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Harvey William Tennant
July 22, 1994

Interview conducted by Al Miller
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Interviewee: Harvey William Tennant

Military Rank: Captain, 3rd Corps Motor Transport Battalion

Interviewer: Al Miller

Hilton Hotel, Guam

Date: July 22, 1994

--00:00:00 AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Narrator: Captain William Tennant is a Caucasian-American man with black-framed glasses wearing a beige button-up shirt. Behind him is a black wall and a palm frond.

Technician: Anytime you're ready.

--00:00:25

Q: My name is Al Miller, Historian at Anderson Air Force Base, and I'm here at the Hilton Hotel on Guam on July 22nd, 1994 at 1:15 PM to record an oral history interview with Mr. Harvey William Tennant.

Captain Tennant: Captain.

Q: With Captain Harvey William Tennant, who served in 3rd Corps Motor Transport Battalion, DUCKS, during World War II. This interview is being made by the National Park Service War in the Pacific National Historical Park in conjunction with Guam Cable Television.

Retired Captain Tennant, 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?

Captain Tennant: That's correct.

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Q: Captain Tennant, would you, for the record would you please tell us your full name.

Captain Tennant: My name is Harvey William Tennant.

Q: Sir, would you spell your last name?

Captain Tennant: T-E-N-N-A-N-T.

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

Captain Tennant: I was with the 3rd Corps Motor Transport Battalion. Corps Troops, 3rd—attached to the 3rd Ranged Division.

Q: What is your place of birth?

Captain Tennant: Cleveland, Ohio.

Q: When were you born, sir?

Captain Tennant: 3-April-1906

Q: Did you grow up in Cleveland?

Captain Tennant: No. At the age of 4 my mother-and my sister went back to Ireland.

Q: Did you go to school in Ireland?

Captain Tennant: Pardon?

Q: Did you go to school in Ireland?

Captain Tennant: Yes.

Q: How old were you when you returned to the States?

Captain Tennant: I was 17.

Q: You returned to Cleveland?

Captain Tennant: Yes.

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Q: When did you join the military?

Captain Tennant: On, ah-the day after my birthday. The 4th of April, 1927.

Q: What motivated you to join?

Captain Tennant: Well, I had made a buddy that was a sergeant that was under recruitment duty there in Cleveland. He talked me into it. Good, good sergeant.

Q: Would you give us a brief summary of your military career up until the invasion of Guam?

Captain Tennant: Oh Lord... Well, I graduated from boot camp. It was three months I went through training there and was me- they sent-to the main barracks Naval Ammunition Depot, Iona Island, New York. I stayed there doing guard duty and telephone, telephone operator about 10-9 months, and I decided that I wanted to see some of the Marine Corps besides

looking at buildings and nothing else. So I send in my enlistment for two years to go to Shanghai, China and I was-on the way to Shanghai, China, and I... instead doing guard duty aboard ship-they made me an assistant to the butcher, down in the butcher shop cutting up all the meat for the crew that was going up to China.

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And I went uh-well, in the meantime they thought that I was a cook because the only cook we had up at Paris Island got sick and the 1st Sergeant made me the, the cook, he and I did all the cooking until-regular cook got back on duty. And, so what happened uh-when the 1st Sergeant see a cook and now sees he is short a cook in Shanghai, they decided to put me into the Naval Hospital there, the hospital in Shanghai to be a night cook. I was just lost as a cook. So I decided I couldn't do anything. The first thing I made was soup here that curdled, and that was the end of the cooking in the hospital there. [Laughter from both]

Then they let me out so I went up before him and he said, well, it says in your book that was just a mistake because I'm not a cook. I never did go to cook or baker school, and, and I was just filling in and helping the 1st Sergeant to feed the-the detachment. But, ah-he says, okay, you're relieved, and he says, what would you like to do? I said I'd like to be a machine gunner. So they sent me to the company, machine gun company there in Shanghai. And about 8 or 9 months later they ordered me to Peking, China to the Security Detachment up there and I went to 38 Company and it was three companies, and the headquarters company up there. And, there was a machine gun company there but I-I really taught them how to use the machine gun up there between me and the-the gunnery sergeant that they had there. We-we taught the people how to use it proper, machine gun properly.

