

separate action to work with some other outfit, and this condition or circumstances should be taken care of during maneuvers, and that would be the chief reason that we were put in there and be able to work with other troops. I think that the maneuver did us a certain amount of good in the items that I just related to. I think that as far as just down-to-earth sleeping, sleeping in the field and that sort of thing we'd had about all of that we needed, but we were ready to go and do something else at that time.

TT: Did you ever find out why they had to send the 100th with so, say seven/eight months of training down south after they have had their basics up in McCoy?

JL: Well, it was the continuation of the outfit getting into maneuvers with larger troop groups. See, the time spent at McCoy down there at McCoy, we didn't spend too much of it in Shelby really. We went out with General Haislip's ~~(sp.?)~~ on that first mini maneuvers and then we went out with the. . .went back out with the. . .let's see what outfit was. . .

TT: What divisions did you folks. . .

JL: The 34th Division _____. I don't recall.

ST: The 85th, the 38th?

JL: The 85th was the host.

ST: Oh, host. But there was the 31st Division, CD
outfit.

JL: Yeah, yeah.

ST: That's _____ Division, 92nd or 91st.

JL: 92nd.

ST: Black.

TT: Black one, too?

ST: Yeah.

TT: Really?

ST: That was in the big maneuvers, and couple of armored units.

JL: The reason for getting into those, going down to get into these is as I mentioned a while ago we didn't know when you might be pulled in and look how it turned out in Italy there. Pull out a battalion and the 100th in there. Pretty soon later they pull out _____ over here, that one goes back and the 100th goes in. Fortunately, we didn't go too many times, we were one of the good outfits.

TT: So after the Louisiana maneuvers the 100th was ready?

JL: Well, we were ready, right. All we needed was to get our flag.

TT: And so around August of 1943 the 100th got orders to mobilize for overseas?

JL: Right.

TT: How did the boys accept that?

JL: Well, I think as I mentioned couldn't be 100 percent but was as close as it could get to it, I think. They were going to do something, they were going somewhere and I think relief from their soul or routine. I think they've had about all that they needed really, and they were ready to go and it was a case of just getting ready, packing up, and then when they got to Kilmer it seemed like I don't know how many times we changed weapons and things. We got all new stuff again at Kilmer.

ST: We got all new stuff although, Jim, my recollection is we got all new stuff that shove you. We put 'em in these crates and had it shipped over.

JL: Yeah, yeah.

ST: And then the crates came to us not at the time of arrival in ^{Cran} Moran(sp.?) but months and months afterwards, all crated.

JL: And the like the thing that I did there for the table of organization, I handcarried that with me to

Washington so I could explain it to them. Nobody wanted explanation so they just took it and I figure that's a dead duck. But we're going to operate that way anyway, and I got that when Jack Johnson and Turner and I rode down to _____ which was, whatcha callit, Eisenhower's headquarters. When we went down there to see what they were going to tell us, they handed me that thing, printed, after months after they looked at that table of organization, and they didn't say anything to me. I would've thrown it away or hell with it or what, they didn't do anything. But that's the way it goes, and I can see what. . .yeah, I remember those crates coming, good Lord!

TT: I heard or read somewhere that since the 100th was in training a total of 13/14 months in that period the boys not only learned their weapon and assignments but cross-trained them into some of the other weapons in the platoon so that they were versatile in any of the. . .

JL: The transfer was done in an orderly fashion. It wasn't something over here, Joe, you take my gun

today or something like this. They would change the whole rifle platoon. Rifle platoon might take the mortars and the machineguns and they would trade whole units like that, and the idea was that each one of these men should have more than one different weapon that he can handle, and not only that but the noncoms would have commands and leadership and that kind of things which they may have been getting three months at Shelby or something like that. But a lot of these other companies weren't getting that and look what it did for our boys, better than anybody else's.

TT: The unit was sent to North Africa. At that time Italy had not been invaded yet?

JL: No, they were still there but they weren't doing anything really. They had not helped. We hadn't really touched Italy.

ST: They were cleaning up Sicily.

JL: Went from there to North Africa and they hit Sicily, and then they didn't get to. . .they didn't really

get to Italy until the outfit was going towards Naples and we were coming up from Salerno. Nothing had happened there before. They didn't run anyway. You don't have to chase 'em and shoot 'em.

TT: The landing at Salerno--was that part of a major invasion? One of the first beachheads?

JL: No, no.

TT: No?

JL: Not a beachhead.

TT: The 100th came several. . .

