

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

THE NIMITZ MUSEUM

PRESENTS

AN ORAL HISTORY BY

ALBERT H. VOSS, JR

TAPE NO. 350

THIS IS JERRY WILLIAMS AND TODAY IS DECEMBER 6, 2001. I AM INTERVIEWING MR. ALBERT H. VOSS, JR. THIS INTERVIEW IS TAKING PLACE IN FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS. ALBERT IS HERE TO ATTEND THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS AS THEY GATHER TO CELEBRATE, OR AT LEAST TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE THAT DAY. THE INTERVIEW IS IN SUPORT OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR'S CENTER FOR WAR STUDIES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL INFORMATION RELATED TO WORLD WAR II.

MR. VOSS, MAY I CALL YOU A.H. WHICH YOU WERE KNOWN AS IN THE NAVY AND I GUESS YOU STILL ARE TODAY, STILL GO BY A.H..

A.H.

FOR MANY YEARS AMONG NAVY PERSONNEL.

JERRY

WE WANT TO THANK YOU TAKING THE TIME OUT OF YOUR DAY WHILE YOU ARE HERE. I KNOW YOUR TIME IS LIMITED, BUT WE APPRECIATE YOU RELATING YOUR EXPERIENCES THAT YOU UNDERWENT DURING WORLD WAR II AND IN PARTICULAR AT PEARL HARBOR THAT DAY.

TO START WITH, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU WHERE AND WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

A.H.

I BORN MARCH 21, 1921 IN A SOD HOUSE NEAR HEMMINGFORD, (SP???) NE., ON A HOMESTEAD. MY FOLKS WENT HOMESTEADING IN NEBRASKA. THEY RAISED POTATOS, A LOT OF POTATOS BUT NOBODY WOULD BUY THEM.

JERRY

WAS HEMMINGFORD IN WESTERN NEBRASKA?

A.H.

YES. IN THE SAND BELT.\

JERRY

OK. DO YOU RECALL WHERE YOUR PARENTS WERE BORN AND WHAT THEIR NAMES WERE? THE NAMES YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER VERY WELL.

A.H.

MY MOTHER MARGARITA ANNA (COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE FULL NAME) FROM MINEOLA, IOWA . MY DAD WAS BORN IN COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA. WE ACTUALLY HAD TWO FAMILIES. THE OLDER FAMILY WERE THE FOUR OF US KIDS AND THE YOUNGER FAMILY HAD FOUR MORE KIDS. WE HAD TWO FAMILIES BY THE TIME I JOINED THE NAVY.

JERRY

YOU HAD 7 OR 8 BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

A.H.

I DON'T RECALL THE EXACT NUMBER.

JERRY

IT WAS A LARGE FAMILY, OF COURSE, THEY WERE LARGE IN THOSE DAYS.

A.H.

AN INTERESTING THING; I HAD PNEUMONIA WHEN I WAS AN INFANT. THEY THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE, SO MY FATHER BAPTIZED ME. HE BAPTIZED ME BECAUSE HE THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE.

JERRY

AND HE DID THAT AS A LAY PERSON?

A.H.

AS A LAY PERSON; INTERESTING.

JERRY

THAT IS INTERESTING.

A.H.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS INTERESTING. I THOUGHT I WOULD Toss THAT IN THERE.

JERRY

WERE YOU THE OLDEST OF YOUR SIBLINGS?

A.H.

NO, I WAS THE THIRD CHILD. I HAD TWO OLDER SISTERS AND I WAS THE FIRST BOY.

JERRY

DO YOU REMEMBER THE NAMES AND AGES OF YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

A.H.

OH YEAH. MY OLDEST SISTER DIED. HER NAME WAS ELIZABETH, ISABELL ACTUALLY. WE CALLED HER IZZIE. SHE WAS BORN ON THE 4TH OF JULY, BY THE WAY. MY OTHER SISTER'S NAME WAS DOROTHY AND SHE WAS BORN ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY. MY OTHER SISTER'S NAME WAS ????? DOROTHY AND SHE WAS BORN ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND I WAS BORN THE FIRST DAY OF

SPRING, THE 21ST . (NAME UNCLEAR) AND SHE WAS BORN ON APRIL 24TH. SHE IS STILL ALIVE AND WE VISIT IN NEVADA. HE WAS IN THE NAVY ALSO. HE ENDED UP ????? IN NEVADA AT AN AIR FORCE BASE.

JERRY

WAS HE THE ONLY BROTHER OR SISTER THAT SERVED?

A.H.

YES. HE WAS PART OF THE OLDER FAMILY. I HAD YOUNGER SIBLINGS. DON'T ASK ME ABOUT THEM. I'LL GET IT ALL SCREWED UP.

JERRY

SHARE WITH US IF YOU WILL WHERE YOU WENT TO SCHOOL.

A.H.

I STARTED SCHOOL IN HENNINGFORD , NEBRASKA AND STARTED IN THE 1ST GRADE. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY KINDERGARDEN. ON THEN I CAN REMEMBER, BUTTONING A LITTLE GIRL'S COAT AND I WAS MADLY IN LOVE WITH HER IN THE 1ST GRADE. THEN, WE WENT TO COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA AND I WENT TO ?????? SCHOOL IN COUNCIL BLUFFS THROUGH THE SEVENTH GRADE. THEN, THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY FACILITIES FOR 8TH GRADE SO THEY SENT US TO THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL TO GO TO THE 8TH GRADE. I WENT TO THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL IN THE 8TH GRADE AND THEN I WENT TO BLOOMER (???) JR. HIGH SCHOOL IN THE 9TH GRADE AND I GRADUATED FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE 10TH TO THE 12TH GRADE.

JERRY

YOU HAVE EXCELLENT RECALL. YOU REALLY DO.

A.H.

I DIDN'T DO TOO BAD THEN.

JERRY

THAT'S GOOD. WHEN YOU MOVED TO COUNCIL BLUFFS, DID THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE DEPRESSION?

A.H.

OH YEAH. THAT'S WHERE THE JOBS WERE. I GRADUATED IN '38. I COULDN'T FIND A JOB OF COURSE IN THE DEPRESSION TIMES. I THINK I FOUND ONE JOB WHERE I GOT PAID 50 CENTS AN HOUR. 50 CENTS AN HOUR WAS A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY. IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THAT BUT IT WAS. I DECIDED I MIGHT JOIN THE NAVY I WENT DOWN TO SEE IF I COULD GET IN THE

NAVY. WE HAD AN OLD FURNACE IN THE HOUSE. WE BURNED TIES. WE COULDN'T AFFORD COAL OR ANYTHING BUT THERE WERE A LOT OF OLD RAILROAD TIES AROUND THAT WE COULD GET. WE GOT THOSE TIES AND CUT THEM UP AND BURNED THEM IN THE FURNACE. I DROPPED ONE OF THOSE TIES ON MY TOE. I DIN'T BREAK IT BUT I SMASHED IT PRETTY BADLY AND I WAS AFRAID THEY WOULDN'T LET ME IN THE SERVICE BECAUSE OF MY SMASHED TOE. THEY LET ME GO AHEAD. I JOINED THE NAVY WHEN I WAS SEVENTEEN. I GOT IN ON WHAT THEY CALLED A "SCIVVY CRUISE". WHEN I REACHED THE AGE OF 21, I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET OUT. I REALLY INTENDED TO STAY 20 YEARS BECAUSE GUYS THAT RETIRED FROM THE NAVY WERE GETTING \$200 A MONTH RETIREMENT PAY. THAT WAS AN UNHEARD OF SUM OF MONEY IN THOSE DAYS. .ON \$200 A MONTH, YOU COULD LIVE LIKE A KING. THAT WAS MY INTENTION WHEN I JOINED THE NAVY.

JERRY

HOW DID YOU HAPPEN TO SELECT THE NAVY AS OPPOSED TO ARMY AT THAT TIME.

A.H.

I HAVE NO IDEA. NO RECOLECTION EXCEPT THAT I CHOSE. I JUST DID.

JERRY

THE REASON THAT SOMETIMES THAT QUESTION IS INTERESTING, AND I KNOW THAT THE NAVY DOES HAVE SOME VERY SUCCESSFUL RECRUITING PROGRAMS OUT OF THE MIDWEST, I THINK EVEN TODAY, BUT WHY ALL THESE LAND LOCKED PEOPLE OUT OF THE MIDWEST, A GREAT MANY OF THEM END UP JOINING THE NAVY.

A.H.

A LOT OF THEM WAS THE GRAMMER THEY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NAVY, AND MOVIES OF COURSE. THE GUYS WERE ALWAYS SEEN DANCING WITH ALL THESE PRETTY GIRLS. I THOUGHT, THAT LOOKS LIKE FUN. SING AND DANCE WITH THOSE PRETTY GIRLS ON A BATTLESHIP, THAT WOULD BE GREAT. IT WAS KIND OF A MISLEADING THING TO DO.

JERRY

THEY ACTUALLY DIDN'T (GARBLED) SHOW ME THE CONCEPT OF THIS "SCIVVY CREW". THAT IS A NEW CONCEPT FOR ME.

A.H.

THEY FIGURED THAT WHEN YOU REACHED THE AGE OF 21, YOU GET OUT.

JERRY

THAT WAS YOUR CONTRACT WITH THE NAVY.

