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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Ray Nosaka (RN)

Honolulu, O`ahu

May 12, 2005

BY: Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto (MK) and Warren Nishimoto (WN)

MK: This is an interview with Mr. Raymond Nosaka on May 12, 2005. And it's being held in Honolulu, Hawai'i, and the interviewers are Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto and Warren Nishimoto.

And so, Mr. Nosaka, we're going to start the interview now. And first of all, we're going to begin with just easy, biographical information, yeah. So what year were you born?

RN: Nineteen sixteen.

MK: And where were you born?

RN: Born in Pālama, Honolulu.

MK: And what was your mother's name?

RN: Tsune.

MK: Based on what you've heard about her, what do you know about her background?

RN: Oh, her background is, she was an *odori* [dance] and samisen teacher. And after that, my dad sent her to Japan to learn how to make those wedding hair. And she came back and then she taught how to make those. Because in the olden days, they used to have false kind, you know, when you get married, you just stick it on (chuckles).

MK: So your mother was a dance instructor, samisen . . .

RN: Samisen, yeah.

MK: . . . instructor, and she would make the Japanese headdress wig for, like, weddings.

RN: Yeah.

MK: And from what *ken* [prefecture] did she come from?

RN: Oh, she comes from Hiroshima in Japan. And my father comes from Yamaguchi.

MK: And, you know, you mentioned that your mother had been married before?

RN: Yeah, she was a widow and she had two children. One is Hideo and the other is Chizuko. And I had one adopted sister, older sister. It happened some years back. The way I heard it, this man came to my house and just left her, and he didn't come back for her. And then she grew to be just like my own family, my older sister, you know.

MK: And so in your family, how many children did your father raise?

RN: Well, one, two, three, four, five. And then my mother's side, they had two, Hideo and Chizuko. And one adopted one, so the family came big.

(Laughter)

MK: What number were you?

RN: I'm, well, you know, actually, if you don't count my half-sister, I'm the number two. And my older brother was Charles Katsunosuke. I don't know why they gave him that kind of name. And I was a very shy person, very quiet, you know, because my older brothers made sure that I don't say too much or something. Anyway, I was always — they call it *otonashii* [quiet] in Japanese — and I was brought up always quiet. Even when I went to — when we were in Kalākaua Intermediate School, my brother was very popular. The girls used to just grab him like this. [Hug him.] And sometimes they'd grab me, and I'd say, "Oh, I'm the wrong person" you know.

(Laughter)

He was very popular, but I was always behind, I don't say anything.

MK: And your father, what was your father's name?

RN: Magoichi Nosaka. He was a general building contractor. Those days, we're not in a plantation, but they call it Nosaka Camp, Okada Camp, Wong Camp, you know. I don't know,

they used the word "camp," but it's not a camp, it's just a building with rental homes, yeah.

MK: Where were all these rental homes located?

RN: Right in Auld Lane, and used to get the Kambara Store, Wong Store, Okada Store, Kam Store. Small little place had a lot of stores (chuckles).

MK: Then how many houses did he have, rentals?

RN: We had two two-story buildings. One story was for us, and the basement was rented out. And then across us, had two homes where they can rent upstairs, downstairs; upstairs, downstairs. In addition to that, he has his contracting business, so he had a warehouse there. And in those days, there's no law where you can have safety. In his office, he had dynamite sticks just piled up like this, you know. There's no law. But today, you cannot do that. But those days. . . . That's why when my house had fire, the things start exploding all over. Some homes get all holes like that because the thing just keeps going like that.

And we used to have horse right in there, we have chickens. Because in those days, have horse wagon, too, see, besides trucks. They have this kind of trucks, and then the horse used to pull 'em. So we had horse, too, we had chickens, and we had a gas station, you know, for pump. In those days, used to pump. And my mother, she's only about four feet eight, but she drives a Model-A.

(Laughter)

It was a Model-A Ford. But she used to drive, I don't know how she does it but (chuckles).

MK: So your dad, he was a building contractor, he was a landlord because he rented, . . .

RN: Yes, yes.

MK: . . . and he also had a service station.

RN: No. Later on, he got a service station in Kapahulu. Nosaka Service Station. Because my oldest half-brother took over the place in Kapahulu. So he [RN's father] used to have a lot of leased land over there. So I used to follow him, he collect rents, yeah. And then, I don't know why he picked on me, you know, he takes me all over the place. Like in Ford Island, all the tennis courts were made by my dad. And then he takes me there, too. So I used to wait and go hook fish over there, you know. Just waiting for him.

MK: When you say that your father was a building contractor, what kind of things did he build on O'ahu?

RN: Oh, he built roads, like in — they used to call it "Kāne'ohē *Pupule* [crazy, insane] House," you know. He made all the roads over there [at the Territorial Hospital]. And he used to take me around, and I used to think, "How come this guy [a patient] working on a hill?" It's a little off, you know. But those days, wasn't strict, they [patients] can go anywhere they want. And he made all the roads over there.

And he built some, like that Kalihi Mortuary. That, he built that. That's why, when I was a kid, I used to watch what they were doing because he goes and checks — when he goes and builds a place, I used to see what they do, you know. What they used to do is, they have a coffin, and then when all is over, they take the body out there, and cremate 'em right there. And then they take the coffin, they rebuild it again, and resell it again. You know, I used to notice that. That's why when my dad died, he died over there, too. They had a big funeral over there. But I still remember when I was a kid, I used to watch what they do, you know. They just cremate the child and take the coffin. And then in the back, there's a place, they just make it nice again, and resell it again. Because all the Japanese people usually cremate the body. So they don't keep it at all, you know.

And you take, like, from Hanauma Bay all the way to the Blowhole, my dad, he built that road. That's when they used to have mountains, he used to get dynamite-man, dynamite the road. One of the dynamite-men died at work, that's what I was told. So the road from there to Blowhole was built by him.

MK: How many workers did he have?

RN: Oh, he had about thirty. Big gang, he used to have. I still remember when I was a kid, ho, the people report about six o'clock in the morning and gather where they're going to go work. And when my house had a fire, just like the Chicago one, you know. My older brother was there, and this man was about — it was about five-thirty — Kawakami family, his Model-T got out of gas, so they push it to the gas pump, you know. And my older brother was holding the lantern like this because it was getting dark. And the gasoline splash, and then the big fire. And all the whole Nosaka Camp went to ashes. And till today, that's the biggest fire in Pālama. The whole camp. Everybody. . . . And then all kind [of] places get holes in the roof because of the dynamite, you know.

WN: How old were you when that fire took place?

RN: I was about, must be about eight. And then I saw my dog — we always have dogs, about four dogs — I saw the pup, I grabbed the pup from upstairs, I ran outside. And all my family is all split, we don't know how to get together. We all ran away. This Higashi Hongwanji used to get, you know, over there [Banyan Street], by Pälama. They kept us for six months until the house was built again. So, you know, they helped us quite a bit.

MK: In that big fire, were there any people who were hurt?

RN: No, nobody was hurt. I don't see how. And the way I heard it, the firemen came, they ran out of water. (Chuckles) It just happened like that, and then it gets worse and worse, and then all the whole camp, down to ashes. And at that time, was payday, so he had a lot of coins and all that. People would come and pick up all whatever they can find. Because those days, five cents was five cents, you know (chuckles) it's not like now.

I used to go to Likelike Elementary School. My dog always follows us to school. You turn around, you throw the stone, he goes back. First thing you know, he's in back of you again, you know. And then you're in the school already. So the schoolteacher tell us, "You better take that dog home." We take 'em home, we have to tie 'em up because he follows you again, you know. Because he becomes so friendly with the family, it's just like a family. My house always used to have dogs. That's why when I was four years old, my dad took me to Japan with my brother. And my brother was about five, I think. We board the *Taiyo Maru*. And he had one horse, one cow, and one goat, and one dog. I used to go feed 'em every day, you know. From my cabin, I go down, I used to feed 'em.

Then when we reached Japan, they took a train and went to Hiroshima, the first place. Then he gave the dog to the army camp to train. So he donated the dog. Then from there, we went to Yamaguchi, where my father's brother lives. Then he gave him the cow and all the other animals. Because they had a farm way in the sticks someplace. And then, instead of taking us back home, he left us, and he went home. So, the two of us — but he [RN's older brother] was old enough to go school, but I was too young to go school. So I have to stay home and, you know, stay with the farming family. And you know, those days, all the bathrooms are all you squat like this. Not the flushing toilet, you know. And when they had funeral like that, they all walk all the way to the funeral parlor, I remember. I still remember, they had a lot of — these places, they have snakes and all of

that, all in the country, yeah. And then my brother, he was able to go school there because he was old enough to go school, and I was a little too young to go to school.

So when finally, both of us came home [to Honolulu], they used to call us *boboras* [equivalent to FOB], you know why? We can't speak English. We lost all our talk, you know, whether it be pidgin English or what, but we all forgot that language of English. So they used to sort of push us around, call us *bobora*, and all that. So eventually, I learned, I learned, and then I got to learn to speak English. Even at home, I was so used to the toilets [in Japan], I still squat on the toilet, because you're so used to squatting down, you know. And it took me about a year to learn to sit right on the toilet seat (laughs).

MK: You know, I was wondering, how come your father took you folks to Japan?

RN: That's the thing, I still don't know why. I thought we were going to visit. He just left, dumped us, and went home, you know. I don't know why. Till today, I never did ask him, "How come you don't take us home, and just dump us there?" We stayed there two years, you know. So we came back really Japanese-like. So they used to tease us all the time.

MK: When he took you folks to Japan, just you and your brother?

RN: That's right, the two.

MK: So you were separated from your mother, then?

RN: Yeah, we were separated two years from my mother and my father. That's why I don't know what the reason, maybe he want to train us to be farmers, I don't know (chuckles), but. It's really a farming town, where we stayed, yeah. But I guess I learned a lot, through experience, you know. How the people live, and things like that.

MK: And then . . .

RN: No matter where I went, my brother was always the boss. So I can't say one word all the way. Every place I go — even at home, when we came home, I just stay in the back, I don't say one word. And then as I grew up, when I was a — let's see, in the eighth grade, one Hawaiian guy nominated me to be the president for the junior Hi-Y. You know, junior Hi-Y used to be popular those days. So first time, I've never been a leader or anything, I was backwards, yeah. So I became a leader, more confident, speak a little bit. Then when we went to camp in Camp Erdman with the YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association], that's when I heard

[Professor] Shunzo Sakamaki speak, you know. So I approached him, I said, "Can you come to my class to give a class about Manchuria?"

Oh, he said, "Oh, yeah."

So when I came back to school, I asked my teacher, Miss Connors, if I could have him speak to our classes. "Oh, no," she says, "that's too big, we'll call the whole student body." So the whole student body came to listen to Shunzo Sakamaki. And because of that, they put me on the debating team, "Was Japan justified in invading Manchuria?" That's how I learned to get a little bit more outward. But before that, I was always behind, you know.

Then, when I was a kid, a guy taught me how to box. And then you start getting to competitive sports, you know. You get a little more outward. Otherwise, I used to be — even I come in this room, I wouldn't say one word. I was like that. But eventually, I learned to be more aggressive, playing barefoot football, and boxing, swimming, you know. Pälama Settlement was a place where we always [went] — it's twenty-five cents a year, see, so we can afford it. They have all kinds of competitions: rope climbing, swimming, you know. That's how I learned to be more outward. Because in competitive sports, you cannot stay behind, you just got to be aggressive, you know. That's how I learned to speak a little bit.

And then my dramatic teacher, Miss Lee, she was my English teacher — I don't know why, she tell me, "Raymond, I'm going to give you a name, I cannot pronounce your name good so I'll name you Raymond." And I came Raymond. Of course, they call me Ray now, but Raymond. She pushed me to be the actor. I still remember, I was on the stage, I was Long John Silver. I was a character, I sang, "I stole this umbrella one day, ha-ha." I still remember the first sentence that I had to sing (chuckles). Miss Lee, after so many years, she married to Mr. DeMello, he was some kind of big shot in the amateur AAU [Amateur Athletic Union] boxing. And she used to go every time. So when my turn to fight, she always come to me, say, "Raymond, you remember me?"

I say, "Yeah, I remember you."

So all those things helped me out to be more outward. I never was like that. But even when I went to high school, I learned a bad way because I started getting into the bad group. You know. But the only thing is, within the bad group, when I take the exam, I always take the exam first before I play hooky, you know. We used to go down Kūhiō

Beach and go surf. But I always make sure I take the exam beforehand. I was that much conscientious. But my friends, they don't care.

(Laughter)

So I got into a lot of trouble with them, gang fight, and all of that. But I don't regret, because when I look back, I learned so much from them, I'm grateful. (Laughs)

MK: Mr. Nosaka, I'm going to move you back a little bit, yeah.

RN: Yeah.

MK: You know, you said that you went to Japan when you were four years old and you came back about two years later, yeah. And then you had to go to elementary school, Likelike [School], and people used to tease you as *bobora*.

RN: Those days, the word *bobora* is just like "foreigner" or something like that, I don't know. (Chuckles) Yeah.

MK: So, when people used to tease you as *bobora*, how did you deal with it?

RN: I just go along with them because the majority is against me, yeah, so I just keep quiet, don't say anything. But those are the things that you learn as you get older, you get a little matured. I don't regret all those things, you know. It was a little bit tough, but I learned.

MK: And . . .

RN: I learned through experience, yeah. So all these things, I never regret what I did because I always somehow I learn from them. I learn bad things, I learn good things, too. So I'm grateful for that.

Even when I received a letter. . . . When I went to San Francisco — my brother was over there already, he asked me to come down. My Chinese friend, he was going to UC [University of California], so he was going to UC, and my other Korean friend, he just wanted to go with me. So the three of us went to the — Fort Street, used to get American President Lines, you know, boat. So, first the two bought their tickets, when it came to my turn, he [clerk] said, "I'm sorry, I can't give you the ticket."

I said, "Why?"

He says, "I only work here, you have to go get a passport." You know.

"Wait a minute," I said, "I'm an American citizen."

But he said, "I'm sorry, I only work here, you can see my boss, but he's going to tell you the same thing. So you have to go to the immigration station to get a passport."

I don't know why, but, you know, at that time, was 1938, see. That's just when Japan and the Germans became allies. That's why they couldn't trust us, I think. And so I went to immigration station, but they told me, "Where's your birth certificate?"

I said, "I don't know."

So I went home, and I don't have any birth certificate. So my old man witnessed when I was born and things like that. So I was issued a Hawaiian birth certificate when I was already about nineteen years old, with a nineteen-year-old picture on my birth certificate. Those days, always midwives — used to be just like a doctor, yeah — so some of them, they don't report the thing right. Not even recorded. But that's how it was in the midwife days. They deliver, and then they don't care. That's why they spell the name wrong, or give the date of birth wrong, you know. And sometimes they don't even report, and things like that.

And so finally, I got my passport, and I went to San Francisco to meet my brother. When I went there, he had a little room — he was a bartender — and I guess they pay for his room, too. That was in Japanese town. Japan Town, they called it. And I used to sleep with him. I wanted to go better myself, so I wanted to go to school. So my friend, he graduated from United Engineering School, he told me, "Why don't you go to that school?" So I applied and I was accepted and I stayed there. But you know, tuition is not that cheap. So I applied for a job there. I worked for Dr. Riley. And all I had was room and board. And then every day, I don't know how to cook, but the lady peeled potato, onions, I used to help 'em, you know, things like that.

And then from there, I catch the trolley, go to school, back and forth. I make my own sandwich, and I go back and forth. And that's when [1939] they had the World's Fair, too, in San Francisco. So I used to go there because they gave you student discount, you know. Every day, I used to go, back and forth. But the funny part of it is, when in the war, when I went to — for my hospital to Sicily on a stretcher. Dr. Riley was the commanding officer over there. I didn't know until I left there and then the wife wrote me a letter that, you know, "You remember Dr. Riley?"