JL: Oh yeah, the 45th was there because 45th almost got blown in the water that day. When we landed there the 45th had their artillery in the sand on the beach shooting point blank at these guys.

ST: That was around D+3, I think.

TT: This is at Salerno?

ST: Yeah.

TT: Well, at Africa though, you didn't spend too much time in Africa but when you were assigned to the 34th is that when the 100th learned that they would be going into actual combat rather than guarding ammunition dumps and. . .

JL: Just the day before, that's all. When we learned, we went, three of us went down to the headquarters in North Africa and that's when we learned we were going to be used in combat and that we will be attached to the 34th. Those were the two things we learned down there, and that we were not going to guard the Arabs and trains.

TT: And the morale of the boys went up?

JL: Yeah.

TT: And this General Ryder(sp.?) of the 34th, was he happy to get the 100th assigned to it?

ST: He didn't know yet.

JL: He just asked Turner one primary question: Can I trust these boys? After that everything was fine.

ST: My impression now is that General Ryder might have requested us, because he had 133rd which was minus their 1st Battalion, Jim. 1st Battalion was guarding Eisenhower's headquarters, and he needed a full complement for the 133rd and that kind of made it easy for us to fit in with the 133rd.

TT: Okay, well, now we landed at Salerno, and the calendar says that on September 29, 1943, the 100th went into the first battle. What are your recollections of that first battle? That's the day Joe Takata was the first casualty.

JL: Yeah, Company B, Taro Suzuki moved, moving down the road toward the road junction of Chiusano and as they were moving on suddenly opened up with a German .88s and discovered the men marching along the road and they opened fire and machinegun also opened fire from the same area and Joe Takata was hit and became the

first casualty or fatality from the war as far as the 100th was concerned. They moved on finally to the road and some other injuries during that morning but the troops finally moved across going underneath grapevines to get to the other side of the road. The Germans had all moved out and they took the high ground to the front of them and spent the night in the area. Next day the 100th moved on--the names of them: Monte Muletto?

ST: Montemorano.

JL: Yeah, Montemorano. Moved on to--and it was a steady movement--as they marched up the road to the north. There wasn't much action over there.

TT: You were the Executive Officer of the 100th? And your duties primarily were what?

JL: The Executive Officer usually has charge of the reserves, whichever company that you put in reserves so that he can handle those from, and usually the rear back area where he can handle things here, the regimental commander, battalion commander up here

says I want you to move that company over there and do this, then he's got this to do and then he would be an understudy of the whole thing so that he would know the. . .

TT: So in effect you were second in command right under Colonel Turner?

JL: That's right.

TT: And this interview is special and unusual because we're hearing it from someone who was right on the top as you honor the 100th Battalion, and also one of the few officers, non-Nisei officers that we have left that we can talk to and have talked about this experience, anything that you have to share from that viewpoint--about the boys, about how they performed and all that--that's what we'd like to hear as far as the time that you were with the 100th, after the Salerno landing and all the way up until you were injured.

JL: Well, I've had several of these, as you know, and in two or three, maybe I don't know how to put this

down, in two or three the people that were doing the interviewing or at least questioning have tried three or four times just to get me to say, oh, there was the whole Army representative that ^{told?} whole all those guys this outfit over here actually you couldn't trust any of 'em. They said they're disloyal, they did this to you, several people tried to get me to jump on somebody for calling 'em a name or something like that. I think I did that in various places where I really got like old General Foster. You know, I layed in on exactly as it happened, and so nobody can come back and say anything to me about it, but that's the one, you know, where he said I'm not giving those goddam Japs any praise.

TT: Oh, we didn't hear about that. Tell us about that.

JL: I already did. Comes at the end so not here but at camp, at O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Missouri. I was there. You want to put this down? There were five boys from Hawaii there, too, and to the--Hammelstein(sp?), Colonel Hammelstein who had been the sergeant at Tripler, General Foster was the commanding officer then at Tripler, and he was now

the _____ and he had canceled the milk contract because it was--milk was furnished by German farmer, German dairy, so Foster had canceled it when he would begin commander of the hospital. So one day I'm going down the hall some place and the sergeant who runs their entertainment publicity and stuff like that saw me and he said, "Major, would you be on our show next Saturday?" I said, "What's the show about?" "Every Sunday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock they have a one-hour show, 'Back Effect From Combat'." And he said "I'd like to have you on the show next week." And I said, "Look, there are five boys here with me. Why don't you get those boys and put the whole show instead of splitting it up?" And I said, "Because I'm not going to say anything until they've got a chance to see if they want to say anything." He said, "That's fine." He said, "Look, that will be the week afterwards and we'll have a dry run." So I went back and told these boys and they said they'd be glad to go, and so on Sunday, or Saturday we went and had a dry run just what we were going to do for a few minutes and went back. That night I went out to dinner and when I got home my daughter said that somebody had. . .a sergeant had been there and he was

