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Capt. Clarke Ruse, Retired, USMC
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Capt. Ruse: Well Fred back then was a Master Tech Sergeant, that was the top enlisted grade.

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Capt. Ruse: And he his word was the law, man. I mean, he had more power than the base Sgt. Maj. has today I imagine. The Marine Corps was small, it only had about 16,000 in the Marine Corps when I came in and we only had a Master Tech Sergeant in charge of water plant, ice plant and a couple of them in motor transport and base maintenance had one and that was about the size of it. Anyway, to make a long story short, old Fred he was a big old corn husker from Nebraska. This guy had a crew of about 9 Pvts and PFCs, mostly Pvts. They had their own barracks, they would cook out there and little Fred had us up, well the dam was on Chopawamic Creek, oh I don't know, maybe 50 yards behind the plant with a board to walk across there to the dam. We had big old scythes like on the farm and were clearing brush and weeds and everything alongside the road and we had rubber boots on because there was a lot of copperheads in that part of the country. At noon we would take our boots off and then we had wet trousers, dungaree trousers against our bare legs. Well we fired the range the next week. Were snapping in, we snapped in about a week before we ever fired. Man, I am telling you, by the middle of that week I was worse than your arms is. [Interviewer had bad case of poison ivy.]

L.J. Kimball: That's a miserable experience.

Capt. Ruse: Now I went down to sick bay and this First Class says I've got something to take care of that. I don't remember what it was whether it was zinc oxide or iron, but it was walnut colored, looked brown. He sent me back to the barracks, told me to scrub it real good with GI soap and put that stuff on there. Well it didn't start burning until I got it on my legs and I could not wash it off. But old Gunner Coombes was in charge of the plant there in 1949 and 1950. We used to go out where the Basic School, Rifle Ranges, FBI and all that are there now. Virgin territory. I knew Pop for years, he was the Maintenance Officer out there. I had quarters out at the water works. There were two sets of quarters and another now. Anyway, one Sunday morning he said let's go out and get some apples. There were a lot of farms out there that had been bought with scrub apple trees and lots of other stuff. It was fairly mild weather. I had dungaree blouse and I rolled the sleeves down and tucked my trouser legs in my socks. I was doing pretty good, hadn't seen any poison oak around, until he said how about reaching over and shaking that limb. I shook the limb and the sleeves come down, there I was in the poison oak. Oh hell, I had it good that time too. But I tell you, Colonel, that stuff gets with you.

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L.J. Kimball: When did you join the Marine Corps?

Capt. Ruse: 1934.

L.J. Kimball: Where was that?

Capt. Ruse: Pittsburgh.

L.J. Kimball: Pittsburgh? Are you from Pennsylvania?

Capt. Ruse: No I'm from western Ohio.

L.J. Kimball: Oh, because my wife is from Western Pennsylvania, Latrobe.

Capt. Ruse: That was the closest recruiting office I think in that district. I don't know how big the district is. Anyway, we had to report to Pittsburgh for the recruiting station anyway. I went in 8/34 and there was about, oh god that was back in the depression days, and there must have been 30 guys there from around the country. They took 3 or 4 of us. I did not have any physical defects and one little filling in one tooth. If they found anything wrong with you, they did not want many people. And I was down in Parris Island a week to 10 days before we had enough people to have a platoon.

L.J. Kimball: I understand that you had to have 20/20 vision or they didn't want you.

Capt. Ruse: Oh no. And I remember platoon 38 I think it was, but anyway there were only two platoons going through training. You never saw an officer, didn't know what one looked like. There was a Corporal, DI, a Pvt. assistant. I believe the Cpl's name was MacLarren. I saw him during WWII, he had come back from Shanghai, had got in trouble, busted from Sgt. to Cpl. he was a Marine's Marine. He did not know what was going on. But, we came over from Port Royal by barge and returned by barge even though they had the causeway. I was the first platoon, after what they called x-platoons. Before that, it was 37X and 36X and all that. The x-platoons went to Quantico and were the nucleus of the FMF as it's known today. They had a few battalions there in the FMF. They didn't call it that then but that's what it was.

L.J. Kimball: Who did you join when you went to Quantico.

Capt. Ruse: The base fire Department.

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L.J. Kimball: When you left Parris Island, did you have an occupational specialty, were you infantry?

Capt. Ruse: No.

L.J. Kimball: No occupational specialty at all?

Capt. Ruse: No. They didn't have anything like MOSS [Military Occupational Specialty] that I knew of. They just sent you, and maybe took a few for sea school.

L.J. Kimball: So, when you showed up at Quantico, were you just a Pvt. without an occupational specialty?

Capt. Ruse: Yes. I was there about a year. We used to go out to the water plant on trips, tours once in a while. I don't know why, but they had a security patrol you might say and I got to meet that old Master Tech out there. The Platoon Sergeant in charge of the Fire Department was a Canadian and one of the first platoon sergeants that the Marine Corps ever made. He had a lot of time in, he had 16 years. Charlie Malland. So there came an opening out there and I got transferred from headquarters company at the time to, I can't even really tell you, from Service Battalion to Camp Maintenance. I was a choice billet. There was a lot of work. We worked all the time, but they had their own cook and all that. We had a garden in the summertime . . . we saved ourselves . . . we drew that buck a day on the payroll. The wholesale grocery in Fredericksburg would sell us some stuff on credit. I had a credit account with the commissary, so it came down to \$10 a month out of our pocket to live. In the summertime maybe a little less than that, maybe 13 or 14. The place ran 24 hours a day and 7 days a week and we had diesel engines and a lot of work to do all the time. You stood a watch, like one night from 4-12, the next night 12 to 8, then you'd be off a day, then back on. In the meantime the old boy in charge would work us. Made PFC just before my discharge in '38. Lucky to make it in my first cruise, you don't see too many first cruise PFCs. Most PFCs had one maybe two hashmarks, Cpls. two, Sgts. three, and on up the line. It's been a long way since those days.

L.J. Kimball: You discharged in 1938 and then you re-enlisted?

Capt. Ruse: Yes.

L.J. Kimball: When you were re-enlisted you were assigned to . . . ?

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Capt. Ruse: See we were under the old Supply Dept. It disbanded after the war. Remember we had a Quartermaster General in the Marine Corps at one time. Remember that? I don't know when you came in the service.

L.J. Kimball: I think the Quartermaster Department had gone away, but I remember reading about it.

Capt. Ruse: Well, that took in, the Supply Dept., period, and under that was motor transport maintenance and whatever. They really didn't have MOSS, but I was classified as water works, engineers or operators, something like that. I stayed there until I came here in '41.

L.J. Kimball: How did you end up coming down here?

Capt. Ruse: There was an order from headquarters.

L.J. Kimball: That was it, you didn't request it, one day you just got a set of orders. Did you come down by yourself?

Capt. Ruse: See Bozarth [Lt. Col. Hubert G.] come down here about, I don't know, the first part of '41. I don't remember.

L.J. Kimball: Was it around April?

Capt. Ruse: March, February, somewhere along there. I have had a lot of arguments with some guys about what rank he was when he came here. They say he came as a Cpl., I say he never made Cpl. Never was a Cpl. I say he was a PFC drawn first class specialist and you probably never heard of that either. A first class specialist got paid \$30 a month and then second class was \$25 and third class was \$20. Fourth class was \$15 I think it was. All departments had a certain amount of those billets. At the water plant we did not have any first class, we had second and third. Bozarth was at Mainside, he was a nice plumber, he worked down at the plumbers shop and the plumbers lived in the old maintenance building down there, about a block from the main drag but the building is all gone now last time I was up that way. He was always a fair rifle shot but he never made the team, I don't know why. I guess he wasn't good enough I suppose. But then you take a PFC drawing first class specialty pay of \$30, PFC pay, plus 5% every full year of service on duty. You got 5% for that too. You could make pretty fair money. You'd lose money if you made Sgt. Sergeant paid only \$54 a month. I mean if you made Corporal. So they jumped him to Sgt. I guess I'm the only one around here that's known him that long.

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L.J. Kimball: What rank was he when he came to Lejeune?

Capt. Ruse: Quartermaster Clerk.

L.J. Kimball: Quartermaster Clerk.

Capt. Ruse: What is known today as a Warrant Officer. Now a Quartermaster Clerk, there was a wheel and crossed sabres. I don't know, I suppose that them days they had, as we know today. There was a Quartermaster Clerk and then a Chief Quartermaster Clerk. The Chief Quartermaster Clerk was the highest.

L.J. Kimball: So Bozarth ("Bozy") came here as a Quartermaster Clerk and you came here a few months later and you were a . . .

Capt. Ruse: Buck Sergeant.

L.J. Kimball: You were a Buck Sergeant.

Capt. Ruse: We had the option when Bozy made Warrant about November I think it was, about Thanksgiving. Somewhere along there he made a Warrant.

L.J. Kimball: This is 1941? [Actually 1940.]

Capt. Ruse: Yes.

L.J. Kimball: Okay.