I said, "Yeah."

"He was the commander over there."

And I could have even talked to him, but I didn't know, you know.

MK: You know, going back to your real young days, when you were like elementary school.

RN: Yes.

MK: Before we go into your later time, I was wondering, when you went to elementary school, coming back from Japan, how was elementary school for you, learning English, arithmetic, and everything?

RN: That made us study harder, you know. Stay home and try to study. And that's how I caught up. Before that, I'm behind, yeah. I finally caught up. But even Likelike School, my teacher, Mrs. Leong, I don't know why she picks on me. She tell me go down — used to get the garden, cabbage, so with this they go to sell to the students. She picks on me to go room to room to sell. "Anybody want a cabbage?" and order. Why me? You know. I used to always wonder, why you pick on me? And like when they had a Thanksgiving, the principal picked three of us to go eat corn in front of the whole student body. You know, they sing the song and we eat the corn. I feel so embarrassed but, I mean, I cannot say no. When I look back, I say, "Why they picked on me?" I keep wondering sometimes what they had in their mind. They could have picked other students, why me? Even when we became JPO, Junior Police Officer, I was picked to go. I give the wrong signal all the time, I get scolded.

(Laughter)

The guy making the hand sign this way, I let 'em go this way. But I learned as I go along. But I always wonder why they ask me. Like even when I was in the eighth grade, my homeroom teacher always keep me after school to clean the room a little bit, you know, after work. Erase the blackboard and all that. Now, I look back, I say, "Why she picked on me every day?" She kept me at school. I wasn't doing anything bad, but they kept me. I look back and say, "Eh, why they picked on me every day?" I used to do the work.

MK: And where did you go intermediate school?

RN: Kalākaua [Intermediate School]. Those Kalākaua days were pretty hard because all the bad kids used to go school over there, you know. And in those days, after you get to be ninth grade—used to be ninth grade you get out — everybody

has to look at the paper that you received. If you don't see any remarks, you can go high school. If you see remarks, then you cannot go high school. That's why I think, when I went to high school, I say, "Eh, what happened to these people, what happened to these people?" Come to find out, they were not recommended. It's hard to believe. So all my gang, we exchanged papers and looked, "What you got?"

"No more nothing."

"Okay then, we're accepted."

You know, like that. That's how they used to do it, you know. Not like now, you have to go, whether you like it or not. But those days — that's why a lot of my classmates, I don't see them at school. I say, "What happened?" you know. Come to find out, they were not recommended. I didn't know that.

MK: What were your parents' attitudes toward school?

RN: You know, strangely enough, my dad, as far as I know, his most important was Japanese[-language] school. We used to go after school. We used to come back and then go school. I hate to go Japanese school so I used to play hooky all the time. And then somehow, the report went to my dad that, "What happened to your son?"

He said, "He goes to school every day."

"Oh no, he doesn't report how long already."

So my dad called me one time, he said, "From now on," he said, "after you come school, if you don't study, I'm going to punish you."

So you know what he did? He get the teacher to come our house and tutor me. Because my father can afford it those days, you know. Gave me a private tutor from Japanese school to come our house to do that. (Chuckles) Which I couldn't understand. And I'm not good at Japanese, the only prize I got after that was, I didn't absent one day, (chuckles) so I got a certificate for that because I present every day.

(Laughter)

WN: How come you didn't like Japanese[-language] school?

RN: You know, funny thing, even I was even ashamed to carry *musubi* [rice ball]. You know, my sister used to make

musubi, I used to give it to somebody else and I go and eat something else. I was kind of ashamed of being Japanese. I don't know why, but I used to always hide from being Japanese. I don't want them to call me Japanese or something like that. So that how I was in my mind, I always—my sister always make *musubi* and fish, yeah. I give it to somebody, I don't eat it. I go someplace and eat something else. But, I mean, that's why, I must be a mixed-up kid, I don't know. (Chuckles)

MK: And so how many years did you do Japanese[-language] school?

RN: I went to Japanese[-language] school till seventh grade. And then I took kendo, yeah. And even then, when I took kendo, I get good scolding. Because most of the time, I'm left-handed, and hard to stand the right way, you know. But I took kendo, and then I came out after that all right. We used to go every Saturday afternoon after school. Because those days, the Japanese[-language] school teacher was so strict, you know. Like my friend Nishishita, he was sitting down, just dozing off. He go up there, grab the kid, throw him like that, you know. Give him judo. Throw 'em out. And tell him, "Go home." Just like that. They're so strict. They used physical, you know. Not only telling you. So the teachers are just like number one. To our parents, too, the Japanese[-language] school teacher is number one. English teacher no mean nothing to them. Even when I graduated high school, not one of my family came senior high school graduation. The only *lei* I had was from my boy friend. He gave me a carnation red. But the rest, they care less if I graduate or not.

So when I went to business school for a while, about a year, I had to work my way. Every month I go early, I clean up the place. When they're all through, I tidy up the place. And then they give me a discount on my tuition. And so everything I did was, I don't know, odd sometimes.

And those days, we like to work because we like to get some money. So my brother, he's. . . . Like Fort Street, like this, I walk on across, and he walks across. We go to store, store, right down the line. Look for job. And in the end, we end up in Mānoa cutting grass (chuckles). Can't get a job, yeah.

And this guy Mr. [Frederick] Makino, he was a very activist-like man [*Hawai'i Hochi* editor and publisher], you know, agitarian, or. . . . He used to get a big home in Mānoa. Had swimming pool and everything. He wanted to adopt my brother and myself. So he used to invite us every weekend. We used to catch a streetcar. We stayed overnight

and come back. But somehow, I don't know, it didn't materialize, I guess. But I was told that he wanted to adopt my brother and myself (chuckles). That's how I got to know Mr. Makino.

MK: And I was wondering, when did your father die?

RN: He died when he was sixty, so April 1st—remember April Fools' Day they had the tidal wave, that's the day he died.

MK: Okay, 1946.

RN: That's why I can remember, April 1st.

MK: Okay, so your father lived beyond your high school years, yeah?

RN: Yeah.

MK: He lived a long time. And I was wondering, going back, you talked about that big fire, yeah. With your property all burning like that, how did your family manage?

RN: Afterwards, you mean?

MK: Mm-hmm [yes].

| RN: Well, my dad is — I guess he must be an entrepreneur. Because he came back, and he start rebuilding the home. And then he start getting all those trucks and all that together again. Buy all that equipment, yeah, concrete mixer and all that. So he tried to recoup, but it was kind of hard so he started going down and down. But by the time, we're not so bad because we came older already, yeah. We can go on our own. But he believes in education. He wants us to go school. But my older brother, he likes to play music. So he goes, those days, Phillips Commercial School was the best in Hawai'i. He goes there just to play music, he doesn't study. He didn't even go high school, you know. From there, from ninth grade, he went straight to the commercial school. And he only play over there, play music and things like that.

MK: And then for you, you finished Kalākaua, and then you went to . . .

RN: McKinley [High School].

MK: What do you remember about your days at McKinley?

| RN: Well, the first time I went there, the first thing I got caught, three of us, was playing — cut class. And the boys'

advisor was Mr. O'Neil, he used to be a boys' advisor at Kalākaua. We used to make trouble, too. Then when he call us three, he say, "You guys? How did you come to McKinley High School?" You know, he scold us, "Why you want to play hooky for, you come here to learn."

I say, "Well, I don't know."

He say, "Well, you better straighten up because this is very important. But of all things, how did you come to this school? You were so bad at the other school," (chuckles) "and then come here." Three of us getting big lecture, you know.

Even when I was going ROTC [Reserve Officers' Training Corps] over there, our colonel was Colonel Robert Stevenson. He came pretty popular over here.

RN: And one time, I was wearing double clothes. One uniform, and one non-uniform. And he tell me, "Hey boy, what you have on there? You're supposed to wear complete clothes."

So I told him, "Who you anyway?" You know, I was addressing, "Who you anyway, who telling me what to wear?"

"I'm your colonel."

"What is a colonel?" You know, I don't know anything about ROTC, I was just a freshman that time. So he call me in and gave me lecture, and then after that I straighten up a little bit, you know.

Even when I was in sophomore year, I wanted to show off, you know — I don't know why, I like be popular. So I cut my hair, *bolohead* [bald], real *bolohead*. And the lady was cutting my hair, she said, "You sure now?" She goes halfway, "You sure?" Keep on going, keep on going until my hair was all gone. Then when I went to school, I always wore a hat, see. So the teacher tell me, "Raymond, take that hat off."

I said, "No, I have a big boil here, so I don't want to take it off."

So she said, "Okay, you leave it on."

Two weeks later, I still have the hat on, so she calls me inside, say, "Your boil must be good by now, you know, cured."

I said, "No, still there."

So she say, "Well, I'll take you to the dispensary."

She took me to the dispensary, I had to take my hat off. There's nothing there (chuckles). So the teacher tells me, "So you lied, eh."

I said yeah, I was ashamed to show my *bolohead*. (Chuckles) That's how naughty I was.

MK: You mentioned ROTC at McKinley.

RN: Mm-hmm [yes].

MK: What did you folks have to do for ROTC?

RN: Well, we do marching, stand, understand how to make left turn, right turn, things like that. So it's a good thing for any student, to discipline, yeah. But at that time, your thinking is different.

MK: You know, you said that when you were a student, you got a little bit into drama. You did some speaking . . .

RN: Mm-hmm [yes]. Debate and all that.

MK: Debate. Did you continue that in high school, too, that kind of thing?

RN: No, I wasn't that ambitious, you know. I figured, well, I'll just get my twelve credits, that's good enough. But now I look back, I say, "Chee," you know. That's why when I went the entrance exam here. I have to go take the entrance exam, you know, over here. And then they said I was shy of algebra. So I took algebra and I brought 'em back and then I was admitted to attend university over here.

MK: And then when you went to McKinley, what kind of courses were you taking at McKinley?

RN: I took agriculture, chemistry, and-what was the other one? - history. You know, I wasn't prepared to go taking university courses. So when I went to apply, they say, "You shy of this, you shy of that." So I have to take the exam, and then where I'm lacking, he told me go back high school, get these courses. So I went back night school, and that's how I got admitted. Otherwise, I couldn't be accepted, yeah.

MK: And at McKinley, besides ROTC, what other activities . . . ?

RN: Oh, we used to have a Ke Alii Hi-Y. They used to call it Ke Alii. All from Pālama side, yeah. And I was one of the presidents (chuckles). I don't know how I got, but (chuckles). And the funny thing is, my teacher still remembers me. Miss Leong, from grammar school, then she went to Kaimuki Intermediate School. My daughter was a science teacher. And she still remembers me. She say, "Where's your father today?" and things like that. She questions her. Funny thing, she still remembers. I think the naughty ones, they remember, I think. But, yeah. Even today, one of my Kalākaua School teachers—I was walking on Kaimuki — and she calls me. I think, "Chee, who this person?"

She say, "You forgot me?" She say, "I used to be your history teacher."

I say, "Oh, yeah, yeah."

You know, when she asked a question from the history, if I don't know, you know what I tell her? "I'm so sorry, I'm still concentrating." So the students all laugh, you know. I say those things like that. Instead of saying, "I don't know," I tell, "Oh, I'm still concentrating." (Chuckles)

But all these things that happen, I make mistakes, I try to learn more. And then after I got married, I change a little bit. Because when you start getting children, your responsibility changes, yeah. You sacrifice so much for the kids, you know. You don't want them to be like me, you know. I want them to succeed in their academics. So at least all my children went to the university here.

MK: And then for you, when you were in school, you mentioned you also did sports. What kind of sports were you doing when you were a student?

RN: Barefoot football. Those days, used to get barefoot football. After school, you go and train, yeah. And then swimming. And then I used to play basketball, you know. Any sports that's open, I used to try to compete. I'm not the best, but at least I try, you know. And some, I succeeded. Like boxing, I succeeded a little bit. I became a boxing champion in San Francisco. But other than that, I'm not the best.

MK: How did you get into boxing?

RN: Oh, this guy, Mr. Tanaka, he used to have one painting shop outside Auld Lane. He came and says, "Hey Riyoso, put this glove on." Then he call one more guy, "Put this glove on." He say, "Okay, box." I had no training, but somehow, I hit

him and he got beat, and he stopped, fell down, and he start crying, see. Then Mr. Tanaka say, "Raymond, from tomorrow, you come to my paint shop. There's a bag over there, and you go train over there." Just like that. He thought I had the potential or something, I don't know. But anyway, I'm glad I learned because people start respecting you in my Pälama district, you know. If you don't know some kind of self-defense, they give you a good licking, you know. So when they saw me, I went to athletics, they respected me. You know, that's how I learned that respect from sports. You know, sports is a fun thing. If you do a little bit good, they kind of respect you.

I don't steal, they'd always — we used to steal sometimes, you know. We don't steal because we needed it, we just steal it because we get enjoyment. I don't know, you know. We used to take the candy from Young Store. You know the announcer in the KHON [KITV] one, I think, she come from the Young family in Pälama, see. But they used to have a candy store. My brother took me over there, say, "Here, grab the candy." I grab the candy. "Run." I had to run, had this man chasing. My brother said, "Throw the candy away, throw the candy away." I throw the candy away, and then we got away. But, you know, was real naughty. My brother was really naughty, more than I was. But when he tells me do this, I have to do it. He's the boss. (Chuckles) But as I grew up, he started respecting me a little bit, yeah.

MK: And then you know in the old days, what kind of place was Pälama?

RN: I would say it was one of those places where all the hoodlums come. Those days, Kalihi, Kaka'ako, and Pälama was the worst districts you could find. Just like towards country now, Waipahu and those places. Just like that, oh, we were—you say you come from Pälama, they don't want part of you. 'Cause when we went to outside islands to play football, after the football, we get social, you know. The girls are afraid of us because we come from Pälama. Just the word "Pälama." They don't ask us, "You all right?" No. They just shy away from you. Yet they making social for us so that we could be friendly, but they're afraid of us as soon as they heard, "Eh, you from Pälama." Oh boy, that's Hell's Acre over here. But, like anything else, no matter what the bad district is, there's good ones, and there's some smart ones, too, yeah. But that area is a rough area. You ask your old-timers who come from Pälama, oh, the Pälama or Kaka'ako, bad district. You know, so you might as well tell them someplace else, you know. You tell them Pälama, oh boy, they afraid of you or they don't respect you, or something like that.

Even those days, used to get Pälama Theatre. But before the Pälama Theatre was built, they used to call it — they used to have a theater with no roof. No roof, you know. They just — they called it "Old Shack." Old Shack. And then we used to go and see movies over there. You can see the big rats running around and all things like that. No safety. Rain, you got to bring umbrella to watch the movie because no roof. Finally, they built a new Pälama Theatre. Now, it's not like that. It's nice, though, but it's not a Pälama Theatre like it used to be.

WN: Yeah, we're going to change tapes right now. We're going to take a break right now.

TAPE NO. 44-41-1-05

MK: Okay, this is continuation of the first session with Mr. Nosaka.

And we were talking about old days, Pälama, yeah.

RN: Mm-hmm [yes].

MK: Like you had Pälama Theatre, you mentioned Young Store. What other businesses or things were . . .

RN: There's Holly Bakery, H-O-L-L-Y, not Holy, you know. Holly, H-O-L-L-Y. They used to get. It's run by Japanese bakers and all that. But that's right where the Auld Lane starts from King Street. Now, you don't see that anymore, yeah. But that's where, one day, I brought my friend and then I stole a pie, you know. And the pie was so hot, ho, I couldn't hold it, you know. I run outside, dump the pie down.

