

Cumberland Valley High School

Veterans Oral History Project

COL Samuel Lombardo

November 19, 2011

Interview Subject: COL Samuel Lombardo

Interviewed By: Sarah Acevedo and Carol Strock

Date: November 19, 2011 Location: 8 Alliance Dr. Apt. 205

0:00

S: First question, why did you join?

L: I joined because I saw the black clouds in Europe and what Hitler was doing and I was concerned with our country and I said I could do so much if I joined the army. My main reason was because I convinced my dad because my dad and mother didn't want me to join the army and the service at that time, and this is 1939, Hitler already started in Europe, you know, held captives in other countries and so forth. So I said if I go in the army and I'll be very prepared if we get a war, you know, if a war breaks out. I'll be better prepared if I'm trained. Which I did, a few years later, you know, 1941 Pearl Harbor was attacked and so I was glad I went in. But that was my main reason to do something for the country. I appreciated the freedoms we have, and I appreciated our country after being under Mussolini and seeing what he was going through and then Hitler had taken over Europe. I said, "We are facing with a war whether we like it or not. Eventually we'll be hit." And that's the reason I joined.

1:11

S: You where in Italy before that, right?

L: I was born in Italy, came over at the age of ten and we landed in New York and then went to Pennsylvania where my relatives in Pennsylvania...where my father had been since 1905. So he came over, and in 1905 was one of the biggest years of immigration. A million and a half I think came during that year and that's when our railroads were

built. See all the Europeans, all they wanted was good work and, and the ones who come to America, and be Americans because it was a new country and it offered so much opportunity. So our railroads were built then and our mines, you know our bridges our roads: big industrial revolution at that time from that time on America was beginning a big structure of America a lot was built by the immigrants would had come over cause all they wanted was work, but I don't know about hard work.

[Laughing]

They were all hard workers you know, from history.

S: That is a lot different from now.

2:20

S: What was what, you put a list of all the places, all the wars you've fought in.

L: Yes

S: So you've fought in World War II and...

L: Pardon?

S: You were in World War II.

C: What were all the wars you fought in?

L: Well, one was enough. I fought in World War II of course that went over a month before the Battle of the Bulge and also the end of the war consequent? all the way to rural valley and then down to the end of the war the beginning of the Alps, the foothills of the Alps. In Papenschwartz, southern Germany and Bavaria. Then I went to Nurnberg, got ready for the trials, and came home, and then I went to Japanese Language School and from that time on I was assigned my first assignment to Japan and from that time on I was on intelligent duty. So it was still touchy in Korea especially on the boarder I was sent over to pick up information. And then I came home and went back to Japan, so I had three tours to Japan . . . because of my language. Then I went to Vietnam and only had nine months to do in my career and I went over there and started in their intelligence school and we graduated, first thirty officers, and then I got ill with

Typhoid and a couple of other things so I was evacuated so I was cured a few months later and the rest is history. So I volunteered, by the way, for the Persian War; twice for both wars but I guess I was too young. I wish I could write the way the colonel wrote the answer for not accepting me. You know, with the modern stuff we have today, with the modern equipment, I don't think I would know where to start. I said, I could deliver the mail maybe. I could do anything but how to tell you no and to make you like it and that's what he'll do for a letter. And then I realized they have so much modern equipment now. The art went so far with all the electronics and everything I'd have to start all over again and learn it all it would be such a big emblem and I'm also 90 years old so but you know I did want to go and do what I can for our country. I hope everyone realizes what freedom we have and what we have in this country, but a lot of them, I talked to a lot of them, but a lot of them think that other countries have the same things, you know. Because unless somebody tells you, and I don't think you learn that in school I don't think they compare other countries, they don't have time. But they're different; most foreigners don't understand Americans. We have our freedom here. We had a couple here last year from Italy, who graduated from law school, a couple friends from Florence and they thought America was like one big park. I've never seen two people who wished they could live here, but they are not citizens and she wanted to get a job at the state department, but she was not a citizen so it was very difficult. She just could not believe it, how free we were. I was surprised when I asked her, "After a year of living here, what is your favorite food here in America?" she said buffalo wings. I said "No, you have to grab them with your hands." Her last week here she picked them up with her fingers. But they wanted to stay here so bad...and the cost of living between Italy and here, in all the European countries is a lot cheaper in the old days, believe it or not. Now it is more expensive in Italy than it is here. In Portugal and France inflation was so big. So then when I retired I went to California and we had an avocado grove so I grew avocados for 10-15 years. I learned how to make wine, so then I went into the wine business and I learned how much it cost, it was very labor intensive, it took 10 years to break even and we made wine for 13 years in a little winery. So I did it