A.H.

I DON'T KNOW IF THEY STILL DO IT THAT WAY OR NOT. IF YOU WENT IN AT 17, YOU GOT OUT AT 21. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PUT IN 4 YEARS.

JERRY

WHEN YOU SIGNED UP WITH THE NAVY, WHERE DID YOU GO FOR BASIC? WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT JUNCTURE?

A.H.

WE WENT TO GREAT LAKES TRAINING STATION. I STLLL HAVE A LOT OF BROCHURES FROM GREAT LAKES. THEY PUT OUT A NEWSPAPER OR A PRINTED FORM. I STILL HAVE A NUMBER OF THEM LEFT; WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND THAT SORT OF THING. GREAT LAKES OF COURSE WAS THE BIGGEST LAKE I HAD EVER SEEN. I THOUGHT THAT WAS AMAZING, THE SIZE OF THAT LAKE. THEY TOLD US HOW TO ROW A BOAT AND THAT SORT OF THING. WE SLEPT IN HAMMOCKS. THERE WAS A LITTLE PLATFORM YOU USED TO GET INTO YOUR HAMMOCK. OF COURSE, GUYS WOULD FALL OUT OF THOSE HAMMOCKS. WE HAD QUITE A TIME AN INTERESTING THING IS THAT THE FIRST CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE NAVAL TRAINING STATION.

JERRY

THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN CHRISTMAS EVE IN 1938?

A.H.

1938, YES. THEY PUT ME ON GUARD IN THE HEAD, WHICH IS THE TOILET. I HAD NO IDEA WHY THEY HAD ME IN THERE. I THOUGHT THAT WAS REALLY INTERESTING. I SPENT MY FIRST CHRISTMAS DUTY ON GUARD IN THE TOILET. SOMETHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT. I STILL HAVE A MENU THAT THEY PUT OUT FOR THE CHRISTMAS DINNER WE HAD . I HAVE THAT MENU AT HOME. IT WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE.

JERRY

PRETTY GOOD FOOD?

A.H.

THERE WAS A LOT OF IT. IT WAS THE WHOLE TRADITIONAL FEAST. I DON'T KNOW THAT I WAS ALL THAT IMPRESSED BUT THE DINNER WAS PRETTY NICE. AS I SAY I STILL HAVE (THE MENU). IT WAS PRETTY INTERESTING.

JERRY

AT BASIC, WHERE YOU DID YOUR BASIC AT GREAT LAKES BUT THAT WAS ESSENTIALLY MARCHING?

A.H.

YEAH. THE THING THAT WAS INTERESTING THERE WAS THAT I HAD HAD ROTC IN HIGH SCHOOL AND I KNEW ALL THE COMMANDS AND ALL THAT SORT OF STUFF AND I WANTED TO BE A PETTY OFFICER. THEY HAD PETTY OFFICER RATINGS FOR THE GUYS WHO GOT TO LEAD THE PARADES AND THAT SORT OF THING AND I FIGURED I SHOULD BE ONE OF THOSE BECAUSE I KNEW ALL THE PRIMARY THINGS. I PUT ON KP AND WHILE THEY WERE DOING ALL THIS STUFF AND PUTTING OUT ALL THESE RATINGS, I WASN'T AVAILABLE SO I DID KNOW ABOUT THAT. EVENTUALLY, I ENDED UP WITH A FIRST CLASS BOOT CAMP PETTY OFFICER RATING. I ALWAYS FIGURED THAT WAS KIND OF NASTY BECAUSE I HAD TO DO THAT KP DUTY.

JERRY

DIDN'T EVERYBODY AT SOME POINT HAVE TO DO SOME KP DUTY?

A.H.

NOT EVERYBODY. IF YOUR NAME IS DRAWN, YOU DID IT. THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS.

JERRY

WHAT WAS BOOT CAMP LIFE LIKE GENERALLY? WAS IT REALLY TOUGH IN THOSE DAYS?

A.H.

WE WERE A BUNCH OF YOUNG KIDS. WE HAD TO LEARN TO SCRUB OUR OWN SCIVVIES AND THAT SORT OF THING. I LEARNED A LOT OF NASTY SONGS WE SANG. IT WAS A GROWING UP EXPERIENCE.

JERRY

DID YOU ESTABLISH ANY RELATIONSHIPS, FRIENDSHIPS?

A.H.

NO. ONE OF THE KIDS FROM COUNCIL BLUFFS, I HAVE A PICTURE OF HE AND I TOGETHER IN BOOT CAMP. THEY PUT THAT PICTURE IN ONE OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ONE TIME. HIS NAME WAS FIELDS BUT I NEVER DID SEE HIM AFTER BOOT CAMP. I HAVE BOOT CAMP PICTURE AND I HAD A PICTURE OF ONE GUY SITTING THERE AND HIS NAME WAS GROBBS AND THAT IS ALL I CAN REMEMBER ABOUT HIM. I CAN'T REMEMBER THE CHIEF THAT WAS IN CHARGE OF OUR COMPANY WAS A QUARTERMASTER, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER HIS NAME.

JERRY

YOU WERE IN BOOT CAMP FOR WHAT? 4 MONTHS?

A.H.

YES.

JERRY

FROM THERE WHEN YOU GRADUATED FROM BOOT CAMP?

A.H.

IF YOU WERE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH, AND MADE THE RIGHT KINDS OF GRADES, YOU GOT SHIPPED TO A SCHOOL. I GOT SHIPPED TO A RADIO SIGNALLING SCHOOL IN SAN DIEGO. THAT'S WHERE I LEARNED CODE. ANYBODY THAT LEARNED THE CODE; IF YOU ARE PROFICIENT AT LEARNING THE CODE, YOU BECAME A RADIOMAN. IF YOU WEREN'T QUITE PROFICIENT, YOU BECAME A SIGNALMAN. WE HAD TO LEARN THE SEMAPHORE AND THE CODE. KEYING IN THE CODE WAS NOT NEARLY AS IMPORTANT AS THE COPYING THE CODE. HERE AGAIN, WE DIDN'T USE A STICK. WE DIDN'T WRITE THE CODE DOWN WITH A PENCIL. WE USED A TYPEWRITER. YOU HAVE TO BE VERY, VERY FAST.

JERRY

WHAT WAS IT LIKE FOR YOU AS A MIDWESTERNER, AFTER SPENDING A COLD WINTER IN CHICAGO, THEN GOING TO SAN DIEGO TO SIGNALMAN SCHOOL?

A.H.

IT WAS DIFFERENT. I WAS YOUNG. I WAS A YOUNG KID. IT WAS A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE. I THINK I GOT A BIT HOMESICK NOT AT THAT PARTICULAR MOMENT. WE GOT TO GO HOME ON LEAVE, BY THE WAY, FROM BOOT CAMP. MY DAD GAVE ME A DOLLAR BILL. I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT. HE GAVE ME A DOLLAR BILL TO SPEND ANYWAY I WANTED. I WAS MAKING 21 DOLLARS A MONTH. I WAS MAKING MORE MONEY THAN HE WAS. I GAVE HIM BACK HIS DOLLAR. I GOT 21 DOLLARS A DAY, ONCE A MONTH.

JERRY

OF COURSE YOU HAD ALL YOU MEALS.

A.H.

THAT WAS SPENDING MONEY, PRETTY MUCH. IT WENT A LONG WAY.

JERRY

IN SIGNALMANS SCHOOL, HOW LONG DID IT LAST?

A.H.

I DON'T REMEMBER, I REALLY DON'T,

JERRY

WAS IT A YEAR OR LESS THAN THAT?

A. H.

OH, WAY LESS THAN THAT.

JERRY

MAYBE SIX MONTH?

A.H.

I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER. I GOT SICK AND SPENT SOME TIME IN THE HOSPITAL AND THAT SCREWED UP MY RADIO SCHOOL A LITTLE BIT. ALL I REMEMBER IS BEING SICK.

JERRY

AFTER RADIO SCHOOL, OBVIOUSLY YOU CONTINUED THAT.

A.H.

AFTER RADIO SCHOOL, I WAS ASSIGNED TO COMMANDER, BATTLESHIPS, BATTLE FORCES. THE FLAGSHIP WAS THE *USS WEST VIRGINIA* AND I WAS ASSIGNED TO THAT. AT THAT TIME, IT WAS UP IN SAN FRANCISCO. I WAS IN SAN DIEGO. THEY PUT ALL OF US TROOPS ABOARD AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER. I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH ONE IT WAS. IT WAS EITHER THE *LEXINGTON* OR THE *YORKTOWN*. THOSE TWO SHIPS WERE VERY INTERESTING TOO. THEIR KEELS WERE LAID DOWN TO BE CRUISERS. THEY DECIDED THEY NEEDED CARRIERS. THIS WAS WAY BACK WHEN. THEY HAD A LOT OF MOVEMENT TO THEM WHEN THEY WENT TO SEA. ALL THE PLANES WERE ON THE HANGER DECK, LINED UP TWO ROWS APART. EVERYBODY'S IS LINED UP LIKE TWO ROWS APART. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON. A GUY STANDING CLOSE TO ME SAID, "YOU KNOW, THESE GUYS ARE ALL GETTING SEASICK. THE THING FOR US TO DO IS TO GO OUT AND GET SOME FRESH AIR." WE GOT UP AND GOT SOME FRESH AIR AND WENT UP TO THE GUN EMPLACEMENT ALONGSIDE THE FLIGHT DECK. IF YOU HAD A HORIZON TO KEEP YOUR EYES ON, YOU DIDN'T FEEL ANY MOTION. (SECTION UNINTELLIGIBLE)

JERRY

IT JUST LASTED A DAY OR TWO?