going to call me tomorrow and explain to me what had happened, but they're not going to have the program today. So I knew nothing was coming on, but my neighbor came over and he owned part of the TV station, he was a judge, and he and I had gotten pretty close. And then he asked me what had happened, and I told him that what had happened the night before, and he said let's find out. He told me, the Sergeant told me that the station had canceled the program, so he said let's find out. So he used my phone and called the station, and they hadn't canceled the program, just as I suspected. So then on Monday morning I was going out for my treatment and that guy who knew Lt. Vaughn, and this guy had night before had gone out with this gal from the _____ from the hospital there who worked under the Sergeant. And this guy had taken her out, and she had told him what the General had said, because he always phoned in on Saturday afternoon to find out what's going on the next day. So he called in and he said they're featuring the 100th Battalion for the whole show, and he said, "Cancel that show. I'm not giving those goddam Japs any praise." So they canceled the program and blamed it on the station.

So from this other gal at night, the next night, she told him the whole story what the General had said, and he told me about it. He said you kind of got whacked, didn't you? And I said what was the story? What did you hear? And he told me the whole story without suspecting that I was he. Anyway, I went there right over to the General's--oh, I went down to see this gal at the clinic. She said, "Wasn't it too bad that they canceled your program?" I said, "Yeah, it was too bad." But I said you need'nt give me any more of that stuff because I know the whole story already. She said you know what you can do? I said they already know about it. I had already sent a letter off to Joe Farrington, and so I went over to Foster's and I couldn't see him. He wasn't in so I saw Colonel ^Hammelstein(sp.?) who had been the Master Sergeant at Shafter, Tripler in Honolulu. And he gives me a long line of crap too so I finally told him look I'm not going to fool around with this thing. "Well, I wonder what you're going to do about it?" And he said, "Well, you know what your right is." I said, "Yeah, I can write to them, this person, or that person, whoever I wanted to but I just wanted to know what you're going to do about

it." And he said, "We're not going to do anything about it." I said, "Fine, fine." I said, "We'll see what Farrington does about it." The next day when I went down to take my treatment somebody had said, "Colonel Hammelstein(sp.?) wants to see you, Major Lovell, and General Foster wants to see you at his headquarters." I said, "The hell with General Foster." I ____ just hounded me. They were all afraid they were going to get scolding because they know the guys going to tell him he saw them. So finally I get over there after I get all my treatment done and everything I get over to headquarters. This Hammelstein(sp.?) he walks in and he says, "It's arrived." I said, "What's arrived?" He opened up this packet, and there were seven red-bordered letters--one from the Surgeon General, one from the Army, Commander of the Army Command, and seven of these red letters all demanding a full explanation and you will determine who is to blame all these things there, and he shows them to me and I said, "Well, it's not to me." Because he's going to have to answer it, see? And so he said, "I'm going to need some help on this," and I said, "Well, what do you want? What?" He said I want a letter taking the

blame off of us. I said I'm sorry. I said if you want a letter I'll give you a letter, so I wrote him a letter that I had taken the five boys and I asked them three questions: First, have you ever been mistreated medically? Second, have you ever been mistreated administratively in regard to pay and leave and all that stuff, and three, have you ever been unfairly treated in--what did I say on that. But I entered that "No" or "Yes" and the cancellation of the TV program which was solicited by your man, and the remarks that were made at the cancellation of the project. Hammelstein(sp.,?) says I can't turn this in. I said, "Look, you asked me to state the problem what the thing was." I said, "There it is. I'm giving you credit for two, administratively and medically." He took it; I don't know if he sent it in or not. But I found out several months later that General Foster had taken complete blame for the whole thing, and that this error would never happen again. The fellow that worked in the headquarters had told me that later on. That just shows you that that was a case where he took the milkman and some soldiers and said that buggahs no good.

TT: What was his name?

JL: Foster.

TT: You remember his first name?

JL: I got it among some of these papers.

TT: What was his background and where did he. . .

JL: Oh, he'd been in the regular Army for years. He was commanding officer, Tripler Hospital, was down on the road, you know.

TT: Oh, he was here in Hawaii?