10 years for pre-season and I had to make at least 10,000 cases. Of course, that's not what I want. I want to make it for small boutique wineries and have fun with it, you know, and enjoy it. So we just made it for fun. I made about 1,000 bottles a year and we gave it all away, but we used it a little for parties and all but the rest we gave away. That was very fun and they're still waiting for me to come back because nobody would pick up the ball. And so we bought a place and left our beautiful little winery with underground a winery that took me five months to build because as you remember, I stopped in grade school and I learned my trade with dad as a stonemason because all my ancestors were stonecutters. I built this underground with one-foot walls and an arch, twenty-six feet under the ground, thirty feet for the barrel, and a room ten by twenty. And a garage with a big sliding door where we made the wine. Now the people that bought it, she's a schoolteacher in kindergarten. When you open the door there is a straight shot from Mount Palmary because we're on top of this mountain, actually on a hill. So what a nice place for the kids. She put all her chairs by the garage area and teaches. So that was the last of the avocados and the winemaking. Then I wrote my book there it took me three years to write in freehand and I felt compelled because when I look at the American flag what a waste if I don't write anything about it. So I sat down and wrote and I told people there are so many stories to tell, everybody has a story and you'd be surprised how hesitant they are to start, but I said, "Starting is the biggest job." So once you start it will start rolling because your mind will start moving and your recollect things. The piece of the move was getting started, and in three years the secretary came and I just tied it up went back and when I came here, I was able to pick it up. That is the story of the book.

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S: What was your job while you were in the service?

L: I started as a sergeant and became a specialist in maps, map reading because I enjoyed maps for some reason and during the thirties and forties, the army was, you

know, much younger uh people were afraid of maps for some reason, or they didn't understand them or whatever, so I became a specialist. And I learned my first word, one of my first words new words in American all the Corporals said what are you doing flaking for corporal, and I didn't know what flaking was and I was trying so hard to get ahead. And I didn't know what it means flaking for corporal. I started teaching so finally I got promoted to staff sergeant.

And I became the topographical sergeant for the battalion and I lead the battalion and the company say when I was a leader I took the match and the same thing happened when we went over to Europe when we got over there we only found one error on the German map. I found when the road went on the this side I knew it was wrong because a mountain was over here. So if you understand maps, there was a hill so you saw the road on this side when it was actually on this side. Other than that they were pretty good, the German maps were pretty good. So I did that but then I was an officer there and I led my platoon into battle. And I got a nice note from a lady who had a great husband who was a great, one of the ones who brought automatics from my platoon that died a couple years ago but she sent me a letter today, she said, she told me about all the lives I've saved and that was very nice, I just got it this morning. Because I also have a picture in the paper every place I go, but I'm humbled by it. At the end of the war we had intelligence duties of course and we had an avocado grove. I had avocados for fifteen years. It's the same fungus that attracts javious It's a tropical fungus. It attacks javious and comutious, they bare all tropical plants. And its difficult to get rid of because if you use a strong enough chemical it will kill the trees so you just have to take care of the trees and nurture them and you want them to keep growing, and you want to make it so theat the new groves keep growing because the old groves will only last about ten, fifteen years and then you keep moving on and on and try to keep them clean and that's very difficult because it's either foxes or other animals like coyotes go through and they carry the fungus. It's only a piece of dirt that they need and then they carry it from grove to grove and so it's very hard to control. And that's why the avocados are so expensive.

