

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Veteran's Name: Maurice Flynn

Interviewer: David Meyer (O'Shea)

Date of Interview: August 7, 2010, Cambridge Reunion

Transcriber: Carol Slezak

Transcribed: September 6, 2021

Interviewer: I'm David Meyer, son of Early D. Meyer; Company H, 379th, 95th Infantry. And tonight is August 7, 2010. We're in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and I'm with the Flynn family—James Flynn and Mrs. Flynn. And I have the great privilege of talking to, Sir could you say your full name?

Maurice Flynn: Maurice J. Flynn.

Interviewer: And what company were you with?

Maurice Flynn: A Company, 378th.

Interviewer: What's your birth date?

Hazel [wife]: 9/5/23.

Maurice Flynn: September 5, 1923.

Interviewer: And where were you born?

Maurice Flynn: In Huntington, West Virginia.

Interviewer: Do you remember where you were when you heard about the Pearl Harbor attack?

Maurice Flynn: Yes I do. Sunday. I was in my house and had the radio on, and I heard.

Interviewer: Did you know where Pearl Harbor was?

Maurice Flynn: Just vaguely.

Interviewer: You were around 17 years old?

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, like that.

Interviewer: How long after that did you join the service?

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Maurice Flynn: Very soon. Very soon.

Interviewer: Did your parents want you to go?

Maurice Flynn: Well, they had no—they didn't hinder me or anything else. They always supported anything I wanted to do.

Interviewer: Why did you choose the army? Or did you?

Maurice Flynn: Hazel's father was in the army, from 1915, right on through. And so when I joined the service, I thought I should be good to join the same service that her father was in.

Maurice Flynn: No, no. No, no. I was still very busy in school. Really wanting to get my education complete and get out and go.

Interviewer: So you were still finishing high school?

Hazel: No, you were in college.

Interviewer: What were you studying?

Maurice Flynn: Law.

Interviewer: When did you finally join the army?

Hazel: About '43, wasn't it?

Maurice Flynn: About 1943.

Interviewer: Did you join in the spring, in the summer—do you remember?

Maurice Flynn: Don't recall the time. But I could look that up.

Interviewer: Where did you go first?

Maurice Flynn: Well, I went to the military place.

Interviewer: Basic training?

Maurice Flynn: No.

Maurice Flynn: A group of my friends got together and started to do exercises and things like that to be ready.

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Hazel: But you did get basic training. You went for basic training.

James [son]: He was thinking he was going to fly an airplane.

Interviewer: Oh, you wanted to fly an airplane?

Maurice Flynn: [Laughs.] ...

[Time 5:00]

Interviewer: Flying an airplane would be great. A lot of people I talk to—.

Maurice Flynn: Well, here's the way it went. When I was in the reserve I was going to school and I had deferments. And the time came when they needed help. And they called me right in the middle of one of my semesters, and I got the credit for that semester. And I went on and I went to training in.

Hazel: Sheppard Field. Sheppard Field, Texas.

Maurice Flynn: Sheppard Field, Texas.

Interviewer: Were you two together?

Hazel: We weren't married, but—.

Maurice Flynn: We were very, very close.

Hazel: We weren't married until after the war.

Maurice Flynn: Yeah. We were getting acquainted.

Hazel: But they sent him to Pullman, Washington, for the, it was in that program.

Maurice Flynn: That was later, later.

Interviewer: So, first you go to Texas, and what do you do in Texas.

Maurice Flynn: That was basic training, 17 months.

Interviewer: Did that agree with you, the physical training?

Maurice Flynn: Oh yeah, oh yeah. I was ready for it.

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Hazel: And then they suddenly needed the infantry. Remember? They sent almost all of you guys to California. Didn't you go to training in California?

Maurice Flynn: When I finished that basic training, and the notion of flight, I made application to get into training. It was a unit that was formed in Washington State College, in Pullman, Washington, and I went there and they had classes, education, so on, on education and flying. And we got training, and I got to fly. And actually do a lot of flying.

