

**Video Recording Log**  
**Veteran Perry Rannebarger**

**1. Name and address of collector of interviewer.**

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

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

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

**3. Recording format**

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

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

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

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

00:00 Introduction  
00:30 Family—farming after high school  
01:24 Draft  
02:06 Drafted to infantry in Illinois National Guard—Camp Grant, Chicago  
02:48 Basic training—Camp Forrest, TN  
03:10 Basic training—maneuvers--Arkansas--Louisiana  
03:45 Some men not as trained later in war—needed replacements  
04:40 131<sup>st</sup> Regiment of National Guard—Non Com's—Chicago, IL  
05:06 Pearl Harbor—was out for the weekend, returned to camp  
05:27 Transferred to 132<sup>nd</sup> Regiment—Task force for South Pacific  
06:02 Traveled to New York City—Santa Rosa luxury liner ship—to Panama Canal and to South Pacific  
07:00 Japanese were taking islands  
07:15 Went to Australia—took 30 days  
07:20 One submarine scare  
07:55 Melbourne, Australia—Japanese flying over—spent night in a park  
08:34 Train to Ballarat—regiment housed with civilians—6814 task force  
09:15 Generals, Colonels, helter skelter—rush job

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- 09:50 Went to Ballarat to get away from ports—two weeks
- 10:15 Traveling—living with family—similar to American family
- 11:13 Went to New Caledonia—thought Japanese would go there, but they didn't—stayed there a year building fox holes, guarding ports and everything
- 12:03 Navy—Coral Sea Battle—determined supremacy for South Pacific—U.S. won
- 12:35 Things started to open for U.S. forces
- 12:40 Marines in Guadalcanal—isolated, living on their own—no support, getting bombed, Japanese on the island
- 13:42 Stood guard most of the time—a lot of mosquitoes
- 14:07 Natives on island did odd jobs, helped—friendly—French islands, spoke English—Was like a vacation being there
- 14:53 Moved to Guadalcanal to clean Japanese off of island by Henderson Field—relieved Marines that were there
- 16:00 Hill 27--"Mount Austin"--1<sup>st</sup> step—learned a lot there—received a battle star—rifleman
- 16:40 His company in lead—several hills and lots of jungle—main camp area
- 17:30 Japanese snipers
- 17:50 Japanese sent up waves of men to get Americans out—did not want Americans to take hill
- 18:15 All happened in one day
- 18:25 Used almost all ammunition for American troops
- 18:35 Held the hill—took lots of losses—terrible—[compares to Iraq]
- 19:10 Maintained control of hill—Japanese moved in other forces—Americans thought they were only ones there, but weren't—engaged more Japanese soldiers
- 19:47 Losing a lot of men on both sides—Japanese strategy was take hill back or die—Americans took very few prisoners—Not enough men or ammunition on either side
- 21:10 Generals doing plotting—thought National Guard men did not know how to fight—made regular Army men do all the fighting
- 21:55 Scouting parties needed radio men—volunteered
- 22:35 Going out with other companies--"double jeopardy"--got out of it somehow
- 23:00 Scouting parties—locating Japanese
- 23:25 Story: Americans finding natives in jungle, did not know they were on island
- 24:55 Marine Regiment—after Coral Sea battle—sent to help on coast with Japanese
- 25:23 Story: trip to Lunga Point—beyond scared—landing boats—Japanese plane flew over—could not land because so many Japanese—landed eventually—walked all day—could not reach anyone by radio
- 28:58 Japanese began evacuating—got about 1,800 men out—went down next morning and found only the sick and dead left behind—no battle, lucky break
- 29:40 Lucky breaks
- 29:55 End of Guadalcanal campaign— island secured—was on island about 6 months—busy most of the time
- 31:03 Japanese having a hard time on other islands—low on troops and supplies—submarines
- 32:00 Sent back to Fiji island for R & R—came down with Malaria—books: Orchids in Mud, Under the Southern Cross—Americal Division—Southern Cross for shoulder patch
- 33:25 Fiji, Malaria—sent back to field artillery outfit
- 33:50 Sent to San Francisco to do guard duty for "nuts"--out of the guardhouse

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- 34:15 Back to San Fransisco—2 weeks leave
- 34:35 Fort Bliss, TX—nice time—office boy for Civilian who ran maintenance on trucks—Mexican workers at Fort Bliss--at Fort Bliss, TX 6 months
- 36:18 Assembling men to go to France—did not want to go—no danger because after Battle of the Bulge—sending men as replacements
- 37:15 Went from France to Camp McCoy in Wisconsin—discharged 1945
- 37:30 In France about 4 months—got out in October 1945
- 37:58 In France when both wars ended—everybody dancing in the streets
- 38:21 Books that son found about Americal Division—what happened to them after he came down with Malaria—went all the way to Japan— Bougainville battle pretty much wiped them out—replacements—guard duty and occupation in Japan
- 39:05 Some of men he served with on Guadalcanal may have been through worst battles
- 39:25 In South Pacific 3 years—went to war with no argument—ready to go somewhere—not homesick
- 40:05 Went back to Saybrook, IL—married--started having family
- 40:55 Got a job at Chevrolet garage in Rantoul, IL—worked there four years—went to Champaign to work for Chevrolet another 4 years
- 41:20 Decided he did not want to be a mechanic—home study course on television and radio—went to work at television shop—worked there 22 years
- 42:20 Selling televisions, suppliers, Zena, televisions
- 43:07 Repairing televisions 22 years—boss retired--then job at Sears in the mall for 7 years
- 43:58 Retired early—been retired 20 years—time going fast
- 44:30 Moved to MO
- 45:50 Had a stroke October, 1997—went back to IL—Champaign
- 47:12 Wrap-up, Panama Canal