L: The foxes you know they attack the avocados and they come from grove to grove they pick up the fungus from the dirt and they take them to the next grove they don't sanitize them before going to the next one so its very difficult to control so its always going to be a battle you know, that's why the avocados maybe so expensive you know, some years are good some are bad. So we can move in proposition, so then I left and so I retired completely and went to the gulf course, and I've been trying to learn golf ever since.

13:59

C: Yesterday you told us when you got frostbite.

L: When I what?

C: You got frostbite.

L: Oh Yes

C: On your leg...

L: I led a patrol down to the German mines and it was around midnight and right after we crossed into the German line, there was a creek there and next to the creek in that little bit of a high ground there was a.... snow flurries and snow... real bad snow storm and I stepped into an abandoned German foxhole because there was ten inches of snow or fifteen and you don't know where the holes are So I stepped in the bottom of the hole filled with ice, crushed ice so I got wet up to the knee I went that deep So then when I came out it was ten to fifteen above zero it was pretty cold so within minuets and one of my men got what they call "white out" when they cant see in the snow storm? They get blind So I had to take a man and put him to take him to evacuate him So then, and I started walking pretty soon this leg got as heavy as a log and I started dragging it and I said "what's going on?" I didn't understand it I couldn't even lift it and it was frozen, you know, by the time I got back it was really frozen by the time I got back my own fox hole, on top of the hill that was five hundred yards or more, six hundred yards, and finally I remembered in Pennsylvania with the boy scouts I read that when you get frostbite worst of frostbite your supposed to pack snow and you don't rub it

because of friction and heat So I packed snow and packed snow it took me two hours and I thought it was a stupid thing to do at the time I could have lost my leg you know I could have gone to the aid station...instead of that I wanted to stay with my men and I just, at the end of the hour it started falling out and it started burning and I put up with it for another hour and I kept packing snow at the time until finally I fell down. But now I've lost some circulation here is more in this than there is in this one and it gets stiff in the evening sometimes. So that was it. So then we started fighting again and the next day.... but we were here for about a month during the battle of the bulge. On Elson Borne Ridge northern when you see a picture of Battle of the Budge was that we were up in the northwest corner northeast corner of the budge and we held that corner the whole month. So we conducted patrol thought that time. Almost every night someone The border between Belgium and Germany. What you read about the Siegfried line it was all mines. You don't know where the mines were because it was all snow so every night you could hear them with the mines and somebody would come back either injured or killed or whatever. But, every patrol lost somebody every night almost.

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S: So where there a lot of casualties, were there a lot of people killed in your unit?

L: Yeah, we lost well there were some killed you know every week or every month or every time you had action and either the mines or shot. And we lost about 10 or 15 percent of our unit. At the Battle of the Bulge itself there was a half million men on each side, the German had half a million and we had half a million, and we lost 89,000 casualties total in four weeks. Four weeks 89,000 hurt or wounded or lost. 39,000 were killed, 39,000. And every life is valuable no, so now we lose some and they are that valuable and I pity them and pray for every one of them, but 39,000 is a lot. And to give you an example how total war is, it was kind of worse for Germany. Their 42,000 people were burned in one night because the British bombed us with firebombs and the whole city was engulfed in fire. The whole city burned up, 40,000 people in one night! That's

a lot of people, so we lost a million and I don't know how many you know during the war, a million two hundred thousand and something. Wounded, lost, and there were prisoners of war, we still have missing in action people that were never found. And we have, imagine, we have two and we call them the diggers and they were two Belgian boys they were pretty young when the Battle of the Bulge. Right after the war and they were so interested in the war they took it upon themselves to go and look MIA's, Missing in Action people. And they took our division as their hobby and they did it all weekend. They worked for the railroad company and now they're pretty famous over there. They did so much for our unit and they found about 10 or 15 people and those families were so happy that they had, at least had final you know. Finality in their death, at least found them some were in garbage pits and the Germans put two boxes over them don't you know and in the kitchen, because the kitchen always has a pit next to the kitchen it in the field and you put everything there and then you cover it with dirt when you leave and boxes and so forth. And one of them they found in one of those pits. They found 10 or 12 people so far and now they're coming. We're having our final reunion in Kansas City this year because there are very few people left. We used to have 1,700 or so in the organization that came to the reunions and now we're down to a couple hundred and they are up in their years, 80 or 90, and it's hard to travel. So, they're going to have the last one in Kansas City next July. And the two diggers, they invited them but they're trying to collect money. I sent them some money this morning because they're asking everybody to contribute for their trip over because they did so much for us. And they may have found somebody this year too, but they really done a lot they're both from Belgium. So I hope, they're invited every year, and we're always able to get enough for them for their plane fair and accommodations you know. So they did so much so they, they're still finding them, but it's not our division only and there's so much ground to cover, the whole front.

