

William Sanford

Mr. Sanford: My name is William H is the middle initial Sanford.

Interviewer: When were you born?

Mr. Sanford: March 5, 1924

Interviewer: Where?

Mr. Sanford: That's been a long time. Port Royal in the eastern part of Montgomery County.

Interviewer: Is that your home town?

Mr. Sanford: Yes I would claim it to be the town where my roots are.

Interviewer: Did you live near a lot of relatives?

Mr. Sanford: This is back during the great depression and they did live close by quite a few of them yes.

Interviewer: What did your parents do for a living?

Mr. Sanford: My father was a farmer and part-time merchant my mother was a house wife and also a telephone operator. We had the local rural telephone company in the family so the parents operated it and the children learned how to and it was a family affair.

Interviewer: What did your father farm.

Mr. Sanford: A tobacco farm I guess corn and tobacco primarily.

Interviewer: Where did your grandparents live?

Mr. Sanford: My grandparents lived also in the eastern part of the county up around Harmony church. Also near what used to be Old Hills Mill on Sulfur Fort Creek its gone now and that was the place I had my first job.

Interviewer: What was your first job?

Mr. Sanford: Had a fifteen year old boy I walked I walked to the Hill Mill and my job at first was helping unload wagons and trucks that would bring the wheat in I think they felt sorry for me and gave me a job of sacking corn meal. So that was my first job.

Interviewer: Do you remember how much you were paid?

Mr. Sanford: Quite well at the end of the first week I was paid \$7.25 it was all paid in silver in a little brown envelope and I thought I was rich. This is a picture of the mill that's on the wall back to your right.

Interviewer: Where did you go to school?

Mr. Sanford: My elementary time was spent at Port Royal Port Royal Elementary and then I started to school Bell High School at Adams and I went the first six weeks and then was a drop out. The reason I was a drop out as I said before this was during the great depression and I had heard people talk about the Civilian Conservation Corp the CCC and if you don't know about the CCCs you should research it and you'll find that under President Roosevelt this was his way of putting people back to work after the depression. And the CCCs was known as Roosevelt's tree army and there's quite a bit of history there that you would enjoy. But I dropped out of high school and I joined and was sent to a camp up on the other side of Knoxville near Newcastle and I stayed there for some eighteen months made \$30 a month. I sent \$22 home and kept \$8 for my own use which was quite adequate.

Interviewer: Before Pearl Harbor did you think that the Nazis and the Japanese were a threat to the United States?

Mr. Sanford: I didn't think much about it.

Interviewer: You didn't?

Mr. Sanford: Well I was a typical teenager see along about that time 16 or 17 years old I was thinking what teenagers usually think having a good time enjoying like and I wasn't worried about the world and what was taking place. After I got out of the CCCs I was aware that what well it was Camp Campbell at that time I was aware that it was being built and there was a rush to get it built. People from all over flooded Clarksville, Clarksville was a little place only about 12 to 15 thousand people and I was aware that folks were coming in and getting jobs and I went out to get a job at Camp Campbell. And was fortunate enough to be able to get a job at number 3 fire station and became a driver of a fire truck. And along about that time I was aware then that things were looking bad in Germany and it was along about that time that I became aware and I believe that maybe I was coming home from work but I was on second street and I remember the newspaper had put out extras and they were talking about Pearl Harbor having being bombed. Well I had very little idea of about where Pearl Harbor was and I knew about the Japanese at least I knew about where they were the country and I this was my first indication that something's really drastic was happening and there was a real rush that happened in a lot of ways. It happened on the military front and it happened on the local front on the home front because we suddenly realized that we could be invaded by another country. If they could come to Pearl Harbor and bomb us then someone was gonna have to do something to keep them from invading this country. And that was the mentality that we all labored under. Because the idea was we had rather be able to go there and fight them to than to fight them on the home front. So there was almost a mass exodus of the men to go in service and some of them were being drafted and some of them volunteered and some of the industries that had to do with war tab where materials were being formed and people at home were picking up scrap iron picking up aluminum materials that had been in the scrap piles they were bringing in those materials so they could be part of the war effort. So that they could be turned in and melted down and guns and ammunition could be made.