A.H.

WHEN WE GOT TO SAN FRANCISCO, THE *WEST VIRGINIA* WAS IN DRY DOCK. THE ADMIRAL CHANGED HIS FLAG TO THE *USS NEW MEXICO*. I SPENT TIME ON THE *USS NEW MEXICO*. I SLEPT IN A HAMMOCK, EVERY MORNING IT WAS HEAVE OUT AND LASH UP. THAT MEANT, GET OUT OF YOUR HAMMOCKS AND LASH IT UP, TIE IT TOGETHER, TAKE IT UP TO THE HAMMOCK LOCKER.

THIS WAS A RITUAL. THE BIG SHOTS AMONG THE ENLISTED PERSONNEL, HAD COTS AND MATTRESSES. THEY HAD TO ROLL UP THEIR MATTRESSES.

JERRY

THIS WAS THE SENIOR RATED THAT HAD THE COTS.

A.H.

IF YOU SEE THE MOVIE, "PEARL HARBOR", YOU WILL SEE GUYS IN BUNKS AND THAT WASN'T THE WAY IT WAS. WE DIDN'T HAVE BUNKS. YOU WILL SEE SOME AUTOMATIC WEAPONS TOO IN THAT MOVIE. THERE WEREN'T ANY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AT THAT POINT IN TIME, NOT AT PEARL HARBOR. ANOTHER THING, WHEN THE *OKLAHOMA* ROLLS OVER, YOU SEE ALL THESE SAILORS SLIDING DOWN THE FOC'SAL. NO SAILOR WAS EVER ASSIGNED TO THE FOC'SAL DECK AS A BATTLE STATION. THESE GUYS JUST WOULDN'T BE THERE SLIDING DOWN TO THE WATER. IT IS JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS.

JERRY

DRAMATIZATION FOR HOLLYWOOD. YOU ARE ABOARD THE *NEW MEXICO* NOW? WHEN THE *WEST VIRGINIA* CAME OUT OF DRY DOCK, YOU WENT BACK TO THE *WEST VIRGINIA*. WHEN DID THE *WEST VIRGINIA* DEPLOY? DO YOU REMEMBER AN APPROXIMATE TIME?

A.H.

I DON'T REMEMBER. I HAVE MY NAVY RECORDS BY THE WAY AND IT DOESNT FILL ALL THIS STUFF IN. IT'S PRETTY CLOSE. WE ENDED UP AROUND BEACH HARBOR WITH THE BATTLESHIP ANCHORED AND WE WOULD GO OUT AND BOMBARD SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND FOR GUNNERY PRACTICE. THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW 16 INCH SHELLS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR WAS WHEN WE WERE PRACTICING IN SAN CLEMENTE HARBOR. YOU COULD ACTUALLY SEE THOSE SHELLS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR. I SAID, "THAT'S A BUNCH OF MALARKEY."

HE SAID, "OH NO, YOU CAN." I SAID, "WELL, I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT."

HE SAID, "I'LL FIX THAT UP. WE COULD GO UP TO MY BATTLE STATION ON TOP DECK." THEY FIRED A 16 INCH ROUND. THE FIRST ROUND JUST SCARED THE FOOL OUT OF ME. I COULDN'T ANY MORE SEE THE SHELL THAN THE MAN IN THE MOON. HE SAID, "THEY ARE GOING TO FIRE AGAIN AND NEXT TIME, YOU WATCH AND COVER YOUR EARS." WE DID THAT AND SURE ENOUGH YOU COULD SEE THE SHELL FLYING THROUGH THE AIR. ONE OF THE THINGS THEY TOLD US IN BOOT CAMP WAS THAT BATTLESHIPS CAN'T BE SUNK. THEY ARE UNSICKABLE BECAUSE THEY HAVE ALL THIS ARMOR PLATING ALL THIS WATER TIGHT INTEGRITY. I THINK I COULD PROBABLY SUE THE NAVY FOR PEARL HARBOR ????? 'CAUSE THEY WEREN'T REALLY TELLING ME THE TRUTH. THEY KIND OF LIED TO ME

JERRY

UNTIL PEARL HARBOR, I DON'T KNOW THAT ANY OF THEM HAD BEEN SUNK.

A.H.

OH YEAH. BILLY MITCHELL SANK A BATTLESHIP AFTER WORLD WAR I. HE SAID, "AIR POWER IS THE ANSWER." YOU LOOK IN YOUR HISTORY BOOK AND YOU'LL FIND THAT OUT. HE SANK A BATTLESHIP. THE JAPANESE PEOPLE SANK ONE SOMEWHERE.

JERRY

WE ARE BACK IN THE TIME FRAME OF 1940 OR SO, AFTER BOOT CAMP AND RADIOMANS SCHOOL.

A.H.

IN 1939 IS WHEN THE FLEET WENT TO PEARL. THE BATTLESHIP FLEET SAILED OUT OF LONG BEACH FOR PEARL HARBOR.

JERRY'

THAT WAS STILL IN 1939?

A. H.

THAT'S WHEN WE CROSSED THE EQUATOR. I HAVE A BOOK ABOUT US GOING ACROSS THE EQUATOR, FROM POLYWOG TO ?????.

CAPT. ALEXANDER WAS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ON THE *WEST VIRGINIA*. THAT WAS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN.

JERRY

BETWEEN THE TIME THEN THAT YOU LEFT LONG BEACH AND THEY MOVED THE FLEET TO PEARL, WERE THERE ANY INTERESTING STORIES THAT YOU WANT TO SHARE OR FEEL WORTHY OF SHARING CONCERNING THE TRAINING THAT YOU RECEIVED?

A.H.

I'LL TELL YOU THIS. EVERYTHING WAS ?????? THE CHIEF RADIOMAN, CHIEF RHINEHARD WAS CHIEF RADIOMAN IN CHARGE OF FLAG RADIO DIVISION AND HE WANTED EVERYBODY TO BE ABLE TO COPY PRESS. WCX, 30 JS, PRESS WIRELESS SENT OUT PRESS BULLITENS EVERY SO OFTEN ON A REGULAR SCHEDULED BASIS AND THESE MESSAGES WERE SENT OUT ABOUT 45-50 WORDS A MINUTE IF YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT. HE WANTED EVERYBODY TO BE ABLE TO COPY PRESS. WHEN WE WERE OFF DUTY AND DOWN IN THE RADIO SHACK, NOT BEING PRESSED OR

WHATEVER, HE COULD FIND IF IT WAS HIGH SPEED. WE GOT SO WE COULD COPY PRESS. KGN-6 AND 7 SENT OUT EQUALLY AS FAST, LIKE WCX AND JS. WE PUT OUT A NEWSPAPER EVERY DAY.

JERRY

HOW MANY SIGNALMEN WERE ABOARD THE BATTLESHIP?

A.H.

HOW MANY SIGNALMEN WERE THERE? I DON'T KNOW.

JERRY

I MEANT IN THE RADIO GANG?

A.H.

THERE WERE ABOUT 35 OR 40 OF US I WOULD SAY. I HAVE A WHOLE LIST OF THE GUYS THAT WERE ABOARD THE *WEST VIRGINIA* THAT WERE IN THERE AT PEARL. I'VE GOT THAT BOOK.

JERRY

WHAT KIND OF WATCHES DID YOU STAND USUALLY?

A.H.

WE WOULD STAND A WATCH FROM BREAKFAST TO LUNCH AND ANOTHER ONE FROM LUNCH TO DINNER, THEN FROM DINNER TO MIDNIGHT, AND FROM MIDNIGHT TO BREAKFAST. THE MID-WATCH, FROM MIDNIGHT TO BREAKFAST WAS THE LOUSY WATCH. YOU HAD TO TAKE YOUR TURN. IT WAS ALL ROTATED. WE GOT STUFF TO EAT ON THE MID-WATCH. (GARBELED) BECAUSE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CRAZY. IF WE WEREN'T CRAZY, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COPY THAT STUPID CODE. WE GOT VIENNA SAUSAGES AND SALMON AND COFFEE BY THE BARREL.

IF THE BRIG WASN'T BEING UTILIZED, THE MIDNIGHT WATCH GOT TO SLEEP IN THE BRIG.

JERRY

THEY ROTATED THE WATCHES?

A.H.

YOU WERE ASSIGNED TO A PARTICULAR WATCH. THERE WAS MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

JERRY

I WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO TALK A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE JOB YOU DID. AFTER A BIT WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE EXPERIENCES AT PEARL HARBOR. YOUR RECOLLECTIONS FROM THAT IN PARTICULAR. ANY COMMENTS THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO MAKE ABOUT-----

A.H.