(Laughter)

We used to be rascals.

MK: So you . . .

RN: The only time I went jail was when we had a gang fight. I belonged to a gang, you know, gang fight. We had about ten against, you know, so many guys. But one of them threw a rock and hit the guy on the head. And instead of taking everybody, I'm one of the three that they picked to go jail. They put us, you know by Bethel Street. That's where they took us over there. And we stayed there two nights. Two nights over there. And you know, the funny part of it is, that my father knows Lieutenant Morse over there, my dad. So he came to bail me out. And he says, there's no Nosaka here, you know. What I did was I gave my name

Komatsu, you know, false my name, says Komatsu. He says, "There's no Nosaka here." Then he calls me inside, "Oh, my boy, my boy." My father started, "That's my boy, my boy." (Chuckles) Those days, you know, you in the cell and they give you tea in the morning, tea and bread. Lunchtime, tea and bread. Evening time, you get hamburger. The food isn't that good, yeah.

And then to make us – they're trying to see who threw the rock, see, to hurt the guy. So they used to call three of us individually. And you know what the first question they told me? Says, "Your name Raymond Nosaka?"

I said, "Yes."

"Weren't you the one that threw the rock?"

I says, "No."

"What, your friend told me you threw."

I said, "No, I did not throw the rock."

And then they tell me, "Okay."

Then he calls the next guy, he tell him the same thing, that I told. You know, they tell us all lies, you know. They try to make us tell who threw the rock. Then all of us talk like this – each one get different cell, you know, separate cell – we talk like this. The next day, you know what they did? They said, "You know, your friend died, you know, the one that you threw the rock, died." It's all lies, you know.

I said, "Yeah, ho, I know I didn't throw the rock."

He says, "Come in here." Took a picture, and say, "I'm sorry, but, you know, the guy that you threw the rock at died." He didn't die at all, but they lie to make you talk, you know. And finally, my dad knows Lieutenant Morse, and then so embarrassing because I go under the name Komatsu, falsified the name Komatsu. And here, he calls me over there, he said – you know, they thought I was Komatsu, but I'm not, Nosaka. You know, that's why I lied at that time. But Lieutenant Morse was a good friend of my dad so I was lucky. And then they release us, you know. But they do all kinds of things, those days, to win the case, I guess. But now, I look back, I say, "Chee."

And then the other case was this – even if it's Pälama, there's racial [discrimination] between Korean, Chinese, and Japanese, you know. Your father don't want you

associating with the girls, you know. They're part of the same thing. And I had a Korean girlfriend.

But those days, Koreans don't like Japanese. Japanese don't like Korean, you know. It was like that. When they say "hate," they really hate them, you know. When my girlfriend died, you know, she was in St. Francis Hospital. I wait by the grass. And then when I see all the family leave, then I used to go up. This nun over there - she used to be Catholic, yeah - told me that, "Every time you come, she's so cheerful, you know." Three days later, she was transferred to Queen's Hospital. I don't know what the reason was that they transfer, I never did find out. And she's calling my name, you know, she was dying already. She calling my name, my Japanese name, so she thought maybe nobody would know. That's what the girls told me. And then she passed away. Even the funeral, the parents and the brothers, they don't call me to go there.

About fifteen years later, when I was working Internal Revenue, he came to ask for help for tax. That's when he says, "Raymond, I want to apologize," he said, "I was wrong. Even now," he says, "I divorced my Korean wife, I have a Japanese wife." You know, he telling me that.

I said, "Yeah, well, nothing I can say will do already, too late."

But today, I'm still guessing why they transferred her to Queen's Hospital and why they didn't call me when she called for me. You know, funny. But life is so puzzling sometimes, you know. Things happen so strange, you know. That's why, I don't know. Till today, now and then, when I feel nauseated - sometimes I get sick, yeah - I talk to God. I talk to God, "Take me already, I feel nauseated, take me," you know. I don't know why, but I talk to God. (Chuckles)

And above my bed, I have a wooden carving like this. When I went to Jerusalem, they were selling those kind like this. All hand carved, you know. And I wish I bought more. I bought one and I brought it home. I say, "If I had more, I'd give somebody" you know, friends. Because that thing helped me out, mentally. You know, when I really feel bad, I look at the prayer book, I say, "You know, I'll pray for myself." So I think if anybody should go to Jerusalem, they should buy that and give it away, you know. I think that's a good-to me, it was very good, it helped me out plenty.

MK: When you were growing up, what religion were you, when you were growing up?

RN: Catholic. You know, it's so strange. I have my brothers, my sisters, staying with me. This Hawaiian family, Simerson, part-*haole*. She [Rose Simerson] always come tell me, "Raymond." I have to go with her. She don't call my other brother or sisters, only me. She take me in her car and take me to St. Theresa Church on School Street. You know, and then I got baptized there. Now, I look back and say, "Why me? Why you don't tell my brother, my other sisters, to go to the church?" I never know what is Christian, you know. So I just ride in her car, she takes me to church, and takes me back. She plays the organ. And first thing I know, I'm singing in the choir. (Laughs)

WN: What religion were your father and mother?

RN: Buddhist. You know why, you know how I knew? When we were kids, we used to go to the church just to eat *senbei* [rice cracker]. They used to give us *senbei*, that's why I used to go, just to eat *senbei*. I don't know the religion at all. But my mother and father was the Buddhist, yeah. That why when we were in the service, my mother gave us—my father gave us *omamori* [amulet]. I don't know what's that for, but I think that's to keep you safe or something, yeah. And you know, at Camp McCoy, we were ordered to turn that all in, you know. But I don't care, I kept it. I took it all the way. So I was lucky I came home, you know. But to think that the army telling you to surrender all those things. But I think most of them they hide, I don't think so they turn it in. Imagine that, I had that and my cross. (Laughs) I had all that (laughs).

WN: You know, you were talking about the fights that you were getting into, you know, the gang fights and things. What did you folks fight about?

RN: It's so strange, you know. Girls get involved, too, you know. The fight always starts from dancing, social dancing. We used to go Kāhala or some place. And somehow, through the girl or somebody — and we don't know anything about it because my gang fight, I fight with them. That's what it is, you know, a gang, yeah. You don't know what the reason you're helping your gang, but you just go up there and help them out, yeah. But how it starts, it's so strange. Sometimes just a friend to a friend says something wrong. You swear at them or something, then they're going to get their leaders and then they get into a fight like that.

WN: Did fights have anything to do with nationality, at all?

RN: As far as I know, I never did — because we're fighting against Japanese. Japanese against Japanese, so, you know. Majority of them are Japanese. But I don't think so had

anything to do with high-class, or low-class, or nationality, I don't think so.

WN: So most of the children that you stayed with, or mixed with were Japanese, in Pälama?

RN: Yeah. I think almost 100 percent were Japanese we used to go out with, yeah. Because we have to stay together. Because those Hawaiian guys, big guys, always pick on us. And those days change, you know.

WN: And then when you came back from Japan and they called you *bobora*, who was calling you *bobora*? Who was teasing you?

RN: They call that kind [of kids] bullies, yeah. Japanese bullies.

WN: Okay, so Japanese . . .

RN: Japanese.

WN: . . . were teasing you.

MK: And then, you know, like the gangs, how did you become a member of the gang?

RN: You know, strange how you look. You always want to be kind of looked up to, so you just follow them. And first thing you know – you know what we used to do? During recess at Kaläkaua, we used to sit on the outside fence, all lined up, pass it on. All smoking. (Chuckles) We were only about seventh graders, you know. All passing the cigarette, smoking. Think nothing of it. You don't think about health. Those days, they don't tell you smoking is bad or anything like that. Now days, even if you're not a smoker, if you smoke, you want to stay away, yeah. But those days, nothing to it. Everybody smoke, nobody say anything. Even my father. But he smoke cigar, because you know, when they come big shot, they only smoke cigars.

(Laughter)

MK: I mean like, what did your father and mother—how did they react to you? You know, you're a member of a gang, you steal stuff sometimes, you get in trouble. How did they deal with you?

RN: They hit us. (Chuckles) And my father, for a Japanese, he was big, you know. He's five feet ten. You know, they used to call him "Oyaji [Boss]." He's a big fellow. And us guys small. My mother, more small. (Chuckles) And not one of us came tall. The tallest was five feet seven, my younger

brother. But us guys, all five feet six, five feet five, that's about all. But my dad was a big guy. In the army, he was in the artillery, Japan army. So maybe they pick the big guys, I don't know. (Chuckles)

MK: Also, I was curious, you know, earlier, when you were talking about your birth certificate, yeah. What kind of citizenship did you have? Did you have two-side citizenship or just American citizenship?

RN: Well, when they gave me the birth certificate, it's American citizen, American, not both side. That's why my picture is just like now. You know, birth certificate, when you're born, you don't have a nineteen-year-old picture on the Hawaiian birth certificate, yeah. But that's how it is. Just like I was born [at] nineteen years (laughs).

MK: You were talking about barefoot football. What team were you on?

RN: Nishikiya. It's a name, I don't know where it originated, but it's from Pälama. But the name came popular. I don't regret playing with them. Of course, we had some differences sometimes. When you pull out, you pull out the wrong place, and things like that. Well, you know, afterwards you forget, you know.

MK: And what teams did you folks challenge?

RN: Huh?

MK: What teams did you folks play against?

RN: Oh, we played against – it used to be by weight, see. Hundred-thirty pounds, hundred-fifty pounds, and then unlimited weight. All different weights, everything is by weight. So if the guy challenge you, you got to go on the scale before you play, make sure it's on a hundred-twenty pound or hundred-thirty pound, you know. Strictly by weight.

MK: So you folks played different area teams?

RN: Yeah, they played at Pälama Field. All Sundays. Every Sunday they play at Pälama Field. So, from Pälama Settlement – I don't know why they call it "settlement"–but all the sports people congregate over there. Some of them came good. They used to get Junior Olympics that came from Pälama. They furnished a lot of good athletes from Pälama. And used to get dentist over there for poor people. You know, over there, too. But they weren't that strict. If you can't afford it, you just go and they fix your teeth. But

even the dentist trainees, yeah, they're not the experienced ones. So they might work the wrong place, I don't know. (Laughs)

WN: I was wondering, you know, your father was kind of a big shot, you said, kind of well-off.

RN: Yeah.

WN: Yeah, your father. And most of your friends, were their fathers like that, or were they . . .

RN: No.

WN: . . . not as wealthy.

RN: That's why they always meet at my house. You know, all the gang, like my good friends, all meet at my house, about eight or ten, always meet at my house before we went to McKinley High School walk. Or when we get social thing, gathering, they always meet at my house, the same gang. We talk it up, and then we go to social dance again. But I don't know why, even now, I think, why they gather at my house? You know. So I named our club Cavaliers Club. You know, I just, from teen years, I just put the word "cavaliers." And then I wrote a song for that, too.

WN: Was your house bigger than the others? Than your friends' house . . .

RN: No, it's a rooming house, you know. But we have separate rooms. Two stories, all like that. So we used to have Hawaiian here, one Samoan living here, and then my room is way on the corner, this side. My sister's room is way on this side. Had about five lined up like this, all rooms. Get one bathroom. Downstairs, where my father and mother stay - and on this side, has a bar. You know, drinking bar. This side get Koide Store. It's a grocery store. Upstairs is a tea house. So my mother used to play samisen for the tea house. My father, he was slowing down already, so he didn't do too much contracting business. But I guess he got income from the Koide Store and for the rental, yeah, maybe. Those days, the car was Nash. Nash, Studebaker. You don't hear that anymore.

MK: So when you compare your family to other Pālama families, were you folks about the same, or . . .

RN: No, different.

MK: . . . little bit richer? How were you?

RN: They were mostly laborers and things like that. But my dad was on the – well, I'm not bragging or anything – but he was on the higher up, yeah. They always meet my house, at the front, before we walk to – we want to save few dollars, so we walked to McKinley High School. That was about three miles, you know, three, four miles. They always used to gather at my place and then we go together. I think – I look back – I think every one of them died already. I'm one of those still alive. I don't know, God is still keeping me, for what business, I don't know. (Chuckles)

WN: And those same friends, did they go to Japanese[-language] school with you?

RN: Only part of them. Part of them go Japanese[-language] school. Because some of them, I don't know, the parents, they don't care. But my dad, I don't know, somehow he wants me to go learn Japanese. And I'm a poor learner (laughs).

MK: And then you went to McKinley High School, yeah. When you graduated, what did you want to do?

RN: Actually, you know what I really wanted to do was, at that time, I want to save a few dollars and then go to the Mainland and try to do something different. That's what my mind was. But I never did succeed on all that. But I learned that. . . . You know when I used to go school, first part of the school [in San Francisco], I used to walk all the way from Market Street all the way to Japanese Town. And no place to study, so I used to go in the bar, where my brother works, and I used to study in there. So the people there, in San Francisco, Japanese, they stay away from me because they tell, "Hey, the guy always in the bar." But actually, I wasn't drinking or anything, I was studying. But they don't know.

MK: So after McKinley, you went to San Francisco, then?

RN: Mm-hmm [yes]. Well, before that, I went one year at Galusha Business School. And then from there, I went there. It was, I guess, coincidence, that it just happens to be. . . . Because two times, I tried to stow away. You know, those days, used to get boat, yeah. Two times, my friend and I got caught. You know, those days, used to get, you know, Royal Hawaiian Band play, they throw this kind . . .

MK: Streamers. Yeah.

RN: And then after the Aloha ['Oe] play, the ramp go away yeah. Somehow, they find us in the bathroom in the boat. Somebody told somebody, I think. I wrote a note to my sister, "Don't tell anybody, don't give this note to nobody until three

days later." I told her, you know. She gave 'em ahead. So one of the brothers came down looking for us. He told the officers that three guys were in there, stowing away. So they look for us. So just before they put the ramp up. Because those days, get the boat like this, used to get a ramp, you know. When they take the ramp away, then the boat moves. They caught us, so we. . . . Out we go. But good thing, we didn't go jail for that. Twice I did that, twice I got caught. So I didn't make it. But finally, my dad gave up, he gave me a few dollars, tell me, "Okay you go join your brother." Otherwise, I would never make it. Hard, you know.

And no more steady job, yeah. Those days, you cannot work for Pearl Harbor, you cannot work for Hawaiian Electric, you cannot work for Hawaiian Tel. And Liberty House, the closest you can get is elevator boy. You know, jobs were so scarce. Because we're Japanese, yeah, they won't even do the application, I think. I never did get called or anything. I did that repeatedly. Never did call. And now, I look back, I find out why.

Because before, Japanese [naval] boats used to come all the time, training boats, and we used to go out and respect them, and all that. I have no affiliation, but my dad used to take us. All the family go up there, treat them, and everything. And those days, was all right, I guess. But when 1938, when Hitler came strong, came allied with Japan, then everything fell upon us. We cannot do this, we cannot do that. They restricted. But now, I can see. But those days, you think, "Chee, why?" you know. But now, I can see why.

But I still say, "I'm not shame to be Japanese." I think there's a lot of good things about Japanese philosophy, too. Yeah? *Gambare* [tenacity], and the things, the kind [of values], they use. "Try your best. Be loyal to your family." Those things that you learn. When they tell you, at that time, it might not stick. But as years go by, you say, "Yeah, they were right." Because there's a lot of philosophies that use that term. I think I learned from that, too, you know.

MK: For you then, finally, when your dad made it possible for you to go San Francisco without stowing away, you went San Francisco, and you were going to the United Engineering School.

RN: Yeah.

MK: What did you take up over there? What kind of subjects?