Capt. Ruse: The Sergeants and below to give something, the SNCOs about a dollar, the civilians a dollar, to buy him a sabre. Base maintenance wasn't very big in those days. I remember right about Thanksgiving Holidays, it was a bitterly cold blustery days and maintenance officer, the Major, I can't remember his name. There was a little formation outside the plumbers shop of civilians and Marines. And the old man gave Bozy that sabre. He made staff sergeant, tech sergeant, and master tech sergeant pretty fast. He wore civilian clothes there as Inspector for the Public Works, which was under the old Bureau of Yards and Docks. Then he went down to the Marine Base in North Carolina. We didn't know nothing about it. Just rumors of the fact that they had one in North Carolina. In about 6/41 I got some orders, another guy in the plant got some orders, and one of the guys in the refrigeration shop and the electric shop, about four of us got orders to come down here. It wound up to be about 25 eventually from around here and Norfolk. We lived in a farmhouse over there in what is now known as Camp Geiger. We came

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down here. Near the old walk-in gate to Tent City, or Camp Geiger. You can still see the remnants of the old gate. That was next to what was the main gate to Tent City at one time. Coming in from the highway where the big pecan trees are there was a yellow farmhouse set there. Well it had been yellow at one time. It was a two-story farmhouse. [The Gurganus farmhouse.]

L.J. Kimball: This was around 6/41 that you got here?

Capt. Ruse: Yes, one of the old Gurganus properties. Later on, cleaned it up and painted it up for General Vandegrift when the brigade was formed over there. He had a headquarters in there briefly. But when I reported in there were some Marines living there and they called it the outpost guard. There was a cook. The front porch was screened and the back porch was weathered in fairly well and that was a sick bay for the contractors, the backside of the house was. They had two fire trucks parked out here under the pecan trees, the Marines manned the fire trucks. There were only two frame buildings at Tent City. Two long frame buildings The general contractor had some office space there and Col. WPT Hill, he was a Lieutenant Colonel and I remember when I worked for him he was a major. Then, his job was the liaison between the Marine Corps and the Bureau of Yards and Docks. That is what his job was. He first started downtown in the old courthouse. Before we got here, Col. Hill had a hotel over there.

L.J. Kimball: The Riverview Hotel. Did they live there or they worked out of there.

Capt. Ruse: The only place they had to work.

L.J. Kimball: So they worked out of the courthouse?

Capt. Ruse: The hotel too.

L.J. Kimball: Okay.

Capt. Ruse: That had to be the latter part of '40 or first part of '41.

L.J. Kimball: Let's go back in order to keep this straight in my mind. When Bozarth got his sword it was 1940 right?

Capt. Ruse: Yes and probably [Maj. Gen. W.P.T.] Hill might have been down here then, but I don't know.

L.J. Kimball: Bozarth and Hill came at about the same time.

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Capt. Ruse: I think that one came behind the other.

L.J. Kimball: Then a few months later you came in 6/41.

Capt. Ruse: We had about 30, about 25-30 troopers. We lived in a farmhouse and pack house out in back of the Tent Camp. From June until Pearl Harbor come along.

L.J. Kimball: You lived in the Gurganus farmhouse?

Capt. Ruse: No not in the Gurganus farmhouse, another one down in the boondocks, out in the woods there.

L.J. Kimball: The Gurganus farmhouse was painted yellow and they had fire trucks there. Was the base Fire Marshall there?

Capt. Ruse: There was no base fire marshall that I knew of?

L.J. Kimball: Was that the headquarters building?

Capt. Ruse: No, no, no. Not at that time.

L.J. Kimball: Where was the base headquarters at that time do you recall?

Capt. Ruse: I don't really know if they had such per say now, we had orders for Marine Barracks, New River, North Carolina. The First Sergeant went and picked the orders up. If I'm not mistaken, he had, either at Camp Knox there was a house there, that was Marine Barracks Headquarters, or on that hill at Montford Pt., where Dr. Murrell was born. When Col. [David L.S.] Brewster got here, that was his office, or headquarters, so that might have been Marine Corps Base Headquarters, but we did not call it that because we had no base.

L.J. Kimball: Well, I have got a couple of maps here and you are the expert on this so I am trying to recreate this just from what I have read over the years.

Capt. Ruse: I am no expert.

L.J. Kimball: So, I am going to show you some of the maps here and you will do me the great favor if you will and show me some of these places that you are talking about and we will identify them on the maps.

Capt. Ruse: Oh Lord.

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L.J. Kimball: This is Tent city as it appeared before Pearl Harbor. Just to get you oriented, this is what I think was the walk-in gate. It says General's Quarters, Gurganus Farmhouse, Building 101.

Capt. Ruse: Yes that is where we reported for duty.

L.J. Kimball: This is Tent City because they still have tents here.

Capt. Ruse: Right on down the street here is the water plant.

L.J. Kimball: Clear water storage tank.

Capt. Ruse: The wells drilled along there.

L.J. Kimball: The places you are talking about and the farmhouses are gone.

Capt. Ruse: Oh Lord yes.

L.J. Kimball: They are long gone.

Capt. Ruse: There is nothing left now, but the pecan trees.

L.J. Kimball: Where is, we are looking at the outline of the house. Can you tell me where the front door and the porch and things were on this?

Capt. Ruse: On this side over here.

L.J. Kimball: This is the front?

Capt. Ruse: The back side around here was the first aid station to the contractors.

L.J. Kimball: First aid? Let me write first aid there.

Capt. Ruse: Down the street here, there were the two buildings I was talking about.

L.J. Kimball: Now,

Capt. Ruse: See when I got here there was nothing there. The streets were just gridded up, weren't paved.

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L.J. Kimball: Now, to the best of my recollection, the first buildings that were built were these frame buildings there, #121 and #122.

Capt. Ruse: I am not sure, but that is about the vicinity of them.

L.J. Kimball: You just go down, I think C street, First and C Street.

Capt. Ruse: Somewhere along there. Now we were living past the water plant here and in this general direction here.

L.J. Kimball: Okay. Let me get you oriented here. My understanding was that before Pearl Harbor, you just had this section here with some tents.

Capt. Ruse: No, well is this the camp here?

L.J. Kimball: Right, and after Pearl Harbor they had this section down here.

Capt. Ruse: Oh okay.

L.J. Kimball: Because here is the mess halls.

Capt. Ruse: Well you have both camps here.

L.J. Kimball: Right. Here are the mess halls.

Capt. Ruse: Here's the water plant.

L.J. Kimball: There's the church and there is the recreation building, the pumping plant.

Capt. Ruse: This was all tents, to my knowledge.

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Capt. Ruse: Then they built another camp from here on down after Pearl Harbor.

L.J. Kimball: The date of this is 9/2/41.

Capt. Ruse: So this is Tent Camp.

L.J. Kimball: Yes this is Tent Camp.

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Capt. Ruse: Later on, they had a heating plant and the power plant.

L.J. Kimball: Oh it is on here but it's just taking me a while to find it.

Capt. Ruse: Well what is this right here?

L.J. Kimball: This says mess hall.

Capt. Ruse: Right across the street over there were the metal buildings and the heating plant.

L.J. Kimball: Power house, maintenance building.

Capt. Ruse: This was a bridge right over here.

L.J. Kimball: Okay and you are putting your finger on the tents here?

Capt. Ruse: Yes and the first maintenance shops were in this building right here.

L.J. Kimball: Okay this is SH #341 and #342.

Capt. Ruse: I don't know about the numbers.

L.J. Kimball: Well I'm just saying because I am identifying it.

Capt. Ruse: The next building was the maintenance office.

L.J. Kimball: If you turn this around you can read it a little bit better. There we go, it says maintenance building #344.

Capt. Ruse: Yes.

L.J. Kimball: Cold Storage.

Capt. Ruse: Cold storage here on the left.

L.J. Kimball: But this was before Pearl Harbor so apparently all of this was Tent City and the temporary structures were built on the other side of the church after Pearl Harbor.

Capt. Ruse: Well just one street wide after that.

L.J. Kimball: Now, I am still kind of curious. . . . You came into the Gurganus farmhouse there and it wasn't the headquarters building when you came in on 6/41?

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Capt. Ruse: No not that I know of.

L.J. Kimball: There was a post guard?

Capt. Ruse: There were 4 or 5 Marines there, I don't know who was in charge. They may have had a Sergeant in charge.

L.J. Kimball: Did they perform a guard function?

Capt. Ruse: No they just lived there and I don't know what their duties were really. So we went down here in the boondocks and it was raining and dark. A guy came in after a while and said I will show you guys where you want to go. We drove in a pick-up truck, kerosene lanterns and we walked down the street here. It was muddy, muddy, muddy, muddy.

L.J. Kimball: You went down to A street down past the church.

Capt. Ruse: There was no pavements and over here down to the boondocks to the water tower but there was nothing there. We were in here somewhere.

L.J. Kimball: Right next to the water tank?

Capt. Ruse: We weren't right next to it but we could see it.

L.J. Kimball: You said there was an old farmhouse there?

Capt. Ruse: There was a farmhouse, pack house . . . There were 4 rooms, 4 bunks in each room. Then there was the old pack house. They fixed it up, put wiring in it. Now, we were supposed to eat with these cats up here.

L.J. Kimball: Gurganus Farmhouse.

Tape One, Side Two

Capt. Ruse: Eating around there was a problem. There were no mess halls per say. Then they built the mess halls. Here they are right here.

L.J. Kimball: The mess halls weren't there when you checked in though.

Capt. Ruse: There was nothing there.

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L.J. Kimball: Were there tents there?

Capt. Ruse: No!

L.J. Kimball: Not even tents.

Capt. Ruse: Nothing!

L.J. Kimball: Okay. But the frame buildings, these two buildings.