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S: Did you know any of the casualties personally?

L: Oh yes, sure. Some of my men got killed or wounded and then the ones with frostbite, we lost two men with frostbite and I had to kick them out of the hole almost. They didn't want to go and I said no you have to go. And then One of them thanked me. When he was in England, he said, and looked in the hospital next to him and one had no feet because they had it so bad they had to amputate them because trench foot comes from circulation if you sit in a hole and the cold weather you sit there day in and day out you know with the enemy seeing you down there and because of the daylight you couldn't move. It was all snow clear down to the line and down at the bottom of the hill was the woods and the Germans were inside the woods. They could see us, but we couldn't see them. But the whole deal was just plain snow just clean, there were no trees at all. So they could see us just moving in the hedge so everybody stayed in the foxhole during the daytime and just come out only at night. So many of them, I made my men walk every night and two men at a time out of each foxhole and took turns and so everything's fine just one or two men, not too many of them and then they could not lose any toes. The one man said the one had no feet and another had no toes. Because what happens with the lack of circulation they would puff up and get blue, just overly blue. I think gangrene is the other name for it. But it was very bad so we lost a lot, a lot of men from the unit because it was so cold it was we called it the modern Valley Forge. It was just one of the coldest winters in 50 years at the Battle of the Bulge time. The Germans, not the Germans, but the French and the Belgians at the Battle of the Bulge occurred on the border but it's the Arden forest the Arden it what it was called and that's what they referred to it instead of the Battle of the Bulge. They wondered where we got the name, but because of the bulge. It went in like that for 4 weeks until we pushed back to the line and straightens it out again. So we gave it that name and its known by it, but they call it the Arden's because of where it occurred. And it's amazing in World War I they went through the same forest the same area so they didn't learn from history I guess, I don't know, but the same areas.

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S: Do you remember any stories that happened.

L: No, the only one that I mentioned yesterday was when we were going across the plains at Cologne we saw a little barn with a cross, a board across its door like a garage door like a barn door. And when we pulled it off, thousands of shoes came out and they were war mark shoes with the hog nails, you know they were hog nails, big nails, on the bottom. That's why you hear them, they all had nails on the bottom and they last longer I guess I don't know but it's...anyhow so because we suffered so much at the Battle of the Bulge a lot of people had no shoes, they were worn out, so I told everybody whether it's a German shoe or not, it doesn't matter, you put them on and if you need a pair of shoes grab one. So everybody that needed a pair, including myself, and I think my size was 42. They use centimeters I think, I think my size was 42. So we all got them OK, so going across the plains of Cologne we ended up crossing the Armanen bridge and up on top of Hanagen, Hanagen was a town along the Rhein river, and we were on a hill overlooking it. The machine guns were firing all night and you couldn't make a move. A reporter from one of the newspapers came up and he wanted to see the town and I told him no because the machine guns were firing. He insisted, he said I've got to see it and the minute he went up there he got shot right through the arm. He said how lucky, so we grabbed him. I crawled up there and we pulled him down with his legs pulled him down to the ground with the Sergeant and I and pulled him back. He said, how lucky, how lucky because he got shot through the muscle instead of the bone. And I tried to locate him, but have never been able to. So they took him back to the aid station. I don't know, I thought he was first with the New York Times but I don't have no clue of what it was called. But anyhow all night I stayed up until 3 o'clock in the morning and to Sergeant Rosen I said I want to get a couple hours of sleep, because I was really beat. I went to every foxhole and checked every man because they are two manholes and every man watches the other and we didn't want the infiltration of the soldiers coming up through the night. And so I told him you take