RN: That was more like heavy equipment and things like that. Engineering. That's why when I came back, I applied at Hawaiian Electric and those places, but I couldn't get nowhere. They just bar me out. After that, about four months later, I got a notice to be drafted. So I went in the army, first draft, in 1940. I was glad that I went there because no jobs. The only job I had was a recreation director. I took the exam and then I became part-time recreation director. And then I used to keep books at Harada Service Station down on Kapahulu. I used to keep books, and then between that time, pump gasoline. And one man always gave me ten-cents tip. (MK and RN chuckle.) I still remember that same guy, always give me ten-cents tip. (Chuckles)

WN: Which service station was this? Kapahulu?

RN: Yeah.

WN: Oh.

RN: Yeah, the name is Kapahulu Service Station. And as you go further down, way down, years ago, they used to get Nosaka Service Station. That was way back when my oldest half-brother got married and he went there, see.

WN: So, you graduated in 1935 . . .

RN: Mm-hmm [yes].

WN: . . . and then soon after graduation, that's when you went. You went to Galusha, first, then you went to San Francisco.

RN: That's right.

WN: So what year did you come back to Hawai'i?

RN: Nineteen. . . . Early part of, no, latter part of 1939.

WN: Oh, okay.

RN: Yeah, I think was the latter part of 1939. Because I got drafted in 1940.

WN: Yeah, December 1940.

RN: Yeah.

WN: But before that, did you try to go [Hawai'i] National Guard?

RN: Well, I went to [join the national guard] October, see. I got drafted in December. I went to national guard, they said, "I'm sorry, they all went already. You know, they came federal. And they're all in Schofield [Barracks], so it's too late to join us." Then the first thing I know, a few months later, I got a draft letter. So it was all right, yeah.

WN: How did you feel when you got the draft letter?

RN: You know, I still don't know what that's for. My parents, nobody, came to see me off, or say goodbye. I don't call them, nothing. I just get the letter by Farrington High School, we got on the bus, they take us to national guard armory - which is now the capitol - and then we take a physical there, and they take us on a bus, and then go straight to Schofield. Not even say telephone my parents or anything. We just go straight to Schofield.

And then they gave us all kinds of uniform. And the uniform, you know, all mostly - I was first draft, now - oversized. Because us, you know, I guess the Americans, they figured we are about their size. But some of them [Hawai'i draftees] only about, I think, five feet. Five feet short. So they're extra small. The shoes big like this. Nothing fits, you know. But slowly, they got used to it.

Even when we went to Schofield to get trained, most of the cadres that teach us, most were from the Mainland kind of . . . First time they see so many Japanese. That's why, when they pronounce the name, they get a hard time. Like, the guy name Takushi, Yasuhide Takushi, "Yasu-hide Take-a-shit." You know, Takushi, they cannot pronounce it. All the names they pronounce that was Japanese, they couldn't pronounce it right. Like me, they call me "Noska," like that. Somehow, they cannot read. Because they're not living here, you know, they only associated with the *haoles*, yeah. So we had difficulties, the first part.

You know, I hate to say this, but all the people that work from Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field like that, mostly Korean and Chinese. So when I got drafted, I look at the - almost, I would say, two-thirds were Japanese. And some of the boys hardly can speak English, you know. And they were drafted. That's why, when you look back, you say, "How the hell?" But the draft board, they got to fill their quota. So all the guys that's in the navy yard, they get deferred because they're working for the defense plant. So when I look at the guy, I say, "Hoo, this guy, hardly can speak Japanese-English - and then he's drafted." But now I know why.

Because if you can work defense plant, you can get deferment. So I would say two-thirds were Japanese.

But when I went into the service, I was only hundred and ten pounds. You know, I used to fight flyweight. Two months later, I became hundred thirty-five pounds. Because they only feed you potato and all that different kind of things, yeah. I gained one time. So when I came home, my father think, "Chee, how the hell did you gain so much weight?" (MK and RN laugh.)

But army life is. . . . When you're in the army, you don't like it, but when you come out, you say, "Chee, I learned so much about people, about the world." I don't regret. I get so much things from them. They pay me this, they pay me for that. Even in those days, when I came back from Italy—my brother smokes, you see — and you know the carton like this, only fifty cents a carton if I go PX [post exchange]. So I buy all for them, and I used to take them home. I quit smoke already, so I buy for them. But that's how cheap it is. Today, somebody told me go buy for them, one cigarette, you know, pack like this, costs about two dollars and twenty cents. One pack like this. And you know, those days, you pay two dollars twenty cents, you get a whole carton. Only two weeks ago, I wen buy three packs cigarettes, you know what they ask me? "You're twenty-one aren't you?"

(Laughter)

I said, "Yeah."

"Okay."

And for the record, they put it down, because they cannot sell it, certain age, I think.

(Laughter)

WN: Well, it must make you feel good, huh?

RN: (Chuckles) Yeah. And on the receipt, "twenty-one" on the receipt, they put down.

(Laughter)

WN: You know, in 194[0] you were drafted. Were you aware that there was like a potential war brewing?

RN: No. Strange thing is, I didn't know anything about why, but I know one thing though, the war is already coming. That's why they have to draft, yeah. They're getting prepared. They find out that, oh, they may have to defend America. So

they had some thinking, you know. Even when Pearl Harbor was attacked, they used to call it "sneak attack." But actually, it was, I would say, surprise attack, maybe. Because they knew that they were going to fight with Japan. They knew that. But somehow, they didn't want to take the blame, so they call Japan the aggressor. Even have a picture of when I was stationed at Waimānalo. I have a picture of a guy, no more arm, half up to here, no leg, no more head. I took the picture. This guy is an American pilot in battlefield. You know, in Waimānalo. He flew up, the thing went down and exploded. Two days later, the thing come floating in. So I swam across, I thought was one jacket. I look, ooh, human being like body. I swim back, I told "Ey, you and me got to go pull 'em out." So he and I. And we put him on the root like this. And till today, I never did question who that guy is, because no more head, no more arm, yeah. Just the body in the back like this. I wonder the parents who were told that - because, I don't know.

Even then, they used to tell us, you know, they don't trust Japanese. On the back of the hill, they said, they telling, somebody told us that the *haole* soldiers, in case we try to run away, they going shoot us. Because we're defending the beach, yeah. If they invade us, they think that we're going to turn around and go against them. So they had us all zeroed in because no more not one *haoles*, you know. All Japanese lined up on the beach. We used to sleep on the beach, and things like that. (WN coughs.) But it's amazing how, you know. I used to put the newspaper like this, so many mosquitoes. (RN claps.) I just clap like this, yeah. Real, you know. The thing pile up like this. Mosquito. So much mosquitoes because they used to get sugar plantation. And they don't work on it anymore, so ho, the mosquitoes. Full.

WN: So this was after you got basic training at Schofield. Then they assigned you to the beaches to guard. . . . After your basic training at Schofield, you were assigned to . . .

RN: Two ninety-eighth [Regiment, Hawai'i National Guard].

WN: . . . beaches. Waimānalo. What was your . . .

RN: No, no. Not yet. Until the war started. Because when we went, first draft and second draft, never get war yet, see.

WN: So you went Schofield?

RN: Yeah. And till today - you know, we used to have a box like this, put our clothes in, and our valuables. Till today, I don't know what happened to that. We never got back to

claim it. Till today, I don't know what happened to that. I had some good valuable things, like my school certificate and all that, I had 'em all in there. And when the war started, they never tell us go back and go pick up your things. So till today, I never see the thing anymore (chuckles).

MK: So, like when you were first drafted, December 1940, what unit were you assigned to?

RN: You mean in 298th?

MK: Yeah. Your 298th.

RN: I was E Company. They called it *Haole* Company because two-thirds of them were *haole*, yeah. So they used to call it *Haole* Company, E Company.

MK: And then in that E Company, what was your job, your assignment?

RN: Nothing special, just a soldier. You know, carrying a rifle. I don't have that officer ability (laughs).

MK: And, I was thinking, you know, you've told us about your background, yeah, you were kind of a tough kid, and sometimes you didn't listen to your parents or other people. When you got drafted in the military, how did you take to orders, being told to do this, do that? That kind of discipline?

RN: Yeah, first part, hard to take, you know. Because the orders they give you is, they don't tell you, "Oh, please do this, please do that." "Get over there! Do this, do that," you know, with that kind of shouting. So it's not like when you work for civilian outfit. They never use the word "please" or anything, or never say "thank you." They say, "All right, get over there! Go do this." Just like that. But I guess that's the way they're brought up, like that.

Army, you know, like now, I look back. At that time, *chee*, I think, "How the hell I stayed that long in the army?" Almost five years. I look back, I say, "*Chee*, now I learned so much from doing army service. I learned very much about human beings and things like that." Even now, you get a rifle, right, you go to war, and then shoot somebody. You kill a guy. Are you a murderer? Or you just. . . . What are you doing? You're killing somebody. You tell was self-defense, I guess, but actually, it's a murder. You're murdering somebody. Because I had that experience at one time. You know, this guy had a motorcycle, messenger, and

he was going. So I stood up, I shot the guy, you know. And you know, in those days, the bicycle is like this, so his leg got stuck, and he went over, topple over, and all his hair was shaved off. Then, about fifteen minutes later, I went across. I look at the guy, his eye was half open like this. But he's dead already. And I search all the things, and I took some away. At that time, I felt good that I killed somebody. But when I went back to my foxhole, I start thinking, funny, human being, no matter what, he must have a family. He must have a father or mother, or brother, sister. I feel so bad that I shot the guy. But yet, you shouldn't feel like that because if you shoot them, or let 'em shoot you. You know, you might be killed yourself or kill them, you know. But at that time, you feel good you killed somebody. But when I came back, about one hour later, I start thinking. So I took the jacket and stuff, I threw 'em away. And my friend, Tokuji Ono picks it up (chuckles), and he told me he took it with him (chuckles). But that's one of the things I threw away. And he told me that he found the jacket, he took it home (chuckles). Take with him. But war is a funny thing. If you do something wrong, they try to court martial you or something. But when you kill a guy, I mean, they don't say anything. And you don't know if the word "kill" is a murder. Are you a murderer, or what? I don't know what you call that. But when I think back, I thought of that guy, if I didn't think of his family, I feel nothing. But I figure, chee, I get a family, too. He has a family, must be, someplace. So I start feeling bad. But human beings are strange, yeah. You always get a soft heart somewhere. (Chuckles)

After you're married, you get a family, you get really more matured, yeah. You think differently, you're willing to sacrifice, you're willing to work hard. When my three kids were sent to college, I had two jobs. I hardly see my wife, I hardly see the kids. I come home from work at five o'clock, I just eat, boom, I'm working till ten o'clock at night, I'm coming home, you know. But you don't feel that way. You feel, well, I'm going to see that my kids get the right training, things like that. That's why, on my third year at university, I drop out. I could finish it up. You know, I think maybe twelve credits, or sixteen more credits, I could do it. But I didn't get it because I start working two jobs, and I think of my kids going school, and all that. So that's why I didn't finish. But I don't regret it, but, I mean, just like, I bet your parents, too, they must have worked hard. Don't think that you got it easy. Maybe you got it easy, but not the parents. The parents all work from the heart, you know, to see the children succeed, yeah. I think most of them feel better, unless I see some paper sometimes that is contrary to that, you know. But most of the parents, I think their heart and soul to work

for the kids, yeah. I think our parents should be really looked up to, because they're the ones that gave you some incentive to get ahead, you know.

Too bad, you know. Like, our parents, we cannot converse. Japanese, partly English, partly Hawaiian, eh. So the conversation is hard to explain your feelings. That's the disadvantage of us – our days. You know, between the nisei and the issei. We cannot express our true feelings to the parents because we cannot converse. You know, they don't understand certain words, and I don't understand Japanese any better, too. It's altogether different. But now, between our children today, you can talk to them. Explain to them, you know. If they don't want it, still, but at least you told your story. So it's altogether different from the time that our days. I don't know if you could speak good, well, when you were young, but I know I cannot explain to my dad what I want to do, why I did that, you cannot explain in Japanese because – we can say *arigatō* [thank you], that kind [of] short kind words, but to express your feelings, I never could do it. I don't know if you–are you what? Second generation? Third generation?

MK: We're third generation.

RN: Third generation, see. So you can speak to your parents in English. But our days, they don't understand us, and I cannot understand them.

MK: So those days, like late 1930s, 1940, when you were drafted, how much conversation did you have with your parents about things like Japan and the United States not getting along, or . . .

RN: We never talked about the war or anything like that. So I don't know what he's thinking, but. You know, because he get dual mind, yeah. One, he was a soldier in Japan, and I'm an (chuckles) American soldier this side, you know. So I don't know what his thinking is, but if I'm guessing, I would say he was on my side. Because I'm his child, eh. That's what I think. (Chuckles)

WN: Did he say anything to you about–when you got drafted–about, "Be careful" or anything like that?

RN: Never talked about war. I don't know why, never talked about it. Yeah. Because when I first drafted, two months later, you can go home, see. You know, you have to – I don't know why they keep us that long, but two months later, we come home. I cannot explain to him what kind [of] life we have, you know, things like that. I don't know, maybe he telling me, "Get out of there, from the army."

Maybe he's thinking that, I don't know. But he didn't say that to me, or anything like that.

MK: What did most of your friends think about you being drafted? Your Pälama friends, what did they think?

RN: You know, funny thing is, all my Japanese friends were all moved out someplace else. We hardly get together already at that time. When I went to San Francisco already, my friends were all split already. You know, I didn't - two years - I didn't. . . . So, I guess - and some of them got drafted, but I don't think so they were drafted that long. But they were drafted, I think. And some of them died, yeah. Oh, I look back, I say, "Chee, how come they died so early," you know. Or "How come I'm living this long?" I always have to say, but. Some days, maybe when you get really ill, then you start thinking, "Chee, what's going on?" Because I had my operation over here, not too long ago. About now, over a year. I stayed in the hospital. And from then on, I start thinking differently, you know, my mind get a little different. Because I start thinking of health. Before, you don't care. Drinking, going with the friends, just happy-go-lucky, but when you get major operation, you start thinking a little bit. So now days, I read only health books. (Laughs)

MK: Why don't we stop over here? Because we had you talking for a long time, already.

RN: Oh, yeah? I'm sorry.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape Nos. 44-44-2-05 and 44-45-2-05

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Ray Nosaka (RN)

Honolulu, O`ahu

May 17, 2005

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN) and Michi Kodama-Nishimoto (MK)

MK: Okay, this is an interview with Mr. Raymond Nosaka. This is our second session, on May 17, 2005, and the interviewers are Michiko Kodama-Nishimoto and Warren Nishimoto.

So, good morning, Mr. Nosaka.

RN: Good morning.

MK: Thank you for coming again. And today, we're going to take you back to 1941, okay. When December 7, 1941 came, and Pearl Harbor was attacked, what were you doing that morning?

RN: I was on guard duty at Schofield Barracks. And my time was— from four o'clock to eight o'clock was my hour of watch. But before eight o'clock came, I could see all the bombs falling down. Wheeler Field, the airfield, with bombs, too. But I still had no idea, you know, if it was war or not. Although we were alerted that something's going to happen, but they didn't say Japan's going to attack. They just said, "Be alert, you carry real bullets." Before, we don't carry bullets, "But this time, you carry live ammunition." And then so just about nine o'clock, when I got off from guard duty, my sergeant came and said, "Raymond, get on the jeep," he brought a jeep. He said, "This is war," he told me.

"What war?" you know.

I didn't even know it was war and here he said. So he took me to Kane'ohe naval base, on the top of it, and then we stayed there for the night, before we were assigned where we're going to go. And we saw some Japanese old man walking, you know, and we ran down, just like this is the enemy, yeah. I told the man, "Don't come out here anymore, very dangerous."

And then he said, "All right." So he went back to his home.