And I finished that training from front to back. And I'm very fortunate because soon after that was disbanded because they needed people to get into the training that they had before. So I was returned from the air service to the infantry. And I went back to training for second basic, expanded, expanded, very informative. And then when I graduated that, they put me into a unit to be going to Europe to be enrolled in one of the units. And I got into the 95th Division.

Interviewer: In Europe?

Maurice Flynn: In Europe.

Interviewer: So you went to a flight school, the first part of that, and then Washington, and then they needed you for the infantry?

Hazel: Fort Jackson in South Carolina. That was one place you went. Because I went down there and visited you.

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, Fort Jackson. That probably was the second phase. Because it was a basic training center. I was in that, and I was doing the drills and the hikes and all that stuff.

Interviewer: What ship did you take to Europe?

Maurice Flynn: Oh, I ought to be able to remember that.

Hazel: We talked about it today. It was the Mauretania, back on the Mariposa.

Interviewer: So it was the Mauretania there, and back on the Mariposa.

Maurice Flynn: Huge, huge boat. Had almost 15,000 people.

Interviewer: Fifteen thousand people.

Maurice Flynn: Yes.

Interviewer: Did you get seasick, or were you okay?

Maurice Flynn: Okay.

Interviewer: But you saw others get seasick?

Maurice Flynn: Possibly.

Interviewer: You were lucky, it didn't bother you?

Maurice Flynn: No.

Interviewer: And it dropped you off in England?

Maurice Flynn: Well, on this ship we were all headed for England, and we landed in the northerly portion.

Hazel: Liverpool?

Maurice Flynn: Liverpool. And then we were shipped south. To a collection place.

Interviewer: And when you got to France, did you take a boat there?

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, the boat—.

Hazel: He landed three months after D-Day.

Maurice Flynn: Stopped in England, and we were again in a much smaller boat, but going to the front. To the units that were active army and on the continent.

Interviewer: But you still weren't assigned to the 95th yet?

Maurice Flynn: No.

Interviewer: So you landed on Normandy 60 or 80 days after D-Day, is that right? You landed on Omaha Beach?

Hazel: You landed on Omaha Beach.

Maurice Flynn: Well, when they segregated me from my training in the army, I went to the 95th Division.

Interviewer: Okay. Once you were in Normandy.

Maurice Flynn: Mmhmm.

Interviewer: And what was your main job in the war? Were you a rifleman, or what did you do?

Maurice Flynn: I was a rifleman.

Hazel: He carried a BAR for a while.

Interviewer: You carried a Browning Automatic Rifle?

Maurice Flynn: Oh yeah.

James: One guy got hit, and the commander gave you the weapon and said, Here, you take it.

Interviewer: Tell me that story.

Maurice Flynn: Well, we were all basic training, full army.

War. Activity. And when I got to England, I was there a short number of days and then I was assigned to that unit. And funny thing—to me—I was in a jeep myself with a driver. And I went right straight to that division.

And it was a division that had been under an officer that had been handling as an administrative duty, personnel, two units.

And he had seen so much of that that he had all the necessary connections to be assigned commanding general of an army unit.

A whole—you know, that division. So there I was, that's where I went.

And I was there on that day, rearranging my personals and so forth, like that. You know, you can't carry a lot of crap. You had to have the gun, and the training.

Interviewer: And the backpack, and your rations.

Maurice Flynn: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: Did you go on the forty-and-eight trains across France?

Maurice Flynn: Umm.

Interviewer: Did you go to Metz?

Maurice Flynn: Oh no, oh no. When I got there, I was assigned to that division, wherever it was, in—actually they had been engaged. That general that had been assigned to that, he had

them in training in the United States under his supervision, getting them ready to be an army unit.

Interviewer: And you joined up with them in Europe, right?

Maurice Flynn: Yes. I was there three days and placed in the company.

Interviewer: You're A/378th.

