

Herb Ewing

Interviewer: What I would like to start out with is asking you your full name, date of birth and place of birth.

Ewing: Well my name is Herbert H. Ewing I was born March 11, 1918 in Finley, Ohio.

Interviewer: Finley, Ohio?

Ewing: Yeh

Interviewer: Okay and then so you were if we jump ahead to in 38, 37, 39 end of the depression era you were 20, 21 years at that point how did the depression affect you and your family?

Ewing: Didn't affect us as I remember very much coming up at 12, 13, 14 years old. My grandfather was in the dredging business sand and gravel business on the river and I had a business down here next door to us that's where his business office was and building materials too. And so I went to military school most of that time I went to Kimber Military School in Missouri for five years. I went through three years of high school two years of college.

Interviewer: What branch of the military were you in and what unit?

Ewing: I was in the Army in the infantry.

Interviewer: And in the infantry.

Ewing: Now you're talking you just want WWII? I was in Korea too.

Interviewer: Yes we'll start with WWII.

Ewing: I went to the Army and I was commissioned in 1938.

Interviewer: 1938 you were commissioned?

Ewing: Yeh

Interviewer: You were already in and an officer

Ewing: I was already an officer.

Interviewer: When the war started. So were you very aware as an officer at that point what was going on in the Pacific and Europe before Pearl Harbor?

Ewing: not particularly maybe about 1939 about 40 when I started getting the news radio news was especially Europe not too much on the second team part.

Interviewer: Where were you stationed?

Ewing: Well I went in the service in approximately April 1, 1941.

Interviewer: Okay

Ewing: Assigned to Fort Camp Livingston, Louisiana. And I went down there as a Second Lieutenant and I was assigned to the 32nd division it was a National Guard Division from Wisconsin.

Interviewer: Now what made you decide to go into the service before the start of the war that was not very common?

Ewing: I was called.

Interviewer: Called?

Ewing: In April 41 and so I went in there.

Interviewer: And you ended up in Wisconsin?

Ewing: No I went to Louisiana in the 32nd division I was with them through the whole my part of the war.

Interviewer: What was your training like in Louisiana?

Ewing: Well that was a the that was a lot of field training mostly. I was assigned as a what do they call it an umpire during the Louisiana maneuvers which took about a month, month and a half or so. And I was assigned then to the first armor division as an umpire and that was General Patton's division then he was division commander.

Interviewer: No kidding

Ewing: I was don there yeh.

Interviewer: What was the function of the umpire?

Ewing: The function of the umpire was to create the scene as the troops were moving and they'd come to say a bridge or something well umpires could tell the troops or the commanders of those troops that bridge is blown out I mean its just one thing. So then they've got to figure out something else what they are going to do. And just report on how they did later on.

Interviewer: Now how much training did you have before that to serve as an umpire?

Ewing: None

Interviewer: None so you just create these scenarios and they act on them based on what you told them.

Ewing: Of course most of those umpires see a lot of those umpires were a higher command that functioned first. In fact there was a number of the Generals during the war were Lieutenant Colonels, Colonels were there. I was thinking that Eisenhower was somewhere in that thing and Patton was in there and I can't think of the other fellows man went to Europe but there were a lot of those guys. And they of course they had a chain of command down to us the troops in the thing the privates of that.

Interviewer: Were those valuable exercises?

Ewing: Yeh they were all over Louisiana and eastern Texas cause the thing I was with the armor division and we went right down and came back all the way down the bottom and came back up into Louisiana and that's where they closed the thing out.

Interviewer: Now did you anticipate now this is in the spring and summer of 41.

Ewing: That would be no I was there that was about September or October.

Interviewer: September, October 41

Ewing: Yeh and I went to Fort Benning.

Interviewer: Did you have any feeling about Pearl Harbor ahead of time?

Ewing: I was no

Interviewer: And where were you were you at Fort Benning?