And then from there, they assigned us to various places. And I was assigned to Waimānalo, which was a battlefield. That's where all the airplanes go up, six o'clock in the morning, and then they check, and then they come back. So all those, I used to record what time they leave, what time they come back. I was in—they call it Wailea Point. And during that time, rumors went around that in the back of us were American soldiers, *haole* soldiers, that in case they should invade the Waimānalo Beach, they think that we're going to run away, backwards, so they're ready to shoot us. That's what they told us, just like they don't trust us. They think we're going to go back and attack them, you know. So that's what rumors went around. And I believe that, because all the whole beach, we're all—hundred boys, all *buddhaheads* [slang for Japanese], you know. And that's where the first prisoner of war was taken. This guy Sakamaki, yeah. He was the first one. And when he came in,

all he asked for is cigarette, and then right away, they put a blanket on him. They thought that he might kill himself, you know, suicide. No, he just asked for cigarette. And we call the officer, and the officer took him away. That's the last time I saw him. Later on, I found out he was stationed in Wisconsin, where we - they had a prisoner over there, and that's why he was there, but we didn't know. Had a lot of Japanese from here, too, like school principals, and they're all there.

That's why when we went to Camp McCoy, they thought we were enemy Japanese, you know, because they don't know that we are American soldiers, although we're [in] American uniform. So everywhere we went, the first part, they always look at us as a Japanese alien, enemy. And then we start to know them, and they say, "Oh, you're an American soldier," you know.

And when we left here, just after December 7, they put us all on a train. And you know, the regular train, down from Schofield. And that used to go all the way to that - you know the depot? In Iwilei, there's a - still they have there, although they have office there, yeah. That's where they took us down. So the only people, Japanese people, that knew that we were going on the train were those employees that work for the restaurants in Schofield. And they're the only ones waved us goodbye. You know, they see us going. But our parents, nobody knew about us that we're going to go. We cannot telephone, we cannot do anything, just go on the train with the barracks bag, and then go on a boat. And that's how we first started.

And then they never told us where we were going to go. They just said, you know, "You'll find out." And the first place we landed was Oakland. And even at Oakland, we cannot get off the plane until they all say it's clear. And then they took us on a train, and they put all the shades down, so nobody knows who we are. And from there, the train start going till we reach Wisconsin. And even we reach Wisconsin, we don't know what's going to happen, what we're going to do, you know. And everything is - what they call - they doubt us, we are American soldiers or not. And in Wisconsin, where we stayed, had a lot of these American Indians, too, you know. And they cannot drink alcohol. Other citizens can. So, they got friendly with us, and then we buy for them, you know, liquor like that. And then when we reach there, we all stayed in a tent - because they were building our barracks yet - so we all stay in tents, yeah. And we had. . . . I don't know, I still can't believe that- they don't tell where we were yet. They don't tell us we were in Wisconsin or anything like that. We were ordered get off, and stay in the tents. So a lot of times, our

thoughts were misled all the time. We don't know what we're there for, what we're going to do, you know.

But as things went by, time passed, the Wisconsin people start be so friendly with us, they took us in their homes, like that. They took us to their church, you know. So we, slowly, we got to know them, and they got to know us. That's why, at that time, after about six months later, they make a *lūa'u* [Hawaiian feast] for them. Anybody from Wisconsin. Over here, Hawai'i people made a *lūa'u* for them. No matter whether you're a sailor, or soldier, doesn't matter. Anybody from Wisconsin come to that. We didn't know until I read a letter from my sister that that's what they did. They want to reciprocate what they're doing to us. They used to take us to their home, you know. That's why some of us – well, not me – but some of us got married to the girls there. I used to get a girlfriend, too. And only weekends we go out and kill time, yeah. And, *chee*, today, I don't know what happened to that, because after we left, we stopped corresponding, you know.

But during that time, most of us, we're very experienced. We had maneuvers in Schofield, and then we had maneuvers again. So we were very trained, but I don't know, somehow, a lot of us can go up not even to private first class. That's funny, because once you're through with your training, you should be automatically a private first class. If you look in that—some of the guys that earned the Medal of Honor, how come they're still private? You're supposed to be well trained and brave. No, I see them – Private [Shizuya] Hayashi and private, you know, I say, "I can't believe it." And I can't believe it myself. They should get that automatically. But all I see is a lot – you see a lot of privates from the 100th Infantry Battalion.

MK: You know, when you . . .

RY: I thought it's not fair.

And first time, when I used to correspond with a *haole* girl – because when I was in Schofield, this guy said, "Hey Raymond, I get so many letters to write, do you want to take one of these?"

So I said, "Okay." I took one, I started writing to her, back and forth, never believing that I'll ever go there and meet her. You know. So I took my buddy [Katsumi] Maeda with me. And then we met at Chicago. Because where she lives, Griffiths, Indiana, is right next door, see. So we met, but we don't know the person how they look like, you know, their stature or anything. And of all things, we're standing by the theater where we're supposed to meet. And

all of a sudden, somebody tap me (taps), "Oh, are you Raymond?"

I said, "Yeah."

"Oh, I'm Dolly."

"Oh, thank you very much" you know, "for coming over and talk to us."

So we went out one night. You know, this kind of playground where they have merry-go-round and all that. So we went there, and then, of all things, my buddy who was with me, so they told me she's going to get a partner, see. Kats Maeda, he's only about five feet. And the *haole* girl that Dolly brought, about five feet ten, I think. Was like this, you know.

(Laughter)

So strange, you know. Of all partners he get, the taller one. I had the regular one, she was shorter than I am. (Laughs) After that, I didn't — you know, she used to send me all kinds of gifts, you know. Even I went to Italy, she still was sending me. So I finally wrote a letter to her that I am married now, so don't send me any more gifts, you know. Since that time, I didn't see her till today. But Kats Maeda, when came back, he went to visit her, you know, and they talk about the old times, yeah. But, you know, all these that happen, it's so unbelievable that, how come this thing came like this? I look back now, I say, "Chee, I learned so much about human beings, yeah." And . . .

MK: You know, in those—when you went to Camp McCoy, were there also Japanese American soldiers from the Mainland . . .

RN: No.

MK: . . . with you?

RN: Strictly — the one, I was 100th, is strictly from Hawaiian Islands, Hawai'i. All of them. Of course, some officers, the *haole* officers, yeah. I think the way Colonel [Young Oak] Kim told me, he suspected the *haole* officers were there to check on us. That's what he told me. He became an officer later on, but he was telling me about it. He said that he thinks that because all of a sudden, when we started to train, the officers that came with us, all gone. So he was telling me he thinks that there must be an undercover man to check on us if we're to be trusted or not. That's why everyplace we go, we're not sure until we can prove to them. That's why sometimes you feel so

frustrated, you know. We're defending our country to learn all about how to carry a rifle, and things like that. So it's unbelievable, but we went through all that. To think that I still came home, you know, I'm still very grateful that I made it, came home (crying). Yeah, I was very lucky.

And, you know, when we were in Camp McCoy, we used to grade the people by platoons, you know. Happened to be, I was in the Baker Chapter, and we came in first. Then about a month later, they picked twenty-five of us, and I was one of the twenty-five [of the Third Platoon of Company B] selected. Not officers, all enlisted personnel—privates, corporal, sergeant. And they told us that we're going to train—secret training, somewhere in the South. But *chee*. So that morning [October 31, 1942], they said, "Don't say anything to your own buddies, and don't goodbye, don't say anything." Seven o'clock, we rode the big truck and took us to Wheeler Field [Fort Williams]. And all of us went on a plane. They didn't tell us where we're going to go, what we're going to do. It's a twenty-five—it's a secret mission, they said, see. So, and first, we thought we were home, you know. The way they put it. Because as you go, the plane start going, it's getting more greener and greener when you look down. *Chee*, maybe we're home. But the first stop they stop was—I notice from the top—it says Memphis, Tennessee. That's where we first stopped, they put some—to fill up the gasoline for the—and we couldn't get off, because they don't want to know that we were there. So somebody bring us sandwich and we had lunch. We never got off the plane. And then after all that, then we started flying again. And finally, we ended up at Gulfport [Mississippi] and—what do you call that?—coast guard, two boats were waiting for us. But they don't let us go until it's a little dark so nobody can see us. And secretly, we got off the plane, and got on the boat. Had two coast guard boats, and we went on there, and then they took us to Ship Island.

And Ship Island is a separate island from where we're going to train. But we didn't know, you know. The water is brackish and smell like rotten eggs. That's where Ship Island is located. So, for two weeks, we just do nothing, you do what you want. They don't tell us why. And then after that second week ended, then Major [James] Lovell came and told us that we are going to train dogs, and it's located in Cat Island, which is away from that. I don't know why we're going to a dog training, and they call it "Cat Island." Still today, I keep wondering, you know. So from Ship Island, the coast guard takes us over there, and we come back. Every day we commute. They don't leave us there. First part they start training was these messenger dogs. And teach the dog how to find us. Soon as he come, we fire the pistol, and we give the meat from our hand, right

around here, and the dog walk away. And the next one, same thing, over and over. And we do that about four hours, then they send us back home again, back to Ship Island. Every day we've been doing that.

And then I was one of those that was selected to be-attack dogs. You know, those dogs that will. . . . And I've been bringing up all my life about dogs. I like dogs. But they gave me the assignment to attack dogs. And they told us they put a guard over here, and we stay like this. And then when the sergeant tell him, "Kill 'em," the dog come right up and bite us here, see. And we're supposed to momentarily fall with the dog. But first part, I was kind of stubborn, I stay like that. "Fall down, fall down." So when I fall down, the dog keep biting, and then they take 'em away. And they do that over and over, you know. And then finally, the dog got a little more friendly with us, I guess. They tied the dog on the fence, and they gave me like a whip, you know, to hit the dog. I go like this. "Hit the dog!" So I hit the dog until he bled, see. Then he tell me, "Okay, walk ten yards back, turn around and go this way." The dog was so mad at me because I hit him. Ho, he bite me, bite me like this. And then the sergeant comes, takes him away. And that's the attack dog.

Then we have another assignment where we go out and hide, you know. They used to have swamp. Under the swamp, get a lot of alligators. And full of mosquitoes. But we climb on a tree, and we hide. If you fall down, you go right in the swamp and the alligators going bite you, you know. So we hang on, and the dog come looking for us. They find us, and he walks away, go to the next place, you know. Repeatedly doing it over and over.

And everything, when we write any letters, we cannot mention dogs, bird, fish, island, boat. All that's censored, you know. You know who censored? Our own Lieutenant [Ernest] Tanaka, and the other *hao*le. All they're there is to censor our mail. So when my sister used to get mail, she tell me, "How come your mail sometimes they cut like this?" That's what they did. They don't tell us they scratch it off, they cut it off and throw it away. Because I mentioned maybe something that's not supposed to say about the island. So everything is so hush-hush.

We trained there four months, four months doing that. That's how I learned lots. During that time, they have lots of storms over there, hurricane, like that. So one day, they had the hurricane where they pick us up, the boat going like this. Everybody hanging on, you know. And one guy fell down. So this Komatsu fell down, and then this guy Nakano, he jump down and try to save him. For that, he got

a heroic, because instead of the coast guard throwing something, they won't do it. Just like they telling him, "You die, all right." But this Nakano, he knows how to swim and so he dived down and saved him, and he got the medal for that. But when you think of the twenty-five people that was there, we come a close family. Out of that, one, two, three, four people, when we went to Italy, they got killed in action. Today, out of the twenty-five people, we have only six of us left. The rest all passed away. That's why I say, I'm so grateful that I'm still alive (laughs).

WN: To this day, do you know where Cat Island is?

RN: Yes. One—when the war was over and everything, I got part-time work with a travel agency. And I made up a tour, so we went to Minneapolis, Fort Snelling, where they had the interpreters. From there, then we went to Camp McCoy, then we went to Mississippi, and we went to this Ship Island, they took us go. And then we went to Cat Island, come back. And the people that did that—before I went, I wrote a letter, and the journalists over there had it all ready for us. They come pick us up, they put us on the TV, just like a celebrity. But for them, it was something. First time they see the real guys. From our gang, we had, oh, about nine of us went with me. So they got to see us and interview us. So we were very fortunate that they took us just like a family, you know. Some of them wrote us a storybook about Cat Island and the training, yeah. They interview us, and then they wrote a book. So we became a little kind of a big shot after that (chuckles). But after all that finished, we came back. And then the trip was so good, because the people that never been there, like our wives like that, first time they went in, they saw, "Chee, I can't believe it," you know, "how you folks live like that." In fact, at one time we ran out of beer because we cannot drink the water. That thing is so—like rotten eggs, yeah. The thing is sulfur, so we cannot drink the water, so we drink up the beer. And, you know, the beer. The thing gone in one week. All gone because we cannot drink the water, we just drink that beer, yeah.

WN: You know, you said that these folks were quartered at Ship Island?

RN: Yeah.

WN: And you commuted . . .

RN: Commuted every day.

WN: . . . to Cat Island?

RN: I don't know why they . . .

WN: Was it . . .

RN: . . . don't leave us there. They'd save. . .

WN: Wait, but . . .

RN: . . . so much time, yeah.

WN: Was Ship Island like more like they had barracks and things over there?

RN: Yeah. Used to be Fort Massachusetts in the olden days. They have an old-style cannon, an old-style stone wall, and all that they have there. And we don't live in there, but we live outside where the barracks, special for us. But even today, they still writing about Ship Island and Cat Island. And then the one that wrote the book [*Eyes of the Emperor*], he [Graham Salisbury] went there himself, the author. He's from, originally from Hilo, he lives in Oregon now. He still writes to me. So he gave me a book, he sent me a book, the first one, about what they're going to write about. But he doesn't—he put this as a fiction. So he has little stories pertaining to Cat Island and Ship Island, yeah. So he sent me the book, and he mentioned my wife and I in the book. You know, we just like backing them up or something like that.

MK: Acknowledgment, yeah.

RN: So in September, I think, the book is supposed to be complete.

MK: You know on Cat Island, you mentioned you folks would train the dogs for about four hours, yeah? And then when you folks were not training the dogs, what did you folks do in your spare time?

RN: Oh, you know, like down there, they have this—when the tide gets down—full of oysters. So we used to just get wood and burn the wood, and eat the—right from the beach—we eating the oyster. Just like that. So many oysters.

WN: Oysters or clams?

RN: No, oyster. Real oysters. It's all full on the shore. When the thing gets a little down, we go over there, and burn some wood, and eat it right from the beach. And it tasted good, (chuckles) you know. But to think that we're eating the fresh reef, fresh oyster, right on the beach. All free

(laughs). So I learned very much from all these things that happened.

MK: You folks ever did anything with the alligators?

RN: Yeah, I still have a picture of us, we holding the alligator, you know, like this. Because the first one we caught at the swamp, I shot 'em on the head. It's still wagging the tail, but we can grab it. The three of us, we hold it like this, somebody took our picture. I still have the picture of that alligator, yeah. It's a, I don't know, learning experience over there. Because all the trainers over there cannot associate with us. You know, all *haoles*, they don't talk to us. I guess they were told not to befriend us, you know. Why? Maybe they don't want us to get used to the dog, or what. Just like in other words, we are dog baits. We're not really training, we're the baits. That's how I look at it because was attack and bite, yeah.

And had one time when they called me for attack dog. They put me in a—you know *da kine* [whatchamacallit] hockey clothes with all the things, and push me up on the tree. And then they gave me a pistol. And then the dog come looking for us. Soon as he spot us, I fire the pistol and I jump down from the tree. And three dogs, you know, attacking me like this, all over. And I couldn't—already so tired from the—so I fall down, they took the three dogs away. Three dogs, you know, just come one time. Boxer dog, had a German Shepherd dog, and one other dog. All you see so many different kinds of breeds over there, dogs. And so today, every now and then, I get letters from people, say they want to talk to me about Ship Island and Cat Island. And they used to send me—these journalists—they used to send me letters, if I could have some story, you know.

