

**The National Museum of the Pacific War
(Admiral Nimitz Museum)**

**Center for Pacific War Studies
Fredericksburg, Texas**

**An Interview With
Albert D. Day
U.S. Navy
QM 1st Class
LCT62
Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima
February 23, 2004**

Mr. Misenhimer

My name is Richard Misenhimer and today is February 23, 2004. I am interviewing Mr. Albert D. Day, at his home at 1328 Josephine, #5 Alice, Texas 78332. 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. I want to thank you for taking the time to do this interview today.

Mr. Day

No problem.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let me ask you first, when is your birthday?

Mr. Day

April 23, 1924.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where were you born?

Mr. Day

Olney, Texas

Mr. Misenhimer

What was your father's occupation?

Mr. Day

Truck driver.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Day

One brother and two sisters.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was your brother in World War II?

Mr. Day

No, he was in Vietnam. He had been in the Air Force, but he had got out and then they called him back into Vietnam.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you go to high school?

Mr. Day

Vivian, Louisiana.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you finish?

Mr. Day

1942.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you get to Vivian, Louisiana?

Mr. Day

Dad followed the oilfield. We moved 8 or 10 times when we were growing up.

Mr. Misenhimer

He worked in the oilfield?

Mr. Day

Yes, all the time.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you go in the Service?

Mr. Day

Four days after I got out of high school, June 4, 1942.

Mr. Misenhimer

December 1941, as you well know, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Do you recall hearing about that?

Mr. Day

We were sitting at the dinner table eating. Didn't have any idea what Pearl Harbor was. I had always wanted to go in the Navy. Dad wouldn't let me. He wanted me to finish high school. After I graduated I had seen a Chief in Shreveport, Louisiana, about 30 miles away and he already knew about me and he knew I wanted to come in. So it didn't take me long to get signed up. Next thing I know I am in New Orleans getting sworn in with a lot of other guys.

Mr. Misenhimer

What made you choose the Navy?

Mr. Day

I don't know. I just wanted to be in the Navy. I really don't know.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you went in there in Shreveport? Is that correct?

Mr. Day

No, we went to New Orleans there was a group of us. I guess they gather them from all over the state, and we were sworn in there and got on a train and went to Great Lakes.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was that train trip up there?

Mr. Day

It was the first time that I was away from home. I remember counting telephone poles.

Somebody standing said this thing is making a hundred and ten miles an hour. I

remember all of that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have a sleeper or did you sit up in a chair car?

Mr. Day

Chair car.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was the food on that train trip?

Mr. Day

Man, you don't want to know about that. You are going back some 60 odd years. It was

okay, I'm sure. I probably wouldn't have said anything if it wasn't.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long did that trip take?

Mr. Day

We didn't stop for wood or coal. I'd say about a day and a half, just a wild guess.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you got to the Great Lakes, what happened then?

Mr. Day

Well, I am trying to think. Seems like we might have come into Chicago and they picked

us up in buses. The Great Lakes are outside Chicago and I remember we went up in

June, when it was cold as blazes when the wind came off those lakes. I remember that we got out in front of these buildings, went in and they asked what your name was, what size clothes you wore, and the next thing you knew you were getting shots. I recall being in a bay where they had hammocks slung everywhere. It was the first time I ever slept in a hammock and found out they weren't easy to stay in. We were there 5 weeks. One night the Chief was talking and we were at a meeting. Some smart dude in the back said something and he asked who it was and nobody would admit to it. It was cold outside and he made us march for 4 to 5 hours trying to find out who that smart guy was. He never found out. That is about all I remember about boot camp.

Mr. Misenhimer

You said bay. What kind of a bay were you talking about?

Mr. Day

A bay at that time was a string of pipes maybe 8 feet apart and it had a pipe going across each end and you slung your hammock across it. There was four or five hammocks side by side. Getting in and out was a pretty good chore.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was this in a building?

Mr. Day

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were they one story or more?

Mr. Day

This was a two-story building and it seemed it was full of people.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was it just one hammock high?

Mr. Day

It was just one hammock high everywhere.

Mr. Misenhimer

In your boot camp, was there a lot of marching?

Mr. Day

Yes, we did a lot of marching and a lot of long distance stuff. Me being as short as I was and weighing probably 115 lbs., most of the time I was running while the other guys were marching, to keep up. We had a little introduction into book learning, cleanliness, how to take care of your clothes, because everything you had you could put in one bag and you were ready to go. There was a little bit of history, if I remember right. Cleanliness was very serious. They showed us some film that I remember to this day about possibilities of messing around with women.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have weapons training or anything like that?

Mr. Day

We had target practice with 22 rifles. We learned how to shoot them. I already knew how because I lived in the woods in Louisiana and we were always hunting something. Some seamanship. As for rowing a boat on the water that was to come later.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about swimming?

Mr. Day

I'm sure we did, but I don't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer

I have heard that they make people jump in the pool with their clothes on to see if they could survive or not.

Mr. Day

I don't remember us doing that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have to wear a uniform? What did they give you there?

Mr. Day

I remember mostly dungaree, and blue shirts, and blue pants and black shoes. When we went on liberty, we only went downtown to look at the big buildings. It was all day liberty, not at night. I think we only had one liberty.

Mr. Misenhimer

Would you have inspection?

Mr. Day

Yes, somebody would holler, you better straighten up and everything rolled up all nice. Always inspection.

Mr. Misenhimer

Of course when someone in the back hollered out they would make you march around?

Mr. Day

Yes, the Chief was determined to find out who made that smart remark. He never did find out who it was. It was really cold out there and all we had was a t-shirt and shorts.

Mr. Misenhimer

It was summertime so to speak.