Ewing: I was going to school at Fort Benning my wife and I were riding around Fort Benning about 10 o'clock Sunday morning when we heard on the radio.

Interviewer: Okay

Ewing: It was Pearl Harbor I didn't know.

Interviewer: And what was your immediate emotional response?

Ewing: I can't remember I just remember going oh my well it's going I mean you knew immediately that things was coming to ahead that's what it amounts to.

Interviewer: And what were you being trained to do at Fort Benning?

Ewing: I was at infantry school for all of the platoon leaders that had gone to commanders to command for the company platoon up to the company commander's school it was a company commander's school.

Interviewer: What was your day to day like during that period of time what would a normal day be for you?

Ewing: Go to school and the field the field on subject matter you had good weapons and everything your machine guns and you had tactics for platoons and for companies. And all of these were set up on the field and you'd go out there and you had to do what supposed to do what you were supposed to do they would set up a scenario. And they'd take you to the field and a lot of time you could almost see where it had been done before and the procedure to see what you would have done and hope that it was right and they'd let you know in a critique later on. That was about a three months course.

Interviewer: Wow so that takes us to the end of 1941 and then where did you go from there?

Ewing: I went from school there we went up to Fort Devens, Massachusetts the whole unit was the whole division I'm back with the 32nd division. Went to Fort Devens and we were there about a month and they shipped us all the way across by train to California. And went to Fort Orr and that was somewhere about by the time I got through with that somewhere around April the 1st of April. And we boarded at Fort Orr which came under the Golden Gate Bridge cause I can remember standing under the deck looking up when I went under it. And our wives were all at the top of the mark out there that big bar they had that lounge and we went to Australia.

Interviewer: Now when you were in Massachusetts did you know whether you were going across the Atlantic or the Pacific?

Ewing: We thought we were going to the Atlantic but that's what I said we got there and were there about a month and shipped us all the way out the whole division.

Interviewer: And you went from there to Australia?

Ewing: We there Attala.

Interviewer: How long of a trip was it on the ship?

Ewing: Seemed like it took almost three weeks.

Interviewer: And were you sea sick at all?

Ewing: No

Interviewer: On the trip over?

Ewing: No

Interviewer: Were a number of you sea sick?

Ewing: Yes

Interviewer: But you didn't have that at all?

Ewing: I've never been sea sick. I've almost gotten sick when I watched somebody else but I managed to make it. But we went and we had one escort the cruiser Indianapolis and that's the one that got blown up later on in the war 800,000 that was our escort we were just one ship.

Interviewer: With the Indianapolis as your escort?

Ewing: We had an escort there and they weaved the ships weaved back and forth they'd run so long and then they'd turn to another and they'd go so long. And they alter those legs their not all five minutes or ten minutes they altered them.

Interviewer: How much communication did you have from the top down and how much talk did you do among yourselves about how the war was going and where you might have been going heading? How was the war going as far as you knew?

Ewing: Well I don't think except for reading the Stars and Stripes we didn't have any radios I mean that type of where we were in the field so what we got was mostly by Stars and Stripes. And newspapers that they had in Australia and I think you are more involved in our own training and your own units and everything as you were see we were the second team I mean we found that out as the thing progressed. Because very little equipment came over that's why we lived with the worst of any units I've know had to live physically now not battle wise but physically.

Interviewer: Really?

Ewing: Yeh cause there wasn't no equipment. All of the main equipment was going over to Europe.

Interviewer: Were you doing additional training in Attala once you got there?

Ewing: Well I think seemed like yes we did we trained out in the field had to run the sheep out of the pasture, they've got a lot of sheep down there. Then we were there about a month and a half and then we shipped everything ordered everything out from Attala took it all the way up past Bruiseman which is beautiful beaches up there. Went up there and there was another camp but I can't think of the name of that camp. And we were there for about oh maybe a month and a half.

Interviewer: A month and half or so?

Ewing: Then we had MacArthur came down and gave us a speech?

Interviewer: Really

Ewing: Uh huh it was as speech before we left.

