

Interviewer: Before we begin I want to say thank you for allowing me to do this interview with you.

Morrison: It is a pleasure.

Interviewer: During the interview this is just going to be normal conversation between you and I don't even pay attention to the camera. I'm going to ask you about your experiences in World War II a little bit before and some after.

Morrison: Sure

Interviewer: If there's a topic that we reach that you don't want to discuss you can let me know or if there is anything that you would like to elaborate on from the questions I ask you please feel free to. You've seen a sample list of questions I'm gonna use these but based on your answers the interview will shift. First could you please tell us your full name, where you were born, and when?

Morrison: Okay my full name is Lloyd G Morrison. I was born in Boston Massachusetts 1918 January 3rd. Raised there went to school there a family of six children, mother and father. A very happy home life a very loving home and very loving parents respectful highly respected in the community. My father he was a business man he wasn't wealthy but you might be termed middle class _____. We never had to want for anything but we never had all the luxuries. They were very both of my parents were very disciplined in how we received things.

Interviewer: You've elaborated some on your father. What was your mother and father's full names?

Morrison: My father's name was Everton L and my mother's name was Maude G.

Interviewer: And you said your father was a business man. Was your mother a homemaker?

Morrison: She was a homemaker and beautiful homemaker.

Interviewer: What type of business?

Morrison: My father was an outstanding funeral director in Boston at the time. He had attended college in Philadelphia Pennsylvania prior to coming to Massachusetts and building his craft and opening up his business back in 1923. I was about five years old five or six so as a way of saying I grew up in the business. And the house my father bought at that particular time I lived in all my life. And many improvements as I can remember about having electricity so we put in wiring back in the 20s. And then he went to central heating system. And mother she was they type person with a green thumb and had a garden beautiful flowers not a vegetable garden a flower garden. And she won many awards particularly from Better Homes and Garden people year after year for her beautiful flowers. So this was her I would say her vocation in a way of speaking. She had gone to college in Washington D.C. and they came to Boston after her father decided she needed he wanted her to come to Boston to do more schooling. And she decided at that particular time family members that were related to her on her father's side since helping my grandmother my mother's mother had died at childbirth. So that left him raising her by himself as best he could and so she came to Boston and my father came there and the end result was six wonderful children.

Interviewer: Out of six siblings are you oldest youngest?

Morrison: I am the oldest.

Interviewer: You are the oldest.

Morrison: I am the oldest son my baby brother he still lives in Boston and he is 16 years younger than I am.

Interviewer: What were the breakdown?

Morrison: I'm the oldest then my sister girl Doris and my brother William then my brother Wendell and my sister Cynthia who lives in Philadelphia at the present moment. And I had another brother Clement who passed away in infancy and my baby brother Paul. So Paul so I have just two siblings now my sister in Philadelphia and Paul my baby brother living.

Interviewer: From what you just told me it sound that education played a large part in your family.

Morrison: A very very large part.

Interviewer: What was the last grade that you completed before you joined the military?

Morrison: I went through college.

Interviewer: You went through college?

Morrison: I went through college in ____ College in Maine and got my degree B.A. degree there majored in Biology and double major Biology and Latin was my minors in Chemistry and French. Then after I graduated I had applied to go into the United States Army Air Force at that time. But didn't realize that it was restricted passed the written and turned down on the physical because I was 20/20 minus one in one eye. I thought well that's the way the cookie crumbles.

Interviewer: Being born in 1918 in 1930 that would put you about 12 years old and that was right around 1929 of course you know was when the stock market crashed and all that. What type of memories do you have of that time period? You said your father you were in Boston this is the first interview I've had that someone was in northern states during this time. Most of them were farmers or lived in small towns and it really didn't affect them so much so this is really good for me.

Morrison: Okay I can attest to a number of things that I saw at that age and it was really difficult for many families. But the main part a lot of the families who had been in regular working and so forth they didn't have so much of the difficulties as some of those who were more ____ more _____. They had been used to living on a budget because prices of things were much much less expensive as it was all relative when you consider you know from then to this time. So a man with a ____ of \$20 a week was similar to a man with \$150, \$200 a week today. But they people were more I won't say frugal but a little more saving. But I know people who had a lot of money in stocks and so forth they are the ones that suffered the most. And it was and I know for a fact a lot of people committed suicide which was headlines in all of the papers. As you could see you go back to the morgue and there people committed suicide because they lost everything or what they considered everything.