And... on April Fool's Day I was promoted to PFC but it was, I had about three years in, or almost four, I think. Yes, I think it was almost four years, but I was promoted PFC, after four years in the Marine Corps. But there was guys up there that had 20 years in and didn't make PFC and I thought that-it was a big joke, it was an April Fool joke. But it was no joke. And... [brief pause] my commanding officer up there was John W. Allison Jr. He's the author of uh-*Six Minutes* and the movie, that's the book that was written and a book that was, about six minutes was his doing.

So I was then, I was trying to go back to the States and the Department Pacific, ah, everybody coming back from China or Nicaragua, those places, had to go through the Department in the Pacific, in San Francisco to be assigned to duty station. And... they assigned me to the, um-the Crew Depot, San Diego, California, and so I was going to be a

DI. Well, I was a DI alright for about three years. Almost three years.

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Q: So that was where you went to basic training also, wasn't it, San Diego?

Captain Tennant: Yeah. I... I got to be a pretty good DI. So, then I shipped over in the meantime those people were—the bad times were starting. And I thought it was a bad time to get out of the Marine Corps so I- I decided to reenlist and what happened there, the next thing I know I was transferred to the U.S.S. Arkansas, a battleship, to the marine detachment on there. And that was the-the best years of my life on that, that battleship there because we made—every year we made a trip to Europe at different places here, with the midshipmen from the Academy. And we'd train them in the guns, and then-but I was a gun captain aboard the ship here, and the number 2 gun with a 5-inch battery. And one experience I had down there, I'll never forget, they—[unintelligible] supposed to ram it out with a wet rag here, after you fired a round. He didn't do it right and, when they put a bag in the bag busted and I really grabbed it all up and put it back in there only missed one buzzer, which was unheard of to get-get a round off that fast. But I did. And I made Sergeant. Oh-by the way, I made Corporal when I was training the recruits before I reenlisted. But uh-when I got aboard the, 6 months after I got aboard the Arkansas the vacancy come up for a Sergeant, on there and I passed the highest in the examination and was promoted to Sergeant. And then when I got off of the Arkansas—I was on there over three years—when I got off of that I was sent back down to the 10th Marines because I was a 105, 155 Battery. Because I was well versed in sighting and training with guns from aboard ship. And I stayed in the 10th Marines for... let's say four years, and then I made Platoon Sergeant.

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Q: Where were the 10th Marines, sir?

Captain Tennant: 10th Marines was an artillery.

Q: Where?

Captain Tennant: Same-San Diego.

Q: San Diego.

Captain Tennant: And, ah... then I got promoted to Platoon Sergeant and then when, right after I was promoted to Platoon Sergeant they ordered me to Pearl Harbor in the Marine bar-barracks, that's actually in Pearl Harbor, to train the officers and enlisted men in the new drill, which was coming out, it was a 12-man squad [unintelligible]. You line them up 12 men straight instead of the four and four. And I was well versed in that, too because I trained one or two platoons in that drill before they graduated. And they-before I got all through with them they decided that they weren't going to go with this new drill, both the Army and the Marine Corps, that they wanted to go, it wasn't feasible and it wasn't. Stupid thing to line 12 men up in a row, really. To me because all you had to do is get a machine gun here, in the right position and you got 12 men instead of 1. [Weak laughter]

You know? So... Then I, my 1st Sergeant died up in Pride detachment and they decided to give me a chance... there to be an acting 1st Sergeant, and Eddie Mullin was the 1st Sergeant of A Company, so, I got under Eddie's wing. If something I didn't know I'd have to go to Eddie to find out what was wrong and what to do about it. So between that and the first thing I know I would, I made 1st Sergeant. And I turned out to be a pretty good one.

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Q: How long did you do that?

