for Pearl Harbor to September 11th you think you had some of the same feelings?

Jennette: Well we knew when it come on the radio that morning that we would be on the move we knew that. And in two hours' time we got word to start packing barracks bags eighteen inches high and we left that afternoon.

Interviewer: Can you take us through what a typical day would be like when you were in Hawaii or overseas?

Jennette: Oh it wasn't bad the weather was good over there.

Interviewer: And did you say you stayed in Hawaii your entire time through service?

Jennette: Yes

Interviewer: I guess that's it.

Tape ended