I'LL TELL YOU THIS. WE WERE BEING TRAINED TO FIGHT WORLD WAR I. THERE IS JUST NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT. THE CHIEF WANTED US TO MEMORIZE ALL OF THE CALL SIGNS OF ALL OF THE BATTLESHIPS BECAUSE WE WERE COMMANDER BATTLESHIPS BATTLE FORCE. (SECTION GARBLED) EACH BATTLESHIP HAD A FOUR LETTER CALL SIGN. ALL THE SHIPS HAD A FOUR LETTER CALL SIGN BUT THESE WERE THE BATTLESHIPS. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO KNOW THE FOUR LETTER CALL SIGN OF EACH BATTLESHIP. THE *WEST VIRGINIA* WAS NEDJ DAH DAH DIT, DAH DAH DAH. THE *OKLAHOMA* WAS NADN. I THINK THE *ARIZONA* WAS NACD BUT I'M NOT SURE ANY MORE. SOME OF THEM ESCAPE ME. THE *NEW MEXICO* WAS NEDN. *CALIFORNIA* WAS NAFT. IT'S A REALLY FUNNY CALL SIGN BECAUSE IT GOES (CODE SOUND).

JERRY

YOU COULD PUT IT TO MUSIC. ANY EXERCISES OR TRAINING ASSIGNMENTS THAT YOU REMEMBER IN PARTICULAR?

A.H.

LIKE I SAY, WE WERE A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT THAN THE REST OF THE CREW. WE HAD AN ENSIGN COME ABOARD, I DON'T REMEMBER WHICH SHIP I WAS ON AT THE TIME BUT, HE CAME ABOARD AND HE WAS GOING TO MAKE US ALL GUNG HO SAILORS AND HE WAS GOING TO MAKE US ALL STRONG. HE TRIED TO MAKE US DO EXERCISES. IT NEVER DID WORK. WE NEVER DID. WE GOT OUT OF EVERYTHING. WHEN THE SMOKING LAMP WAS OUT, (GARBLED)

WHEN WE LOADED AMMUNITION ABOARD, THE SMOKING LAMP WOULD BE OUT, YOU COULD GO DOWN TO MAIN RADIO AND STILL HAVE A CIGARETTE. THINGS LIKE THAT ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED. AS DUTY GOES, WE HAD IT PRETTY SOFT. WHEN YOU CONQUER THE CODE, IT DOES SOMETHING TO YOU, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.

JERRY

THEY TOOK GOOD CARE OF YOU THOUGH?

A.H.

YEAH. ONE OF THE THINGS, AFTER THE CHIEF GOT ON ME ALL THE TIME BECAUSE WE WERE SO SLOW. LOOKING BACK ON IT, I THINK HE WAS SO PROUD OF US..MY GOAL IN LIFE AT THAT PARTICULAR MOMENT WAS TO BE ABLE TO DRINK COFFEE, SMOKE A CIGAR, TALK IN CODE AND TALK TO SOMEBODY, ALL AT ONCE. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO DO THESE THINGS. YOU CAN DO IT.

JERRY

YOU DID IT. IT'S AMAZING.

A.H.

YOU HAVE TO WORK AT IT.

JERRY

I IMAGINE YOU HAVE TO WORK A LOT AT IT.

A.H.

IT GETS A LITTLE SCREWED UP. I'VE BEEN SCREWED UP EVER SINCE.

JERRY

TALK TO US ABOUT THE SITUATION AND I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY DAYS YOU MADE OUT OF PORT ON DEPLOYMENT. LEAD US UP TO THE DAY AND TELL US WHAT YOU WERE DOING. SHARE WITH US THE EXPERIENCES AS YOU REMEMBER THEM.

A.H.

WE HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE RUNS. WE PULLED SLEDS AND THE DIVE BOMBERS WOULD DIVE BOMB THE SLEDS AND THAT SORT OF THING. AIRCRAFT WOULD PULL SLEEVES AND WE WOULD FIRE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AT THEM. THOSE WERE 5 INCH DUAL PURPOSE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS. THEY WERE THE BIG SHELLS. EVENTUALLY, SHORTLY BEFORE PEARL, WE HAD SOME 3 INCH GUNS MOUNTED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE. THEY MAKE A REAL SHARP CRACK, I'LL TELL YOU THAT. THAT WAS IT. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS TO SPEAK OF. THEY HAD MACHINE GUNS BUT THEY WERE NEVER MOUNTED AND NOBODY EVER THOUGHT OF USING THEM. I MET A GUY JUST TODAY THAT WAS ON A SHIP THAT HAD 1.1 SEMI AUTOMATIC GUN. THERE WERE 4 SHELLS, THEY PUT THEM DOWN AND THEY WENT FUMM, FUMM, FUMM, FUMM. THEN THEY PUT IN ANOTHER ROUND. THEY WENT OFF DURING PEARL. I THOUGHT THOSE GUYS ARE REALLY GOING TO DO SOMETHING. THAT WAS **THE** AUTOMATIC WEAPON. I GUESS THEY GOT A COUPLE OF MACHINE GUNS WORKING BUT I DID NEVER KNOW THAT.

JERRY

WHERE WERE YOU THAT DAY? WHAT HAPPENED?

A.H.

I'LL TELL YOU QUITE FRANKLY. I HAD LIBERTY THAT DAY. I COULD HAVE BEEN ASHORE. I WAS TIRED. I HAD 32 DOLLARS, WHICH WAS A LOT OF MONEY. I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER I WOULD GO ASHORE AND BLOW IT IN ???? SOMEWHERE OR IF I SHOULD SAVE IT AND SEND IT HOME FOR THE KIDS FOR CHRISTMAS. I OPTED TO DO THAT. I WAS GOING TO SEND IT HOME FOR CHRISTMAS. NEVER DID GET MY \$32 BY THE WAY. IT WAS SUNK. NAVY, YOU OWE ME \$32.

WE WERE IN OUR LIVING COMPARTMENT, WHICH IS DOWN JUST ABOUT WATER LINE OR BELOW WATER LINE. POWER STATION WAS ON FLIGHT RADIO THREE, WHICH IS WAY UP HIGH. IT

IS ON THE BRIDGE WHERE THE ADMIRAL HAD HIS CHAIR. THEY SOUNDED GENERAL QUARTERS. I THOUGHT, THAT'S STUPID TO SOUND GENERAL QUARTERS ON SUNDAY. THEY ARE REALLY PRACTICING SCREWY TODAY. WE LEFT FOR THE BRIDGE. AS WE WERE RUNNING ACROSS THE FOC'SAL TO GET TO A LADDER TO GO UP TO THE BRIDGE, THERE WERE TWO ONE DOLLAR BILLS LAYING ON THE FOC'SAL AND WE BOTH PAUSED SIMULTANOUSLY TO SEE. NEITHER ONE OF US PICKED UP THE DOLLAR BILL. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, IT WERE STILL THERE WHEN THE BLITZ WAS OVER. I'M NOT SURE. WE WENT UP TO OUR BATTLE STATIONS. HE WENT ONE WAY AND I ANOTHER. I GOT UP TO THE BRIDGE, ????? RADIO AND THERE WAS A TIE BACK ON THE DOOR. THIS IS A METAL DOOR UP ON THE BRIDGE. WE WERE ALL SET FOR AN INSPECTION SO NOBODY WOULD GO IN THERE AND MESS THINGS UP. YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THIS WAS DURING DEPRESSION DAYS. WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TYPEWRITERS TO GO AROUND TO ALL THE POSITIONS. WHENEVER FLAG RADIO WAS MANNED, A YOEMAN WAS ASSIGNED TO CARRY FROM MAIN RADIO ALL THE WAY UP TO THE BRIDGE. HIS NAME WAS GRISSINGER BY THE WAY. TWO OF US GUYS HAD GONE UP TO THE BRIDGE TO MAN FLAG RADIO. I BANGED AGAINST THE STEEL DOOR WITH MY LEFT SHOULDER. I STILL HAVE ARTHRITIS IN THAT--- THAT'S ANOTHER THING THE NAVY, ARTHRITIS IN MY LEFT SHOULDER. I BANGED INTO THAT STEEL DOOR. THAT WAS THE MOST STUPID THING I COULD DO. SURE ENOUGH, HERE CAME GRISSINGER CARRYING THE TYPEWRITER AND THE KEY TO THE TIE BACK. HE OPENED THE TIE BACK AND WENT INTO THE RADIO, PUT ON OUR HEADSETS AND I CALLED----WE HAD A COMMUNICATIONS BUZZER BETWEEN FLAG RADIO AND ????? WE HAD SOUND PHONES BETWEEN THE TWO. WE HAD A SOUND POWER PHONE AND I GOT ON THE PHONE. I CALLED MAIN RADIO WHICH WAS MR (CODE SOUNDS). THERE WAS AN INTERCHANGE BETWEEN MAIN RADIO AND BRIDGE RADIO. MAIN RADIO INFORMED BRIDGE RADIO THAT THEY WERE ABANDONING SHIP. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO SO WE GOT TO WATCH THE WHOLE SHOW.

