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Glenn Miller
June 12, 2004

Interview conducted by Rose Manibusan
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Interviewee: Glenn Miller

Military Rank: E-2-10 2nd Marine Division

Interviewer: Rose Manibusan

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Saipan

Date: June 12, 2004

--00:00:00 AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Narrator: Glenn Miller is Caucasian-American man wearing a beige polo shirt. Behind him is a white lamp and a yellow curtain, with a white diamond overlay.

--00:00:16

Q: The following oral history interview was conducted by Rose Manibusan, Chief of Interpretation at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Saipan, on June 12th at 1:50, to record an oral history interview with Mr. Glenn Miller, who served with the US United States Marine Corps during World War II. This interview is being made by the National Park Service and American Memorial Park. For the record, could you please state and spell your full name?

Glenn Miller: Um-Glenn Ellsworth Miller, is that what you want, the three...ok... and-and GLENN, G-L-E-N-N. Ellsworth, E-L-L-S-W-O-R-T-H, and Miller, M-I-L-L-E-R.

Q: Glenn I understand that the National Park Service has your permission to make this recording and to retain all literary and property rights deriving from it. Is that correct?

Glenn Miller: Yeah. That's fine. Uh-hmm.

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Q: Glenn, could you please tell us where you were born and the date of your birth?

Glenn Miller: I was born uh-December 29th, 1924 in a little village called Mount Palatine, Illinois.

Q: And did you grow up there?

Glenn Miller: No. I moved away 2 years-at the age of two. Went to Chicago.

Q: And did you go to school there in Chicago?

Glenn Miller: Went to school in Chicago and then later we moved to Bloomington, Illinois, where I went to a balance of my education – through high school.

Q: Can you tell me about your family?

Glenn Miller: Well, my family, I have a couple of parents, of course and uh-they were - born to those parents with ten children. Seven sisters and three brothers.

Q: And I understand you are married?

Glenn Miller: Married, yes.

Q: And you have children?

Glenn Miller: Yes, we have two, a boy and a girl.

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Q: I'd like to take you back now into time for a little bit, could you tell us where you were and what you were doing when you heard that Pearl Harbor had been attacked?

Glenn Miller: Well that was Sunday of course. and I was on the way across town from where I lived in Bloomington, Illinois, to pick up a friend of mine to go to a movie. And when I got to his house, it uh-was close to – if I remember correctly, 11:30 – I mean, about 12:30 -1:00 and he had the radio on, and it was being announced then that the attack had taken place, and that was December. Well, it would be December, not 7th, it would be back in the States, it was December 6th wasn't it?

Q: December 8th.

Glenn Miller: The day they hit the ground, yeah...

Q: Well, you heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941 – how did you feel?

Glenn Miller: Well, immediately, I don't remember much about it because we just went off to the movie. Obviously we talked about it, but I do remember the following day, more clearly, when we went back to school – which I was in high school, the halls were abuzz with the conversation and the knowledge of it all. And of course the word was, well, let's go join up and get this thing over with. It will be over in six months. And uh-time proved that that wasn't true.

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Q: So when did you join the military service?

Glenn Miller: Well, actually I was uh-drafted-drafted – in 1943 and I – was sent to Chicago, in June, I don't remember the dates, but in the early part of June, for an examination. I didn't realize at that time that I would be in the Marine Corps, but when we got through with the physical examination, they said, you could make a decision if you wanted to. I said, uh-I will take the Marine Corps.

Q: And how old were you when you joined?

Glenn Miller: Um-I would be, uh-18... Yeah, or... [unintelligible].. I was in my 17th year, I guess. No, 18th year, excuse me.

Q: So how did you feel about being drafted?

Glenn Miller: Well, I don't remember having any particular feelings about it, because we knew there was war on and um-I don't know that I remember even thinking that ultimately

I would have to make a decision. Um-I really can't tell you. I don't know that I sort of expected it, I guess. I'm sure my family was concerned, naturally.

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Q: Can you please describe your basic training experience as if you were telling it to a young man that was joining the military today?