Maurice Flynn: Mmhmm.

Hazel: Tell him about your frozen feet.

Maurice Flynn: They didn't have enough boots for people coming to be the resistance. That was the worst winter they had in Europe. And my feet became frozen. I had to continue going until they had the boots and put me in the hospital. My feet had gotten frozen.

James: Lucky you didn't lose them.

Maurice Flynn: That's right. It was very, very painful. Defrosting.

Interviewer: Now, did he write you during this time? Did you know he had frostbite?

Hazel: Haze: Not then, not then. Not until later.

Maurice Flynn: You know, it would be very—.

Hazel: The doctor told him that he didn't know what would happen. He'd have to wait and see them fall off. And then they would find out.

Maurice Flynn: If you wouldn't mind, I'd like to take my shoes off and you can see the deformation. You want me to do it?

Interviewer: Sure, you can do that. I'll help. Thank you for offering to do that. Because you know, it's all about the truth.

Hazel: He was lucky. He was lucky.

Maurice Flynn: I was. I was very lucky.

Hazel: You didn't have to be amputated.

Maurice Flynn: This foot, in the defrost, this foot. It was frozen into that formation.

Hazel: Does the other foot match this one?

Maurice Flynn: The other one is worse. Very much. When I was removed from service and got into the hospital, that's when my feet started to defrost. And you know with circulation and everything was being reestablished and it was so painful I would get a pill every four hours for that. In the third hour, it was unbearable.

Interviewer: Holy cow.

James: How many guys did have to get their feet amputated?

Maurice Flynn: Lots of them.

Hazel: But he was able to overcome it. He's been a runner.

Interviewer: You've run since then? So you didn't let this stop you.

Maurice Flynn: No, no.

Hazel: He would never let that happen. He could not stop.

James: He used to run marathons. In his 70s

Interviewer: In your 70's

Maurice Flynn: (mishears) 1970, yeah. [Putting his socks back on, offered help.]

Hazel: Oh, he can put them on. I think he can do it. He doesn't get that kind of help from me [laughs].

Maurice Flynn: I'm surprised that you're this much interested.

Interviewer: Oh, it's all about—.

James: Head to toe [laughs].

Interviewer: Head to toe, no secrets. I'll take over while your son does this and I'll ask you more questions. So, did that take you out of the service?

Maurice Flynn: No, no. I was in the hospital. As soon as I was defrosted there was a serious cold, let's just call it.

Hazel: You went to the hospital twice. Once for your feet, and once for your finger. Is that right?

Maurice Flynn: I have to work my mind into that.

Hazel: You did something to your finger in a pillbox. Do you remember the pill box and the soldier, that you were lucky because all you got was a hand injury.

Maurice Flynn: Lots of things like that happened and you had to just drive right over it. Well, you know, I am still able and I'm still in the service. I'm on the line, and I'm going to stay here.

James: He got shrapnel in his eye. They never could find it. But he knew as soon as he got it. But they couldn't see it.

Interviewer excuses himself to say good to another reunion attendee.

Interviewer: So you had a lot of wounds, and close calls.

Maurice Flynn: And shrapnel. This eye, and explosion from arsenal stuff. Hit me in this eye.

Interviewer: In which eye was the shrapnel. Does it still bother you?

Maurice Flynn: I knew it was there, and every time I had an examination I mentioned that I had an injury to my eye. And not many years ago, this eye, a reaction. My eye was here, and it turned, and I could see this eye with that eye.

Interviewer: Do you think that was due to delayed reaction from the shrapnel?

Maurice Flynn: Yeah. Which was years before that, you see. So, it's corrected itself. I went back, and I'll never forget, I was sitting in this guy's office, at my eye office, when this happened. And some of the employees were there, and I was surprised they were. And they were all looking and saying, Good Lord, Good Lord, look at that. His eye is over here.

Interviewer: And then it straightened itself out?

Maurice Flynn: It straightened itself out.