Interviewer: How did you think that Roosevelt handled the beginning of the war did you think he did a good job?

Mr. Sanford: Yes I'm A Roosevelt democrat and I think that's an answer to a lot of things. He put me to work when I was a young fellow we had the great depression at home we had more bills my father was an invalid at that time and we had more bills than anything else and I got the job under Roosevelt and I went into service and everyone thought he was doing a good job. Well obviously not everyone but the general feeling that he was doing a good job and then when he died there was a great outpouring of love for him at that time. And at the time that he died I remember quite well because I was aboard ship and everything the announcement came over the ship and the announcement came over the ship that he had died. And there was a stillness and feeling of great loss.

Interviewer: Did you enlist or were you drafted?

Mr. Sanford: Neither one I volunteered. Yes I was one of sixty Tennessee Volunteers this is the volunteer state and I was one of a group of sixty that volunteered and joined the Marine Corp and was sworn in on the stage of the old Paramount Theatre in Nashville on November I believe it was November 12, 1942. And the next morning we got aboard a train and made our journey down to Paris Island, South Carolina to what was has all that's been done has always been done is boot camp for 12 weeks.

Interviewer: What did boot camp involve?

Mr. Sanford: My goodness that was of course the basic training that you get in the Marine Corp and everyone tells it makes it a little bit harder but it was the idea of taking young people and molding them together within a unit with a single purpose and a unit that could fight, react under orders and do it as a unit instead of a singular situation and that is still going on today. This much can be said about this one situation but we'll go on with the rest of the story.

Interviewer: Did you choose the Marine Corp?

Mr. Sanford: I did I surely did I chose it accidentally my older brother well my brother that was two years older, I had two, but my brother that was two years older had received a draft notice and he did not want to go in the Army and was going to Nashville to look around and being rather inquisitive I went to Nashville with him. And he first went to the Navy and didn't like what he saw and he had already determined that he did not want to go in the Army and we came back out on the street in front of the old customs building on Broad Street at that time we were young enough we were smoking and we came out a was lighting a cigarette and saw this sign that said the Marines want you. And it pointed to a basement entrance and we decided to go in there and see what it looked like and we went in and this Marine Sargent gave us his talk and convinced us or convinced my brother that's what he wanted. And I was too young to go without my mother's signature but he gave me papers and I brought those home and spend quite a bit of time in the evening and at night trying to convince her that this was the right thing to do because she had to sign my papers which she did. And we left on I believe it was November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Interviewer: your basic training do you remember any of the recruits from there?

Mr. Sanford: Well I remember so many of them but I don't remember too many names but since so many of us were from this area I remember Latham Keeps who was a native of Dover I remember another fellow from Charlotte but I don't remember his name. So many of those people were older than I was at this time that today they would be older or so many of them have passed on. And I have not kept up with them now my brother is still living. Now a boot camp he slept on the bottom bunk I slept on the top we went through boot camp together. He later went to down in the South Pacific and I went from boot camp to Quantico, Virginia. And the reason for that was this is rather long and involved situations I won't go into that unless you want me to.