Capt. Ruse: That was it. They got into high gear you might say when Pearl Harbor came along. There was a certain amount of construction, but there was no real big, massive around the clock operation until Pearl Harbor come along. See Camp Davis was down there at Holly Ridge and just about finished. Some of the guys up here, the contractors and civilians, their big problem was to find a place to live and eat. Downtown only had one place . . . Speck's Diner, it was a streetcar . . . on Chaney Ave . . .

L.J. Kimball: What was the name of this diner?

Capt. Ruse: Specks.

L.J. Kimball: Specks. Where was it?

Capt. Ruse: Well, you know where the old bus station is on Chaney Ave. It was right there on the right.

L.J. Kimball: Was it like a railroad car?

Capt. Ruse: Yes, a streetcar. Also highway 17 came around about there too them days.

L.J. Kimball: They hadn't built the bypass yet.

Capt. Ruse: Lord no! Didn't even know what the bypass was. Around the courthouse, 17 went around the corner.

L.J. Kimball: So when you checked in, Hill was in the Liaison Office or was he still CO of Marine Barracks when you checked in?

Capt. Ruse: I don't believe we really had a CO of Marine Barracks back then. The next morning after we got here, it was still raining, hot in June, close, you know how it

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is here. I had a '37 Ford Coupe with big hub caps and I wanted to pop off the rear wheel. It was raining, the old house had a tin roof on it, and an old pitcher pump at the end of the porch there, wore out.

L.J. Kimball: This is the one over by the water tank where you were staying?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah. So we got the pump primed and it was sulphur water, of all things. But anyway we got our foot lockers out of the car and in the house. Someone said where are we going to take a shower and I said I am going to go under that eave out there that's what I am going to do. I went and took a shower, got cleaned up, put on starched khaki. I had no idea where we were at or how we got there. Of course I had my car and Walker had his old Dodge under the live oak tree. The rest of the guys came in by train and the government trucks pulled them over to the house. So here comes Bozy and says the old man wants to see you. We went over to see Col. Hill, he knew some of us. He says well I don't have anything for you guys to do. If you get in jail I'll try to get you out. I'll try to pay you twice a month. This went on for a couple of months. We didn't have damn nothing to do, nothing.

L.J. Kimball: When you went to see Col. Hill was he in one of these frame buildings.

Capt. Ruse: Yes. He was busy, there were contractors and this, that and the other, the phone ringing. He said welcome aboard, thanks for coming, and all that crap. Later on, after we got halfway established, there was a house over there at camp Knox to the left back over there that he had established a place to stay, the old man, and Mrs. Hill was coming down. I don't what property it was, I have no idea. But anyway, Walker, a buddy of mine was a good mechanic, a refrigeration mechanic. We were both buck sergeants. Bozy said why don't you guys go over to that house and get that damn Delco plant running. Mrs. Hill is coming down or she is here, she might be here now I don't know. We go to the house and Mrs. Hill was there about the same day. All the old man had for her was two regulation bunks and two wall dockers, period, and she was T'd off. Hell of a fine lady though, real nice. Got the Delco plant running, got some lights for her. I never saw her no more.

L.J. Kimball: This is a map of Camp Knox and this is the main road here that comes in, Camp Knox Rd. This is when they had it built up, had the dogs here and all.

Capt. Ruse: I remember the dogs, there was a house back in there somewhere but I don't know where it.

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L.J. Kimball: Do you have any idea?

Capt. Ruse: No I have no idea.

L.J. Kimball: These are all trailers now of course.

Capt. Ruse: Oh yeah.

L.J. Kimball: This is the heating plant.

Capt. Ruse: We were down close to the river. The creek runs . . .

L.J. Kimball: Let me move it this way so you can see.

Capt. Ruse: This is the Northeast Creek.

L.J. Kimball: This is the Northeast Creek and this is the road and this is Montford Point.

Capt. Ruse: There was a gate there.

L.J. Kimball: Right.

Capt. Ruse: Back in there somewhere was that house.

L.J. Kimball: So it was past the built up area here.

Capt. Ruse: Well there was no built up area at all. There was a trailer in there. In this general vicinity was the house.

L.J. Kimball: So past all. . . . I am just trying to get a feeling in my mind where that might have been located.

Capt. Ruse: Well, there is a little creek down at the foot of the hill running into Northeast Creek.

L.J. Kimball: This doesn't go that far.

Capt. Ruse: No this doesn't show that far. Later on, that's all that was over there during WWII to my knowledge.

L.J. Kimball: But to your recollection . . .

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Capt. Ruse: The wife and I. I got married in '43 and we moved over to Midway Park.

L.J. Kimball: This is Frenchman's Creek and it runs to . . . this is Scales Creek and this is the road that goes to camp Knox.

Capt. Ruse: It was back over there somewhere.

L.J. Kimball: Around Frenchman's Creek?

Capt. Ruse: I don't know.

L.J. Kimball: See, here is the Creek.

Capt. Ruse: This was a little narrow thing, you could step across it.

L.J. Kimball: Which side of the Creek was the house?

Capt. Ruse: The house was on this little high ground here somewhere.

L.J. Kimball: To the east of the creek?

Capt. Ruse: You could see right down to it. . . . There was a damn gator. . . . There was a guy running with a line through the clearing putting up a power line. He came up the house and says you got a gator down here and I asked Mrs. Hill if she had a weapon. She said no but the colonel's got a pistol here, a 45 automatic. She gave it to him and he went down and squeezed off a couple of rounds. Then came back to the house with the automatic and one of us, maybe Walker, agreed to clean it. Hell no, she said, let the Colonel clean it! She was really T'd off. The creek was no wider than this table.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember what the house looked like?

Capt. Ruse: I don't know whose it was, just an old frame, gray-looking house, I don't know if it was painted. Had only been in there one time. We never had occasion to go back.

L.J. Kimball: When you got to that house, you had to go down to basically where 24 is now and then go down . . .

Capt. Ruse: We went down to 24. See 24 was only a narrow country road them days. There were no houses, there was nothing . . . The old city cemetery was there but

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nothing between there and the radio station, which used to be the Iwo Jima theater on New Bridge Street. There was nothing on that highway between there and Piney Green, on either side of the highway, except that one building next to Jacksonville, that Sam's Used Furniture. There was a bar and he lived top side and that was the only building. Once you got past that there was nothing between there and Piney Green.

L.J. Kimball: Where Sam's Used Furniture is now, that was the only building? And what was it then?

Capt. Ruse: A bar.

L.J. Kimball: A bar.

Capt. Ruse: He lived topside. There was nothing between there and Piney Green.

L.J. Kimball: At that time you were in the Marine Barracks and Col. Hill was the CO?

Capt. Ruse: He might have been the CO, we didn't see him after that. There was no roll call, no formation, no nothing. We was on our own, period.

L.J. Kimball: Did you know about the other Marines who were there, that were the fire watch?

Capt. Ruse: We knew they was around but that was all it amounted to.

L.J. Kimball: Did you have any dealings with them?

Capt. Ruse: No, no, no.

L.J. Kimball: Did you know about the Marines at Paradise Point?

Capt. Ruse: There were a few over there see. They were the same crew we belonged to. We were supposed to go over there and draw rations. But the milk was always sour and the bread moldy. There wasn't much to eat. Some of them guys come back over to Tent City, I don't think they had no refrigeration except an ice box, I don't know what they had.

L.J. Kimball: Did you have to go to Paradise Point to get your rations?

Capt. Ruse: I went over there a couple of times with the truck just to ride. The power plant over by Northeast Creek, that was built as a power plant. There was a road there, you turned right there onto what today is known as Brewster Blvd. There were

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water holes there and you had to climb over logs and it looked like you would never get across there. Then we finally got to Paradise Point, there were some cottages over there, and that is where these guys got their rations from. Who was in charge there I couldn't even tell you.

L.J. Kimball: Do you know what unit they belonged to, the people at Paradise Point?

Capt. Ruse: They were from the same one.

L.J. Kimball: Did you know Major Arthur Challacombe?

Capt. Ruse: I heard of him. I don't know if they even had anybody in charge over there. Commissioned I'm talking about now. At that time. You saw that picture of Montford Point in September of '41. So June, July and August, about three months went by and they took that picture. I am not in the picture I had more important things to do. But, the latter part of August some time, we got the word to do this, that, and the other. We had some civilian drivers at the base that knew the roads. There were three trucks that came out of the base and moved and picked up the rest of the people who did not want to move. Chickens, women, pigs, whatever you know. About that same time, that bath house over there that Stratton Murrell talked about, that his Daddy owned . . . my wife remembers coming down there for the 4th of July celebrations when she was a girl.

L.J. Kimball: So your wife was an Onslow County girl?

Capt. Ruse: No. Duplin County, Beulaville.

L.J. Kimball: Well, here is the bath house where Dr. Murrell was born.

Capt. Ruse: They made a mess hall out of it. The house right up at the top of the hill here is where headquarters was, where Brewster had his headquarters, his office.

L.J. Kimball: Okay, see there are still tents here and no buildings yet. This is 3/42 and they still had tents here.

Capt. Ruse: They had a few tents when that picture was taken. That picture took in about the entire crop of the military.

L.J. Kimball: Okay, I am not sure what picture you are talking about here.

Capt. Ruse: It was taken somewhere in this vicinity.

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L.J. Kimball: Somewhere in front of the officers' tents here?

Capt. Ruse: I don't know if they even had officers' tents. Somewhere in this area, but all these tents were not there I don't think.

L.J. Kimball: All right and who is in the picture?

Capt. Ruse: Oh, Bozarth, I don't think Col. Hill was, Brewster was.

