

Interviewer: Patrick  
Cleveland

Interviewer: First off I want to thank you once more for helping me out with this project.

Lombardi: Good to have you here Patrick.

Interviewer: Okay thank you. Could you please state your name and your date of birthday for the camera?

Lombardi: Yeah my name is Arthur P Lombardi Paul middle name. And I was born on 8 December 1923. I must clarify that my name really isn't Arthur. I was baptized Antilio which is an Italian name and the school teachers of the day where I grew up in Ohio Americanized the name. And how they got Arthur out of Antilio I'll never know but that's what all the official records now reflect.

Interviewer: Wow and where were you born?

Lombardi: I was born in Canton Ohio.

Interviewer: Ohio ok and what was the size of your family did you have any brothers or sisters?

Lombardi: Yeah we had I come from a family of five children. There were three of us boys and two girls. I was the fourth of the five I have one brother that's younger than I so I was the fourth the fourth born in that family.

Interviewer: Of all the people I've talked to so far you're the only person that's had less than five or around five people. Everyone else the two that I've talked to had families of twelve. I was like wow. Okay what was your family life like during the depression?

Lombardi: Very difficult. Both of my parents were born in Italy and my father served in World War I in the Italian Army and then migrated to this country. And the thought was behind him coming here was to make some money and go back to Italy. However when he came to America and saw how America was he says this is what I want for my family. So my mother and my eldest brother and my eldest sister were both born in Italy came here to the U.S. about 1919 I think. That was the day my dad had been here earlier but they came about 1919. And so in the depression everything went fine he just had a medial job because he wasn't skilled at anything you know just a labor shop with one of the brick manufacturing companies in Ohio. Well when the depression came of course they were all terminated laid off and so it was very difficult. By that time we had you know by now you're talking 19 oh I guess you're talking the early 30s when the depression so we had it pretty tough. We did a lot of our home gardening and that kind of thing trying to make ends meet. But we always had enough to eat I'll say that Mom was good at preparing whatever she we didn't have any flashy clothes or anything like that. Never had an automobile or anything like that but looking back we did alright I guess.

Interviewer: Did your brothers and sisters, did you say you have sisters?

Lombardi: Yeah two sisters and two brothers.

Interviewer: Did they ever help get the family income by getting jobs at all?

Lombardi: Oh yeah my sisters were well about getting a job nobody could get a job. But as far as working the work ethic in the Italian family that I came from was such that the males worked physically

and the women took care of the house. Whether it was cooking or washing or sewing and I remember going to school and we didn't have many clothes maybe a pair of trousers or two and a shirt or two and my sisters would press those shirts and press those trousers the night before. You know they in addition to their own one or two skirts that they owned but that's the way it was and they were happy to do it.

Interviewer: Wow what was it a small town you lived in or?

Lombardi: Well Canton is not a very small town I mean it was about like between 90 and 100,000 so it's a good size it was a good size. It's an industrial city.

Interviewer: A lot of your neighbors were they having difficulties too?

Lombardi: Yes the neighborhood that I grew up in as you might imagine was kind of well they were I'm an Italian abstraction but there were Polish and there were Kroasions there were Spanish and there were you know \_\_\_ the Nicholson's and the Ryan's they were in the neighborhood too. But yeah everybody had a hard time very difficult to get a job. Well there were no jobs they would have been happy to go to work for McDonalds you know if they'd have had them at that time.

Interviewer: Right okay did you get a job before you entered the service?

Lombardi: Well I graduated from high school when I was seventeen and the law there is you can't get a job until eighteen. So when I got out I couldn't get a job you know with one of the local factories because you had to be eighteen. But what I did is I saw an advertisement in a paper a fellow that ran a hardware store needed an assistant. It was what he did was he laid linoleum from his hardware store. And he needed somebody to help him with that. And so I took that job it didn't pay very well but at least you know I and was very happy to get it and he was a nice fellow. He was a Swiss abstraction guy named Mr. Neiberhouser great fellow. And I think he was at least he said when I became eighteen which was in that would have been 1941 I became eighteen the day I became eighteen the day after Pearl Harbor.

Interviewer: Oh wow

Lombardi: I was seventeen I became eighteen and Pearl Harbor was a day later December 7<sup>th</sup>. And at that time I got another job I was able to get a job with the Republic Steel Corporation making steel. Because you know the defense was building up and they were hiring and I was just pleased as punch to get that job. It was very terribly physically demanding job but I was pretty strong and I started out at \$1 an hour and just before I entered the army I was making \$1.25 an hour and I thought I was seven heaven.

Interviewer: When you were working form the steel mill were you considered exempt from being drafted from the military because you had an industry job?

Lombardi: Yeah some people went that route but what happened in my case and I never pursued it because all my friends were leaving and you know people my age either departed because most of my high school friends were a little older than I was. I was younger going to school and some of my high school classmates they were either being drafted or enlisting and you know I said you know I can't hang around here while their doing that so. And I had a setback because I wanted to get into the naval aviation program I don't know whether I would have made it or not. But I went up and took an

examination and low and behold I found out I was I had a color deficiency. They give you this test you know on it. I didn't pass it the guys said you know you have a red green color deficiency? I never knew that and but it's true I do have one. And so with that I joined the army.

Interviewer: Okay so you were 16 in 1939 around there?

Lombardi: Yeah I was 16 in 1939 yeah.

Interviewer: Okay how aware were you about the political developments that were going on?

Lombardi: Not at all.

Interviewer: Really

Lombardi: No no it was coming from Canton Ohio oh you'd read the headlines and my father mostly was the one who was very antiphrosis's because this was happening in Italy. And I'd him say you know those they used to call them \_\_\_\_ well those damn \_\_\_\_ you know they're ruining everything he says you know he'd tell me about all the terrible things Mussolini was doing and all. It would be okay whatever you know and from that point of view I thought a little bit of that.

Interviewer: Were your parents worried there'd be another war?

Lombardi: What?

Interviewer: Did your parents ever worry that there'd be another war do you remember. Did they ever talk about?

Lombardi: My dad never talked about another war. I know they were saddened you know when me and my brother went off but then I had two brother-in-laws that went off too. So they weren't too happy about that but no the concerns that mothers and fathers have for their kids. They never said hey don't go nothing like that.

Interviewer: How did you find out about evens that were going on did you have a newspaper or telephone service or radio?