Interviewer: Go ahead

Mr. Sanford: My Geode the brother that I'm talking about prior to the service had had a bout with rheumatic fever. And when when we were examined to go into the Marine Corp at this recruiting station there was a Navy doctor that examined us and when they examined us apparently the two slips of paper out here where the examination was written up these slips of paper were apparently

Interviewer: Switch

Mr. Sanford: Switched out and mine was put in his book and his was put in mine. I didn't know that he didn't know that. And we went on and we went through boot camp and as I said he shipped out to Jacksonville oh Cherry point, North Carolina a Marine Air Wing and as a crew chief went on down to the South Pacific. I shipped out and went to Quantico, Virginia to officer's school as an enlisted detachment. And I kept staying at Quantico at this officer's training detachment which was the best duty in the Marine Corp because we were 30 miles from Washington D.C. a lot of young ladies had come there to work in the offices and the men were gone to war and I said how does it get better than that. But after being there for a good while I noticed that so many of my friends were shipping out because things were happening in the South Pacific in the Islands and many of the divisions were being shot at men were being killed and I suddenly became concerned that some of my friends were leaving and I was staying there. And I questioned this and finally I questioned it to my commanding officer Major Johnson who responded that if I was real concerned perhaps I need to go across the street to the Naval hospital and have them check my medial record which I did. And the old Navy chief as I went in and asked to see my record book you can imagine his reaction to a young marine private PFC I guess at that time but he finally got the record book out and as I looked through it I said this is not me this is my brother. And he said oh yeh tell me another one but I finally convinced him that the record was not mine that something had happened. He said well maybe you can see Commander Sears who was the commander of the naval hospital there and he went to check with him and lead me on in and told him my story. And the commander said you are on limited duty and that I didn't know he said you can ask for a medical discharge and perhaps get one, you can stay here on limited duty, or if what you say is right then you'll have to go back to Vanderbilt University hospital and get your brother's records and have them sent to us and then we will enter these and if what you say straightens it out it will be all cleared up for you. That I did I wrote my aunt who lived in Nashville and she went to Vanderbilt and sent me notarized copies of his records I carried them over to the naval hospital and I think it was two days later that I

received my orders to go to Camp Lejeune and join the 41<sup>st</sup> replacement battalion. So that gets me out of boot camp to Quantico and now I'm down at Camp Lejeune.

Interviewer: What did you think of your training did you think it prepared you for to fight.

Mr. Sanford: Oh yes my goodness yes. As a young man that kind of training I was eager. I was ready to go.

Interviewer: How were the living conditions in the camps?

Mr. Sanford: Well the food was excellent I guess I would say they were just fine I couldn't find anything wrong.

Interviewer: Did your unit travel overseas in troop ships?

Mr. Sanford: Yes yes I when I went to when I went to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina I stayed there well I was the first person to go into a new replacement battalion that was forming the 44<sup>th</sup> replacement battalion and I this battalion later became a group of people I suppose there were three or four thousand and as we came in to tent city and then just kept on coming until we got all of them together we did more training and more training and then we were finally told we were shipping out. We were put aboard troop trains and that was to me was exciting and keep in mind that I was young and impressionable first time I had ever been away from home like this. And yes I had been I knew that a war was going on and we had trained I fired a rifle and I knew it was a big part of me. But these things were exciting at that same time to me because to get on a troop train and start across the country and the old troop train had swinging beds that you get on and the railroad cars were about as dirty dirty as they could be they were ho. And under those conditions we were hot and dirty and smelly but we stooped often enough that we could get water and I don't remember taking a bath until we got to the west coast but we finally ended up in Camp Pendleton on the west coast right around San Diego and by this time it was just before Christmas 1943 and we had we had all been told that we were going to have Christmas off and all of a sudden this was changed and we were suddenly told that it was all canceled that we were going to be going aboard ship the next day. And so just real quick like we were checking our gear packing everything up and true to form they got us out and we went aboard ship on Christmas Eve day no yes Christmas Eve Day and when the sun came up we were far out at sea you wouldn't see the shore. But that trip we first went to Pearl Harbor and took on fuel and food and from Pearl Harbor we went to the Marshal Islands and then on to Saipan which were in the Marina Islands and at Saipan was where I first saw action.

Interviewer: How long was the voyage on the troop ships?