Glenn Miller: Do you want me to tell the truth and nothing but the truth?

Q: Exactly. [Laughter]

Glenn Miller: Well, I-I attended boot camp at the Marine Corps, Recruit Depot in San Diego. Um-If I were to tell a young man about it, I would say that it... was certainly a time of [brief pause], a time of learning how to deal with other people and discipline and hard work. Uh-I can't say it was fun, but it was fascinating to me because-as well I think many of my friends. This is the first time we ever got out of the state in which we lived. And that in itself is kind of exciting. Um-I think that is something.

Q: Is there anything that you remember most about basic training?

Glenn Miller: Well-hot weather in San Diego and hard work of course and learning how to get along with other people and accepting orders and discipline.

Q: Could you please tell us Glenn, what military branch, unit and regiment you were assigned to?

Glenn Miller: I was--well, for the beginning, if you will, I suppose I could tell you that--should tell you that I went to Hawaii, Pearl Harbor. I was in the transient center. I think it was the 37th replacement battalion, if I remember correctly. And we were stationed at Aiea, which is just outside of Pearl Harbor. Having landed in Hawaii December 25th, 1943, uh-then I was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division in about March of 1944. They had just had come back from the battle of Tarawa, where they-were being rebuilt, if you will,

re-trained. Replacements were going in. I And they were stationed in a camp on the Big Island of Hawaii. And I joined them over there, where we then – I trained with them. I was a camoufleur- a camouflage expert, during the war. And uh-sometime um-the dates I can't tell you exactly, but sometime I'm guessing, um-sometime in the early part of May I think, we boarded ships to go someplace. We didn't know where we were going, they didn't tell us until we were well at sea.

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Q: Did your um-your unit have a uh-personal identity or a personality, that they uh-were referred to...?

Glenn Miller: Well, they were tough. [Laughter from both]

Uh-I was in awe of the division because their exploits at Tamogi and Guadalcanal and Tarawa and those were-well, semi-romantic names at that time, far-away places. And anyone that had been in combat at that time, you looked up to as someone who had uh-achieved something and was to be respected and um...

Q: Could you tell us your, about your first Pacific campaign? Where-was that?

Glenn Miller: The first which?

Q: The first Pacific Campaign you fought in?

Glenn Miller: Oh! It was here at Saipan.

Q: Oh-

Glenn Miller And I am-was-at the time of landing, I was uh-in a 2nd Battalion, Easy Battery, 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines and I landed on Green Beach two. Uh-landed about-I think it was 1:00 in the afternoon of the first day.

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Q: Can I take you back just a little bit, can you describe to me in uh-detail, in detail what it was like as you prepared for the invasion of Saipan?

Glenn Miller: It's a little hard to do. I remember being aboard ship, an APA. I don't have the numbers of those now. I have all that at home, but I didn't expect this-one of the incidents I remember distinctly of uh-the difficulty of being life aboard ship was horrible. With being down in the hole and four decks below, with bunks, I think five or six bunks high and hardly enough room to-to sleep or turn – you couldn't turn over. It was smelly and very uncomfortable. It was very hot. A good friend of mine from Chicago sang a song, which you are too young to know about, for six weeks or whatever amount of time we aboard ship, "Mairzy doats and dozy doats," have you ever heard that song?

Q: No, I don't think so. [Laughter from both]

Glenn Miller: He really, really bored the hell out of us. [Laughter]] But um-at some point, oh, maybe a week or two before we landed, they [unintelligible]... we rendezvoused in Kwajalein, uh-where we picked up the 4th Marine Division, I don't know whether the Army – the 27th Army Division was there or not. I am not aware of that. But we, met all of these other ships, which they were as far as the eye could see, there were ships everywhere. And task force 58 or something of that – and I remember distinctly one evening, uh-watching the sun go down, talking to a Sergeant Gahr, G-A-H-R, who was in our unit, and um-showed me pictures of his two little girls and his wife, as many people did this, but this one it particularly struck me because of what happened later. And he um-was a wonderful person. They had for us, on the deck, a relief map, you know what those are, I'm sure. This was a reproduction of the island in Saipan. I would love to know what happened to it, I think they are probably still on board.