Lombardi: We had a radio we didn't get a radio until late and I guess it must have been about well I'm trying to guess well I was still in high school I think it must have been about 1938 or 39. We finally had a radio I'll never forget it was an old Philco one of those stand up jobs. And we used to come home and you know listen to the programs our age and all of that stuff. And on Saturday nights the Joe Better and those guys Jack Benney and the amateur hour one of our favorites. But the media didn't cover things they way that they do now as far as news goes. You didn't have that the way you do now so most of what I got I got through the newspaper and the only reason I got that was because I had a paper route. I delivered papers I had 90 customers and I'd get a penny they cost three cents a copy I'd get one penny and two to the thing. And on Fridays the Sunday issue was a nickel and I'd get a cent and a half of that. And there was always a paper or too left over so I used to read that. That's how I knew what was going on.

Interviewer: Okay do you recall where you were and how you heard about the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor?

Lombardi: You know people have asked me about that in the past and I can't remember clearly you know I can't say well you know I was eating breakfast on Sunday morning and the word came. I just don't I knew the event happened I knew I was saddened by it and I knew everybody in the neighborhood was talking about it. And the only thing I remember is that my eldest brother who is let's see John was about nine years older than I was. We were talking about where was Pearl Harbor we didn't know where it was. I kept saying what's Pearl Harbor and he said well it's out there in the ocean someplace you know nobody geography wasn't all that good. And then later on of course you know we found out that it was in the Hawaiian Islands.

Interviewer: Right

Lombardi: But initially you know they said Pearl Harbor.

Interviewer: I heard a story that even Hitler didn't know where it was and he had to have one of his aids show him on the map after he heard about the attack.

Lombardi: George Newey was telling me he was an old soldier he just died here a month or so ago he was in the army at the time at Fort Dicks. And he said when they found out Pearl Harbor had been bombed they made they vacate the barracks and everyone started digging foxholes. And somebody said what are we digging foxholes for and somebody said well they bombed Pearl Harbor somebody said where in the heck is Pearl Harbor? And somebody said well it's just up the coast of New Jersey here they didn't know where it was either.

Interviewer: Oh wow

Lombardi: Kind of funny

Interviewer: Did you and your parents ever talk about the way FDR handled his office in the beginning?

Lombardi: Well yeah you see my dad was a very stance supporter of FDR and it had to do if whether he was at fault for the depression or not you hear pros and cons about that. But everybody was out of a job felt it was the previous administrations fault.

Interviewer: Right

Lombardi: So when FDR was elected I think in 1932 was when he was elected first his first term everybody you know held him up high. In my dad's eyes FDR could never do anything wrong. And he was just you know he was the salvation of everything.

Interviewer: Okay let's go on to your service in the military.

Lombardi: When did you, you enlisted right?

Interviewer: Yeah 10 February 1942.

Interviewer: Okay what made you decide to go into the army?

Lombardi: Well like I say everybody was going all of my friends were leaving and there wasn't anybody all my classmates high school classmates were gone so you get caught up in that kind of thing. So I wanted to go too so I went.

Interviewer: Okay did you go to an induction center?

Lombardi: Yeah I went to an induction center went by bus from Canton Ohio to Camp Hayes Ohio which is in Columbus. And there was an induction center and from there you went through a physical exam you went through a battery of tests IQ tests and things like that. And again I decided I wanted to be a paratrooper but they told me well you can't be a paratrooper because you're color blind or color deficient. I said well I'm gonna try anyway. So when I took the physical sure enough but they gave me the yarn they didn't give me this other test with the books with the numbers in. They gave me the yarn test which they hold up different strands of yarn different color and I had no trouble passing that and os that was good.

Interviewer: Wonder why the difference between?

Lombardi: Well I think you know the thing is this with color blind with color deficiency people in my case if you hold up green and you hold up red I can tell the difference okay. It's only when they're interwound real close that I can't tell.

Interviewer: Right

Lombardi: If you hold them separately paratroopers are not supposed to be color blind neither are artillery officers. Now when I received my commission my battlefield commission on Luzon okay I didn't have to take a physical but when applied for regular army commission in 1953 I had to take a physical again. I'd been through two wars by that time. And here you know field artillery are not supposed to be color blind color deficient. But I'll never forget at Fort Campbell I was stationed here and that old doctor right there where the old hospital used to be where the MPs are now there's a hospital there. And right across the road it was a fire station where the PX that little PX is now just across the. I'll never forget that doctor looked out that thing and said come here captain I was a captain then. He says what color is that grass out there I said well its green. He said what color is that fire truck over there I says red he said you pass. And that's the way it was.

Interviewer: That was an easy test there. Wow

Lombardi: I don't know that they would do that these days.

Interviewer: Did you do your basic training in Ohio or you moved?

Lombardi: Well see what happened is when I came into the army we didn't have basic training centers. What happened there was since I wanted to become a paratrooper I went to one reception center then I had to go to another reception center. This other reception center was a reception center for all would be paratroopers at Camp Tacowa Georgia. And at that reception center they were forming the 11<sup>th</sup> air borne division at that time. So what happened there is I went from there to Camp McCall and the units

were responsible for administering the basic training. So I never went to a training center so to speak. That's the way they did it.

Interviewer: Okay what was your impression of your fellow recruits that you were with?

Lombardi: Oh great I mean these were hand selected people every guy in that unit I was in was handpicked. Because the two qualifications you need for a field artillery battalion is number one physically they've got to be able to haul that 75 pound pack because there were no vehicles you had to pull that. And secondly you had to have an aptitude for mathematics at least add and subtract. Which was you know say today that is no big thing but back then you know 50 years ago it was something. So they were all great people as a matter of fact that group there we still meet every two years. There are not many of us left but that's been going on ever since. And that's the only unit that I was with that still does that.

Interviewer: Was the 11<sup>th</sup> air borne was it already a functioning unit or was it just forming?

Lombardi: No it was just it was not a functioning unit they were organizing it.

Interviewer: Right

Lombardi: So they took what they did they had what they called cadre. You know certain people from different units that had a couple three years in the army and then us recruits fill it up. So that's the way it was and they did it quickly.

Interviewer: I meant to ask you this a minute ago but why the paratroopers? Was there any special reason?

Lombardi: I don't know I had seen a movie I think with Humphrey Bogart or somebody jumping out of airplanes and I remember my brother and I went to see it and this was in Canton. And I said you know I think I'd like to do that and he said are you crazy Art? And I said no I think I would so in the back of mind maybe that was it I don't know.

Interviewer: Wow okay was this your first time you were away from home for a great distance?

Lombardi: Yes

Interviewer: How was that like?