Interviewer: What did the speech consist of and what was the

Ewing: I can't remember just you know I'm going to return that was his main thing. But I can't remember but I can remember his speech there were all the divisionals spread out sitting down there listening to him.

Interviewer: And how many of the people had come from Massachusetts to California to Attala and then out there of this division that you already knew? Were you intact at all or was it reformed at some point?

Ewing: No I didn't know any of them until I got there they were all Wisconsin and they were getting recruits from the you know the selective service I mean from the draft so that was those guys were filtering in as we were building the unit.

Interviewer: So you past Bruiseman as this point?

Ewing: Do what?

Interviewer: You were on the north end of Australia at that point?

Ewing: No Bruiseman is about half way.

Interviewer: Okay

Ewing: And then when we were ready to go after our speech and so forth I'm trying to think how we got up we went to an airfield north of there I think we were trucked up there another 100 miles or so into Townsville I think is the name of the town. And we flew oh I think that's the first airborne there weren't jumpers or anything it was just airborne our regimen into New Ginny they flew us and everything they had C46, C47s, PBYS if you know what a PBY is. And some flying fortresses I understood they had some guys they put in bombers that they put up there they didn't have enough planes for that type of thing.

Interviewer: And did you know what your mission was in New Ginny?

Ewing: No yeh we thought we were going to go up there and stop the Japanese from attacking Australia the Northern part of Australia. In fact we had a line set up back above Bruiseman and we just had patrols even out there they thought the Japanese were going to come down. And that was the reason that MacArthur decided to stop them in New Ginny so we flew in to New Ginny.

Interviewer: And how long was it after you got to New Ginny that combat started with you

Ewing: After we got in New Ginny

Interviewer: Immediately

Ewing: No cause no we had to walk they flew us further in those little airstrips they cut out engineers had cut out so these then they were using all the C47s, 46s which I don't know whether your familiar with. DC3 well they used that airstrip when we landed there I can't remember it was a little they cut it long enough to get in and out from there we walked marched and carried all of our equipment. We didn't have very much we stripped it down from there.

Interviewer: What did you have in the way of weaponry at that point?

Ewing: We had some O3s and gernas were coming in and I was shooting Thompsons sub machine gun which is the heaviest thing in the world with drum and one drum in it and one on my hip.

Interviewer: Oh man

Ewing: And it must of weighted but we didn't have any kitchens but as we got a little further in, in fact for about two months there we had nothing but cold rations.

Interviewer: No kidding

Ewing: No resupply clothing socks rot off your feet it was just no supply.

Interviewer: Now was this during the summer?

Ewing: You spent all your time in the rain.

Interviewer: What period of time was this what?

Ewing: This was would be in September, October, November and December we were there for Christmas time I know.

Interviewer: And this was in 42?

Ewing: Uh huh that was in the Buna campaign.

Interviewer: And could you

Ewing: That was the first campaign I think at Fort Morris they had another fort but Australia had some command up in there I was them come out of there they had been up in there for almost 8 or 9 months I guess way up in there. They were a ragged looking bunch but they were a tuff looking bunch.

Interviewer: And how did it go what was the experience like for you at that point?

Ewing: It was you're in the jungles you've never been in the jungles they didn't have jungle schools you operated in the jungles. It was kind of scary, scarier for the guy I had a I commanded a common company I was in the the biggest break I ever had it was I started out I should say started out as a platoon leader in a rifle company. And I went to a heavy weapons company as a platoon leader and I got overseas to Attala and I was promoted to a First Lieutenant. And I was assigned to a new organization and established for the war department a cannon company regimen. And I got in that and then that was a break in a way it was sure better than a rifle company. So I got didn't have to get up in the front there as much as they did we had mortars they didn't have any cannons we had mortars.

