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Andrew Martin
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Interviewee: Andrew Martin

Military Rank: G Company of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division

Interviewer: Chuck McManus

Hilton Hotel - Guam

Date: July 18th, 1994

--00:00:02 - 00:00:13

[Audio Description] Andrew Martin is a caucasian American man who is bald, wearing a light blue button-up shirt. Behind him is a floral patterned wall.

--00:00:15 -

Q: My name is Chuck McManus and I'm here at the Hilton Hotel in Guam on the 18th of July and it's a quarter of eleven in the morning. I'm here to record an oral history interview with Mr. Andrew Martin, who served with the G Company of the 3rd Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division. This interview is being made by the National Park Service, the War in the Pacific National Historical Park in conjunction with the local television station. Mr. Martin, I understand that the National Park Service has your permission to make this recording and to retain all literary and property rights derived from it. Is that correct?

Martin: Correct, yes.

Q: We have some standard interview questions, we reviewed those and we will get them now on the tape. And for the record, will you please tell us your full name.

--00:01:03 - 00:01:11

Martin: Andrew Jordan Martin Sr.

Q: Andrew Jordan Martin Sr.. And how do you spell your last name?

Martin: M-A-R-T-I-N.

--00:01:12 - 00:01:23

Q: What unit were you in during the Guam campaign?

Martin: I was in the 3rd Marine Division and I was in G Company and I believe it was the second battalion.

--00:01:26 - 00:01:56

Q: When were you born and where were you born?

Martin: I was born May 31st 1918 in San Francisco, California.

Q: Did you grow up there?

Martin: I grew up there and except for the period of time when I was in the service. I went back after the war and lived there until I hit the age of 65 and then I moved up to Northern California where my wife and I reside today.

Q: Did you go to school in San Francisco?

Martin: Yes, I did.

--00:01:56 - 00:02:47

Q: When did you join the service?

Martin: I joined in early 1943, I couldn't get in right after Pearl Harbor because I had a, at that time it was considered to be an important defense job, working for the Bethlehem Steel Company.

Q: What motivated you to join?

Martin: Well, what motivated me to join was the fact that my kid brother had joined just prior to World War II and he wanted to get into the service and he wasn't sure which one until he spotted the Marine dress blues and that sold him on the Marine Corps.

Q: Did that sell you on the Marine Corps? Or did you just want to go in because your kid brother was there?

Martin: Well, we were very close and that sold me on the Marine Corps also.

--00:02:51 - 00:03:23

Q: Where did your brother serve?

Martin: My brother served on, well, he ended up, he was killed on Tarawa, but prior to that, why he went all through the Guadalcanal campaign and so forth and he received a field commission and then when he went into Tarawa he was second lieutenant leading his first platoon and he never made it to the beach. He got killed out on the water in a landing craft.

--00:03:26 - 00:05:30

Q: Did you have any interesting experience or any interests while you were involved in basic training? And where did you take your basic training?

Martin: I took my basic training in San Diego, California, that was just prior to Camp Pendleton becoming what it later became. And I had a lot of experiences there that I wouldn't care to mention at basic training. The only time I ever got into any trouble in the Marine Corps was in boot camp. We all were in what they called huts back then. Not Quonset huts, but just regular huts made out of plywood and so forth. And your bunkie up above you or below you, as the case may be, each one had to have a bucket under the bunks. One had to have sand in it for fire, the

other had to have water in it, for fire. Well, geez, in the morning rush, one morning my buddy and I decided the hell with this. You had to go out and you had to make an exchange, the one that had the water the night before, had to have sand and so forth and so on. So we decided, the hell with it, we will just switch buckets. Well, we got caught. The only time I ever got in any trouble in Marine Corps, had to be in boot camp and our disciplinary action consisted of each one of us had to take one of these plastic soap containers and I had to go one way, probably a good 100 yards, he had to go the other way 100 yards and we each had to take our half of the container, he had to fill his with sand, I had to fill mine with water and back and forth and back and forth, and we had to fill our buckets that way. Never did it the bad way again.

Q: How long did that take?

Martin: Oh my lord, I was so damn pooped, I think it must have taken oh, maybe an hour and a half.

Q: Did you have to run all the way?

Martin: Oh yeah, double time.

Q: Double time?

Martin: The whole time, all the way, yeah.

--00:05:30 - 00:06:24

Q: That's a lesson. Was your DI- what was the rank of your DI?

Martin: He was a sergeant, he was a real Marine. He was- I remember him so well, he was Sergeant OK North and he was a real man, believe me. Real guy.

Q: Was he a yeller and a screamer?

Martin: Pardon me?

Q: Was he a yeller? Did he shout?

Martin: No. No, no, no, no, because I think he may have in peace time, but during war time, they were a little afraid that if they ever met you over there in the jungles, somebody might put a round through your head, you know, which I understand had happened. But no, he was number one. Best friend I ever had.

Q: A lot of Marines say that about their DIs.

Martin: Yeah, he was a wonderful person.

Q: They seem to hate their guts while they are in training, but the instant they graduate or break boots-

Martin: Well, we didn't hate this guy. We realized what he was doing for us. And we all appreciated it.