Interviewer: Right

Morrison: Because they weren't used to being the dollar started to be money to live. Where I went to school it was the city I went to school in Boston there was a lot of people who a lot of jobs were cut off and so forth. So you saw a lot of people standing in line in soup lines particularly men who felt their pride and everything ___ because they could not take care of their families. It was a hurting very hurting thing and it was common to the long soup lines of men standing there looking for jobs and cannot find any and many of the schools set auxiliary lunches for the children going to school, it was particularly in our elementary schools. And what they would do during our recess period which was approximately 9:30 in the morning they would say give each child a can of milk and a couple of cookies and so forth as a supplement. Whether the child could afford it or not it didn't make any difference and many of the community agencies some were eliminated some of the community agencies would work along with the schools in that respect. I know of one called the Legal Women they had a place directly across the street from one of the schools and the children would march during school either their recess or lunchtime would walk to the building and if a kid a child could afford it they would pay two cents for a cup of coco and a cookie. If a child couldn't afford it the people who were running it they would make sure they would be sure they were taken care of regardless. My father was very fortunate he was always a very kind person and always wanted to remain anonymous and he would make sure the people who he had served in capacity make sure they were taken care of or leave something for them. Not money but food wise sometimes some of them needed clothing or a pair of shoes he would get them some. Both he and my mother were very caring in that respect. So as I grew up at that particular time I was 12 or 13 years old our house was always filled with a lot of other people who were some people in need and no one was ever turned away from a meal regardless. We could be having spaghetti and meatballs or something like that or stew but no one was ever turned away in need of a meal. Our table was always welcome they welcomed anyone and on Sunday it was common to have three or four extra people for that afternoon dinner regardless of the six children. But you never had to be he was always there things might be scarce or tight they found a way to provide which was a blessing in many ways and hard.

Interviewer: You mentioned that you went to college before you joined the service. When did you graduate college and apply?

Morrison: I graduated from college in the class of February of 42 actually I graduated in 41 my class came up in 42. So I took my ___ in 42 class of 42 at _____ up in Lewistown Maine it was a Christian college. And I enjoyed living on campus it was a nondenominational and no fraternities or there was Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society or something like that. None of those other fraternities were allowed on campus and so it was a walk in the middle campus. The student body and the president ___ we called him knew everyone he knew everyone by name. Not hey you but he knew you by name you go walking down the pathway or whatever to a dormitory or to a classroom he knew your name. And he made sure and the thing I liked not only the comradely among the students my fellow students but the fellowship that existed with the professors and the advisors. They insisted that you visit them or they will call you and say you haven't come by I need you to come by my office for a couple of visits. And it was a beautiful thing I enjoyed it I called it one of the best four years of my life.

Interviewer: So in 1941 you were in college and December 7th Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Morrison: That's right.

Interviewer: Do you remember where you were when you heard the news?

Morrison: Very much so. December 7th was a Sunday and some of us went down we were at one of the neighbor's house who lived in town her husband had quite a business ice-cream business. As a matter of fact he was one of those who started the 29 flavors before Howard Johnson did. And so we was there she always invited us to come down says yeah I know you college boys are always hungry so come on. So we done that Sunday afternoon we used to after we had dinner we would play games card games and scrabble no not scrabble chess and a couple other games. Then we sat and listened to the radio and one of the talk shows at that particular time was the Press University Press come out of Chicago University Roundtable. We used to have you ever seen Ron Novack his father Ted Novack was the one of the ____ of that university broadcast at the University of Chicago. And I can't think of the name right now it will come to me he was one of the other hosts. And they were having various college students answer serious types of questions such as what is going on now.

Interviewer: Right

Morrison: And they had a panel and we were listening to that sitting there playing listening to that when they broke into the broadcast it was 2:30 in the afternoon 2:30 eastern time. That Pearl Harbor had been attacked so everything stopped we couldn't believe it huh what no. Then they repeated it and repeated it and that's when they made the announcement later on in the day it happened that FDR was going to address the congress in the morning Monday morning December 8th. And when he had the full house of congress he made that famous address and so forth but so it was quite a shock to us. We just couldn't believe that someone would attack the United States at that particular time. But those who had been study much history and civics and civil war and come to find out later the things that had been going on behind the scenes at the state department and what not the Japanese ____ and so what it wasn't a surprise.

Interviewer: Obviously you're in college so you do keep up with the news and reading the newspaper and you listen to the radio. Before December 7th did you feel there was any threat to America being drawn into this war?

Morrison: I hadn't to tell you the truth I hadn't given it any thought. At that particular time my only my direct inkling was to graduate and either go to graduate school or take a ____ find some work or go into business with my father. Just a typical college student who was happy and other who were the same in my class who I knew very well and we hadn't any serious thoughts about any war that was happening. We just couldn't imagine when they hit us reality struck in.

Interviewer: Right

Morrison: Oh then we seen how small we were and what was going on we really began seriously thinking. The sad part about that is I came home and in 42 I got drafted because I had been turned down by the service I was home on furlough after being inducted and so forth at Fort Evans Massachusetts there. And while I was home was when the great Coconut Grove fire took place. And I remember it to this day very vividly because I lost a couple of friends in that fire. So it's been when I couldn't produce the other that I slept with the fire on oh no.

Interviewer: I read something the other day about Coconut Grove.

Morrison: And there was over 500 people got burned up. Well most of them were fixated and so forth.

Interviewer: So you were drafted inducted at Fort Devens and before once they drafted you did you get the or I'm sure you did what type of tests and skill placements did they give you to find a job?

Morrison: The 202 ____ I was assigned to medical work. So I said well I'll go to medical school because see the army would train you as medical school. Then eventually after that I was assigned to California_ San Francisco a place called Camp Stoneman or Camp yeah there was a Camp Stoneman out of Pittsburg California. And there we formed our final units and in the meantime I had a chance to take some post graduate courses up at the U.C. L.A. there were eight of us going to U.C.L.A. at the time taking some college courses. There was voluntary that came up and all of those with college degrees if they wanted a chance to take course up at U.C.L.A. we could go at the governments expense so it was a true value. But unfortunately we didn't have a chance to finish it because we were put on a ____ after you had been there for about eight months. And we already everything was off the record so we went out and never came back until we came home.

Interviewer: During your time at Stoneman or Camp Henry did you ever take part in any massive training exercises?

Morrison: Yes at Stoneman we did we took training with mass down at Fort Hood. And we went down there did a round of in the field training it was with the armor division it was with an attachment of the armor division training down there. We did training up in Lewis up near Vancouver and often times the rest of the troops part of them would do training go upstream in Camp Stoneman in Los Angeles running back and forth back and forth. My work was mostly with the medical detachment setting it up, organizing it, training it ____ training taking the right people training them to work in the field in so sort. These were surgeon who gave up their medical career I think William T Anderson from Williamsport Pennsylvania. Milton Liberstine from Pennsylvania Captain Gay from Ohio and now I can't think. Those three they were primary mentors and so forth and then we had the medical unit medical training the medical detachment they were really the finest IQ that you could imagine you could find. ____ who had been a professor in Texas in one of the colleges and Drew King who was a Harvard graduate was going to medical school. And Valentine whose family was one of the biggest funeral directors in Los Angeles and so you can see it wasn't some people who didn't have knowledge but that was the way it was.

Interviewer: You mentioned your job was to organize and set up. Having a college degree and a college education when you were drafted you came into the medical core were you given did you come in as a private or did they give you rank for what you had.

Morrison: No you started from the ground up.

Interviewer: From private

Morrison: Started from the ground up and worked your way up. And the ones who were weeded out they stayed there that's all and they never went up the ladder.

Interviewer: Was your was your job more of a what would be a combat medic today or was your job more of an administrative

Morrison: Combination

Interviewer: Combination of the two.