But everything was marked, the trees-the whole island. Wherever there was a gun in place, they thought they knew. And they had little replicas of guns and things, all along – everywhere. So you-you visually-if you could memorize that island and where you are supposed to land, hopefully you get on the island and it would be just like that. And I don't

know that it was. But it was quite a display. And then we were instructed what role we were going to play, as we landed. And um...

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Q: I have heard from other Marines that prior to their actual day that they land, that they are given a-a meal. They get served steak and -

Glenn Miller: I don't remember that...

Q: You don't remember that?

Glen Miller:... and I have – I don't remember that at all. And the morning of the landing, I know we were awakened – maybe never even went to sleep – you didn't sleep much in the service. Um-and, I remember standing probably with my gear, maybe on my back or on the deck and watching the—after the first wave or two, bringing the casualties back and being absolutely just-I can't think of a word. Shocked, that these guys were—that each boat that came by was heavily laden with Marines and blood was everywhere and it-was kind of a shocking experience. And then I remember distinctly, the seas were very heavy that day.

I don't know if other people talked to you about that, but being aboard an APA and having to go down the rope ladders with your combat gear, 70 pounds and a rifle and God knows what all what, we would – as the-as the ship would rock, as soon as you got on level with the higgins-alligator in this case, you would jump in. If you waited until it got up here, the danger was that you would fall in the sea, which is what some people did. And with that much gear on, it wasn't much you could do, to save yourself. You were just gone. Um-got in the alligator and took off in our wave-I don't know what wave it was either, at this point in time, but having landed 1:00 um-in the afternoon, um, we were being shelled and-when you are young and youthful and never had this experience, you don't know how to get... frightened, you really don't. Because you don't know what-what-what a shell can – if you landed by you, you don't really know what would happen.

And so we moved into the area where we were going to take our guns and, [small chuckle],

we worked so hard getting them dug in and sandbagged and etcetera, uh-that we received a-began to receive artillery fire that uh-afternoon, very clearly and it got to the point that we were so accustomed to it, that we, didn't even seek cover. Fortunately they weren't very accurate around the area that I was.

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Q: This is all on D-Day? On June 15th?

Glenn Miller: Yes. Correct.

Q: Can you uh-please describe in detail your personal battle experience? Um-you landed on the beaches and you are hitting inland, can you take us back to what that was like for you during that period?

Glenn Miller: Well... it's hard for me to recall that. [Clears throat]. It seemed like an awful long time to get to the beach, and-and I don't know how far out we were, but things I've read since then, we were out a mile or more and those uh – I did – I did notice that a lot of these vehicles had engine trouble and they were-people were circling around, it was just a lot of confusion. Um-I can't say that I was frightened, because I didn't know what was going to happen. And we went up on the beach, we got uh on-on the beach, and he uh-didn't – the driver didn't take us too far up on the beach. I know, because he dropped the ramp. The ramp was right close to the water's edge and some of us got, a little wet-not seriously wet. But we had to then-of course the way that operates, the ramp drops down and back and then you come out and run around the thing.

And we had to um-I don't even remember what we carried up and how we got our guns up, I really don't recall that. At that time, I was not one of the gun sections, so it wasn't my responsibility, but um-it sounds like a union man, doesn't it? [Laughter from both]

But um-nut we landed right at the end, at the south end, I think the south end of what was the fighter strip, I um-recall walking across that, seeing a number of 16 inch shells-that didn't explode and later the guys had fun sitting on them and so forth. And we were

just-couldn't be more than- I don't think we were inland for more than two or three hundred yards at that far. And I um-just went about what we were told to do and didn't have any particular fear. It wasn't till later when I-when we-you live through a counter attack or two, then you know what to expect, what is going to happen. So that is fearful.

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Q: Can you share with us, um-what that was like?