MK: And, you know, when . . .

RN: But that was a really—something that I couldn't believe. When I look back, I say, "How did they select the twenty-five guys?" We get, in one company, we have over seventy or hundred people. Why me? I'm one of the twenty-five. They took us in a room like this, they gave us a paper like this, and fill out. The paper is so simple, you know. Like, are you married? Are you divorced? Is your father and mother alive? You have brothers, sisters? All simple kind of stuff. And then they ask you, do you really want to be an American citizen? You know, they put silly kinds of questions, about, oh I would say, twenty pages of this. We answered that, and then few days later, out of the seventy people that had the paper, they selected twenty-five of us from that. So till today, I wonder, how they selected the twenty-five guys from the seventy. I don't know. So secret,

you can't believe it. So that's why today, anytime they mention the 100th, they always put in dog training because they were sort of unique. Nobody would believe that they selected twenty-five of us to train the dogs. They said to "train the dogs," but we called it "dog bait." We were the bait. I'm very fortunate I'm one of those that came back and then I can tell the news about the story, yeah. Now I count the twenty-five guys, we only have six people alive from the twenty-five people.

MK: You know, among the twenty-five people that went to Cat Island, were any of you hurt during that training time on Cat Island?

RN: Do what?

MK: Did any of you get hurt on Cat Island?

RN: Oh, yeah. We get scar over here. Because even if they put that, sometimes the dog doesn't go over here, he goes over here. That's when they pull the dog out. That's why I get bite on my leg, like that (chuckles). Which the dog shouldn't do that, but he does that. By the time the trainer takes 'em away, he bites you already. So some of them had more serious injuries. But I didn't have that much injury, only was here and my feet, but it went away.

MK: So who took care of you folks when you folks got hurt?

RN: Oh. When we get hurt like that, they have a dispensary over there that just takes care of us and let us go, you know. But it's not a serious injury, but it has blood, you know. Some of them got medals for being faithful and things like that. I didn't get anything, but they said I was supposed to get something. Because all the people that went to attack dogs supposed get a special one, but I didn't get anything. It doesn't matter, but, you know. That's one of the things that the Japanese Americans had to do, is all crazy things. Today, when you look back, you say, "How did that happen, and why?" you know, things like that. But today, even you go down Gulfport, Mississippi, you tell them about dog training, right away, they know about that because they're writing a lot of stories about us.

MK: Back then, you know, on Cat Island, the dogs attacking you, and you doing this every day, every day, . . .

RN: Yeah.

MK: . . . how did you feel?

RN: Well, you know, strange thing, we only worked half a day. Half a day, you go back to Ship Island. You go fishing, play guitar and sing a song, things like that, drinking beer. Half a day you work, half a day you're off. So the hours are very good. That's why all of us was catching fish. So many fish over there. And now ducks come, shoot the ducks like that, yeah. So the life after the four hours we worked, is very good.

(Laughter)

Just like playing, playing time, you know.

WN: How did you compare your life, your training at Cat Island, how did it compare to what your buddies were going through at Camp McCoy? Did you folks ever talk about that?

RN: Yeah, they were training for a, like a short maneuver, they used to train, too, yeah. And then by the time we went back to Camp Shelby, they were slowly coming in and we met together again.

WN: Oh, you never went back up to Camp McCoy?

RN: Yeah. No, no. Camp McCoy, they were all gone already. So when we get through our's one, just right. We went back to Camp Shelby and joined them.

MK: When you folks went to Camp Shelby and you joined your other guys . . .

RN: Our buddies, yeah.

MK: Your buddies. Were you able to talk about this dog mission?

RN: No, they told us not to. So till today, some of them, they don't know. But now, they release that we can talk about it, see. But for, oh, years, we cannot—they told us don't mention what we did. I don't see why, already. But I know they had attack dogs that attacks the people that—you know, Japan people that goes in the cave. They put a bomb on the dog and let them go inside, explode. But they don't tell us, they don't tell us those things. But they were training, as part of the training, they tie the bomb here. And suicide dogs going away. You know Japan soldiers, they don't go out from the caves, they just stay inside there. If I die, I die, kind. So they used to let the dog go inside, and time the thing, and explode. But they don't tell us about that kind of dog, you know, because some people might say "inhumane," yeah. You know, some people love animals, so they just hush-hush. But they used to have suicide dogs. And most of the dogs were donated from

citizens, you know. So when they find out about the bomb, oh boy, they might get mad or something, I don't know.

MK: Before, you were saying, from the time you were small, you liked dogs.

RN: Oh yeah, my house had nothing but dogs.

MK: So when you did the dog training where you have to hit the dog . . .

RN: Oh, I feel so bad. That's why I hit like this. I get scolding, tell, "Hit it hard, some more hit" until the thing bleed. That's why the dog gets mad with you. And they tell 'em, "Kill him." I'm like this and, whoa, he bite me all over the place.

WN: You know the questionnaire that you had to fill out, you know, the questionnaire, do you remember if they had any questions about you having a dog at home, or liking dog, or anything like that?

RN: No. Nothing about. Mostly silly kinds of questions, simple and silly kinds of questions. Like they said, do you like to be an American and take *da kine*. . . . You know, questions that you wouldn't believe they'll ask you in that form. From that, they selected the twenty-five. I still don't know how they selected. I'm not an intelligent man, but they picked me as one of them.

Then when I went back to Camp Shelby, then, a few months later, the 442nd came. That's when I met my kid brother. For a long time, I met my brother. He was a student at the University of Hawai'i, and then he went to the VVV [Varsity Victory Volunteers]. When the war started, they guarded the installations. But they find out that they can't trust 'em, so they put 'em labor battalion in Schofield, you know. He was only a freshman at the university, yeah.

MK: What was your brother's name?

RN: Seiichi.

MK: Seiichi?

RN: Mm-hmm [yes]. And he was the only one that gifted in my house. I am just an average person, but he was very intelligent. I don't know where he got it from (chuckles), but I wish had some of his. Two years ago, he passed away at Tripler Hospital. He was seriously wounded in Bruyeres, France, you know. He lost his kneecap, he lost his leg on this side. But he finished his—after that he came back, he

finished his school at university. Then after that, he went to get his masters at NYU [New York University], and then he came back. But all during that time, he suffered the leg, yeah. He never was married, he was single. I don't know why. So maybe he was born to be a bachelor, yeah.

MK: You said after your Cat Island, you went to Camp Shelby, yeah. So, you know Camp Shelby, what kind of place was that?

RN: Camp Shelby not so bad, because they had barracks, so it's not like when we first went to Camp McCoy, they had tents, yeah. But this one all had barracks already, so not too bad, yeah.

Had one guy's story, my kid brother told me, when the 442nd came, they had black guys walking across the street. And this side had some 442nd boys. And [a 442nd soldier], his nickname is "Nigger" you know. So this guy don't know the black guys walking, yeah, [someone] said, "Nigger, Nigger!" you know. Ho, the guys get so mad they came charging up. Then one of the guys said, "No, that guy's nickname is 'Nigger.'" But they thought we were telling them guys, nigger. So in the South, "nigger" is just like calling someone "Jap." So they took it, I guess. So it's something that I guess everywhere you go, you find those kind name-calling, yeah. Like if you're Polish, they call you "polack," and things like that. If you Chinese, you call "chink," like that. But I guess human beings are like that. When you get mad, you say something which you shouldn't have said.

MK: How about you? Were you ever called "Jap" when you were in service?

RN: Oh, many times, many times. In fact, when I was in Italy—wartime now—after I got wounded, they said I'm unfit to fight in the war, so they assigned me to one *haole* company; ordnance. They're way in the back of the—they fix car and all that, see. So now and then they get air raid, so they all gather one place. And that area—they all came together, see—and had one *haole* guy say, "Where's that little Jap?" I'm the only Japanese, now, inside there. I go up there, I punch the guy in the nose. Next day, the captain call me inside. He said, "How come you go do things like that?"

I tell him, "Oh, he call me names and I can't stand it."

Then, in two weeks later, they transfer me to someplace else, not with them. The captain don't like me, yeah, so they transferred me to someplace else. But they still side for their *haole* people, you know. Nobody—if like our case,

if somebody attacked somebody, we all jump in. But this one, nobody jump in. I hit the guy, they don't come in and hit me. I don't know why. But if our group, if you ever fight, oh, they all helping you, you know. It's different. I guess the Hawai'i people especially, they all stick together.

MK: How about when you folks—when the 100th went to Camp Shelby? When you folks were with the *kotonks* [Mainland Japanese Americans]. This time you had *kotonks* were over there. How was it for you folks?

RN: Well, first part, we're not used to with the black people, yeah. Because we go on the bus, they tell. . . . But we're so used to over here, we always sit in the back. You know, just automatically, not because we're Japanese. As far as I know, I have the habit of sitting way in the back. So when I sat in the back, the driver stopped the car, he said, "Don't sit in the back, you sit in the front."

I said, "Why?"

He said, "That's only for blacks."

You're not used to, you don't do that here. Those are the things that you can't believe. Then we go to a restaurant, we go to eat inside, but the black guys, they have a tray outside. They stand up and eat outside, the tray sticking out by the sidewalk and they're eating over there. They pay the same price. That's how we knew about discrimination was really bad. And when went to a theater, had a long line, you know, and a short line. So we figure, what the hell, why go stand in the long line, so we go to the short line. That line is only for colored people. And when you go in the theater—that's how I learned—when we stay home, they used to call "nigger heaven" yeah. They're assigned way on the balcony on top. Us guys, they don't know what to do with us, but they put us just like American, yeah.

Even when I was wounded, they flew me on a stretcher, and they took me from Sicily, and Sicily to North Africa. You know when they had the registration, they have a paper you got to fill out. You fill out your name, and age, and things like that. Then one part came, the color has, "Are you white or are you black?" And they don't know what to do with me because I'm yellow and no more yellow in there, only get black and white. So the guy call the lieutenant, he said, "What shall we put the man sitting there?"

And he looks, "Ah, put him white." So I came white for a while, you know (chuckles).

But that's how they even discriminate there. And then there's a small barbershop, and it says, "For blacks: Tuesdays and Thursdays." That's the only time. So if you, by mistake, go on Tuesday or Thursday, they won't cut your hair unless you're black. You know, they discriminate right in a place like that. That's the hospital already, it's in a hospital. And yet, when we go in the tent, I had my—one of my next door was a black guy staying with me. In fact, he taught me how to sing some Christian songs, like "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know," those kinds of songs. But they were really treated unfairly, yeah, the black guys.

MK: How did the civilians in the South treat you Japanese American guys?

RN: You know, most of us were treated pretty fairly. They treated us as white because they don't know what to do with us. Because they only have black or white, but I was one yellow, eh, they don't know what to do. So they treated us just like whites. I don't know why they do the things like that. Even toilet, they have to get one special toilet for them. They're only wasting money, you know, special toilet for blacks, and others. But that's the way they were brought up. But now, it's not so bad. If you do something, if you did that, oh boy, you get a lot of comments. "Who you?" and all that. But those days, no such thing.

MK: And then you know at Camp Shelby, what kind of training did you get? At Camp Shelby, what kind of training did you get?

RN: Oh, we went through the same training again, you know. That's why we were one of the most well-trained outfits you can ever find. We went three maneuvers. You know, most of them, they get one training maneuvers and they go already. Us, we had three maneuvers, but they don't know what to do with us. That's why the thing lags, lags, and we do the same thing over and over. So we were well-trained when we went overseas.

When we first arrived at North Africa, that's Oran, all we do is—we don't have any kitchen, so in our time, we open our own food and eat just like that. Anytime you want to eat, you eat. There's no—anything hot, nothing. For two weeks like that. During the two weeks, they sent us to this prison where all the Italian people were prisoners. You know, they're eating hot food and all that. Us guys, we eating the cold food (chuckles). If they want to attack us, they can attack us because only two of us guarding a hundred guys. But they're so happy they get hot meals, and us guys, we can't eat hot meals. So sometimes it's not fair, you know. In North Africa, now and then, get a lot of sandstorms. So the third week, we finally got to line up to

eat hot food, you know, they established a kitchen. While we just had the first hot meal, we were so happy, sandstorm came. Covered all the hot food. (Chuckles) Ho, I was so hungry, I scrape off the sand, I just ate it (laughs). But that was—I couldn't believe that happened. Ordinarily, I wouldn't eat the sand, but oh, was the first hot meal and that sand came. I scrape it off. I just ate it, you know. (Laughs) So all these things that we went through is hard to believe.

Like when we were in Italy, warfront, they had a lot of grapes. You know, fall time, we were so hungry for grapes or any kind of food while we're going through, so we ate a lot. You know, everybody got diarrhea because they overate the fruits. They're running out of toilet paper. Then we used to dig hole like this, and each guy squat down on the hole like this. We got to line up to go sit on that, squat down, because everybody got the diarrhea. We ran out of toilet paper, and then we have to use the leaf a little bit to scrape us off. But things like that happen, you don't even believe it, but it happens.

And one day after we went to battle, you take a rest, they take turns, and then we came back. That's when we like to take a bath, yeah, long time we no take a bath. So three of us, "Hey, let's go look for some well so we can wash ourselves."

"Okay."

So three of us finally found a well, you know, "Hey, that's terrific." So we get the bucket, come down, and we was washing. All nude already. All of a sudden, we hear somebody hissing, (makes noise) like that. We look up, five Italian ladies see us all naked, you know.

(Laughter)

So we all embarrassed you know, but we cannot do anything already, we say, "Ah, finish it up." Wipe us off, we took off. But things happen even in the wartime. A lot of things that happen like that, yeah. You wouldn't believe it, but it happens.

MK: I know that after North—when you were in North Africa, what was your assignment and rank?

RN: Well, our assignment was—they had the 34th Division, and then when they said division, then they have—they're big, see—and they created 133rd Battalion. And out of that, they wanted us to join them. But before we joined them, they want to be sure that we can be trusted. That's why they

keep us long time in Africa. Finally, General [Charles W.] Ryder said, "Let's take 'em in." So we went with them. And you know, they took us on a ship, then we're going to invade Italy. And you know that when you come down from the ship, you cannot hold this way because all--otherwise the guy on top of you is going to step on your feet, so you go this way, yeah. But as soon as you go above this, and that high, you know, you got to jump down in a big boat, flat boat. Hoo, us guys, short guys, boom, one by one, just like our leg going break, because we get all the heavy stuff, ammunition, and all that. Boom. And then the thing like this, get about thirty guys inside, thirty at a time. And we go around and around till it full. By that time, all seasick already (chuckles) because we're going around, yeah. So they go like this, then they invade. But when they invade Salerno, some of them, they don't know how to swim, the *haole* guys. You know, the tanker stuck, they drown. Us guys, get till here, but we know how to get through the water, so we were safe. But some of the white guys, they don't know how to swim, so they drown right over there.

And from Salerno, we start moving up, all the way. And even when you say "combat," it's really--I would say--just like an animal. Because you have to get--you have no raincoat--raincoat, but you cannot use it. And you sleep any old place, rain or shine, and then all on hard ground, you dig a hole. And on top of that, you get one grenade tied over here, and you have all these bullets around your waist, and then you have a backpack in the back. And you know, you try go with that all the time, all the time, *chee*, boy. One of my sergeants, he had the grenade, and somehow, when he was going to get off the truck, the thing came out and exploded. That's why he got his stomach, all shrapnel in here. I don't know why they gave us to tie it over here, the grenade. We cannot hide it anyplace, we tie 'em over here. The thing is heavy, the ammunition, and the rifle, and the backpack. So it's a cruel thing, you know, combat. And in fact, some of us, we go to Naples, this lieutenant told one of my buddies, "Can I borrow your infantry badge?" (Chuckles) You know, because they want to show the infantry--they're not combat soldiers. They want to borrow, (chuckles) you know. That's how they respect a combat soldier.