Mr. Sanford: You know those times you don't really keep up with the days and I would have to guess probably by the time we got aboard ship in San Diego and left until the time that we got to Saipan it was probably oh probably 20, 25 days. But that's just guessing and aboard the troop ship the experiences there the troop ships most of them in the Pacific part of the world were what they called the old liberty ships. They were built on the west coast many of them and they were built for specific purposes for

transporting personnel or transporting and transporting cargo and the one that I went on was an APA which was for personnel. And down in the different holes in the ship the bunks would be swinging from the top down and there would be a place for six people on each section and each section only had about 12 to 14 inches between people. So if you lived on the bottom one everybody stepped on you climbing up to the top. If you were living at the top then all the hot sultry air rose to the top and that was terrible and caused most of us to sleep out on top deck that we could find a spot that we could wiggle into it was just that crowded. I remember on that trip before we went into the Marshal Islands they was a ship that has diesel motors diesel oil has a fuel that's burned forms a soot but the soot if a little bit oily and we didn't know that at night and that the people who operate the boilers would do what they call boiling the tubes and clean them out. And with all of us scattered out all over the top deck trying to sleep as hot as it was and we had life jackets on but other wise we were stripped down to the waist and this one night well quite often at night you had a little raid squall but this one night they blew these tubes and these hunks of soot came out and without knowing it we wallowed around in that soot. And there was a little rain that came up and that was refreshing but we were covered with this soot. And the reason we stopped in the Marshal Islands a Quadralene was so that we could get off ship and take a bath so we went skinny dipping in the Marshal Islands and we became acquainted with salt water soap. This is another experience but from the Marshal Islands I went on to Saipan.

Interviewer: And that's where you saw combat?

Mr. Sanford: Yes yes

Interviewer: Do you remember your first experience?

Mr. Sanford: I remember it quite well. My first experience was at I was put in charge of a section of the line as the Sargent of the Guard and I had a tent that had alight in it and this bothered me a lot because I didn't like being lighted but it was raining it was in jungle area and I had to check the people on the line and had to go form one post to another to another. And in a situation like that you have a password and a counter sign and you use those you change then from one night to the other so that they can't be picked up. And I remember quite well that the password was mutt and what do you think the counter sign would have been? Well at that time there was a comic strip known as Mutt and Jeff and so for whatever the password was the other part was the counter sign and I remember that night because it was raining the ground was slick you almost fell as you went along and you didn't think the first night was going to end. But fortunately it did.

Interviewer: Did the equipment and arms you trained with did they work well in combat?

Mr. Sanford: Some of them did. Our was my training especially at Quantico, Virginia at officer's training school my training has been as a small arms mechanic so I was company armor and I handled a lot of the equipment. And yes the old 1903 Springfield riffle worked quite well the M1 riffles we had problems with them rusting. The one we called the work horse in the Marine Corp was the BAR the Browning automatic rifle which was a very fine piece of equipment and in general yes our equipment was good. For the times of course as generation had passed and come on to where we are today we look back at that equipment and its adequated.

Interviewer: What did you do in your free time?

Mr. Sanford: What free time? Oh when you were aboard ship you read everything that you could find. I didn't do a lot of reading I told you dropped out of school I finished the first six weeks. You sat around and talked to other people you played cards you used your up sharpened the knife you had each one of us carried well it was known as a k-bar knife and we had we'd sharpen that as well as our bayonets and you passed time looking overboard looking at the fly fish if it were night time up on the bowl if you were up on the bowl you'd look down around the bowl as the ship moves through it it illuminates the water and some the phosphorus and again I come back to this statement I made that you don't suddenly grow up and get to be a worrier as worriers are defined sometimes . If you've got young people they do what young people do regardless of where they are they are energetic and you tried to stay occupied as well as you could. I don't remember too many things that we did but we played cards a lot. Yes we played poker but we didn't have anything to spend the money on though because we weren't going anywhere to buy anything.

Interviewer: What did a typical day at your job involve in the Marines?