ONCE IN A WHILE WE WOULD GO INTO THE CONNING TOWER. THE CONNING TOWER WAS THE HUGE EDIFICE ABOARD SHIP THAT HAS 14 INCH ARMOR PLATING ALL AROUND IT AND IT HAD THESE LITTLE APPETURES THAT YOU COULD SEE THROUGH. I SPENT SOME TIME IN THERE. CHIEF RADIOMAN RHINEHARDT. WE HAD TWO CHIEFS. CHIEF RADIOMAN REEVES WAS THE LEADING CHIEF BECAUSE HE HAD MORE TIME IN THAN RHINEHARDT. RHINEHARDT WAS WITH ADM. POWELL ????? WHEN HE WAS COMMANDER OF BATTLESHIP BATTLE FORCE. REEVES WAS WITH COMMANDER BATTLE FORCE BEFORE COMMANDER BATTLE FORCE WENT ON TO SOME OTHER DUTY. HE (TRANSCRIBER IS NOT SURE WHO HE IS) WAS KILLED. HE RECEIVED THE MEDAL OF HONOR POSTHUMASLY. RHINEHARDT DECIDED HE WOULD KEEP ALL THE RADIOMEN PERSONNEL TOGETHER AND WE WOULD GO OUT AND COMMANDEER ANOTHER VESSAL AND ADMIRAL ????? WOULD PROBABLY (UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND)

WE GOT IN THE ADMIRAL'S BARGE AND WENT OVER TO FORD ISLAND. WE WERE THERE FOR JUST A SHORT TIME. I REMEMBER ONE GUY WE PULLED OUT OF THE WATER. HE HAD A

BLISTER THE SIZE OF A DINNER PLATE ON HIS BACK. I HELPED HIM UP THE LADDER. HE SAID, "DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. BUT THE GUY BEHIND ME." A LOT OF THINGS LIKE THAT HAPPENED. I CAN'T REMEMBER NAMES OF THE GUYS, BUT THESE TWO RADIOMEN WERE BOTH FROM THE SAME TOWN. ONE WAS FROM THE HIGH SOCIAL END OF TOWN AND THE OTHER WAS FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS. THE GUY FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS PICKED THIS OTHER GUY UP WHO HAD GOTTEN BURNED AND HIT WITH SOME SHRAPNEL AND WRAPED HIM UP IN A BLANKET AND TOOK HIM ALL THE WAY OVER TO THE HOSPITAL. HE ESCORTED HIM ALL THE WAY OVER THERE. WHEN I TALKED TO THIS GUY IN THE HOSPITAL, HE TOLD ME THAT THIS OTHER GUY HAD DONE THAT. I SAW THE SAME GUY THAT WAS WOUNDED BACK IN SAN FRANCISCO, ONE OF THE HOSPITALS. I WENT TO SEE HIM AND HE DEVELOPED SOME RETTY BAD BED SORES. HE WAS ONE UNHAPPY SAILOR. I THOUGH, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO EVEN BE ALIVE. THIS OTHER GUY SAVED YOUR LIFE. THAT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS TOO.

JERRY

YOU WERE THERE FOR THE DAY OF THE ATTACK?

A.H.

I DIDN'T GO BACK WHERE I WAS. WE WERE ON FORD ISLAND. THE CHIEF KEPT US ALL TOGETHER. THERE WAS A FERRY BOAT THERE. HE SAID WE WERE GOING TO GET ON THE FERRY BOAT AND WE ARE GOING TO GO ACROSS PEARL OVER TO THE SUBMARINE BASE AND THEN WE ARE GOING TO SEE WHAT TRANSPIRES FROM THERE. ON THIS FERRY BOAT GOING ACROSS PEARL HARBOR, THE DESTROYER BACKED DOWN AND HIT THE FERRY BOAT. SOME OF US SAW THE DESTROYER WAS GOING TO HIT THE FERRY BOAT SO WE GOT UP ON THE GUNWAL JUST IN CASE THE FERRY BOAT SANK. ACTUALLY IT HIT JUST A GLANCING BLOW JUST ENOUGH TO KNOCK US OFF IN THE WATER. I ACTUALLY WAS IN PEARL HARBOR. I COULDN'T SWIM VERY WELL. I DID MANAGE TO STAY AFLOAT AND A CAPTAIN'S GIG CAME BY AND FISHED ALL OF US OUT OF THE WATER AND TOOK US OVER TO THE SUBMARINE BASE. THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME THAT I WAS ON AN ADMIRAL'S BARGE AND THE CAPTAIN'S GIG, BOTH ON THE SAME DAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 1941. I WAS REALLY PRETTY IMPORTANT.

JERRY

IN SPITE OF ALL THE STUFF THAT WAS GOING ON.

A.H.

WHILE WE WERE ON THIS FERRY BOAT, CHIEF RHINEHARDT POINTED OUT THE *WEST VIRGINIA* AND THE *CALIFORNIA*. HE SAID, "WELL, THERE'S YOUR OLD HOME AND THERE'S YOUR NEW HOME. HE INTENDED TO BE A COMMANDER. HE FIGURED IF THE WAR STARTED, HE WOULD END UP AS A COMMUNICATIONS COMMANDER. THE LAST I SAW HIM, HE WAS STILL A CHIEF.

JERRY

WHEN ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE THAT DAY, DID YOU FEAR FOR YOUR LIFE?

A.J.

I SAW THE FIRST TORPEDO PLANE. HE DROPPED A TORPEDO AND THE TORPEDDO HIT US AND HE STRAFED THE LIBERTY PARTY. I HEARD THEM YELLING FOR A CORPSMAN. THE SHIP WAS JOLTED WHEN THE TORPEDO HIT US AND I THOUGHT WE WERE GETTING UNDERWAY. I THOUGHT THEY WERE SURE PRACTICING CLOSE. ONE OF THE JAPANESE PLANES WENT DOWN IN FLAMES, JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES. WHEN I GOT UP THERE ON THE BRIDGE AND ALL OF THESE THINGS WERE TRANSPIRING, I SAID, WELL, LORD IT'S YOU AND ME AND IT'S UP TO YOU.

END SIDE ONE

JERRY

DID YOU REALIZE RIGHT AWAY THAT IT WAS THE JAPANESE?

A.H.

I KNEW THAT AFTER BEING STRAFED. I KNEW THAT IT WAS NO LONGER PRACTICE. I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST PRACTICE AT FIRST. THEY HAD NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE AND NEVER IN THE HARBOR.

JERRY

HOW DID THEY UTILIZE ---- WHAT DID YOU DO THE REST OF THE DAY AFTER THE ATTACK WAS OVER?

A.H.

THE CHIEF KEPT US ALL TOGETHER AND HE SAID WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BED DOWN SOMEWHERE AND I'LL SEE IF WE CAN FIND A PLACE TO BED DOWN. I/M SURE WE WILL GET A SHIP AND DO SOMETHING. I'M NOT SURE BUT I'LL FIND WE FOUND THIS SUBMARINE SAILOR OUT HERE. I ASKED HIM IF THERE IS ONE ABOARD HIS BOAT. WE WENT ABOARD THE SUBMARINES TO SEE IF WE COULD FIND A PLACE TO STAY FOR OVERNIGHT. THERE WASN'T ANY ROOM ABOARD FOR US. WE ENDED UP IN THE *USS PETIUS* (SP ????) WHICH IS A SUBMARINE TENDER. I SPENT ONE NIGHT ABOARD THE SUBMARINE TENDER. FROM THERE WE WENT TO MAKALAKA RADIO STATION. THAT WAS INTERESTING TOO.

JERRY

WHERE WAS MAKALAKA RADIO STATION?

A.H.

IT WAS CLOSE TO HONOLULU BECAUSE WE DIDN'T GO VERY FAR.

JERRY

WAS THAT ON ONE OF THE HILLS NEARBY?

A.H.

NO. IT WASN'T ON THE HILL THIS IS ANOTHER INTERESTING THING THAT HAPPENED. YOU REALIZE WE SHOT DOWN SOME OF OUR PLANES THE NEXT MORNING. THAT NIGHT OR ONE OF THE SUCCEEDING NIGHTS, AT THE MAKALAKA RADIO STATION, WE HAD A MARINE PROTECTING THE COMPLEX. THERE WAS A SOLDIER UP ABOVE PROTECTING ANOTHER COMPLEX AND HE TOOK A SHOT AT OUR MARINE GUARD. HE CAME IN AND SAID THERE WAS GOING TO BE ONE DEAD DOGFACE IF THAT SOB SHOTS AT ME AGAIN. THESE THINGS TRANSPIRE.

THEN, WE HAD AN ALERT. WE HAD A RACK OF 30 CALIBER RIFLES. ONE OF THE RADIOMEN GOT ONE OF THESE RIFLES (GARBLED). THESE ARE THINGS THAT TRANSPIRE.

JERRY

YOU WERE OBVIOUSLY AT THE RADIO STATION FOR A WHILE.

A.H.

NOT VERY LONG. WE ENDED UP. YOU KNOW, KIMMEL WAS THE ADMIRAL IN CHARGE OF THE PACIFIC FLEET, THE ASIATIC FLEET, ALL OF THE UNITS IN THE PACIFIC. VICE ADM. CRYER (SP???) WAS THE ONE I WAS WORKING FOR, WAS IN COMMAND OF THE BATTLESHIP BATTLE FORCE. WHEN THEY CASHIERED KIMMEL AND WHY THEY DIDN'T CASHIER CRYER WAS ONE OF THOSE THINGS I NEVER HAVE UNDERSTOOD. THEY HAD TO CASHIER SOMEBODY. THEY HAD TO PUT THE BLAME ON SOMEBODY, SO THEY TOOK THE HIGHEST RANKER.

