

**Interview with Charles Lindberg**

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**Interviewed by Karen Wenz**

**Wenz:**...1991 and I'm interviewing Charles Lindberg from Richfield, Minnesota. Can you tell me where you were trained and how useful and realistic and dangerous you thought it was and maybe a little bit about your instructors and which experiences you remember the most?

**Lindberg:** Well, I had my Marine Corps training in San Diego, California, at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot as far as boot camp is concerned. After boot camp, I joined the, what they called the Carlson Raiders, Second Marine Raider Battalion which was a guerilla warfare outfit--strictly volunteer. We went north of San Diego to Jack's Farm where we did more training and we trained in everything from, we had to be able to walk fifty miles and things like that was our qualifications for that. After training there we moved on to Pearl Harbor on the island Oahu area where we went into further training. Then from there we went back up to--we went to Midway Island in June of '42. You want more training there?

**Wenz:** A little more about training.

**Lindberg:** We did the training we went up there because they figured the Japs were going to come there and but they didn't make it there thanks to that, we wouldn't have been here today if they had. We proceeded back to Pearl Harbor, then on September 1942, we left Pearl Harbor and we ended up in Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, which sits off of Australia down there--south of the Solomons--and there we did the further jungle training. It was really hot weather there. We

trained there, oh, for about a month or two and then on November of 1942 we went to Guadalcanal.

**Wenz:** Now, had you ever been away from home before you joined the Marines?

**Lindberg:** Oh, yes, I, my job before the war, I was transporting automobiles across the country from Detroit to Spokane.

**Wenz:** And how old were you when you went into the service?

**Lindberg:** Twenty.

**Wenz:** So, were you homesick at all when you went?

**Lindberg:** No, I was over that a long time ago. (Laughs)

**Wenz:** What did you think about service men that you met from other parts of the country?

**Lindberg:** Well, we seemed to get along fine, I mean there seemed to be a bond between you-- you're all there to do the same thing. Even today, the same bunch today we meet once or twice or once every year or two years--it's just like a family.

**Wenz:** When you were in the service, which units did you serve in?

**Lindberg:** Well, I served approximately a little over two years in the Second Marine Raider Battalion. That was my first trip overseas and then after Bougainville we were transferred back to Guadalcanal and then back to the States where they gave me a thirty day leave and I reported to the Fifth Marine Division in Camp Pendleton, California. Them were the two outfits I was in. But I finished out my service in the last four months guarding the Naval Brig, in Charleston, South Carolina.

**Wenz:** What exactly were your duties throughout your time in service?

**Lindberg:** Well, in the raider battalions I was a rifleman. I had a fire group, they called it, which consists of a Thompson gun, the M-1 and a BAR. My job was to take care of that fire group. And when we went into combat in Guadalcanal we operated together--the same with Bougainville. That was the specific job I had.

**Wenz:** What kind of relationship did you have with your subordinates and then with your superiors?

**Lindberg:** I should tell you--I skipped something there.

**Wenz:** Oh, go back to it then, that's fine.

**Lindberg:** When we went to Iwo Jima, I was a flamethrower operator. My weapon was a flamethrower. I was a squad leader then. Like I say my duty was to take care of the squad and then operate this flamethrower.

**Wenz:** What kind of an experience was that like?

**Lindberg:** Oh, beautiful. It was a nice weapons, it's a heavy weapon. It weighs seventy-two pounds. When you carry that on your back all day you know something--you carry five gallons of fuel. It's a lifesaving weapon. I liked it—I don't know why I liked it, people told me I was crazy to carry that thing. I had some kind of a bug for that weapon, and I think I did my job well with it.

**Wenz:** Did you have to use it a lot?

**Lindberg:** Oh, yes, a lot. An awful lot. We used it continuously, as a matter of fact, on Iwo Jima.

**Wenz:** How long would that five gallons last you?

**Lindberg:** Six seconds. Well, you can use six seconds of constant flame. But you get bursts on them. It only takes a good burst to do a job right. You can burn these caves—the bunkers. You get one good burst you can do it. But actually the fuel time on it was six seconds.