Captain Tennant: Oh... I was a 1st Sergeant and like, I come back to the States and that's when they, when—oh yeah. I was ordered in back to the States and I went to the uh-[unintelligible]—my memory's getting me here. Trying to get all the dates and everything. Let's see. That's when I went to the 7th Defense Battalion. It was aircraft, anti aircraft, and then I they-they finally changed them here to strafes artillery as well as anti aircraft. You could shoot either way. And I made one officer there. That was in 1938, '39. [Crosstalk] It's hard to go back and it's hard to keep it in sequence.

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Q: Did you have any particularly interesting things happen to you as a 1st Sergeant?

Captain Tennant: Well, I got a lot of commendations. Eh-paymaster must have told me I was the best, the best 1st Sergeant in the Marine Corps, that I had the best payroll and I never gipped a guy out of a penny, or gave them a penny too much. And I also taught, a lot of people here in clerical work and things like that. While I was learning. It was, it was a thrill. But I was studying pretty hard to be that.

And the 7th Defense Battalion, then we-were ordered out of the States down to American Samoa and we'd been down there for—we just, we were going to be close to the artillery there because we had 6-inch guns. There was a mountain up in the Apia Harbor there and we'd just about got every one of them and just set in, we hadn't bore sighted them yet because we ready when we were shelled by the Japanese, and this was after Pearl Harbor. They shelled us the night of the-what was the 20th or 21st of December. And the families had been down there. That scared the hell out of all the women. And my wife, at that time, she got so scared that a blood vessel busted in her brain... and she had to go into a hospital after she come back to the States. I didn't know what had happened to her. [Brief pause]

But we're up to the war now, aren't we?

--00:16:23

Q: Yes, sir.

Captain Tennant: But I stayed with the 7th Defense and the 1st Sergeant, Bruno A. Hochmuth, who was a Major General later on in Vietnam that got killed in Vietnam, he and I got along great. He was the best, well he was a Captain at the time and then they boosted up and he recommended me for-for a commission. And I got promoted to 2nd Lieutenant there.

And then, that's when the fun started. I had-to teach a lot of people here how to

administrative work and then also gunnery work and—

Q: Was this still on American Samoa?

Captain Tennant: No.

Q: This is British Samoa?

Captain Tennant: Yes. We moved from Bri-American Samoa over to British Samoa. That's when the 2nd Defense-not the 2nd Defense-the 2nd Division, come in and relieved us there because they were going into Guadalcanal. And we moved from American Samoa over to British Samoa and that 2nd Division stayed on American Samoa.

And I got promoted to Warrant Officer on Bri-British Samoa.

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Q: Then where did you go?

Captain Tennant: That's what I'm trying to think - what happened there. Oh. I got promoted to 2nd Lieutenant then I got orders to, to be shipped back to the United States to be the Adjutant of the 3rd Corps Motor Transport Battalion, so they couldn't assign me to any other outfit here, that's why they put a sign from Headquarters, Marine Quarters, I was to be the Adjutant of that Battalion. Nobody else could shove me out of that. So... that's where—I stayed with that battalion until we moved out of the States in 30, it was around 30 March. Yeah. 30 March we moved out of the United States and moved to New Caledonia and stayed on New Caledonia for about six to eight months and... I was still—no, I wasn't a warrant officer then I was [unintelligible]. Hmm. [Thinking]. Oh, let me see. [Brief pause]

We-we done all the hauling for the 3rd Division from ammunition, boats and supplies and everything getting there-from the time just before the Bougainville invasion there. And it was there the night that they blew up the four destroyers, the Jap got the four destroyers, or not destroyers, they were uh—

--00:20:07

Q: Light cruisers?

Captain Tennant: Light cruisers up in Bougainville. They knew they were coming in; didn't get out of the way. That's where the four brothers died that same night. But I stayed with the 3rd Corps Motor Transport Battalion for the rest of the way until I come back after, after Guam.

Q: Were you the Adjutant all this time?

Captain Tennant: I was the only-Adjutant all the time.