Interviewer: Oh okay

Ewing: And so we went into Boon and I don't know which regiment took it we were they set us on they put us on one flank as infantry men we didn't have anything didn't have any weapons with us yet hadn't gotten they hadn't caught up with us. So we were up on the northern plank I guess it was trying to hold that down and not knowing sure what we were doing it was a it was kind of hit and miss thing that happened over there. One artillery division piece division you could hear it back in the back once in a while boom that was about all. I was a lot of plane action.

Interviewer: At that point you were supposed to hold the line? You were supposed to prevent their advance?

Ewing: We were just our company was just protecting north to keep them from coming down and the attack team from the south this way and we were just right on the corner and there were some oozies in the attack too. I don't know what outfit that was it was a battalion I believe. And we flew into that place an done regiment marched over all the way over the Erwin Stanly Range which was a big range they

marched that who thing that was 120 well I was in the 128th infantry and that was the I think 126th it was three regiments I believe that was the 126th.

Interviewer: And how long did that battle go on?

Ewing: It went on until we didn't get out of there until January of 1940 we got out of there January 43 went back to Australia.

Interviewer: And that campaign was successful.

Ewing: We went back there for two months they redid it and we came back to New Ginny again started up the coast line landing had to go so far to land and our mission there was to try to cut off all the stragglers they could. By that time there was mostly stragglers there were very few organized units.

Interviewer: Were there a lot of stragglers still at that point?

Ewing: They killed a lot of them you have to remember in Boon where we were when we finally took it we got out on the beach there and there was some of the glows were swimming out in the water.

Interviewer: No kidding.

Ewing: Swimming out in the water three or four hundred yards. You could see heads when they was swimming around. They were swimming around to get over to further north where they could go.

Interviewer: Then go back in?

Ewing: They tried to get back out. Three or four of us laid there on the ground tried to fire at those heads but they were bobbing up and down about 400 yards off I don't think anybody hit anything.

Interviewer: When did you know that that had been successful, completely successful?

Ewing: Do what

Interviewer: When did you know that new Ginny was secure?

Ewing: Well we figured it was successful after units went in there then we were told that they cleared the village and it was just a village just a bunch of paper sacks not paper sacks but bamboo sacks, shacks in there. But I went down there a couple of times down into it and there was infantry men from some other units of the regiment were in there and you'd hear some rounds fired every now and then. And that's where I saw them take the they had a prisoner when I went down there speaking of prisoners cause of us over here in and this group I don't know who they were I was just down there nosy. And they had as I walked by they had shot a Japanese straggler on a sunken a little sunken boat out there and he they had brought him out of the water they had laid him on the ground there. I was walking oh I was 20 or 30 years away I walking up this way I could see him over there they had him laid out. And as I walked by one of those guys standing there he was surrounded by and one of them lit a cigarette and he acted like he was giving him a cigarette like that and the guys laying there on his back he takes one puff like that and about that time I hear a bang and I looked around and there was a little guy up there shot

him, shot him right through the head. And a picture of that was taken there was a life photographer around there took a picture of that and somewhere I got hold of one of them and I had that thing around for a long time while I was over there. But I took it and tore it up I mean I didn't know about this cause it wasn't right. Wasn't nothing I could have done about it I don't know what that unit was around him.

Interviewer: Sure

Ewing: Anyway there were two or three things that. Let's see maybe I can show you something here. He had a that's before I left this was the bodies Japanese bodies floating around but these were Americans you can see their helmets but they were anyway just.

Interviewer: Yeh that's remarkable.

Ewing: This thing is I don't know whether it would be of any use to you.

Interviewer: Well it's very interesting as a document.

Ewing: But I mean if you want to utilize it that would be fine with me. My dad put all of that together during the war.

Interviewer: Oh really

Ewing: Uh huh

Interviewer: I know that was a famous campaign a famous battle.

Ewing: It wasn't I don't think it was as big a fight we didn't get into it we made one attack we did it was very unsuccessful we got hung up with a machine gun before we got 50 yards down the path.