Mr. Sanford: Oh its been a long time and that's so difficult to say but a typical day in combat there really isn't such a thing a typical anyway you try to define them because if your pushing from one location to another because when you get the word to saddle up which meant throw your saddle on your back and move out you made sure that you had ammunition that was required that you met you checked with the one in front of you the one behind you and you did what you were told you were automated that you were going as a unit whatever you were going to do.

Interviewer: When you were in the field what did you eat?

Mr. Sanford: C-rations most of the time.

Interviewer: And what did those have?

Mr. Sanford: C-rations and k-rations and in the Marine Corp we had c-rations they were a can about like a small can of pork and beans or it maybe would be a small can of hash. There were two cans to a c-ration one with the hash or the beans and maybe another one that would have a piece a pasteurized cheese with a few crackers and maybe a few pieces of candy in that one and maybe a small package of cigarettes five cigarettes. And they wished it out at that time everyone most everyone smoked. But you ate c-rations and in the c-ration you had a little packet of coffee Nescafe and most of us learned to drink coffee and enjoy it because of that. In the islands it was so hot that when you when you were in a location long enough you had to hang a what you call a leister a leister bag which was a large canvas bag that was filled with water and treated with chlorine that was so strong that it was terrible to have to try and drink and of course you fill your canteen and that was just one of the horrors one of the things up put up with and there was no fuss about it everyone was treated alike.

Interviewer: When you were in the field where did you sleep?

Mr. Sanford: Underground

Interviewer: You didn't have tents?

Mr. Sanford: Not until after the island was secured and most of the time we were the last ones to get tents. We slept in shelters halves and a shelter half was a tent two people could get together and join and it would cover it wouldn't keep you dry during the monsoon area but it would help.

Interviewer: Did you feel sleep deprived and overworked?

Mr. Sanford: No no you're fussing about sleep deprived.

Interviewer: Did you have hand to hand combat when you were in Saipan?

Mr. Sanford: No I they the hand to hand combat as there is not as much of it as you would normally think because the Navy and Air Force usually go over an island like that and soften it up to such an extent your in a line and your moving forward but a lot of times your firing indiscriminately your firing with mortars you firing with bazookas now if you saw hand to hand using a flame thrower if they had if the Japanese had got in these caves which they did then you used the flame thrower. You stuck the flame thrower in the mouth of the cave and gave it a burst and well you killed them that way.

Interviewer: Were you in hand to hand combat in Okinawa?

Mr. Sanford: No

Interviewer: What did you do in Okinawa?

Mr. Sanford: My combat at Okinawa and again well let me give this to you just exactly as I saw it. We were in a large convoy when we got word that we were going to well we didn't know where we were going. And we didn't know it was Okinawa and what difference did it make we didn't know anything about it in the first place. But we were at a large convoy and when we got into the Okinawa area we got into a lot of combat it was all a combat zone and we got into a lot of combat there because of the planes that were coming over and that were staving the ships and dropping torpedoes if they could and at Okinawa we also had some kamikaze planes that were coming in because it was primarily the last stand that the Japanese air force put up and they were coming in with those. At Okinawa we got a call the first morning and they got us out I imagine about two or three o'clock. And fed us and told us we were going over the side well what that meant you've seen these large ships with rope draped over the side when you go over the side you go over it with all that you have your packs your field pack which was in two parts, your steel helmet, your gunners belt your rifle your canteen well your full gear. You start over this ladder the first well the sea was rough as you start over the ladder the small boats would be circling the Navy would launch those and they would start circling and as you go down this ladder they would come in under you and you would try to step off. But one minute you would look down there and he would be way down then the next minute a swell would bring him right up to you and you could step over in a small boat and you tried that's what you tried to do. And I never did see anyone get crushed but it was good opportunity to do so and we loaded into those small boats we continued circling until all men were off. And this was happening in other ships in the convoy as well because I suppose history would show how many ships were there but there were lots of them. And they were circling getting the