Morrison: Combat medic administration at the same time. This came into play most effectively when we were on the line up in Burma. It was my job to set up clearing stations evacuation stations all up and down the line. The Japanese were all the way up to Burma and so forth as well as clearing hospitals. And so we had when we set it up on the line we set up our detachment was drawn from five regiments. You have five battalions made up a brigade so we took so we had a department of 72 men and they rotated the men. They would go up on the line stay three weeks rotate them back so on and so forth. And it was three men to a unit to a post and they would be rotated after three weeks and go to the back. Now we did that constantly and it was my job not only to maintain the administrative end but to make sure they were properly taken care of if there was anything was coming up. So I was doing it back and forth up and down the line cut off the back and forth you know. Which was no problem that was my job.

Interviewer: I've talked to a few other gentlemen and they were in the military during this time period and they were African American and they were in the segregated their unit was the all black unit no questions asked except for the officers in that unit. Was your unit the same as this?

Morrison: Same way.

Interviewer: You were the same way?

Morrison: Yeah

Interviewer: The description you gave it sounds like your unit would be less segregated.

Morrison: No our unit was segregated there was no separate units there was no unit that was mixed at that particular time. Our officers the only ones that had all colored officers was the 92nd and the 93rd division. But our units we had all the non-coms were black and the officers were white except one officer eventually came in the medical detachment and that's when it began for people all over. And now the group the hospital that took over out here in Wingate you ever hear of Wingate from ___? Wingate okay Seagrove he had a hospital there and all of his staff were Burmese but when he moved out the 44th general hospital was primarily came out of New York City. They took over because there was no one to replace them and they were all black officers of course of the enlisted and whatnot. That was the first time they had a black unit like that over that particular time. Henry Washington was captain and he became a major he was the commanding officer of that unit. The reason why I remember him I knew him as a young male when he was going to our university then he went to medical school and he came from a very wealthy family up in Europe but his family settled to this country to get an education. So I knew him personally as a personal friend but all the units over there as I say were segregated units with white officers. This came it brought back feelings because there were so many good people in our college who wanted to go to officer's training school OCS and were turned down because they were not allowed to select the schools they wanted to go to. The officers of course go to engineer school you go to quartermaster school. These men had expertise in ordinance chemical warfare medical administration they said no you can't go there. So it's a waste.

Interviewer: Sounds like it. What were your personal feelings you mentioned some of the doctors. And you mentioned they were very well educated what was your personal feelings towards these white officers you had in the unit? Did you

Morrison: I felt very comfortable they were very comfortable with us. We could exchange ideas willingly and openly with them and they felt very comfortable. There was no professing between us per say. Nate Anderson he would say come on and sit down and talk for a while one of those things. His heart was good let's go take a walk Smith would say come on let's go take a walk. We felt very comfortable it wasn't that we would standoff from them and they would standoff. No there's nothing they wouldn't do for you and we felt they were good enough to come and see what our needs were what they could do for us we returned the allegiance to them it was only right.

Interviewer: Earlier you mentioned you went to Camp Stowman in San Diego or San Diego and then you went to Camp Stowman.

Morrison: Camp Stowman is in Pittsburg, Pittsburg California.

Interviewer: Okay I'm sorry I wrote it down wrong.

Morrison: The only Pittsburg they don't spell with an H.

Interviewer: You left was Camp Henry your last

Morrison: Yeah Jonathan Henry that was our first assignment and that's when they shipped us from Jonathan Henry to Camp Stowman. Camp Stowman was a much larger camp.

Interviewer: Okay I had read it wrong I apologize. Stowman was that your last duty assignment stateside?

Morrison: Last duty assignment until they shipped us down to Las Angeles to the port of imbardment down in Wilmington California.

Interviewer: What year was that?

Morrison: That was 43.

Interviewer: Forty three

Morrison: Yeah

Interviewer: Do you remember what month?

Morrison: We shipped out in September 43 that I know September 6th I think was the date.

Interviewer: And did you know where you were headed when you got on the boat?

Morrison: Yeah because we were on the sea and you really didn't knew where you were going. But it's a funny thing I had when I left Boston I called my mother and said momma we're shipping out. She said where are you going? I said I don't know but I've got a feeling we're going to California off the top of my head. Little did I know that's when we were going to Middleton California. Because some of the fellows were trying to help saying come on I'll get you into my unit which was the 366th. I said no I don't want to I said I know too many of you guys I said I don't want to do that. And California is where we ended up.