**Wenz:** You have to refuel a lot then?

**Lindberg:** Oh, we went back, I tell you, up and down, back and forth, back and forth, refuel those tanks. We'd go back and just take a spare tank and put it on our harness. We had a harness [inaudible]. You put that on and then you put another cartridge in the nozzle of your gun away you go again.

**Wenz:** Well, then back to your relationships with the subordinates and superiors. Do you want to just talk about your superiors first?

**Lindberg:** In the raider battalion we had Evans F. Carlson. He was a--I never saw a man like him in my life. He was the one that originated the raider battalion. He was a man that never expected you to do something unless he could do it himself. What really fascinated me when we came to Jack's Farm the first night, we were going to live in pup tents. I saw a house sitting there, a farm house and I said, "Well, that's where the officers sleep." That was my first impression, and incidentally, we had Jimmy Roosevelt, the President's son, was our executive officer. We went to bed kind of about 9:30, ten and looked out about 10:30 and here come Carlson, Roosevelt and the whole bunch of them, climbing in pup tents and I thought, "What kind of an outfit is this?" Next morning, here they're in the chow line with us. Now, that makes a man feel pretty good. And that's the way he run his bunch--the officers and the men ate the same and did the same, there was nothing of this officers mess, officers this, officers that. They ate and

did what the men did. We had a high morale in that battalion and they'd follow that man to hell high morale in that battalion, and they'd follow that man to hell and back again. And then when I came into the Fifth Marine Division, our lieutenant was a man from the paratroopers, he was a combat man and we got along awful good, awful good. We had a captain that was a little bit snooty, but I never paid too much attention to him. But even today now, you know, we, even my--well I won't go in to some of the other experiences I had, but--even this lieutenant I mean he'd even bring liquor over to--from his own, you know, the officers get liquor and we didn't--he'd bring it over and says, "I'll get you guys drunks and I'll see what you think of me." That was his expression. He was good. He lives in Texas today. He's an oil man down in Texas. And he has our reunions down there in his town. Wonderful person. He's writing a book right now incidentally, too.

**Wenz:** Is that right? About?

**Lindberg:** Iwo Jima.

**Wenz:** Iwo Jima. What is his name again?

**Lindberg:** John Keith Wells.

**Wenz:** And where in Texas?

**Lindberg:** Abilene.

**Wenz:** Abilene.

**Lindberg:** We have a beautiful friendship with all these guys. I talk to one in Washington quite often, he's a very good friend of mine--Jim Robinson--we have them all over.

**Wenz:** Did you ever have contact with foreign civilians?

**Lindberg:** Oh, yes. In New Caledonia and in New Hebrides, all over down there, had the natives and the French in Caledonia and the British. And in New Zealand, New Zealanders, I was in New Zealand for a little while--beautiful people down there. They treated us royal.

**Wenz:** They did? Treated you--

**Lindberg:** Oh yes. They treated us just beautiful.

**Wenz:** And you found that everywhere you went?

**Lindberg:** Just about, yes.

**Wenz:** Any other kind of experience where you weren't treated well?

**Lindberg:** No. No, I can't say that they did, actually because we were treated really great in them places. We were there saving their neck. (Laughs)

**Wenz:** Well, that's true. When you were in combat, what were your living conditions like?

**Lindberg:** Well, in Guadalcanal we had--we did guerilla warfare in Guadalcanal. We landed at what they call Aola Bay and we spent thirty-one days behind the lines, the enemy lines. Our job was to harass and destroy the enemy lines, supply lines and stuff, and we moved all the way-- what they called Aola Bay, it went way around Henderson Field. We went way around the other side of the island up along the river, before we ever came back. We was out thirty-one days. It was a very interesting trip--they claim it was one of the longest patrols in the world in World War II.

**Wenz:** And where did you sleep?

**Lindberg:** On the ground. We carried what gear we could--everything was carried with us. We ate rice, rice and chocolate bars was our meal there that whole time we had nothing else. I lost weight. (Laughs)

**Wenz:** Can you think of any particular circumstances that you found frustrating or sad or funny?

**Lindberg:** Well, it's sad when you lose some of your people. That don't make you feel too good. And you have times when you have jokes and stuff, some of these guys are characters. On the big island of Hawaii, I remember I used to run many a miles. I had a mustache and they used to try to catch me and cut half of it off. That was a big thing. Things like that you know. They were a good group. We had a lot of good parties together. I'm still on probation. Colonel Carlson put me on probation in 1942. We got a hold of a gallon of sake one night. You know what sake is?