over and I'm going to get a couple hours of sleep. So it was about 5 o'clock in the morning so about 7. It gets dark and long nights in Germany. I didn't realize how far north they are from us latitude wise. They had very, very long nights in the winter. So that night when he awakened me he said Lieutenant, Lieutenant he was scared to death. He said we almost had it, we almost had it. I said settle down what happened. He said come here, so he took me to every foxhole and here's these foot marks with these hog nails. I let him go, this was the only joke I ever pulled on him, I let him go and I let him go and he was really worried. Finally, I had to lift my own shoe up and showed him my tracks. Because I went to every hole and in the mud it showed my footprints. He didn't realize and I'm surprised he didn't realize because we all had those shoes, most of us but not all of us, and it was my footprint because I went to every hole during the night. So then I lifted it up and had a big laugh out of it and that was it. And the others at the end of the war, but that weren't so funny. The path of the two Russian DP's, they were called displaced persons, because Germany had 20 million displaced persons which they captured from other countries and they used them for the labor. See that way it released their own men for their army. So there were two Russians at the last house at the end of the war in Partchein-Kirchen in Bavaria and they were at the farm and they had chickens all over. They said they had been at it 3 years as prisoners but they worked the farm for the farmer because the German farmer, but they never had chicken so could be have one so I said go ahead. So they got one and butchered it and boiled it, and they had chicken for the first time in 3 years. But that's about all, there wasn't much humor in rest but we tried writing things up all the time because everything was low you know. The only thing we wrote was to win and get the fighting over with. When the Battle of the Bulge occurred I just couldn't believe it, you know we had been winning, winning and all at once then Battle of the Bulge happened and I said we can't lose we just can't. We can't envision losing otherwise we'd all be speaking German today; not only German, but we'd be under Hitler. It wasn't German so bad it was the dictatorship.

S: What did you do for entertainment?

L: Nothing, during the war, nothing. Oh, except there was one town, we were on reserve and one of my men, and I have his book, Sol Greicher was one very famous cello player. He had, believe or not, he the first audition at Carnegie Hall at the age of 11 with Ruppenstein. And he had his first, and I have a picture with him. And he had his first and we didn't know that, we knew that he played the violin and so every time we were in reserve if I couldn't go there I would send Sergeant Rhodes who spoke German from Pittsburgh. He would go to the Burgermeister which is the Mayor of that town and we borrowed two violins, one for Greicher and the other was my man from West Virginia. He played hillbilly music, country music. He went in the other room I said whoever wants to hear that go there and whoever wants to hear classical come over here. So that was our entertainment and it really, really was nice. I never knew that Sol was that well known and he wrote a book. I have a book on him and two others from Julie art school. At the end of the war, his wife and two daughters also played at Julie art. I'm sure they're all retired now but that was our entertainment that was the only entertainment we had. But it was a good moral lifter; and then making the flag was a good moral lifter. We tried to lift everyone up when you can cause we were under pressure all the time. And then one, I remember one boy came up at night and he was new, the first time at battle. So, and we were supposed to occupy a station that was taken by the airborne at bay, and they lost 250 men takin' it and we were the first troops coming over and they were dead all over, but this was at night and you could feel them as you tramped through and you could also look over the top of the pine trees the way you could tell at night below the trees it is always darker than the sky no matter how black the sky is so you look and you could see the tree tops all blown off by artillery and they were all lying on the ground and so he was concerned he thought he felt a leg and I said oh no they are time bowls "you stay with me" so I took right next to him and we took him all the way through and the next day the only break I had during the entire war they gave me a three day pass to Paris so I had to come through the same area cause at night you could tell what happened and boy it was all just.... with paratroopers literted with paratroopers, dead paratroopers. I was playful that we had come through

so he was feeling, we would have been the the first initiation the war would have been really hard on him so it was just a time battle so he came to find out after awhile you harden to the things of war. As time goes along but the first night there know in Pennsylvania, wherever you came from I was just a youngster. Because all of them... I was the youngest man 26 and everybody was 17 or so graduates only about 17- 18 and he died just ten years later he died he died very young he was only thirty something when he died from heart attack but all of them were pretty young all in their teens almost 21-22 probably as the oldest.

