

**Admiral Nimitz Historic Site
National Museum of the Pacific War**

**Center for Pacific War Studies
Oral History Program**

Fredericksburg, Texas

An Interview with

**Mr. Rudolph H. Schultz
Thirteenth Air Force
Radar Instructor & Operator
New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Admiralties
Leyte, Japan**

August 12, 2003

My name is Richard Misenhimer and today is August the 12th 2003. I am interviewing Mr. Rudolph H. Schultz at his home at 2187 South county road 525 East, Kewanna, Indiana, 46939. This interview is in support of the National Museum of Pacific Wars Center for Pacific War Studies for the preservation of historical information related to World War II.

Mr. Misenhimer

Rudy I want to thank you for taking the time do this interview today.

Mr. Schultz

Sure.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let me start by asking you what is your birth date?

Mr. Schultz

December the 8th 1924.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where were you born?

Mr. Schultz

Hammond, Indiana.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Schultz

I had a full brother yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was he in World War II?

Mr. Schultz

Yes he was in the OSI. Then he was over there in the European, Theater Germany around through there and he was an investigator.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did he come home from the war?

Mr. Schultz

Yes he lives in Texas now San Antonio.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then what was your father's occupation?

Mr. Schultz

He was a carpenter. And Mom she was a house wife.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you go to school?

Mr. Schultz

Well I started out in Crown Point Indiana and then we moved to Medaryville and that's where I went to high school and then I was drafted from there.

Mr. Misenhimer

What year did you finish high school?

Mr. Schultz

Well I was drafted in March of 43. I didn't finish it until I came back from the service.

Mr. Misenhimer

1943 was your last year until you came back from the service?

Mr. Schultz

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you were drafted you say?

Mr. Schultz

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Which branch did you go into?

Mr. Schultz

I was in the Thirteenth air force in the army.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where were you drafted at?

Mr. Shultz

In Winamac here.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you go from there?

Mr. Shultz

Well we went from Winamac to Indianapolis and I was there for a couple weeks I guess and then I was transferred to Greensboro North Carolina.

Mr. Misenhimer

At Indianapolis were you at Fort Benjamin, Harrison.

Mr. Schultz

Yes Fort Benjamin.

Mr. Misenhimer

During that two weeks there what happened?

Mr. Schultz

We were just orientated and given our uniforms and shoes and stuff like that, processed.

Mr. Misenhimer

You went from there to where now?

Mr. Schultz

Greensboro, North Carolina.

Mr. Misenhimer

What base was it there?

Mr. Schultz

A place where we took exercises and I don't know what you call it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Physical training and things?

Mr. Schultz

Physical training and stuff like that. Then from there I was we was picked there was a certain amount of us picked to go to Tampa Florida, Drew Field. And then that is where we were picked to go into our profession.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were first inducted were you in the air force at that point? When you were in Greensboro were you in the air force or were you in just the army?

Mr. Schultz

No just in the army I suppose.

Mr. Misenhimer

And how long were you there?

Mr. Schultz

Oh three months I suppose.

Mr. Misenhimer

That's when you went through all your basic training?

Mr. Schultz

Basic training that's it. that's what it was.

Mr. Misenhimer

What all did basic training consist of?

Mr. Schultz

Oh everything. Everything that basic trainings do.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have rifle training?

Mr.. Schultz

Oh yes had some not very much most of it was done in Drew Field.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about machine guns?

Mr. Schultz

No just our carbines.

Mr. Misenhimer

You had the carbine not the M1 rifle?

Mr. Schultz

No carbine.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about the infiltration course, did you have to go through that and they shoot live bullets over you?

Mr. Schultz

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

A lot of marching?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yes we done a lot of walking. We marched a good three or four miles every day.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you live in there?

Mr. Schultz

We lived in barracks. There in Drew Field.

Mr. Misenhimer

No I mean in Greensboro.

Mr. Schultz

Oh we lived in barracks there too. Yeah, they built regular barracks for us there and we lived in there.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was the food there?

Mr. Schultz

Good very good.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else you recall from your time there in Greensboro?

Mr. Schultz

No it was just more or less figured out what our backgrounds were and of course I was in the band in high school and I didn't qualify for that. I wasn't interested in it anyway. So then I wrote down I either wanted to be a cook and baker. I wanted to be in that school or some electronics. So they chose me to be in electronics.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now when you left there you went to Florida.

Mr. Schultz

Yes Drew Field Florida.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you travel down there?

Mr. Schultz

By train.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get a leave to come home between?

Mr. Schultz

No. No leave I didn't get from the time I was drafted until I came back from over seas. I was gone all of the time for three years.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now on that train trip down, how long did it take one day two days?

Mr. Schultz

One day I think it was. Yea it wasn't long.

Mr. Misenhimer

And what were conditions like when you got down to Florida?

Mr. Schultz

Hot. It was regular Florida weather.