Lombardi: Well I did pretty good with it you know. I got caught up in what I was doing in the army. I must say the day I came into the army I kind of liked it. I like the discipline I like the regimentation and I like it. And so it made things a lot easier for me than for those that didn't like it. So I didn't have any trouble. Oh I missed my mother's cooking I think we all do that.

Interviewer: Probably

Lombardi: But other than that it was okay.

Interviewer: Okay what was your training like?

Lombardi: Very rigorous. Paratroopers training in those days you know we had to just the typical day was we got up and we used to run our five or seven miles every day in our jump boots without boots and everything. Then you had to go through the you had to do the rope climbing you had to do the push-ups the sit-ups the squat jumps. And in addition to that then it come time for training on your basic weapon which was a 75 pack howitzer which you had to pull you know. Didn't have any vehicles so you had to pull those things and so in that sand in North Carolina by the end of the day you're pretty well tuckered out.

Interviewer: Was the 11<sup>th</sup> air borne I'm just curios, was it a mixed group was there whites and blacks in the 11<sup>th</sup>?

Lombardi: No

Interviewer: No it was just whites okay. How good did you think the training

Lombardi: Not until later you know initially now later on you know after the war it became yeah.

Interviewer: How good did you think your training was for the tasks ahead of you?

Lombardi: I think they did a good job. Physically you couldn't find people you know in better physical condition I think throughout the army we were just in prime shape. Just wonderfully physically conditioned but they did a good job on that and technically too from the time that they dealt with it. Things were relatively simple there we didn't have the technology that soldiers have today. But for those days whether it was you know the 50 caliber machine gun or the people that were in the radio section or the people who were in the on the guns or people that were doing survey artillery survey pretty good.

Interviewer: What was the living conditions in your camps?

Lombardi: The 11<sup>th</sup>s mission?

Interviewer: I'm sorry?

Lombardi: You said the mission of the 11<sup>th</sup>?

Interviewer: No I'm sorry what was the living conditions I'm sorry?

Lombardi: The living conditions well what happened was at Camp McCall the living conditions were for stateside duty were atrocious because they had to do these camps real fast. And they put us in these tar paper buildings and there were big cracks you know and we had to heat the there were two stoves one on either end we heated by coal. So you either froze or you burned up one of the two depending on where you situated in the barracks so they weren't too good. But they were alright we got through it alright. Then we went to Camp Polk and we moved into barracks the kind that you see still standing at Fort Campbell they were those kind of buildings. It was much better then.

Interviewer: It must have seemed like paradise.

Lombardi: Yeah because they were coal fire but they were central. Somebody had a boiler down there they did it by it was a little better.

Interviewer: Oh excuse me did you have any contact with civilians during your training time?

Lombardi: No I never ran into a I never ran into a civilian a department of the army civilian during my entire of course you've got to understand my level. In my whole during World War II at all not at all.

Interviewer: Wow

Lombardi: Never

Interviewer: How many parachute jumps did you make during your training or estimate.

Lombardi: You mean during World War II or?

Interviewer: Just during your training were you doing any practice jumps?

Lombardi: Well you have to make five you have to make five parachute jumps. We went down to Fort Benning to qualify they transported us down there by train. We did our in those days you had to pack your parachute and then jump the one that you packed. And you have to do five of those before you get your parachute wings. I think that's still true today and one of them has to be a night jump. So then when we came back after that training then we did some more training jumps there at Camp McCall doing maneuvers or whatever. Then at Camp Polk we did some more and then we did the combat jump on Luzon and then after Luzon we were preparing for the Japanese invasion. So we did some more parachute jumping I don't know I didn't have all that many parachute jumps really. I would say probably maybe 20 or 25 something like that compared to what I did later on in my other air borne assignments.

Interviewer: Did you stick with the 11<sup>th</sup> throughout?

Lombardi: Yeah I stayed with the 11<sup>th</sup> from the day it was activated as a matter of fact I was with it the day it was inactivated in Germany in 1957. In between I had left a little while at times.

Interviewer: Okay do you remember your first parachute jump what that was like? Did that compare with what you thought it would be when you were watching the movie Humphrey Bogart?

Lombardi: I don't remember much about that first parachute jump. I knew I was gonna jump out of that airplane in hell or high water. I knew I think I was surprised a little bit with the opening shock that you get because I was pretty you know I was not a small fellow. And that opening shock really jars you I think if anything in the landing didn't particularly bother me on that day but later on other landings did. I think maybe the opening shock was the only thing that was maybe a little bit that I didn't expect.

Interviewer: What about your fellow trainees did they have any problems did they have any problems with it?

Lombardi: We had a fellow or two that decided at the last minute they didn't want to be paratroopers. And that was no problem in those days you know they if a guy didn't want to they'd just say okay bye

send them to another outfit get somebody else. But we had a couple three that decided that they didn't want to do that which is alright.

Interviewer: Where were you sent after your training?

Lombardi: What?

Interviewer: Where were you sent after your training?

Lombardi: Well after our training we did our training in the states went to Camp Polk did some more training and then we left Oakland California for New Guinea. So that was a 30 day voyage on a bucket of bolts.

Interviewer: What was the voyage over like?

Lombardi: Terrible

Interviewer: Really

Lombardi: The ship that we were on was built for World War I it's called the USS Adeline. Etoline it might have been the first thing you had to do was scuttle it but anyway it was just I mean we only had we had two meals a day and they weren't very good. And there was no air-conditioned or anything like that most of us fortunately because we were in the southern hemisphere we slept on deck. No fresh water showers all salt and boy if you try to lather yourself with salt boy you got it. One canteen of water a day because the water was kind of you know you could only hold so much water so it was only that. But it was not a good very good trip. But we survived it we tried to amuse ourselves we had boxing matches and you know that kind of stuff you know on the ship.

Interviewer: Were you pretty tightly packed on that ship?

Lombardi: Man I'll tell you what those births where about like that you know I was a buck sergeant at the time. I mean you were there in the bunk and your nose would touch the guy on top you were just like sardines. That's why we went on deck.

Interviewer: What was that how do you pronounce the name of the ship?

Lombardi: Adeline

Interviewer: Was that part of a convoy that was moving or you were a single ship?

Lombardi: No we were a single ship.

Interviewer: Really were you worried about Japanese subs?

Lombardi: Oh you know how that goes we no sooner cleared the Golden Gates until is that something out there? Well hell there wasn't no submarine out there. Now the beauty there was some beauty connected with this. Now after you passed the equator and I'll tell you what we didn't run into any foul

weather or anything like that. And those flying fishes and the wind the way it was and those sunsets and all of that just breathtaking that part of it you know.