Glenn Miller: Well, you are scared to death. You know uh, I had great fear of Japanese getting through with the-with sic bayonet. I just hated the thought of having to fight someone with a bayonet. Thank god I never-or even a sword. I hated the thought of being cut-with that. I would most rather be hit with a bullet than cut up, with a weapon like that. Um-so and youth-I don't know about other people but I think-I don't remember like, some of the movies depict people in war, of-of being frightened and scared and what have you and I don't remember any of that.

Q: Do you remember any sounds or – any smells in the air?

Glenn Miller: Oh, the odor was terrible, sure. [Unclear muttering]. Even the first day or two, the odor was not good, but after a couple of days, the island reeked of dead flesh. That is just – I hope I never, never – [cries] Sorry. That's- that is the worse thing.

[Continues crying]

Sorry. Go ahead.

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Q: That's ok... Um-do you remember-Purple Heart Ridge part or Death Valley for those...?

Glenn Miller: No, being in the artillery, we just-I know of that, but we were -our weapons would fire far enough away so we weren't involved in that. Uh, we-the noise and confusion going on, we were aware that things were happening, we know when the infantry was being

pretty well battered, uh-we knew when something was happening, because we were called on for heavy, heavy fire missions. So we-but... I thank God many times that I wasn't in the infantry, because I wouldn't have a chance of really not living too long. It wasn't so much being killed as it was being-mauled, I guess. Being involved in things that-I hated-I don't know that I thought this way then, but I hate the thought of having-I don't know how anybody ever lived through being in hand to hand combat. I just don't know how they can survive. You know, it must-must be psychologically just a terrible, terrible thing.

Q: Can you describe any interaction that you may have had encountered with the local population? Did you meet up with any uh...

Glenn Miller: Had really none. I remember uh- some of the um-the women primarily. I don't remember too many men coming... with children, coming near our gun emplacements. Uh-but not many of them. And I know that they sat at the camp, at Camp Susupe uh, and we were just located near that, so-as they came through, we saw a few-I didn't see very many. Never had-never had any relationship with any of them at all.

Q: Is there anything that I haven't asked that you would like to share about your experience-your Saipan battle experience?

Glenn Miller: Um. [Thinking]

Q: What do you remember most?

Glenn Miller: I remember... [unintelligible remarks]. I remember when they would spray us, we moved up toward Garapan, and, and uh-some of the guys found a bank that had been – the building itself had been destroyed and there was still a big safe in it. Not as big as that unit over there. And they blew the door off and found one million, three hundred thousand yen in it. But we were told it would be of no value uh-if we got to Japan. Well, it turns out that it was of value. But in the meantime, they rolled up to make tobacco cigarettes out of it and built fires in the evening and did all sorts of crazy things with it. And uh-It's a shame, we could have been rich.

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Q: [Laughing]. Did you participate in any other Pacific campaigns?

Glenn Miller: Tinian. And then uh-we took a little island north of Okinawa, called Iheya Shima. And I think that is I-H-E-Y-I Shima. There were no Japanese troops there at all. Then we went as a regimental combat team, we landed on Okinawa to take over the lines at Shuri Castle and then we went and finished the island there; General Buckner was killed in our forward observation posts-if you know anything about that island at all. Uhh-and we were there for probably six weeks.

Q: And um-you said that you also participated in the battle for Tinian, how is that different from the battle of Saipan?

Glenn Miller: Well, then I was more-I was more frightened doing that, than I was at Saipan. Umm-of course you probably know, we landed on the northwest corner, where the Navy, they just shelled-the Navy just carved out, if you will, by shelling it. A portion, hardly enough space for the alligators to get through. But that fooled the Japanese of course. Because everybody went down to Tinian town there, they thought they were going to land there. But this was just an eighth-at that point, for some reason, our battalion was support-supporting the 8th regiment, where as here, we were supporting the 6th regiment, I got it mixed up somehow, I don't know how um-I mixed it up. And we landed that first night and there was a sizable counter attack, um-banzai attack, if you will. They were all banzai attacks. And that was kind of frightening, but you know I kind of miss that.