JL: Yeah. He was here at Tripler for a long time.

TT: And Hammelstein(sp.?), too?

JL: Yeah. When I get home I can get the name.

TT: Well, when you went into action you remember places like Benevento and Calore River and. . .

JL: Benevento, I'll never forget.

TT: Why? And the Volturno River and the first crossing, San Angelo and Alife. Those are names of places that the 100th was at when you were with them. What are some of your recollections?

JL: The whole situation that developed in that area was the march into Benevento. Benevento is the largest town in that particular area around there. We had walked over 24 hours, had been in movement, and we were going into bivouac area south of Benevento, southeast corner. As I reached the road or bivouac area was to commence, Major Dewey arrived and told us to keep moving, that we were the patrols had been into the city of Benevento and it was safe to enter the city now. So we did a left turn instead of continuing on, and we were about a quarter of a mile when we came upon a whole street covered with wounded, dying, and dead people. They had been. . . artillery had hit in that area and to the rear of that particular section was where the vehicles with our mortars, machineguns, and most of our officers.

Many of our officers were on that road as were the medics. The medic Jeep had tipped over and several boys were severely injured. At the point where the road was covered with wounded, we moved to the right and went into the town, and then the center of the main part of town was a circular, looks like a well, like a "Three Coins in a Fountain" deal around there in the center of town. We looked at that and found out that it could be carried out from that position the assignment or duty they had given us which was to support the river crossing in the morning from the second hill south of the river. I moved back from the town by doing a complete turn and to put the troops into a long culvert. There was about, looked like it was at least 12 foot square, the culvert and 400 yards long. I put our troop there and I left instructions not to move from there as it was getting along towards 1:00 o'clock in the morning and went down the road as far as I could and I couldn't find any way to get across without going through water. And Marzano(sp.?) went with me, but we kept running into these troops from Company K and L. They were just all over the place, dead ones and. . .so I got my revolver out, pistol out, and kept hitting the

ditch every time couple of these guys come along. We weren't sure who they were and some place along the line I lost Marzano(~~sp.?~~) so I was down the river myself and I went quite a ways but no bridge going across there so I said I gotta get these guys out of here. The Germans were plastering us with artillery everywhere we went so these guys hadn't left town apparently, and when we got back and I went down through the tail end of the town so everybody else were going. We went through some chicken farm there. We went right through this chicken farm. We waded across and it was only that deep or so there, but the river was roaring down below where they were supposed to get across, but we got over there and we got everybody in position. In fact, we hadn't lost a man, and so I get on the ^{Y-5(?)} to Turner and he said, "Where you? Whatta you doing all night?" I said, "Geezuz, we weren't sleeping," and he and Kawasaki came over _____ came over across and he told us about the two ^{beaches} beaches, two cars had tipped over and one of 'em is bad, Tsubota, hurt his back pretty bad and one other one. Anyway, we got report back that we had all of our men and Turner didn't know where to go or how to get to us. I sent 'em on the

phone to one of the boys on the phone 150 yards "mauka" of Aloha Tower. Anyway, some other outfit moved in later in the day and built a Bailey bridge across there down there instead of trying the river crossing, they put a bridge across over there. But it was a strange feeling because Jack Johnson was with their S-3, whatcha call, Turner was with what's his name? And Jack Johnson was with the 3, Kim was with the S-2.

ST: No, no, no. Kim was still with B Company.

JL: Yeah, forgot his name, tall guy.

ST: Calvin, Calvin.

JL: Yeah, and I was the only guy out there, and you know we walked over 24 miles a day to get to that damn place? And we pulled out of there later on for I think couple of days, and then we moved up and started up to relief up in that area, in there.

TT: That river you were trying to cross was that the. . .

JL: Calore.

TT: The Calore River?

JL: Yeah. We went across that thing at night. The bridge was out, and the banks on that thing was deep because as soon our men started in to walk up there the water would trickle down their skin. That thing was slime like that, just like grease, and they couldn't go up there. We practically pulled every guy by one hand to get him up on top and about every 20 minutes I'd let go, boom, boom, on that bridge again, so we had to work between artillery.

TT: You were under fire?

JL: Yeah.

TT: The Volturno River, you remember your first crossing?

JL: I know we took our clothes off, I know. I know that.

TT: October so it's kind of cold already.

JL: Yeah, getting chilly, yeah. I don't remember any individual, any special events.

TT: Well, San Angelo and Alife are the places where you got hit.

JL: Yeah, that was flat out on the outfit. . .