**Wenz:** No.

**Lindberg:** It's Japanese drink. We got a gallon of it. And someone says you heat that up and it's really good. So we took it down to the latrine and built a fire in the latrine. (Laughs) They knew who we were. They couldn't catch us that night, but the next morning--up before the colonel we went. I think that first sergeant had papers about that thick on us. That Colonel, he'd look at the papers and he'd look up at us and he'd rub his jaw and said, "You boys had fun, didn't you?" "Yes, sir." Finally he said, "You're on probation indefinitely--out." That was it. He never took me off.

**Wenz:** Yeah that does sound kind of funny.

**Lindberg:** I get quite a kick out of things like that.

**Wenz:** Did you find anything at all frustrating, like what kind of equipment you had, was that adequate?

**Lindberg:** I think it was, for what we had in them days. I think it was very adequate. We had the weapons, we had the ammunition and, all in all, I think we did pretty good and it got better as the war was going along. Like when we went to Iwo Jima, why we had better yet you know, because we had better equipment. We had good equipment, like the rockets and the barrage rockets and stuff and, like I say, we had the flamethrowers and we had some better firing weapons and we had ships out there to back us up. I thought it was pretty good.

**Wenz:** How would you say it compared to the people you were fighting? Was it superior, the same, or inferior?

**Lindberg:** When we went to Guadalcanal they had air superiority on us at first. It was pretty rough on us then. We used to get bombed every night. We had this wash machine Charlie, one that would come over at midnight--it sounded like the engine was going to fall out of the thing. Every night that guy would come over and bomb and the planes would come during the day and bomb. But then as soon as we got air superiority, why, it changed around, and after that I think we were all set pretty good.

**Wenz:** Now when you were out there fighting, you were in your twenties. What did you think you were fighting for? Was that clear to you?

**Lindberg:** Well, I saw Pearl Harbor six months after it was done. I saw the mess what they did there. That will give you an urge right there. I mean we come into that harbor and here's all those wagons down in the water yet--they had the harbor open so you could get into it and they could

work--but I mean, as far as the real damage, it was still there. When you see things like that, you know what you're fighting for.

**Wenz:** So what did you think of the enemy?

**Lindberg:** Well, I had no use for him, I'll tell you that.

**Wenz:** Did you find any, who did you fight mostly, then?

**Lindberg:** Japanese, all Japanese.

**Wenz:** Was there anything in particular that you were taught in your training about how to treat the enemy?

**Lindberg:** Well, actually, we were taught, we were supposed to learn some of their language and things like that, but there was no use for it. They showed no mercy to us, we showed no mercy to them. That's the only way we did it.

**Wenz:** Now when you had your training did you learn any special strategies for fighting Japanese?

**Lindberg:** Oh yeah. You use--how you work in groups and at night in the jungle how you use any kind of cover you can get. You put branches on your face you put camouflage on and things like that.

**Wenz:** And were you taught anything special about their fighting techniques so that you could respond to that?

**Lindberg:** No, not too much. The only thing we, we were under the impression, that they would rather die than surrender. We learned that, I mean, because we had three men attack the whole

battalion one time of us, as to what they were. I don't remember taking a prisoner, any time. We took two of them once at Guadalcanal but I had nothing to do with it. But they won't come out. When they come out, they'll banzai, and charge and out they come and that's it.

**Wenz:** Can you think of anything that you might call your worst experience?

**Lindberg:** Well, I guess you could say the jungles was the worst. Down there it's so hot, you know we were at Bougainville, and then at Guadalcanal we were practically five degrees off the equator; you're wet all the time. We'd follow the rivers, you know, and at night we stopped, we'd jump in the river and dry our clothes out and put them on, but then you could go a hundred feet and you're wet. And at Bougainville, same thing. It was a swamp we landed in. You could dig a foxhole--say you go down two feet, you'd have eighteen inches of water. The water was warm, it didn't bother you but, that's just the way it was living like that. That was kind of tough. Like I say, you didn't have your food right away. Same with Guadalcanal, we had to carry--whatever food we had--we had to carry with us and once in a while we'd try to get a drop from an aircraft but, usually we'd lose half of it because it would go in the jungle somewhere and we couldn't find it.