One time we befriended an Italian boy--he was about, I believe, at that time, ten or twelve years old. He taught me that song (sings), "*Oi Marie, oi Marie.*" He taught me that song. And then about, eight years ago, I think, Bob Jones took a group, and I was the president, at that time, for Club 100. So every time they come into group, they introduce me as, you know, every town we go, see the mayor have to go up there. Then I started wondering about this

boy. He was only that age, by now he must be maybe fifty or something. I keep wondering, I wish I could meet that boy, you know. But I never did meet that boy. Hard to believe, but we used to get him cigarette, candy, so he could take home and then give it to the parents, yeah. But the only name I know, his name was, we used to call him Joe, Joe, you know, J-O-E. That's the only name I know. But other than that, I don't know his full name. So when I went with Bob Jones' group, I said, "Chee, I wonder what happened to that guy." But I don't ask them because I don't know the full name, you know. But he must be around someplace.

WN: Okay we're going to stop here, we're going to change tapes, okay? It's been one hour or so.

MK: Take a little break.

TAPE NO. 44-45-2-05

MK: Okay, this is the continuation of the second session with Mr. Nosaka.

You know, you folks landed in Italy, yeah, you folks landed at Salerno. Then you folks are traveling in Italy, Castelverte, Benevento . . .

RN: Yeah, that's right.

MK: . . . you're going through all there. And this is the time-- your first time in battle. First time you're being attacked. How did you feel, first time in battle?

RN: Well, we were scared, you know. Because what they do is just keep bombing. We cannot even go close to them because they bomb from far place. And they have that other kind, they call "screaming meemie" it goes (makes noise) and you don't know when it's going to stop. Mmm-boom, like that. So if you hard luck at that time the screaming meemie comes and drop off, you're the hard-luck guy. And same time, they get attack planes come down and just boom, boom, boom, boom, you know. So on the road, we just spread out like that. That's when Koyei Matsumoto on this side, see. So he and I bump each other in the same hole. We look at each other, laughing. "I don't mean to take your place," you know, I guess he felt the same way (laughs). But that was the Koyei Matsumoto.

But all kinds of strange things happen. But now I look back, I say, *chee*, that was a wonderful experience. It was tough, but I came out alive, so, you know, I feel very grateful. And on top of that, I have my wife over there, she's very humble, very patient. And I never see her speak

one bad thing about people, criticizing. Me, (chuckles) I'm the opposite, I just talk any kind, you know. But she's somebody special. I guess that's why I'm married that long (chuckles).

MK: And then, like, when you were in Italy, you're going through all that, yeah, everything's coming down on you, and you have to fight back, too.

RN: Yeah.

MK: How did you feel when you had to fight back?

RN: Well, you know, the feeling is, if you don't do something, they're going to kill you. So anytime you see—you think you should fire, just fire anything like that. The feeling is, either you get killed or you kill a guy, you know. Because anytime you fire something, you got to—for the intent to kill the guy. Likewise, they're doing the same thing to us, yeah. Because that's what a rifle is for, not for just tease you. They really fire, to kill somebody.

And when I was wounded, I crawled in a cave, you know. And Nakasone and I—just happened to be he was there, and I couldn't walk, so I crawled to the cave. And then, you know, just about evening time, just a coincidence, a dog came. Just about the same time that we train at dog training. November 6, I think. And the dog came. Oh, I was so happy, I call the dog, and the dog came and kept me warm all till the next day. And then I thought of how I used to treat the dog. And here, he just (laughs) kept me warm, you know. You keep me warm, like this. And then after that, he disappeared. I don't know where he went. But just about the same time, you know, that I trained the dogs, yeah. The same, just coincidence, but I guess God made it that way, I don't know. But he kept me warm in the cave. And after that, he just walked away. And to think, you know, a dog keeps you warm, and he's so friendly. That's when I think of the days that we trained dogs. And of all times, it started the same day I was wounded. That's the same time that I was training, you know, just the timing came like that.

MK: And you were wounded at Hill 600?

RN: Right, Hill 600. Those days, of course, the name is—they call it 600, but it's Maria Oliveto, you know. [Santa] Maria Oliveto, that's the town name. That's where—you know when we get wounded—the next day they come with a stretcher and take us to a farmhouse. We're all lined up—lying down like this, yeah. That's the time this guy [Yoshinao "Turtle"] Omiya, came after—I was lying down—I could hear

him say, "Eh, Omiya going to get blind," you know, he came with the both sides, yeah. That's where Sparky Matsunaga, too, he came in afterwards, just about the same time Dr. [Richard] Kainuma got hit, Dr. [Isaac] Kawasaki got hit. Just about the same time, you know, all we lined up in the farmhouse with the stretchers, all lined up. And then when we go to the place to operate, it's a tent like this, and all of us lying right down on the ground, you know. And they give us hypo or something to relieve us a little bit. And right on the side like this, there's a room. They operate you right there. And then you got to line up, you know. And there's as big bucket like this where they cut the leg off of one, they throw 'em right inside there. No more sanitation, nothing, you know. And yet, we're alive. If down here, everything got to be clean, wash your hands, regular. Not that kind over there. And then after that, they took me to Naples hospital and they operated again. But you look at that hospital and you look at the one they operated. It's so different because this side, you get more clean; this side is all ground, you know. But when I think of that, how did we survive? You know, even over here, you go to a clinic, everything is sanitation, yeah. That all, no such thing as sanitation, you know. They just carry you over there. Lie down and just do what they want. But there's nobody who got poisoned or anything, you know. It's so strange, you know. Even when I had my teeth—Dr. Kometani was our dentist over there—with this kind pump kind. Not the kind, you know, electric kind with the pump foot over here. (Chuckles) And it hurt so much (laughs). They don't inject or anything. At least he fix one tooth, anyway.

MK: When you were wounded at [Santa] Maria Oliveto, how were you wounded, what happened?

RN: Well, we always go marching down like this, and then when we see bullets come, we go down. But hard to find them because they're on the up—you know Italy's always like this. So they're always looking down on us, so they know exactly what we're doing. So they fire, we cannot even fire, look at them, we don't know where they are until we skirmish this way and then go this way. See, by that time, they run away already and they shoot.

But, you know, when I was in the cave the next day, they had about eight prisoners they were taking down. You know, German prisoners. And I was just about so mad, I was going to fire at the guy. Nakasone push the rifle, "No, no, don't do that." Because if I did that to them, I'd be court martialed, you know, because they are prisoners, you're not supposed to fire. But I felt that what the heck, you know, they killed us, we got to kill them, too. I was so mad about it. But I'm glad that that Nakasone pushed my rifle

away because I was—you know, you read today's kind of paper, the guys, you know, do with the prisoners like that.

But I still say prisoners shouldn't be treated that nice, to me. Because if you make one step, they're going to shoot you, too. But that's the way it goes, you know. Democracy, they want to show democracy, yeah. But to me, it's not right. Even when I read in the paper about these people abusing the prisoners, if you go in their side, they don't even abuse you, they kill you, you know. That's the part I really disagree with them. They shouldn't punish the people like that. These prisoners, they are our enemies, yeah. That's why, I disagree with the army, you know, what they do to me. I could be wrong, my judgment may be poor, but I always felt that war is war. It's not a picnic, you know. If you don't shoot them, they're going to shoot you. One way or the other. So I don't know. And spending so many billions of dollars to build the enemy place. What about the ones at home? I wish they would take care at home. At home, all the people starving kind, why don't they help them? No, they're helping only the enemies, you know. I think I disagree with that one (laughs).

MK: So like your wartime, then, you really saw the Germans as your enemies, yeah? So when you had to fight, did you ever feel sorry or think about family? Or . . .

RN: Oh, yeah. Sometimes you get pitiful. You know, when you kill somebody, you know that they have parents, they have brothers and sisters, yeah, so they must, you know, when you think of the other way, you feel bad, you know. But wartime, you don't think that way. But only once, I had—when I killed that guy—I had same—I had the feeling, after about two hours later, I felt bad about that guy that I shot. Because I felt that he must have a family like I have a family. So at that time, I didn't feel that way. At that time, I said, "Oh, good thing I killed you." But when I went back to my foxhole, and I rested about one hour, and then I start thinking, *chee*, why did I do that? But cannot help, I fire, yeah. And went there, searched his bag, and all the things, I shouldn't have done that, too. But wartime, you know, you just like—you do brutal things that you shouldn't do in normal life. But that's why, even today, if guy attack me, I kill him. I don't feel that way, I don't feel nothing. Before I was afraid to kill anybody. But now, even right now, if the guy want to attack me, I go for kill, I don't care. Because if you don't do it, they're going to do it to you.

MK: And then I was wondering, after you were wounded and you were in the cave, how did they find you? How did the medics find you?

RN: No. You know, what happened is we advanced. So this medic guys, they go and search all over. They come in the jeep, they look all around and they find you, and they get a stretcher, take you on the jeep, and take you away. That's how all these guys met in the farmhouse, all lying down (chuckles).

But, you know, we have funny stories, too, you see. When I came back from Africa hospital, this time, they didn't fly me because I was well already. They took us on a steerage boat, you know, all. We got to go walk like this on the floor, all steel floor. They have stacks and stacks of cans. And the can, you can open yourself, you know, and you can eat anytime you want. There's no hot or anything, you just open the can, you eat. And on the deck, we don't want to stay in there, because it's so untidy, you know. So we climb the step, and we go on the open space. On the open space, there's wooden like this, way on the back, toilet, all like that. Wooden toilets, all open. And all of us on the deck like this, see. On this corner here, guys shooting craps, you know, playing. You know the guy go toilet, they wipe their 'ökole [buttocks], yeah, the wind blow, eh, the thing stuck like that, they don't care, they go like this, they still keep playing, you know.

(Laughter)

I tell you, I seen that, I said, "Chee, these guys," you know, "their gambling is more important than the toilet paper." But that's what happens. So me and one guy, what we did was, we sneak inside the officers' place and we go use their toilet, see. We got caught one time. So they said, "If I catch you again here, I see that you get court martialled." So from the first class officers' side, we had to get out. So what we used to do, you know the stack of-downstairs, we had the cans—we used to get the empty box, we go up there, we do it in the empty box and we throw 'em overboard (laughs). Oh, you know, you just got to live like that, do the best you can. But these gamblers, crazy, they just want to gamble. I see the paper flying all over, stuck over here, go like this yeah, go like that (laughs).

MK: So how long did you stay in the hospital after you were wounded?

RN: I would say about a month.

MK: About a month.

RN: And they're so courteous, you know. They send a telegram that how I'm doing. You know, she kept the telegram. I say, "Why are they so nice to"—get thousands of soldiers getting

wounded, but she got a personal letter from the—that I was doing well and whatever, yeah. That's why Americans, sometimes, they're too good, you know. Not like the enemy kind, you know.

Yet, the German enemies, they were well fed. They get the best beer and everything. When you capture them, you get a lot of good stuff. But us, we don't have that.

MK: So like when did you finally rejoin your unit?

RN: No, I didn't rejoin my unit. You know why, they told us that people who stayed over so many years—I was first draft, so I had five years, a long time—so the guys, unfit for combat duty, can go home. So about six of us, we went home.

MK: Oh, so after you got wounded at Hill 600, you went— you were treated—and then you went to the hospital, and then after that, you were discharged?

RN: Not discharged.

MK: You were . . .

RN: Just saying that you can go home.

MK: Yeah.

RN: And then we rode on a boat and went home. And then they assigned me to a post office by Fort Shafter [in Honolulu]. That's how I got my PFC [private first class]. You know, they wanted—I'm doing a sergeant job, but they want to be, but they cannot do that one time. So if I stayed long enough there, I would have become a sergeant. But first thing you know, they said I'm going to be discharged. So I got discharged.

Those days, cigarettes like this, one whole carton, fifty cents, you know. I think I bought ten in one carton. So I used to buy for my brothers, I quit smoke already, so I buy it for them from the PX. But they were lucky that we get for them because they're so expensive.

MK: So you didn't participate in the Lost Battalion or the Champagne Campaign . . .

RN: No, not in France.

MK: You came back.

RN: Before I reached France. Only my kid brother participated.

MK: And so you were back here at Fort Shafter?

RN: No, he was wounded before that, I think.

MK: Oh no, you. You were back here at Fort Shafter.

RN: Yeah, Fort Shafter.

MK: And what did you do at Fort Shafter, what kind of work?

RN: You know, you go in post office, there's a lot of these slots. You look at the mail, put in the right place, you tie 'em up and put 'em in one bag, and then drive the truck and take it to the airport to have it mailed, yeah. So I learned that from them because I never worked in a post office before, you know. But I learned, and then after I learned, they want to promote me. That's how I got my PFC. And if I stayed long enough, I would have gotten higher because the job I was doing is a sergeant job. But they cannot promote—in the rear, they cannot promote you all of a sudden, you have to go one step at a time. But I rather get discharged than wait for that, so I got discharged.

And when I came home, my dad was in the yard, see. He saw me limping a little, but he didn't see me yet till I got closer, but I was limping coming home. For the first time, I've seen him cry (laughs). I guess, I don't know if he's happy or what, but that's the first time I see him cry. I never did see him cry before. But when he saw me, he cried (chuckles). But he died only young, sixty years old, he died. My mother, of all things, my mother, the accident, yeah. She was only fifty years old. You wouldn't believe, but you know, those days, during the war, we had the coffin right in the house, you know. All her students, you know those *odori* students, come over there, sleep with them. I went sleep over there, too. They light the *senkō* [incense stick]—you know, that—all night. And no more sanitation, her body is right there, now. All the *odori* girls around. They sleep all night with them. (Chuckles) I don't know why, but maybe that's the Buddhist style, I don't know.

MK: And so what year did your mother pass away?

RN: In 1941, just about, I would say, four months before the Pearl Harbor attack. My brother came down and pick me up from Schofield, and took me to see my mother, yeah.

MK: And then your brother, the one that was in your 442nd . . .

RN: No.

MK: That was a different brother?

RN: He's a little older than him. He's between Seiichi and him. He's right there, and I'm here.

MK: And then your brother Seiichi, when did he come home from the war?

RN: Huh?

MK: When did your brother Seiichi come home from the war?

RN: Oh, he came home, *chee*, I forgot what year already. But he was hospitalized in Colorado because he was seriously wounded. So from France, they flew him over, and then he stayed in the Denver, Colorado hospital. That's when it came out in the newspaper about him, why he came there, and things like that.

MK: So your family had two boys in the war, then?

RN: Yeah, two of them. The other two, they were married young, so they deferred them. But my kid brother he was in the VVV [Varsity Victory Volunteers] that's why, freshman, yeah, university. Yeah, he was one of those gifted ones, but he's single.

WN: So what year did you come back? Was it [19]44?

RN: I think was the latter part of [19]44, I think.

WN: So you got wounded in [19]44?

RN: No, I got wounded in [19]43, I think.

WN: Oh, [19]43, okay.

RN: Yeah.

MK: Came back in [19]44.

RN: Yeah, because we still was in Italy, yet, [19]43. Because she and I got married 1943, July, and then in August, we shipped overseas. So just like I was married only maybe about one month, and then I went. So all we do is just write letter back and forth, yeah.

MK: And, you know, I was wondering, when you were sent back home because they said you were unfit for any more duties, how did you feel?