Interviewer: Really

Ewing: Two men killed and a couple wounded and that was as far as we went, we came back. But we weren't set up to do much. Anyway went back to Australia

Interviewer: Your 24, 25 years old at this point right?

Ewing: Yeh

Interviewer: And still a lieutenant?

Ewing: Yeh no I was trying to think of when I was made captain.

Interviewer: Were you captain by now?

Ewing: When I went back my company commander who was the company commander of the cannon company just before we left New Ginny he got pulled out of the company and sent back to division headquarters as the aid to the assistant division commander. I ended up with the company and when I

came back I ended up as the company commander as the captain. And then when I went back up there I was the captain and we went from Laden New Ginny of course there' headquarters up there to Latte and the Philippines.

Interviewer: Okay

Ewing: We were there about oh we didn't make the landing we were there about a week after the landing. I saw that friend there on that beach he brought some of my equipment in.

Interviewer: I'll be darned saw him there?

Ewing: Uh huh saw him on the beach.

Interviewer: That's remarkable.

Ewing: That was remarkable I think that was the first person I seen.

Interviewer: When was the last previous time to that you had seen him?

Ewing: Somewhere in Kawa I guess had to be before.

Interviewer: How what was your day to day like?

Ewing: Huh

Interviewer: What was your day to day routine like when you were in the middle of that were you just in survival mode or were you

Ewing: Most of you days a lot of your days you didn't do anything especially the second time we came up. Because we came up to make a landing at Sadr there were two or three places we made them when the infantry moved up the longer usually longer paths and those infantry companies would battalions was the ones that did most of it we'd follow back incase what we was supposed to do. And a lot of times there wouldn't be nothing for awhile.

Interviewer: So it was hurry up and wait?

Ewing: Yeh and you would set there and they would bring the hospitals up a little further and things like that work its way up. Sometimes we went up to Lassiter which was north and there we went to Latte in the Philippines.

Interviewer: And what kind of situation was on the ground at Latte at this point in terms of security.

Ewing: You're talking about when we were in New Ginny?

Interviewer: Yeh and up to Latte.

Ewing: They had pretty well cleared and taken care of most of the stragglers. What they wanted cause they were starting to bring in more supply units and stuff below us Boone a supply place brought in you

know American units. And then Landin looked like it had been pretty well cleared out because MacArthur had a big headquarters there I never saw so many Wacks in my life. I hadn't seen but a couple of air nurses in two years.

Interviewer: That was a sight for sore eyes.

Ewing: MacArthur had he had about he must have had 200 of them up there. Anyway we didn't stay very long then they shipped us to Latte. We landed on Latte and I was on Latte about a month I think. And then I came home from Latte.

Interviewer: Oh you did?

Ewing: Uh huh came back to Landin on some kind of a boat pulled in to we got out at Landin we cleaned up had a little mess tent on the company and you could look out and see the boat it was a nice great big passenger boat. It wasn't even an Army boat it was a passenger boat.

Interviewer: So this is 45 when you got back?

Ewing: No I came back in when did I get back? I was over 35 months I have to figure out when that was I was coming back that was 44.

Interviewer: 44

Ewing: Yeh I came back somewhere and I think I got about around the first of 45 somewhere around January of 45.

Interviewer: Did you have any idea during that period what the duration of your involvement was going to be or when?

Ewing: No none of us did we didn't even ask didn't even think about it. Most of us just thought well we'll be there until they tell us to go home. They had some kind of a point system the finally established and it had to do with the time you were in there the time you were in combat and so forth. And that points system took up and out of that points system they would bring them back as they reached a number of points.

Interviewer: Obviously you got a fairly high number of points out of that system.

Ewing: Most of those guys in that division did because they had been there a long time. I mean that was a different kind of war they didn't fly you back home for three weeks.

Interviewer: None right no R&R no nothing.

Ewing: You didn't have any telephones to call anybody so it was entirely a different kind of war than you've got now which is fortunate or unfortunate. See I came home then I got home about somewhere in 45 and went to Fort Benning again as an instructor.