L.J. Kimball: Do you have a copy of this picture.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah I have a copy, it's rolled up, and another guy got a copy. He is a retired base Fire Marshall. Have you run across him yet?

L.J. Kimball: What is his name?

Capt. Ruse: Oh Damn. He was in it and he got a copy of it.

L.J. Kimball: If you could reproduce a copy of it I would really appreciate it.

Capt. Ruse: I'll have to dig it out and see if we can unroll it up without cracking it all the pieces. There was one Navy doctor I believe.

L.J. Kimball: Was that [Omar T.] Brown?

Capt. Ruse: I don't even know who it was . . . About that picture, there were about two ranks of troopers. Just a handful. There weren't that many people here. First guy was a third class, came in here from somewhere, some reserve unit, and his name was Gilton and he got promoted up pretty fast. But I don't believe that Col. Hill was in that damn picture, I don't believe so. But anyway at that same time there, they remodeled that mess hall, and they had cabins, 3 or 4 little frame cottages, about the size of this room . . .

L.J. Kimball: Did you move these?

Capt. Ruse: Yes, moved them around a lot. We made a guard shack out of one and . . .

L.J. Kimball: Here is one that says guard post.

Capt. Ruse: Might have been that.

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L.J. Kimball: Here is the road that goes down to the mess hall. This one says Quartermaster Office.

Capt. Ruse: I don't really know about it. There were 3 or 4 of those little places. That is where we went to get paid once we got some organization. Colonel, no, no, Major, I forget, was the first supply officer. I saw him in the PX a few years ago. We didn't have much organization then. Them two buildings over at Tent City, were the first two buildings, and then over down by the railroad tracks there were some more medal buildings built. There was not much here.

L.J. Kimball: Now this was Col. Brewster's headquarters. This was the base . . . headquarters.

Capt. Ruse: That is the house that Dr. Murrell was born in.

L.J. Kimball: The house he was born in was the mess hall.

Capt. Ruse: No, no, no. The mess hall was there, it was the old bath house. The house that was the headquarters was up on the hill there.

L.J. Kimball: Okay, now do you remember which one of these buildings Col. Brewster had his quarters in?

Capt. Ruse: Right there.

L.J. Kimball: Now this was the headquarters.

Capt. Ruse: He lived right there too I think from what I know of, for a while anyway.

L.J. Kimball: Now this, talking with some of the folks, this was Dr. Murrell's uncle's house, John Burton, here, and the Murrell bath house was here. Dr. Murrell was born in the second floor of what became the mess hall here. So, John Burton's house became the headquarters and the bath house became the mess hall. Now is this where the troops ate here in this mess hall? How about the officers mess, any idea where that was?

Capt. Ruse: After we got some organization, yes. Not that I knew of. I don't even think they had one.

L.J. Kimball: Well, when Col. Brewster became the base commander, did you attend the change of command ceremony? See the flag go up?

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Capt. Ruse: We never heard of nothing. We were in Tent City and us guys just watched the world go by. I don't know we had such a thing as a change of commands in them days, we didn't know the command changed. Later on, after the old man, what happened then I couldn't tell you.

L.J. Kimball: Local history says that the first base headquarters was the Gurganus farmhouse and it says . . .

Capt. Ruse: No I don't think so. There were no headquarters there at all. We just went to eat there.

L.J. Kimball: It says that the first warehouse was an old tobacco barn. Do you have any recollection of where that might have been?

Capt. Ruse: Warehouse?

L.J. Kimball: Yeah the first base warehouse was an old tobacco barn. I am only telling you what I can read because I was not there then.

Capt. Ruse: Not in the vicinity where we lived. Now, what is it, the pack house there, the house and pack house where those guys stayed, and after the but I don't know if there was a tobacco barn, curing barn or what. Over in another area, well now, there could have been, but not to my knowledge something in this area here.

L.J. Kimball: Now the Gurganus farmhouse, were there any old barns around?

Capt. Ruse: No nothing.

L.J. Kimball: Just the farmhouse?

Capt. Ruse: By itself. I remember coming over to Montford Point to get paid, by truck, and that road would be so damn muddy and just as you go by the cemetery there. See I would come in here and they were moving the graves, white folks were being buried there and the colored people at Verona, and the contractor was doing that when I got here. It was rough getting by there. When it rained you could hardly get a 6x6 by there. When they got going over in Tent City, they got the maintenance shop built and that little pumping station there was the first brick building on that base to my knowledge. That was the first brick building to my knowledge.

L.J. Kimball: It's right around here.

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Capt. Ruse: One of them water tanks and concrete tanks, and all.

L.J. Kimball: Around 502 well. It's still there isn't it? [Building TC-501]

Capt. Ruse: Yeah it's still there.

L.J. Kimball: It's about a block or so from the church?

Capt. Ruse: Well it's a little farther down the street there. The chapel wasn't even here in them days. See that, this place was full of tents and full of troops and I have seen as high as 3 troop trains back in right here on this siding. They cleaned the whole damn camp out. Prisoners from the brig and everything. Within 3-4 days they started coming back in from all over the country and fill up again.

L.J. Kimball: You were there when the First Division went off to Guadalcanal?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah when the Brigade went off. Yeah we were there.

L.J. Kimball: In June '41 when you came in, I guess H.M. Smith [Gen. Holland M.] or Gen. Torrey [Maj. Gen. Phillip H.] had the division around that time, I think it was Torrey and they were landings across Onslow Beach, conducting landing operations.

Capt. Ruse: I don't even know if they had a division in those days, a brigade wasn't it?

L.J. Kimball: Let me check my dates here. The division was established in 2/41 although it was still a division in name only because . . .

Capt. Ruse: Probably on paper only.

L.J. Kimball: In June, they started making landings off Onslow Beach in June, July and August.

Capt. Ruse: In August, I went down and watched them for a while one afternoon, we drove down there. They had a ferry running across there, where the Onslow Beach bridge is now. Had an outboard motor on the side and could carry two cars or a truck. We got to where them guys were coming across the beach. The Army had put a pontoon bridge across, just a short ways down toward Swansboro. We went to see what the hell was going on. It was about August. They had no tents. They went back aboard ship and came back about a month later in September I think it was. At that time they had some tents up, had their heads built. What are these down here?

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L.J. Kimball: These are the heads.

Capt. Ruse: Them heads, they had a stream lines running see? And then the mess hall built. When that camp was full of troopers they ran that mess hall around the clock, twenty-four hours a day. They had chow lines at 3 o'clock in the morning. They like to burn themselves up. In fact, they did burn them up. We had maintenance men repairing them. It just never ended. They had people here up the gum stump.

L.J. Kimball: You say that you never really saw the old man or the headquarters, so who was telling you what to do?

Capt. Ruse: We was on our own, Bozarth, and the camp maintenance officer, Major [Frederick W.] Hopkins, he came out of the reserves and was the first maintenance officer.

L.J. Kimball: Frederick Hopkins?

Capt. Ruse: Frederick W. Hopkins.

L.J. Kimball: When did he come in do you remember?

Capt. Ruse: Around '42 or '41.

L.J. Kimball: He was a major when he came in? Where did he operate out of? Where was the headquarters for maintenance?

Capt. Ruse: They may have had several sites, temporary, or at Mainside, I don't know where the maintenance office is now. They may have had something built there. I don't know where he was coming from but he would show up once in a while and later on they had quarters out on Paradise Point in those Cape Cods and he lived out there. It was '42 when they built those Cape Cods, when they built the club. It was about '42 or '43. We had no formations of any kind, no inspections, none of that.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember when the barracks headquarters moved from Montford Point over to Mainside?

Capt. Ruse: No. I went over there and re-enlisted again in 8/42 in that barracks right behind building #1. It had just been occupied.

L.J. Kimball: This was an H style barracks?

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Capt. Ruse: The paint was still wet in there you might say. I re-enlisted and I don't remember what organization I was attached to. That was before that main drag was even paved. It was not paved yet. There were two locomotives across the street on the corner of the parade deck, they furnished steam for the steamline.

L.J. Kimball: Where were the locomotives?

Capt. Ruse: Right at the corner . . .

L.J. Kimball: Right across from building #1?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah, see where the circle is, right there in the corner.

L.J. Kimball: What about that building, you know where you used to turn off 24 in to Camp Lejeune, building 58, what kind of power did that provide. That wasn't a steam plant was it?

Capt. Ruse: No.

L.J. Kimball: Did it provide electricity?

Capt. Ruse: That building was built, being built when I got here. In fact, it was here. I don't remember where we'd get the power from, but they had two big diesel engines in there. Six cylinders. They shipped them from here from somewhere in the west.

L.J. Kimball: The reason I mention this is that they got them from an old mine out there.

Capt. Ruse: They were big ones. I'd been around then when they were running. It was quite a monster diesel that I had ever seen but as time went by and the place got going. [Tape Two, Side One.] The demand for power and resources wasn't too good and I don't know what I can tell you. I remember being out in the woods behind that building and there was a coral for the contractors with a bunch of horses and we rode horseback in the woods to cut right ways for the power lines. I remember seeing a guy without boots on and hollering like hell about rattlesnakes you know? There was a bunch of them. We used to see them next to town. Next to, today there's a Square One Lumber Co. there. Used to be William's Lumber Co. The lumber co. wasn't there then. Right next to it is a long frame building, it's brick now, it's a non-denominational church today I think. The day after we got here, the next night we went out and it was a taxi-dance hall. A dime a dance. A guy came up from Trenton and built that thing there. There were about 25 girls who worked there lived in the Onslow Tourist Hall or something like that down

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towards the old bridge, well there's a new bridge there now, down by the river. Built on a pilling out over that marsh by the river. It is all gone now. It burnt down. Everybody got along real good. We had a real mixture of people. You couldn't buy a beer if you were in uniform.

