

*National Museum of the Pacific War*

*Nimitz Education and Research Center*

*Fredericksburg, Texas*

Interview with

**Mr. Everett E. Knebel**

Date of Interview: June 14, 2004

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## **Fredericksburg, Texas**

### **Interview with Mr. Everett E. Knebel**

Interview in progress.

Richard Misenhimer: Richard Misenhimer. My name is Richard Misenhimer and today is June 14, 2004. I'm interviewing Mr. Everett Knebel at his home at 2...2600 East Main St., Star City, Indiana. His mailing address is PO Box 285, Star City, Indiana 46985. His phone number is area code 574-595-7251. This interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War, Center for Pacific War Studies for the preservation of historical information related to World War II. Everett, I want to thank you for taking time to do this interview today, and I want to thank you for your service to this country in World War II.

Mr. Knebel: Well I was very pleased to be honored as to give you my history of the World War II.

Richard Misenhimer: Appreciate it! Let me first ask...what is your birth date?

Mr. Knebel: May 18, '20.

Richard Misenhimer: 1920.

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh.

Richard Misenhimer: Alright and where were you born?

Mr. Knebel: I was born here at Star City.

Richard Misenhimer: Star City, okay.

Mr. Knebel: Uh, near east of Star City.

Richard Misenhimer: Alright, and what was your parent's names?

Mr. Knebel: Floyd and Opal Knebel.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay and what was their occupations? (Unintelligible).

Mr. Knebel: They was...Dad was a farmer and we was born and raised on a farm.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay. Alright, now where did you go to high school?

Mr. Knebel: I went right here at...well the first year of school I went to a little country school, at the Walters School, out there southwest of Winamac.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: And that where I went out there...first grade. Then Dad had a farm out there. Well then he rented a farm here at Star City and so I started school here and...right here at that little store...Star...right here at Star City. But I only served eleven...uh no, ten years...

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: ...the reason, you know, it was hard times at that time and it was in the Depression years. And Dad had several acres we'd farmed, and of course I help him with other boys. But anyway then at this time here and Dad...things was pretty decent in the year of...of '40 and '41...Dad bought some equipment in '41...early...and prices toppled and he didn't have any money and he had too much ground to farm and...and so in the...preparing for the wheat...my dad stopped me in the field and when he stopped he said, "You know I don't know what I'm going to do when you start to school." He said, "I can't afford to hire a man and I can't do

it myself.” And I said, “Why? Do you want me to quit school?” He said, “I’m not asking you to, but I could sure use you.” So I went to Mom and I said, “Mom, Dad can’t do without my hardly; maybe I’d better just quit school.” “Oh,” she said, “surely there’s a way.” I can still hear that – “surely there’s a way.” But I couldn’t see a way and Dad couldn’t see a way and so it was good months when that bus was coming...I wanted to run to school because I did not want to quit school.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah.

Mr. Knebel: I was doing decent grades. Well in 1941 I went...this is...I got mixed up here. This is 1937...

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, '37.

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, this is 1937. Well in 1941 we had our crops all planted and Dad said, “I think I and the boys could handle the crops this summer; why don’t you see what city life says because you always said you wanted to be a farmer...see what that’s like.” And I...I’ve always been interested with work...woodwork is what I’ve always been interested in. So anyway then I went to South Bend, but I wanted to get in a construction group and so I found one towards evening and he was just finished with a house and I said, “Can you use me?” And he said, “Yeah, Monday.” “Come Monday we’re going to start another new house.” So then I went to South Bend and at the time I think we built three houses that summer. And when I first started he took me in as a laborer. I worked one week...he come with his paycheck to me and he said, “You’re as good

as any Carpenter's there is around," and he said, "I'm putting you up to the Carpenter's wages," which at that time was seventy-five cents an hour...which I was very pleased to be drawing seventy-five cents an hour at that time. But anyway then World War II come along in December of '41. And I was eating dinner at the job and I had the radio in my car on and you could hear all of them...enlisting, and I thought, "I'm going out west." So I told my boss, I said, "I'm going to enlist in the Army." "What do you want to go in the Army for? I said, "Why?" He said, "You're a good Carpenter's; you can get in the Navy and get a Carpenter's rating." Well anyway I come home and I didn't know about...much about the Navy. So as I come home I saw Lon Warner (sp?) who was the veteran's officer and I says, "Lon, I think I'm going to go to Kokomo and enlist in the Army." And he said, "Aren't you building houses in South Bend?" I said, "Yeah." Of course Lon is an old Navy man and he said, "How about the Navy?" I said, "Well I don't know much about the Navy." He said, "You interested?" "Why," I said, "if I get a Carpenter's Mate that's better than going into the Army." So he called Lafayette; you know what? He got me in as a Carpenter's Mate Third Class! Third Class Petty Officer...which I was very happy. So we went to South Bend and then went Great Lakes for our boot training; we come home and had our boot training off there, you know, (unintelligible) and I went back, and when I got back I heard a construction outfit being formed. Oh that just hit me! I...I wanted on