**Wenz:** Well, can you think of anything you might all the best thing you experienced during the war?

**Lindberg:** Well I think that the proudest moment was when I helped raise that flag at Iwo Jima. That morning when we put that flag up there, everybody down below--the whole island just came to life. Like cheering, oh, just a roar, you wouldn't believe it--the ships whistles out on the ocean, they took off and I mean it--a thrill just ran through you, it was just an experiences--I'll

never have nothing like that again. But it didn't last long, because the Japanese started coming out of their caves at the same time and we had to go move against them.

**Wenz:** Now when that flag was raised, Iwo Jima was not fully taken.

**Lindberg:** Oh, no, this was just the 23rd, see we landed on the 19th. This was just the 23rd, we just got the mountain, we just got the mountain secured, and they might have had an airfield. See the Twenty-Eighth Regiment I was in, we moved against Suribachi, and the rest of them went the other way, but no, it lasted, oh, I'd say maybe 1/6 over, or maybe 1/5 over when we got the mountain. But we got the high spot--the observation tower. That's what they wanted. We got up there and we found field glasses up there, or artillery scopes, I swear they were about this long. Like a big binocular. You could sit on them things and watch someone six miles across that island and you could look at them like you were looking maybe twenty feet from them--powerful. And look what they could do with them things up there. That's why we had an awful time you know when we landed there, we just made a nice, good target for them.

**Wenz:** So that was crucial, then, to take the island?

**Lindberg:** That mountain was crucial.

**Wenz:** How much longer after that before you had secured the entire island?

**Lindberg:** Oh, I would say 25 days, 25 to 30 days afterwards. But see I was shot on the first day of March, on the north end of the island. We stayed on Suribachi until the last day of February when we moved up the other end of the island, or about the middle of the island, middle of the place, and then the next day about one o'clock in the afternoon I was attacking a mortar position when I got shot.

**Wenz:** And then were you shipped out to a hospital?

**Lindberg:** I was shipped out, yeah.

**Wenz:** What hospital did you go to?

**Lindberg:** Well, first I went to Saipan. Then they moved me to Pearl Harbor. From there they moved me to San Francisco, and from there to Great Lakes where I stayed.

**Wenz:** What kind of medical care did you get at each one?

**Lindberg:** Very good. Oh yeah, yeah, very good.

**Wenz:** So did you have complications or something that you were moved to different places?

**Lindberg:** Well, I had a right arm shattered, you can see the difference from the arm the area that it is to here--that's why you can move it. Here's the other arm--you can't straighten it out. They left me that way--that's the best. They did a good job up to a point--the bullet whizzed right through here and just took the bone. So it was bad, got beat up pretty bad.

**Wenz:** So how long were you hospitalized?

**Lindberg:** Oh, approximately six months.

**Wenz:** What kind of honors and medals did you receive?

**Lindberg:** I had the Silver Star and I have the Purple Heart.

**Wenz:** And the Purple Heart, was for that injury?

**Lindberg:** For that injury, yeah.

**Wenz:** And what was the Silver Star for?

**Lindberg:** For my work with the flamethrower in Iwo Jima.

**Wenz:** So how old were you then when you were discharged from the service?

**Lindberg:** I was discharged in 1946, so I was 25.

**Wenz:** And when you got out then you were 25 years old, how do you feel the war affected you as a person?

**Lindberg:** Oh, it took four good years of my life away. I had to stay four years in the service--I signed for four years. If I'd been in the reserves I'd have got out before on points, but they didn't do that. As a matter of fact they kept me--I was supposed to get out on the 8th and I didn't get out till the 16th of January. I don't know why they kept me the extra eight days.