men ready to at the right time to head for the shore. We did that and started for the shore and we got part of the way in and all of a sudden our orders were changed we were carried back to the ship carried back on we had to get back climb back up on the ship and go up on the top deck. The next morning they got us up and we had to do the same thing and the ship the sea was just as ruff that day as it was the first day it was going up and down the swells would veer a lot we loaded out. And we started for the shore and we got just about in and I believe we lost two small boats with men but we our orders got changed and they took us right back to the ship again. And we climbed over the side but this was most unusual for Marines because the history had been that if we started in we went in we didn't turn around. On the third day they got us up and they told us now men what you have been doing the first two days here you have been acting as decoys going in the 10<sup>th</sup> army is on the far side of the island you have been drawing the Japanese to this side and the 0<sup>th</sup> army is coming in this morning as you go in on this side their coming in on the far side. So this was not pleasing to us but that's the way it was. And we came in my duty on Okinawa was very limited and but the fighting was fierce there and the sea battle was fierce. But that last morning when we started in when they told us the sea was just as smooth as a piece of glass and that was Easter Sunday morning of 1945 I guess it was. And of course after Okinawa we went back to Saipan for more training. And Saipan had become our base it had been secured we went back there and were in training for the final assault on Japan. And as we trained we noticed a lot of things we noticed that B29 planes were taking off from Tunian which was just across the bay from us and you would watch them come off loaded so heavily loaded with bombs that you didn't think they were going to get into the air. And we continued training and I remember very well that one morning that I was I had some rifles and I was zeroing in these rifles had been working on them and I heard this noise and it got louder coming up this large space here and it was a lot of excitement in what was going on and we found out that they had dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima and we didn't know what this was but we knew it was big and awesome and then we realized since that something big enough that the war was finally we were winning. And shortly after that the second bomb was dropped at Magosaki and we got our orders later right after that that we were going into the Japanese home land and the orders that we received to go into Japan were orders we were told that had been previously set up for us to go in that same place for an assault so I went in to Japan at Magosaki where the second atomic bomb was dropped. We unloaded this main ship into the small boats and moved into the old city docks that were shaples and went right through the bombed out area up to a Japanese naval prisoner of war camp and we stayed there several days and went on to the southern part of Japan southern Liushoe to a little town that the name of it was Canoya and it was there that we my outfit started disbanding what was left of the Japanese war machines. The planes were put into scrap. We picked up weapons of all kinds put them on small boats took them out to the bay and dumped them into the salt water and of course that ruined them they were no good. And of course after that I finally got to come home got on another troop train at San Diego and came to the Great Lax training naval station at Chicago and got my discharge and by this charge I had my wife to be and was madly in love and came on home and after a year we married.

Interviewer: Were you promoted during the war?

Mr. Sanford: Yes most of the war I was a corporal and I was promoted to Sargent while I was in Japan and that was pretty good for the Marine Corp.

Interviewer: Did you feel the promotions were received by those who deserved them?

Mr. Sanford: I didn't question it. No you excepted it and we didn't we didn't question it at that time.

Interviewer: Did you receive any metals?

Mr. Sanford: No received battle scars stars not scars no I didn't receive any metals for fighting.

Interviewer: Were you impressed with the qualities of the enemy such as their leadership tactics?

Mr. Sanford: I wasn't in a position that I would have known that because my position was that of line Marine and you didn't question what you were told to do and you assumed that those decisions were being made by those who had the knowledge the forethought to do things right.

Interviewer: What did you think about the Japanese what was your view of them?