Interviewer: Let's go back to your training just a minute. What kind of equipment and arms were you training with?

Lombardi: Well the outfit I was with which was a field artillery battalion and I'll down to the unit level that I was with if you are interested in the battery level. We were authorized four pack howitzers 75 pack howitzers. We were authorized four 50 caliber machine guns that you pulled on little cars and a couple of 2.36 bazookas and the standard weapon was the folding stock carbam. Which is a carbam that you stuff in between your reserve and yourself when you jump they were made especially for paratroopers. That's the that was the basic arming of a field artillery battery.

Interviewer: Were you getting Thompsons were you getting Thompson machine guns?

Lombardi: No no Thompson machine guns.

Interviewer: Okay how well did your equipment operate when you and in the training and in the field?

Lombardi: Pretty good pretty good we didn't have much trouble with it. It was all simple equipment you see not much can go wrong with those carbams or the 50 calibers or the 75 packs either. So they weren't high tech stuff see so they were easy to maintain.

Interviewer: Okay one other veteran I talked to from the navy in the Pacific told me he was working with carbams and he said it was one of those rifles you either love it or you hate it. I found that amusing.

Lombardi: I didn't have any heartburn with the carbam you know at all because I had two oars and to me it was a fairly reliable weapon. I guess some people because it was 30 caliber you know it was small a lot of people didn't like it. But then when they modified it you could to the point where you could fire it automatic too if you wanted to it was not a bad weapon.

Interviewer: Where was your first experience of combat?

Lombardi: Well the first experience in combat was on Leyte in our move you know up the chain of islands. Again it was a very terrible time because I think if you look at the if you read your history it was probably they say the worst from a point of torrential rains in forty years. It was just rain I mean slosh we were in a place called Berwyn at an air strip there. And that mud was you know up to your calves and then you tried we had to move our weapons through that up into the foot hills so it was from that point of view it was. And that's when we ran into our first you know combat with the enemy the Japanese.

Interviewer: What happened?

Lombardi: And it was a place where a live person that was not involved in this particular action is the only time that the Japanese mounted an airborne parachute operation against anyone in the Pacific. And they mounted it against the 11<sup>th</sup> at a place called Leapa on Leyte. And the idea was that they were gonna drop these paratroopers Japanese paratroopers and then the forces from the the Japanese forces were to link up with them. But it never worked because they Japanese came down and they had General

Swin the division commander was able to commit the forces to destroy that contention. Then the people never got out of the foot hills either so it didn't work at all.

Interviewer: What kind of reaction did you and your fellow soldiers have toward combat how did they perform did they stay up alright?

Lombardi: the Japanese?

Interviewer: No your fellow comrades.

Lombardi: Oh super you could count on them 100 percent. You never felt like you know you never felt abandoned or this guy wouldn't they you could count on those fellows.

Interviewer: How did it feel to be shot at?

Lombardi: well you know how that goes.

Interviewer: That's kind of an awkward question.

Lombardi: You just hope that they don't hit you.

Interviewer: Right

Lombardi: That's about it. You're scared you know everybody is. People say that you can say you're not scared and it didn't bother me that's maybe that's true in some cases but it's not quite true in my case. I was worried the whole time of course but you had to do what you had to do.

Interviewer: Did you feel close so those you shared your time in service?

Lombardi: What

Interviewer: Did you feel close to the people you shared your time with in the service?

Lombardi: Oh yeah like I say we still meet every two years. We just met here last year at the (telephone rang so the stopped the tape).

Interviewer: So what was combat like in the Philippines for you? What all were you doing during that time?

Lombardi: Oh by that time on New Guiney I got promoted to first sergeant. And I was 19 years old you know so that's the way it was in a lot of units I guess because everybody was young. Then in you know for a 19 year old I guess when I look back I did a lot of worrying about the troops because these were all guys I came in the army with so you know I had devotion to them too. But it was combat in the Philippines and Leyte with all that weather that we had we had a lot of diarrhea a lot of jungle rot. Fellows like you were the ones that were susceptible you know it's kind of odd but with darker complected people like Italians or Phillpinos we didn't have as much as the as my Irish friends had you know. Because they took these sores and jungle rot and there was a lot and I came down with malaria. Malaria and a lot of dangly fever so that always takes its toile on people. So when you combine the two

and everybody we had a rations problem on Leyte when we were up in the mountains trying to get to there it's hard to get resupplied. So they said I'll never forget they said everybody was gonna have Roosevelt said everybody was gonna have turkey on Christmas Day. Well of 1944 and you know we were up there we were eating k-rations which is like a Cracker Jack box it doesn't have much food in it. And we were just getting two of those a day and we said we're gonna get that turkey. And by God wouldn't you know that either that evening and they dropped this these cans they were canned turkey I'll never forget. But it was good we had our turkey.

Interviewer: How did you start to feel in combat did you take bad casualties?

Lombardi: Yeah we took tremendous casualties especially in the battle for Manila. Bad hit up against a brick wall yeah just a they weren't supposed to do what they did. See because an airborne division is not built the way you deploy an airborne division is you drop them and usually an armored force with a lot of heavy stuff or a heavy infantry division they punch through and link up with you. This is called an airhead and then they take the airheads like a leap frog thing. Well they dropped us on Luzon and it was the only division that came in from the south so when they got to Manila with the Japanese navy was done then they had to go you know confront them head on and took a lot of casualties. Took a lot of a whole lot of people killed.

Interviewer: How was your combat parachuting a lot different from training?

Lombardi: Well we started off we staged in a place called Mandoran which is another island. And we took off real early in the morning not too far air miles wise and we dropped about daybreak I guess on a place called Taiga Ti Ridge which is a ridge. Usually ideally paratroopers like to drop in an open field you know where but there was no such field around there. So they had to drop on this ridge so they the equipment and everything you had to what you had to do is we had to go down and retrieve. See the howitzers when you drop them are not dropped in one piece they are dropped in about nine pieces two ammunition loads and the rest. So you had to cart the wheels to trail and the trail you had to get the tube and all that stuff and put it together. And then you had to manhandle them up that ridge so it was a little while before we were able to consolidate. By nightfall though we had everything by later afternoon we had everything pretty well fortunately the Japanese did not attack us. If they'd have attacked us I don't know what we would have done but they did not.

Interviewer: How did you feel toward the replacements that were given to your unit as you took casualties?