L.J. Kimball: This place where you danced, this taxi dance, is now Square One?

Capt. Ruse: No it's a church now.

L.J. Kimball: It used to be Square One?

Capt. Ruse: No. The one next door was. That building was all by itself, them days.

L.J. Kimball: I'm just trying to picture in my mind . . .

Capt. Ruse: A guy from Trenton came down and built that thing. A dime a dance. A little further down towards Tent City, the Second Front, they never shut down, they run 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

L.J. Kimball: How long after Tent City was here did the Second Front show up?

Capt. Ruse: That's what I'm talking about.

L.J. Kimball: I mean how . . .

Capt. Ruse: It was there when I got there, even before the tents. Certain amount of it was. Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: But the place that is now a non-denominational church, that was in Jacksonville itself.

Capt. Ruse: No, it wasn't in Jacksonville. Next time you are on the highway look at it. It's the Square One Lumber Company now, and right next to it on the Jacksonville side, is this non-denominational church. It's bricked up. It don't resemble the original building at all.

L.J. Kimball: Just bear with me and I will go get a map. I want to make sure I understand. This is a current map. Here is camp Geiger and here is 17 and this place where . . .

Capt. Ruse: If you are coming toward town from Tent City, it's on the right, on 17, just before you cross the river.

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L.J. Kimball: Used to be an old prison out there.

Capt. Ruse: No the prison is out here.

L.J. Kimball: Here is the line. The prison was right next to the Camp Geiger line.

Capt. Ruse: No out here the prison, wait a minute, yes you're right.

L.J. Kimball: The prison was here and here is the National Guard Armory now and Luigi's, Georgetown Rd.

Capt. Ruse: It was down, just about the bridge there, right over there was that building, I think. 17 and 24, along in here somewhere. Somewhere in that area.

L.J. Kimball: There is a non-denominational church there now?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah you can't miss it.

L.J. Kimball: Well, I'm glad your sure.

L.J. Kimball: When was it that you say you got married?

Capt. Ruse: In '43.

L.J. Kimball: So you were living near the water tower at Tent City and when did you move into some other quarters?

Capt. Ruse: Well, I went on a little bit of Christmas leave and they put the tents up next to the old maintenance building that they built and moved us in there.

L.J. Kimball: You are talking about the frame buildings for W.P.T. Hill.

Capt. Ruse: No, no, no. See this street over here and power plant. There is a maintenance building and they had an office there and a row of tents. That's about it just in there.

L.J. Kimball: This is on D Street right near the power house.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: So you stayed in tents there, and how long were you there?

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Capt. Ruse: Until, I got married in the spring of '43 and we moved to Midway Park. So it was '44 I believe it was that I finally got caught in the draft. Midway Park was new them days the house was less than a year old. Commissioned civilians, civil service, contractors, foremen, everybody lived in Midway Park. Space was at a premium. You could rent anything that had a roof and four walls. Hardly a day come by that somebody didn't come by the house looking for a place to stay just to get out of the weather. I went and got two metal bunks and had a plywood wall made. We kept a room in there all the time we lived in Midway Park. No one was interested in a place to eat, just to get out of the weather.

L.J. Kimball: This was a common practice, people rented out . . .

Capt. Ruse: Yeah, everybody did.

L.J. Kimball: Here is a map of what Midway Park eventually looked like. Of course, we have some clover leafs here now.

Capt. Ruse: There they are. 1120 . . . somewhere down in here. Where is the present day, where you got your driver's license and all that stuff?

L.J. Kimball: Yeah, here is Building 4000, here is the shopping mall, and this is the way you come in now.

Capt. Ruse: Go down past this street right here.

L.J. Kimball: This is 1328.

Capt. Ruse: This is 1300 block right here.

L.J. Kimball: Okay, 1300.

Capt. Ruse: Here is 1122.

L.J. Kimball: 1122.

Capt. Ruse: Back over there, that house right there, I believe that was the one.

L.J. Kimball: Around 1127 there?

Capt. Ruse: Year right there. That's the right one right there. They were duplexes. Duplexes and singles. Then they built Dog Patch down here, made out of cinder block, and

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then behind here they built a bunch of frame. It was all torn down after the war.
But they come along after these were built.

L.J. Kimball: Now, the area that you called Dog Patch, is that torn down now?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah it has been gone a long time.

L.J. Kimball: Who was in Dog Patch?

Capt. Ruse: Anybody.

L.J. Kimball: Just more of the same.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Dog Patch was an extension down the road?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah it went back behind here back toward Piney Green. Then those frame buildings and apartments were back over behind. They built them after this here.

L.J. Kimball: You say the frame buildings were wood just like Midway Park.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah something similar. They're all gone now. They're all gone except what you see today. In that block buildings there they had coal burning stoves. Wasn't very fancy. Same thing down in Holly Ridge. Had to heat with coal, cook with coal.

L.J. Kimball: I was kind of curious about that. Let's get oriented here. Okay. Here is Piney Green Rd.

Capt. Ruse: Here is Midway Park right here. Dog Patch was back in here, it was all government land.

L.J. Kimball: Here is Midway Park. Here is the shopping center they have now. Train tracks.

Capt. Ruse: Here is Piney Green Rd right here.

L.J. Kimball: Yeah. Here is where they have the Food Lion and all.

Capt. Ruse: It was on this side of Piney Green Rd.

L.J. Kimball: And the shopping center is here.

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Capt. Ruse: No, no.

L.J. Kimball: Here is the base.

Capt. Ruse: Oh, it looks like there might have been a grocery store or something there but it wasn't really the shopping center per say it is somewhere down there somewhere which is here today. Somewhere behind Midway Park but I'm not sure.

L.J. Kimball: You know where the fire station is now?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: There's a Japanese Restaurant. You go down there and it looks like there used to be some buildings back there is that where . . .

Capt. Ruse: Could have been. I don't remember now exactly because I never had to live there. They were there in the latter part of the war. They call it Dog Patch. They were all cinder block buildings, similar to those built at Montford Point. Cinder blocks. It was the cheapest and fastest way to do it, concrete floors . . . I don't know if they were even furnished. I don't remember now. It was called the Dog Patch.

L.J. Kimball: Do you remember when the black Marines came in?

Capt. Ruse: Yes indeed.

L.J. Kimball: The married black NCO's, did they stay at Midway Park or some other government housing?

Capt. Ruse: There were no married blacks to my knowledge, they stayed over at Montford Point. They had white NCOs and white officers that came in to train the colored troopers. Then the guys took care of their own, black DIs, but they still had white officers.

L.J. Kimball: One of the reasons that I ask you is because it has always been kind of a mystery . . .

Capt. Ruse: They did not live around here. They wouldn't tolerate that crap.

L.J. Kimball: They say that they had a club that they called the 51 Club where the blacks used to go, do you have any idea where that was?

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Capt. Ruse: Montford Point probably.

L.J. Kimball: It was off the military reservation though, so I was wondering if you had any recollection?

Capt. Ruse: Never even heard of it unless it was after the war?

L.J. Kimball: I was wondering, here is 24 and here is the railroad line and this is government property so I was wondering where these places could have been.

Capt. Ruse: Did you put that on there?

L.J. Kimball: Well I put this on here because some of the other folks I had talked to said this area is Midway Park and there is kind of a gap here, then there is an area called Dog Patch.

Capt. Ruse: This might have been Dog Patch but it is all gone now you see.

L.J. Kimball: Now here is a connecting road. See, this is Midway Park as it exists now.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: No it can't be. They called it a connecting road. There was a Culver Circle and a Culver Drive, this used to be some sort of government housing. I am trying to reconstruct what this was.

Capt. Ruse: This could have been Dog Patch right here. Could have been. There were very few cars them days. They had government buses, driven by WMs, having people to the commissary.

L.J. Kimball: Once again, in Dog Patch, the buildings were different that the rest of Midway Park?

Capt. Ruse: They were similar but made of cinder block. Quickly throwed up. Anything for an emergency, just like Tent City when Pearl Harbor come along. Knocked them damn trees down, worked around the clock, built that railroad spur, assembled and bolted together homosote sections, didn't take long at all to build that place.

L.J. Kimball: Did they replace the tents with these prefabricated, homosote huts?

Capt. Ruse: No, that was called Hut Camp. It was an addition.

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L.J. Kimball: Hut Camp. So it was separate, you had Hut Camp and Tent Camp?

Capt. Ruse: You had Tent Camp and Hut Camp. They built a mess hall down there and a steam plant. That chapel was built about the same time. To quickly house all these people, all these troopers, they had to do something. It was called Hut Camp. These huts would hold I think about 25 men or something like that. Had a space heater in the middle of them. Row of bunks on each side. That Homosote board was real soft, about ¾" thick, could knock a hole through it with your fist. Maintenance people were always patching them. When they left, pulled out on the draft, we gave them a really good fixing. They had kicked holes in the side, knocked out windows, everything. Maintenance guys would get them all fixed up, then came another bunch. Almost overnight things got in high gear then, when Pearl Harbor came along. Something mainside. There were people everywhere.