Mr. Misenhimer

You lived in barracks again there?

Mr. Schultz

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then what all did you do there?

Mr. Schultz

Well we took some basic training there you know just to keep us in shape, I suppose, and then they decided in our interviews that we had that I was wanting in the electronic end of it so they chose me to go to radar school which I knew nothing of and that was brand new at that time and they said well we have to wait and see. So they sent the FBI here in Medaryville where I went to school and over the whole town and they checked me out there because it was highly secret at that time. So then after I was okayed then sent us to night school down in Florida. The first night I didn't know what to expect. They told us all, there was six of us, to be on a certain corner in the Drew Field and they would pick us up. Well here come a truck, a six by six, with all the canvas over it and they said okay get in they pulled a curtain

down on us. It was dark so we rode I don't know how far it was but I still don't know where it was at but pretty soon they pulled up to a place and we got out and we had to unload our pockets. We could have no match books or nothing like that on us. They took everything away from us. Then we went in and they said we are now going to learn to be radar operators and instructors so I said okay and then we took our training.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now you still lived in the same barracks you were living in before?

Mr. Schultz

Yea we were transported back and forth.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now they covered you up again every night?

Mr. Schultz

Every night and when we left we were searched again. Then we were given all of our personal belongings. We got in the truck pulled the curtain down went back to the barracks and they dumped us out. Next day same thing. We done that for three or four months. And then finally when we got all of our training they picked twenty four of us four categories or cadres they called them at that time that we were supposed to go and instruct different people on radar. We had what they called the 581, I don't know what that was but they were just a number I suppose army number. There was a 277 also but that was a different kind of radar. It looked like a big bed spring standing up and down but ours was in two parts. We had a double antennas we called it, it was a transmitter and receiver. And we could get the height

and range and speed of the air plane and everything off of that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now when you were going to night school what did you do during the day time?

Mr. Schultz

Nothing. We were exempt from KP guard duty everything.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long was night school each night how many hours?

Mr. Schultz

It started at six until two I believe it was. Eight hours.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then you got back to your barracks at two in the morning?

Mr. Schultz

Two or three in the morning. Three in the morning.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have any trouble sleeping in or do they let you?

Mr. Schultz

No. No they left us alone. Like I said we were exempt from everything.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now in this school what all did you learn, what all did they teach you?

Mr. Schultz

Well we would learn the to operate the scopes they called it scopes. One was the PPI scope which is the plan position indicator and it showed where the air plane was.

Then they had the height range scope which showed how many miles out it was and

it also showed the height of the air plane at the time. So those two scopes was run by two different operators at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now did they teach any thing about electronics, about how to repair them or anything like that?

Mr. Schultz

No. we had a technician with us all the time and he was from Texas also.

Mr. Misenhimer

So basically you were learning how to operate these?

Mr. Schultz

Yes operate them and to teach.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now in the operation of them, what all did you have to learn to do to operate them?

Mr. Schultz

Well we had to learn where the air planes were and like I said the height and range and everything like that. Then we reported to a guy that had a big map and then he would mark down on the map where the air planes were and he would mark it out how many miles it was and stuff like that. It was all done on a clear plastic with a map underlayment with a China grease pencil. So you could always refer back to it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now when on the PPI scope they give you a Azimuth is that right?

Mr. Schultz

Yes the give you an Azomuth.

Mr. Misenhimer

And the range and height they gave you the distance and height?

Mr. Schultz

The distance and height of the airplane yea.

Mr. Misenhimer

Okay you learned then how to operate the radar and all?

Mr. Schultz

Yes we learned how to operate it and also to teach it to other people.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you say that school was about how long?

Mr. Schultz

About three or four months. And then we got a Lieutenant from Kentucky he fit right in, He was a real nice guy real sharp and he says okay we are going to do it this way and then we got into the air planes we got the night fire control which was at that time the P61. The black widow. And then we got to practice with those guys every night. Until we got it down pat. Then after that well we were sent over seas.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you go over seas?

Mr. Schultz

Lets see it was in 43, part of 43. After we got all of the basic training and all of our training that's when we got on the ship in San Francisco.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you didn't stay there and teach then?

Mr. Schultz

Not there no we went they shoved us over seas to teach as we went from island to island. We flew then from island to island.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you left San Francisco of course then you went straight from Florida to San Francisco?

Mr. Schultz

Yea.

Mr. Misenhimer

On a train again?

Mr. Schultz

Yea on the train.

Mr. Misenhimer

This probably took several days?

Mr. Schultz

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have a sleeping car or slept in a chair car?

Mr. Schultz

No in a chair. Yup we just sat up in a chair and then they fed us brown bag it all the way across which we didn't care.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was it strictly a troop train or was there civilians?

Mr. Schultz

Yes it was a troop train. Strictly. But there was everything on there marines, army, navy everybody.

Mr. Misenhimer

What rank did you have now?

Mr. Schultz

When I went over there I had what they call a two five which was a Corporal Technician. Then after a while I became a two four which a Sergeant Technician.

Mr. Misenhimer

Do you remember what your pay was when you first went in?

Mr. Schultz

Thirty dollars a month.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now about a three five what was it?

Mr. Schultz

That raised me to about thirty five or thirty eight dollars I thought I was really in big money then. I sent a lot of money home.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now in your training so far anything particular you recall, any humorous incidents, anything funny happen?

Mr. Schultz

No there wasn't anything really we had a guy that gave us all of our clothing and stuff like that he wanted to go with us. He was a big Swede, He said would like to go

with you guys he says that's all right but they declined he couldn't go with us.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you got to San Francisco where did you go to there?

Mr. Schultz

To the what ever they call that where they send you out. We waited a couple days maybe a week at the very most and then they put us on the ship and they sent us out.

Mr. Misenhimer

Which ship do you recall?

Mr. Schultz

No. It was a cheap ship.

Mr. Misenhimer

So where did you go from there?

Mr. Schultz

We went to New Caledonia.

Mr. Misenhimer

You didn't stop in Hawaii or anything?

Mr. Schultz

We went by it we saw it from a distance. But that was it. They said there is Hawaii I said lets go over there they said were not going that way.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about that trip over on the boat?

Mr. Schultz

Thirty two days long. Well it was draining.

Mr. Misenhimer

Any people get sea sick?

Mr. Schultz

Some of them. I didn't have any problems but the other ones did oh god. Wanting something to do I worked down in the butcher shop. I was a meat cutter. That used up a lot of time so when we got to New Caledonia then why of course we got busy and got to work.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now on the ship over how crowded was it?

Mr. Schultz

Very. We slept four tiers high, four bunks high and then that was it.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was the food on the ship?

Mr. Schultz

It was pretty good it was pretty good. Yea they fed us pretty well.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now were you on a convoy or one ship by itself?

Mr. Schultz

No one ship by itself. Until we got over down to New Caledonia and then we had a destroyer escort. But we run into a couple submarines. We didn't run into them but we detected them. So we were all under alert and finally I guess our escort might have chased them away or blown them up or something I don't know.

Mr. Misenhimer

This was after you got the destroyers or before?

Mr. Schultz

Before. They said that we were being followed so then we were on the alert and then after we got to New Caledonia why there was one of them one of them the submarines wanted to sneak in they had these gates I don't know they were chain gates I guess and they would open them up for the ships to go in but then they would close them and then this one submarine was wanting to sneak in he got caught in it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you land in New Caledonia?

Mr. Schultz

Noumea, New Caledonia yea that's a little French settlement and they put us out on the end of an island. Our units always set on the end of an island where there was no interference of any buildings or mountains or anything like that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now did your equipment come with you or was it already there?

Mr. Schultz

No it was sent to us. Whether it was on the ship I don't know. But when we got there we had to go to the dock and pick it up and then we drove it to the spot where we set it up.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now what was your equipment mounted on?

Mr. Schultz

Trailers.

Mr. Misenhimer

Trailers, semi trailers?

Mr. Schultz

No they were four wheel trailers.

Mr. Misenhimer

Four wheel trailers with the tongue in the front?

Mr. Schultz

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

And was it enclosed?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yes they were all covered with canvas. Normal canvas. Well you didn't know what they were used for.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then what did they pull them with?

Mr. Schultz

Six by sixes. The big trucks I had one then my buddy had another one and he pulled the transmitter. When we put that together why we had to put the transformer up and it weighed like a thousand pounds. We had to have a lift on it.

Mr. Misenhimer

How many people in each trailer?

Mr. Schultz

Well lets see there was four in each trailer.

Mr. Misenhimer

One trailer was a transmitter and another receiver?

Mr. Schultz

No. No they both worked together but we pulled them separately.

Mr. Misenhimer

But when you got there then they.....

Mr. Schultz

Then we put them together hooked them up with cables. Electric cables.

Mr. Misenhimer

So the four people were in the two trailers together?

Mr. Schultz

Yes. We was in the operating trailer and every body was in there then. The PPI operator the IIR scope, height range scope, and then the other guy that was doing the recording and the map.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now you said it was called the 581. Was it the SCR581?

Mr. Schultz

God I don't know I can't remember that.

Mr. Misenhimer

SCR signal corps radar?

Mr. Schultz

Yes it was that was it. I remember that now. We got all of our information and all of our what do you call it operational stuff from the Thirteen air force and that's what we were in.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now when you were there at New Caledonia how long were you on this island?

Mr. Schultz

Oh about four months. We trained a group of guys that were going up in the islands like the Philippines and towards Japan at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer

So your job was to train them?

Mr. Schultz

Yes. We trained them for sixty days or something like that. It was kind of a quick training deal.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there any time you actually tracked any planes while you were there?

Mr. Schultz

Not in New Caledonia. Not until we got to Guadalcanal.

Mr. Misenhimer

I want to go back to your trip over. Did you cross the equator?

Mr. Schultz

Yes. Oh my goodness that was terrible. They had it all set up with a what the heck was that guys name, Neptune he was there and boy I will tell you what, we got worked over. Going across the equator.

Mr. Misenhimer

What are some of the things they did to you?

Mr. Schultz

Oh they smeared us with all kinds of goo and everything else. And they had spaghetti great big gallons of spaghetti they threw on us. And green stuff I don't know what it was. I think it was flour and green dye because boy it was hard to get of. Yea we had a quite a time of it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did they give you any kind of certificate then?

Mr. Schultz

Yes. Yea they gave us a certificate.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now you crossed the international dateline also anything exciting at all for that?

Mr. Schultz

No there was nothing for that. They just told us that we are now crossing the dateline and we lost a day going over.

Mr. Misenhimer

One day it was Tuesday and the next Thursday.

Mr. Schultz

Yea that's how it was.

Mr. Misenhimer

Okay so they did work you over crossing the equator?

Mr. Schultz

Yea they did they gave us a good entrance over the equator.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were there in New Caledonia what did you live in there?

Mr. Schultz

We lived in tents.

Mr. Misenhimer

There at your radar site?

Mr. Shultz

Yea. We walked right down to our site we had native guards and they were Aborigines. And they were our guards and they were tough let me tell you. We had a password and we had to give that every time we went in and out or they wouldn't let you pass they had guns.

Mr. Misenhimer

Native to New Caledonia?

Mr. Schultz

Yea.

Mr. Misenhimer

About how many people were living in this encampment where you were?

Mr. Schultz

Oh there was about I suppose about twenty four of us.

Mr. Misenhimer

And that counts you plus the trainees?

Mr. Schultz

Yes.;

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have a mess hall there?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yes we had a mess hall. Had our own vehicles and everything.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get to see much around New Caledonia while you were there?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yea. We only worked six hours a day that's all we did there was four of you and we each had six hours. So then we got to go any place we wanted to go and there was no restrictions as to where we should go or shouldn't go or anything like that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have a jeep or what?

Mr. Schultz

Yea well even had buses that went to up to town.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now these were French citizens there right?

Mr. Schultz

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

How were they were they friendly to get along with?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yea they really liked us there because we had money and they liked that stuff

you know. They were very good to us yea it was quite the time it was different.

Very different of course any time you go over seas everything is different.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else you recall there from the time at New Caledonia?

Mr. Schultz

No it was just mostly training there and then one day they said we are going to move out and so we went to the next place we went to was Guadalcanal. We went to Guadalcanal and we taught a bunch of guys there that was only give them about thirty days and they were in a rush to go somewhere where I don't know they would never tell us.

Mr. Misenhimer

About when did you arrive in Guadalcanal?

Mr. Schultz

Lets see it was about the early part of 44.

Mr. Misenhimer

Probably March April somewhere around there?

Mr. Schultz

Yes we was only there a short time and then we went to the Admiral II islands. Those are two little islands. We went to Los Negros island and we set up there right on the ocean. We were there for three, four months something like that. We taught a bunch of guys there then we were bombed there. The Japanese did give us a little fright. They worked on the air field and they had the CB's then come in and straighten it all out. Then my time off I acted to go to the tower and control the air

plane control that was quite interesting too. They always had to have their radar on other wise we wouldn't what they called their canary and we couldn't let them off unless their canary was singing. And if it didn't sing I don't care if you was a Major or a Captain or Colonel or whatever you was, we turned them back. Then they always wanted our name rank and serial number. That says I'm up in the tower come and help yourself and they never did because they knew damn well they wasn't supposed to. They had to get their equipment working. Because they could have been shot down.

Mr. Misenhimer

They couldn't take off if they didn't?

Mr. Schultz

No they could not take off if their canary wasn't singing they didn't take off.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you actually worked in the tower as an air craft controller?

Mr. Schultz

Controller yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there any training for that or anything?

Mr. Schultz

No they told us to get up there and do this this and this and that was it. It was a crash course. On the job training. Of course there was instructors up there telling us what to do and then we had the light and if it was green if everything was green we would shoot him with a green light and if it was red we just turned red on and

that was it. I did that for a while. It was the control tower was made out of grass it was about oh thirty forty feet high but it was made out of grass.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have radio to talk to the planes at all?

Mr. Schultz

Yes we had radio all the time. In fact we had radio in our radar van then also so we could talk to our P61's.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now on Guadalcanal was there an Officer in charge of you all?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yea we had a what do you call him he wasn't a lieutenant but warrent officer. We had one of those and we had a Lieutenant and then we had a Sergeant. But he took care of the stuff we had the paper work and stuff like that but we did all the rest. We had all of our KP duties and guards were given to us by different outfits from the island like the army and so forth. We didn't have to touch anything. The only thing we had to do was teach.

Mr. Misenhimer

Lets go back to your time on Guadalcanal, were you near Henderson Field?

Mr. Schultz

Yes we was right on Henderson Field. In fact one night they bombed one end of it while we were there. Scared the hell out of me, I will tell you what and they did hit one ship and but there wasn't that bad. But they there was fireworks we had but they fixed that up real quick they put metal mat down for the runway and fixed that

up. Then that was all. They were ready to go the next day.

Mr. Misenhimer

How many times did they bomb there?

Mr. Schultz

Once that I know of. How they came in I don't they don't know.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you see a lot of planes there American planes?

Mr. Schultz

Yes they had quiet a few there because that was one of their sites where they took off and went to these different islands and bombed. It was just like the Admiralty islands. They would take off like four o'clock in the morning and they would go to different islands and drop their bombs and then they would come back.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were these single engine or twin engine?

Mr. Schultz

Twin engine. B24's 25's and that was it.

Mr. Misenhimer

B24 is a four engine.

Mr. Schultz

Yea. That was four engine. Yea that was the heavy loads but the 25's were there and then they had the tail gunners in there sometime it was a pretty bad mess we washed them out with a hose it was tough.

Mr. Misenhimer

And that was in the Admiralties?

Mr. Schultz

Yes. In the Admiralties.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now when you went from New Caledonia to Guadalcanal you were on a ship again I'm sure?

Mr. Schultz

No we flew there. We went to Guadalcanal on the from the Admiralty islands and went over to Guadalcanal we flew there landed and then they brought our equipment in ships. That's the only way you could do it. Then when the stuff was there they would call us and we would go down and pick them up and set them up.

Mr. Misenhimer

And same thing at the Admiralties?

Mr. Schultz

Yup the navy there was a navy pier there that we loaded them at and they were pretty nice guys helped us a lot.

Mr. Misenhimer

On Guadalcanal did you get to meet any of the air force people that were flying out of there?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yes we were right in with them all the time you know. In fact we talked to them on the radio and they would always tell us different things and what to look for and yea we saw several bogeys coming in and we would alert the airplanes you know and

they would go out and we didn't see them anymore apparently we got them.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about anti aircraft guns?

Mr. Schultz

Well we had a lot of that. We had in fact there was one right there by our unit and it was radar controlled also. It was something else to ever figure that one out but it was really pretty nice. Yea we had that one that was right there by our unit.

Mr. Misenhimer

Ever see any of the natives on Guadalcanal?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yea that was something else on Guadalcanal. When we first got there of course we were noseey. We had to go up and down the road you know and these guys were just half naked. We were warned don't mess around because you were liable to get your head chopped off and that was true. Those people did not want you to mess with their women. So we respected them it was very nice.

Mr. Misenhimer

On Guadalcanal any problem with malaria?

Mr. Schultz

Some of them did get malaria I didn't. I took my atabrine tablets and you know what ever there was that we had to take to go there but I didn't get malaria.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you sleep under mosquito netting?

Mr. Schultz

Yes mosquito netting and in tents of course. It was very primitive. And the water had so much chlorine in it you couldn't hardly drink it you had to hold your nose to drink it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you swim in the ocean there at all?

Mr. Schultz

Yea we got to go. Right there where are unit was there was a nice beach and we got to go in there. That was the only place we could go. It was pretty good when Bob Hope came and he had to entertain us.

Mr. Misenhimer

There in Guadalcanal?

Mr. Schultz

Yes he was there once.

Mr. Misenhimer

Who did he have with him?

Mr. Schultz

That gal I forget what their name was.

Mr. Misenhimer

Francis Langford?

Mr. Schultz

Francis Langford that's it. that's the one. Yea she was there. It was very interesting kept you on your toes all the time but we didn't get to do much searching around on Guadalcanal all we did was mostly. That is how we lived in those things

there.

Mr. Misenhimer

You lived in those not a tent but a little building?

Mr. Schultz

Well some of them did in there the navy did they lived in those but we lived in tents.

Because we had to get up and go they stayed there. They were permanent.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were on the Admiralties you were also bombed there just once?

Mr. Schultz

Just once yea they tore that airstrip up pretty good. Of course it's all coral and it was all ground up and everything. But it didn't take long for the CB's to get it all packed down and it was useable again. Yea they that one time some where or another one of the Japs came out of the jungle and he got into one of our airplanes and he pushed the wrong button and the guns went off. And boy I will tell you what everybody ducked then. But they got him. He didn't care, he thought he could fly out but he didn't.

Mr. Misenhimer

This was on which island?

Mr. Schultz

On the Admiralty islands. Los Negros. That poor guy I remember him yet they shackled him and took him and put him in a jeep and took him somewhere. I'm guessing in a navy brig and of course they interrogated him there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Filipinos they were very glad and happy we were there. They hated the Japs. They said well we are glad you're here you know and so forth.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get bombed or attacked there at all?

Mr. Schultz

No not there. But then one night we were there we taught a group of guys and I don't even know where they went to they never did tell us but they said they were gonna leave and they left. So they said ok now we are going to move you guys up to towards Japan. And I didn't know what was going on then. You know from the Philippines we left Leyte and we were all lined up all the carriers what do you call them ships they got a name for them.

Mr. Misenhimer

What kind of ships?

Mr. Schultz

Well they were flat bottom ones.

Mr. Misenhimer

LST.

Mr. Schultz

LST's they were huge they were long. They we loaded up we had all of our equipment on there and we were on the beach sitting on the beach all of us there was about oh must have been six or eight LST's all sitting you know side by side. All of a sudden the lights came on and the what do you call those lights that went up, search lights came on and guns started going off and I thought my goodness we

are being attacked. And that was the end of the war. So we did go the next day. We landed in Tokyo Japan. Boy we got to see where they did the dirty work with the A bomb or big bomb, Big Bertha.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you were in the 13th air force all the time?

Mr. Schultz

Yes. For a while and then at the last we were transferred over to the 5th and of course that was hell. They had to put us some place I guess so we went into the 5th air force.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now did your unit have a number or a name or anything what was it called?

Mr. Schultz

There was no name to it just the radar operators.

Mr. Misenhimer

Okay your group wasn't a number or anything like that?

Mr. Schultz

No. We had four units six men to a unit and that was it. We went different directions. After we left school and they put us in categories of six men to a unit we didn't see each other any more, that was it. Some guys went I don't know where they went.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you left Leyte you went to Japan?

Mr. Schultz

Yea.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you fly over there also?

Mr. Schultz

No. We took the boats. And we got into a storm and one of the sailors he says to me he said "Rudy" he says "I want to show you something." We walked to the bow of the ship and he said now look back and you couldn't see the stern. He said that thing bends like that he says you will never see the back end pretty soon it came up but it bent.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was this an LST?

Mr. Shultz

Yea.

Mr. Misenhimer

So it was a pretty rough ride huh?

Mr. Schultz

Oh my goodness I will tell you what. You better not drink to much water or it will gurgle right up. It was something else.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did that tell you any dates about when you landed in Japan or anything?

Mr. Schultz

Yes it does in 44.

Mr. Misenhimer when you landed there?

Mr. Schultz

Yes. Landing on Leyte October the 20th 1944.

Mr. Misenhimer

And does it say when you left there for Japan?

Mr. Schultz

As soon as that war was over then we were transferred to the 5th because we were not the jungle air force anymore we was on our way to people that were civilized I guess.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let me back up. On April 12th of 45 President Roosevelt died. Do you recall hearing about that?

Mr. Schultz

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

And what was the reaction to that?

Mr. Schultz

We didn't know what to do. We thought boy you know this is going to be pretty tough now and so we just sat tight and was hoping for the best. We didn't know what to do or what to say. Well there was nothing we could do or say.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then in May of 45 Germany surrendered did you hear about that?

Mr. Schultz

Yes we heard about that real quick. I don't know they we had the radio

communications you know of course and of course we had communications with that Japanese gal.

Mr. Misenhimer

Tokyo Rose.

Mr. Schultz

Tokyo Rose, boy she drove some little guys crazy. She was always, "You guys you would like to go home wouldn't you." Of course she was always agitating everybody you know, she was quiet the gal.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now what did you do in Japan then?

Mr. Schultz

Nothing. No well there was nothing to do the war was over and we went to Tokarazalla it's a little bitty air strip there and first we gonna set up our stuff and the lieutenant says, "nah lets just don't let's just set back and wait." So we just went to town and done what ever we wanted to do looked around. We was right next to Mount Fujiama.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get to climb it at all?

Mr. Schultz

No. it had snow up there I didn't care about that. We did take the fast train to whats the name of that not Nagasaki.

Mr. Misenhimer

Hiroshima?

Mr. Schultz

Hiroshima we took a fast train there. That was devastating. That was just wiped out. I mean that bomb really it done a number on the buildings and the people that were in there I suppose too. The outskirts were pretty good. They had people lived in sort of shacks. Now out where we were at in Tokarazalla that was they didn't mess with that everything was built up there.

Mr. Misenhimer

At Hiroshima did you walk around in the town?

Mr. Schultz

Yea.

Mr. Misenhimer

They didn't tell you to beware of radiation or anything huh?

Mr. Schultz

No at that time they said go ahead everything was all right. Everybody was walking around and what I really remember is pipes sticking up with water running out of them. Of course there was no electricity and the water systems still in operation. I thought that was kind of odd wasting all that water but I don't know that's what they wanted.

Mr. Misenhimer

You just went down on a pass then, it wasn't official business?

Mr Schultz

No just on a pass.

Mr. Misenhimer

You visited Tokyo?

Mr. Schultz

Yes oh yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

On the Ginza?

Mr. Schultz

Yea we walked up and down the Ginza. that's quiet the place I'll tell you your talking about the Japanese not having any modern buildings they was modern they were nice and every department store had its own little manikin in a glass cage.

Mr. Misenhimer

That hadn't been destroyed huh?

Mr. Schultz

Nope. That was just fine.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there quiet a bit of devastation in Tokyo?

Mr. Misenhimer

Okay so you say that the suburbs were pretty blown up then?

Mr. Schultz

Yea.

Mr. Misenhimer

But not the downtown area?

Mr. Schultz

No not the downtown area. It was in fine shape. In fact the trains ran. Everything

was people were just. I got to go to see where the big chief was.

Mr. Misenhimer

The Emperor?

Mr. Schultz

The Emperor. Went to the Emperor's palace walked through that.

Mr. Misenhimer

You could go through his palace?

Mr. Schultz

Yea. They didn't care as long as you just minded your own business I guess. But there was nothing in there that you know. And he had a moat around his palace and all. Had gold fish in it and of course people were feeding them and stuff like that. Other than that you could walk in the palace but that was it.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long were you in Japan then?

Mr. Schultz

Not very long we was in there maybe three months maybe two or three months and then we got to come home on the point system. If you had 64 points you went back to the states.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now on September the second was the surrender there in Tokyo Bay did you see any of that or anything?

Mr. Schultz

No they told us about it and that was it.

Mr. Misenhimer

How far were you from there?

Mr. Schultz

Well we went right in through it.

Mr. Misenhimer

I mean where you were stationed.

Mr. Schultz

Tokarazalla? Well that's up north of Tokyo its about forty miles north of Tokyo. If

I remember correctly.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were there the day they had their official surrender ceremonies?

Mr. Schultz

Yes but we didn't get to see any of it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did any of the planes fly over?

Mr. Schultz

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

They had a large fly over of airplanes.

Mr. Schultz

Yea I know but we didn't get to see that. too far away.

Mr. Misenhimer

What else do you recall from your time in Japan?

Mr. Schultz

Oh not very much. We looked around and of course we got friendly with some of the Japanese there and they gave us a lot of trinkets and trophies and stuff like that which finally disintegrated. But I didn't I brought a lot of stuff home I brought a couple of these kimonos home and a little doll which I left up in Minnesota when we left there. But other than that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Any other souvenirs?

Mr. Schultz

I got a Japanese rifle. I had a friend of mine up in Minnesota he was a gun smith and he fixed it so I could use it in the states for deer hunting. Boy it's accurate, very accurate.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you get it home, any problem getting it home?

Mr. Schultz

No we are aloud to bring one rifle home. So I took it apart and put it in a box and sent it home.

Mr. Misenhimer

You sent it home instead of carrying it with you?

Mr. Schultz

Yea oh yea. They said it would be easier you know we had our barracks bag of course. But other than that we didn't want to have any more luggage than we could handle you know so we sent that home. Well anything that you had you sent home

that you wanted to keep.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you came home from Japan you came on a ship right?

Mr. Schultz

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Back into where?

Mr. Schultz

Back into San Francisco. Yea we came back in there and landed and then when we got on the place where they ship took you out of the service dembarkation.

Dembarkation center and then they gave us told us we were done so they gave us our three hundred dollars and put us on a train and then I went to Indianapolis.

And from Indianapolis I got a bus and went back home to Medaryville.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you get out?

Mr. Schultz

January the 1st 46.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was the trip back from Tokyo? How long did that take from Japan?

Mr. Schultz

A week took us a week yea.

Mr. Misenhimer

A little quicker than going over.

Mr. Schultz

Oh yes I thought boy this is going to be a long drawn out affair but it wasn't it was a week.

Mr. Misenhimer

What kind of ship was that?

Mr. Schultz

Another troop ship.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was it crowded also?

Mr. Schultz

Yea there was a lot of them going home. Yup we were all willing and happy.

Mr. Misenhimer

You mentioned Bob Hope on a USO show, did you ever see any other USO shows?

Mr. Schultz

No that's the only one we saw.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever have experience with the red cross?

Mr. Schultz

Yea sort of. It wasn't the best but they did at first they gave every body a little bag it was cigarettes and toiletries and stuff like that you know but then after that wly nothing was free you had to pay for everything.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where was that?

Mr. Schultz

Well it started out in New Caledonia when we got there but then we had to pay for everything we paid for doughnuts and coffee and stuff like that which you know it wasn't that bad.

Mr. Misenhimer

Could you get your mail when you were over seas?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yea we got our mail about everyday why we got something. Sometime it was a week or two before we got anything it all depends on whether the airplanes could fly you know and weather conditions and everything else and whether the ship came in that was the thing.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about getting paid over seas?

Mr. Schultz

Well we didn't get paid too much or too many odd times. Well we had no place to spend it anyway so they said well we will just save it for you and then keep adding it up until you got time your gonna go somewhere and then they would pay you up.

Yea I saved all of my money we had all of our shaving equipment and stuff like that given to us anyway so. Then we went to the PX the navy store and we bought our t-shirts and shorts, socks and that was it from the navy store they had better material than the army did.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about in Japan did you get paid there?

Mr. Schultz

Oh yea..

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you get paid what kind of money?

Mr. Schultz

American money. Yea we got paid American money there.

Mr. Misenhimer

I heard some say they were paid in Japanese Yen.

Mr. Schultz

No we well they might have but I don't know we didn't. We got regular money.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there anything to buy there?

Mr. Schultz

Well you could buy if you wanted souvenirs you know but I didn't care about it. I figured heck we were fighting why pay them to fill their pockets.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you got home did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Mr. Schultz

At first yea I did. It was just different it was a change. Of course I got a job there in Medaryville one of the guys hired us me and another guy I met him in a Yokahama just before we got on the ship to come home. Buck Maxwell and I saw him there then when we got home we got a job to help build a garage. He was a mechanic, he sold cars. He sold Studebaker cars. Dwayne was his name and so we worked there

Mr. Schultz

Oh yea..

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you get paid what kind of money?

Mr. Schultz

American money. Yea we got paid American money there.

Mr. Misenhimer

I heard some say they were paid in Japanese Yen.

Mr. Schultz

No we well they might have but I don't know we didn't. We got regular money.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there anything to buy there?

Mr. Schultz

Well you could buy if you wanted souvenirs you know but I didn't care about it. I figured heck we were fighting why pay them to fill their pockets.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you got home did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Mr. Schultz

At first yea I did. It was just different it was a change. Of course I got a job there in Medaryville one of the guys hired us me and another guy I met him in a Yokahama just before we got on the ship to come home. Buck Maxwell and I saw him there then when we got home we got a job to help build a garage. He was a mechanic, he sold cars. He sold Studebaker cars. Dwayne was his name and so we worked there

pick and shovel so we kinda rolled out our frustrations on that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Have you had any reunions since you been out?

Mr. Schultz

No. I have always looked. I get the VFW magazine but there is never hardly any reunions in there.

Mr. Misenhimer

For the 13th air force?

Mr. Schultz

Yea. The 5th the was one in there of the 5th but it was in California or someplace I don't know I didn't want to go there.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you think of the officers you had over there?

Mr. Schultz

Very good, they were all very good officers. Our Warrant officer was a jewel, he was a really nice guy, he was one of the boys. We had a Second Lieutenant, he was from New York, and you had to get used to him because they are a different breed of cats those boys from New York. But other then that we had good officers. We had one guy from Kentucky and he was excellent that guy was. He would explain things to you and tell you everything that very possible. It was interesting in fact he and I did all the forward Echelon stuff. He always took me with him and we went to the Admiralty islands and picked out the spot where our unit was. He was a nice guy very good.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now when you landed at Henderson field?

Mr. Schultz

We was coming in for a final and looked down there and we had iron runway. I said is that stuff any good and the pilot said oh yea that's pretty good he said that's the only thing that's going to hold us up.

Mr. Misenhimer

You say you were in the cockpit?

Mr. Schultz

Yea.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you get up there?

Mr. Schultz I just walked up they will let you in fact I flew sometime.

Mr. Misenhimer

What kind of plane was it?

Mr. Schultz

B24. He let me fly sometime that's where I learned to start flying. Then when I came home I took the GI bill and finished up my flying then I flew for the state police for a while.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now what would the pilots do?

Mr. Schultz

We would ask them to buy us whiskey when they flew to Australia for R&R or parts

or lots of time food. And we would say you know ask them if they would go ahead and buy us some whiskey and they would say yea how many cases you want and we would tell them and pay them for it and then when they brought it back why I would sell it to the boys black market.

Mr. Misenhimer

That was on Guadalcanal?

Mr. Schultz

Yea in Guadalcanal. That was hard to come by that whiskey.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were you under Mac Arthur at all?

Mr. Schultz

No never he was always farther up then we were never saw Mac Arthur.

Mr. Misenhimer

What ribbons and medals did you get?

Mr. Schultz

Good conduct for one thing and then I got two battle stars bronze. Two bronze battle stars. that's about all that I can think about.

Mr. Misenhimer

The Asiatic Pacific ribbon.

Mr. Schultz

Yea and victory medal things like that. When I was in the Philippines I got hepatitis because of the shots we had to take periodically and so I got hepatitis so I was in the hospital in the Philippines for thirty or sixty days. So finally they turned

me loose. I had it when I got back to the states and the doctor cured me of it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get disability or anything like that?

Mr. Schultz

Yes I got ten percent. First I had five percent and they dropped me down to ten percent which is means that I can function.

Transcribed by

Amanda Craft

Winamac, Indiana

August 20, 2004