Lombardi: They were pretty good I mean they you know we got replacements and they fit in alright. They never become if you start out with a unit and everybody starts from scratch out of civilian life you don't see that too much in the army now because everybody comes in and they're already there. But the way we started out and there's a kind of bond that's created there and to try to infiltrate that is not that it's not to say that we shunned the replacements. It's just that these people had been together a couple years and they knew each other and had been on leave with their families and all of that and they were a little closer knit. But the replacements to answer your question were okay.

Interviewer: I know that some units had tendencies to either shun or kind of push them aside because they were so green and they just didn't expect them to last as long.

Lombardi: Well I never tried to do that. Whenever I got as a first sergeant and later on as an officer I never whenever I got a replacement I tried to give them to somebody you know like I'd say hey sergeant Billy Smith's coming in make sure you take care of him get him squared away. And good NCOs will do that so that well they've got a right you know hell it's not their fault they're replacements. I mean you've got to understand that.

Interviewer: How did you feel about your commanding officers did they seem to be doing a good job getting you guys in the right positions?

Lombardi: Oh yeah as a matter of fact one who was the battery commander responsible for my battlefield commission and you ought to read some of his books his name is Flanagan. He's written any number of history books.

Interviewer: I think I've heard that name before.

Lombardi: Yeah Edward M Flanagan I still talk to him I just talked to him last week. He's written three or four he's got the Los Banos book he's got World War he just got a new books about to be printed about airborne it's all airborne his stuff is all airborne stuff. But he's written some good books but he was one of my commanders West Point class of 1943 January great guy. Good I didn't have any complaints with the people that were that I served with.

Interviewer: Were you getting a lot of support were you well helped by the navy did the army and navy work together well the marines?

Lombardi: Well we didn't have much to do with that stuff. The only occasion I had to do with the navy was on Luzon I'm talking World War II now. We were as a forward observer after I got battlefield commission I was delivering artillery fire and they put at my disposal a cruiser. It was our there for artillery support. And that went alright except that their weapons are different from ours. They're flat projector weapons so you know the artillery like to do this so you come down good but it goes like that. But if you sense it short and you just go up a mill or so it makes it fly. But it worked alright they did a good job.

Interviewer: What about the marines did you ever have any?

Lombardi: Didn't have any contact with the marines. I never fought with the marines I never fought with the marines during World War II now.

Interviewer: Right okay how was life were you with the main fleet as you continued island hopping after the Philippines?

Lombardi: Well we I don't know what you call it we went from Leyte to Luzon and then we staged on Okinawa for the invasion of Japan. And we were the first troops in Japan.

Interviewer: Did you go in with combat in Okinawa or Ewagema?

Lombardi: Okinawa had already they had dropped the atomic bomb.

Interviewer: Okay

Lombardi: We were staging for the invasion of Japan on Luzon. And in the meantime they dropped the atomic bombs and Japan propitiated and so McArthur picked the 11<sup>th</sup> airborne division to escort him into Japan. So we had to go to Okinawa and stage there and then we escorted McArthur into Japan the 11<sup>th</sup> we they were the first allied forces in Japan after World War II.

Interviewer: Okay let's back up just a little bit. What did you do with your free time while you were in the Philippines?

Lombardi: Didn't have much free time because you know we were always training. And then too there weren't any lights or anything like that you see. It got dark at dark.

Interviewer: Right

Lombardi: So but I know that on they did have some athletics that went on volleyball and stuff like that. And then when we got to Luzon after the Luzon campaign they showed some films we got some films in finally and they showed films. And then some of these Bob Hope and those people came from time to time you know you're familiar with it.

Interviewer: Right

Lombardi: Where they used to entertain troops. And they did have a division football team on Luzon and spent our time you know just you tried to read everything you could get ahold of. You couldn't get of too much but I like to read a furious reader and anything I can get a hold of I like to read a lot of other I saw some of the others trying to do the same thing. Unfortunately we didn't get that much.

Interviewer: Did you ever have any leave time overseas or back in the US now?

Lombardi: In the US I had leave time.

Interviewer: Right

Lombardi: Yeah but not overseas.

Interviewer: Okay how did you find out about the progress of the war like over in Europe?

Lombardi: Well they used to pin a little message gram out of the little newspaper thing and it would kind of keep you updated on a little bit of that stuff. But we knew how the war was progressing in Europe pretty well. Yeah we kept because we had an interest in it and of course we knew how the war was progressing in the Pacific too because we were part of it.

Interviewer: Okay when you were in the field did you ever get hot food or sea rations or in between? Were you pretty well fed or kind of randomly?

Lombardi: No not during World War II. Later on it improved quite a bit. But in World War II we had these little stoves that you pump up and you tried to eat your food that way in the field. But I didn't eat very well everybody lost weight the ration system in the army was not that good. The sea rations in those days were not very good and the k-rations were not all the good. Now I will say that towards the ending

they came through with what they called the 10-1 ration. Where it had a can of bacon in it and crackers and see that was really top drawer man everybody got to eat some of that stuff. Powered eggs and stuff like that but that was later on.

Interviewer: Did you ever feel that the 11<sup>th</sup> division that you needed to be relieved and pulled back a little bit to get re-outfitted and get some rest?

Lombardi: Well you know there wasn't anything anybody could do but I think everybody recognized that you know we were in it there. And the division was go gun hoe that everybody wanted to you know get at the enemy and all that stuff. So I don't think you ever got to the point where they said okay even though they had been in combat I think one time which is in the 11<sup>th</sup> airborne history a hundred and fifty something straight days. I never heard anybody ever say you know I wished the hell they would pull us back and get somebody else I never heard anybody say that.

Interviewer: Were you impressed with the qualities of the enemy with their leadership skills?

Lombardi: Yes contrary to what the propaganda at that time would lead you to believe where they were puppet and all of that. I was impressed with their, I don't know whether this is good or not, but you know it's hard to fight somebody who's willing to die. And these guys were just like the guys that did the 9/11 I mean you get a Bombside attack and you know the next morning after the air cleared you would see Japanese with not one but maybe two or three tunikas where they had you know got shot and tried again then got shot and tried again. They were pretty tough guys to fight when they have that kind of because you know they believe that if they got killed it was a big honor so tough to fight that kind of a guy.

Interviewer: Were you ever faced with a Bombside charge?

Lombardi: Oh yes

Interviewer: Really where at?