Interviewer: So this was before did you get back before VE-Day then?

Ewing: Yeh

Interviewer: You got back before VE-Day.

Ewing: I was the once that came I got into Fort Benning somewhere about oh I think March or February or early March. I was assigned to the weapons section of Fort Benning in the instructors.

Interviewer: Was there a general feeling at that point inside the military that we were winning and about to win in both of those theaters or either of those theatres?

Ewing: Yeh I think so because they were doing pretty goo in Europe. Incidentally did you ever see that plan that they had for attacking Pearl Harbor? I mean the plan we had to attack Japan?

Interviewer: No I never have no I never have. Do you have it?

Ewing: Yeh I don't know where I got it its' interesting you might want to take it.

Interviewer: To Fred and we'll make a copy that's outstanding.

Ewing: I think Fred's seen it. I know Fred's seen it I've tried to show it to everybody that's old enough

Interviewer: To know the significance of it?

Ewing: Yeh it's very interesting.

Interviewer: After VE-Day when you're at Fort Benning and you're an instructor and when you think about what was going on in the Pacific having been there and been in as much combat as you were, how did you feel about the Japanese? Both their confidence as soldiers and did you have some kind of feeling about them as people or as a country?

Ewing: Well yes I did of course see I went back in the Korean I was in Japan then later five years later.

Interviewer: Okay

Ewing: But I was always had a reluctant admiration for the soldiers they were tough they were tough dedicated. And with they were vicious but they were good soldiers and they were tough soldiers But the thing that was nice about them was that if you ever capture them they'd talk if you gave them some cigarettes and some food especially stragglers and they would talk tell you anything.

Interviewer: Really

Ewing: See they are told they will never be captured to begin with they are taught they will never be captured.

Interviewer: It's impossible

Ewing: So you can't tell them that they will never be captured and then turn around and tell them now if you care captured you won't say certain things. They would just talk.

Interviewer: No kidding

Ewing: With a ribbon in fact there used to be a picture, I don't have it, of a plane flying over New Ginny part of New Ginny and had a picture that was inside of the plane was a Japanese officer major I think who was pointing out all the he was captured and he was pointing out on the ground all the places he knew from his own experience down there. That was

Interviewer: That's very interesting.

Ewing: It was very interesting.

Interviewer: They had to tell them it was impossible for them to be captured so they couldn't prepare them for it.

Ewing: And so they didn't theoretically we're taught what to say and what not to say name, rank and serial number. I'm not sure there were people who didn't abide by that and couldn't probably. But there theory was they wouldn't be captured then they can't tell them what to say.

Interviewer: How did you feel when you heard about the atomic bomb?

Ewing: Who

Interviewer: What he heard about Hiroshima.

Ewing: Oh I was happy. I mean I know it was a tremendous amount thousand and thousands and thousands were killed but there would have been thousands and thousands and thousands and you see that thing trying to land on that thing. I don't know how many troops went in on the first I think three months later another great big batch went into it. I've seen some of those beaches in Japan fortifications they had around even three or four years after the war.

Interviewer: How soon was it after VJ-Day then was it that you were out of the service? You said you went back did you go back while you were in the service.

Ewing: I was out about three months later.

Interviewer: About three months later.

Ewing: I left Fort Benning I think by the time I had I think my discharge somewhere on later part of January or February of 46.

Interviewer: 46 and then you were in the reserves.

Ewing: Yeh I went back in the reserves.

Interviewer: And what were you going to do?

Ewing: I jawboned they called it jawboned I was a major.

Interviewer: Okay

Ewing: And we had a division here regimental headquarters here. (Get that out of your way I thought I took all of that down what is it, he is talking to the interviewer about some of the things he was showing him).

Interviewer: So you were a major at this point.

Ewing: And they had the always had a division in Illinois the 33rd division. But then they disbanded it that gave us the 41st division and we had regiments not here but company the regimental headquarters here. And I came down here and joined the guard and with the regiment the 128th infantry. And I was a regimental GS which is an intelligence office with the regiment.