32:56

C: What was the youngest (age)?

L: Pardon?

S: What was the youngest?

L: I would say 17 probably, 17 to 22 I was an old man I was 26, 25/26 I was born in 1919 yea, 41-42. Yea I was 26 at 45. So how very fortunate to come through the war, but still... All of the speeches that I make I tell them how lucky I am that I'm able to go around the schools and organizations to give the talks. Cause, most of my patriots almost everyone is in a wheel chair or walker and they cant travel around, they cant drive so its very difficult for them. Others have so much more given their life that has given the life or are loosing a limb. So they are worse off that I so I feel pretty blessed, with good health and I'm able to go around and do this

34:16

C: When you were in the service did you make friends with anyone in the service? Did you become friends with anyone?

L: Did I make friends? Yes.

[Interruption]

34:49

L: Yea I made friends with amongst the officers corps because of grand notation. I'm not supposed to be carrying on a familiar area, they have an old saying...thank you, "a familiar area brings contempt if your in the head, if your in a leader, if your in charge, and you get too chummy with your younglings" given that's not being mean, that a familiar area brings contempt. If you get too close to me in a place of authority then they almost have a bad feeling and then being a leader in saying a loof and a loof is another word being in command and being a leader if you get chummy that's why if you don't fraternize then you go out with the enlisted man and there is not good people and all but that's not good for discipline you know. If you get too chummy with the men you may have to go to them and give them the order to take a patrol which men kill themselves if you get too chummy, you may hesitate to do that. So you have to keep that in mind. So, I did make friends with the officers in fact one of them is in Carolina and I'm gunna see him on my way to Florida and we served together in 1946 in Hokkaido, Japan. And he is the one I know for the longest period he is only one left that I know from 1946 we were in 11th Airborne in Japan and I'm going to stop on the way to Florida and going to spend the night with him and his wife in Cornelius, North Carolina. So I had alot of friends yea. We lost some of them I lost some friends right away. You know one of them I graduated with at Fort Benning and within months he was killed at St. Mallow's. He was a tankerman with the 10th armored division and he was killed at St.

36:50 Mallow my company commander was killed in Korea and so Colonel Sheldon is the only one left that I know that I served with as an officer in Japan not in the war I don't know any in the war my commander died years ago and the last man like I showed you that picture in the car they are all gone and the last one was my runner he ran messages between me and the battalion for me and the company I was the platoon I was the furthest ahead in the front line and I accompanied he was a runner between transportation today is so much easier because we have wireless you cant leave without the signal people they had to lay wires between each command they had to leap frog got to leap frog all the time in other words you have to pick up all the time

you had to get all of the communication all set up and then if you move then they have to move all of the wires forward can you imagine the job they had when I was a it was a commanding job for the signal corps and then when the artillery came in they cut the wires off in fact when we were in eosin bore every time every afternoon I run back just to get out of my fox hole with one of the men to get a box of tea rations for us and on the way back wires almost every day they were cut off and you could see in the snow where there was black where the smoke was and the wire was always cut so your always repairing wires but the signal corps was a big job today they really have it made with the wireless communication its quite an advancement you know its not easy I wonder what the signal corps does. So many wires....

[Laughing]

S: How was basic training? Where did you go?

L: Well I was in the National Guard in Altoona so we had weekend training you know and then our first basic, our real first real basic training was at Indian town gap Pennsylvania and the whole division got there and there was also, we were penalized which means we became a part of the regular army in February 17, 1941 see in December was when the war broke out so we were there in Indian town gap we had the train and we had ten to fifteen inches of snow and the same thing happened at the battle of the bulge when you started walking pretty soon you had ice you know when you pack snow so we had big squared when we did our close order drill and marching we practiced marching soon its all ice so we had to move we had them all that's when our first basic training was then we went over to Carolina we came back from Carolina then went to Louisiana and Carolina on the way back in December was when the war broke out so we came straight back into Indian town gap and went to Louisiana and that's when I applied for an officer candidate school at Ft. Banning Georgia and I became and infantry officer second lateen from there I went to two different camps one was in Arkansas out side of little rock and then we opened up a new camp in Texas

outside of Tyler and I had 200 hundred men at the company and I was company commander then and so I didn't do any teaching. Most of the time the...in Arkansas did map reading teach and I did some that was fun and

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S: You said you went to several Universities?