And I will tell you why. By the time we got to Tinian, we were pretty well exhausted people. We were aboard an LST, LCI, LCI, I guess, yeah, and one of the horrible things about it, the-those flies. God there were flies. There were just millions of flies. Big, big, black flies. You couldn't eat without brushing these flies off. Well, that is besides the point, um-but that night-I have always had the idea that I served-all the time I was overseas for two years, about six months of those two years, I was aboard ships, going somewhere, doing something. And I hated that I would rather have died on land than died in the ocean. And so I was anxious to get back on shore, uh-but, we had worked so hard at getting our guns in

place that night and then the banzai attack broke out, I was asleep.

Absolutely exhausted. And so by the time I knew what was going on – I heard the battle. I still was asleep and I was not involved in it in any way, but in the morning, there were about 150 Japanese out in front of us that had almost gotten in and jumped in on the guns, they were that close-from here to the end of the room. And then we moved on through the, what was ultimately going to be the B-29 airfields, it was a big airfield there and we moved past it and started going south on the island and that was a pretty permanent position for us, because that battle lasted about seven, eight, nine days. Um-but one of the last days, there was another big counter attack, a banzai attack. And it was headed for us, and the word was that it was going to be a fierce one.

Well, for some reason, uh-with the help of the Navy, I guess and the infantry, they-they kind of stopped it from getting to us. I was really frightened, because I knew then what to expect. Uh-but that was such a short run, only nine days. I don't know how long we stayed there; I think we stayed there for several weeks. And then came back to Saipan and we then established our camp over at Magazine Bay and they were there until we went to Okinawa.

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Q: Did you have any personal encounters, face-to-face, with Japanese soldiers?

Glenn Miller: Only one. One that close, one that was alive. It was on Saipan, and I think it was probably the first night, I was talking to this gentlemen and we were trying to recall, but we again, even through war brings out some super human things in people, you still get tired, and that night we worked so hard that day with the-getting the guns in place and the mission-the fire missions we had to have and the-I was along with a friend of mine, I was told-we didn't have time to dig in our 50 caliber machine guns, which were always set up on the right and left.

I think front and back – I don't know the terms anymore, but we were on the right flank and we were told to go out and defend- and defend that right flank. Well, we didn't have

time to dig in or anything, so we just laid on the ground and waited, and the flares were being shot up in the air and we could see what was going on in front of us, we couldn't see much in back of us, but we heard-I think we heard the noise, but there was so much noise anyway, but somewhere or another we observed someone behind us. Couldn't have been more than 30 feet behind us in this monstrous tree and this person stepped out from behind that tree. And then a flare went off and it was a Jap sold-soldier, with his rifle and fixed bayonet. And one of us, I don't remember which one, said – you know, I think Nettles did, my friend said, "What's the password?" Well, we could see he was Japanese, it seemed foolish to ask for a password at that point in time. [Laughter from both].

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But we knew, we wanted to follow orders. At that point, then the Jap simply crouched down and we were really concerned, so one of us said, you know "Fire!" "Shoot!" Well, our carbines had been lying on the ground all day and they wouldn't fire. So one of us, whoever tried it first and said, well, use yours. Well, his didn't work either. So, we said, oh God – we didn't know what to do. So we sort of crawled out of that area and I jumped into a slip trench where there were two people, a sergeant and another friend and right behind me followed Nettles and my friend, uh, kid by the name Baines, had a 45 pistol that his father used in World War I, and he wasn't supposed to have it, it was against regulations, but he held-the pistol up to my friend's head and said, password please. And of course that was ridiculous because he knew who he was, but he did. And I kept saying to Nettles, for God's sake, give him the password. And the password at that time was "months of the year" and I would challenge you, you had better say, "December", I mean, "January", and if you didn't, or even if you said January but you said it with a Japanese accent, you got shot. And I um-said, Nettles, give him the password! And he started out, January, February, March, April, ran through the full 12 months and then jumped in on the top of us.