ST: In Alife, or in around Alife or San Angelo? They're actually two small towns.

JL: Yeah, yeah, San Angelo, Alife.

ST: Which is the second phase of attack.


TT: Was the action leading up to that?

JL: We got hit pretty bad, and I know that the regimental commander Fountain sent word in there to drop back, and Turner sent word no we're not going to back up and he told 'em to get those troops back so Turner had to back 'em up. They got hit pretty hard in there and Vaughn got. . .

ST: Was that a night attack and A Company boys got badly ambushed right near the farm house? This is just past of the in the fields over there and there was this house and the Germans were waiting for the boys.

JL: Yeah, but at night there was a place where the Germans they had flares up, they lit the place up and they had machineguns right across that place there. They just blistered them. Yeah, they took a pasting there. Was the next day or couple of days later that I got hit after we moved on up.

TT: To get hit this means you were right up in the front lines with the boys.

JL: But I think that at night I think almost everybody was up there pretty close. Shooting these flares and  light the whole place up like and we had to stay on the ground.

TT: And within a week after you were hit, Colonel Turner was relieved?

JL: I have a letter he wrote me. I don't know where it

is. He wrote me that he was leaving and that he was going to say good-bye and was about a week afterward. Maybe, let's see, I remember that one letter. . . because Vaughn sat down right on the side of me. He got hit pretty bad.

TT: The reasons we heard that Colonel Turner was relieved not only for his age but he just could not handle seeing so many of his boys winding up as casualties and getting hurt and dying.

JL: Well, I know it had an effect on him, because it really bothered him, but starting right on that first day, and one of the reasons I was up at the front so many times there that wasn't my place to be but I know it made it easier for him, but it had a definite effect on him. As a matter of fact, I thought he was going to tell about why he sent out on patrol with wire. Was right about this time, and he came back and reported that there were no Germans there, and next morning when they jumped off at daylight the 100th got slaughtered, and this was part of the same action, I think. And they really let the "Old Man" go about this time on this medical thing, and this is

the thing they kept hounding me the FBI. How come he was commander? Did he do this, did he do that, and so there wasn't anything to it, I think. He was glad to get out, I think.

TT: What did it mean to the boys to have Colonel Turner, somebody like Colonel Turner with them from the beginning?

JL: Oh, I think it was good relationship with people to have faith in the other person. I think this was just in that they just believed the "Old Man" could do anything, and he exemplified this by the things that he did like the time that we came on January 6th we came in there from McCoy to Hattiesburg and I took him in and introduced him to Bull Kendall, who was the Deputy Division Commander, and General Hazel(?) wasn't there at that moment and this big old Bull Kendall he must've been about 260, 6 foot 5 or 6, real bull. And he says, "Well, Turner, have your Japs arrived?" And I was just giving him a military courtesy by taking him in to meet the Commander because I hadn't been down there in a week, you see, getting the camp ready, set up, and so he, Turner,

just sat down, "I'm not going to say any more to you except that that term is inappropriate which is reserved for the enemy." And he said, "You can tell the Colonel that he can use the word in his own headquarters if he wishes but don't let me hear him use it around in our area." You know this, the men hear this, I said geez this guy gonna put himself right on the line here for this, willing to do this. And there were many little things like that, but not as serious as that one. I think that's pretty serious, because he was definitely wrong, but he got to be a division commander of the 99th which was about a month or so later than that and Bull Kendall.

TT: So the boys called him "The Old Man," and they knew that he stuck up for them?

JL: Oh yeah and, you know, like in town they had several things in McCoy where they went to like Rotary and things like that. Turner went to two or three of those to speak to and that's what helped to get the town behind all the boys too. So they know what's going on, word of mouth.

TT: I think about McCoy--one of your jobs was to go bail out the boys from the jail?

JL: You see old Fujitani, he'd come down and have him standby Saturday nights with Turner's car, and the sheriff down there would phone, when he got four he'd phone and put the fifth one in. Saturday night but they were pretty strict down there, and I didn't want any of the guys piling up a lot of bad records, would've been bad.

TT: Getting back to Alife, what were you and the troops doing at the time you got hit?

JL: We had just been out the front line of where they were deployed and had moved out and I had gone with the group out to see what was in front of us, and we had--over in the corner they had like a German cave that they had put full of all kinds of loot, food and stuff that the men were getting some of that out and we were just assembling and we were going out on like a patrol and these screaming mimies started coming in, and one of 'em caught right in the base about that long, just like a razor blade except thicker,

got me right on the leg there.