Interviewer: When you were at Henry and then at Stowman what was the living conditions that you had? Did you have a temporary barracks or did you have a permanent barracks?

Morrison: We had permanent barracks the one thing that came out of Stowman was the commanding officer of Stowman he opened up the service club. This was segregated and my very very good friend he and another friends of mine _____ so they decided to wrangle. I'm in the army I'm wearing a uniform why can't I get in the service club? And so they was gonna be MPs and when they found out their MP scores the whole entire unit got _____ to protect our unit see what was happening. Of course word got back to the commanding general and he went down there that night and said you don't serve anybody you have to close up. So we came over that was the first sign I saw that was good. The other thing I saw I will not forget it was the first time I saw a _____. The Japanese were sending balloons on the west coast.

Interviewer: Right

Morrison: It was complete _____. I had never imagined in my youthful imagination imagined this would happen and it's scary. It was really scary but those were the only two major things until we got on the boat. Of course the equator and they made us all shellbacks had to go through the initiation and become a shellback.

Interviewer: Yes oh yes

Morrison: And that was the longest boat ride I had.

Interviewer: When you left in September on the boat you had no idea where you were going at the time.

Morrison: No

Interviewer: How did you hear the news did they come across the speaker or was it just word of mouth?

Morrison: When we got down to go all the way down from Portland come over the end up in Tasmania we didn't know where we were. Then they broke the news to us you're going to India. And Hombre Tasmania was a lovely city lovely city people were very warm and welcome gave us a chance to stretch our legs and so forth because we were there for three days. They have to resupply the ship and so forth in Hombre Tasmania stopped momentarily at Per and then went to Bombay.

Interviewer: What was your first reaction when you stepped off the boat in Bombay?

Morrison: I was amazed at the beauty of the city. One of my good friends who was a fellow who I knew and was with me at the time he had been in the merchant marines as an engineer he was a graduate of MIT. He said come on and I'll show you the city so I went with him. He took us up to the ____ beautiful beach in Burma. He showed us where Gandhi lived there were some beautiful houses. Then drove the car around and went to the racetrack and saw the races. And saw Jim try and squash us Bombay Jim. And it was beautiful.

Interviewer: What was the reaction of the people in Bombay when you arrived?

Morrison: Welcome welcome they were very humble very grateful and they treated us cordial. They were very nice and then we went from Bombay we got on another boat a smaller boat because they got some of the units off the boat there. We went in and come back around and ended up in _____ which was _____ at that particular time. And we had to stop there because of the quarantine British quarantine out sent the British doctor onboard to examine everybody. And those who he felt needed treatment he took off the boat because there is no going through it was his was the final word. We had a couple officers he had to kick off too you'd be surprised when it happened I was shocked. They had venereal disease I said huh? Oh yeah they told me said yeah one of them was the son of the baseball owner of the then Washington Braves. It happens doesn't it.

Interviewer: Oh yeah

Morrison: I said okay so after we left Chocoralie we sailed on and ended up in Calcutta.

Interviewer: When you left in September when did you arrive in Bombay? Do you remember?

Morrison: It was around the near about the 20th of October somewhere in that region maybe a little before then. And we stayed in Bombay for about two days three days while they cleared our boat and _____ for the day and then we went to Calcutta and that's where we disembarked.

Interviewer: What when you stayed in Bombay and when you stayed in Chocoralie did you have to report back to the ship for sleeping arrangements and to eat or did you?

Morrison: Yeah when we stopped at Chocoralie we weren't allowed to get off the ship.

Interviewer: You stayed onboard.

Morrison: We stayed onboard they wouldn't let us get off the ship because we had to go through that inspection.

Interviewer: Right

Morrison: At Bombay we were allowed to get off the ship as well. So we usually come back on to sleep to eat and so forth.

Interviewer: So it's safe to assume say November end of October beginning of November when you arrived in Calcutta?

Morrison: I would say yeah oh definitely yeah.

Interviewer: What type of living conditions did you encounter once you got to Calcutta?