Mr. Day

I was glad it wasn't wintertime. After that we knew we were going to go somewhere on the east coast. So they put us on a train and sent us over to Norfolk, Virginia. There was the biggest building I had ever seen in my life. Looked like 10,00 men, everybody sleeping on cots. They called out a few names, somebody would get up, take their gear and go. Maybe to some ship in some area. In this building it seemed like every morning someone would get u with the heck beat out of them and someone would rob them at night. Once in a while you would see an old boy with a crease down the front of his pants. Ours was always on the inside and folded. If you would see one with the crease down the front, you knew he was going over the hill. A bunch of names were called and were assigned to the Amphibious force. I don't remember where that was, seems like it was Little Creek, Virginia, and there was a place called Solomons, but it was in Maryland and we were trained on that ship but we were training Amphibious. I don't remember what month. After that training, we went down to the Panama Canal and then came back to San Francisco. I have read articles since then about how many ships that were sunk on the east coast. We didn't think anything about it. Nobody told us they had been sunk of course; we couldn't have done anything about it. We came up the west coast to San Francisco on an LCT was broke down into three parts, put together by bolts so we did a little training out there in San Francisco Bay. Also, a place called Redwood City at the coast. We went up there and had target practice. 22mm because we had 22mm on each side of the pilot house of this boat and then they took the boats apart, big cranes lift them

up on ships. I don't remember the name of those ships and I don't remember what day we shipped out sometime in October.

Mr. M

October 1, 1942 is when you graduate from Amphib school. Lets go back to your Amphib training. What did it consist of? How to drive the boat, how to take care of it? What did you do there in that training?

Mr. Day

Yes, we took a little navigation and how to steer it because it was a flat bottom boat and what the wind would do to you. Our main thing was we would go, say from New Caledonia we went up and as we rounded the east point of Guadalcanal, I remember someone saying, "That was gunfire" and somebody said, "Yes, boy. You are in the war now." We had been told what we would do there. We would either have tanks on that deck, gasoline, bombs, people, anything we could put on the deck that would need to go on the beach. That is what they had told us in Chesapeake Bay. As we were going into the beach, we had a ramp. About 50 yards out, we would drop anchor and when we hit that beach if for some reason or another we couldn't get off, that anchor would help pull us back. The main thing was, day after day, it was the same thing and I got seasick one time and from then on I had to eat crackers and drink water to keep something in my belly. The main thing we did was a lot of star gazing along with semaphore flags while they were signaling. I ended up quartermaster signal. We didn't really have to know a lot of navigation because we were not going across an ocean. Mainly, we had to get used to the motion of the ship and what your duties were going to be, of course it changed later. Every many has his own deal when he gets in the war.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever have to crawl down the ship on one of those cargo nets?

Mr. Day

No we didn't, but the people that were going on the beach crawled down it.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you finished this Amphib school, what was your rating then?

Mr. Day

By then I was probably Third Class Quartermaster.

Mr. Misenhimer

What is a quartermaster in the Navy?

Mr. Day

Mostly navigation. Of course, quartermaster in the Army has to do with supply.

Quartermaster in the Navy is mostly navigation and signaling and getting g signals by light and by flags and code messages.

Mr. Misenhimer

You learned all this on your Amphib training?

Mr. Day

Yes, we had people teaching us on the beach at nighttime and afternoons. In the morning, we hit the beach and we kept up the boats and serviced them.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have to learn Morse Code?

Mr. Day

Yes, we did by the light and some was with flags.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you run the flags up the poles?

Mr. Day

Not on a LCT. That came later.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now tell me the size of the LCT.

Mr. Day

About 105 feet long and 50 feet wide.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was the propulsion?

Mr. Day

We had 3 Marine diesels. Knots, maybe 10 knots. It was not very fast.

Mr. Misenhimer

It had 3 screws in it. Is that right?

Mr. Day

Pretty strong motors, but I don't remember the horsepower. We had one man aboard that took care of that.

Mr. Misenhimer

He was the motor mac?

Mr. Day

Yes he was the motor mac. There was a quartermaster, Bosun mate, gunner, cook, electrician, I can't remember but there were 11 of us counting the skipper. There were also a couple of seamen and we all lived in space about 10x25 ft. and everybody was

stacked in there. That's where the cook did his cooking and that's where we ate. We had light plants on the deck, which gave us light. We could haul a bunch of stuff.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did the officers stay in the same place with you all?

Mr. Day

Yes, Sir.

Mr. Misenhimer

How many officers did you have staying with you?

Mr. Day

Just one. He was an Ensign.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was the armament?

Mr. Day

22mm, one on each side of the pilot house. Down on a rail, we had a 50-caliber on each rail and then I had a sub-machine gun in the pilot house. And the 50s and the 20s right up there.

Mr. Misenhimer

The pilot house is at the very rear of the ship?

Mr. Day

Yes, we had this tarp over here and in the back because a lot of times we would sleep outside because it was really warm over there.

Mr. Misenhimer

You mentioned having an anchor at the rear. Was this a separate anchor at the back?

Mr. Day

Yes, it was behind the pilot house and when you let it go, it would come off a little slide and it always dug in about 50 yards out to make sure you could get off the beach.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was that the only anchor you had?

Mr. Day

That was the only one. This ramp went straight out.

Mr. Misenhimer

Like a LCT, the same way?

Mr. Day

Yes, the same idea just bigger.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you left there to go through the Canal, were you escorted or did you go by yourself?

Mr. Day

We went by our self.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was it like going through the Panama Canal?

Mr. Day

It was different and I had never seen anything like it in my life. We had heard about it and there was some information aboard the ship about it. I don't know where it came from, but we read about it and seemed like it didn't take long to get through there. I want to say a couple of days and that sounds like a long time, but you have to realize you

would go a little ways and you would stop and you would level up. in fact, it was a couple of days because I remember Panama City. We stopped there and some of the guys went ashore. I didn't go because it was one rough place and I don't know why, I just didn't feel like going ashore. It was just a very unusual place and I don't remember ever reading about the Panama Canal in school. If I did I forgot about it. The History Channel tells you everything you want to know about it.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long did it take you to go from Virginia down to the Canal?

Mr. Day

I am going to say ten days at least to go all the way.

Mr. Misenhimer

I would think more than that if you went all the way to San Francisco.

Mr. Day

Lets see, that would be four, four and two. That would be about right.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did anything happen on that trip?

Mr. Day

The only thing was that I got strep throat and that is the first time I had ever heard of sulfa drugs. Now we went into Frisco and went under the Golden Gate Bridge. That was quite a deal. There we did a little training and outfitted everything, did a little target practice? We had liberty one night in San Francisco and were invited up to the top of the Mark. They gave us just about anything we wanted. They were really nice people. There was a lot to see in that town.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long were you in San Francisco?

Mr. Day

Outfitting everything and doing a little training, I am going to say a month anyway.

There were several boats trying to get outfitted. Getting the people picked up, I am trying to think what else we did there. Mainly we learned how to use those 20mm. Taking them apart and putting them back together. Shake down cruise in and around the bay.

There was so much I don't remember now.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you picked up the ship in Virginia, was it a new one?

Mr. Day

Which ship?

Mr. Misenhimer

Your LCT.

Mr. Day

We didn't pick it up there. They put it on the ship in San Francisco.

Mr. Misenhimer

No, I mean when you left Virginia, were you on the LCT when you went to the Panama Canal?

Mr. Day

No, we were on a ship, an old liberty ship.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you were not on your LCT?

Mr. Day

We went to pick up the LCT at Treasure Island, Mare Island was there. Across the bay was Oakland and I know we went over to Oakland for some reason or another one time.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you didn't pick up your LCT until you got there?

Mr. Day

Yes, they picked it up and we were tied alongside of the docks and it was all put together. I'm trying to think, did we break it apart and they put it up on the ship because I know when we got to New Caledonia, they would let them slide off and we put them back together again. We had to go down inside the boat and take those big old nuts off of there. This one here pushed out of the way and this one out of the way and take this one and pick it up and set them on the ship the AKA on slides and when you got ready, they would lean it just a couple or 3 degrees and knock those chocks out and she go down and then we got down and put it back together again.

Mr. Misenhimer

What would keep the middle section from sinking?

Mr. Day

It was all tanks. Below this point there was nothing but flat barge.

Mr. Misenhimer

You couldn't sink them?

Mr. Day

One time we saw one across the way and we said, 'looky yonder.' A bomb had gone through that deck and blew that thing up and you could see under it, and he was still going.

Mr. Misenhimer

Almost impossible to sink.

Mr. Day

Yes, sir. When we were Iwo we were in a storm and I saw tin cans break the crest of a wave and the propeller would fan air before they got to top. They were hundred foot waved and we didn't lose any of ours but they lost ships, airplanes off the carriers. The LCT was unsinkable and everything else, and all we did was kept it in the wind. You couldn't look in the wind it would put your eye out.

Mr. Misenhimer

So there in San Francisco you took it apart and put it on a boat and then you left there and then where?

Mr. Day

We went to New Caledonia and it took 26 days, because we were zigzagging.

Mr. Misenhimer

In a convoy?

Mr. Day

No we were by our self all the way.

Mr. Misenhimer

You left there sometime before Christmas 1942?

Mr. Day

We spent Christmas in New Caledonia, but we got everything put together and outfitted and repainted. Let me tell a story here. There was one guy that wanted something to drink. His name was Dobby out of Ohio and he knew how to make apple jack he said. Well, we got raisins and all kinds of fruit and everything. I know he was in a hurry and he kept sampling his stuff he was making. I don't know how long it took, but old Dobby went about half nuts. It took four of us to hold him on a table. They were going to pump his stomach so he wanted to go overboard to get some water. He was about to burn up. He switched ends someway and we never turned loose. Two hands, two feet, and he switched ends and they finally got his stomach pumped out and I never saw that man take another drink for the next 18 months, but he sampled that stuff when he was making it. It got in his gut and liked to have killed him. We left New Caledonia and that was when we took off up to Guadalcanal.

Mr. Misenhimer

Do you recall when that might have been?

Mr. Day

It had to be around the first of the year.

Mr. Misenhimer

Just after Christmas. Did you go up there by yourself?

Mr. Day

No, we were in a convoy. Some tin cans was leading us up there.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you say the destroyers were escorting you up there?

Mr. Day

We had 2 if I remember right. I got to thinking about this letter here later. A letter I received from Mr. Capelen in 2002. He must have kept a diary and not told us because there is too much in here that he remembered. Just like that and I don't remember this storm that we went through. I really don't remember that. There was one tin can, they told us to stay on course and he was going to go and find the other ships and the LCT that had been blown away that night and finally got everybody together.

Mr. Misenhimer

This was on the way to Guadalcanal?

Mr. Day

Yes, I am trying to think. I am not sure if I saw a number on a destroyer. They showed it on the History Channel the other day and we saw that story when it was sunk right off the Savo Island. We were going from Tulagi to Guadalcanal to go on the west side to pick up some prisoners and there about Savo Island a beautiful day. I had a hole in the top of the pilot house where I could sit and watch and steer the boat with my feet and I knew where I was going. All of a sudden, here come a tin can around the side of Savo Island and that dude was leaning. I remember seeing this boy walking alone and just reached over and scoop up a bucket of water, but it was a beautiful day and a half minute later that ship was sunk and we won't paying a lot attention. The planes came out of the clouds and one bomb had ripped down that smoke stack. Like I said in half minute it was gone. Every man was gone so we took off and we went on about our business. They were not paying attention to us. So we went down the Canal and picked up a bunch of prisoners. While we were there picking them up, I was sitting on my seat looking around. Then one lone plane came along. I said, Mr. Capeless just look at this. See that

plane? He said yes, he's scouting. That night we unloaded those people, came back to the same place. Off to our southwest. It seemed like the biggest thunder and lightning storm you've ever seen in your life. But it was a battle they had out there right over the horizon. I can't remember what time of the year or month it was. They fought all night long. But like I said, if it would have been a thunder storm it would have been something else. Anyway, the De Haven that was the name of that ship, that destroyer. We didn't hear anything on the radio about anything happening and all of a sudden it was gone.

Mr. Misenhimer

That big battle was that the battle of Savo Island?

Mr. Day

Now that is what they called iron bottom sound where a lot of ships were sunk, but this was only one ship. The other ship was sunk all throughout that area.

Mr. Misenhimer

I think there were 48 ships that were there I understand.

Mr. Day

I don't remember but I know Sullivan brothers was, I know that ship was sunk pretty close to there because of what they told us. We had orders at night not to shoot at anything, do not give your position away ram that thing up in there. The coconut trees usually hung out over the water. We would jam that thing up as far as we could and sit there. Might be having a raid over there eat about a quarter of a mile on an airfield or something. We just sit there and play cards. The moon was that bright we sat there and played cards or fished. We didn't have enough sense I guess to be scared. I cannot honestly say that I was ever shaking scared, I cannot say that. We were just young kids.

Mr. Misenhimer

18 or 19?

Mr. Day

Yeah, that was it.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you came up from New Caledonia to Guadalcanal, was your ship loaded with something?

Mr. Day

No, sir. We didn't have anything on. Just come up there empty.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you go up to Tulagi first?

Mr. Day

Went to Tulagi. That was our headquarters so to speak. The admiral was over there. I don't know if it was the same one. You see, that was the same time Kennedy was there and I had a brother-in-law there at the same time but I didn't know it and I didn't know him. Everybody ported there because there were no ports on the Guadalcanal but Tulagi was a nice big place and they also had, in fact east a little bit there was a river that went up in there. We used to go in that river climbing in those trees because there was a lot of room in that harbor at Tulagi. At least they could guard it. If you anchored at Guadalcanal there was nobody to guard you. There was a little settlement at Tulagi. There were some of your native people there. Ubangis we called them. Melanesians is what they were. When we got in say going on around up toward New Georgia, I remember one time after Rendova we had the diarrhea so bad running 24 hours a day. A

Catholic priest came by that time and he managed to get us some paregoric and that was the only thing that worked. There were 10 million flies and I remember one time we were sitting there unloading. You would hear "bang" and somebody would say somebody got it. Those Japs were good at setting booby traps and our boys were real good at souvenir hunts. Lots of them never made it back. They turned that old Jap over and it just blew up in their faces. You would hear it ever once in a while, "boom", and there goes another. We never got off the boat. We didn't have time. Come in and unload go pick up another load just whatever. I was setting up something after the run was over. We always brought in gasoline, food, ammunition, people, and whatever was left. After that we would haul it off to somewhere else. The amphibs, nobody wanted to be in the amphibs, you see a tanker or any kind of ship out there you talk to them every once in while and nobody would want to trade to go on an anmphib, and we had it pretty good. We had a cook. He could take a barracuda and make it taste like steak. He was always smoking, there's n o telling how many cigarette ashes we ate but it wasn't bad once you get used to a deal like that. I was regular Navy. I signed up for regular Navy and they put you where they wanted to.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you do about showers?

Mr. Day

We had plenty of fresh water most of the time. We never had any fear of swimming and we didn't take a shower every day. Sometimes you would go for days before you would think about a shower. Somebody would have to kick you to keep you away and there was no problem. As far as that. We would a lot of times be close to a big ship because a

lot of the time we would tie up to a bigger ship and either unload or load. We did not have to handle the cargo. We either brought it in or carried it out and we didn't have to manhandle that stuff. We could go aboard the ship and we usually got supplies off those ships. We could get supplies off anybody that would give them to us. We ate a lot of Spam. But our main thing I say, after the beach was secured, our main problem there was to supply. We would follow a ship, maybe a destroyer, up the coast as they would do their thing and we would load up the troops and tanks and whatever and hit the beach. Go back and get another load, keep hitting the beach and then mostly shuttle after it was secured.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever take any troops down the first wave on D-day?

Mr. Day

Oh, yeah, we did that at Iwo we did it at the west side of Guadalcanal and Bougainville and Rendova and let me see, I had 4 stars and when our house on Roosevelt caught on fire and burned up nearly everything that I had brought back. But I had 4 stars on the Pacific ribbon and one of them was Iwo and there were 3 battle stars there in Solomon's.

Mr. Misenhimer

Probably Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Bougainville I imagine?

Mr. Day

Yeah, I guess it was. Guadalcanal had been going on a long time before we got there and this was the first of this type of boat that went into the Solomon's most of them was small LCVP's and the LCT came later.

Mr. Misenhimer

About when did you go into Rendova?

Mr. Day

Lets see. I had about 18 months, so it would have to be the latter part of 1943.

Mr. Misenhimer

It was probably in the first part because they landed on Bougainville in November

Mr. Day

In what year?

Mr. Misenhimer

Of 1943 and in New Georgia before that seems like May or June.

Mr. Day

It might have been. I just don't remember. Main thing I remember about Bougainville was it had a live volcano on it and we used to watch it at night. New Georgia we went in there at night and I forget which one it was. He mentions it here I think. But where we started, it took us 12 hours to get there, and unload and 24 to get back, before we run into storms and I remember you've heard of St. Elmo's Fire. I remember jits going down the rails on that boat. They were lit up like neon lights. The static electricity in the air and you would just watch it.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were taking stuff from Guadalcanal up to Rendova?

Mr. Day

To Russell, Tulagi. That was our main deal. I'm trying to think. I remember going to New Georgia because I know we were going at night and one of the boats got hit staffing. They could see the trail at night because it was 60 feet wide and motors were putting a

hell of a wake. He was a Chief and the boats were spaced. I remember he had already lost one of his balls I remember everybody said, oh my God. They hit him and cut off one of them and that was going into New Georgia I think because I know there for a while and the natives were singing and I picked up a walking cane and it was inlaid with mother pearl. I keep that thing because we came back on leave one time and for some reason or another I slipped and my bag went one way and I put that thing down on the side and I never saw that thing again. It was made out of black wood and mother of pearl. Now I can say the main thing that sticks with me is some bombing raids at night. You've heard of washing machine Charley, I'm sure, that was an every night thing. Like I say, we wouldn't pay attention to it. Sometimes we would be out there maybe the moon would be up and we would be playing cards or fishing. In the daytime those planes could come in pretty quick on us. They would come in under that radar right there in Tulagi. One time we had no sign, no nothing until the first bomb dropped and then they raised hell with us. I had little boat over here and I had it going around in a circle and the skipper got aboard and we took off out toward the Canal and you could see their planes dropping torpedos and right in the middle of that Canal, it wasn't a very big boat, was a ship sunk beside that one over yonder, sunk by that tanker. Well old Mr. Capeless said those people down there will be the first ones to go. He said to drop the ramp. We dropped the ramp and scoop up twenty-eight survivors.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you scooped people up with the ramp?

Mr. Day

Yeah and I remember one old boy who said you've got to help me. I got both my ankles broken. He got aboard and we were talking to him. We asked him what happened to his ankles. He said a bomb hit him. It just went off and popped both of them he said when it happened I knew what happened, so you have to help me aboard. We took them over to a little settlement over there at a little hospital and never saw any of them again. I'm sure a lot of people don't believe that when Kennedy got his boat knock out from under him, it was kind of like the zero airplane had no armament on it and the destroyer was the same way. They could outrun a PT boat. They were fast. PT boats were fast too but not fast as enough for a destroyer. We picked up some scouts from Bougainville one time and I don't know, we were talking about something, and one of them said watch out don't mess with him, he's been out there long that's one thing he likes to do. Our boys were not straight blooded stand up, don't hurt anybody's guys, but his main thing was to shoot tracers at Japs and shoot tracers in the belly and watch smoke come out their mouth when they die. I remember we went around a little island one time and we had a bunch of Marines and here come a little sampan, he tried everything he could to back it up but we sunk him and it didn't take very much. He wasn't any bigger than 36-footer. There were several of their people in the water and those Marines got on the rail on that side and the boat was out here. Did you ever shoot a watermelon?

Mr. Misenhimer

Yeah.

Mr. Day

That is exactly what I am talking about. Those dudes were out there and these Marines, POW!! There were 5 or 6 of them and they would blow their heads off. One time, I

forget where we were, we were loading up a bunch of Marines and I was standing 20mm, had steel guards on each side about that thick so you can see through here when you were shooting the gun and, I was standing there keeping the boat on the deal and I would move the wheel every once in a while. I heard something sound like a "click" and a pair of pliers dropped on the steel deck. I was looking around and there was a 45 slug lying there. It was green and right on the left hand side of that guard there was a little deal, a little implant, and it was a 45 slug that missed me about 3 inches. I heard a "click" and then it sounded like it dropped pliers. I got inside the pilot house. He said to lock it up so we closed everything we had and we ended up having little shells on that pilot house. I didn't get out of there until we got off that beach a long ways and then I went out and got there until we were a long way off. Then I went out and got them and showed it to him. Melted enough of it at one time and I had it around my neck and I don't know whatever happened to that, but within 3 inches I was standing there. It was green where it hit.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did it come from do you think?

Mr. Day

Well there was a kind of mountain up there. Somewhere up on that hill because we had we all the Marines loading up here. It might have been one of them. Hell, you don't know. They go island happy. They didn't give a da-- that who they shot. I know one time we were loading up some and somebody said, "Hey they are getting in our spud." Somebody said, don't try to stop them or they will eat you too. And we said, "Take it

boy, take it." We weren't going to mess with them. They just didn't give a da-- because we had been through hell to begin with.

Mr. Misenhimer

When that 45 slug hit, what island was that off of?

Mr. Day

I think it was Bougainville. Pretty da--ed sure it was. Bougainville had some pretty high hills and seems like Rendova weren't too high, not what I call mountains. Seems like Bougainville was the one where that happened.

Mr. Misenhimer

So the mountains on Guadalcanal were pretty much inland?

Mr. Day

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer

They weren't down closest to the coast?

Mr. Day

They weren't what I called mountains anyways. To me a mountain is several thousand feet and I don't think they were, the gosh dang coconut. These people realized that every time we bombarded and destroyed and whatever sit out here and bombarded how many of these coconut trees you buy. I remember that ever since I guess we had to pay for ever da-- one of them.

Mr. Misenhimer

I heard they were fifty dollars a piece.

Mr. Day

I wouldn't doubt it. I heard that. That was something wasn't it?

Mr. Misenhimer

If we bulldozed them down to make a land strip, we had to pay for them.

Mr. Day

Trying to help the people.

Mr. Misenhimer

It was the British we had to pay. Were you ever on shore in Guadalcanal?

Mr. Day

Oh, yeah would go souvenir hunting just like some of these fools. Never got in too far and we walked around and tried to find something. I had one Jap rifle I found and I traded it to an old boy on a supply ship that came in there. I traded him for a record player. We didn't get too far off because you might get your head blown off.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get around Henderson Field anywhere?

Mr. Day

No never did get back down there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were you at Lunga Point or where?

Mr. Day

Now that name means what does it mean to me, where is it located at?

Mr. Misenhimer

Well that is in Guadalcanal and that is the main area and Henderson Field wasn't too far from there.

Mr. Day

No, but you are saying "point" and when you say point I am thinking of a point of land and there was no point of land if I remember on the west side. Between Savo, Tulagi. There was nothing that I would call a point but we worked most of the places on Guadalcanal. I am going to say a few miles down around that western end. We never got way down here. By the time we got way down here was when we were coming in. Then we got on the other side.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now you mention you hauled tanks there, is that right? What kind of tanks were these? Were they M3 Stuart?

Mr. Day

Lets put this way if it was developed after '42 or '43, then we didn't mess with them because we weren't there.

Mr. Misenhimer

No, the M3 Stuart was developed in '37 or '38, it had a 37 man cannon and on it a machine gun.

Mr. Day

The only place that we would have hauled those I want to say would be around Rendova or New Georgia. Like I said, I am drawing so many blanks. Bougainville, it should have been something in Bougainville because the beach there was better to land our type of deal than it was on a lot of them because it had to be a very good beach or we were going to have problems.

Mr. Misenhimer

Empress Augusta Bay is where they landed there?

Mr. Day

This is the luckiest country in the world. Many times we could have lost the whole cotton picking thing, I tell you. People's mistakes, dumbness, that's about all it was. But the Japanese had been smart enough to come to the west coast, what would we have done? And the mistakes. I forget who this one dude was. He came all the way up close to Iwo and ran into a hell of a storm. That was one of those admirals and he didn't have any business up there.

Mr. Misenhimer

The Japanese admiral or American?

Mr. Day

American.

Mr. Misenhimer

I agree with you. We are the luckiest country in the world and the things that happened to us over there.

Mr. Day

Well the other day I didn't realize and the Philippines I've known a few of those people that were in the death march but I didn't realize that many people were in the death march. I was never in the Philippines. I was telling someone the other day about Iraq. Well, mister, if you've got an old boy down to kill you, he doesn't care whether he dies or not, I said he would be the hardest thing to kill. Even though he wants to die. You are da--ed lucky he doesn't get you first. People don't realize that I think even right now. This one scares more than anything that I have heard of.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else you recall from the time you were in the Solomon's and Bougainville?

Mr. Day

No, I don't remember exactly when we left. I know they loaded a bunch of us up on a troop ship and headed back to Frisco. I got down to San Diego, my folks had moved there and the first time I had ever seen the free state of Duval, San Diego, TX and I'm trying to think. We reported back up to New York. I remember a pier 92 Walter Winchel used to write about it, and the things that went on at that pier. A commander and his wife ran it like it was their kingdom and if somebody would be nice to them and they would give them 30 days leave, and if they wouldn't they would stick them in the brig. Nothing fantastic there, really and this, I probably shouldn't tell you but there were several of us who were very close friends. Eleven men had been in 18 months of war and in all of that you know we got pretty close. We would all take off on liberty and I remember we were going like this, and we wouldn't come back that night when we were supposed to, but we falsified a pass and if one did it we all had to do it and we stayed until the next day. We had a prearranged time when we would come back and everything would be fine. If we had ever got caught, I often wonder and we all talked about it later. What in the world would have happened I said, well I know one thing that would have happened. They had so many Marine brigs up in Manhattan and on pier 92 there was a brig ship tied up alongside and being I had a right arm rate, I served MP duty on that brig ship and it was no fun just guarding those people, but we took a chance and we did it anyway.

Mr. Misenhimer

That was in New York?

Mr. Day

Yeah, we were dang fools. Then we were still in the amphibs. I am trying to think. I went to the south end; we took the train down through the south and through Louisiana and back over to San Francisco. Then we shipped out again, went to Saipan. I didn't hit them but we were in Saipan, all those islands out there we were in Guam. That was the last one we hit. We were supplying first one thing and another, not knowing what we were getting set up for, and we were at Tinian when they took the bomb. Let me think now. We didn't know that the bomb was there and that we dropped it that we had 2 bottles of beer the night they announced the peace and then we just killed time there for a while and then came back. I think I ended up in San Diego, California. That is where I caught the tin can out of and that was after the war. Then we went to China and in out of China and Shanghai, with a couple runs up to Korea. Kind of humdrum after the war was over. Like I say, they put me back in the regular Navy after the war was over, but then they had an order come out to many people in certain rates that if we had no bad marks against us, we could get out. So I changed my mind about staying in. They gave me a discharge and I got out.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you get out?

Mr. Day

December 28, 1946.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now at Saipan and Tinian were you there during the fighting?

Mr. Day

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you do in Iwo Jima?

Mr. Day

We were there probably the first days. By that time, our skipper on 62 was assigned to some sort of a coordinator for landing craft and we were on LCTs and signal group. We may have been on LCTs the next day and a GC12, which was general communications ship trying to coordinate all the landing craft going into the beach. I was standing on the deck of a GC12 on day. You've heard the name 'Howling Mad Smith'. He was standing over here and there was an Army General over here and I heard them arguing. The Army General said, I can help you. I've got hundreds and hundreds of people who will be glad to go in and back you up. Howling Mad Smith said the Marine started it and the Marine are going to finish it. I often thought how many did it kill and I was standing right there and I heard that. We were to haul them out of there. I know one night, and I don't remember why we were on an LCT. The command shifted what seemed like every other day and it was foggy. They would lay down a fog of smoke at night sometimes and here would come a 36-footer and he said any room, can't hold you and you would hear him go off in the fog. And then you would hear him holler again over there somewhere, 'any room'. He was hauling people that were wounded. Can you help us? There was no telling how many people come off that island that died while he was trying to find help. I mean there was a slaughter. It was 10:16 or 10:36 in the morning when they raised that flag and everybody saw it and everybody hollered and every ship toot their horns and all

that stuff. It was a little bit later and they raised that flag a second time, I don't remember it. I didn't pay any attention. I just remember there was some hellish explosion on top of that little place and that Mount Surabachi wasn't very high and the Japs tried to take that flag down. There was firepower up there pretty strong. That island to me was never fully secured because after it was secured, which was a few days, and still some of the old boys would wake up with their throats cut overnight because those people over there had 40 years to dig in. Talking about a storm. At one time, this one guy got caught in the galley of a living quarters of a LCT and he came out. He had a little vent fan about so big as that little old bitty vent fan.

Mr. Misenhimer

Eight or ten inches in diameter?

Mr. Day

Something like that. He got out. He come out but there was no way in hell he could go back through it but he tried. And man I tell you, he came out of there took it out of his hands but he couldn't go back there because that was a fantastic storm.

Mr. Misenhimer

That was at Iwo?

Mr. Day

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get on shore at Iwo at all?

Mr. Day

Yeah, we got over there every once in a while and they weren't too many booby traps and stuff back there. We just hung around until they cleaned it up. I mean, you didn't know what you were going to step on because there were 5500 were killed there give or take and a place like that is not the cleanest place in the world. The smells and you cry and you cuss and you wonder why. Well I guess we need it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Didn't you tell me about shooting down a Jap plane there?

Mr. Day

Yes, sir it was April 7, 1944 on Tulagi, Solomon Islands. I was mailing a letter home and all of a sudden, 'bam', the whole boat shook and I come up into the pilot house and on up in front of us was a ship sinking right by a tanker so the skipper wasn't aboard. That was Sunday morning. He went to church so I'm leaning up against the bulk head. I grabbed that Thompson and ran out to the back on the fantail and there was a plane coming at us not more than 50 or 60 feet high, and I unloaded 60 shots in him. He caught on fire right above us and crashed on a high hill over there and I had one of the guys down on the deck. He had a 30-30 and there was a plane so far up there you couldn't hardly see. He was shooting at that plane and of course everybody was shooting at everything. I had the boat motors going and the anchor was down and they had us put them in a circle until Mr. Capeless got back and he came aboard. So he said, "lets head out" and so we pulled the anchor and started out toward the mouth of the harbor and there was a ship that had been sunk out there and we picked up 28 people and we put a ramp down and just scooped them up and took them over to the beach, and later on some people told me that they had found some 35 slugs on that plane. They went up there and looked around and like I said,

he wasn't there and he didn't see it. One of the guys on the deck said he saw it catch on fire and he didn't know that I was shooting at it and everybody was shooting at something and anyway, he said he tried to go ashore to talk to the people for witnesses. I have always felt like I should have had something for it because I didn't blame anybody for not believing it either, but I knew what happened and I remember I screamed just as loud as I could all the time that gun was going and I was screaming.

Mr. Misenhimer

How many rounds does the magazine hold?

Mr. Day

It holds 60, had 60 in it and so then we took those people to the beach and on out and around down the way to our port there was a mouth of a river down there. We went on up in there and just rammed that thing on up under the trees. That night, we had another raid and somebody left my left side there was a point and on my right side there was a point and there was nothing any prettier than a raid at night. Everybody in the world shooting. The tracers go up and across there and it is a pretty thing but it is a deadly thing. Off on these points, you would have your big guns shooting up there, and when it was over, we would go to sleep and get up the next morning and start all over.

Mr. Misenhimer

This plane that was on Iwo in '45 you say, right?

Mr. Day

No, that was in Tulagi. April 7, 1943.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were showing me something in your book a while ago.

Mr. Day

Yeah, that April, 1943 Solomon's that little paragraph right there is the raid that I'm talking about where I shot the plane. I would have to say you could see them out there attacking the ships nearly all the way to Guadalcanal. To me, it didn't seem like it was very far across there. I want to say 20 miles across there and it took us a long time because those things weren't very fast. That's everything on the Solomon I have outlined in there but this thing here, if you want to take it and make a copy of it or read it or whatever, but there is only one thing in here that I don't like. I'm sure it me happened but I don't remember that when we found out that we were going overseas. They found me sitting somewhere, come upon you, behind one of the Quonset huts in tears. I don't remember that. I guess I just found out that we were going to ship out.

Mr. Misenhimer

This is your commander on the boat, is that right?

Mr. Day

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer

Fifty-nine years or sixty.

Mr. Day

Yeah, about, still corresponding. Got a Christmas card from them the other day in December.

Mr. Misenhimer

His name was Robert T. Capeless.

Mr. Day

Yeah, he was a lawyer.

Mr. Misenhimer

He was from Massachusetts?

Mr. Day

Massachusetts, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else at Iwo that you recall?

Mr. Day

Well beside that storm and them raising that flag that was kind of routine because all you did was take stuff in and bring people back.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you bring many wounded back?

Mr. Day

Oh, yeah, lots of wounded and lots of dead. One of our boys, I can't recall his name right now and I think he had just gone in and see what happened over there. You may know and all this was tide no beach over here. You had some here and here and these guys had been over there for 40 years and what they would do is they would take a gun emplacement up here and reinforce it. They could shoot this way and this way and they have another one here and they could shoot this way and that way and nobody could come up that beach unless they were in a cross fire. They had it figured out and they knew nobody was going to come on the other side, but you don't hear much about that. I see all kinds of stuff flying towards us one day, one of our boys, and I don't remember where he was on the boat, was standing somewhere around the pilot house and gosh dang

mortar hit him right on top of the head. Wasn't much left and he was on or few I needed. I had one close friend. We went through the whole da-- mess and signed up together and everything else and sometimes you didn't want to make friends. It wasn't too da-- sure how long you were going to be there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever get hit there?

Mr. Day

Yeah, we made it. There was a few we lost. I mean we were lucky.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was your ship ever hit?

Mr. Day

The only time ours was ever hit was when that thing hit that guard on that 20mm gun right by my head. That was the only time. It would have taken was maybe one tracer bullet because we had gasoline drums stacked up all over and most of them leaked gasoline the whole da-- time and we took what precautions we could. We didn't think much about it.

Mr. Misenhimer

How thick was this steel on the side here?

Mr. Day

About as thick as sheet metal.

Mr. Misenhimer

Quarter of an inch or whatever?

Mr. Day

No, it wasn't a quarter of an inch. You could bend it. I mean in the water it would flex a little bit. You could see rails going out and this stuff around this pilot house was 2 very thin sheets of metal, kind of like galvanized tin with cement in between and then another sheet of galvanized tin and a 50 caliber would tear that thing all to pieces, kind of like hiding behind a picket fence with somebody shooting at you. If they shot this way this is pretty thick here because you would hit the beach. It held tractors and tanks and everything else. It was okay all around here on the back and I could take a hammer and leave a dent anywhere along here. It was not that thick.

Mr. Misenhimer

Of course an LCVP was plywood.

Mr. Day

Yeah, so was the PT boats like I say the main thing we knew we couldn't be sunk. You could shoot the whole top of that thing but another little story. we were unloading a ship in Tulagi and we never had any beer, but this ship had beer and whiskey. Three officers on shore well in front. I'm trying to think. Well, here is 3 motors in the engine room and right in front of them was a big hatch and each one had an air tight compartment. By the time we got to the beach, we had 35 cases and I remember that number. 35 cases of beer stashed in these compartments and many bolts around these lids. By the time we got in there, they were all painted. Every bolt had a nut on it and tight. Everything was painted. They never found that beer. If we weren't going to get any of it, we were just going to steal it because it was just going to the officers.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you say you were on Tinian when the bombs were dropped, when they dropped the atom bomb?

Mr. Day

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you hear about that?

Mr. Day

We heard about that, well we didn't hear about it I guess until we heard on the radio that they had given up and that peace was here.

Mr. Misenhimer

They had surrendered?

Mr. Day

Yeah, we heard it before the States heard it and I guess that was the first time we heard anything about it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have a celebration?

Mr. Day

Like I say, we got 2 cans of beer that night.

Mr. Misenhimer

What happened to all that beer you had hidden in those cases?

Mr. Day

Oh, it was long gone cause that was when we were down at Tulagi months before that.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you cool it?

Mr. Day

We didn't give a da-- if it was cold or not. Didn't care. You could get a lot of things with a can of beer and a carton of cigarettes over there, souvenirs and all of that stuff.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever have any experience with the medics?

Mr. Day

No, sir. Never did. Never had any other than routing stuff.

Mr. Misenhimer

What souvenir did you get home with?

Mr. Day

Well, lets see. One of them came out of China and it was a coin and what it was the Chinese gave it to th eir soldier for entrance to the Baudy houses. On each side, it had 4 different positions of a man and a woman. I lost it in that fire. Like I say, I had a small Japanese flag. It burned up with my dress uniform which inside I had a dragon embroidered. The Chinese can do any kind of thing. They would come aboard ship and fix your shoes. Put a new sole on there, put holes around it going through there and tie and do the next one and I guarantee you had a pair of shoes when they got through. Lets see, as far as during the war, there was one rifle I traded off and I didn't have a whole lot of time. Like I say, you didn't search too much. You're liable to get hurt. Actually, I did have that many souvenirs. I'm trying to think. It seems like there was something else, something to do with a pencil, but I don't remember what it was. But all the stuff I had burned up over there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever see any of the USO shows?

Mr. Day

Oh yeah, I saw some. One time I saw a blonde haired singer. I want to say Betty. I saw her one time.

Mr. Misenhimer

Carol Lombard or whoever?

Mr. Day

No, Blonde Bombshell.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you see her?

Mr. Day

I'm trying to think. I'm not sure if it was on the canal or whether it was Saipan because there was a place on Saipan where they had shows. It was right next to a supply house and there was one time they found a bunch of Japanese on the other side of the supply house watching the same movie we were watching.

Mr. Misenhimer

What about the Red Cross. Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Day

No.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did they ever give you a coffee and donuts?

Mr. Day

Oh yeah, in the States mostly. Very seldom overseas.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did they give it to you or did they charge you for it?

Mr. Day

Oh, they gave it to us. The best thing was when the priest gave us that paregoric.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were overseas, did you get mail regularly?

Mr. Day

Seems like we did. It wasn't bad. The main thing was you never wrote back when your folks wanted you to.

Mr. Misenhimer

In April of '45, President Roosevelt died. Did you hear about that?

Mr. Day

Yes sir, we did. We were at Iwo Jima.

Mr. Misenhimer

And what kind of reaction did you have to that?

Mr. Day

It was a very sad day. I mean, you had seen so much death it didn't really bother you, but I mean he was a good man. He was a great man as far as I was concerned and when I was a little kid, I used to sit and listen to the fireside chats.

Mr. Misenhimer

In May of '45, Germany surrendered. Did you all hear about that and any reaction to that?

Mr. Day

Yeah, we heard about it and the one thing we didn't like about it was the good times everybody had in the States and we weren't there and plus the fact Frank Sinatra and the Beatles there must have been 10,000 women wherever they went and that is just something that we thought about.

Mr. Misenhimer

And you mentioned that you got 4 Battle Stars. What other ribbons and medals did you get?

Mr. Day

Well Asiatic Pacific, Good Conduct.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you figure out what the Battle Stars were for?

Mr. Day

They were for Asiatic Pacific. That was the only place I was. American Theater, I'm not sure what that means. I think everybody got that and you can't make much sense out of that where you were but a lot of that stuff was code.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was the USS Samuel Chase?

Mr. Day

Well that was in the Chesapeake Bay. I think that was the one where we came down through the Panama Canal and come back up to Frisco and they got a Hickman and that was the name of that. And I can't remember that one but we went to Frisco to Nomea on

the Juan Carrillo, which was a liberty ship, and that Hickman. I don't know where that thing was.

Mr. Misenhimer

It say LST1015 when were you there?

Mr. Day

That was probably, like I say, we switched. Maybe LCI one day or LST or something else at Tulagi and Guadalcanal.

Mr. Misenhimer

And the highest rank you had was QM 1st Class.

Mr. Day

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let me ask you, what was your pay when you first went in?

Mr. Day

\$21 a month.

Mr. Misenhimer

And what was the highest you got?

Mr. Day

Well I was sending home a hundred dollars a month the last, a hundred and fifty I guess.

Mr. Misenhimer

Have you had any reunions since you got out?

Mr. Day

Yeah, was some were held but I never did go. They were way up east. They used to have them in New Jersey and places like that and I never got around to it.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have trouble adjusting to civilian life when you got home?

Mr. Day

No, sir. 3 days after that, dad said, "What are you going to do?" And I said, "Well, I've got fifty two twenty coming." He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "I draw twenty dollars a week for fifty two weeks." "You're not going to do it in my house." Three days later, I went to work. So I didn't have any trouble. He just didn't want me sitting around and I'm glad he didn't.

Mr. Misenhimer

How many command officers did you have when you were on the LCT?

Mr. Day

Just the one.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you think of him?

Mr. Day

I loved him.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about the officers you knew?

Mr. Day

Well were jumping from ship to ship at Iwo and it wasn't long enough to evaluate. Then a man, you know, you were an officer and that was it. The one that was on destroyer the

John R. Craig all the time, he was a hard man to know because we all up in the pilot house, in and out. I was signal man and he was the commanding officer and he would give you an order. He was a very far off person and if I didn't know better, I would think he was island happy because there was something about him. Maybe I was comparing him to this gentleman here, I don't know. He didn't strike me as a kind of a man to command a ship. There was lots of time, and I think too much time. I don't know what might have happened to him. One time or another we might have been through hell up to Korea from China when I was on the destroyer and that tide, if you can imagine, did rise and fall that.

Mr. Misenhimer

At Inchon?

Mr. Day

Yes sir. Why at that place on this earth I don't know, but we would be going along there one day and nice and beautiful and maybe up there a few days later or a particular time of the moon or whatever and there would be these cones sticking up. These cones showed the tide had fallen that much. There was a top of a mountain and a high tide covered it up.

Mr. Misenhimer

You mentioned certain rates in the Navy. Some right arm, some left arm. What's the difference?

Mr. Day

Most of the right arm rates you don't use in civilian life and after you got quartermaster and signalman, you hardly used them in civilian life and Boson mate. I say cooks would be on the left arm. You could get a job cooking, electrician, motorman, all left arms.

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