**Wenz:** What was it like trying to make the adjustment to civilian life?

**Lindberg:** Oh, it was kind of funny, it was little rough, I guess. Of course, I had one advantage, when they brought me back the four months I did at Charleston you're in the civilian kind of area--that kind of got me used to it then. When I first came back the first time, that was a little rough--when I was on furlough for thirty days, you don't know how to act. I think it was Mrs. Roosevelt the one that said that Marines should be confined for six months after they come back from overseas to get them civilized. (Laughs)

**Wenz:** Now when you got back, how would you say you were treated, were you given the royal treatment?

**Lindberg:** Well, not--in the hospitals, you see, I came back through the hospitals, I didn't come back with any group like that, you know. But the people would come up to the hospital to see you, on the hospital trains coming across the country they'd stop and there was always somebody there to see you. Now I thought that was wonderful. Same in the Great Lakes Hospital up there, people were coming to visit you all the time. Always something for you.

**Wenz:** And you've been active since then, very active in the--

**Lindberg:** Oh, yes. In everything, in all the organizations, I think. I'm a past commander in the American Legion, I'm a past commander in the Purple Heart. I'm a Seam Squirrel for the Cooties. I've held pretty good positions.

**Wenz:** Do you have any regrets at all about your time in the military?

**Lindberg:** No, I mean, the job had to be done and I'd say if I had to do it again, I'd do it again. That's my feeling to it.

**Wenz:** And at the time you went to the war, you were twenty years old--it was back in the 1940s. How did you feel later in the '60s when people protested the Vietnam War?

**Lindberg:** Oh, I'd like to have seen a firing squad take place, was my attitude to it. I was really mad at Carter--was it Carter who pardoned all of them? Who was that?

**Wenz:** Gave them amnesty?

**Lindberg:** Yeah gave them amnesty. Oh, I thought that was disgusting. Well, actually, they treated them better than they did the Vietnam veterans.

**Wenz:** Well, how do you feel about the way the people from Desert Storm were treated now when they came back?

**Lindberg:** Well, I think they overdid it. I think that's something way overdone. I think it made everybody feel--even Vietnam feel real bad over the thing you know, cause people--I hoped they learned a lesson, that's all I say. Because I don't care who it is, if the country orders you to go to fight, you fight and you deserve what--any group who come back, no matter if it's the one before or after--you treat them the same. I had a boy in Vietnam, and I know what it is. I tell you, it was disgusting when they did that.

**Wenz:** Do you think it was overcompensating for the way they treated the Vietnam?

**Lindberg:** That could be, people maybe got wise and they thought, well, we better do this one right. But for a 100 hours of war, you know, that's a big reception back. I spent three years in that islands.

**Wenz:** Is there anything else that comes to mind as something really significant about your time in the service?

**Lindberg:** Well, I know I traveled a lot of the Pacific, and I seen things a lot of people never seen. I think one experience think I had, when I was going to Guadalcanal. I went up on the *USS Southland* (?), a destroyer we had. We deck loaded our food on this and they sent two of us along to guard our food. I don't know why we'd have to guard our food in the Navy, they wouldn't eat it anyway. At least that's what I said. I'll tell you something funny 'bout that in a minute. Anyway, this *Southland* (?) was a beautiful destroyer from World War I and a good crew on it. And we'd go all over the ship and eat--they all had something--one had coffee, one had lemonade, one had hot chocolate. Anyway, at two o'clock in the morning, were up around San

Cristobal--that wasn't too far from Guadalcanal--that they picked up a submarine. And we chased that thing from two o'clock in the morning 'til ten o'clock. Ten o'clock we finally got it and they had us out there, we were helping with depth chargers, we were lookouts, we were everything--we were one of the crew I guess you'd call us. I saw that sub come out of the water, just like that straight up in the air--like that, and down it went. That was a sight people don't see too often. And over the years I've always tried to find somebody from that ship. I was invited to talk to the *USS Belle*--it was another ship from World War II out at the Thunderbird one time--and I was up there in front and I was talking to them I brought this up and here one guy in the bunch was on the *Southland* (?).