Morrison: Calcutta we got off that boat and ended up on the railroad take a railroad train up to this wide gate this narrow gate to Santahar. And then we were in the jungle on the way in and it was November 11th when we went to Santahar Armistice Day I'll never forget that day. I said oh it's Armistice Day so we went on this little rickety trolley railroad all the way up through the jungle and got off at a town called Margareta. And we marched from there to where we were staying in British barracks and that's when I

got initiated into the wilds of the jungle life. Slept on bamboo bits it was about a foot off the floor and there was cane to stretch with your mats. Interesting

Interviewer: I've been there.

Morrison: Interesting

Interviewer: Yes I was stationed in Hawaii and did the jungle survivor school there. That's quite a different experience and Panama has the same thing that's definitely a different.

Morrison: Oh it's altogether different.

Interviewer: Yes it is

Morrison: So then the next morning we finally got woke up finally tasted what itak was like itak and tea that was our meal. Just fortunately we had to get the _____ back up to _____. We did stop and the British did feed us their rations. First time I've ever eaten goose eggs too rich for my blood too rich.

Interviewer: What was your reaction and your thoughts about the British army? You mentioned you met British doctors inspected you before quarantine and now you share barracks.

Morrison: The British very let's see very cautious. The officers are dealing with the sergeant majors on corporal level you stayed in your rank you know they didn't associate. They were very very I saw that I saw that they are very strict. Their disciplined was very tough those I met some who were in these troops oh yeah. Don't mess with them don't mess with them so I didn't mess with them.

Interviewer: Now that you've finally marched up you've gone through all of your port of importation and deportation you're actually in India now. When did you have your first combat experience or your first experience with someone in combat?

Morrison: Well we had our first experience when we found the Japanese dropping bombs all around even when we were in Calcutta. They were dropping bombs around us and we were ducking and hiding from them. A lot of times they would jump us and get our food rations. Because the food was being dropped to us and sometimes that food would fall over into their lines and so forth. All the way from _____. And we were at their mercy and it was very hard getting any kind of heavy artillery over there. I think the biggest piece they had a one time was 105 and so the Japanese had the advantage of position. And President Roosevelt the troops had to make their own roads and you know what that's like.

Interviewer: Yeah very slow process.

Morrison: And so we had and the worst part of it we didn't have use of a lot of use of American equipment that is GI trucks and so forth so we had to use British equipment. For some reason that was taking some time to get used to driving on the side of the mountain and what not.

Interviewer: Right in your let's go back just for a minute. Do you recall ever besides the bombing raids and things you experienced that way to you ever directly recall being shot at directly?

Morrison: Yes a couple of times yeah we were I remember that very well I was assisting some people who had been on night patrol they were coming back and these snipers sometimes and you couldn't see where they were. You had to be very very careful how you went out and how you come in. Practically the MPs who were replacing people they were not awol but had no business being out there and they would take shots at them. And they ran right into the compound when you have our medical supplies and so for our station then. So that was very ___ there. Another thing was because we were in close proximity to our POLs the lines and so forth. And the only thing one of the things that really helped us to maintain our sanity we had the fortunate some of the men who had been awarded the medal in the _____ division and they set up a perimeter. So they kept things pretty well in order they were real good to have around.

Interviewer: Were you ever wounded during combat?

Morrison: No fortunately I wasn't wounded. I just lucky I guess although we were always prepared for any eventuality and things like that. We had a couple men who got wounded. A fellow named Alexander from C Company and Charles Stanford from Boston they got wounded in my own unit but they were on the line also at that particular time. But and they were awarded the Purple Heart and one got the Soldiers Medal I don't remember but he deserved it he was a good fellow. Some of the fellows who were in the others in the other unit another outfit beside us a number of them got wounded. But they was setting up the bridges and roads and so forth. And they had no equipment so they were out there.

Interviewer: So from the time line that I've gotten established here you've been in for you've been in the military for a year or close to a year. Had you received a promotion by this time?

Morrison: From the time I went in in November by the time I got to India I was a buck sergeant. And after I had been in India oh for a limited time and after what's his name _____ tech sergeant he became got promoted to warrant officer I became the staff sergeant also the acting regimental medical sergeant major for the medical detachment. So we had six different detachments all of us had to work and some of them were green so they made me the regimental sergeant major for that period of time. Then I came home.