Lombardi: On Leyte and on Luzon too both times. Yeah it's not an it's like I told General Abreus one time the chief of staff of the army I had to go I was a full colonel I had to go to the Pentagon I was stationed at the Pentagon I had the briefing that morning. And my deputy who was a lieutenant colonel he says Colonel Lombardi aren't you nervous? I said nervous why? He said well you're gonna meet the chief of staff of the army. Well I had known General Abreus for a long time and I walked in there I said well you know I was asked by my deputy whether I was gonna be nervous briefing you this morning sir. And he said what was your answer? I said no I wasn't nervous nervous is when you're 19 years old and you're in the Philippines and a bombside is taking place I said that's when you're nervous. That sums up the way I feel about it.

Interviewer: Okay how did you and the other soldiers feel about these attacks these bombside did it shake the moral?

Lombardi: Well we prepared very the best we could. See we had a rule once it's dark nobody moves I mean if you have diarrhea that's too bad. You don't you just have to do it you know move. Anything that moves you shoot at that was the rule. So and then we used to string out in front little you know boobie traps. Take a hand grenade and put a string or two in the pin and put some sea ration cans there on

some things or whatever so it would trigger when these things were going to come. And we tried to do it you know as far down as we could so we knew when it was gonna come. So that they never caught in my experience they never caught us by surprise we knew they were coming. And so what you did you just as came up the came up to the high ground where you were and that's what you had to do you had to be on high ground. We just shot them we just artillery fire would come in and the carnage was unbelievable in some instances.

Interviewer: How large were these mass attacks?

Lombardi: They would vary I would say the most I was familiar with the most I had anything to do with probably company size attacks I'd say maybe 150, 200.

Interviewer: Any prisoners out of that did any of them surrender?

Lombardi: Well you know unfortunately I don't know whether this was true of other units but the 11<sup>th</sup> airborne division didn't take many prisoners. That's just the way it was. In other wars like in Vietnam and even in Korea it was a little different we took them. But that's not to say we didn't take any prisoners because I remember a couple three that we got them one day and you know they were so pathetic because they hadn't eaten for a long time. And they you could just see that they were malnourished and all of that so I remember giving one a cigarette. I didn't smoke at the time but I had some cigarettes I gave one of them a cigarette and you know they go bow the hell out of you. But you know even at that time I never felt I never felt good about killing anybody I just don't feel good about doing things like that.

Interviewer: Were you or your men ever weary or did you ever have any problem with the Japanese trying tricks such as pretending to surrender and opening fire on you. Or were there any attacks on the medics?

Lombardi: Yeah I've seen that too I've seen where a Japanese pretended to surrender and then have a hand grenade concealed and take yourself and whoever is around with him yeah I've seen that happen. Not too often but I saw it happen I saw it happen.

Interviewer: What about your medics on the front line were they targeted by the Japanese?

Lombardi: The medics?

Interviewer: Uh huh

Lombardi: Medics are a special breed of people they are good. I mean you know they know what they have to do and they saved a lot of people. In my experience you can't give the medics enough credit because they will get out there in the middle of nowhere if someone's wounded and try and take care of them.

Interviewer: Were they ever targeted by the enemy?

Lombardi: The medics?

Interviewer: Uh huh

Lombardi: I have no personal knowledge that they ever targeted an aid station or something like that. They may have done it but I don't have any knowledge of that.

Interviewer: How did when you were working in the Philippines how did the jungle affect your soldiers ability to operate?

Lombardi: The who?

Interviewer: The jungle did it hamper you pretty badly?

Lombardi: Yeah the jungle is it can be a friend or it can be an enemy it all depends. But I know that for example the people were complaining that in the jungle in the thick we had the infantry had the M1 rifle. And so what they did you know they said this thing is too long it gets caught up in the brush. So they gave us they quickly modified the M1s and made a short barrel M1 rifle just to be used in the Pacific. I haven't seen it after that they made it and it worked. But the jungle can be a you know it's not a pleasant place to wage war because it's wet its humid there's all kinds of insects mosquitos you know. And there's all these kinds of things slosh slosh you can and usually associated with jungle is the precipitation in that part of the world where it rains all of the time. You know you try to get a little sleep at night and you can't dig a foxhole to speak of because there's water up there so you try to do the best you can and very uncomfortable.

Interviewer: Were the Japanese in the Philippines were they using the tunnels were they digging tunnels or was that just later in Ewagema and Okinawa?

Lombardi: Yeah we had some in tunnels on Luzon where they went in and our answer to that was flame throwers you know we used a lot of flame throwers to clear them out. But that's not very pretty either.

Interviewer: Was there a lot of souvenirs being traded back and forth between the soldiers on the island?

Lombardi: Do what?

Interviewer: Any souvenirs being traded back and forth between the soldiers and the sailors with the fleet?

Lombardi: Yeah I saw a lot I saw some of that. I remember one time in New Guiney this this was a pilot he wasn't of course it was the air core then. But he had a bottle of whiskey scotch and he came we were our tents were on the fringe of the jungle. And that guy came down I'll never forget that on a motorcycle I don't know where he got the motorcycle and he wanted to trade that bottle of whiskey for a Japanese souvenir. And somebody said well you go down to the end of the thing there's a guy down there that's got a Japanese flag or rifle or something. He went down there and the next thing you know he came back he didn't have the souvenir but he didn't have the whiskey either they took it away from him. But I imagine they did I know I have a Japanese flag that you know that I got from a Japanese officer and Japanese samurai sword and I know that people tried to trade what do you want for that what do you want for that you know. And I don't place much value on those things I just thought maybe someday my grandkids might want them that's the only reason I've kept them.

Interviewer: What about civilians and refugees did you have any contact with them?

Lombardi: With who?

Interviewer: Civilians or refugees on maybe the Philippines?

Lombardi: A lot of refugees a lot of refugees in the Philippines. And most of them were almost all of them were of course pro American in the Philippines. And now they did run into something in Luzon where some of the and this the Americans did a fair amount but the Japanese anybody that was a Japanese supervisor they knew who they were. And so they took care of them in a very brutal way I mean it was terrible what they did to those people. I you know it wasn't part of us to do because they weren't a part of us but they I mean in France they cut their hair off. But in the Philippines they had this one thing I'll tell you Patrick they'd take these they called them \_\_\_\_\_ these Japanese supervisors. What they'd do is they would cut bamboo you know down to the ground level and at the pinpoint level and they would strap these guys down on it. Now bamboo grows about an inch a night or more and that stuff would grow right through them.