At that point, they counter-attacked on that first day, it really broke loose. And uh-within a few hours, I don't remember, but the four of us couldn't be in that slip trench but – I was still in it when it began to get light and I looked back at the beach and here, a bunch of figures were coming up from the beach. And-which was only a stone's throw away. And I hollered-we hollered over to them-who are you guys? And they said, well, we are the 6th

regiment. We said, you guys are on the wrong side, you are supposed to be over there. But we had been behind the lines all night and didn't realize it. So fortunately the Japanese didn't find us. They must have been found around us, obviously, but um-we managed after that and they went through our lines then and started pushing the Japanese back. And carried um-on from there.

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Q: You mentioned that carbine...[unclear], you had problems with the equipment, did that happen often?

Glenn Miller: No, that was our fault, not the equipments fault, because we were taught in the Marine Corps that your rifle is your baby, is your mother, you risk your life, and it's true. And I have often thought that if we had shot – I don't remember having shot or killed anybody. Obviously in the artillery, you kill a lot of people on the other – but you never know it. Uh-but if we had shot him or maybe only wounded him and then he lobbed over a grenade, it would have been a different story. Could have been a different story. But-uh, but none the less, our weapons didn't work and we learned from that to make sure that they – we fired a number of times when they – I remember one night, further down on the side of the hill, on the road some place and we heard these noises, people coming down. We didn't know whether they were Japanese or who they were.

[Off-camera noises]

We fired on them, um-I don't know if we hit anyone, but we learned later that it was just civilians trying to get through our lines. But we-how do you know? Because some of the tactics that the Japanese pulled, you know, were gruesome. They would push the civilians out in front of them and uh-cause them-push them to the ground and then open up on the rest of us. The infantry reported this many times. So...

Q: What did the battle of Saipan mean to you?

Glenn Miller: What does it mean to me? Well, as history has unraveled and some of the

things I have learned, I guess it was kind of necessary. I think the war with Japan-um, particularly Pearl Harbor and you probably know this too, this was all documented long before Pearl Harbor by Americans having written books and things and the Japanese simply used the material to do what they did. I would like to think that we could have negotiated ourselves out of that war. The Pacific War at least. Uh-at least, that is from our standpoint, I don't know. From a Japanese standpoint, they had a real serious problem on their hands with trying to provide for their compa-people. And they chose to try to do it militaristically. And now they are doing it economically. There is a big difference.

Q: If there was one thing that you could say about your battle experience at Saipan, what would that be?

Glenn Miller: If there is one thing I could say about it? [Thinking]

That's a tough one. ... Um...

It was a horrible experience. Um-I don't know how to answer that one, how do you... Politically or economically or militaristically or socially or whatever, you know, it's a big, big thing. I assume it had to happen, the things I have read about- the rest of the places like Peleliu, the cost of that battle and didn't have-to happen. Could have been bypassed-which they wanted to do and didn't. Um-And. I don't know. Wars are not won, they are lost.

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Q: Where were you when the war ended?

Glenn Miller: I...

Q: Where were you when war ended?

Glenn Miller: I was on Saipan. And then uh-we loaded ship, I suppose-I will have to find out about these things maybe- I haven't really tried to think about them. But we landed in Nagasaki, on I believe on the 23rd of September, so it was from the 9th, which was the last

bomb that was dropped and when- when did the Japanese capitulate, a couple days after that, I think. So about five weeks later we were in Nagasaki, where they dropped the second bomb, which you know.

Q: How did you feel about the dropping of the Atomic bomb?

Glenn Miller: I thought it was a great thing to do. Because we were-assigned the beaches, we knew where we were going to go and the anticipation of the, of uh-million casualties, didn't seem to be unfair. I guess I still do.

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Q: It's now 60 years later. If you could tell the youth today about World War II, what would you say to them?