TT: You were hospitalized for three to four months after that, and where did they send you?

JL: They sent me first to MedEvac, we always went there, and from there to Sapan(sp.?) to. . .

TT: Africa somewhere?

JL: Yeah.

ST: Was it Oran or Algier? Oran?

JL: No, it was Zuni(?).

TT: Zuni(??)

JL: Over there, and then after there, after we moved down to--I don't know what they called it--Convalescent Hospital. And that's, they used to bring a lot of these teams, medical teams around like this fellow I took, Mississippi General Hospital came down there to look at the boy in the bed next to me. He got shot

by a bullet, and it went through him between his back bone and his lungs and came out the other side and never hit anything else, never hit anything.

Impossible! they said, but then when they came and took his picture his spine was like that, see? So the bullet went right through here, and it didn't hit here, and General Leahy(sp.?), Leahy clinic there, he had come in and was an outstanding guy in the country on ruptured disc at Leahy(sp.?) at Boston General Hospital in Massachusetts. Wasn't much doing around that part of--seems to me from the looks of things around there except for that guy with Patton, Reener(sp.?), the Fox, running around there, they hadn't had too much fighting down there. Some of those towns weren't hit at all, it looked like. I think they were farther down _____ and those places that there wasn't much up around there.

TT: This wound you got, does it still bother you?

JL: Not ahh--well, I run out of blood. This one they ligated the artery, femoral artery, and this one and the other one is one where I got the foot drop, and if I walk too far they get so she starts dropping

down again. The foot is like that, see, and I can't--drops down and I trip on the thing.

TT: You needed surgery for that first wound?

JL: Yeah.

TT: And I heard _____ you went back to join the 100th before you were really ready to go back.

JL: Well, I was--still had the bandage on but it was dry, dry as can be.

TT: You left the hospital AWOL?

JL: That's what some lieutenant colonel was trying to tell me one night. That was real funny though. You know, I went down to that damn place. I was getting tired of staying around so I went over there _____. And this is where the planes came in and went back out and so I went over there, and I went to this officer and told him I'd like to get a pass to go back to that side over there. And he said, "Where are your orders?" I said, "I don't have any orders."

He said, "Well, I'm sorry I can't do anything for you." "Okay, fine." So I went down the aisle, and they had a long counter along there and get almost to the end and the sergeant says, "You got a problem, Major? Can I help you?" I said, "Yeah, you can help me. What time does the plane go back tomorrow morning to Naples?" He told me, he says, "Why you wanna go there?" I say, "Yeah, I gotta get out of here." And he says, "Anybody else you want to bring?" He says, "I got room for 'em, whole load." And I said, "Well, I'm sure there is." I said, "I haven't asked." He says, "Well, get up to 20." Okay, so I went back to the camp. He told me, "You be here at 6:30 tomorrow morning now." And he would ~~be~~ *put me on,* he said it's important that you get out. So I got back and I said something to one guy and he said there's some more guys here who want to go. Before you know it I could've taken two planeloads, I think I could've.

TT: These were 100th boys?

JL: No, these weren't 100th. None of 'em. We never had a man in there, and so I said geez the next problem

now is we gotta get down this damn place by 6:30, that's about 15 miles away. So I went down the motor pool and got ahold of some sergeant there. Told him I wanted a 610 truck tomorrow morning at 5:30, and so he says be at tent so and so. Said I'll be there. Yeah, it was there, so with the 20 boys we took off, and you know we were drinking Red Cross coffee in there. It was getting cold, and so he says real loud, "Major, your plane's ready." You got ears, I tell you. I'm trying to gosh it's a secret. And so we get on the plane and we get to Naples. We go down there by Hitler's. . .Mussolini's stadium there, and we get out and all these ambulances lined up there empty. So we, one of the boys we get ourselves in the ambulances to take us all the way from here. We go now to the stadium and inside the stadium up on the walls they built these big quarters and things so we each got a bed up there and went down and ate, came back and I was reading and an orderly came, "Major Lovell?" I said, "Yeah." "Colonel so and so wants to see you immediately. I'll show you the way." So we get down there, and I said, "Yes, Sir." He said, "How did you get here?" I said, "I came on a plane," and he said, "Where are your orders?" I

said, "I don't have any orders." "All these men you brought with you." I said, "There's a planeload but I didn't bring 'em. There's a whole bunch of them there, but I didn't bring 'em." And then he said, "What were you planning on doing?" "Going back to 100th Battalion as soon as I can get loaded out of here." And he said, "Well, I just want to let you know that you're not through with this yet." He said, "I'll see you in the morning." And I said, "Like hell you will." I had been told already. He said a truck comes, there's a truck that goes to 100th Battalion every morning. Right after the driver has his coffee and doughnut and they go right after that. I said okay, I'll be there.