Interviewer: Let me ask you a few questions about the army again. Were you mostly in Germany, or Belgium, or France?

Maurice Flynn: First in France. To the war with Germany.

Interviewer: And that's where your feet froze, that cold winter.

Maurice Flynn: Yes, because I didn't have the boots.

Interviewer: So you came in as a replacement?

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Maurice Flynn: Absolutely, yes.

Interviewer: So the 95th is already in the action, and they send you in as a replacement.

Maurice Flynn: Yes. I was a single. I don't know how come I was separated.

Interviewer: When you came in, did the men who were already there treat you nicely?

Maurice Flynn: Yep. Mmhmm. I was another soldier.

Interviewer: So they put you on the front line and you had to fight the Germans.

Maurice Flynn: Yes. I was very lucky. I was really a red hot rifleman.

Interviewer: You were lucky. A lot of the replacements didn't know what they were doing. But it sounds like you were a good rifleman.

Maurice Flynn: I was. Every bit of training, even those early things that we did, trying to get ready.

Hazel: He won some awards. Remember, for your marksmanship? Before he ever went over.

Interviewer: So you were a good rifleman before you even went over. So you knew what you were doing.

Maurice Flynn: Yes. I have the expert rifle badge.

Interviewer: Where did you first see action?

Maurice Flynn: In France. When I arrived there we were, let's call it a cadre. And we were going to be wherever they were needed. Two here five there, da da da. And spread out. And I was spread out one, the 95th Division.

Interviewer: So you were spread out alone and you don't know why.

Maurice Flynn: No.

Interviewer: But you got along with everybody.

Maurice Flynn: I'll tell you what I think. Back in my mind I thought that because the college education that I had had before I went in there, they felt that I would be an officer candidate, removed from the line and put in enough training to get a commission. And that foot thing slowed me down. But I went back to the same unit, same everything.

Interviewer: Were you with it until the end of the war?

Maurice Flynn: Yes.

Interviewer: Then he stayed in, and retired as a—you did retire, didn't you?—as a major in the reserve.

Maurice Flynn: No, no, honey. I got a commission as a second lieutenant. Then first lieutenant, so on. Right now my grade is colonel.

Hazel: He got an honorary colonel. Well, you have to tell it like it is [laughs].

Maurice Flynn: I AM a colonel!

Interviewer: You're a colonel. Colonel Flynn, was it still during the war that they gave you a commission as a lieutenant, or was that after the war?

Maurice Flynn: After the war.

Interviewer: So during the war—.

Maurice Flynn: I applied. I entered right straight into the reserves.

Interviewer: When you entered the reserves were you a corporal or a sergeant or PFC—what were you?

Maurice Flynn: I was a grade 4; buck sergeant, 4th.

Interviewer: Did you become a squad leader?

Maurice Flynn: I was on that track.

Interviewer: Were you in Saarlautern and Fraulautern and Ens Dorf?

Maurice Flynn: All the way. Until the end of the war in Europe.

Interviewer: So you went to the Ruhr Pocket, and Krefeld.

Maurice Flynn: Yes. Krefeld, very well.

Interviewer: The 95th helped liberate some displaced person camps.

Maurice Flynn: We saw those people, but we did not enter them. They were a different category.

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Interviewer: Did Germans ever surrender to you? Near the end?

Hazel: I never heard you talk—.

Maurice Flynn: I tell you what. They were collapsing.

Interviewer: Did you have sympathy for them?

Maurice Flynn: This is a funny story. It was coming up near the war ending, and Hitler was doing all kinds of maneuvers with his units making them do this, and this, and this.

Interviewer: Moving them around, yes.

Maurice Flynn: Because a lot of their aircraft was gone. They had very little air support. So it was their infantry against our infantry. So what we were doing was we were driving those units out of wherever they were. We'd have a ground battle, and kick them out of there. They had to retreat. Retreat. Retreat. Until they just, they withdraw.

Interviewer: Mrs. Flynn, would you write back and forth during the war?

Hazel: Yeah, we wrote all the time.

Interviewer: What was it like to get a letter from her? Were you happy?

Maurice Flynn: Oh yes [laughing] indeed. Yes indeed. Yes indeed.

Hazel: Censorship was so heavy that we couldn't say anything about what they were doing.

Interviewer: When you got a letter from him was it all crossed out?

Hazel: I think it was.

Maurice Flynn: It went through examination. And if they saw something in that letter to me, or anything I put in a letter back to her, they would blank it out.

Hazel: See, my dad was in the CBI theater. China, Burma,, India. So they were completely different.

Interviewer: But your dad was also in World War I, no?

Hazel: No. He wanted to be but he just didn't make it, he was a little too young.

Maurice Flynn: Well he was in the United States Army, not in World War I, no. He never got to the front.

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Hazel: He just missed it. And he went to Fort Benning.

Maurice Flynn: He was commissioned, and trained, all that. All weapons, everything.

Interviewer: So you had a lot of respect for him.

Maurice Flynn: Yes I did. He was a model.

Interviewer: He must have been proud of you.

Hazel: He was. He was proud of you and Jimmy both.

Maurice Flynn: Well, I tell you what. I really didn't miss a doggone thing when I got to that unit. I was there in the center.

Anyway, and that unit, I was getting my basic assignment stuff for my body, and I was supposed to get myself, carry anything but nothing that would hold you back. Anything that was frivolous—like, if you wanted to carry 10 cans of fruit juice or something like that. No way.

Interviewer: Did you have any lucky charm you carried?

Maurice Flynn: No.

Interviewer: A bible, or special letter you carried?

Maurice Flynn: Well, I tell you what. When I could I did some reading in the bible.

Interviewer: Do you think it helped?

Maurice Flynn: Well, it kept me focused. It's there. It's real.

Interviewer: Do you remember a time you felt afraid? Any close calls you want to talk about?

Maurice Flynn: Lots of close calls. But you had to keep your eyes and head on it and forget what he's doing and do what you can to put him out.

Hazel: Remember the story about the German sitting under the tree, or behind the tree, and you're sitting under another tree? And you got up real slowly? Remember that?

Maurice Flynn: Well, I tell you what. We were in the unit, going toward—I can't remember where. Our engagement led us to a place at a fork in a major river. Oh, I can almost [*remember the name*]. And in those actions they would put three companies together and ...

Interviewer: What about the tree?

Maurice Flynn: When we came to the river, they were on the bank on our side. And we were on a hill, a mountain, looking down on them. To support them, in case. And then by God it happened. The Germans had decided they had to retreat.

And they were not going like this to get out of there.

And they were not going like this to get out of there. They were going like this [slowly]. ... They would cross German and France borders like this [slowly]. We were here, inside, on the extreme border to that river.

Interviewer: Is that where you saw the German?

Maurice Flynn: Yeah. We were up there expecting that the Germans would launch an attack, defensive. With lots of trouble.

Interviewer: Now, the tree—pretend this is the tree. Is the German on top, or where is he?

Maurice Flynn: No, no. That was our secured place.

James: You were behind a stump, weren't you. It was a stump.

Interviewer: So it's your secured place.

Maurice Flynn: Yes, and we had established a skirmish line. At the bridge on that mountain. And as they were going, the ones that were on this side fell like that, maybe. A bunch of them said, We're not going into Germany now. We're going to go up there on that mountain. We know that there is a three-person group assembled on the riverbank on the other side of the river.

And they knew that we were in those woods. If they came in a straight line they were going to run into us.

Interviewer: So what did they do?

Maurice Flynn: Well, I was sitting—I believe I was one of the first ones to see a single one of them.

Interviewer: Were you behind the stump then?

Maurice Flynn: No, it was a huge tree. Very huge tree. And I thought, you know, this is real solid. And I was sitting there, and all of a sudden out of the woods I saw gray people marching. They were the spare. And they were wound up. They didn't want to fire a shot or make any announcement that there was any unit coming.

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James: Did you drop one of them? He fell like a sack of potatoes?

Maurice Flynn: Then our unit got ready and we opened up on them.

Interviewer: Surprised them.

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, yeah. We saw these guys coming.

Interviewer: But they didn't see you.

Maurice Flynn: The three of them did. See, they communicated. Probably warned us to let it be known that they had discovered our location and our formation and three. Three of us in a unit.

Interviewer: In this case with the stump—

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, stump.

James: Granddad, you dropped one, and then they started up with the fire on you. And they were chopping down that tree trying to get to you.

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, I tell you what. I had to back up. I had to back up. They kept bringing more stuff. First it was low caliber.

Interviewer: Like low-caliber rifle or machine gun? And then they brought heavier stuff?

Maurice Flynn: I tell you what. Our line held them bottled down on the ground. They couldn't go back toward the river, they couldn't go back from where they came, and they just had to huddle down and cover up.

Interviewer: Did they finally surrender to you?

Maurice Flynn: They backed out. We kept them from going down. What they wanted to do was they knew we had those people on the riverbank ready to assault across the river. And they wanted to knock the hell out of them if they could. So they figured, If we go back into the woods back where they don't see us until too late. But we were on that line.

Interviewer: And you saw them.

Maurice Flynn: Yeah.

Interviewer: And you stopped them.

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, yeah.

They walked in and I'm sure they were surprised as hell when they saw me.

They realized that they had run into a line. They just stood there.

Just stood there.

They didn't want to run. They didn't want to talk. They didn't want to fire a single bullet. Because our whole—they realized our—we were in on the firing formation. Charge, charge.

Interviewer: Are you still in Germany or are you in France?

Maurice Flynn: Right on the border.

Interviewer: Like the Siegfried line.

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, yeah.

Interviewer: Do you remember when President Roosevelt died?

Maurice Flynn: Yes.

Interviewer: Were you sad, or what happened?

Maurice Flynn: Oh yeah. That was a bad day.

Interviewer: Did you know who Truman was?

Maurice Flynn: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: But did you trust him?

Maurice Flynn: We had to. And what's more, he turned out to be a gutsy guy.

Hazel: When you were in the hospital, you were all waiting to hear Glen Miller in Paris. Remember? And a man came out and announced that it turned out that Colonel Miller, or Major Miller, whatever he was, would not be able to be with you today. Well, he was shot down over the English Channel, and that's when he died. While they were waiting for him.

Interviewer: How many weeks were you in the hospital?

Maurice Flynn: That time was the longest time I was there. Because I had wounds, serious wounds.

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Interviewer: Did you get a pension for disability?

Maurice Flynn: Yes, I got an award. They just gave it to me, I didn't ask.

Interviewer: What medals were you awarded? You probably have the battle stars.

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, right.

Interviewer: Do you have any Purple Hearts?

Maurice Flynn: Yeah, two Purple Hearts.

Hazel: That's right. And a Bronze Star with oak leaf clusters, is that what they call it?

Interviewer: Yes. So when you came back, you liked the army enough to stay in the reserves.

Maurice Flynn: Yes, I was.

Hazel: He loved it.

Interviewer: And did you like it?

Hazel: You know, we planned before he ever went over, and then when he came back, he got back in school. And I had graduated in the meantime and I was teaching. And he continued to be in college and he finished. And we were married in 1946.

Maurice Flynn: When I graduated there, I went right straight into law school. And got a degree. And opened an office.

Interviewer: Where were you living then?

Maurice Flynn: In Huntington. All my life.

Interviewer: James, what's a story you remember from your grandfather?

James: I remember him telling me he surprised the Germans. He said they should have gotten down on the ground when they saw him. So he then shot them. And that's when they almost picked him out of all the guys and were trying to get him behind the tree. And at some point or other he retreated to a house. In that house was a wounded man who got hit by shrapnel. Right in his, right here in his, pelvis—.

Interviewer: Upper thigh? Right.

James: Femur, or whatever it is. And he died there on the table.

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Interviewer: Was that one of our guys?

James: Was that a guy from the 95th Division that got hit by shrapnel and died there in that house?

Hazel: I don't know that story.

Maurice Flynn: You know when they came in there, the division was, you know, he's just a casualty.

Interviewer: He's a wounded GI, so you don't know. But you saw your share of people getting hurt. Did it ever come to you in your dreams after you came back?

Maurice Flynn: No.

Hazel: You sleep okay.

James: At the time when you came back were you traumatized?

Maurice Flynn: No.

Interviewer: Was it easy for you to readjust?

Maurice Flynn: Yes. Quickly.

Interviewer: You joined the reserves, so you stayed in the military.

Maurice Flynn: Right. And that's how I'm not a colonel.

James: The military was different then than it is now—so they say.

Maurice Flynn: With my training and background they awarded me a second lieutenant commission. And then took exercises and lessons and all that kind of stuff.

Interviewer: And kept progressing until you ended up as a colonel.

Maurice Flynn: Yes.

Interviewer: Would you advise young people today to join the military?

Maurice Flynn: Get serious and go. Yes. Get as much military training, at a military school or someplace.

Interviewer: What did it do for you? How did the military change you? How did the war change you?

Maurice Flynn: I just knew I had to be intense on what I was assigned to do. Whatever it was, I had to do it.

Interviewer: Did you like your commanding officers?

Maurice Flynn: You had to. I had to trust them.

Interviewer: So if anything bothered you, or any fear, you just would concentrate on what you had to do.

Maurice Flynn: That's right.

Hazel: Did you know George Lundberg [PH]?

Interviewer: A little.

Hazel: They became real good friends after the war. During the war they just knew that each other was there. But they didn't know each other. It was so funny; it was so funny.

Interviewer: Was there anything else you wanted to talk about?

Maurice Flynn: You know, I've started to think about trying to write something. And I just, when I got into my law office it was clients, clients, clients, clients, every day, every day, every day, every day.

Interviewer: So you never had time to write something.

Maurice Flynn: Right.

Interviewer: So here's a little something now. I'm glad you took the time.

Hazel: We appreciate what you're doing.

Interviewer: Sure. And James, if your grandfather has any new memories in the next couple of days, write them down. This is a sort of magic time.

James: Well, if you have a business card I can email it to you maybe.

Maurice Flynn: Maybe I should start the story.

Hazel: And thank you so much.

Flynn, Maurice J.; Company A, 378th, 95th Division WWII

Interviewer: Sure, sure. If you'd like you can sign a release form to share your story with the Library of Congress.

Maurice Flynn: Well, I was very fortunate.

Interviewer: Do you have any friends you want to remember? Any names come to mind?

Maurice Flynn: Some.

Hazel: George Varapolos [PH], that was one. Were you with Varapolos?

Maurice Flynn: I was with a lot of guys.

Interviewer: Tell me the name of a friend who comes to mind right now.

Maurice Flynn: You know what, for the frozen feet I was separated, and you didn't have time to commiserate. You just knew George, or John. Like that.

Hazel: Did you know Bandeau [PH]? Dick Bandeau? Before the end of the war?

Maurice Flynn: You know, I tell you what. You really have to concentrate.

Interviewer: Well, anyway, thank you for talking to me. I'll just finish up now. This is David Meyer, son of Earl D. Meyer, Company H, 379th, 95th Infantry. And I've had the privilege of talking tonight to Mr.—.

Maurice Flynn: Maurice, M-A-U-R-I-C-E. J, in the middle. Flynn, F-L-Y-N-N.

Interviewer: Is J for James?

James: No, J for Joseph.

Interviewer: Company A, 378th.

-end-