**Wenz:** Is that right.

**Lindberg:** I guess he retired an admiral and I forgot who I was talking to, I just started talking to him right down there, I just got carried away. That was the start of it. The next year I seen in the paper here, the *USS Southland* (?) was going to have a reunion somewhere down south and one of the guys up north in the north Minneapolis was sponsoring it, so I called him up and talked to him. He said he wasn't on the ship then, but he heard about it and he'll tell the guys hello for me down there and everything else, so, lo and behold it was a year or two later out here they had at the Normandy, they had their reunion and I was invited to be their guest speaker and I started talking about this here, you know ,and I made a remark, I don't know who'd eat our food anyway and I found out later they had got into our food, they took some of our rations and they took a case of small bottles of brandy we had for medical purposes. (Laughs) I tell you, I just about floored myself laughing, it really struck me funny.

**Wenz:** So, apparently it wasn't used for medicinal purposes then?

**Lindberg:** No, not with them it wasn't, no. (Laughs) They said they sure did get into it. That was cute.

**Wenz:** I think I'd like to stop it now--

**[This interview was followed by a conversation about the first and second flag-raising on Mount Suribachi. Lindberg participated in the first flag-raising and showed me original photographs from both flag-raising.]**

**Lindberg:** We arrived at Iwo Jima the night before the 19th of February 1945. We woke up the next morning, and here was the island looking at us out there. I never saw an armada of ships like that in my life. There were battlewagons, there was cruisers--just beating that mountain up. All you could see of Mount Suribachi was just a, cloud coming from it. I looked at that island and thought, oh boy, this is gonna be a synch. We're gonna get out of here in a hurry. So we proceeded to get ready for landing--we would come up in LSTs, landing craft ship,s you know, they carry the amphibian tanks. So we get in our tanks and they run us out the front of the bowel of the ship and away we go. We hit the beach around 9:30 in the morning. Everything broke loose on that beach. I mean mortar shells were coming up and down that beach--they had the whole thing zeroed in. We got up on a slope like this here first and we were laying against that. Then word came down we better move off that beach. See, that was the Japanese their--we found out later—that that was their theory, they were gonna put us on the beach and annihilate us. That was the way they were gonna do it. So we got off that beach, we started across the island, and we were lucky, we got the island cut in two. We cut the narrow part of the point on the island off--so we had the island split. So as the Twentieth Regiment, our job was to dig Suribachi. We didn't have a block to go, but it took us from the 19th to the evening of the 22nd to get that part. I mean

we had bunkers, upon bunkers, upon bunkers, and everything you could think of. You'd annihilate something, they'd come up behind you. That mountain, they had caves all over that place--tunnels. So on the evening of the 22nd, we had surrounded the mountain. We were just getting settled down for the night and word came down that our platoon--Third Platoon of E Company--was gonna be the first combat patrol up that mountain in the morning. That didn't sit too well. So the next morning, we got our gear, we went back to the battalion headquarters and then Colonel Johnson gave us our orders and he handed Lieutenant Schrier a flag and he says, "If you get to the top of the mountain, raise it."

**Wenz:** He said if?

**Lindberg:** If, yeah he said if. That word if got in there a lot you know. So we started, we were starting up the side of the mountain, it was already he was a combat photographer--he was the man who took the pictures up there--he says he wants a picture of that flag. He says in case you don't get up there, I'll have a picture of it. (Laughs) So they showed him pulling the flag out there--I don't know where the pictures are somewhere, but it shows part of the flag. But anyway, we started the mountain and if it would surprise you, we got all the way to the top of that mountain. Nobody fired upon us, and we couldn't figure out why. Nothing. Everything was fine, we got up there come to the ridge of the mountain, we kind of all lined up on the mountain, they went over the top. Nothing. You're thinking what the heck is this, something's wrong. So, anyway, the first thing was to get the flag up. We found a piece of water pipe, and we tied the flag to that pole, and we carried it to the highest spot we could find, and up it went. Then down below--when the Marines started in--it really started to roar down there, cheering and on the ships out there, whistles were going. Just about in the center of that we were kind of enjoying that when we heard one of our men start firing, down towards the crater there. Here they're

trying to come out the caves, they were in those caves. I think they must have been shell shock or else, just waiting for us, but they tried to come out of the caves but we didn't let them get out. We caught them in the caves. It took us about, oh maybe, close to three hours to secure that top of that mountain. It was about 1:30, my tanks were empty and so were my other man's--Robert Goodman my assistant thrower--so we decided we better go down and load those tanks in case we had a counter attack during the night we would be ready for them. So we left the mountain. It was about this time when Colonel Johnson had made the remark, the Marine Corps were notorious souvenir hunters, and somebody is gonna steal that flag because it was the first American flag to fly over the Japanese home territory in World War II and he wanted to preserve it. He ordered it replaced. So one of the men went out to board this ship and got a big flag, brought it in, he sent that up the mountain. Rosenthal meanwhile came in over the battalion CP and Lowery had just come back down too, from the mountain, taking the pictures of the first-- and he told Rosenthal he took those pictures already. But then Rosenthal heard there's gonna be another flag raised, so he followed them up. And that's how he came to get this picture--like you see the two flags up there.