WE ENDED UP THEN AT THE SUBMARINE BASE AND A LOT OF THE SURVIVORS WERE AT THE SUBMARINE BASE. THEY HAD A LOT OF BUNKS THERE AND EVERYTHING. OUR RADIO GANG AND NIMITZ'S RADIO GANG STOOD WATCH AND WATCH. WATCH ON AND WATCH OFF. WE SPENT QUITE A BIT OF TIME THERE AT PEARL. THAT'S WHEN I HAD MY WATCH OFF AND COULD GO AROUND THE PERIMETER AND SEE ALL THE SHIPS. (NAME & NAME), A COUPLE OF DESTROYERS WERE NESTED TOGETHER. ONE OF THEM TOOK A BOMB AND THEY BOTH BURNED. THE PLATES ON THE DESTROYER WERE SO THIN THAT THEY BOTH WARPED. THEY WERE REALLY SOMETHING TO SEE. ONE OF THE TWO MEN SUBMARINES GOT SMACKED BY A DESTROYER. THEY BROUGHT IT ASHORE, HAD IT ROPED OFF. THAT'S ANOTHER THING THAT IRRITATED ME. AN OFFICER WENT OVER THE ROPE AND WENT IN WHERE THE SUBMARINE WAS, REACHED IN AND CUT OFF THE MEDAL ON THE JAPANESE THAT WAS STILL IN THE SUBMARINE AND TOOK IT AS A SOUVENIR. THAT'S ANOTHER THING THAT IRRITATED ME AT THESE OFFICERS.

JERRY

YOU SAW THIS HAPPEN?

A.H.

OH YEAH. OF COURSE THE SUBMARINE WAS SITTING THERE. THERE WERE QUITE A FEW THAT WANTED TO SEE IT.

ONE OF THE GUYS AT THE SUBMARINE BASE WAS NAMED BARCLAY. HE WAS PUTTING THESE GUYS ON DIFFERENT SHIPS ALL THE TIME. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS HEAVY CRUISER. I SAID, "LET ME COME BACK AND LET ME SEE WHAT TIME TO START." HE SAID, "OK, I WILL." (THIS PASSAGE GARBLED) ---HE WENT OUT ON THIS JAPANESE HELD ISLAND, CAME BACK, AND SAID, "DON'T GO OUT TO SEA IF YOU DON'T HAVE TO." AINT NOTHING OUT THERE BUT WATER.

LATER ON IN THE WAR, WE ----

JERRY

LET'S BACK UP FOR JUST A MOMENT. YOU WERE IN THAT POOL OBVIOUSLY. YOU WERE SWAPPING DUTIES WITH ADM NIMITZ'S GROUP CONCERNING THE WATCHES. HOW LONG WERE YOU IN PEARL BEFORE YOU WENT TO SEA AGAIN OR GOT YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT?

A.H.

I CAN'T REMEMBER FOR SURE. BATTLESHIP DIVISION THREE CAME AROUND THROUGH THE CANAL AND CAME UP TO PEARL. ADM. RYLANDER (SP????) ABOARD THE *NEW MEXICO* AGAIN AND WE WENT TO SEA ON THE *NEW MEXICO*. THAT WAS WHEN PRICE SAID WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO KEEP UP WITH THE CARRIERS. WE ARE GOING TO PUT THE CARRIERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FLEET. BEFORE, THEY WERE JUST AN ADJUNCT TO THE FLEET. THEY WERE JUST SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE AIR COVER FOR THE BATTLESHIPS. NOW, THE ??????. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE AROUND TO PROTECT THEM. OF COURSE, THEY WERE HIGH SPEED IN COMPARISON TO THE OLD BATTLE WAGONS. THE OLD BATTLE WAGONS COULD MAKE 18 KNOTS AT THE TOP. WE WERE GLAD TO SEE THAT THEY COULD OPERATE WITH THE POOR BATTLESHIPS WITH 2 CARRIERS IN THE MIDDLE. THAT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TIMES THEY EVER TRIED THAT. IT WAS INTERESTING THAT WE DID THAT. LIKE I SAID, THEY HAD THE BATTLESHIPS GOING AS FAST AS THEY COULD GO.

THEY WERE STILL USING BIPLANE GRUMMAN FIGHTERS IF YOU CAN IMAGINE.

JERRY

DID YOU SEE ANY ADDITIONAL --- YOU WERE IN THE NAVY FOR DURATION OF THE WAR. DID YOU SEE ANY ADDITIONAL ACTION IN THE PACIFIC? COULD YOU RELATE SOME OF THAT?

A.H.

I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS ONE RADIOMAN NAME D HOWARD PALLAN. HE WAS ON THE *WEST VIRGINIA* AND WAS SUNK. IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS, THEY HAD ALL KINDS

OF ACTIVITY AND ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE WERE SUNK OUT THERE. HE GOT ON A DESTROYER AFTER PEARL AND SENT DOWN TO THE SOLOMONS. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY RADAR. THAT WAS A LATE EVOLUTION. WE ENDED UP WITH BEDSPRINGS ON OUR SETS. THEY KNEW THE JAPANESE FLEET WAS OUT THERE AND THEY WANTED TO ???? SO THEY COULD FIND OUT WHERE THEY WERE SO THEY COULD FIRE BACK AT THEM. THEY SENT THIS DESTROYER TO DRAW FIRE. OF COURSE, THEY SANK IT.HE IS DEAD NOW. WHEN I FOUND OUT WHERE HE WAS, I WROTE TO HIM AND HIS WIFE EXPLAINED HE COULDN'T KEEP DRIVING. THAT WAS NOT TO LONG BEFORE----- THAT REPAIR SHIP WE WENT ALONGSIDE FOR SOME MINOR REPAIRS I SAW HIM AND TALKED TO HIM, HE TOLD ME OF HIS EXPERIENCE. HE SAID, WHEN HIS DESTROYER WENT DOWN, A LOT OF THE GUYS WERE IN THE WATER PERPENDICULAR. IF HE GETS UP AGAIN, BE SURE AND FLOAT ON YOUR BACK BECAUSE THESE GUYS THAT WERE IN THE WATER WENT SO FAR DOWN THE DEPTH CHARGES ALL WENT OFF AND THE CONCUSSION JARRED THEIR INSIDES LOOSE. THESE GUYS WERE ALL SECURED AND WERE ON THIS ISLAND. ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY ALL STARTED DYING.

JERRY

THE CONCUSSION OF THOSE DEPTH CHARGES WORE OFF?

A.H.

AS THEY LAY HORIZONTALY IN THE WATER, THEY FELT THEY WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THAT IMPACT. I DON'T REMEMBER JUST WHEN ALL THAT TRANSPIRED EITHER.

THE FIRST TIME I WAS ENGAGED IN ANYTHING ELSE WAS WHEN WE TOOK THE GILBERT ISLANDS, MAKIN AND TARAWA. A WEEK FROM MAKIN, AN OFFICER AND THE KIND OF CHARACTER I AM AND HOW RIDICULOUS I COULD BE WE PUT OUT THIS NEWSPAPER AND I THOUGHT THIS WAS REALLY CLEVER, I SAID," WHY DON'T WE PUT THIS HEADLINE, "MAKIN TAKEN" ----GARbled---- AS AN AFTER THOUGHT. OF COURSE, TARAWA WASN'T TAKEN ALL THAT EASY. WE LOST A LOT OF MARINES. I THOUGHT IT WAS CLEVER.

JERRY

MAYBE YOU WERE JUST PROJECTING.

A.H.

ANOTHER THING AT MAKIN AND TARAWA, ONE FOURTH OF THE CREW GOT TO GO ASHORE. SOME OF THE GUYS IN RADIO GOT TO GO. I WAS NOT AMONG THEM. THIS ONE GUY NAMED J.B. MAYHEW AND WE ALWAYS CALLED HIM MORTIMER, MORTIMER SNERD. HE WENT ASHORE AND THE MARINES HAD SET UP A SOUVENIR SHOP. THEY WERE SELLING JAPANESE HAND GRENADES AND JAPANESE SHELLS. OF COURSE, THEY HAD TAKEN OUT THE INNARDS OF THESE HAND GRENADES. HE CAME BACK ABOARD SHIP AND HE HAD THESE JAPANESE HAND GRENADES AND THESE SHELLS. THEY WERE IN THIS WEAPONS COMPARTMENT, HE TRIED TO DETONATE (GARbled). AFTER THAT, ANYONE WHO BROUGHT SOUVENIRS BACK FROM ?????

TURN THEM INTO THE MASTER AT ARMS. THEY DON'T NEED ANY PRANKSTER. WE HAD TO HAVE A LITTLE HUMOR.

IT IS REALLY BORING TO BE ABOARD SHIP AND GO FOR MILES AND MILES AND MILES WITHOUT ANYTHING TO DO. THE ACTION IS RELATIVELY SHORT. YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. MYSELF AND ANOTHER PERSON WERE ON THE FOC'SAL ONE TIME AND ???? SAID, "YOU KNOW, I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED HOW MANY STICKS OF CHEWING GUM A GUY COULD GET IN HIS MOUTH AND CHEW AT ONE TIME." WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT? HE SAID, "OK". HE WENT AND GOT A CARTON OF CHEWING GUM. THESE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT ARE KIND OF INTERESTING. IT PASSED THE TIME.

I THINK IT WAS AT THE GILBERTS, WE HAD THESE ESCORT CARRIERS THAT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT. IT WAS DOING THE SAME THING WE HAD DONE IN PRACTICE WITH THE BATTLESHIPS WHERE THE DESTROYERS WERE ALL ON THE EDGE AND THEN THE CRUISERS, THEN THE BATTLESHIPS AND IN THE MIDDLE, THE CARRIERS, THEN MORE BATTLESHIPS.

JERRY

A SCREEN FOR THE CARRIERS?

A.H.

SCREEN THE CARRIERS. WE WERE SUPPOSED TO ABSORB ANY TORPEDOS THAT WERE FIRED. WE WERE TO SAVE THE CARRIERS. WE SECURED FROM GENERAL QUARTERS AND THEY SOUNDED TORPEDO DEFENSE.

JERRY

THAT WAS SEPARATE ALARM FROM GENERAL QUARTERS?

A.H.

YES. THIS WAS AFTER WE BARELY GOT IN OUR SACKS AND JUST BARELY GOT TO SLEEP. TORPEDO ALERT IS A REAL WEIRD CALL. (SOUND OF CALL) THEN GENERAL QUARTERS RIGHT AFTER THAT. I THINK EVERYBODY WAS AT BATTLE STATIONS WITHING ½ MINUTE. WE WERE ---- THE RADIO ROOM IS BELOW DECK, BELOW THE WATER LINE SUPPOSEDLY INVULNERABLE. WE'VE GOT 14 INCHES OF STEEL. WE NO SOONER GOT INTO OUR BATTLE STATIONS AND THEY SAID, "TWO TORPEDOS FORWARD, TWO TORPEDOS AFT." ALL FOUR OF THEM CONVERGED ON THE *USS LISCOMB BAY*, CVE. SHE BLEW SKY HIGH. PARTS OF PLANES, PARTS OF BODIES, PARTS OF THE SHIP, PARTS OF EVERYTHING SEEN ABOARD SHIP. ONE GUY HAD A PIECE OF ???? ABOUT THE SIZE OF A MATCH BOX THAT HE HAD IN A MATCH BOX. WE TOLD HIM THAT WAS PART OF A GUY, HIS SHIPMATE. WE TOLD HIM THAT IS NO SOUVENIR. WE FINALLY GOT HIM TO GET RID OF IT. THEY PASSED THE WORD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SWEEP AND SWAB DOWN ALL WEATHER DECKS TO GET RID OF ALL OF THE DEBRIS. I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY GUYS DIED ON *LIPSCOMB BAY*. IT WAS AN ESCORT CARRIER FULL OF GASOLINE.

JERRY

GARBLED.

A.H.

THEY WERE PROVIDING AIR STRIKES.

JERRY

WHERE WERE YOU COMING INTO THE WAR.

A.H.

I WAS ON AN ATTACK TRANSPORT THAT'S ANOTHER BIG LONG STORY. I WAS A FIRST CLASS RADIOMAN WHEN I WENT IN THE SERVICE. I WAS STILL A FIRST CLASS RADIOMAN WHEN I CAME OUT OF THE SERVICE,

JERRY

WHAT HAPPENED THAT YOU DIDN'T MAKE CHIEF?

A.H.

I SHOULD HAVE MADE CHIEF. ON THE *NEW MEXICO*, I WAS ALL SET TO MAKE CHIEF. I HAD BEEN RUNNING THE RADIO GANG AS THE SENIOR ENLISTED MAN. I MADE OUT THE WATCH LISTS AND EVERYTHING ELSE. I HAD A GUY GO OFF HIS ROCKER. WE HAD COME BACK FROM THE STATES. WE HAD A THIRD RANKING OFFICER ON BOARD SHIP CALLED THE FIRST LIEUTENANT AND THE GUY THAT WAS THE FIRST LIEUTENANT ON THE *NEW MEXICO* WAS A LT. CMDR. AND HE GRADUATED IN THE SAME CLASS WITH NIMITZ. YOU CAN SEE HOW BRIGHT HE WAS. HE CAME DOWN TO OUR LIVING QUARTERS WITH WHITE GLOVES AND A YOEMAN. HE WANTED THE LEADING ENLISTED MAN TO COME UP. HE WAS GOING TO INSPECT OUR COMPARTMENT. HE INSPECTED OUR COMPARTMENT. THERE WAS DUST ON THE OVERHEAD. THERE WERE PAINT CHIPS ON THE AMMUNITION AND THAT SORT OF THING. HE WAS TELLING ME WHAT ALL HE WAS LOOKING FOR AND I SAID, "I DON'T KNOW. MY MEN HAVE BEEN STANDING WATCH AND WATCH EVER SINCE WE LEFT PORT. THEY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS SORT OF NONSENSE." THOSE WERE MY EXACT WORDS. YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN ?????? IN ALL YOUR LIFE. THE THING THAT SAVED ME FROM A COURT MARTIAL WAS THAT HE PUSHED ME ASIDE WITH HIS BOARD AND THERE WAS STRICKER ON WITNESS IN THAT DIVISION. I SAID, "THAT CONSTITUTES A ????? DIDN'T IT?" SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE STOMPED OUT. THE RADIO OFFICER CALLED ME DOWN TO THE RADIO SHACK AND ASKED, "WHAT IN THE HELL DID YOU EVER SAY TO CMDR. ??????" I SAID, "(NOT UNDERSTANDABLE) HE SAID, "YOU KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO BE CHIEF?" I SAID, "WELL, YEAH, I KNEW THAT." (PASSAGE NOT UNDERSTANDABLE)

JERRY

THE ALEUTIAN CAMPAIGN WAS ROUGHLY----- ?

A.H.

PROBABLY '43 OR '44. I SPENT ALMOST 2 YEARS ON AN ATTACK TRANSPORT AND IT WAS AFTER THAT. IT WAS BEFORE THE PHILLIPINE CAMPAIGN, WHEN THE PHILLIPINES WERE TAKEN OVER, WHEN WE WENT BACK TO THE PHILLIPINES. I GOT BACK TO THE *NEW MEXICO* IN SAN FRANCISCO OR ???? RATHER BECAUSE SHE HAD TO HAVE THAT GUN REPLACED. THEY SENT ME TO SCHOOL. THEY SENT ME TO APA PRE-COMMISSIONING SCHOOL TO LEARN HOW TO GO TO SEA. THEY SENT US TO SCHOOL TO COPY THE CODE. I WAS SITTING THERE TYPING THE CODE WITH ONE FINGER, JUST KIND OF BORED. THE INSTRUCTOR CAME AND SAID, "YOU THINK YOU ARE PRETTY SMART DON'T YOU?" I CARRIED ON THE CONVERSATION AND COPIED THE DOCE GROUPS. HE ASKED, "HOW FAST CAN YOU COPY?" I SAID, "OH, DON'T KNOW, AROUND 50 WORDS A MINUTE OR SO." HE SAID, "YOU CAN WHAT?" I SAID (CAN'T UNDERSTAND) HE SAID, "I DON'T BELIEVE YOU." I SAID, (SOMETHING ABOUT CODE GROUPS) BUT I'M STILL COPYING CODE AND STILL CARRYING ON THIS CONVERSATION. HE SAID, "I GOT SOME TAPES." I SAID, "FINE, I'LL COPY IT." HE SAID, "OK." HE STOPPED ????? "I WANT YOU PEOPLE TO COPY AS LONG AS YOU CAN." HE STARTED THE ??????. EVERYBODY WAS COPYING IT REAL SLOW. I WAS STILL USING ONE FINGER. THEN I FINALLY HAD TO USE BOTH HANDS AND IT GOT FASTER AND FASTER AND FASTER. PRETTY SOON THERE WASN'T ANYBODY ELSE COPYING AND I WAS STILL COPYING. HE SAID, "I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU COULD DO IT." I WAS JUST A WISE KID.

JERRY

WHAT WAS THE *MENAFEE*? THAT WAS THE ATTACK TRANSPORT, APA 202.

A.H.

I'M A PLAQUE OWNER. THE COMMISSIONER IN PORTLAND ----- SHE WENT DOWN THE RIVER TO ASTORIA----- I HAVE A BOOK ABOUT THE *USS MENAFEE*. ALL THE BOOKS ARE AT HOME.

JERRY

WHAT HAPPENED IN GUADALCANAL?

A.H.

WE WERE ON LIBERTY. WE HAD A REPUTATION ABOARD THE *MENAFEE* TOO AS BEING THE CREW THAT ALWAYS GOT DRUNK. IF THERE WAS ANYTHING TO DRINK ANYWHERE THE RADIOMEN WOULD FIND IT. WE GOT ON GUADALCANAL AND RAN INTO A MARINE. WE ASKED HIM IF THERE WAS ANYPLACE WE COULD GET SOMETHING TO DRINK. HE SAID, "WE HAVE A ???? SUPPLY IN HERE ISSUES NEAR BEER EVERY SO OFTEN. A LOT OF THEM SAVE UP THEIR BEER, GET A CASE OR SO, AND THEN THEY SELL THE CASE. I SAID, "HOW ABOUT US GETTING SOME?" HE TOOK US AND WE GOT BEER. WE ALL GOT PRETTY WELL SNOCKERED AND THIS MARINE STARTED UP ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS AND HE GOT HALF WAY UP THE MOUNTAIN AND I SAID,

“WE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE BEACH. WE HAVE TO CATCH THE LIBERTY BOAT. THE LAST BOAT LEAVES AT SUCH AND SUCH A TIME.” HE SAID, “OH, I FORGOT (GARBLED). WE GOT DOWN TO ??????. I SAID, “YOU KNOW, WE HAVE TIME TO TAKE A SWIM.” WE URINATED IN THE DRINK FIRST.

JERRY

THE “DRINK” BEING THE OCEAN?

A.H.

YEAH.

JERRY

A NAVY TERM. YOU HAVE SHARED A NUMBER OF STORIES WITH US . IT SEEMED LIKE THERE WERE SOME INSTANCES THAT YOU EXPERIENCED WHILE YOU WERE IN THAT YOU TRY TO SUPPRESS. ARE THERE ANY INCIDENCES THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER THAT WERE PAINFUL FOR YOU? OBVIOUSLY-----

A.H.

OH YEAH. THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS.

JERRY

ANY THAT YOU MADE IT THROUGH AND THAT YOU CONTINUE TO SEE AFTER YOUR GOT OUT OF THE SERVICE?

A.H.

ONE OF THE GUYS ON THE *NEW MEXICO* LOOKED UP TO ME AS BEING AN OLD SALT. WE WENT TO THIS REUNION AND A GUY NAMED MORALES WAS TALKING TO MY WIFE AND HE SAID, “HOW IS OLD A.H. NOW? SHE SAID, “FINE.” HE SAID, “HOW OLD IS HE NOW?” SHE SAID, I DON’T AT THAT TIME.” SHE TOLD HIM HOW OLD I WAS. HE SAID, “WELL HELL, HE IS ONLY 2 YERS OLDER THAN I AM.” I HAD THE CLOUT AND THAT MADE THE BIG DIFFERENCE. I HAD THE EXERIENCE.

JERRY

WHAT YEAR DID YOU LEAVE THE SERVICE?

A.H.

1945

JERRY

SHORTLY AFTER----

A.H

THE *MENAFEE* WAS IN SAN DIEGO AND WE HAD DELIVERED A WHOLE BUNCH OF MARINES. WE WERE GOING TO TAKE THEM TO HONOLULU, PICK UP A LOAD OF OLD MARINES AND TAKE THE TROOPS IN. THERE WAS ANOTHER FIRST CLASS RATING, MYSELF AND A CHIEF

RATING, ALL OF US HAD ENOUGH WHISKERS AND ALL OF US WERE SINGLE. WE STILL HAD ENOUGH TIME AND ENOUGH BATTLE STARS IN OUR RECORDS OR POINTS TO GET OUT. THEY SAID YOU CAN EITHER GO TO JAPAN IF YOU WANT TO OR YOU CAN GET OUT. THE OTHER FIRST CLASS AND MYSELF OPTED TO GET OUT. THIS CHIEF RADIOMAN NAMED BARTHALEMW (???) DECIDED TO MAKE THE TRIP. HE GOT TO THE PHILLIPINES AND HE WENT ON LIBERTY WITH THE CHIEF PHARMACIST MATE WHO USED TO GET US MEDICINAL ALCOHOL ALL THE TIME. HE WENT ASHORE AND THEY CAME BACK AND UNCLOTHED AND HE DECIDED HE WAS GOING TO HELP THE COXSON. THERE HAD BEEN A TYPHOON OUT IN THAT AREA AND THE WAVES WERE PRETTY HIGH. HE FELL OVERBOARD AND DROWNED. I SAID, "THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GO I."

JERRY

YOU GOT OUT AND RETURNED TO CIVILIAN LIFE.

A.H.

THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME IS THAT I MARRIED THE WOMAN THAT I DID. I WAS STILL CAROUSING. WE HAVE A BOY AND A GIRL NOW

JERRY

AND THEY ARE BOTH WITH YOU HERE NOW.

A.H.

AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF GRANDKIDS. SOME GOT STARTED LATE IN LIFE.

JERRY

A.H. WE HAVE A LITTLE MORE ROOM ON THE TAPE IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT WE HAVE MISSED AND YOU FEEL THAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SHARE OR SOMEONE STUDYING A SEGMENT OF WW II MIGHT FIND INTERESTING=====

A.H.

I ALWAYS SAY THAT WE PREPARED FOR WORLD WAR I BEFORE WORLD WAR II AND I THINK FOR THE MOST PART, THE NATION HAS DONE A JOB OF STAYING AHEAD OF THE GAME AS FAR AS BEING READY FOR WAR IS CONCERNED. I THINK THAT IS THE WAY THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BUILD. WE GO SOUTH IN THE WINTER. WE'VE SPENT SOME TIME IN ALABAMA, CLOSE TO PENSACOLA. WE HAVE GONE OVER TO THE MUSEUM THERE QUITE A NUMBER OF TIMES. WHAT IS DOWN HERE AT CORPUS CHRISTI NOW, THE *LEXINGTON*?

JERRY

YES, THE *LEXINGTON*.

A.H.

THE *LEX* WAS STILL A WORKING SHIP.

JERRY

A TRAINING SHIP.

A.H.

YEAH. WE WENT ABOARD HER AND OF COURSE THEY HAD WOMEN ABOARD THEN. THIS WAS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. IF I HAD BEEN IN THE NAVY WITH WOMEN, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A DIFFERENT STORY.

JERRY

NOT SO GOOD WITH BOTH WOMEN AND BEER HUH?

A.H.

THE WIFE WAS TALKING TO THE YOUNG SAILORS AND ABOUT THE GALS. HE DIDN'T THINK THEY SHOULD BE ABOARD SHIP. HE SAID, "THE WORLD IS GETTING ???? NOW." MARY SAID, "YOU KNOW ===== (GARBLED)

JERRY

CURE TUBERCULOSIS AND MAKE YOU PREGNANT.

A.H.

THERE WAS A BIG CARRIER THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO REPORT TO THE WEST THERE AND THEY HAD TO DREDGE OUT A HARBOR BECAUSE IT WASN'T DEEP ENOUGH FOR HER TO COME IN. THIS WAS AT PENSACOLA. SHE CAME IN AROUND THE POINT AND THERE WAS ABOUT 4 BUSLOADS JUST TO SEE IT FROM THERE. I TOLD MARY, "TELL THE SIGNALMAN HI AND SEE IF HE WON'T RESPOND. SHE SAID, "WHAT DO YOU MEAN?" I SAID, "WELL, JUST TELL HIM HI." SHE SAID, "WHAT DO YOU MEAN HI?" I SAID, "WELL JUST GO H I AND USE SEMAPHORE." SHE SAID, "ARE YOU SERIOUS?" I SAID, "YEAH SAY H I ". PRETTY SOON FROM THE BRIDGE, THE GUY CAME BACK WITH THE H I. I SAID, "HE SAID HI TO US. WE HAD A GOOD TIME.

JERRY

VERY INTERESTING. DURING THE TIME YOU SERVED YOUR COUNTRY AND THE THING YOU DID, DID YOU RECEIVE SOME MEDALS OR COMMENDATIONS OF SOME SORT?

A.H.

THE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL.

JERRY

THIS HAD BEEN A GOOD PERSONAL INTERVIEW HERE. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW ON BEHALF OF THE MUSEUM, WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR TAKING THE TIME TO SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US.

A.H.

I LIKE TO THINK A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED, BUT THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF NAVAL WARFARE CHANGED. BILLY MITCHELL WAS WAY AHEAD OF THE GAME BACK IN WORLD WAR I. HE SAID THIS IS THE WAY IT WILL BE AND IT WAS. THE JAPANESE LATCHED ON TO THAT. THEY WERE WAY AHEAD OF US IN THAT REGARD. IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT EVEN AFTER THE WAR STARTED FOR THE PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON TO DETERMINE THAT THE BATTLESHIPS WERE NOT IMPORTANT. THEY WERE NOT THE THING. THEY ARE STILL BUILDING BATTLESHIPS. THEY USED THEM AS ANTI-AIRCRAFT PLATFORMS.

JERRY

THEY BROUGHT A FEW OF THEM BACK INTO SERVICE FOR VIETNAM.

A.H.

THEY HAD THEM IN THE GULF WAR. THEY HAD BATTLESHIPS. THEY SPENT A LOT OF MONEY PUTTING CRUISE MISSILES ON THEM AND THAT SORT OF THING, ALL OF WHICH WAS RIDICULOUS. THEY TOOK SEVERAL SHIPS THAT THEY HAD DECOMMISSIONED AND THEY WERE ALSO MODERN IN COMPARISON TO ANYTHING THAT I EVER KNEW. I COULD HARDLY UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WOULD DECOMMISSION THEM. MISSLE CRUISERS, MISSLE DESTROYERS, MISSLE THIS AND MISSLE THAT. THEY'RE OUTMODED.

JERRY

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW ONCE AGAIN THAT WE REALLY APPRECIATED THIS. YOU WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS INTERVIEW AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EDIT IT, INTO OR OUT OF IT WHATEVER YOU FEEL IS APPROPRIATE IN TERMS OF THE TRANSCRIPTION AND IF THERE IS SOMETHING WE MISSED IN THE INTERVIEW THAT YOU HAVE RECALL ON AND YOU WANT TO ADD IT IN, YOU CAN DO THAT AND IT WILL BECOME A PERMANENT RECORD IN THE MUSEUM.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU TOMORROW.

TRANSCRIBED BY FOREST J. REES
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