Q: For those of us who uh-aren't familiar with those terms, Adjutant in those days was like an executive officer [Unintelligible -- Cross-talk]—

Captain Tennant: Yes, he's an executive officer because he gets—all the mail comes in to the Sergeant Major, and the Sergeant Major often goes to the Adjutant. The Adjutant sends the notes where it's supposed to go and also take it up to the Commanding Officer and he makes his notes and gives all of it back to the Sergeant Major gets the answers, replies or anything else done, and gets the signatures put on it.

--00:22:20

Q: So that brings us up to the invasion of Guam.

Captain Tennant: Yes. That's where we were, the invasion of Guam.

Q: If you will, take us back to W-Day.

Captain Tennant: W-Day? What's W-Day?

Q: The invasion. Today we invaded Guam.

Captain Tennant: Oh.

Q: July 21st, 1944.

Captain Tennant: Yeah... Three weeks before we were due to come out, leave Guadalcanal to come to Guam, they decided to change us from Motor, uh-uh, Motor Transport Battalion to a ducks battalion. They took all our trucks away for us to get as ducks from the Army and we had to train, night and day, how the hell to run them things and... we didn't take long. We learned.

Q: Would you describe a duck.

Captain Tennant: The duck was a, it's a truck. You can go 60 miles an hour on the freeway with it, or you can go 8-10 knots, on the water, fully loaded.

So we-we had three battalions of them and left one of them back and went to [unintelligible]. They stayed there on that—there was a supply depot there for the fleet when we were moving up.

Q: Did the ducks carry any protection? Was there any armor plating?

Captain Tennant: There was no—there was no armor plating on them or anything. You are just subject to anything. That's why they did away with them. See, they sold of all of them things here to people that—that — they're a fine recreation boat for lakes or even salt water.

Q: Recreation boat [laughs.]

Captain Tennant: What?

Q: You were a sitting duck.

Captain Tennant: You were a sitting duck is what you were. Now where do we want to go from there? What happened on D-Day?

--00:23:27

Q: The day you invaded Guam.

Captain Tennant: Well-oh, the day I invaded Guam, well, wait a minute, before we left Guadalcanal we, ah, we were at sea for about 60 days, you know, on LST's. It was tough riding them with no bunks and air in the cargo bay is all full of ducks, you know? You're either stuck in a duck-or whatever. But, ah... we finally got up there, I think that's—what kind of invasion was going on at that time here, which was it really? I can't seem to remember all of these. There was another—Tanniwa- Tanniwa, uh-I think. Something. But anyway I was in the third wave going in and I had this one duck there for myself and I also had a jeep, assigned but I got the uh-established the CP on the beach there and all the ducks come into that point and then we'd shoot them out where they were needed, whatever the supplies were needed for anything. But half of the battalion went with the brigade and then the other half stayed up in Agana.

Well when it was all over oh... let's back up a little bit there. Before I left Guadalcanal my orders hadn't come in because I'd been on foreign duty for 38 months, and they ordered me back to the States see. Well, well-I opened the letters and I told my 1st Sergeant, I says, don't you put that, put that down below and don't you open that until I'm out at sea because I'm not going back to the States after 38 months without a battle star. So. {Brief pause}.

But as soon as the war was over—as soon as they declared the island safe they ordered me with all the detachment that were left over there at headquarters and the dock and we had our own medical battalion too, see with us. So I took on all the people back and the rest of them stayed on Guam there and actually made the invasion of Iwo Jima. See, I thought I was going to go to Iwo Jima but I didn't, see. Sent that order that got me back after Major Hanor [Phonetic] found out that I was ah, ordered back to States instead they let him go. But he didn't know he was going to go to Iwo Jima, either. [Light laughter] But that's when I come back and like to froze to death. They sent me to depot supplies in Philadelphia. And made me—I was supposed to go there as the Adjutant. I was ordered there as an Adjutant. Well, somebody from headquarters [unclear] from the Marine Corps come down and he was

sitting in as an Adjutant while I was recorded in, so they were getting short of women in there. They were getting short of paper ladies to run that so they decided to make me—for a while I did regular duties, as a guard officer around the depot and ran all the—I did, I had the, ah-what in the world did they call that detachment? Anyways, it was the service company is what it was. Is what the administrative end of the depot supply in Philadelphia.