**Wenz:** Mm-hmm.

**Lindberg:** But I didn't know it--see we came back up on the mountain about five o' clock in the afternoon--I didn't even know the flag had been changed! I never paid any attention to it, never mentioned it, nobody ever said a word to it. When I was shot on the first of March, I was evacuated from the island, went back to Saipan. I was on Saipan maybe close to a week. Then all the sudden I saw that picture of that second flag raised--Rosenthal's picture--I looked at it and thought, that's not the way we did that, and it bothered me. I couldn't figure out what was going on. It bothered me until I got to Pearl Harbor, which was maybe about, darn year a month

between the two, and out in the States come *Yank Magazine*. In that magazine was a picture of wolf legs--that's the first time I knew what had happened. But I've been fighting this thing for years--knowing that there's two flags. It's coming out now, it's really coming on, because the Marine Corp book that we just got the other day. They advertise the second flag--they fly a plate with it on it and all these different gadgets--but it says buy one of the second flag raising. I darn near fell over when I saw that. So that tells you, something's coming. But I even hold up the country has been invited to talk about it this year. When they dedicated that monument in DC in 1954, we were invited down there--we were flown down by the Marine Corp War Memorial Foundation. Michaels was too. Shrier was there, and Lowery was there. But they set us way back in the, way up, nobody--and they had these other three men from that second flag right up front where the president were and everything up there. There must have been one hundred and fifty reporters around them. One guy come and talked to us. And like one guy said, "I don't know why they even invited us there, they didn't even hardly mention us."

**Wenz:** Now do you think you were invited because you were one of the first flag raisers that was the reason?

**Lindberg:** Yes, yes, mm-hmm, yeah.

**Wenz:** Is that what they told you when they invited you or?

**Lindberg:** That the way I kind of understood it down the line but, they kept it quiet. You know they didn't want that in there because it's, it's bad news for a picture like that. But like I said, there's too much proof now. When you see that two flags--that's the best proof you can find. Rosenthal claims, there was rifle fire all over the mountain when he got up there. He's a liar.

**Wenz:** He said that?

**Lindberg:** Yes he did say that. He said there was rifle fire--he's mentioned that a few times. He's really built this up too you know.

**Wenz:** What do you think about the controversy over whether that picture was posed or not?

**Lindberg:** Well, I can't say it was and I can't say it wasn't but, to me it's too perfect. It's too perfect. And he was standing up on stones, he built him up a stand of stones--somewhere around I got a picture of somebody having him take a picture, placed on those stones. You take a picture of a bunch of Marines up there besides that. If there would have been rifle fire up there, these guys wouldn't be bunched up, taking pictures.

**Wenz:** See because the way I heard it, when he was asked if the picture was posed--he had shot on the whole reel of them--he did have posed pictures on there. He said, "Yeah, yeah it was."

**Lindberg:** I think he thought he meant a whole bunch of them. No, that's right. Where the heck is--there it is right there.

**Wenz:** Yeah that one, that one was posed. Yeah that's obvious.

**Lindberg:** But you think if bullets were flying, that picture would have been taken?

**Wenz:** No I would think--

**Lindberg:** That's why it makes a liar out of him right there. He made this up all the time, you know.

**Wenz:** Now that is a picture that Rosenthal took right there?

**Lindberg:** Yes, yes, mm-hmm.

**Wenz:** And who all is in that picture?

**Lindberg:** Most of our platoons in that picture there. Some of the other companies, are the people that come up there.