Glenn Miller: I would say, we really have to learn to live with one another. Be willing to negotiate. Nothing wrong with Teddy Roosevelt's statement, uh speak softly, but carry a big stick. The atomic power, the-American power is enough of a big stick, but we gotta learn that there are other people in the world too and they have to learn that also. Right now we are going through all kinds of upheavals in the United States, in the things that are happening socially and etcetera. And um-some of the demands that are being made on us by them, in my opinion is unfair, unless they are willing to negotiate with us and live as we all want to live.

Q: Is there anything else that you would like to add to this interview that we haven't discussed?

Glenn Miller: [Smacks lips]. No, I don't think so.

Q: So how does it feel being back, 60 years later?

Glenn Miller: Well, I made some notes the other night on the airplane, it was frightening. I don't know whether I was afraid of seeing-not seeing what I had seen before. But um-but

hoping that what I had experienced and seen before would be gone and I would not have to think about it anymore. I can't say that I spent a lot of time thinking about it, but uhhh- it's been on my mind all these years and-and for the first, what 45 years of it, I never talked to anybody about it. Any depth, other than kidding my family. I would tell them from time to time, I can speak Japanese and so I would say-I would give them a phrase that I think I learned here. [speaks Japanese]. And they say, what are you saying to me. And I say, I think I said, come out of that cave with your hands up, I won't hurt you. [Laughter] I don't know anymore, I've forgotten. But it's more fun in that way.

And then lately, when everyone has been a little bit more receptive, of course the Vietnamese people, the men that fought in Vietnam, rather, went through hell coming back. I went back. Our ship landed in San Diego and do you know who met the ship? We didn't have the Marine band; we didn't have tens of thousands of civilians cheering us on. There were two people on the dock. And I am not saying that in a derogatory way, but the tens of thousands of people coming home, they could do it for everyone. But one of them was a paper boy, and he was selling San Diego Advertiser or whatever it was. And it said, "Russians Refuse to Return 90- 395 Glenlee Ships". And we said, oh hell, let's go back over and finish the job. Well, that would have been terrible.

The other person, was a beautiful blond girl who, believe you me, we hadn't seen blond girls for two years, but she was the wife of the captain of the ship. And when we saw her, that ship almost rolled over [laughter from both] because everybody ran to the port side to look at her.

Q: Is this your first trip back to Saipan since the battle?

Glenn Miller: Yes.

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Q: What direction did your life take after the war?

Glenn Miller: What direction did I like...

Q: No, what direction did your life take after the war?

Glenn Miller: Oh! ... Well, due to the GI bill, I went to school. I would like to tell a story, if you will if you don't mind. I was born on a farm; I have to do this to get to what you asked. My father um-was a very successful farmer, but he suffered from sunstroke and I don't know what they call that today, but the doctor advised him to leave the farm. So we moved to Chicago, um-it's the middle of the Depression. I embellish a lot, but for sure I will shorten it.

And we lived in Chicago, which was okay, but the Depression was a suffering thing, so we left Chicago and moved to Bloomington, Illinois. My mother had to run or own, I don't which one, a restaurant, my father stayed in Chicago to study radio. By then already we had seven children, which was more than enough, living in the Depression. Along came the war and Roosevelt said, hey, I need some help, I got myself in trouble, so I said, I will help and I came and did. After the war, got out. When we got at the San Diego Railroad station, they-announced on the loudspeaker, President Truman wishes to give you a present. Please go to the dining room, commissary, whatever it was. And we all got a pint of milk. We hadn't tasted milk in two years, so it was quite a present. Um-but-I was told I could go to school on the GI bill, which I did.

And um-after I got out of school, I began to earn money and Uncle Sam said, remember-remember me? And I began to pay back that which I had taken. And I met a young lady who wanted to give me free love and I said, oh, I am too honorable, I cannot do this, I love another and all that stuff and now um-that I'm as old as I am, I can no longer participate in free love. So-that is the story of my life.

[Both Laughing]

--00:47:32

Q: We thank you for sharing your experiences with us and to help us preserve the history of World War II.

Glenn Miller: You are welcome, thank you.

Q: Thank you.

Glen Miller: Uh-hmm. Good

[END OF SESSION]

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