Interviewer: You've said before that you would rotate men from the front line to back end. Obviously on the front lines you don't have very much free time if you have even a minute to spare. When they came back to the rear area

Morrison: There was always something for them to do. Now when they came back what I would do I would give them a two day pass three day pass. Go _____ just relax and so forth that was their time they earned it. So even though I was putting in 14, 15, 16 hours a day that didn't make any difference to me they earned it. I said go take a three day pass go to Dakar go to Cashmere get some R&R.

Interviewer: Right

Morrison: And they would come back and only one person ever abused that privilege the whole time only one. And he pushed it a little bit too far but he was the only one who I ever had to had restrained and have him court marshaled. All the others I'd give them a warning they was no problem. But Bill he was one of those free spirits.

Interviewer: When your guys were on the front lines even when they came back to the rear areas obviously they would write letters to loved ones and friends back in the states. Did you guys have a good or do you feel that you had a good mail system did you get it promptly did it get out promptly?

Morrison: The mail got out as quickly as it could. I don't think the men had any complaints about the mail going out late. The mail was going out as best it could be under the circumstances. We were getting mail reasonably well reasonably well there was no question about that. So there was never a question about getting the mail it might be two or three days four or five days so nothing like that. But as far as moral in that particular area it was good. And they understood very well about that. I had some men actually they were training this is the off part who had been farm boys. And their scores was minimal and if they could get in whose _____ are in the states they are very good kids very wonderful character quiet. So we had to teach them how to read and write at that time. Some of the folks who were like Smith and Valentine we would take them in evenings teach them how to read and write. And it became they became very very good on the line they were dependable they knew what they were doing. After they were trained they had no problems doing the job well. And I gave them a recommendation for doing the job well and the captain major because it was just they do their job well. So even when they came back say for R&R say they were dispensed here and there I could always depend on them to do their job well even in their specialties. Or even in the field if they had to go out in the field for emergency surgery or something like that. There was no question about their learning they learned well and I was very proud of all of them. From the first sergeant down to who was my right hand man who I could depend on how to get supplies back to us and so forth what to do. How to give medications or whatnot how to do surgery how to do other things and gestures and so forth. We had to teach them all they never saw it was new to so many they never had anything like that how to do it. You take a company with a crew of men and yet you have to give each man three injections to a whole company in fifteen minutes. But they were just that good and at this point just keep those things going everything they used was sterilized.

Interviewer: Right

Morrison: Nothing was used that wasn't sterilized I really instated on that so there would be no contamination no one getting sick and so forth.

Interviewer: You mentioned and made reference to a question I had earlier about your impression of the British army. What was your impression of the Japanese army?

Morrison: Well I was shocked when I found out and I had the first I ran into at a particular place I had been shown I worked there and we stopped for the Chinese army. And we didn't recognize the Japanese ourselves but the Chinese recognized their characteristics. And they spotted them right away the Japanese reservist who are hungry. And they pointed them out to us and I was surprised by their stature because they weren't as big as I thought they were. I thought they were like they were much bigger at first but they are even shorter than some of the Chinese. But other than that the only one bad I'll say experience I can recall I remember we were up in China going to Corman. And had two little Chinese boys as guides because of the language and we went into this little town where the Japanese had been in there. And I ran into two young kids and it made me sick how they I couldn't see how a human could do this to another human particularly to a child. The kids had been de-castrated and this everything just revulsion but. And the kids said this was a common occurrence I said I can't believe this I said how does this happen so often. And I was just complete sick but other than that the only ones who had been

burned up with their Nato bombs and up in _____. Every tree was cut down burned down Cockerel and his group went through there. It was rough.

Interviewer: What while you were there you have mentioned quite a few different people that you came in contact with and you encountered. And you mentioned that when you landed in India the people were warm and welcoming and things of that nature. Was there any group that you ever remember coming in contact with either allied forces or enemy forces or any civilians that you remember that just refused or gave you a hard time for anything that you were trying to do? Whether it be for them or?