L.J. Kimball: What did they replace these huts and tents with. Were you here when they replaced them. Was it Quonset huts, was that the next thing.

Capt. Ruse: No I don't think so. Camp Geiger was just vacant to my knowledge for several years. When we came up from Georgia in '57 there wasn't anything there.

L.J. Kimball: At one point, did they have Quonset huts there?

Capt. Ruse: I don't think they'd Quonset huts here I don't believe, not that I can recall. Those metal buildings that you see over Camp Geiger was WWII type. They are still there some of them. I'll never forget on the fourth of July about 1942 there was a big frame mess hall, to relieve the strain on Tent Camp. They couldn't keep the damn stove repaired fast enough. About fourth of July there was a fire. They were cooking fish or something. Some yardbird took a bucket of water and threw it on a greasy fire it caught the whole top of the mess hall. We lost the mess hall. We were back to square one again.

L.J. Kimball: Was this the mess hall down at Hut Camp?

Capt. Ruse: At Hut Camp.

L.J. Kimball: At Hut Camp.

Capt. Ruse: They quickly got it built. It took the strain off the one up in Tent Camp. It didn't last more than one week. Back to square one again. I suppose they rebuilt it. I don't remember now. But you could not believe the people there. Everybody was

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walking. There were no cars. I was one of the fortunate ones. Right across, the second front, downtown, Court Street, reminded you of Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Everybody walking just like that. You had no troubles. A bottle of beer, walk around the town, about 10 o'clock, the MPs run them back to Tent City. You didn't have all that trouble you have nowadays. Maybe they just didn't know any different.

L.J. Kimball: You say you were here until '44 and then you went over . . .

Capt. Ruse: Yes the latter part of '44.

L.J. Kimball: When you left here where did they send you?

Capt. Ruse: West coast. With the draft that went to Pearl Harbor and ended up in Guam.

L.J. Kimball: What year were you in Guam.

Capt. Ruse: Let's see. The Third Division was on Guam but I was with the 2nd separate Engineer Battalion [2d SEB], Corps Troops was what you called them.

L.J. Kimball: Was Guam already secured when you got there.

Capt. Ruse: Oh yeah. Yeah. Didn't they have three amphibious corps during WWII?

L.J. Kimball: I believe so. [Yes - I, III, and V.]

Capt. Ruse: They considered that bunch of people, different outfits, separate Engineer Battalions. I reported in there and the guy hollered at me. They used to call me Pappy all the time. He said Hey Pappy. This guy was a captain, the Utilities Officer for the 2nd SEB. Name was Meyer, never had much use for him. He was a buck sergeant back at the old water plant in Quantico. He said I've been waiting for you, got just the job for you. The SeeBees had built a water plant there on Guam, a semi-portable water plant. He sent my butt down there to take over the place. I was Master Tech Sergeant, E-7. I was there rocking and rolling and the war wound down eventually. We saddled up on LSTs at the breakwater in Apra Harbor. We hung around between Saipan and Tinian then went to Sasebo, Japan. We landed there 9/21.

L.J. Kimball: What rank were you then?

Capt. Ruse: Master tech sergeant. Three up and three across.

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L.J. Kimball: Master tech sergeant.

Capt. Ruse: Had the Utility Section. We had water points this that and the other. We got pretty much organized as time went by. Then the outfit was going to be deactivated and sent back to the States. Myself and I don't know how many others, that weren't reserves, we went to Tientsin, China, with the 1st SEB.. About the first week in January, it was cold.

L.J. Kimball: What year was this?

Capt. Ruse: In '46.

L.J. Kimball: '46.

Capt. Ruse: We stayed in China until the last of the calendar year. Shipped over in August. Well I went down to Tsingtao, TAD, me and another master tech and about 30 guys. Took over the airfield job from the SeeBees. I rode a rock crusher and me and 6 or 8 Marines and a bunch of Chinamen ran an asphalt plant. Went back to Tientsin. That was during the epidemic. You had to be inoculated before you went back in the area. I think it was Japanese encephalitis. We lost two troopers I found out later on. Anyway, in sick bay down there, the chief asked me "how you feeling" and I said "I feel pretty fair." I said "why" and he said because the shot is pretty potent. It was heavy. It was like cream.

L.J. Kimball: It wasn't gamma globulin was it?

Capt. Ruse: No, I don't think so. So I went to division engineers then, in the Russian concession. The outfit I had belonged too, was in the Japanese area, they went back to the states. Col. Robinson, he was a major then, he was a supply officer, the skipper. When they broke up the engineer outfit, he went to Parris Island. He was the maintenance officer there. I also worked for him in Albany, Georgia. Well, I shipped over, fired the range, we had a bunch of SNCOs then. Hardly anybody to work though, the reservists had all gone home.

Tape Two, Side Two

Capt. Ruse: Well I left there Nov, Dec, '46, came back to the states, to the water plant in Parris Island. Stayed there about 18 months, got a fast set of orders to Quantico. My oldest daughter was born in the old naval hospital in Quantico, 10/47. Valentines Day '47, I guess, I have been there about 18 months and we had a first Sergeant and he said "I have a valentine for you" I said "yeah?" He said you got a set of

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orders to Quantico. I had about a week to get the hell out of there. Wife was in the hospital, brand new baby. I went to the maintenance officer I got an extension. So finally in about three weeks I went to Quantico. Went to Service Battalion. Went to the maintenance office and then I saw Capt. Fred Turner. Then I knew what was going on. He was behind the orders. I used to work for him before the war. He was the Master tech and I was PFC. He was a big old Nebraska farm boy. You're the culprit I said. He said "Tell you what I'm going to do. Remember how I used to run the water plant when I was the boss?" I said yes. He said "I'm sending you out there." You're senior to that out there, he is going to be relieved and you're in charge. Get your ass out of here and go. That was a hell of a mess and he knew it. He gave me some good men. We worked our butts off the first year. He retired himself in '48, on 30. He was WWI man, Fred was.

L.J. Kimball: When did you get commissioned?

Capt. Ruse: '51.

L.J. Kimball: Was that after Quantico?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah. I had heard nothing about no program the commandant had. There was an officer named Captain Paul Taylor. No one bothered me much. I rarely went into Mainside. One day he said "Ruse, I recommended you for second Lieutenant." I said "what!" He said yeah. Col. Willy was the base supply officer and he told me to recommend you and some other Master Sergeant. That was before E-8 and E-9. Anyway, he said to come in tomorrow, I show you the order, or letter, or something. Sure enough, I said well I don't know. See I had shipped over again in 1948 to Quantico. I had 16 then. I told the wife that I wasn't going to worry about it cause the Marine Corps was full of Master Sergeants and Lieutenants which had been reverted. We had them up the gum stump in those days, 49, 50, and 51. The instructions said anyone with a GCT of 125 would be eligible for temporary commission to second Lieutenant in the same MOS. They would make 25 engineer MOS's out of 500. I was one of the 25 much to my surprise. I had about 17 years then. My date of rank was 1 May. I came damn close to not taking it. Hell, I was a pretty senior master sergeant. I was a master tech back in '43. Anyhow, back them days Quantico was known as a development center or something with some fancy title. Back them days they made equipment boards down towards the docks. Well anyway someone I knew invited me in, someone was trying to sell the Marine Corps a new bulk fuel handling system. I put some clean dungarees on, worked on the diesel engines all the time. I went over to the main side. I hear "Hey Ruse, congratulations." I turn around and there was Dutch

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Shaub, Major Warren K. Shaub, I worked for him in China. Hell of a good guy. I said "for what." "You made second Lieutenant didn't you?" I said "not yet I ain't." He backed my butt against the wall and said "let me tell you one damn thing, you'll be a captain in 3 years." "What the hell you talking about," I said, "what's the Marine Corps coming to." He was right, I was a captain in 2 or 3 years. I was too old for LDO or a warrant grade. I wasn't sorry I did it.

L.J. Kimball: Were you in Korea?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: Who were you with there.

Capt. Ruse: Service Battalion. MUSAN-NI.

L.J. Kimball: Getting back to Camp Lejeune during the early part there, Col. Bozarth and Hill, they were liaison.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah I guess they was.

L.J. Kimball: They seemed to make a distinction between that and the barracks so they were no longer part of the barracks when . . .

Capt. Ruse: I don't know really. See the Maintenance Officer was Hopkins and Bozarth was base maintenance. Now what happened to Col. Hill I don't know. Whether he stayed here or not in '42 or '43. He may have been cause they were still building the base and fine tuning you might say. They had the base here, Montford Pt., the Rifle Range, the Air Station, and Camp Geiger. I remember when I first went out to the Air Station. Nothing but trees out there. They cut them trees all down.

L.J. Kimball: What about the civilians that were working on base, didn't they stay on what was to become the barracks or temporary quarters for the civilians?

Capt. Ruse: I don't know about the barracks but they were everywhere else around here, if you got married and put in for housing, you would get Midway Park. There were never no vacant places to live.

L.J. Kimball: I read that they shipped in people from all parts of the state.

Capt. Ruse: From all over the country.

L.J. Kimball: How about temporary housing areas on the base.

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Capt. Ruse: They used to have a trailer park. Right at the end of the road from Piney Green which should have been paved years ago on my opinion. Piney Green extension they call it now. Used to go all the way to Onslow Beach. At the junction there was a big trailer park one time for military and civilians. That was the first expandable trailer that I ever saw. You could unfold them and pull one side out. I don't how many they had there, it was like a city.