L: Yea but only off campus if you remember I only went up to the ninth grade because my family was in the middle of the depression. My dad had to hire a helper my dad was a craftsman a real crafts man a real artist which you don't see today anyhow he was getting eight hours a day and I was getting four dollars a day, and I thought that if I got out of school I could help out the family you know with 50% so you know, I quit school. My dad and mother didn't want me to quit school. I was in my homeroom in the ninth grade, I played football and then when I came up all of them all the teachers asked what school cause I was in a Catholic school and they wanted to know which high school I was going to go to and the first week of January I come up and I was going to quit they thought I was going to go to high school then college and so I told them why and I felt compelled I had four sisters and a brother so I learned there so I tell all the high school kids, whatever you do finish high school because there are so many opportunities in the service, army navy air force but the first thing they ask you at school when you go to apply and ask if your a high school graduate and if your not there is no place you can go That's why I took it on myself to go and no matter where I was assigned near what town I went to night school and got enough credits because high school education so once I got the high school education then I applied and then I got into the classes that I wanted I went to intelligence school I went to Monterey school for Japanese so overseas I took advantage, the university of California had an off campus university over there and Tokyo so I went there for a few you know, a year or two and then in Korea the university of Maryland or vice versa university aft Maryland had an off campus and you

couldn't graduate unless you finished up in California cause as far as California university you could do up to the last year and then you had to come back in California in order to get your degree Maryland so then the army got rid of them from their contract and they make a university of Maryland because Maryland when I was in Tokyo or Korea I worried you could finish and get your degree So I left there before that time came but I got 2 and a half to three years of college credit that was my expense of a formal education the rest is all real life learning

43:59

C: What jobs did you take after the war?

L: We got an avocado grove and we raised avocados orange and limes all that you never made a penny off of them it was always a big job. You get 20 hours of limes and you only sell them for twenty cents each package the labor is so intensive for all of those fruit some years you have a lot of limes if they come out off season then its ok but they are so expensive if you get two a piece then the farming that was a bad year you know they are always industry so we did that until w so we stayed with it for about 10 years and we retired fully and went to the golf course and I'm still trying to learn gulf,

[laughing]

45:45

C: How after, how did the war affect you? How did things change?

L: It took awhile if your not busy I think after awhile it gets to you feel but I'm open a lot of people kept it inside. But I've been always open. I think it's better for you. And I bet a lot of them are so emotionally closed they just won't speak about the war at all and I

think that they are missing a lot. And I think they all also help others tell what they went through and how it helps them and helps others because there is so much to tell health wise I've been very fond it.... its better to release, and I've never been hithered to hold back why it's all truth. And I just it was my nature it felt almost remorseful after awhile finding my way what I'm going to do in the future you know... but I love the army so much that I stayed with the system with George Washington and all the and other generals forefathers. I would have gone with Lewis and Clark if I as around but that's my nature. I would have liked to explore I like excitement and adventure I guess but the main thing is to defend our nation as far as the war was concerned. But as a major I'm always inquisitive I always to learn no matter what it is. I've learned how to make t-shirts you know, you put them in the washer and they come inside out. I learned the other day the inside is rough because of the folds; and it has more resistance so when it goes through the machine, in the dryer they can't turn it because the one side is more resistant than the other. [Laughing] I'm out on a loose here. [laughing] I was ready to ask that question.... ask it Alaska magazine? The brave magazine on the weekends I was ready to ask it then it came out that day and I always wanted to know why do they turn inside out when they come out of the dryer so I was going got start turning them inside out before I put them in the wash.