--00:06:25 - 00:07:00

Q: Were you assigned to any other unit prior to the unit that you were in, the 3rd Marines and the invasion of Guam?

Martin: No, I was sent over as a replacement unit into Guadalcanal, this is after all our extended order training and so forth in California at Camp Elliot. And then we were sent over, as I say, as a replacement unit to Guadalcanal and entered into the 3rd Marines there. And that was about it.

--00:07:00 - 00:08:49

Q: Did you have any specialized training in the States? You stayed at Camp Elliot?

Martin: Yeah, Camp Elliot extended order and so forth yeah, and no, just more or less conditioning. Oh, there for a while, let me tell you this, after- at the end of the boot camp, I was an instructor at the rifle range because being short I wasn't heavy like I am now. That was 50 years and 40 pounds ago. The instructor at the rifle range out there didn't pay much attention to me because I was short. I didn't get into the positions of prone, sitting, kneeling and off-hand in the way he thought should be done. He liked the big, tall, lean guys of which I was far from it. And the funny part of it is after we went through all the firing and so forth, I was the only expert rifleman that came in the whole damn big platoon, the extended platoon. And then from that, I was selected as an instructor at the rifle range and I worked there for a few months and then that is when we went overseas.

Q: Okay. Did your unit go on ahead of you and you stayed there at the rifle range?

Martin: No, I wasn't attached to a unit at that time, I was just an instructor there.

Q: Did you stop in the Hawaiian chain on your way out to Guad?

Martin: No.

Q: Made the run all the way to Guad from the west coast?

Martin: No, we went from there, we went to New Hebrides and so forth and I'm just trying to think about it because it was such a long time ago. And New Caledonia, we were there for a short time and then on to Guam.

Q: Guadalcanal?

Martin: Oh well, Guadalcanal first and then, of course, Guam.

--00:08:49 - 00:09:34

Q: How long were you on Guad?

Martin: I was there for just a few months, as I recall and in an area there called Coconut Grove.

Q: Was it pretty secure at that time?

Martin: Yes, it was. Yeah, that campaign was over, it was secure.

Q: Did the unit that you were assigned to on Guadalcanal have any unusual descriptive nature?
Like the fighting wolves or some such thing?

Martin: Not kidding, I think that the only fighting that was done was amongst ourselves, although I just had a lot of good buddies there, I shouldn't really say that because we were all got along well because we knew we were headed into some pretty heavy stuff.

--00:09:35 - 00:11:01

Q: What did you do for R and R on the Canal? On Guadalcanal?

Martin: There was no such thing as R and R.

Q: Were you all the time training for the two or three months that you said you were there?

Martin: Well, yes, the only thing that bugged me about that was they had great big fields and fields there because Guadalcanal, as you are aware, is a hell of a big island and they had some bulldozers come in and they bulldozed a great big area there of many, many acres because

Admiral Nimitz was going to come by and review us. So they had us all lined up out there in this red dirt for Admiral Nimitz to come by. Well we were out there and we were all spit and polish as best as we could in dungarees and it would rain and then it would dry. And then it would rain and then it would dry. And then after, oh, I would say standing there for almost two hours, there goes Admiral Nimitz, as fast as his damn Jeep could carry him. All I could see is a little blur of white hair and that was it. That was not a very good morale booster. As a matter of fact, I understand that later on, they put something similar to that in an episode of MASH on TV.

Q: It sounded like it.

Martin: Only it was Macarthur there, instead of Admiral Nimitz.

--00:11:01 - 00:11:54

Q: Now, you were in training, except for this wonderful parade that you had a chance to raise your morale by standing for two hours in the sun and the rain and the mud. What kind of preparation did you have for the Guam campaign? Did you do your practice landings there at Guadalcanal or some other island?

Martin: They took us out on LCIs out into a couple of the other uninhabited islands around there, which were reported to be manned by cannibals. Whether they were or not, I don't know. And just a couple of landings there. And they said, well, this is similar to the situation that- in your next campaign. We didn't know what that was going to be, of course. And that was about it. Just going through the mountains and the rivers and all of that sort of stuff. Combat situation.

Q: They loaded you at Guadalcanal on troop ships?

Martin: Yes.

--00:11:57 - 00:13:39

Q: Tell me as much as you can remember, of what you did from the time you loaded aboard the ship and were coming to Guam? First of all, for example, how long after you boarded the ships, did you know that Guam was your target?

Martin: Well, we didn't know. It was supposed to be a secret campaign and we were gonna be- after we had been at sea for quite some time, many, many days, we were told we were going to be the reserve for the Saipan landings. And we weren't needed there. So our convoy, during the night, we were way, way out at sea, probably a few hundred miles. We would come towards Guam- we didn't know it was Guam at the time, and then during the day time we would go east. At night we would come west towards the island and all and all, this went on for many, many days, in fact from the time we left Guadalcanal until we eventually landed at Guam, it was either 54 or 57 days. It was a hell of a long time. Once they took us ashore for some exercise at Quadraline and another time at Enewetak and all that, but other than that, we spent every day on the ship, exercising and so forth and so on. And with all this back and forth and back and forth, one night, we were always listening to the radio over the whole ship there, and Tokyo Rose came on and she said, what is the matter with you Marines, can't you find Guam? That was the first time we knew we were headed for Guam.