Morrison: Well the only ones I recall who seemed a little difficult to deal with because they wanted to be very close within themselves were a group of people a tribe that lived on the boarder of India and Burma. One of the Nega tribe and they were very reclusive people in that they didn't want strangers to become familiar with them unless the chief gave his say so. You had to go through the chief for everything. They were very specific about that there was no give one way or the other. They were so reclusive that they hid us in some of their villages. In some of their villages you see these little stars and you see these heads with skulls around them that tells you to stay out. I met a couple of men who I became very close with friends with. One had been a teacher at the University of Calcutta and the other one was his brother who had a store retail store. What you would call a mom and pop store had different things and so forth. And they allowed themselves only to become familiar to one peer at a time. In other words they were testing you to see what kind of a person you were before they let you into their conference. And before you could meet any of the rest of their family their mother, or sisters, or whatever _____ they gave you a thorough going over. They talked with you and so forth then after they got to know you they would allow you to come into the conversation. I enjoyed their company because in particular because they wanted to learn as much about this country as we wanted to learn about their country. So we exchanged stories, philosophies, ideas, and so forth so we became very very close in that respect. And even after the war for a period of time after we kept writing correspondence back and forth. I can honestly say I moved and I never got in touch with him again. I wished I had though because he was a very fine gentleman. His brother I liked his brother because he was teaching me some things I didn't understand. But those are the only close friends I can think of I had direct contact with. Teaching me _____ and teaching me _____ and that must have been godly because I used to read the India English newspaper called the Statesman. And that's how I used to keep up with the world news at that particular time. And of course you know we had the shortwave radios and heard what Tokyo Rose.

Interviewer: Oh yeah

Morrison: And she knew all about us.

Interviewer: I'm sure you know Rainbow Five the strategic plan.

Morrison: Uh huh

Interviewer: And on this plan Europe and Germany were first Japan was second China, Burma, India Campaign and Theatre was third and then it went on around to the other two. Did you guys ever feel that you were forgotten about where you were? I mean how did this play into your soldiers and their moral if they felt they were forgotten?

Morrison: Our feeling especially about this our reaction was key on what had been told to us and it came down from Stillwell George Stillwell. And he was bitter a couple of times particularly with the _____. He disagreed with _____ and still was a soldier's man really because he didn't mind sticking it out with the soldiers and what not. And he just agreed with them. So a lot of the information that he left came from him and I was surprised and so forth about things we didn't get into we should have and I know he was bitter very bitter about that and he expressed it from time to time. Maybe he shouldn't have so loudly but we heard about it and so forth. And I think this affected his relationship with _____ and with McArthur.

Interviewer: You said a couple times you stayed in China, Burma, and India until you got out. When was it when you finally left?

Morrison: Well we went to China came back went to China and when we came out of China we came back to _____ then we flew to Karachi. We stayed in Karachi there for a while then we came back to the states it was close to was after Thanksgiving of 45. Yeah because I was in China at the time when the A bomb went off. The commander of China _____ yeah the commander of China. Then when the A bomb went off we came back to India came back to _____ then went to Karachi India.

Interviewer: When you got back how long did it take before did you get out of the military directly?

Morrison: When I came back I had the option if I wanted to stay in the military or if I wanted to go to post graduate school. And I one of my reasons to get out of the military was unofficially some of the men had been offered commissions overseas. And some of them turned them down I said you're going home I want to go home too. So I came home by buddy said are you going to stay in you going to go to school I said no I think I'll go in the reserves. So I went in the reserves stayed in the reserves until 54. In the meantime when I was in the reserves I was with the CID for a period of time but I got out in 1954.

Interviewer: I think that's about all the questions I have for you. Is there anything you feel I've not covered that you'd like to speak about or anything that you'd like to elaborate further on?

Morrison: Generally no I don't think so because I've been asked to write about my experiences which I didn't do day to day experiences. Because at that particular time you had to go through this long _____ of people to get approval to write a book. And I said it's not worth going through all that hassle so forget it. So what I've done I've written a lot of notes and so forth I've written them down and my son he wants to compile it and what not the things that went on from day to day. I was the only thing I can say I was surprised I was walking down the streets of Pittsburg Pennsylvania and run into a couple old buddies of mine just by accident. This was about 30 years later or 20 years later I couldn't believe it. Oh my _____ where have you been? Said Lee's down at _____. Other than that no.

Interviewer: Al right.

Morrison: Okay thank you

Interviewer: Thank you for your time I appreciate it.

Morrison: I hope it will be of some help to you.

Interviewer: It sounds like it will.