Interviewer: Oh

Lombardi: Now that's to me I tell you what anytime I saw anything like that I tried to do my damdest to stop it because I don't care that's just too in human as far as I'm concerned. But they were so caught up in that the Filipinos because I had no way of knowing what these like one Filipino told me he said well you don't know what he did. I said well what did he do well we lost I don't know how many from our village because he did this or he did that. So you know retribution.

Interviewer: Did you actually come across some of this and put a stop to it?

Lombardi: Well we had no authority to put a stop to it because it was the Filipinos who were doing it. I mean the only thing you could do was appeal to them. I will say this I don't know how much of that went on you know I just saw an incident or two of it. And I'm thinking if I saw it then maybe elsewhere they were doing the same thing. But to me that was the most brutal thing I had ever seen.

Interviewer: During your time in combat oh I'm sorry let me ask you this. How did the Philippines react to you as being an American soldier? They were happy to see you?

Lombardi: Oh yeah oh yeah they were very happy to see us.

Interviewer: What about later on Okinawa and later Japan?

Lombardi: Okinawa we didn't stay there very long because we just staged there. Japan now a different story because in Japan of course there had been all of this propaganda that Americans were beasts and since we were the first troops in what they did in my case they gave me they had these C54s they brought in reloaded jeeps on plus troops. And they gave me 10 jeeps with crews and they said what they wanted me to do the order was I was just a lieutenant and they said I wasn't you to all you people with these spread out as far as you can. Drive through all of the villages Yokahama, Tokyo and all of the side streets to let the Japanese people know that we're here. That first trip was an eerie trip because first of all the streets once they saw us coming they all hid because they figured you know here comes the atrocious atrocity Americans. Gonna pillage and rape and do all of this. And I remember in one case we went through this one little neighborhood and this little Japanese kid was on the street just maybe two years old something like that and man somebody came flying across that street and grabbed that kid.

The next thing you know he was gone. But I will say this it didn't take long a week later you go down through that same street and they were all out there. Now they weren't they're not like the Filipinos they weren't overjoyed but if you offered them a chocolate bar or some chewing gum they'd except it.

Interviewer: They reciprocated right.

Lombardi: Yeah

Interviewer: Was there ever any resistance?

Lombardi: I never encountered any.

Interviewer: Really

Lombardi: The only resistance I encountered was when we went into the dying building and we did not know it was the dying building.

Interviewer: What's the dying building?

Lombardi: The dying building is like our congress congressional. And there's a big seat in the front where the emperor sits he never comes but that's for him.

Interviewer: Right

Lombardi: Well we didn't know this building was the dying building they said go around so we went in there and I know I'll never forget this Japanese was there and of course they'd disarmed all of them and he kept saying. What the hell is this guy doing this for we just want to go see. So we went in there and he was nervous and all and one of the guys he said man look at that chair he says I wonder who sits in that thing. We didn't know it was emperor's chair well this guy sat in it. Well that's sacrilegious sitting in the emperor's chair. I thought this damn Japanese was gonna have a conniption fit. He was going and going and finally I says I don't know. We had an interpreter he wasn't with us and I told him and he said you know what that was I says hello no I don't' know what it was. This guy is all upset because \_\_\_ was sitting in the chair. He said well that's the emperor's chair nobody sits in that chair. I said well \_\_\_ sat in it.

Interviewer: Oh boy

Lombardi: It has it humorous sides.

Interviewer: That's funny.

Lombardi: It is.

Interviewer: So you were a lieutenant then?

Lombardi: Yeah

Interviewer: When did you get promoted to lieutenant?

Lombardi: Well what happened was on Luzon they well let me go back a little bit. On Leyte this guy Flanagan who was the battery commander said I think you ought to take a commission. He says go to Australia where they have an officers candidate school get established in officers candidate school in infantry and artillery. He said it takes three months go over there and I want you to go to the OCS. Well I thought about it you know and I've got to leave my unit and I've got to leave these guys first sergeant then and I've got to leave and I don't want to do that. I said I don't want to do that I don't want to leave the unit. When I come back I'm gonna go into the pipeline and heaven knows where I'm gonna end up I won't be with my unit again. Well he says okay well we got to Luzon and we did the jump and the authority commander a guy named Farrell came down to see me he says well you know Lombardi I think you ought to take a commission. I said well I don't want to go to OCS he says well no we're gonna give you battlefield commission. He said go down raise your right hand you'll be a second lieutenant. I said well as long as I don't have to leave my unit I'll do it. So I did went down raise my hand made me lieutenant didn't make any difference nobody wore rank over there anyhow because you know Japanese. I came back by God wouldn't you know a week later he said Art I've got bad news for you. He said were gonna move you I said oh come on. So they moved me to another battalion what they were doing they were converting another field artillery battalion to a parachute artillery battalion. And they needed a paratrooper officer over there for the invasion of Japan so that's where I ended up for that. But yeah it was a battlefield commission.

Interviewer: Were you ever wounded in combat in World War II?

Lombardi: Yeah got wounded in Luzon.

Interviewer: What happened?

Lombardi: Got one of these bombside attacks I don't I know where in the hell they come from but I caught a fragment right here and hell I thought it was my heart. I put it under my hand and it was bloody and I thought what the hell happened you know. I looked down there and the guy with me the sergeant with me said hey sir you've been hit in the heart. I said oh no. So they evacuated me and they found out that the rib cage had whatever it was fragment the rib cage it didn't have enough velocity so it just. But I was bleeding profusely for damn long time I'll tell you that.

Interviewer: Did you know you were fit?

Lombardi: I felt some burning sensation but it wasn't until I put my I had fatigues on and all of a sudden I saw this blood and said oh darn. But they tried to get me on a \_\_\_ and I said I can walk and they said don't be so dang hard headed you might have something in your heart. But that wasn't until morning I had to wait until morning until they did that.

Interviewer: Oh boy.

Lombardi: But it didn't keep me out of action long.

Interviewer: How was the medical treatment you received?

Lombardi: Well they just took me to a tent and a like one of these Mash units you see. Took me to one of them they just looked at it and patched it up. Kept me there for a couple of days and finally said okay you can go so I left on my own just went. That wasn't my most serious things right at the end of the

Luzon campaign what happened is they used to give a pill called Atabrine which is supposed to it doesn't cure malaria but it suppresses it. Well I got to Luzon and I said I'm gonna find out about this malaria business I don't know whether I've got it or not because it's suppressed. I said I'm gonna take these Atabrine for about a week or week and a half. Man I tell you what the worst thing in the world I ever did I damn near died you know. The damn malaria came flying out of there and they evacuated me.