--00:13:39 - 00:14:45

Q: What kind of ship were you on?

Martin: It was a regular troop transport and it was manned by Coast Guard. They were very wonderful guys.

Q: Do you remember what the name of the ship was?

Martin: No, I don't.

Q: You were aboard for almost two full months, what problems did you have? Did you ever run

out of water? Did you ever run out of food?

Martin: No.

Q: Did you ever run out of coffee?

Martin: Never ran out of anything.

Q: So you had plenty of supplies.

Martin: We had plenty of everything.

Q: Were you re-supplied at sea at all?

Martin: The only thing that we got was, every once in a while, a destroyer would come whipping by full throttle and they would get mail over to us, which was a God send. And my wife, I tell you, she was a wonderful person, she wrote me a letter every day. I got at least one letter a day and sometimes two. And of course they would all gang up sometimes, you would get 25 or 30 at a crack, but I was the talk of the platoon.

--00:14:46 - 00:15:16

Q: So how did they get the mail over to you? They were coming full [unclear]? I don't know. I'm curious how they got the mail from a destroyer onto your-

Martin: Well, they would shoot a, I guess they would call it a breeches buoy across and, yeah, they would come up pretty close. Those guys, I tell you, in the Navy, I had a lot of respect for them too. And those destroyers, they would cut through the water, you know, as they call them, the sea going greyhounds. And yeah, they got us the mail.

--00:15:16 - 00:16:02

Q: Excellent. Now, with 25 or 30 letters a batch, that would take up some of your time, but how would you spend the other time on the ship? You mentioned exercising.

Martin: We did a lot of exercising with, you know, at that time I was carrying an M-1 rifle and we would do a lot of calisthenics and so forth. Every once in a while, they would put on some boxing matches. Guys would get up on one of the hatches and they would have boxing. And then almost every night they would have a movie on there, sometimes you would see it eight, ten nights in a row. Until you knew the dialogue better than the actors, up on deck. But we were there every night.

--00:16:03 - 00:17:06

Q: You said you hit Quadraline for a break and Enewetak for a break. Anything usual happen at these breaks in the routine?

Martin: Well, of course you are not allowed to have any alcoholic beverage on the ship, I mean, the enlisted, and so I think it was on Enewetak, they took us ashore and each man was given a big two quart bottle of beer. Well, I was not a drinking man, but there was nothing there to drink anyway. Boy, I guzzled. I downed that whole damn thing and then I dove into the little lagoon there to cool off and so forth and I dove down- I'm a good swimmer, but I dove down a ways. I got down there and I didn't know which way was up. All I had- I had sense enough to kind of cut loose and I could feel myself kind of floating a little bit and then I swam the rest of the way up. But that was, that was it.

Q: Was that the last time you touched a beer?

Martin: No, no, but- no, I just don't care for it.

--00:17:09 - 00:19:24

Q: Let's go back to the Guam campaign. Let's start with the [unclear]. On the day you were going to move in, you woke up at what time and then start from there.

Martin: Well, it seems to me, as I say, going back 50 years, that [unclear] was probably about three or four am and in those days, they had what they called a "battle breakfast" which was steak and eggs, so you get plenty of protein, I guess. And so we had that in the mess area and that was it. Then we got all our gear on and just stood by waiting for the go-ahead.

Q: How long were you in battle dress, waiting to- how did you make the beach? LCDP?

Martin: It was- I forget what they call it now. It was one of the tracked vehicles.

Q: Oh, okay, so you came in on a track vehicle. How long from the time you finished breakfast and got in the battle gear- how did you board this thing? Down the nets?

Martin: Yeah, down the nets, yeah. Grabbed the- this way, not this way. You would get stepped on.

Q: How long from the time you were ready to go, did you actually load the boats?

Martin: I probably, as I think back, maybe an hour.

Q: Well, that's not too bad.

Martin: No.

Q: How long were you in the, I guess they called them ducks back then?

Martin: No, this wasn't a duck.

Q: Okay.

Martin: It was something like it, I forget what they call them now. Some of them- they were called Buffaloes, and some were- but they were actual tracks. As I remember the ducks, the ducks actually had wheels.

Q: Now, how long were you in the boat before you hit the beach? Or before you were pointed toward the beach?

Martin: Well, we got in quite a ways out. I would say probably a good five miles out, circle and circle and circle and circle. Till they give you the go-ahead to go on in.

Q: How long were you circling is what I'm curious about.

Martin: I would say pretty close to an hour. There is a lot of coordinating to be done. I hand it to the guys that do that.

--00:19:25 - 00:20:04

Q: You mentioned earlier that you were in the 13th or 14th wave. Did you have a chance, while you were on the boat, to watch the bombardment? The softening up?

Martin: Well, when we were far enough out, yeah. The Naval gunfire was still racking the beach and then they had the big rocket launchers going in and so forth and then when you are in a situation like that, you are not doing a hell of a lot of looking around because every once in a while one of the other landing crafts would get hit by a mortar or maybe artillery and you know, boom, that was the end of them. So you are just trying to stay down out of harm's way as much as possible.

--00:20:04 - 00:20:45

Q: Now, were the heavy- were the battleships out beyond you- were you between the battleships and the shore- were they firing over your head?

Martin: Well, they- well yeah, at that particular phase of the campaign, they are pretty far out because they didn't want to get hit by artillery fire themselves. But then later on after the campaign progressed and we had most of the major artillery kind of cut off, geez, they came right in close.

Q: Do you remember the sound of the shells going over your head? Does that stay with you?

Martin: No, not really.

Q: Some people who were involved in that, remember the whoosh of the shells.

Martin: Yeah.

--00:20:45 - 00:21:44

Q: Now, you hit the beach in this track vehicle.

Martin: Yeah.

Q: Did you go up on the beach itself or did you have to crawl up over the reef?

Martin: No, we were right up on the beach, right in the sand.

Q: Okay.

Martin: And we had been told that we were going to be about 13th or 14th wave, we were just

going to be more or less in reserve. Well, when we finally got to the beach, say we were 14th wave, all 13 waves in front of us were still laying right there in the sand and had all spread out and we were taking a lot of fire from down the beach from Asan Point and so forth and so on. And geez, we were really catching hell, so to speak. In fact, when I flopped down in the sand there, I turned my head to one side, there was a guy laying next to me with no head and, you know, that kind of shakes you up a little bit.

--00:21:45 - 00:24:07

Q: Welcome aboard. What beach did you land on?

Martin: That was on Asan Beach, we were Red One. We landed on the extreme left flank and as I say, we were all laying there in the sand and our company commander at that time was Captain Holmes and his battle name was naturally "Sherlock" so we never called him, hey Sherlock, but anyway, he was going to do something about it, otherwise we would have been laying there and we all would have been cut to hell. And he got up and he says, come on G Company, let's go! Well, he went down in a bunch of fire right there and I never saw him for months later, he wasn't killed but he was wounded quite badly. And then the second lieutenant who was in the- the first lieutenant who was an exact, I believe his name was Lieutenant Marshall, and he said, come on G Company, let's go! Well, just about the time we thought we would get up and go, he went down. And so anyway, there was one of the sergeants, Sergeant Troopy, he was a real Marine too, anyway, he got up and he's one of the guys that you would say you would follow him anywhere, well, G Company got up, we started moving inland a little ways, we went up a big gully that is there, of course it's all overgrown now, but it was all blown up to hell then and we went up there and we were supposed to, that day, go in about a couple of miles and so forth. Well, I think we got in about 100 yards and that was it. And then over to our left, as I say, this one lousy little Marine platoon, we were holding down the whole left flank. The Japs were coming down from that side and we were told later that they were their imperial landing force, which was the equivalent of our Marines and they came sweeping across this little valley towards us, just like in a John Wayne movie, there is a guy holding up the big regimental flag

and so forth. Which you are not supposed to do, but we did anyway. Everybody zeroed in to try to knock him out because in musketry, as you call it, you are supposed to have certain lines of fire. Anyway, but we cleaned them out. I don't know, there were another few hundred of them right there at that one point.

--00:24:09 - 00:25:01

Q: Did you get as far as the road on that initial surge?

Martin: The road that is there now?

Q: Yeah.

Martin: There was no road.

Q: Okay. Was there a path or anything?

Martin: There was like a, almost like a- well, they had water buffaloes then, it was a little water buffalo trail going along there.

Q: Did you get that far?

Martin: Yeah, we had to cross that and then we went up to the slope a way- they had prepared us to go up what they called Chinito Cliff and we had ropes and all that sort of thing. And, but they weren't needed because we went up kind of a little gully. To get up there.

Q: Where did you spend the first night? How far from the beach?

Martin: I don't think it was more than a couple hundred yards as I recall. Yeah.

Q: What were you armed with? Were you still carrying the M-1?

Martin: At that time I was still carrying the M-1 and rifle. Later on I carried the BAR.

--00:25:01 - 00:25:39

Q: Okay, did you do much work with grenades?

Martin: Not that night. I did during the campaign, a lot of it, yeah. When I dug in at night, hell I was wearing grenades. Yeah, but no, there was no place to throw 'em that first night.

Q: The first night you got about 100 yards from the beach, foxhole?

Martin: I'm guessing, maybe more likely 200 yards, maybe.

Q: And you spent the first night in a foxhole?

Martin: Well, if you want to call it a hole, it was just a little scratched out place in the ground because there is a lot of limestone up in those hills and it's pretty hard digging.

--00:25:39 - 00:26:24

Q: Okay. Tell us about the first night.

Martin: Well, the first night we all actually stayed awake because we were all fairly new at that and we could see the cress as it started to light in the morning on the other side of this little valley. We could see the Japs one at a time coming over the hill to get down into this valley so they could attack us up the side. And-

Q: How far away were they?

Martin: Well, you know, your memory is funny. I would say maybe 50 yards.

Q: Did you shoot at them?

Martin: No because by the time they came over the hill, you couldn't see them anymore. Marines were never ones to save ammunition, but you also want to hit what you aim at.

--00:26:24 - 00:26:58

Q: Okay. Okay, press on. Dawn and they are coming at you.

Martin: Well, dawn and they told us that the enemy that was attacking us, as I say, were these imperial landing forces, other Marines and just our little platoon now, and we had been pretty well shot up, I don't know how many of us were still there. But we wiped them out. We had, of course, we had some mortars, some 60 millimeter mortars and some 80 millimeter mortars and they were dropping in this little valley and so forth.

--00:26:58 - 00:27:44

Q: Any particular incident from that first night that sticks with you?

Martin: No, just that I was praying to see the daylight, that was about it.

Q: Okay, that's a legitimate-

Martin: No, but as I may have mentioned, when I look back on some of the things that. and I guess I wasn't unique, but when I look back on some of the things that I did with a clear head, I wonder where the hell I got the inner strength to do a lot of those things that we did. But I think most of the guys felt the same way. Every once in a while some guy would go bonkers and want to run back to the beach or something like that, but not very many. We had a bunch of good guys.

Q: The Corps would weed them out before they got in the foxhole.

Martin: Yeah.

--00:27:44 - 00:28:52

Q: Second day, how much advancing did you do? Were you stagnant? Did you move forward?

Martin: The second day, I don't think we moved very much at all. And we were getting some support from the carrier based aircraft, of course both Marine and Navy and they did one hell of a job. And they would come in and they would strath and bomb just almost as far as you could throw a rock and they were blasting away in there. They did a wonderful job. We put these panels out, you have heard about or seen those yourself, put a panel out if you possible can, the color may be a red panel or whatever, so that from the air they could look down and see where your so-called line was, so they know, don't bomb this side, bomb that side.

Q: On that second day, were you under constant attack or did the attacks come in bunches?

Martin: It came in bunches, yeah.

Q: So you did have moments of rest, not necessarily where you could relax but where you wouldn't be under direct attack?

Martin: Yeah, there were times yeah, off and on, practically during the whole campaign was that way.

--00:28:52 - 00:30:22

Q: The main event that they talk about at the base of those cliffs, that you mentioned, was the banzai charge. And I recommend that book to you, *The Last Banzai*. I think you would find that very interesting because they talk about exactly where you were. I will see to it that you get a

copy of the book one way or another. But the banzai charge, do you remember that?

Martin: Well, unless they refer to that, as I say, where they were charging the whole left flank there with the Imperial landing forces and so forth. That was a hell of a charge.

Q: Now, were you in essentially the same position for the charge as that second day? In that foxhole or that scratched out hole that you mentioned

Martin: Yeah, we were pretty much.

Q: Did you see any- did they come right at you, at your position?

Martin: Well, they tried to, yeah, but they didn't get too far because, as I say, the Marines are always trained to hit what they aim at and we did.

Q: Okay. You were on the far left flank?

Martin: Yeah.

Q: Okay. There seems to be some indication that the left and the right flanks were very well anchored, but the center is where the weakness was and the Japanese probed until they found this weakness and that is when they broke through and got to the shore into the hospital.

Martin: Yeah, well we heard that that happened, but you know, all you know is what is going on around you. And I didn't actually see that but of course we heard.

--00:30:22 - 00:31:29

Q: Now, was the banzai charge as such, you don't recall that as a separate incident from the other attacks?

Martin: No because that so-called, if it was the same charge that went down and hit the hospital and the beach, that was- we were, as they say, on the left flank and that was on our right. And you don't give a damn what the hell happens over there, you are worrying what's happening right here.

Q: So you are able to defend your position, I don't want to say without much difficulty, but you were able to defend your position satisfactorily?

Martin: Yes.

Q: Very good.

Martin: We had some banzai charges later on in the campaign, which were pretty hairy, and there was one time where the Japanese attacked us and they had all their rifle bolts wired shut so they could just come at you with their bayonets and very quiet and sneaky and they would come right up on you, and boy, you had to be really ready and alert. And we took care of that too.

Q: That's interesting. That happened down at the Asan?

Martin: No, that was later on when we had moved up towards much higher ground.

--00:31:29 - 00:32:24

Q: Okay. What did your unit do after roughly the first week on the line? Where did you move to from there?

Martin: Well, we moved north, the Japanese had evidently figured we were going to land here at Tumon Bay, so it was just all full of obstacles and so forth and so on and instead of coming up this way, to hit Tumon Bay, we had come across more overland, you might say, and by the time

we hit Tumon, the beach here at Tumon Bay, almost all the local fighting was finished. The Japanese had moved up further towards the end of the island. And so a lot of us just took off our dungarees and went in and had a dip in the bay to clean up a little bit, we needed it.

--00:32:24 - 00:33:23

Q: Tell me about your boots again.

Martin: Well, at one time there, for about at least ten days, I was unable to take off my boon dockers because you have to keep them on at night too, because you don't know when you are going to have to get up and get the hell out of there. So I didn't have my boon dockers off for at least ten days, maybe more and I thought geez, when I ever get them off, my feet are going to be in terrible shape. Instead of that, I took 'em off and my feet were in terrific shape. They looked like they had been boiled, but they- no problems at all. So that was about it.

Q: Did you enjoy your swim here in Tumon?

Martin: Well, it didn't last very long, maybe about five minutes, but it sure felt good to get some water on our smelly bodies, yeah.

Q: Was this authorized or did you just opt to do it?

Martin: No, we just did it. There is not a hell of a lot of authorization going on in those times.

Q: Nobody yelling and screaming up on the beach.

Martin: No, no way, no.

--00:33:23 - 00:34:00

Q: Good, good. And then you worked your way up north?

Martin: Yeah, we worked our way up north and went down a lot of the cliff along the water and so forth and so on and we came to one spot up there in the jungle, it was pretty hairy. Of course, it was all overgrown and so forth and there were about two rows of Japanese tanks just facing right towards us, all abandoned. But scared the hell out of us because you know, and they had them all wrapped with prima cord and so forth, so it looked like they had been booby trapped. But no, we just pushed right on through there.

--00:34:00 - 00:34:28

Q: While you were on the line, did you ever see any Chamorros coming down out of the jungle?

Martin: Just a couple of times because we moved very fast and I saw a few of them come out of the caves and so forth and they were really beat up and they were really having a tough time, but we took- some of the fellas took care of them and gave them something to eat and drink and got them back behind the lines.

--00:34:28 - 00:35:35

Q: You worked your way up north. Were you involved in the battle at Yigo, does that make any-

Martin: Of course, back then, who knew what the names were, you know. But we went all the way up north, there was a place called Barrigada.

Q: Yes.

Martin: We had a lot of fun there and there was a place there where part of my squad was assigned to what we called a water point. It was just a little bit out in front of the lines. There was a stream coming down the mountain and we were to guard that so that our guys could get water. Well, the Japanese at night were coming down from the other direction, they were getting water there too, it's kind of down in a gully. And after we moved on there, we were there for about

three days, we moved on and we decided, well let's explore up this stream a little bit. Well, we got up about maybe 50 yards and there was a very bloated, very rotten dead Jap laying right there in the stream that we had been drinking that water.

Q: No after effects, huh?

Martin: No.

--00:35:35 - 00:37:04

Q: You are very fortunate, very fortunate. Now, Barrigada is about in the center, north of the island, so you had swung in from Tumon Bay into the inland. Did you continue to move north?

Martin: Well, we moved in all directions because as I say, looking at a map now and seeing the name of these places like Mt. Santa Rosa, I know was one. You know, we didn't know where we were. We were just going where we were told to go. And there was one place, which was an airstrip of what is now the Guam International I guess they call it up here now. And they put a bunch of us in a half track to go up there. There were a couple of Japanese tanks up there that were running around, raising hell. So we went up there and we started chasing this one tank and they abandoned their tank and took off into the brush, but as we were going along the edge of the airfield, it was just full of wrecked aircraft and they had these big, tall, anti-aircraft guns there and I looked up at a couple of them and I was like geez, that damn thing has got a hole in it. How the hell can- to make a long story short, they were all just phony things. They were covered with paper. But there were a lot of them, looked like they were very heavily defended and of course they drew a lot of fire from our aircraft.

Q: Wasted ammunition for us.

Martin: Yeah.

--00:37:04 - 00:38:26

Q: Fairly common. Any other events as you went on- you were going north to clear the island because at the time the [unclear] force the Japanese to the north end of the island. How long were you in contact with them?

Martin: Well, by this time they were pretty beat up. They had told us that we were knocking off an average of about 500 a day. That is how they could tell how their force was becoming more and more small. And they were trying to scatter. Then a lot of them were- see by this time the island had been divided in half by the 77th Army Division over on that side and we were sweeping up this side. Well, G2 had captured a couple of the Japanese soldiers that had gone over and out of the Marine area, and surrendered over onto the Army side. And he was asked, why did you leave the Marine area and come over and surrender to the Army? And he says, well, Army goes, bang, bang, bang. Marines go, bang-bang-bang-bang-bang! Oh, I had a lot of experiences, but geez, I could be here all day telling you some of these things.

Q: We want to hear ‘em.

--00:38:26 - 00:41:11

Martin: Well, there was one time there where we were patrolling after the campaign was so-called secured and we took a platoon, I mean, a squad out in small units and set up at a point to ambush somebody that would come down this, what we used to call them, cat trails. They would come down there and here comes, as I say, they were about- I think there were only about eight of us, there were four on each side of this road, so we could fire down. Geez, I could see something coming down the road and it was a Japanese officer. We found out later he was a major. He had a white scarf on, starched uniform. This is, as I say to you, the campaign was essentially over. And he had about 50 men with them and they had all arms, they had automatic, they had what they call “nam bo”, light machine guns, and so forth and so on. And mortars and everything. Well, we thought we would be stupid as hell to try to zero in on them, so hell, we just let them go right on by. But they went into, under a white flag, to one of our camps and this

officer went in with a white flag and he said that he wanted to make some sort of a deal, whereby we would stop patrolling in the area where his troops were and then- because they thought the Japanese Navy was going to come in and rescue them, see. Well, there was not a hell of a lot of Navy left about that time. So he came into the camp, I didn't actually see this because I was out in the boonies, but I heard later that he came in and of course some trigger happy Marine- he didn't shoot him but geez, he went over to him and he gave him a bad time and took his wrist watch and his watch and a couple of other things. He had what they called a nam bo pistol, looked very much like a German luger. He took that from him and so-forth and so on. And in good English, this Japanese officer told the commanding officer of that particular area what the deal was. He wanted to make this agreement and then he also said, I want my pistol and I want my watch back and whatever that other Marine took from me. My God, they gave it back to him. He did his about face and went back out into the jungle.

Q: This is the same officer that you had seen walking down the path?

Martin: Same one. A lot of weird things happen. A lot of weird things.

--00:41:12 - 00:43:23

Q: You mentioned earlier, when we were talking outside, about being in your foxhole and watching a machine gun fire, this is now we are back down on ascent.

Martin: Well, no this was inland more.

Q: Okay.

Martin: Yeah. We were dug in on a side of a hill and we were kind of thinned out by then, our foxholes were maybe 25 yards apart and they wanted us to dig in a two man foxhole. Our foxholes were about this deep because it was hard earth there. So anyway we thought they were going to attack from our left. Well, nobody told them that, so they attacked from our right. But

anyway, there was a machine gun up on our hill and this was at night and he had been firing out towards our left and then all of a sudden he said, or this guy in the foxhole with me said, geez, look the Japs have got our machine gun, because the machine gun had swung around, you could tell by all the tracer bullets, he's firing in the opposite direction. So I thought, John Wayne, here I come. So I took a couple of grenades and I was going to go up the hill and throw these grenades at the Japs that had captured our foxhole, or our machine guns, excuse me. Instead of that, two or three times I tried that, both times I had to pull back. Well, in the morning, after it got light, and I could look up there, it was still the Marines that had the machine guns. I would have tossed a couple of grenades and knocked off some Marines. But we had a hell of a night that night, that was a bonsai church that night. But that was when, I think I mentioned to you that they had wired all the bolts of their rifles-

Q: That was the night they charge [unclear]

Martin: It was a silent charge. They didn't fire a shot, but they were coming at us with their bayonets, but we took care of most of them.

--00:43:23 - 00:44:22

Q: Now, you searched for stragglers after the island was secured? After the Marines reached Ritidian?

Martin: Yeah.

Q: You mentioned to me earlier that you took part in Iwo Jima?

Martin: Yeah. Uh huh. Well we did all our training here, over at Yona to go up to Iwo, which we did.

Q: Was it good training?

Martin: Oh yeah. Any training you get is good training.

Q: Where did you load the troop ships to go up to Iwo?

Martin: Down, I think, around what is Agat, down around there some place. But yeah, gee, I tell you, it all kind of gets blurred together because I didn't think I would ever be this close to the situation again. But for example when we swept down and came through Agonia, there was not a structure of any kind or size laying there, it was just all rubble.

--00:44:22 - 00:45:29

Q: Did the Japanese defend it? Were they defending it when you came up and it so you had to fight your way through?

Martin: No, by time we hit it, they had all pulled up north and they had a lot of, about 500 pound bombs, dug in across the area there where we were gonna stop that night. They were all at an angle with the plungers for the bombs up this way so that as a tank obstacle. And I was laying that night, I had a little foxhole there. I just laid down and had a nice sleep about six feet from a 500 pound bomb, didn't bother me a bit.

Q: You didn't know it though, did you?

Martin: Oh yeah. Oh, it was right there. Yeah. It wasn't- they weren't completely buried, they were just maybe half buried. Hell of a big row of them went all the way across this big field. But no, didn't bother anybody, I don't think any of them ever went off. The tanks would never go through there anyway. So that was about the size of that.

--00:45:30 - 00:46:24

Q: Did you ever hear of George Tweed?

Martin: Oh yeah, yeah. In fact, yeah, Navy radio man, yeah. In fact he was supposed to have given some information to us before we hit the beach.

Q: Now, did you hear about him after the war or while you were here?

Martin: At the time, yeah, at the time. Yeah. As a matter of fact, we were still at sea when we heard about him. I mean, when I say at sea, I mean maybe 100 yards out. There was not much firing. It was up at the very quiet end of the island.

Q: Yes, on the north end.

Martin: Yeah, I remember, I don't know, I think it was more like the south.

Q: Okay. No problem.

Martin: But I don't remember, I never did see him myself. But that was about it.

--00:46:24 - 00:47:12

Q: Were you directly involved in the capturing of any of the Japanese troops?

Martin: No, no. As a matter of fact, my outfit had a reputation of never taking a prisoner. Except we did take one. One time when the fighting was pretty much over, one of our cooks decided we were going to have something to eat so he went out in front of what you laughingly call the lines, to get a wild pig. They weren't really wild pigs, they were pigs that had been tamed and gone wild. So he went out there to get this pig. Well, there was a Jap out there trying to get the same pig he was, so he brought them both back. So he wrecked our reputation. We had a prisoner. Got pig too.

--00:47:15 - 00:48:39

Q: You mentioned you were armed with the M-1 and then farther along the line you picked up a BAR. At what point did you become a BAR man?

Martin: Well, off and on, whenever we were in the heat of a campaign, I wanted something that would throw out a lot of lead. As a matter of fact, one kind of interesting point there, when we were still patrolling to pick up stragglers and so forth, we were going down a very narrow trail in the jungle, we were just following this trail and as a BAR man, I was up front and I reached a point where, coming in from my right, all of a sudden a Japanese soldier came right there and we were only about as far apart as this man standing here, about ten feet. And I'm standing there like that with my BAR down and he's standing there with his arisaka rifle down there and he let a round go and it went right by my head. His rifle, thank God, jammed. With the BAR, you are supposed to, before you fire, you are supposed to tap the magazine to make sure it's seated. I hadn't done that, you know. And I pulled the trigger and nothing happened, but then I tapped it up and I let him have all 18 rounds.