Interviewer: What were your duties as an intelligence officer for that regiment?

Ewing: Well during the when there was nothing going on there wasn't a whole hell of a lot we were doing but to go to meetings and stuff like summer camps summer camps you worked out problems having to do with intelligence have schools for intelligence.

Interviewer: And as long as we're on this subject do you see Korea coming?

Ewing: Who

Interviewer: Korea did you see that anticipate going to Korea or being involved in that at all?

Ewing: Well yes see there our division was call in Korea. Before we went to Korea I went to Fort Riley to intelligence school three months school I think and came back and that was in 51 I think I went 52. Anyway we were called in we went out to California Camp Cook, California which is now a brigadier air force base and the division went out there. And we were out there training and we were having problems out in the field intelligence wise we didn't I had the battalions had their own problems. And then one night in the officers club there the regimental assistant asked if anyone wanted to go to go to Korea volunteer to go to Korea and he said he was going to volunteer so I said a whole bunch of us about 14 or 15 of said we'll all go. So he filled all the papers out you know and pretty soon some of these guys started leaving and next thing I knew I was regimental executive officer. And then I got called and somebody else got called and the fellow's name was Sizelove. So somebody says Sizelove when are you going to go he said I threw my papers away.

Interviewer: Now that your

Ewing: Anyway he never went the rest of us went over flew over.

Interviewer: How long were you in Korea?

Ewing: I was over there 9 months and it was during the last part the later part of the war. In fact this was during when they were doing the prisoner exchange.

Interviewer: Really

Ewing: Uh huh I was assigned to task force scanning they called it. It was about a battalion mostly made up mainly of North Korean people who men down through South Korea and it was set up for they were paratroop trained. And we had home camp way out almost on the East Coast of Korea all by itself out there and had about 800 men about 13, 14, 15 American officers.

Interviewer: Really

Ewing: We had a jump school out there but most of the officers were paratroopers.

Interviewer: Now what were you specifically supposed to be doing there?

Ewing: I was an intelligence officer out there.

Interviewer: Were you supposed to be extracting intelligence from the Koreans who were captured were you supposed to just in general

Ewing: Volt what mainly I had a couple of people in that little town they had two or three people in there that I would get information a case strangers would come through that's what mainly what you were trying to find out. And they had a few escapades they sent me but we didn't go they wouldn't let us field grade officers go on some of these trips. They'd go up north and land and go in there and try to get capture somebody and bring them back out raid raid type of thing. But I wasn't there too long. Task force scanning was the name of it. This Colonel was named Scannen. But it was different.

Interviewer: Well after hostility ceased how soon was it before you got back to the states then form Korea?

Ewing: Oh when we released the prisoners overseas I got back I got back I think I got back from Korea I have trouble between the two wars.

Interviewer: Yeh sure

Ewing: Trying to remember what I did when I got back I was only there about 9 months I think and I got early and I guess I got back in about 50 I guess I got back three or four months into 52.

Interviewer: 52 so you would have been 34 years old at that point or 33, 34 year sold at that point.

Ewing: That's right.

Interviewer: And if you could I know this will be really hard to put into words but could you tell me the difference in you personally in 1941 and 1952 as a result of all of this service and everything you saw? Everything you went through all of test frankly self testing that you were successful in completing. What was the difference in you?

Ewing: I think the only difference is I was doing something different and I was older. I think that I don't know this is I had a job when I came back and I just fell back into the job I worked for this sand company dredging company. So I mean I don't

Interviewer: You were simply that much older?

Ewing: Yeh

Interviewer: But it didn't necessarily change you psychologically or as a person.

Ewing: If it did I wasn't aware of it nobody told me. I don't think so I just came back and went back to work for them and then my mother and I bought the other person out and we ran it for the next 25, 30 years.

Great well that's (the tape ended).