Mr. Sanford: Well the first day that we went ashore in Magosaki and it was this vast area desolation and as we walked through the giger counters were going off radio active and we saw Japanese people that were walking along we saw a lot of dead ones and a lot that were maimed and bleeding and we saw a lot of Japanese that were walking along and I was surprised that they didn't turn and look to see that group of people coming in as conquering Marines or whatever. I think in Americana I think we would have been looking out of every door and every window we didn't see that in Japanese they didn't they didn't seem to be bothered to any extent. After we got there started going house to house taking out equipment we had their cooperation. We saw that they had been stripped of all of their resources and they were anxious to go ahead and get started rebuilding.

Interviewer: We any of your friends or soldiers you knew died or were injured during the war?

Mr. Sanford: Yes yes yes the first one in Saipan reached down to pick up an enemy grenade and as he did it blew up.

Interviewer: Did you correspond with family while you were overseas?

Mr. Sanford: No no I sent a letter to home wrote a few letters to my wife to be and those letters were censored you didn't tell anyone where you were you didn't discuss what was going on because they would cut out it was cut all to pieces by the time it got home if you did.

Interviewer: Did you feel close to your fellow Marines?

Mr. Sanford: Oh yes

Interviewer: Were they like family?

Mr. Sanford: Yes yes yes they'd rare back they'd cuss you out ready to fight with you but he was your friend.

Interviewer: Did you kill anyone while you were in the war?

Mr. Sanford: I don't know.

Interviewer: Good enough.

Mr. Sanford: I don't know.

Interviewer: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Mr. Sanford: Well I've just been interviewed two or three times and it's a difficult thing to be interviewed because it brings back the horrors of war and yet and yet you feel like oh I feel that there are people that need to know the horrors of war. It's one thing to see an enemy laying out here with water lapping at his legs and feet its' another thing to see one of your one of your company marines in the same situation there's nothing good about it. Most of my adult life has been after I got out has been in the education business. And I feel very strong about teaching the value of patriotism about teaching the values of life and there's no value to kill. There is great value to defending to defending what's right. I feel strong that that we have to understand what war is that some total of war is disaster and well its disaster any way you can look at it there is nothing good that comes from it. And WWII we were told that we were fighting a war that would end all wars and what have we had since that time? You've had Korea and it was terrible and you come on down Vietnam horrible situation and as you see this happening throughout your lifetime you look at your grandchildren and you just shutter to think of what the situation is what it accomplished. You go to the history books and see how many were killed in WWII how many casualties we had in WWII go to Hawaii and go up and look at Punchbowl see the dead ones that were brought there the military cemetery. Look at military cemeteries all over this country there full the only thing that will ever bring this under control is education. And its education to understand people the majority of the people in this country speak English we don't learn the languages of other countries and we can't know the people until we know their language. We can't understand them until we know their language.

Interviewer: I have another question. Okay at the beginning when your records got switched yours and your brothers did your brother ever get sent back did his records ever catch up with him?

Mr. Sanford: He was up visiting with me this week and we were talking about this yesterday and no they didn't this was very difficult to touch on all these things. But every time I would go to another base after this happened when I left Quantico I was told that this would be send to and put on his record and get him home. When he went overseas his wife was pregnant and twins daughters that he never had seen so I felt bad about being on his record. And I stated every time I would go to a new duty station I would first go to the regimental doctor or whomever and bring up the subject and say and you get this out of my book and get it on his book. I did that numerous places that I went until I got in Japan and when I got in Japan on occupational duty I got sick I had pneumonia and was in the barracks we didn't have a

hospital and the Corp man that was treating me I told him the story to see if he could get this get it out of my book with the idea being to get it on my brothers book someway and he misunderstood me and came in the next morning and smiling and told me that he had taken care of it and that meant to me that he had taken it out of mine and to get it over on his and I said how did you do this and he said I burned it and so they were lost and fortunately for both of us we had gotten back my brother did have a lot of problems out in the Islnds with arthritis and all but he is back he is retired he has been a Methodist preacher all his life but we laugh about it that's what it was the records were lost right there at the end by this Corp man misunderstanding me. I don't know if I've said anything that satisfies you or not.

Interviewer: You did great.