--00:28:01

Q: Could we go back for a minute to your invasion of Guam?

Captain Tennant: Yes.

Q: I believe you have some interesting stories to tell us about uh-your adventures with the duck, and a hospital ship?

Captain Tennant: Yes, I did. On D-Day night we were ordered to secure the—no ship was, no duck was to go out and none could come in after a certain hour. It was 5 o'clock I think. And, about 4:30 here comes a truck down off of the hill right up in front of us here with 9 wounded people on there. They couldn't take them into the hospital and everyone said to get them out to the hospital ship. But the hospital ship was out 9 miles and I said I'll take them out. I had no drivers, but I was the only one knew how to drive it, left. So I took it down and I took a PFC with me and to tie up the boat, you know, when you got in there. And when I got to the ship, and the Captain and Exec. Officers were standing up on the top side there and looking down and the Executive Officer said, you've got to take that man back there and bury him in the ground. I said, well, he's still breathing. Let's send him up here and let a doctor look at him. I said he just come off of the hill wounded into my duck here, so I have no place else to take him. He said take him back. I says, please take him. So the Captain then turned around, he says, send him aboard. Crew clapped and I sent him aboard.

Well I ran into one of them just on this trip here, he comes aboard when I boarded the plane out of Honolulu and sat down by me and he says, you had the ducks? I says, yes. And then I says, wait a minute. I said to him what do you know about ducks? He says well a duck

saved my life. And I says, it did? So I talked to him and he said, well he finally decided well here I was the guy that saved his life.

--00:30:32

Q: You were the one that took it upon yourself to take him out there close to curfew?

Captain Tennant: Yes- yes. I took it upon myself. They couldn't do anything with him because – [unintelligible] all hell was breaking loose around even shells were landing all around us. We were really getting banged there. The hospital was hit pretty bad. I had one guy running down the beach here and he-he's with me here. So two out of the 9 is accounted for. I don't know what happened to the other 7, but I know some of them had their legs off. One guy had his hand off. He had 7 Japanese sabers hanging on the other arm but whether he got them all himself I don't know, but he had them.

Q: Did you have any other adventures on Guam?

Captain Tennant: Well yes I, when, ah-three or four, let's see about during the first week we decided, that we should try and get in contact with the, with the B Company that was attached to the brigade going in on Agana, not on Agana at the main barracks there, whatever, invaded there and went behind the old... They were building a new power house and as we gone by there seemed like a lot of cases in there and we stopped the jeep and what did, was the case but it was all loaded with, ah-what's that Japanese drink?

Q: Sake?

Captain Tennant: Vodki, yes.

Q: Sake?

Captain Tennant: Sake. Loaded with Sake. And something else. I won't say it on the record.

-00:32:35

Q: What happened after Guam? I believe you went to Guadalcanal? Again?

Captain Tennant: I went back to Guadalcanal and came back to the States, that's-that's when I went to the depot-supplies.

Q: Philadelphia.

Captain Tennant: Yeah,

Q: If we could, can we go back to the early 1930's when you were a Marine Drill Instructor in San Diego.

Captain Tennant: Yes.

-00:32:57

Q: What was life like during the Depression in the military?

Captain Tennant: Well, on 20, a private on 20 dollars, and 80 cents. It wasn't a luxurious life. You could be broke here the next morning. [Laughter]

Q: What was your marital status at the time?

Captain Tennant: I was still single. You couldn't get married in the Marine Corps. You had to be a Sergeant or above to be married. And here I was a Corporal. See I didn't get promoted to Sergeant until I went aboard the Arkansas.

Q: Do you remember where you went after Philadelphia?

Captain Tennant: I don't know. Ohhh-I got sick in Philadelphia. Had to go to the hospital for a while and then they decided the Adjutant had decided that I'd better get transferred out and see if I could get a better duty. So, they sent me on I&I duty at Orlando, Florida.

That was training, training reserve units.

Q: Training them with a particular weapon system or, as...?

Captain Tennant: Well, they were an Amtrak battalion, see, I didn't have too much experience in Amtraks but I was doing the administrative work for the, for the battalion because the reserve didn't have any administrative work. They had administrative work but they had nobody that could handle it very well.

Q: So you were back to the Adjutant field again?

Captain Tennant: What's that?

Q: You were back to being an Adjutant? Doing more paperwork?

Captain Tennant: No, not an Adjutant. I had—oh, Lord, we're way off here. Uhh... After that, after the return from the hospital in Philadelphia I - was ordered to be reduced to Master Sergeant again, they were working back, and sent back to San Diego to finish up my enlistment, see-there. So I re-enlisted in San Diego as a Master Sergeant.

-00:35:36

Q: What was your rank prior to being reduced to Master Sergeant?

Captain Tennant: I was a Captain. Went from Captain to Master Sergeant. You don't think that's a joke. After 20 some odd years, you know. And I went to... I was assigned to the 2nd Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina as the Personnel Sergeant Major there. During that time there they were sending them out to, what was it, Korea? Or was it Vietnam? No, it was—

Q: Korea.

Captain Tennant: Korea. They were sending them out to Korea and I had to ship them all

out the West Coast. and the Sergeant Major got in some kind of trouble there and I wound up the Sergeant Major, Rear Echelon, 2nd Division. Had a Sergeant Major and they whipped the division, you see, there was a forward and I was the rear Echelenon. We did all the administrative work for the division in the back.

Q: When they, when you were reduced from Captain to Master Sergeant why was that? Was that because of a reduction in force at the end of the war?

Captain Tennant: They were reducing, a reduction in force, yeah..

Q: Okay.

Captain Tennant: And they were just cutting down on the Marine Corps. My health started breaking down then. God, I went through an awful lot of trouble with bronchitis and sinusitis. They tore my sinuses out of my head. Then they decided the best place for me to go was to go on down the I&I duty and try and recuperate, but going to Orlando, Florida was just murder. It was worse than up at Lejeune.

-00:37:47

Q: It was worse on your sinuses?

Captain Tennant: Yes. On the sinuses. Yes. I put in to, to retire with 26 year's service and instead of that they ordered me into the hospital here before a board of medical survey and I was surveyed and got discharged. I think it was—I don't know what the date was. Now I can't remember. It was sometime in March of—

Q: Early 60's?

Captain Tennant: Early 60's. Yes. But anyway I shipped over... and then-they, I appeared before the Board of Medical Survey and was retired with 40 percent disability. Then I went up to San Diego and moved up to Los Gatos. There was an old friend of mine there looking for whether I was going to live up there or what. And he was, oh, a Chief in the Navy that I

met and was buddies with in Pearl Harbor before the war started. And then, I finally bought a house up in Los Gatos and started selling real estate. Selling real estate up there for quite a while and then finally my wife decided that we should move back to San Diego because both of her sisters lived in San Diego. Well she died in San Diego. I mean, in San Diego... yeah

-00:39:42

Q: Tell us about your part in this Marine statue here on the island.

Captain Tennant: Well, in 19—when was it. In 1993 I come out here with [unintelligible] O'Brien brought a group of, he collected—I think it was in Philadelphia that he decided that he had to take a bunch of us on a tour of Guam, Saipan, and Tinian. And I come out here and I got, meantime I got remarried and um... as I went along I looked at all the islands here and, my God- Saipan was nothing on there, and Tinian was worse, and then when I got to Guam here it, it was awful here. There was nothing here remarkable, whether we'd ever seen the place. No historical monuments, anything up here. So I said to [unclear] (to Mr. O'Brien) I said, I'm coming back here one of these days and I'm going to put a monument on this place. And I kept it, the man of my word. I decided I'd put \$100 on the next time I had a meeting and I says, come on, pile on this here. So, and I wrote over—I know I wrote over 3,000 letters to people here requesting funds from ex-Marines that I knew. I got a roster from one of the, ah, the Secretary of the Association here of all the ones—and he got it from Headquarters of Marine Corps and gave it, gave it to me and I went through that thing like a fine-toothed comb here trying to find out who'd give me some money. Well I finally managed to get, ha, oh, it was up to around \$13,000, when I decided to turn that over to the Association and let them carry the ball from then, from there on to get the monument and who would, ah, decided where it went. So they took that over from me and I turned all the money over to them and uh-that's where it started.

-00:42:25

Q: How many years was it from the time you plopped that \$100 down on the table until the monument was put up in 1974? When did you start this campaign?

Captain Tennant: Well, I started the campaign at the, '93. '93—'97 was when I-I turned it over.

Q: The monument's still there?

Captain Tennant: The monument was put up and that's when we come back in 1994. We made it after the—that's when we dedicated that monument that's up there today.

Q: That's today?

Captain Tennant: That's right. Today, we added some more to that monument.

Q: Did the Guam campaign have any special meaning for you?

Captain Tennant: Did it have what?

Q: Did the Guam campaign have any special meaning for you?

Captain Tennant: Well, it had a lot of meaning for me because a lot of people that I knew got killed here. You know, I had been in the Marine Corps, what, 14 years. I- I ran into a lot of guys. Son Marvin, he gotten a slug-got killed going up the hill right in front of me there. He was a freelance, um, Jap hunter, looking for snipers. He was a counter sniper you'd call him, because he was a good rifle shot, but he, he hit the wrong one and got killed there. Then we, what's his name [unintelligible]—my memory's bad. I'm getting too old.

-00:44:35

Q: Did the fact that it was technically United States soil, affect your feelings?

Captain Tennant: Well, I knew that we had captured this and spent thousands of lives here captured in this thing here and it meant, something to have—that we should—they should've done that before I ever walked around that ground. Should've been up there. But I'm glad they did it... and I've come back here at this point—well, actually this is my fourth

time coming to Guam. The first time was 1929 going to China, and the next time was when I come on that tour in 1973.

-00:45:28

Q: If we learned anything from World War II what would that be in your opinion?

Captain Tennant: Hmm. That's a tough question. Well, don't let your guard down for one thing. Be aware of what's going on. We should never have lost all them people in Pearl Harbor. Never. Oh, and I had duty in Pearl Harbor twice because I went back there later. This is going to be- jumbled up here. Yes, I went back. I was Security at Fort Pacific.

Q: You were at Pearl before it was attacked, right?

Captain Tennant: I was at Pearl before because I was the-the Sergeant Major—I mean, the 1st Sergeant in attached detachment before that, but then after the war I come back to Pearl again as, I was the, um, Personnel Sergeant Major for all forces in the Pacific. For a while I was attached, barracks detachment. They finally put me up at Camp Smith.

Q: Were there any other interesting stories about your military career that you'd like to relate?

Captain Tennant: Oh, offhand I don't know. I've had a wonderful, wonderful time. I, I don't resent or regret a moment that I spent in the Marine Corps. I met thousands of buddies and at the same time I put that monument up there I made a lot more friends. And I'm glad I did it.

Q: Well, you spearheaded it and I'm happy to see it was culminated and that you could see that.

Captain Tennant: Pardon?

Q: I'm happy to see that you could see it in its culmination and its dedication this week.

Captain Tennant: Well I, I've seen the dedication. I was part of the dedication.

Q: Correct.

--00:48:10

Captain Tennant: And I want to donate the bell that I rang at that dedication to the, Marine Corps, the 3rd Marine Division Chapter of Guam. That's their bell from now on to ring, for either the people that died on Guam or for anybody that dies in that Chapter, they can have that for—that's been something I've been doing at every convention for the last 10-12 years as a [unclear]. I say, "Not here, sir," and ring two bells. Now somebody else can do that because I- I'm getting too old. I'm getting crippled up.

Q: Captain Tennant, I appreciate you taking the time to be with us today, and on behalf of the National Park Service, I sincerely thank you.

Captain Tennant: Thank you.

[END OF SESSION]

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