Q: That's cutting it pretty thin.

Martin: Yeah.

--00:48:41 - 00:49:35

Q: After you left Guam and went to Iwo.

Martin: Yes.

Q: And you got through that campaign unscathed, without any problems?

Martin: Yeah, without a scratch. 3rd Division went right up the middle.

Q: Has to be one of the luckiest men in the world. Were you in the initial waves at all? Up there?

Martin: Yeah, went in, as I remember, it was February 19th, I think it was. Yeah, yeah. And then I was just there a short time, because that campaign didn't last that long. And then came back to Guam, say around the early part of March and then I was here, while we were training, to hit the mainland of Japan, and of which didn't happen, of course. And I was here then until I think it was November. And went home.

Q: You were here for when they dropped the bomb then?

Martin: Oh yeah.

--00:49:35 - 00:50:56

Q: How did you hear about that?

Martin: Well, I was in the little unit that had- I gotten sick from eating some bad fish that we had. I was the only one in our outfit that was much of a swimmer, so we used to get these quarter pound TNT blocks, throw them in the holes in the reef out there and these other guys were just taking- maybe every time you throw a block in, it would be about three or four fish would come floating to the top. So I had gotten a hold of a face mask, it was a new thing in those days, and it was made of leather. It wasn't- the outside was made of leather, not rubber. And so I used that and I said, geez, I says, for every two or three fish that come floating up to the top, Christ, there is ten or fifteen down below. It was only about maybe ten feet deep. And those holes in the reef would be roughly the size of the room we are in now. And so then I would get down there and geez, in about a couple of charges of TNT blocks, I would have a gunny sack full of fish. Well, I ate a bad one I guess. To make a long story short, I was in a little tent hospital for one day and that's the day they dropped the bomb on Hiroshima.

Q: Yeah.

Martin: Then I just went back to camp.

--00:50:56 - 00:51:30

Q: How did you hear about that?

Martin: Came over the armed forces radio.

Q: What did you think?

Martin: I thought, ah, can't be. That's a bunch of baloney, you know, there is no such bomb. Boy, was I glad there was.

Q: How about the second one, where were you for that?

Martin: I was still here on Guam. We heard about that. It was just, you know, what? Two or three days later?

Q: Yeah, three days.

Martin: Yeah.

Q: Same unit? Occupation, duty, and training for the attack?

Martin: My outfit? Yeah, we were still- we were preparing to hit the mainland of Japan.

--00:51:32 - 00:52:04

Q: If you could, tell us what you did. You said you were shipped in November? You went back to the States?

Martin: Yeah.

Q: November? Were you discharged then?

Martin: Well, my son had been born roughly ten days after I left the States the first time, the son that you met here. And so I didn't see him for two years. He was two years old by the time I got home and I was anxious to get home. They had mentioned before that, that they wanted me to go to OCS, but I didn't want any part of it. I wanted to get home and be with my family.

--00:52:05 - 00:53:04

Q: And what did you do then, after the war was over and your transition to civilian life?

Martin: Well, after I got home, you know, we were all looking for jobs. By then, by law, when you went into the service, that company had to take you back in and so I was in with the Bethlehem Steel Company for quite some time after that. And then I went, of all things, I went into the medical surgical supply business of which I knew absolutely zilch. And I had to learn that and I worked my way up there and one of the big medical surgical supplies companies and I was there for 20 years and then after 20 years they asked me to go to one of the major hospitals in San Francisco, which I did, and I was purchasing director there. And I was there until I retired. So-

--00:53:07 - 00:53:38

Q: Now we're going to get philosophical here for a minute.

Martin: Okay.

Q: What did your participation in the Guam campaign mean to you personally?

Martin: Well, to me personally, I felt that I was really doing some good for my country. I was always a gung-ho Marine I guess at heart and I felt that I was really doing some good, not only for the country, but for the people of Guam. And that gave me a lot of satisfaction.

--00:53:39 - 00:54:38

Q: Do you feel comfortable now back here visiting?

Martin: Well, I feel comfortable, but gee, I see so many changes. I don't even know my way around anymore. But it was just, yeah, it's fantastic to be here. The people have been wonderful and I'm really enjoying it.

Q: We are glad to have you.

Martin: Well, I'm glad to be here. Of course, as I always say, I'm glad to be anywhere.

Q: At your age, I guess that is true.

Martin: Yeah.

Q: Okay, very good. I appreciate very much your taking the time to become involved in this oral history program. You will get copies of this tape and we will make it and send it to you.

Martin: Oh, that's great. I appreciate your asking me. I feel honored.

Q: Don't be, we- we owe you, you don't owe us.

Martin: I never felt that way, really.

Q: Thanks again, Andy.

Martin: Okay.

Q: You're still wired so don't move.

Martin: I'm not used to having electrodes on me.

[END OF SESSION]