that in the worst way so I went to the Mediterranean officer and I said, "I hear you got a construction now being formed." And he said, "Yeah, but it's full." Oh, I left there and I wished I could be on that! But anyway it wasn't but a few minutes after that till I was called up in front, "Be prepared to go Quonset Point, Rhode Island." I found out I was on that construction outfit was already been formed! So it made me feel pretty good. And so then we went to Quonset Point and then went to...Illinois and then finally we wound up at Norfolk. And as a Carpenter's Mate I did some Carpenter's work, not much then, but only thing I know of I really built was one of my Ensigns come to me he said, "You know how to run a lathe?" I said, "Yeah, I know how to run a lathe." He said, "I got a bunch of Billy clubs; could you run them out?" I said, "Sure I can run them out." So then a whole bunch of Billy clubs out for him. And then we board the ship at Chesapeake Bay. Oh, the water, you know, is rough in Chesapeake Bay, but I ain't going on this ship there...it was so smooth. Well we went to bed then out there in that Chesapeake Bay and we took off the next...then, the next morning I got up and there the ship was going like this, you know, rocking back and forth! I looked up the gangplank and there the top was moving this way and this way and boy did I get sick! (laughter) Gee, I got out there to the gangplank and I let...I fed the fish! It lasted for about three days; we was on the water thirteen days. And we went around through the Panama Canal and then we...we had enough work, but there's a torpedo

I heard the next morning that just barely missed our ship...said it just whizzed right by us the ship! Well we went on and into the South Pacific and got to Guadalcanal, the Coral Sea Battle is what I mean, the Coral Sea Battle. And there they were battling! Our escort in the Coral Sea...were battling...and of course you get a boom, you'd hear the bang, uh, the booms, you know, off there. And so then we was just very close to our base...so we pulled into our base and we got off and we set up our quarters...

Richard Misenhimer: Where was your base?

Mr. Knebel: Tonga Island.

Richard Misenhimer: What?

Mr. Knebel: Tonga Island.

Richard Misenhimer: Oh, okay.

Mr. Knebel: And anyway we set up there at Tongatapu and first thing we did was put our tents up. And then immediately I wrote some letters (unintelligible) for the hospital and so we was bringing the injured from the Coral Sea Battle into our place there which we'd built a hospital...or a temporary hospital. But while there...why we built permanent hospitals and I don't remember how many of them we built but I was always (unintelligible) about hammering through the tin...metal, and so anyway one evening I come in and my stomach was a grumbling, oh, my stomach was just really grumbling so I went to eat and I...well before I went to eat I drank a Coke...and...a buddy and I and so we went to eat and I couldn't get

rid of that stomach indigestion. And we went back to our quarters; it was still really bad so I got up on the top bunk...I guess I got to fold my feet up and everything. The boys come to me...they said, "What's the matter?" And I said, "Oh that Coke is just not agreeing with me." So he said, "You're going to go to sick bay." Went to sick bay and they sent me to the hospital and I had...appendicitis operation, and it was something else.

Richard Misenhimer: Appendicitis, huh?

Mr. Knebel: Appendicitis. So then I rested there for...I don't know about a week or ten days something like that and I went back there and there was a...had a hospital...it was a hundred by a hundred, ten by forty...Great Lakes Steel. And the boys was just going to put that top layer roof on her...a hundred and ten foot. Why it was pretty good...these guys see me come back. So I went to where I had three of them to go through. And so there I was sitting out banging, banging, banging all across that hundred and ten foot...I stood up and had a sun stroke!

Richard Misenhimer: Had what?

Mr. Knebel: Had a sun stroke.

Richard Misenhimer: Oh! (laughter)

Mr. Knebel: And so then I was off a few more days. But then I was put in charge, too, of putting a big sewage line. The...the Chief come to me and he said, "Do you know how to put in a sewage system?" "Yeah." "Can you put in manholes?" "Yeah." He said, "I'm going to give you a



bunch of the native boys and we're going to put in a sewage system."

Well there was a tracker sitting out there with a...with a...a bucket on it. I'd never...used a bucket. So I went out there and I started it up and I got to fool with (unintelligible) that bucket. It was a backhoe is what it was.

Richard Misenhimer: Backhoe, yeah.

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, it was a Backhoe.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: So anyway I had to trench and I...dug up for the manholes and we put in a big, pretty good, sweet system there! But we never did get into battle, because we was stopped there at the Coral Sea and they didn't go farther. If we'd have gone farther we'd of been next.

But anyway I had good duty there and...on Tongatapu Island; we had a nice time. And I don't know why I...I didn't go with the native girls...that's one thing I was against. (laughter) But anyway I had a girl...some way I got acquainted with her. My buddy and I was invited to go up there and have dinner. And they had a hog, a whole hog on a pit...like...

Richard Misenhimer: A spit...turning, right.

Mr. Knebel: ...and she picked some yams, and so we fed her some of that pretty good that night...had a nice time. Then another time I was there, why, a few of us was invited to a church social; they had an ice cream social. I ate so much ice cream (unintelligible) boys...so much ice cream...so we run

around the building several times so we could eat more ice cream!