TT: Who told you that?

JL: The truck driver. He says the truck goes every morning, goes to the 100th. I learned about Jack Johnson. He had just spent two or three nights before then.

ST: Yeah.

TT: So you got on this truck and they took you back to the 100th?

JL: That was the next morning almost frozen to death, going back in that open air behind that thing down and going down that highway it was cold. Got there and went back to the 100th.

TT: Naples and they were at Cassino by then? And I understand the boys were all happy to see you back.

JL: Yeah, they seemed to be but. . .

TT: You assumed your duties as Executive Officer?

ST: No, no, no. He took command.

JL: Yeah, you mean that time. As soon as I got back, as soon as I got a hold of Marshall, as soon as I got a hold of Marshall he *told me I was in command.*

ST: We had three or four days before you came back we had a series of command changes. We had I think three battalion commanders assigned to us and then

relieved. So when Jack came back it was in a way an appropriate moment because they were looking for a battalion commander.

TT: Wasn't one of them relieved because he refused to send the boys into the. . .

ST: Cast of Clouds.

JL: Oh the. . .the guy that was shot was ^{Mosely}~~McAlvey~~ from the other battalion.

ST: Dewey, Dewey was. . .

JL: He got _____.

ST: Yeah.

TT: No sooner than you're back and the 100th was ordered to attack the. . .

JL: When I got back the first thing Ryder(~~SP?~~) Ryder phoned me. He gotta get me on the phone and he said, "I want to tell you one thing. Your boys are not

going into action until I've got replacements and you've had a chance to build, have a good rest and build them all up." He said, "You won't see any more combat."

ST: We didn't get any replacements. We never did. Not until. . .

JL: Because we were. . .what were we? '54, '55?

ST: Yeah, well. . .

JL: When you guys went to your ladders against the wall, how many did. . .

ST: I had 11. Actually one company and three officers. We started off 40-44 that morning until we reached the wall and we only had 11. A few killed and most of them wounded or stuck in the mud flat.

JL: Yeah. And I tell you you can't move. They can wipe right across the ground on. . .

TT: You were there at that time? That was before you got

there?

JL: Not when they were down by the front wall.

ST: It was after that that Jim came back to us.

TT: But you were ordered to attack Hill 165, the
Monastery Hill?

JL: That wasn't the. . .that wasn't our orders. Our
orders were to proceed clear across the thing turn
down into the town at the end of Cassino.

TT: Not a direct. . .

JL: So we would come across like this up here where
here's the tower or the castle and stuff, come across
here, come to the edge, here's the Cassino, and you
come down the edge of Cassino, and Awakuni knocked
the tank out right here, and we got across here. Now
the other battalion was supposed to come in here down
on the street but they had tanks inside here. They
would blast them right out from the inside, so this
was going to have to be one hand-in-hand deal, so we

couldn't move here. I got here with four men to make the turn, but I couldn't go down there with four men, and these guys couldn't get out because they were down there in a like a gulch.

ST: See, the castle, 165 is the Castle Hill, right here, and they had snipers in there shooting at us as they were going across this ridgeline to get to that point where Jim was hit so we were out in the open. We were pretty much dead duck.

JL: Oh, yeah, once had ^{smoke.} ~~smoek(?)~~.

ST: Yeah.

JL: You see, when I went over this whole damn thing the day before. I went up there all by myself, and guess who I got coming back--Marshall. But he was up on the side of that hill with one of those German, you know the German how they built those things?

ST: Yeah, those squad.

JL: Squad, squad. ^{quarters.}

TT: Who's Marshall?

JL: He's the Battalion Regimental Commander. But they built these things, maybe about the size of this almost, and it had monks in 'em, and one guy would watch outside and be an observer, rest of 'em would be sleeping inside and cooking hot food or something. Geez, they lived the life of Riley.

ST: They were concrete bunkers.

JL: Pill boxes or whatever you want to call them.

ST: Actually, after the war sometime later I saw pictures of them, those bunkers. They were steel balls brought in.

JL: And railroad tracks, some of them had railroad tracks for reinforcement.

ST: And then they covered that with concrete.

JL: They could call the fire in on themselves, and what

they do is that's how they got the 36th Division
which was right down here.

TT: Is this the time when Warren Iwai was leading the
group up and saw you coming back?

JL: Yeah.

TT: He was about that later?

JL: Well, I still don't, I don't remember ever telling
Warren Iwai going up that hill. I don't see how he,
you know, here's the guns over here. Over there at
the bottom, two miles away were two, they had three
of those tank destroyers, like tanks, they fire a
long rifle, they were over here, two miles away. We
were walking up here, and these guys were shooting,
just barely clearing our heads there, and I tell 'em,
I phone in to Marshall right here, and I tell them
you had raised your sights. Our men are going up and
you're holding your elevation. You gotta lift 'em or
you're going to kill our own men. So, and I walked
over with Warren all that way. I don't see how he
says he met me coming back, unless he was out the day

before because I went all over that place the day before.

TT: Maybe that's what. . .

JL: Never fired a shot at me.

TT: And then what hit you? How did you get hit?

JL: Oh, you mean the next day?

TT: Yeah. With you know what. . .

JL: Machine pistol.

TT: Machine pistol? Where were you hit?

JL: I was hit on the same leg. There were two here and one on my back.

TT: And that's when Hisaoka had told you. . .

JL: Not had to, he didn't have to, because I finally had to tell him I'm too heavy for you, but he tried. He

tried that on somebody else, too, before that.

ST: That's Gary.

JL: Gary?

TT: They sent you home wounded for good then?

JL: Yeah, they sent me right. . .took me to the hospital in Naples--28th Evac is the same hospital from Greensboro, North Carolina. That was our Evac Hospital, we were with them two times.

TT: Well, okay, you know you've been sharing all this with us and you're really talking for history and posterity all through this period.

JL: Well, you know, during my stay in the 100th Battalion there were so many good things that happened to me. One is that I have great admiration for a group of young men who sort of stood alone. We all spoke of them as the "Bastard Outfit," and they had to sneak out but their officers, of course, to get certain things done but we were able to survive, we got our

food, we got our equipment, and we were able to make a name for ourselves by the conduct from a military standpoint. I think there's no greater reward that can come to a man than that he's done the best job he can while serving his Country, and if he is successful at it it'll bring lots of success to other people as well, and if I just hang on with the 100th a little while longer you'll find that while rewarded with your conduct to your duties that you've performed you'll have earned a lot of credit from civilians and from fellow military people and that you'll always be filled with pride at the mention of your 100th Battalion as it is in our case.

TT: So it's a privilege to have been associated with this, what they call a Purple Heart Battalion. I think they said it was the most decorated unit of its size, and also it was the "guinea pig" battalion. If the 100th did not cover themselves with distinction and valor, it was said that they would've never let the 442nd. ⁱ ~~it~~.

JL: They would have been a labor regiment or something.

TT: Paid a heavy price, but I think that's the 100th's place in history.

JL: Earned it, definitely.

TT: And we're happy that you as a the highest ranking surviving officer who's here to talk about it and to share with us. Anything else you'd like to say?

JL: No.

TT: Well, Sakae, you have anything else?

ST: No, I think Jim did a good job.

TT: Well, Major Lovell, thank you very much.

ST: Thanks a lot, Jim.

Lovell's Corrections

Page 2 Kearney (sp)

Page 4 one at Hastings
Kearney (sp)

Page 6 in National Guard (next to last line)

Page 9 fill out the full ranks (5th line from bottom)
10. Comm. Full Complaint

Page 15 Col Anderson (not Henderson)

Line 17 "AJA" — should be "Japanese" (the submarine
Commander Lt. SOKAMOKI)

Page 22 General Herrons (sp)
Backer of A15 #1

Page 23 Schemel, Lt (sp)

Page 24 Col Anderson

Murray came down to inspect the area.

Page 25 Joe Devilla (sp)

Joe Lawton Collins

Page 28 Duffie (sp) who Duffie, Yea Duffie wanted

Brenaman (sp)

Pages 30 Joe Lawton Collins - Brig Gen chief of staff under Emons

Page 31 Hawaiian Department

Page 41. Gun Ben Lear not Bandokro

Page 44 Schemata (SP)

Page 48. Bonis for Bowman

Page 49 Gen McNaair

Page 49 Gen Haislip (SP)

Page 50 Gen Haislip (SP)

57 Gen Rydar (SP)

61. Col. Himmelstein

62. Back from combat

64. Himmelstein

70. Marzani (SP)

80. Lecky - General Hospital - in Boston

86. Rydar (SP)

90. Garrison Bunkers - Pill Boxes