48:14

But Imp always inquisitive and I've always... that's how you learn you always learn I tell the children all of them I said, "Well number one to go the extra mile if you do your own work don't stop there, if your neighbor needs work help in school projects, go and help them. You always gain in helping others in going the extra more no matter what you learn. I took a class in photography and I know photography I took a class in auto mechanics you know during the depression I went to night school I took machinery and I learned enough principles of machinery what makes a plane fly, you know what makes a plane fly? Do you know what makes a plane fly? [Laughing]

You know the wings of the plane

[interruption]

49:49

Where were we? Oh yes, what makes a plane fly...

the distance between the pump size is longer than the bottom so the air gets rarified because of longer periods so that makes the heavy air lighter so therefore pushes it in and that's what makes it fly.

[Plane Conversation]

50:50

S: Did you do any parachuting?

Yea I did I went to parachute school like that to stay busy ah there wasn't enough to do and you know, right after the wars, I applied for anything unless they told me that I needed to go to school and so parachute school was open so I was in fort lube Washington running myself on a wheel chair and up and fled to fort banning Georgia and I go t a jump six times and I qualified for parachutes
And then the 11th airborne that was in Japan and they were up in Hokkaido and there I became a club officer so I had to keep moral up because at that time for the first year after the war we had a non fraternization rule in Japan. McArthur said only Hokkaido because of Russia from Russia to Japan it was wide open you could talk to the Japanese you could go shopping in Hokkaido you can talk to the Japanese even that was fraternization rule very tight and you couldn't go shopping you couldn't by anything from them so all of the social life was on the post so I became club officer and we had a gulf course and at the club all the inner team was there so I was a busy guy there you know at night the minuet the duty was over they were all there having fun you know having music bingo all kinds, they also had a bowling alley which is rare to have a bowling alley next to an officers club and so that was... oh yes ski and they had the Olympics two years ago in support that's a ski you never see there we had our ski lift

and ski run and that's where we had the Olympics there and we had golf course and we also had riding horses which is rare we had a whole stable of riding horses so people really kept busy and I kept them busy with all of the social functions and so that was my last experience in Hokkaido then my whole division came back most of us some could pay most of us came back with it because the moral is high and if you want to be apart of the sickness of family and you want to stay with them so and so we call came back and that's is when I applied for Japanese language school and I had enough to do I was in intelligence school, Japanese language school and I applied for Portuguese Spanish French and Italian and they came back and said that they were filled in all but they had room for five in Japanese so guess what I did I raised my hand and said "Ill take it" and I didn't know what I was getting into but it paid off because my pronunciation was great because we both had the same "rah" as you have in Spanish and Italian and my pronunciation was the best in the class but the writing is a different story and also the letters almost like Latin all the words have a consonant vowel yokohama{spelled it out} yokohama nagaka see many sound in the vowel Tokyo its a long at the end but 99 percent are consonant vowel consonant vowel so its very good but and they have about 50,000 characters the best thing about their characters are that they have their own characters and then they borrowed some from China and the Chinese kept sounds but they also gave away their own sounds for the same kind and then they had two alphabets one for the regular language verb ending s and the other is to differentiation the forgiven words they were so pure they were so afraid of foreigners they didn't want to, you know, jeopardize the lack of the word coffee is cohere tea is vireo see they even knew the word they could not write it because its come from a different language so they cant that "brow" because the consonant vowel so it s biro for beer and some of the words I tried to say them but you could never understand and they are American words they are so because of the way they are hipper guy way that's pretty close carbureta you know but everything has to be consonant vowel you know so even if the man has the ability to learn a woman or a man trying to learn English they still cant adapt it to you know when they try it they still cant because they even pronunciation because they

have to pronounce it the way that it is written and it wont sound the same even though you think they would learn the word the way we say it we say it the same but they don't because they want to adapt it to their written language in other words you wont say one word one way because so its very, very difficult so I went there three years so I was able to acquire and accent of course but I'm glad I went there because I tell all the kids at school. Whatever you learn is good for you whatever you do I told you I took mechanics, I took auto mechanics, I took machinery, I took photography and I went to language school, then I went to intelligence school, so everything you learn anything you do.

An inquisitive mind you need to get ahead.

Is there anything else you would like to add with your experiences?

I think I've covered a lot. There are so many stories to tell, a lot of detail but I think you've got the bulk of my experiences.