L.J. Kimball: Didn't they have some trailers over at Camp Geiger also?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah. You went in the Air Station to the right, they had 100's of them there. They had an auction and sold them all.

L.J. Kimball: The civilian workers, were there blacks also.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah there were some.

L.J. Kimball: Did they keep them segregated, where they lived?

Capt. Ruse: I suppose they did. I don't know. I am sure that they did. You had contractors here putting in power lines, contractors for water and sewer. Contractors building that steam plant, steamlines and roads. What have you. There was a bunch of people here.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall having any blackouts during your early times because of the German Submarines off the coast?

Capt. Ruse: At night they used to dim the lights around here. They had blackout lights on vehicles.

L.J. Kimball: Did you work during the night, after Pearl Harbor?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah they worked at nighttime too.

L.J. Kimball: Was there a concern about showing lights over the water . . .

Capt. Ruse: Oh I don't know. Being close to the beach I don't know about all that really. I remember we had the blackout lights on the vehicles.

L.J. Kimball: What about security concerns? Do you recall worrying about people infiltrating, sabotage . . . ?

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Capt. Ruse: Oh yeah there was always a little bit of that going on. Security tightened up a little bit you might say but nothing really. You could come and go. We had a badge and a metal frame the same as the civilians. The civilians had the name and a picture. Ours we had to sign with the maintenance officer. We could come and go out the gate anytime day or night.

L.J. Kimball: Did you get over to Verona when the 11th Marines were there?

Capt. Ruse: Oh you should have seen that thing the first year they was there. Looked like a hobo jungle down there. What a mess. MUD! Had to put those poor devils on 6x6s and bring them up to Tent City for showers. In the winter it was a miracle that half of them didn't die from pneumonia.

L.J. Kimball: I read that Col. DeValle [Lt. Gen. Pedro A.] was down there with the 11th Marines and they were kind of unhappy at the way they were treated.

Capt. Ruse: Henry Humphry, now with A.D. Guy Insurance, was born and bred down there. He used to sell newspapers to the boys there. He could tell you some stories about the mud.

L.J. Kimball: Do you know where the headquarters was down there, the artillery headquarters?

Capt. Ruse: I don't remember.

L.J. Kimball: They had that big estate down there at Town Point [McIntyre/Coddington Estate] and I wondered if you have ever seen it.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah I seen it before anybody got down here. We used to drive down there. I often wondered what happened to that monument that the old man had made of his wife. It used to be in storage at Camp Geiger.

L.J. Kimball: Did you ever see it?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah, I seen it but I don't know where it is at now.

L.J. Kimball: What did it look like, I heard stories but I would like to hear it from someone who actually saw it.

Capt. Ruse: It was a marble monument about so high, I don't know 5 or 6 feet high.

L.J. Kimball: Was it an actual statue of her?

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Capt. Ruse: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: It wasn't just a relief or outline?

Capt. Ruse: No, hell it was marble. Last I heard anything about it, it's supposed to be in a crate or box in one of the warehouses over there, at Camp Geiger. Unless someone confiscated it or something. I don't know what they'd want with it.

L.J. Kimball: So what was it, a statue you say?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah about 5 or 6 feet tall.

L.J. Kimball: Did it have any carving or words?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah a bunch of words. He thought so much of his wife that he more or less had a replica or whatever they might want to call it of her. I don't know whatever happened to it. Those big old magnolia trees going back to the house on that lane, it was a beautiful place, it was huge. He used to come down by special train to Verona, he and his family and the parties they used to have. Class operation out there. He was a real wheel about town. Behind that big house in the woods there was a huge pile of liquor and beer bottles.

L.J. Kimball: Were they still living there?

Capt. Ruse: No. I don't know if someone knocked it down or tore it down or whatever happened to it, to tell you the truth.

L.J. Kimball: Do you have any idea when it was torn down?

Capt. Ruse: Sometime during the early part of the war.

L.J. Kimball: When you saw it in '41 it was still there.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah it was still intact. A big old place, two stories.

L.J. Kimball: Was anyone from the Marines or anybody living in it at the time?

Capt. Ruse: No, not to my knowledge.

L.J. Kimball: It was just deserted as far as you know.

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Capt. Ruse: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: When was the next time you were out there?

Capt. Ruse: Oh, I don't know. Several years went by I suppose. I would occasionally walk over there if there was something to do over at Tent City. There were several hunting lodges on this base scattered along the river, choice pieces of property. I remember when Bozarth lived over at Stone Bay with a couple of guys. Outside money had come in there, great place to hunt and fish.

L.J. Kimball: Did you know of any hunting clubs around Montford Point?

Capt. Ruse: Not in them days no.

L.J. Kimball: There weren't any.

Capt. Ruse: There might have been but I know there were one in Camp Knox and . . .

L.J. Kimball: You said that there was a sporting club at Camp Knox.

Capt. Ruse: I think there were.

L.J. Kimball: Is that anywhere close to Col. Hill's quarters, do you know?

Capt. Ruse: It might have been the same one except it could have been the same building, I don't know.

L.J. Kimball: He could have lived in those quarters.

Capt. Ruse: Yeah, it could have been the same one. They had a Delco plant you know. I don't know if it is the same one or not. If you went out in the river and went swimming in the summertime, it was full of shrimp, you can't believe the shrimp. You could feel them against your leg. You could almost reach down with your hand and grab them. Flounder, oh god. There was choice oysters, some of the best you'd ever eat in the world. They're gone.

L.J. Kimball: That's a shame. I had some pictures I wanted to show you.

Capt. Ruse: I'm surprised that there are no more records of this property that, you could say, the government confiscated. All I ever seen was a manila folder with a picture

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and a page or two of documents, but that was it. But I don't know how many pieces of property they had.

L.J. Kimball: They have what they call a vault down in Public Works. Have you seen any of the folders that they have there of the property that was taken?

Capt. Ruse: No. K.B. Hurst, his family was one of the largest holders over at Paradise Point. Today, where the club is. They had a lot of acres, one of the largest I think. Onslow Beach was called Hurst Beach when I got here and it was private property.

L.J. Kimball: Do you recall the CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] camps here on the base?

Capt. Ruse: No.

L.J. Kimball: There was supposed to be two of them.

Capt. Ruse: I heard there were some there.

L.J. Kimball: One was at Camp Knox. That was before the dogs were there.

Capt. Ruse: The CCC camp was back in the 30's. Back before WWII, about '38 or '39, was the last CCC camps I think.

L.J. Kimball: There was supposed to have been one, they talk about one on Paradise Point also.

Capt. Ruse: I never heard. I know there were some old buildings on 17 where the fire tower is some of them were old CCC camp barracks they hauled in. Or they might have been there all the time. But I don't know.

L.J. Kimball: Did you work with Rocky Williams here at Camp Lejeune?

Capt. Ruse: No.

L.J. Kimball: I understand . . .

Capt. Ruse: Not in the division, later on when I came up from Albany, Georgia, in '58 or '59. He came up from Parris Island in a fire truck and turned around and went back, Summer of '41, Spring of '41.

L.J. Kimball: He came up from Parris Island?

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Capt. Ruse: Him and some other guys brought fire trucks up there.

L.J. Kimball: Were these fire trucks parked at the Gurganus farmhouse?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah. But I never knew Rocky until later. He was a Warrant, WO-1. I was Captain then. Served with him through '59.

L.J. Kimball: Was Rocky up just briefly in the summer of '41 and was that his only experience with Camp Lejeune?

Capt. Ruse: I think he was there overnight. He wasn't there very long. I believe he went back, the next day.

L.J. Kimball: Maybe you can tell me about some of these places, where Col. Hill stayed, for example. I have some pictures and maybe you can recognize some of them.

Capt. Ruse: There was a hotel downtown but it's all gone.

L.J. Kimball: The Riverview?

Capt. Ruse: There were two hotels down there. He was there for a while but I don't know how long. When he first sent for us and wanted to see us, at that time where he was staying I have no idea.

L.J. Kimball: Did you say that he worked at the courthouse for a while?

Capt. Ruse: They tell me he had an office at the courthouse for a while but I don't know for how long. I don't think very long. He worked with the Register of Deeds, because of all the property they were assuming. That might have been the tie in. See, the Register of Deeds down in Jacksonville, there is a land grant down there that goes back to 1717. That is the oldest document in that courthouse, unless it was on a microfiche now. It was written in long hand and you can hardly read it.

L.J. Kimball: What was in Jacksonville in 1941 when you folks checked in? Was there a movie theater there?

Capt. Ruse: One.

L.J. Kimball: Where was that located?

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Capt. Ruse: Well going down Court Street, you know that little cafe in the building Dr. Murrell owns?

L.J. Kimball: Now?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah.

L.J. Kimball: It's on Court Street? I'm not sure what building Dr. Murrell owns.

Capt. Ruse: Well, between that street that goes down to the tax office and the USO, just past there a door or two was a theater, a small theater [Onslow Theater].

L.J. Kimball: Okay, on the right hand side going down, before you get to the courthouse or what is now the Sheriff's Department.

Capt. Ruse: Well there used to be a bank on the corner over there, the First Citizens Bank. So, you had the courthouse over there and on the corner was the bank.

L.J. Kimball: The bank is still there.