**Wenz:** Were any people from the second flag raising in that?

**Lindberg:** In here?

**Wenz:** Yeah.

**Lindberg:** Yeah.

**Wenz:** Oh, they were.

**Lindberg:** Here's Ira Hayes right here. Right here, that's me here. Here's Schrier from the first flag raising. Here's Strank from the second. Here's Bradley from the first, from the second--he was there with both of us the same time.

**Wenz:** There were no people who were in both flag raisings though?

**Lindberg:** No, not actually, no. But Bradley was right alongside our flag when we raised it. He was our platoon corpsman--he was up there. He was the only man in that second flag that was ever on the mountain the time we were there. The rest of them were down below. Here's Hansen--he was on the first flag raising.

**Wenz:** Wasn't there some discrepancy where they thought Hansen was on the second one and he really wasn't?

**Lindberg:** Yeah, mm-hmm. I don't think they even knew who was on that second flag--my personal opinion. I don't think they even know. Some woman said she recognized her son. I don't know how they can do that. You can't see their faces.

**Wenz:** Well the only people who really knew were those six men who did it.

**Lindberg:** That's right, there you have it. Mm-hmm. Now this guy, right here this guy, Dice. He's the right man though, the character down in Wisconsin is claiming he's him. Well, we got so much of this stuff, oh gosh.

**Wenz:** Now I see someone sitting right there, who would that be? If this is Ira Hayes down here, who is this guy?

**Lindberg:** This one is unidentified here. I think it's--what's his name now? I know him. He looks identical to him. I don't know why they didn't put it. I got other pictures--this picture was sent to me. Somebody framed it and everything I don't know, somebody sent it to me.

**Wenz:** Now are you in that picture?

**Lindberg:** No, see I was gone, I was down the mountain. This was taken when I was gone. Goodman, me and Robert Goodman--the other man I was telling you--he's not in here either because, he was gone.

**Wenz:** Now did you have much contact with Ira Hayes than?

**Lindberg:** Oh yeah, quite a bit yeah, I knew him quite well. All the same company.

**Wenz:** What kind of person did he seem like to you?

**Lindberg:** I thought he was a good boy. You know I think—well, of course, what made him bad you know, he got too much publicity, and too much booze thrown at him. That's what ruined that man. I don't care what anybody says, I saw him in Chicago the last time when saw him when they had the Seventh War Bond Drive there--we was in the hospital there and we came down to see him. Gagnon is the one I hated, oh god that guy told more dirty, wrong stories I thought. Matter of fact I was gonna punch him that one time they were there. They stopped me before I did it.

**Wenz:** But you saw Ira Hayes when you were in the hospital?

**Lindberg:** Mm-hmm, yeah, at Great Lakes Hospital. He was at Soldiers Field. They came in with the Seventh War Bond Drive. Chauffeured cars and all this you know. Pfff god.

**Wenz:** Now do you think they were coerced into doing that? They were ordered back home?

**Lindberg:** About the only one I ever saw in that bunch that I thought that didn't want to get into it was Bradley--myself. But Hayes, too, now, Hayes was a--I think he kind of knew what happened to him. But Gagnon he ate that up, he played it for everything he could get--my opinion there.

**Wenz:** But now you think that, you know, it's more clear to people that there were two actual flag raisings?

**Lindberg:** Mm-hmm, a lot of them are getting that.

**Wenz:** I think that will really come out in that new book that just came out too.

**Lindberg:** Mm-hmm. I like that book, they kind of did pretty good on that. You read it yet?

**Wenz:** I kind of skimmed it, I haven't had a chance to read it from cover to cover yet.

**Lindberg:** They tell all the fraud that went on in the building of that monument.

**Wenz:** It was very interesting about that, yeah. I never heard about that before. It was also very interesting in the part when it told about that dedication of the monument. How the president was late and then when he stayed for a little while because of that kind of the Marine Corps wasn't sure if he wanted to make it to a permanent thing.

**Lindberg:** Yeah, they knew it. I think they knew then what that was about. But then that's where they brought that up. You read that object about us right there, somewhere maybe they can get that. Like I said, they don't even know why we were invited there.

**Wenz:** Yeah that's pretty interesting. Was there anything else you want to say about that particular incident?

**Lindberg:** Mmm, no, I've said quite a bit about that now.