Video Recording Log
Veteran Perry Rannebarger

1. Name and address of collector of interviewer.

Name of Donor/Interviewer: H.F. Williamson
Address: 300 N. Goodwin Ave.
City: Urbana
State: IL
Zip: 61801
Telephone: 217-333-7300
Email: billw@illinois.edu
Partner organization affiliation (if any): WILL AM-FM-TV

2. Name and birth date of the veteran or civilian being interviewed at is appears on the Biographical Data Form: Perry F. Rannebarger

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Perry Rannebarger
Birth Date: 08/21/1919

3. Recording format
VIDEO type: Mini DVD

4. Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 50 minutes  Date of recording: 12/12/2007

5. Location of recording: WILL AM-FM-TV, 300 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

6. Please log the topics discussed in the interview in sequence.

00:00  Introduction
00:30  Family—farming after high school
01:24  Draft
02:06  Drafted to infantry in Illinois National Guard—Camp Grant, Chicago
02:48  Basic training—Camp Forrest, TN
03:10  Basic training—maneuvers--Arkansas--Louisiana
03:45  Some men not as trained later in war—needed replacements
04:40  131st Regiment of National Guard—Non Com's—Chicago, IL
05:06  Pearl Harbor—was out for the weekend, returned to camp
05:27  Transferred to 132nd Regiment—Task force for South Pacific
06:02  Traveled to New York City—Santa Rosa luxury liner ship—to Panama Canal and to South Pacific
07:00  Japanese were taking islands
07:15  Went to Australia—took 30 days
07:20  One submarine scare
07:55  Melbourne, Australia—Japanese flying over—spent night in a park
08:34  Train to Ballarat—regiment housed with civilians—6814 task force
09:15  Generals, Colonels, helter skelter—rush job
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09:50 Went to Ballarat to get away from ports—two weeks
10:15 Traveling—living with family—similar to American family
11:13 Went to New Caledonia—thought Japanese would go there, but they didn't—stayed there a year
building fox holes, guarding ports and everything
12:03 Navy—Coral Sea Battle—determined supremacy for South Pacific—U.S. won
12:35 Things started to open for U.S. forces
12:40 Marines in Guadalcanal—isolated, living on their own—no support, getting bombed, Japanese on the island
13:42 Stood guard most of the time—a lot of mosquitoes
14:07 Natives on island did odd jobs, helped—friendly—French islands, spoke English—Was like a vacation being there
14:53 Moved to Guadalcanal to clean Japanese off of island by Henderson Field—relieved Marines that were there
16:00 Hill 27—"Mount Austin"—1st step—learned a lot there—received a battle star—rifleman
16:40 His company in lead—several hills and lots of jungle—main camp area
17:30 Japanese snipers
17:50 Japanese sent up waves of men to get Americans out—did not want Americans to take hill
18:15 All happened in one day
18:25 Used almost all ammunition for American troops
18:35 Held the hill—took lots of losses—terrible—[compares to Iraq]
19:10 Maintained control of hill—Japanese moved in other forces—Americans thought they were only ones there, but weren't—engaged more Japanese soldiers
19:47 Losing a lot of men on both sides—Japanese strategy was take hill back or die—Americans took very few prisoners—Not enough men or ammunition on either side
21:10 Generals doing plotting—thought National Guard men did not know how to fight—made regular Army men do all the fighting
21:55 Scouting parties needed radio men—volunteered
22:35 Going out with other companies—"double jeopardy"—got out of it somehow
23:00 Scouting parties—locating Japanese
23:25 Story: Americans finding natives in jungle, did not know they were on island
24:55 Marine Regiment—after Coral Sea battle—sent to help on coast with Japanese
25:23 Story: trip to Lunga Point—beyond scared—landing boats—Japanese plane flew over—could not land because so many Japanese—landed eventually—walked all day—could not reach anyone by radio
28:58 Japanese began evacuating—got about 1,800 men out—went down next morning and found only the sick and dead left behind—no battle, lucky break
29:40 Lucky breaks
29:55 End of Guadalcanal campaign—island secured—was on island about 6 months—busy most of the time
31:03 Japanese having a hard time on other islands—low on troops and supplies—submarines
32:00 Sent back to Fiji island for R & R—came down with Malaria—books: Orchids in Mud, Under the Southern Cross—American Division—Southern Cross for shoulder patch
33:25 Fiji, Malaria—sent back to field artillery outfit
33:50 Sent to San Francisco to do guard duty for "nuts"—out of the guardhouse
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34:15  Back to San Francisco—2 weeks leave
34:35  Fort Bliss, TX—nice time—office boy for Civilian who ran maintenance on trucks—Mexican workers at Fort Bliss—at Fort Bliss, TX 6 months
36:18  Assembling men to go to France—did not want to go—no danger because after Battle of the Bulge—sending men as replacements
37:15  Went from France to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin—discharged 1945
37:30  In France about 4 months—got out in October 1945
37:58  In France when both wars ended—everybody dancing in the streets
38:21  Books that son found about Americal Division—what happened to them after he came down with Malaria—went all the way to Japan—Bougainville battle pretty much wiped them out—replacements—guard duty and occupation in Japan
39:05  Some of men he served with on Guadalcanal may have been through worst battles
39:25  In South Pacific 3 years—went to war with no argument—ready to go somewhere—not homesick
40:05  Went back to Saybrook, IL—married—started having family
40:55  Got a job at Chevrolet garage in Rantoul, IL—worked there four years—went to Champaign to work for Chevrolet another 4 years
41:20  Decided he did not want to be a mechanic—home study course on television and radio—went to work at television shop—worked there 22 years
42:20  Selling televisions, suppliers, Zena, televisions
43:07  Repairing televisions 22 years—boss retired—then job at Sears in the mall for 7 years
43:58  Retired early—been retired 20 years—time going fast
44:30  Moved to MO
45:50  Had a stroke October, 1997—went back to IL—Champaign
47:12  Wrap-up, Panama Canal