Capt. Ruse: Down the other corner was the Aman Hardware Store. In between there was a drugstore, old man Dr. Johnson Drug Store, he owned all that land out there. New River Shopping Center part of it and all that was his property at one time. That's why they call it Johnson Boulevard there. When they built that bypass in the early part of WWII they put that other bridge there. The bridge that is there today is not the original bridge. There was not a whole lot downtown. Leder Brothers of course. Margolis was there. Oh across the corner from the courthouse, they made a parking lot for the Sheriff's office, but you used to be able to get straight down there toward the river. On the corner was a Ford Agency, small operation. Behind it was a liquor store and behind that was the jail. Next door to the jail was the library. I remember going down there and going to the library.

L.J. Kimball: When did they build that bypass road there?

Capt. Ruse: I don't know, I would say sometime in '42.

L.J. Kimball: Was it '42?

Capt. Ruse: I think it was. It was congested and bad enough before that. Imagine all the traffic coming around the courthouse from that old bridge. That was highway 17.

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It was a big old mess. If somebody had told me I was going to retire at Camp Lejeune, I would have said no way.

L.J. Kimball: If somebody had told me I would retire at Camp Lejeune, I would have said No way also. I came here on my first tour as a battalion commander, I started looking around and said hey, this is a nice place and came back here for my twilight tour, bought a lot and built a new house.

Capt. Ruse: Over there in Tent City, I could show you the naval hospital at one time. I got a menu from there for Thanksgiving Day 1943. On your map it's right in here somewhere. Right here.

L.J. Kimball: As I recall . . .

Capt. Ruse: That is a hospital right there isn't it?

L.J. Kimball: I believe you are right and I have reason to believe that there was a hospital there. I think that you are right, this Building 311 was likely a hospital.

Capt. Ruse: Yup. It wasn't too far from the gate. I had a tooth pulled in town, right there on the corner of Johnson and Kerr St. House is still there today.

L.J. Kimball: Tape three, side one. What was the occasion that you were having Thanksgiving down there?

Capt. Ruse: You had the choice of either eating there or at the mess hall. I ate the first hot meal the mess hall ever served. I will never forget, we had chicken fricassee. It was delicious. Just across the tracks, or maybe not across the tracks, I am not too sure, there in Jacksonville, an old colored lady had a boarding house over there. It was a hell of a good place to go on the weekends.

L.J. Kimball: Around where the railroad station was.

Capt. Ruse: Somewhere in that neighborhood. It was a hell of a good place to go. Man, she put out some rations that would not quit and plenty of them. She had a little wicker basket on the stand inside the front door and you paid as you left what you thought was the going price or what it was worth. A dollar, 75 cents, or a dollar and a half. I will never forget that. Had a friend with a big cement block barbeque pit. We'd go over to the river at Swansboro at low tide and dig up oysters. Wouldn't be out there no time before you had a bushel basket full. Man those steamed oysters were good.

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L.J. Kimball: Did you have anything to do with Camp Davis at this time? It seems strange that you have this massive army camp in the same county as Camp Lejeune. You'd think you'd get some cooperation or connection between them.

Capt. Ruse: They stayed down there and we stayed up here.

L.J. Kimball: Did you go to different places on Liberty?

Capt. Ruse: There wasn't much time-off to go on liberty. The Army ran shuttle buses back and forth, from Holly Ridge down to Wilmington around the clock. Now if you went down to Wilmington, well after I was married we would pool the gas tickets and get down there early in the day or the Army troopers would buy everything in town, eating, drinking and anything else. If you wanted something to eat or drink you better get there early or there was nothing. They would drink it all up. On this side of Holly Ridge there used to be a place called the Round House or something . . . look at that time!

L.J. Kimball: I got to reset the clock one of these days. It's not accurate.

Capt. Ruse: I got to run back to town before long.

L.J. Kimball: Can I . . .

Capt. Ruse: Like I said, food and drink were the main thing around when I first got here. They used to be a place out this side of Holly Ridge, big frame old bar, and a cat house you might say. That guy, I forgot his name, would have bootleg New York beer. He would fill everything, barrel, bathtub, full of beer before the guys got out of work at Holly Ridge. They would drink everything. By 9 or 10 o'clock he was sold out. In Jacksonville, right on the corner where the First Citizens Bank building is for sale now, it was not there back then, there were stores there then. Right behind there was a building with some space in-between the building about 5 feet or 6 feet and there was this old Jewish fellow who sold wine out of that hole. He sold many a bottle of wine there.

L.J. Kimball: This was homemade wine he made himself.

Capt. Ruse: Hell no it was bottled wine. Merchants. You could sell anything, of course. Beer wasn't that expensive then either. Not too long after that where the bank is on the corner, that old First Citizens Bank, toward the courthouse, a fellow opened a restaurant. I forget his name now. That was the first restaurant per say on Court Street. It wasn't very big. I was amazed at the amount of people down there. No

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one got locked up, there were no drugs. None of that crap. Now it is a different ball game today and a different society.

L.J. Kimball: Certainly more permissive.

Capt. Ruse: I never thought I would see the day on that main drag going to the base, Holcomb Boulevard, going 55 mph, and people passing me, even motorcycles. It still bothers me that no one stops at the gate for the sentry. But we have a different ball game today. I have been retired for quite a while, 32 years, be 33 next June. Hell, I had a maintenance company over in 902, we all worked. We didn't go to McDonnell's for lunch, brought it from the mess hall. Mess hall chow's better than it ever was. Hell, I enjoyed standing regimental duty over at FSR before retiring, just so I could eat in the mess hall. It was like a holiday. Wasn't that way when I joined. Cold storage eggs and chicken, green eggs . . .

L.J. Kimball: You say green eggs.

Capt. Ruse: Cold storage.

L.J. Kimball: Cold storage eggs.

Capt. Ruse: Yellow turns kind of green when they age. They taste like an old musty bag. Not very tasty. Cold storage chicken was black. Rations in those days was less than 50 cents a day. When I was first married, we got \$37 dollars and half a month quarters allowance. We could pay for the house, rent, lights and power at Midway Park. All I had to do was get some fuel for the space heater.

L.J. Kimball: So you had gas heat.

Capt. Ruse: No, oil, fuel oil. Going back a few years, I remember standing in a pay line with Master Tech Sgt. Fred Turner, he was married, had about 16 years service. He would draw \$100 every two weeks. I'd get about \$10, with my allotments. I said to myself many times, if I only had \$100 at one time, I'd have it made. Well when I retired I drew maximum pay. For four years enlisted service. Do you have any idea what it was?

L.J. Kimball: You retired in '63, I'd say it was probably about \$400.

Capt. Ruse: \$530.

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L.J. Kimball: \$530. I remember because I was commissioned in 1965 and my base pay was \$220 as a Second Lieutenant then. That was starting off though. It's hard to believe . . .

Capt. Ruse: Well during my married life we had credit at the commissary. My wife did all the shopping. If we had a bill for \$25 she would raise holy hell. Bread was a nickel I think, coffee about a dime and meat wasn't a whole lot. I remember, taking my grandson over to the clothing store to get dress shoes. He was attending military school. He got black dress shoes. I asked the guy in charge how much money value is a full issue of clothes now days. Close to \$800. It's hard to believe I said. Back when I joined the Marine Corps, a full issue, minus dungarees, which were company property, was only a little over \$100.

L.J. Kimball: What kind of dungarees did you have when you came in. Did they look like blue jeans?

Capt. Ruse: They were prison made. Company property. One size fit all.

L.J. Kimball: Overalls?

Capt. Ruse: Bib overalls and a blouse. There wasn't much shape to them.

L.J. Kimball: That was a working uniform, you wouldn't wear that in combat would you.

Capt. Ruse: Well, they went out, oh . . . The Marine Corps spent more money on dungarees, I thought, and still got nothing. they went from two-piece jobbers to coveralls. Then they had the herringbone jacket and pants. Then the ones with pockets on the sides. Where'd they go from there?

L.J. Kimball: Sateens I believe they were.

Capt. Ruse: They spent more money. Now during combat in WWII they had baggy pants from the Army. I don't know. Them camouflage outfits they had, couldn't get no mileage out of them. Back when I'm talking about, in those days, skivvies cost a quarter. They were made out of good material. Skivy shirts then would outlast those today 10 to 1. The deal was, if you were smart with what you were doing, in the 40's you got a full issue of clothes when you got out of boot camp that included everything. You kept to your shoes up, then you had them high top dress shoes, no work shoes per say. You kept them repaired. You kept your shirts, when they got worn, you'd take them to the tailor shop and get the collars turned.

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Take care of your clothes. Then when you re-enlisted you got to save a little bit. Your service record book was about so big.

L.J. Kimball: About 3-4 inches wide and about 11-12 inches high?

Capt. Ruse: Yeah, normal. You had a clothing record in there. I mean a running balance. They would take off so much of whatever you got. The trick was when you shipped over the first time you were credited for the full amount of money whether you had all the clothes. That's when you made some money. If you took care of yourself, say you wanted to replace some socks and skivvies which does not amount to a whole lot, you went down and paid cash. Then when you got discharged again, you had \$100 right there that was yours, you know. 100 bucks was a lot of money. These days these guys don't take care of nothing. Well, I remember, we hadn't had the Credit Bureau too many years. We used to employ, before automation, military dependents. My wife did the hiring and firing. We had a wife of a Buck Sgt. He dropped her off one day in greens. I told him if I were his CO I'd lock him up. He looked like he had slept in his greens. He didn't understand. Col. It's 4 o'clock. I better hit the trail.

L.J. Kimball: I really appreciate you spending some time with me.