Interviewer: It didn't suppress it? The pill didn't suppress it or?

Lombardi: Well see they started pouring it in me it did but in the meantime the malaria had surfaced.

Interviewer: Oh

Lombardi: They evacuated me to Manila and they put me in the hospital there. And start giving me Atabrine and all this other stuff and I'll never forget it was just about the time we were getting ready to go to Okinawa to stage. And I woke up and I thought I was alright and I told the nurse I said I've got to get out of here my unit is going to Okinawa to go to Japan. She said well you're not going. So I didn't say anything she left and I put on my clothes and I went. Got on an airplane got out to Clark Field got on an airplane I said you heading for Okinawa C46 yeah okay. So that's where I joined up.

Interviewer: How hard was it to join up with your unit?

Lombardi: It was a rainy night when I got there on Okinawa I'll never forget. Sloshing around and \_\_\_ kept saying where's the 674 where's the 674 well we don't know we think up there we think down there. And finally I found them.

Interviewer: Did you ever get in trouble for leaving the hospital?

Lombardi: No I never did get in trouble you know in those days they didn't keep good record and I didn't I didn't come I kept taking my Atabrine. But they recorded that I had malaria so and a good thing they did because when I got out of the army it meant a little disability. It helped me under the GI bill because man I started getting it again when I stopped taking the Atabrine. The way they explained it to me it's called \_\_\_ malaria and every attack that you have is not as bad as the preceding attack. So as time went on

Interviewer: It slowly faded right?

Lombardi: It slowly faded away. Yeah so I haven't had any effect of it since that time.

Interviewer: I don't know much about malaria is that contagious can you pass it from soldier to soldier?

Lombardi: No it's not contagious it's done by the monopolies mosquito and it carries it in its stinger you know it carries that malaria in its stinger. No it's not contagious you can't catch it.

Interviewer: Okay were you ever recommended for a medal?

Lombardi: Oh yeah I was recommended for \_\_\_ medals in World War II. Got the soldiers medal that's one up there it's the third one from the last.

Interviewer: I see it on the top part?

Lombardi: Yeah it's kind of blue the soldiers medal. I got that then I got the next one the Bronze Star with the \_\_\_ during World War II. And I got the Purple Heart of course.

Interviewer: For the fragment wound?

Lombardi: Yeah and the other medals there are for Korea.

Interviewer: Okay when you were overseas the Philippines, Okinawa, Japan did you ever were you ever sending any mail home.

Lombardi: Yeah I used to of course my mom and dad couldn't read English but I had my youngest sister is the one that was my pin pal and we used to write back and forth all the time. And I used to have what they call the v-mail. And we used to use those v-mail things. It was always nice getting a letter from her.

Interviewer: Was the mail pretty regular for you?

Lombardi: No sporadic you know. But the guys that were I wasn't married at the time but the guys that were married and I didn't have any sweetheart either you know I didn't have any fiancée or anything. So I had a sister but these guys I think looked forward to you know getting mail from their wives and their sweethearts more than I did.

Interviewer: Okay were you when they had the invasion of Japan how were you feeling about that?

Lombardi: The what?

Interviewer: The invasion of Japan you know preparing for that. (Mr. Lombardi has to get up for a moment and the tape is turned off.)

Lombardi: Really you know I was there we assumed we were gonna go into Japan. It came as a pleasant surprise when they dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the war was over. I never I can't remember deliberating about it that much.

Interviewer: How was your time in occupation in Japan?

Lombardi: I didn't stay there very long because I had we got there in August and then I left at the end of November because I had enough points. You know I had been wounded and all of that stuff so they gave us priority so I left. But what I do remember about Japan the occupation was I'll tell you one thing about the occupation I never got so tired of turkey in all my life. See what happened is they were gearing up they were fixing everyone was going to be in the Pacific for Thanksgiving and they had ordered all this turkey I mean hundreds of thousands of pounds of turkey.

And when we got disbanded they started shipping all these guys home real quick. So breakfast, dinner, supper turkey this turkey that turkey this. I've never eaten so much turkey in all of my life.

Interviewer: It's a good thing you weren't a vegetarian.

Lombardi: But they had horses if people wanted to drive horses they could. And the area that we ended up in Northern Japan was a silk center so there was a lot people would buy you know silk ship home or whatever. But like I said I never got in the units were not combat ready because everybody was leaving. You get people leaving you couldn't there was no training you couldn't everybody said the wars over there' never gonna be another war you know so what's the use of worrying about it. So everything was put into storage or whatever came back to haunt us five years later.

Interviewer: Yeah what did you do after you came out of the army?

Lombardi: Well I was gonna stay in the army. The general commanding general in the division Swift who had been instrumental in my battlefield commission called us in not just me. Says I think you guys are cut out for the army you ought to stay in. And I told him I said well he was a West Point class of 1915 Eisenhower's class. And I said sir you know I would like to stay in the army but I think I've got to get an education. And you know there had been talk about the GI bill and everything. I said I'd like to he said well son he said I can't fault that he said you go get your education. So that's what I did I came home and enrolled in Ohio University then came back in the army in 1949.

Interviewer: I have one more question for you. Dr. Zieren wanted me to ask you what how you got the nick name the Godfather.

Lombardi: Okay I'll tell you how I got the nickname. About the time that Puzo wrote his book The Godfather I was stationed at Fort Bragg North Carolina. I was a full colonel and I commanded the core artillery. At that time I smoke cigars and the commanding general was a lieutenant general and his deputy was a brigadier. Myself and one other guy used to play golf a couple times a week. By nature I am not I'm kind of laid back a little bit I don't say much especially in the presents of senior officers. And I was a good golfer but I'd smoke that cigars and not say much you know and take them to the cleaners all the time you know. And that general one day he says Mel he says you talk about a contract an offer somebody can't refuse this guy here everything you're on the golf course he has one he says he's the Godfather. And somebody caught on about that and it just went and just went on and now all over the army no matter where I go I'm known all over the army all over Washington D.C. they don't know Lombardi they know the Godfather though.

Interviewer: I hear that you're very well known here at Fort Campbell.

Lombardi: Well you know that goes by age I guess Patrick. But if you look at all of the things that they give me everything's for Godfather on it. Then you have the Godfather invitational golf tournament here every year civilians caught on to it. And so they have that every year at the country club here that's another thing they do but I don't know. But I don't know why they do that.

Interviewer: Well I think that's about enough for today. I'd like to thank you once more and that's about it.

Lombardi: Anytime Patrick it's such as delight to have had you.