RN: Well, strange thing is, sometimes you get selfish, you know. *Chee*, I'm so happy that I'm coming home. Yet, on the other hand, you like help the other guys because the other

guys need help, eh. So mind is, you know, my mind is sometimes not clear. I don't know how to think about it. Because they used to say to us, "Chee, you lucky you got wounded. You're in the hospital eating hot food, and you in the shelter, and us guys still fighting." Well, that's true. Plenty guys like to get wounded—not to die, but get wounded. Because they go in the hospital, they get hot meals, they get nice bed, yeah. So when they look at that, there's a lot of guys, they want to get wounded. But if you're unlucky kind of wounded, you might die, that's the thing.

In fact, we had one guy named Iwasa. Dud, you know, this dud, when they fire, it hit his back, see. And then he fell down, but through instinct, he grabbed that thing, and he ran and dumped it, and he passed out. He thought that the thing was going to explode, yeah. Through mere guts and trying to help people, he carried the thing. And he got the back all injured, yeah, but his intent was to save the rest of them. But the thing didn't go off. But that's what it is, you know. You come close, you want to help people, yeah.

Just like I heard my buddy Don Nakauye. He and I used to be in the same boxing team. And he was in headquarters, so he always stay in the back. And every time he goes in the back, he goes around and picks flowers. And then when he see any of his—anybody that got hit and killed, he used to put the flower. One day, they found him with a flower in his hand, dead, because he got hit. But in his hand, had the flowers to bring to his buddies. That's the story I heard. Hard to believe, but that guy giving flowers to everybody. But he, instead, got killed, and the flowers still in his hand. That was my friend, Don Nakauye.

So in a war, all kind of things happen, which you wouldn't believe, like this. But it happens, you know, because I guess life, yeah, any kind stuff happen. Sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad. When you get the bad one, you make mistakes, but if you don't learn by your mistakes, you're the one that lose, yeah, lose out. Mistakes, everybody makes, but if you can't learn by the mistake, you're the loser, yeah. Because everybody's human, they make mistakes, but don't make the same mistake over. You know, you got to learn not to do this. Even when I walk, sometimes I want to fall, I get unbalanced, I won't make the same mistake again. I try (chuckles) walk this way instead of this way. That's life, yeah, you learn by mistakes. And the only thing now, sometimes, my mind is forgetful. I leave things here and then I forget where I put it (chuckles).

WN: You know you said that when you came home, you met your father and he started to cry. Do you remember what it was like when you came home? Was there any kind of—do you remember who greeted you, or anything like that, do you remember that time?

RN: Yeah, I saw him. He didn't see me first, because I was walking to the—I got off the bus—and I was walking to the. . . . He was kind of skinny. He used to be husky before. And I saw him, the physical structure was skinny already. Maybe he was already ill or something, he had kidney trouble. He doesn't look like the way I left him. When I left him, he was strong.

MK: When you came home, was there any kind of big celebration, or . . .

RN: Yeah, they had a *lü'au* for she and I because she just joined me at home, see. So all my gang came to my *lü'au*. And then my brother, his Hawaiian wife, they have the pig over there. They cut the thing. They do it right at home, you know, and they cook it right there. All my father's former employees all was there. His old carpenter foremen was all at the party. And then I invited my post office *haole* friends. They came, too. First time they seen how they cook the . . .

MK: Pig.

RN: *Imu* [cooked pig in an underground oven] the pig, yeah. And they were so happy about it. Till today, I correspond with one of them, was my sergeant, his name was Cary Offord from Illinois. He still writes me letters. So one day—one time—she and I visited him. He took us all kinds of places, restaurant, and all that. After I came back, I didn't see him long time. Till today, I think maybe he's—because he must be in his nineties something, because he was way older than I am. So maybe he might be dead by now, I don't know.

MK: You mentioned that your wife came a little bit later, yeah.

RN: Yeah.

MK: You came back, then your wife came back. You know, I was wondering, how did you meet Mrs. Nosaka on the Mainland? How did you folks get together?

RN: In a social place, they had all kinds of people that live in New York City. They had about this room that they all sat down, they had a party for us. And Marshall Higa and. . . . Anyway, three of us, that was summertime, you know, we were dark, 'cause of the sun, yeah, so we were the

first ones to go to New York City and we stayed with Marshall Higa's sister. That's the reason they let us go. Only those guys with relatives. I don't have relatives, but he could take somebody to go, so he asked Larry Amazaki and myself. And then we went, three of us, the first time that we ever—they seen Hawai'i people go there. And one of the girls was so amazed. She said, "Are you Hawaiian?"

I tell 'em, "No, I'm Japanese."

She said, "Oh, you look so dark and you speak so funny." You know how we speak pidgin English.

So I said, "Oh, I'm sorry."

So that's when—she and her sister was there. Mary is her sister, and that's Aki. And the girl that I fell in love with was Aki. But I thought Aki was Mary, and Mary was Aki. So I used to write letter all the time to the wrong person.

(Laughter)

WN: You mean you put, "Dear Mary"?

RN: Yeah. And when I completed my dog training, they gave us two weeks off. So three of us went to New York City, and I went to visit her. And she was sitting—as soon as you enter the third floor, you walk, see. She was sitting by the door, and her sister Mary was sick in bed. So she telling me, "Oh, Mary is sick" so I wanted to see Mary.

I said, "Oh, I'm sorry you're sick." But *chee*, when I talked to her, I said, "Hey, the face a little different." So when I came out, I saw her, "Oh, that's her." That's the one that's supposed to be my partner, you know. I said, "Chee." And I had no idea. And still in my mind, I said, I wonder if I'm thinking right, you know. Then I finally found out that Mary was Aki, and Aki was Mary. (Chuckles) Crazy, yeah.

MK: And then eventually you folks fixed up the confusion, you fixed up the mistake, and you folks got married.

RN: No, after that we went bowling. And then Mary stayed home by herself. And then I still didn't propose to her or anything like that. But when I went back to the camp, I started writing, writing. And her girlfriend was Matsuko Honma, and so I always write to her what I should do. So I told Matsuko, "You think—is it all right if I marry her, ask her to marry me?" I guess she wen go ask her, I guess. And then she wrote back, she says, "I think it's a good time," she said, "I think it's all right." So I wrote a

letter if she want to get married. The reply was an affirmative. (Chuckles) So that's how it started. But those days, even those days, you have to get a doctor's certificate. In New York City, they have law that you don't have syphilis or something of the kind. So Dr. [Isaac] Kawasaki wrote a letter, and then when I went down there, they had it all cleared already, so I could get married to her. At that time, had a lot of B Company guys was on the furlough to see New York City. So we got no invitation, I just said, "Oh, Sam, come to my wedding, you know, we're going to get married, but come to my-Miyako Hotel, certain-certain time."

He said, "Oh, okay."

So I had about, oh, fifteen of them. No invitation, just come, and then we just have a dinner there, yeah. All mostly Company B guys was there. No invitation nothing, no nothing, just tell 'em, "Hey, come to my party."

"What party?"

I said, "I'm going to get married."

"Yeah, oh?"

They all came, you know. I still get the picture, you know, all of us. Baker Chapter, yeah. Now, I look back at the picture, and say, oh boy, so many guys got killed in Italy. So I'm glad that I took—we had the picture taken of all the group that was there.

MK: And then how soon after getting married did you have to go overseas?

RN: Yeah, after that, I came home and I came back, I mean, to camp, and I asked for emergency furlough because, you know, I got married. So they gave me an emergency furlough for one week. I went, I came back. And then I didn't know. First thing we know, we were stationed in Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. It's, you know, not too far from New York City, so I wanted to see her again. So I wrote a letter to her, where I'm going to be, and all that. And then, I didn't tell anybody. Early in the morning, I sneak out from the camp and I walk across. I don't know where I'm going, big field like this. I walk, walk, walk. And then I saw one bus waiting over there. So I asked him, "Do you know—are you going to this" small little town, I forget the hotel name. She was there waiting for me because we corresponded what's going to happen.

So the bus said, "Yeah, we're going right there." So the bus took me, dropped me off, and then we stayed one night at the hotel, and she went back, and I went back. And then I went overseas.

And, you know, when we go overseas, everybody got to go, with the barracks bag, go up a step. And there's two sides, you know. One guy's poking you here, the other guy poking you here. You know this kind. And then you go down. One time, you know, two more guys poking here, one guy poking, and you go (laughs). And, you know, on the boat, it was so crowded, we only can eat two meals. By the time that next meal come already, dinnertime already. The next morning you go, already lunch gone already. So you eat only two times a day. And long—all meals. I think if one torpedo come, they kill everybody. All crowded, you know, so many. And even at that, they don't tell us where we were going. Nobody knew about if we were going North Africa, or Oran, nobody didn't know. They just said, "We don't know." So I used to sleep on the deck because downstairs, they have all stacked up, just furniture or something, stacked up. But I used to go down, always get an extra orange, because I don't get seasick, but my close friend, he always get sick. He can't even peel an orange, he's just lying down. So I used to peel 'em and I used to feed 'em. He's that bad, because he's a poor sailor. And we don't sleep in the bunk, we go on deck and sleep. So it's all open, but that's how we went all the way up.

But, you know, Oran, Africa, when we first went there, it's a lot of these kind people wear the kind funny kind of hat, you know. Their uniform is, you know, the civilians, they wear funny kinds of clothes, you know. And even their food is different kind of food, yeah. So we cannot go in the restaurant and eat. You don't know what they're going to eat there.

MK: So when you went overseas and Aki is back home in the United States, how often did you folks correspond?

RN: Oh, yeah, all these kind of letters, until we come back from—we go in combat, then we come rest—when we come rest, then the letters come to us. So sometimes you get four, five, stacked up. Especially hers, she used to write all the time. So I get lot of letters. They used to tease me, say, "Hey Raymond, your bundle, your bundle came."
(Chuckles) That's her.

MK: Those days, what kind of stuff did you write to Aki?

RN: Same kind stuff, "Dear honey," and "love." All nothing interesting, because we cannot write too much about the war

because they censor it. So we only write about our feelings, yeah. It comes in a small—like this, the letter. They call it V-mail, like this. Small letters like this. They take a picture of that I think, because it's all black and white like this, small like this. And then they call it V-mail. I don't know how she wrote the letter, but it all comes in the V-mail. Among myself, I think I have the most letters. They used to tease me all the time, "Eh, your bundle came" they're always teasing me, you know. But she was . . .

WN: For her to write back to you, she had to use a certain kind of paper?

RN: Yeah, V-mail.

WN: Oh, she couldn't use something like regular . . .

RN: No, I think they have some kind of form mail, I think. Hey Aki, when you used to write V-mail, you used to write big kind? There's a small—some kind of form that you have to use, I think.

MK: And I know that you eventually came back, yeah. Nineteen-forty-four, you worked Fort Shafter, and then Aki came. And so after Aki came back, where did you folks live?

RN: My sister, she vacated her home and she told us to stay over there. I don't know where she went, but she went with her, I guess, family. And so she and I got her apartment (chuckles). I was lucky.

WN: Where was this? Where was the apartment?

RN: Where?

WN: Where?

RN: Oh, I think that was close to Alapa'i. Alapa'i side.

MK: And then from that time, what did you do? You know, you came back to Hawai'i, you have a new wife, living in an apartment, where did you work?

RN: No, I was still was in the army.

MK: You were still in the army?

RN: Yeah, still in the army. In fact, my first daughter, when she gave birth to my first daughter, that was in Fort Shafter. They used to have a hospital over there. You know those days, when they gave birth, they don't have sanitary,

like have a window, like that. The baby just born, and then I went there, they bring out the baby, tell, "Ey, you have a beautiful baby." Just like that. And then they take 'em back. But you know now days they have window yeah, and you have to look like this. Not at that time. Strange, yeah, no sanitation at all. But I was lucky that it came alive and nobody's sick, yeah. It's so strange, sometimes.

MK: So like when did you finish with the army? When were you discharged from the army?

RN: August 13, 1945. Just about five years, almost five years.

MK: And then what did you do?

RN: Let's see now, when I first came out, oh, I went to my old job. I used to be part-time recreation director. They said, you know, when you go in a war like that, they're supposed to give you back your same job. So I went back on the job, and that was only part-time, and then I have look for a full-time job. That's when I found out it was so hard to get job because Hawaiian Electric, Hawaiian Tel, Pearl Harbor, they don't used to hire us yet, they still have the discrimination. But slowly, gradually, the thing went away. So now I feel so satisfied because if I didn't go to war, my kids like that, they won't have a fair play like this. Now they get pretty well, as long as you can show your knowledge, or you can practice your-whatever you're going to, huh.

RN: But our days, no such thing. You can go to the best college, and you won't get the job that you want. That's why most of them went to be a schoolteacher. That's the only place you can get inside the government, yeah. But government, they cannot discriminate, so the state used to hire, yeah. But other than that, it's very difficult to get an outside job. But I don't regret, but I mean, I learned lots about human life, yeah.

MK: So you worked for the state for five years as a social worker, and then you worked for the Veteran's Administration before that, and you worked IRS [Internal Revenue Services] a long time, yeah.

RN: Yeah, I worked IRS about twenty-three years, I was an agent there. Then I transferred, I took a test, I transferred to veteran's counselor. I became a veteran's counselor. Then I retired from the federal over there, see. I worked about seven years, and I retired. I got restless, so I took a test again, and I worked in the social services, they hired me. Then as soon as I got my maximum, I retired. Because they give me credit for army, too, see. So all that added

up, I got enough to retire again. So I was very fortunate, you know.

MK: And now you have children and grandchildren, yeah?

RN: Yeah.

MK: So, I was wondering, you know, when you look back, you think about your life, you think about your wartime, what do you want your children and grandchildren to remember about you?

RN: I didn't even think about that, but I feel all my kids, like me, I guess, they take for granted. So I don't know how to explain that. And I have no favorites, you know, the three children I have, I treat them all alike, and they treat me good, too, on the other hand. But I don't expect anything like that, but they treat me very good. So I always say I'm lucky, I'm grateful, you know. My boy, especially, when he was going high school, oh, he used to give me bad time. You know boys, yeah, it's a little different from the two girls, but he turned out to be all right. He's a Christian, too, so he followed the Christian path. I've never see him steal, or dishonest. He find something, he always look for the owner to give him. That's why he's very honest. That's one of the things that I admire about him. Because I used to steal and all that, I used to be naughty, yeah. But he's not like that, so I think highly of him because of his honesty. He's not a perfect boy, but when comes to honesty, ho, he's honest. He wouldn't take a dime that don't belong to him. But when he's right, he fights for it though. I don't know, he get my hard head, I think.

(Laughter)

WN: You know, before the war, you went to San Francisco, you went to some engineering, you had some engineering training . . .

RN: Mm-hmm [yes], yeah, yeah.

WN: . . . went to school, like that. When you came back, did you ever think about going back to school for the GI Bill, or anything like that, or continuing with education, engineering?

RN: No. I did go back to university, University of Hawai'i. I had two different jobs because my kids were growing up, yeah. But in the end, I couldn't take it anymore so I dropped out from school and I didn't finish up the university. But even now, I don't know if I can go back,

because oh, over ten years, they might not give me even credit if I want to. So I just forget about it (chuckles). But my daughter and my son always getting that, you know, brochure, yeah. They send to you folks too, yeah. And then I look back, I said, *chee*, I wonder if I should still go back.

(Laughter)

Would be a big joke if I go back and my son be my teacher.

(Laughter)

MK: Do you have anything else you want to say about your life, or war, or the lessons you've learned?

RN: Well, right now, I really—I go doctor all the time, and so I feel grateful that somehow or the other, that God is still watching me from upstairs. Still watching me. But when I feel bad, you know, I always feel this way: if I die, I'm going to see my friends up there, my mother, my father. I always think that way, and then I feel better, you know, because they must be there someplace. So if I die, I'll join them over there anyway. So whether I'm here or there, I still have friends, or relatives.

WN: Thank you very much.

MK: We'll end here.

WN: We're just running out of tape.

MK: And thank you.

RN: Oh, thank you, thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW