

## **Transcription: Domingo Muniz**

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*Today is Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, and my name is James Crabtree and I'm interviewing Mr. Domingo Muniz, and he is at his home in Manor, Texas, and I am at the Texas General Land Offices, Stephen F. Austin Building in Austin, Texas, and this interview is being conducted in support of the Texas Veterans Land Board's Voices of Veterans Oral History Program. So with that out of the way sir, I'd like to thank you for taking the time today to share with us a little bit about your time in the service.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes.

*And the first question we usually ask is tell us a little bit about what your boyhood was like when you were growing up.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Before I was in the Army?

*Yes sir.*

**Domingo Muniz:** When I was a civilian?

*Yes, what your boyhood was like, your childhood when you were growing up.*

**Domingo Muniz:** I was on a farm.

*OK. Were you born in Austin, or Manor?*

**Domingo Muniz:** You know, I made a mistake. I really wasn't born where I put down the paper was Hughes, Texas. The reason I put here is because my daddy always said that he worked in Hughes. But I wasn't born in Hughes, I was born in Giddings, Texas.

*Giddings.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes, and this lady that my mom delivered me, and they took me to the house where I was delivered in Giddings.

*Giddings.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes.

*So you were born in Giddings, and you grew up on a farm. Did you attend school in Giddings?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Between Dumbarks and Ledbetter and Giddings. I think the school was named Old Prospect.

*Old Prospect.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes.

*And so you were born there, you went to school, lived on a farm. Do you remember where you were when you heard that Pearl Harbor had been bombed?*

**Domingo Muniz:** I don't remember where it was, but I do remember that one of my buddies got killed at Pearl Harbor.

*Wow.*

**Domingo Muniz:** And I think my brother was in the service, too. I don't know where he was. I think he was in Tennessee, if I'm not mistaken.

*And so when that happened, did you feel like you were going to be going to war at some point yourself soon?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, I think I would, but they were asking for 21 years old, and at that time I was younger than that. I think I was 18 or 19, but when that happened they started drafting from 18 on up, and so they caught me right away [2:55 to 2:59 – glitch in recording] and I sent it and so I got it back and they said to report to Fort Sam Houston, and I did. And so that's when I went and I packed and I think that was on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 1943.

*1943. What were your first thoughts when you got to Fort Sam Houston?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, the DS said if you didn't pick up for a train because they weren't getting us at rails most of it, until we get out our clothes, and then they sent us back and then they sent our clothes back and then we got ready to leave to Camp Fort Oregon.

*What was your boot camp training like? How long were you there and what were the types of things you learned?*

**Domingo Muniz:** It was in Kimball, Oregon, close to Medford, Oregon. And I was in combination \_\_\_\_\_. We did most of the training there and we still had maneuvers and we went to, that place by name of B\_\_\_\_white, Oregon, where we took our training for building our iron bridges, and obstacles, too. We had that school, all of that, too, and then we came back to the base and then I was thinking, I said well, I guess I'm not gonna get no furlough because I doesn't get no furlough yet, so I said well, I don't know, I'm not gonna get no furlough because it's the last one. So then I said well, they said, you ready for a furlough? I said yes. So I said \_\_\_\_\_ [another glitch]. I said I want to take six days, and that's what I took, just six days. I was afraid I would get back late. So I was late, but I really wasn't that late, but they took me from wherever I got back to base and they took me to the train station, and I said what? What is this here? And I met my buddies and said, they said get ready, they said we're leaving already. I said where? He said we're going to New York. He said we're gonna be sending overseas. I said well what about my duffle bag and my M-1 and all of that? They said don't worry, they said we got everything already packed up. Said you got to take your stuff and you'll get your M-1 later. So we went and we stayed I think two days, and then we got on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December -

*1943?*

**Domingo Muniz:** December we loaded on the Queen Elizabeth, and then we started going until the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December. That's when we started going. I think we took 10 or 9 days to get there.

*What were your thoughts as you were making that voyage across the ocean and going to war? What were you thinking about?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, I was thinking they was going to kill us because we knew that we weren't ready, so that's what I was hoping that we wouldn't get killed. But then on the ship they said a submarine fired us, too, but they said that we had submarines, too, taking care of us, too, so but we made it, and when we got there, they sent us to a little camp by the name of Redding, England.

*OK.*

**Domingo Muniz:** And then from there, we took some more training and we also went to another place that it was real cold those days, and we had iron bridges to build, too. I think it took three hours and 45 minutes to build one across the part where we had that bridge going on, and we took I think two hours and 15 minutes to tear it down again. It was pretty fast because we were running mostly, but it was pretty good. We all were pretty well fixed up together and we were working together.

*What was your unit like? Had you gone through boot camp with most of those men, or did you meet them after you got out of boot camp?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Do what now?

*What were most of the men like that you served with?*

**Domingo Muniz:** We was all, the combination is -

*My question sir is what were, just tell us a little bit about the men that you served with.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Oh, that's all of our men that we served, we always was, had the infantry in case they couldn't get across, we were right there to build a bridge or whatever we had to do. Well, that's what we did. And then in Redding, England, they took us to another place, it was pretty swampy. That took just one day or one night training of this heavy pontoon bridge, and it was real muddy. And then the second day, I didn't go. They put me on guard, so I stayed at the base, but my driver, he got bogged down and when they got him out, he didn't want to go back in there, so they court marshaled him because he didn't want to go. But then we had two men in our service that they were real educated. I think they had three or four years' college. One of them was a bugle man and the other was working at the H&H. He was mail orderly or something else. Anyway, they was lawyers, so they took over his case and they won it so this boy didn't get court marshaled after all.

*Well, what was your platoon like? Can you describe who some of the guys were, where they were from, that sort of thing?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, we all were mostly all of them were from Texas. Very few of them were from Pennsylvania, and I think about four or five were from Little Rock, Arkansas, and one old man was from Chicago, and most of them were from Texas.

*Did you go through boot camp with them?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes, we all were together.

*OK, so you were all together in training and then they sent you all together over to Europe?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes.

*What were they thinking? Do you know kind of what their thoughts were as you were heading to Europe? Did they think kind of the same things that you thought?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, I don't know, but they was, some of them were scared. We had one of them boys that I think he volunteered and I think he said he was 18 years old, but he wasn't. He was 17 years old. But when we got in action, then he tried to get out because wasn't, he wasn't 18 then, and they said no, you can't get out, said you're in the service now.

*That's right.*

**Domingo Muniz:** So he stayed there, but he was real scared. When we made the invasion, I went on the second wave, and we were on the deck, and then they started firing, and this boy, this little boy said it's gonna rain. I said why you say it's gonna rain? He said we keep hear thundering. I said, no, it is not thundering. I said they're shooting at us now. He said is that right? I said yeah, they're shooting at us. Then they pulled us down and put us down in the bottom of the deck of the boat until we got out pretty close to the end. But one boat, they gave them, he stopped and then they gave him command for pulling out, and when they did, he let on top of mine and it busted and went, I think we lost I think 50 something percent of our men there. But the second wave where I was, we all got out good. They had some of these in \_\_\_ boats because that's from the boat.

*So when you got ashore, you were close enough in you could wade ashore?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes, but then they had a lot of posts like this, posted, they got from on the highways where they got these guards, these posts they got there, they had something like that, but I think about three or four feet tall, and they had 'em zig-zagged where no vehicles could come through, but then you know, we had these tanks and all this stuff they made it clear to go through.

*Yeah. So when you hit the beach, were there already troops there directing you as to where to go?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes. And then well you know, the admirals, they jumped ahead of us, so when we got there we had to go and relieve them, and they pulled back to get cleaned up and all of that. But we was right there right in the front lines.

*What was your first encounter like with the German soldiers?*

**Domingo Muniz:** It was rough, you know, because they were pretty smart, too. They had a machine gun that it had something like oh, I don't know, hard to explain, but it had something like these machines, sewing machines, that they tracked and they put in the shells in where they can fire, and they had a good machine, better machine gun than what we had. Our machine wasn't worth a darn.

*Did you encounter many pillboxes where you were?*

**Domingo Muniz:** They had pillboxes. That was the, made us stay back because they was firing from the pillboxes, and then when we pushed 'em all the way through Germany, they attacked us on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 1944. That's the mistake they said that the U.S. made. They did not blow up those pillboxes, because they got in those pillboxes again and we had a hard time getting in there again to push them.

*When the battle was taking place, the Normandy invasion and that sort of thing, did you understand how significant the invasion was?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, I didn't know what it was like, but I said wow, we're in a mess right here. I don't know whether we're gonna come out alive or not. But finally we made it, but Cherbourg, France, it was a real rough place to get to. It was, we were fighting pretty bad right there. We lost a lot of men, too, not just our outfit, but all the outfits, too. The infantry and the airborne's, too, they lost a lot of men, too.

*What were the French citizens like the first time that they saw you? I've heard stories, we've read stories of how the French were excited about being liberated and that sort of thing. Did you see that personally when you got there?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, we seen those tanks because they were right with us, too. But now, the Germans, they had better tanks than what we had, a whole lot better than our equipment that we had.

*What I was asking sir, was the French people, when the French people saw you, were they excited?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, the French people they were kind of glad because they were seeing that we were pushing because they had men in the service, too, so that was good for them, too, and for us, too, because we were working together, too. And then, you know, Russia was against the United States, but then somehow or another, they broke up so then we got help from Russia, too, so that was another one of the good deals that we got help, you know. But they were good people, too. But the Germans, I don't know.

*Once you got over there and were in Europe and in the war, how long was it before you were able to get any news from home in terms of letters or packages?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, we had some of them that we couldn't hardly get nothing. All we had just \_\_\_ what they had, little bitty packages of cigarettes and I wasn't smoking. I was giving them away to my buddies, so I didn't worry about that. But we couldn't write. Anything we'd write, they cut it out what there was just whatever they want to say. That was it, but we couldn't tell them where we was, nothing like that.

*Yeah, so after the invasion and then you pushed into Germany, describe for us some of the other battles or places that you and your unit went to after the invasion.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, you know, I was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Army, with General Bradley, but that man, we didn't see him at all, not even one time. Then when we got to Munich, Germany, my squad was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, they sent us to Munich, Germany, that's about 50 miles from where we were stationed, to guard this water plant for people to get water. And that's the first thing I seen right there and I couldn't believe it. The water was running on the creek real dirty, like yellow colored, and they had three big ponds and they had a lot of chemicals put in, and I got in and I asked one guy, I said what is this purple? She said this is poison and this is this is this other one. So they pumped the water in one tank, then from that tank they went to the other one, and then from the second to the third one, the water was come out real pretty, I mean beautiful water. But then from there we could see the buildings from Munich, Germany. The front parts, it's something like the Alamo in San Antonio, except it was bigger, though, bigger white building. That's where Hitler used to make his speeches. And then we stayed there. I don't know how long we stayed there guarding, and then they said they was gonna go to Berlin and said you want to go? I said no, I'm gonna stay here and be guarding. OK, said I don't blame you. So I stayed there. Then one of those days, they said that General Patton wanted to make the invasion in Japan. So they said that he wanted all these men that had seen action, he wanted those men with him. So then they sent us a notice that we was gonna be separated. He said some are going to San Francisco to Indonesia, and the other, the third one was gonna go to the United States. Said well, I hope I get to the United States. And sure enough, we was the last one because we were at Munich, Germany, so they put us on the one that left going to the United States. But before that, General Patton got the chance that he got all the troops that had seen action, we went with General Patton. But I don't know what town it was in Germany, but then they gave us I think it was one week, you know, for rest, and we was in an old house that was vacant, and we stayed there and some of the boys, I don't know why some boys, they always get stuff and take it. Some of them had a lot of blankets and stuff like that. I said we got enough. They don't need that. But anyway, this boy did it. Then one day, all of a sudden, they woke us up, I don't know what time of the night, middle of the night I guess, and they said that we had to go in action. We had to go build a bridge, a heavy pontoon bridge, the one that I only just had one day training. So we went to this river and they had a big bridge, just like oh, I don't know, it was an iron bridge, but then it had like iron over the bridge. I don't know what you call it. And this iron bridge, but then on top above the rest, it had like a rainbow on top on both sides. OK, they either was knocked out. So we build this heavy pontoon bridge.

*Suspension bridge.*

**Domingo Muniz:** And we had this one old boy, he was a T5, and they put him to unbuckle the straps of the one boat, so this operator, he jerked the deal and this little boy went down in the water, in the river he went, and he came out three times, so some of them ran out there on the side by the curve, and he came out there. It just happened that he had came out there and they grabbed him and they pulled him out. But he got out of there. So we kept on building this until we got to the end, and it was a big one. And I said the tanks ain't gonna make it through here. No, I was wrong. Those big tanks went through there like nothing. And we waited for the General Patton to come by because he was wanting to come by. He was gonna give us some orders. So he did, and the same little boy I was telling you a little while ago, I said, there comes General Patton. I say where? He said that jeep right there coming. Oh, he said, that's not with General Patton. I said man, I said look, I said all these generals have got red tags, those are big officers, they're generals. Finally he got close and said yeah, you're right, that's General Patton.

And I'm a truck drivers, all of them, in all those outfits, they had sandbags on the floorboard and he got off and we saluted and he went to the truck drivers, and he looked down there and he said, I want all these sandbags out of your trucks. Get 'em out. So we got 'em out. Then he gave us the command to go across and we went first and then the tanks went rolling. But then along the river on the other side were a bunch of trees, you know, like a row on the side of the river, and then there was a big long prairie, wide prairie, and a little village like on top of a hill, and they had roofs like these here Mexican roof they got in the clay, we started on our trucks, we started rolling, when all of a sudden they started firing at us. So I jumped out of the truck and we had demolition on the truck where I was riding, so I jumped and got behind the wheels and then the tanks and the little tracks they started to find, you could see where they were hidden, that brick and they stopped firing. So they took off and then after they got notice to take off, we took off and they were gone already. But that was real bad right there. I thought we're gonna get killed here.

*And what river was that you crossed?*

**Domingo Muniz:** That was, I don't know what the name of that river, but that was the first combat we made with General Patton, and I think that General Patton, he was a real nice, nice gentleman, because every time we made a pitch, he was right there. And Bradley, we never did see him. Never did. That's why and some boys didn't like General Patton, but I did like him because he was real nice, and not just because he had stars, he wouldn't have stayed back. No, he was right there with us, too.

*So once you got across there, and got through that battle, how much longer was it before the Germans surrendered?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Oh, I think the Germans surrendered some time in August, because they pulled us back and we went, they pulled us all the way back to France. I forget that place where they put us. It's a big tent. I think they called it Lechisdrag. And we stayed there and then they had, we had a big platform, and there were two gentlemen, they were real young guys, and they gave us a speech and saying that they was gonna make the invasion. We was gonna make the invasion, but -

*The invasion of Japan?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes. But then he said, but before that, said they're gonna drop the A-bomb or B-bomb, and we think that that's gonna be it, but I think the war gonna be the end of it, but we don't know for sure. But anyway, you all know what's gonna happen, at least know what's coming up. So I said well, I said I hope they drop the bomb so we don't have to go. So I guess they did because after that, they sent us to this base close to the water where we were gonna go across, and when we was getting there, there were bells and horns blowing, and we said I wonder what that is? Someone said I guess because we're coming here and going back. And they said no, they said the war was over in Japan but they hadn't signed the treaty. I said we all were glad to hear that.

*Oh, sure.*

**Domingo Muniz:** So we came back and we didn't have to go back no more.

*And so at that point, how long was it before you got to go back home?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Somewheres in November or October, but when we passed, when I passed all the medical inspection, they found out that I had one of my left breast, a sore, I had a big sore, a big knot, but they had already made my papers already, and the officer said I had to have surgery. I said no, I don't want no surgery, I want to go home. He said no, he said you're gonna have surgery. He said when you get home, you're gonna have a lot of red tape to go through. Finally he convinced me. I said OK, so I went ahead and had the surgery, but I don't know how many days. I know for sure two days I didn't go to chow because I couldn't get up. I was sore.

*Did you have cancer or what was it?*

**Domingo Muniz:** They said it was a tumor. But then I was, I got scared because another boy was right next to me and he had the same thing, but he told them that he had cancer, and so I got scared. So then later, the doctor came over and said I was OK. He said I was gonna be discharged pretty soon. So they discharged me after that. But I didn't have to go back no more.

*That's great. Then after you were discharged, did you have the surgery in the United States?*

**Domingo Muniz:** No, they gave it to me there at Fort Sam.

*OK, at Fort Sam, OK. So you still had not had a chance to see your family yet at that point?*

**Domingo Muniz:** No, no, until I got completely out. Then I went home.

*So tell us about that. What was that like when you finally got home?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, it was a miracle to make it back home because I hadn't seen them or heard their voice, nothing like that, but it was great to be back home. And they were glad, too, to see me, too. It was a lot of people were waiting for us to come back home, so it was real nice.

*What did you do when you got back home?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, I stayed around the house for a while and then I went back to Giddings. I was in – let's see, yeah, it was in the same place there in the farm, but then we moved to Elgin, Texas. So then from there, I went to Giddings and started working at the railroad track, and I went to the depot and this cleric said what do you need? I said well, I'm looking for a job. He said I can't hire you because you're too young. I said what do you mean I'm too young? He said well, you're not even 21. I said yes I am. And I remember I had this little card there you know, when you first register? I don't know what you call it.

*Yeah, a draft card?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yeah, and so I remember, I had it in my billfold, so then I pulled it out. I said look, here is witness that I am over 21 already. And he looked at it. Oh, yeah, OK. Said you got a job then. Said I'm gonna give you a paper so you can go see the doctor. So I was good.

*So you ended up going to work for the railroad.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes, I started working for the railroad.

*That's great. And so all that time, did you ever keep in touch with any of the guys that served with you?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, we used to have meetings in Austin, but then I got to the point where I couldn't go because I didn't have no way to travel. So I didn't go no more. So the only one I would see more is what these boys that got wounded in France. I see him pretty often, but now I haven't seen him no more. But he had a piece of shrapnel on his left arm, and when I seen him, he showed me that arm, but it's just a little above his wrist, and they cut him pretty close to the shoulder to get that piece of metal out. Well, he said they made a big, long cut on me. I seen, he showed me that operation that they made on him. But he made it, too.

*When you were in the Army and when you were at war in Europe, did you have a wife or a girlfriend back home?*

**Domingo Muniz:** No sir, I was single.

*And what was it like on your parents to have you away at war?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, they was worried because they figured that it would kill me any time, so and when the Pearl Harbor, they heard about this friend of ours that got killed and many other boys that got killed, too, they heard about it, too. So they were scared. Always saying that they was praying every day, every day they would pray, pray, and not just for me. They said they were praying for everybody in the service, too.

*And you said you had an older brother that was already in the service?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes.

*Where did he serve during World War II?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Well, he went, let's see, where was it. It was in September when he got, I don't remember where he, when we was in France or Belgium or Holland when he got that, but he was in the 80\_\_ division. He got wounded right away. A piece of shrapnel hit him on the left hand leg on the muscle. He got a big hole. But he was lucky that they didn't kill him.

*Did you know anything about where he was or what he was doing at that time?*

**Domingo Muniz:** No.

*Nothing at all.*

**Domingo Muniz:** No, because I didn't even know that he was there.

*Wow. But he survived and made it back home?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes, he's still living. He's not too good. He's walking with a walker. He has that and can walk right now. He's older than me. I think he's gonna be 88 or 89 on July the 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Wow, so your parents had two children in the war.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Three of them.

*Three. Who was the other sibling?*

**Domingo Muniz:** The youngest one, Louis, he didn't pass. He had flat foot, so he didn't pass.

*So he had flat feet, so the military wouldn't take him.*

**Domingo Muniz:** No, they wouldn't take him because he had flat foot. That's why he didn't. And he passed away already. That's when right after my wife passed away.

*Well sir, we really appreciate you taking the time to talk to us today.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Thank you very much. The reason I had my granddaughter to do this for me, because you know, I've heard, I read in the paper where these pilots and other guys been getting their citation, it's been a long time already. And so I said why can't I get mine? I said I served right there, and in France where I got this boy out of the river, he couldn't get up because he had his hand holding the other hand, and I got him up to the top, to the bank, and when I got to the top, I handed him over to the medics. And there was the battalion commander, they had him across on the back of the jeep, he was \_\_\_\_\_. He got hit with shrapnel on the right hand side of the drawers. He got killed.

*The battalion commander did?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yeah, the battalion commander. And he just made a major. He was a captain, our battalion commander. He got another rating. I don't know where he went. But anyway, he got killed right away. And then I went down the river again and I got this other boy from the water, and I got him out, and I helped him out. Then after that, I went to see my 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon but somebody beat me to him. But anyway, there was three of them that I didn't get no citation. And then we had a \_\_\_\_\_ that was right in the air compressor in case we needed a saw or something, whatever we needed, just because he went and backed up his truck, he got a brave citation. When the truck is nothing compared to a human person. You know, I did more than he did.

*Did any of your chain of command ever write you up for an award?*

**Domingo Muniz:** No, no, nobody. Like I say, there were a lot of discrimination. These old boys that my squad leader, he never did like me. He was real mean with me. You know, in France, somewhere in France he told me and another boy from Arkansas, they said boy, he was a little bit off his mind, but I don't know how he passed. But anyway, he was, the sergeant with us was another sergeant from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, and they always were together. I don't know why, but anyway he told me and this other boy to jump the gate. In France, they used these big high hills, a big row and they got one single wire, a bobwire for the cap so they don't go across, and they wouldn't go across. So we jumped the gate and then I said to this other boy, I said Barry, I said you know what? I said we're not gonna go there 500 yards and let them know right open place. I said no. I said look, I said do you know that, do you know orders? Do you know these general orders that he's giving us right now? He said, well, I don't remember right now. I said look, whenever a sergeant of the guard takes, tells you to go on guard duty, they're supposed to take you, walk you out there and put you where he wants you to go. But he did not take us over

there. So we're not gonna go. We're gonna go back and we're gonna follow them. So he heard us walking on the leaves, the dry leaves were down on the ground, and he heard us and said hey, he said, I thought I told you all to go over there. I said look, Hightower, that was his name, I said look, I said if you know you're giving those orders, you know what you're supposed to have done with us, take us out there, not just tell us to go over there. I said you got an M-1 and I got an M-1, he's got an M-1, we all got M-1's. We all got live ammunition I said. I said look, I said you want us to go over there, you're gonna take us out there. If not, you know what to do. He said oh, no, no, he said that's OK. He got kind of scared. I said well, I said you're supposed to take us there, not just tell us to go over there. We're not gonna go like that, no. So that's one of the things. You know, and then basic training, our first sergeant, he was real nice and he went for another training. I don't know where he went, so we got another first sergeant, and when this other first sergeant came in, I got sick, and I was on the second floor and on the top bunk, by the middle of the night around 2:00, 1 o'clock, I got sick and I got a pain in my back and I couldn't hardly get down and I finally got down, and I had my feet down on top of the buddy's bunk, and so I finally got out and I went and got in my duffle bag, and I got my shaving kit out and got my aspirins and I took one and I went down to the stairwell where we had a fountain, a water fountain right there, and I took my aspirins and I stayed there, and in a little while they blow the bugle for roll call. I went to the first sergeant's office and I told him that I want to make sick call, and he threw me out. He said no, he said sick call you make at 9 o'clock. OK. He said you go back right now. He said they're gonna blow the bugle pretty soon, so have a roll call, and then you'll go back inside and then we're gonna have another bugle going on and then that's gonna be for police call. Then after that, we're going for chow, and by that time it would be 9 o'clock. So he didn't let me go. So I went in the back and I was gonna turn my stuff, and I couldn't go no more. I was real weak and so my buddy said don't worry, he said we'll take your stuff, and they took our stuff. So I walked back I'd say about the distance of three blocks, and I got on the road and I crossed over the road and I got on the catwalk and crossed it, and I went through this pen and the pigs \_\_\_\_ and then the captain was out there in the forts and I salute him and he said what's wrong, \_\_\_? I said I think I've got \_\_\_ fever. He said well come in, have sit, and he checked me. He said you got 103 fever. So he told the medics, he said get the boy in care, take him in right away because the ambulance is already gone. And it was cold and I remember when we got to the hospital, and the next time I was, we was on the second floor, and there were a bunch of barracks, but there were no walls, just crossed like that, curtains, and I said where are they gonna have me at? So then they take me down to the basement on a chute, and we went down there to where it leveled up and then one step up this gate and a big room where a lot of GI's were sick and then on the right hand side were clerks, and this clerk got up and he said, if anybody in here feels that he is pretty sick, hold your hands up. So I had my hand up and he came over right away and he said what's wrong with you? He said are you sick? I said yes, I'm sick. He said do you think you can walk? I said no, I don't think I can walk too much more. I feel like I'm gonna faint already. So he turned around and got a wheelchair and I don't know how he pushed me up to the top, but he got me over there, and finally I got over there close to the traffic rooms, and a nurse met us there and I don't know how many \_\_\_\_, and this nurse said we're gonna give you a shot in the spinal, and I said to myself in the spinal. I said well, probably on the arm or my hip. Finally we got to the room and they had a bag of ice and put it on my head and a wet towel and wrapped it around my head, we got to the room and they said pull your britches down, and I pulled 'em down, and set down, and they unlaced my leggings and my shoes, and I don't know if they took my socks, I don't remember. So they pulled my britches off and then they said OK, said get on top, and I couldn't, so they grabbed my legs and put me on top. And then I sat down, turn around, face the wall on your side, and buckle your knees up and then your head down towards your knees as far as you can. Said we're gonna give you a shot in the spine. Said we're gonna stick you three times to get this needle in there. OK, but I still said

well, it's gonna be in my hip then, I guess. Then I felt with cotton rubbing on my back. I said wow, is that where they're gonna? And they stuck me three times. After that, they pulled the needle out and they said turn around and lay on your back. And I did, and that was it. After that I passed out for six days. And then they sat down. After I got over it, they said did you have \_\_\_\_ make sick call? I said no. Why I said no because I was afraid that that 1<sup>st</sup> sergeant was gonna punish me again. So I said no, and then when I got my discharge after I stayed there 29 days, they asked me again and I said no because I was afraid that sergeant was gonna punish me. So they gave me a piece of paper saying take it easy with me, don't give me no hard work or nothing like that. So these boys, they seen me right away, said oh, we're gonna put him on guard. I said no you're not. I said I'm weak still yet. And so they didn't put me on the guard. Said well, we got a hike, a 25-mile hike, and sure enough they put me on the hike. And I was weak and I said I can't go. They said no, you got to go. So I went. We went 25 miles. And on the way coming back, we went by a farm and these people had a cistern on their yard, and it was about three foot high, they had a pump, pump the water out, was real cool, real nice, and it was hot at that time. And I drink plenty of water and I filled my canteen up and then the grabbed my cup and threw the rest of the water that I had and said no, you can't drink no more water. So we started marching again, and I was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, almost right in front of the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. And I started falling down and I started coming down, down, and finally the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon caught up with me and they came by and they picked me up and put me all the way to 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, and I started just like I began, the second time they pulled me all the way, the third time they let me. They didn't pick me up no more. So I walk in the base and I was sober. I mean I was sober. I cannot explain just exactly how I felt. I was sick already. What happened, you know, between my legs I got real raw, and I thought my shorts had busted, but they didn't. I guess they just rolled up and I got real sore, and then when I got there, they gave me I think one or two hours to walk, that's the punishment they gave me. Can you imagine how I walked there? Wow. I made it and I went up to my duffle bag, got some clean clothes and run down to the shower and I got some soap and I let the soap stay there and it was burning, and I also had a bottle of alcohol. When I used that alcohol and then put it on myself, wow, I was hurting and I couldn't do nothing because I was afraid they were gonna punish me again. But they were real discriminating me.

*Yeah, and that was all in Oregon?*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes, that was in Oregon.

*Wow.*

**Domingo Muniz:** On basic training.

*Yes sir. Well really again, I appreciate you taking the time today to talk to us and I know everybody here at the General Land Office appreciates your service and your sacrifice for our country, and –*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes.

*What we're gonna do is make copies of this interview onto CD's that we'll mail to you, and then we'll also store this interview in our archives, so future generations can hear it.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Yes.

*And then the last thing is, if you have any photographs you'd like us to make copies of that we can put on our web site or in your file, after I send the CD's to you, if you have any of those, you can mail those to me and we can make copies of those*

**Domingo Muniz:** I think I just got one picture, that's all I could get. I couldn't get no more.

*Sure, well that would be great, sir, even if you just had one photo. And I'll send everything to you, once we get the copies of this interview made, I'll send that to you and I'll send you our address and everything so you can send that to us.*

**Domingo Muniz:** OK, thank you very much then, sir.

*Thank you very much, sir -*

**Domingo Muniz:** Your welcome, you have a nice day.

*Yes you. Thank you for your service and your time, and we'll talk to you soon.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Thank you, sir.

*Yes sir, have a good day.*

**Domingo Muniz:** Thank you, bye bye.

*Bye.*

*[End of recording]*