(laughter) But we had a wonderful time there; I really enjoyed it.

And then we come back to the States at four years...uh, no it was two years...we come back to the States.

Richard Misenhimer: About what was the date you got back to the States?

Mr. Knebel: Uh, it was in...let's see, it would have been '40...believe it was February of...of '44.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: I believe it was February of '44.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: Or in that area anyway.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: We got to leave home, and we've got to go back out again. And we was going to Borneo. So anyway I went on home; my brother, Jim, younger than I am...had a birthday. He come walking in the kitchen and I was changing to go out on a date. So as he come in the house, you know, in the old days there like we did...I throwed a glass of water (laughter)...I do it...just ...taste like that, you know, right on the kitchen floor...Mom and Dad both watching. Jim said, "You want to make something out of it?!" "Sure!" Outside we went; we started tuggling and taggling and finally I went down and him on top of me and it just took the air right out of me! And anyway I said to Mom, "I got the air knocked out of

me!” Now Mom said, “No, you’re hurt.” I said, “No, I just got the air knocked out of me.” Daddy agreed with me. So I went...tried to finish my shave, you know, (unintelligible)...went on my date. I picked her up; I was not very long! I couldn’t even put my arm around her! (laughter) I couldn’t...so we...I had to...told her, I said, “I’ve got to take you home.” Next morning I went to the doctor...I ripped the whole chest! He said, “You’ve got to have another couple of weeks back here before you go back.” So I called there and they said, “We can just give you two weeks and that’s it because you’ve got to back on a certain, certain date.” So I flew back instead of taking a train; I flew back.

Richard Misenhimer: Back to where?

Mr. Knebel: Back to Oakland, California; Camp Parks.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: So anyway when I arrived there was a line up to get physicals to go overseas again.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: Well the doctor looked at his badge, I said, “Forget it; (unintelligible); take the bandages off; I’ll be good as new.” Three of them (unintelligible) same thing. So as we sitting around, one of the boys come up to me and said, “You’ve been taken off the outfit.” I said, “Oh, no! I can’t be taken off the outfit! I love the boys too much to be taken off the outfit!” Well I run right to the Company Commander; he said, “Let’s go to the doctor.” Went into the doctor and he consoled me

(unintelligible), he said, “You’re going to (unintelligible); you come back in another week, and I’ll get you into Port Hueneme.” Well that satisfied me.

Another interesting thing while I was there...there were six of us boys when I first got to Camp Parks. We went...around Oakland and San Francisco; it’s the only way in. We got back to Oakland...that’s where Camp Parks is; got back to Oakland there and we viewed some of Oakland and we went into a Chinese restaurant. We went in the Chinese restaurant and we ordered a meal and pretty quick...there was a boy from Chicago Heights was with us and there was a back girl come up...pick the dishes up. “Oh gee!” He jumped up, he said, “We’re not going to stay here where there’s a jig.” He said, “We’re getting out of here,” and I didn’t know what to do. The rest of the boys jumped up and so I did, too, and I hated it. I did not want to leave that Chinese restaurant after we’d ordered our meals. But I was with the rest of them and so we did. And so then I was ready to put up for the night. And anyway the boys wanted to go to an all-night theater...sit in the back. Well that didn’t interest me at all. I looked over and I said, “There’s a YMCA.” See I...I was always the leader for some reason. “There’s a YMCA there. Let’s go see what they’ve got.” So they said, “Well, you go up and see.” I went up and see...there and...he said, “How would you like to sleep in a home?” Why that sounded interesting! So he...he

said, "Here's the man to talk to and he's a minister." He kind of talked to me and said, "I like to sleep in homes." And I said, "Gee, that's wonderful!" "You'll get your breakfast the next morning and you can go to church if you want to." You know two of us boys, Andy and I...we stayed. We went to church and had they had wonderful, wonderful things for us. Saturday night they had Christian...well, it's just like...Christian youth meetings and we stayed there and then we went to homes...for a bed...and then we went to church. After church there's...well there's only two of us then...but after church, well, Andy and I was always...going home with somebody. That happened to me all the time...a girl...they had a swimming pool. Boy that was nice! I don't know how we got ourselves in this (unintelligible)...something or another. But I know that I...I just took and pushed her into the water; we had a wonderful time! And then after that we go back to the church; and then they had what they called Christian (unintelligible) meeting...wonderful time! We drove there...Andy and I and they had card tables set up all over there and then the girls to serve us...got so the same two girls always served us. (laughter) , and so...

Richard Misenhimer: How often did you do this?

Mr. Knebel: Every week!

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, for quite awhile then, huh?

Mr. Knebel: Oh yes, I drove (unintelligible) Camp Parks. Uh, I think it was February...I think we went to (unintelligible), Oregon and...let's...April...I believe it was in April...

Richard Misenhimer: This is still '44?

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: ...and it was a bunch of us went there that...was really officers; petty officers.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: 'Course I was Petty Officer, too, at that time. And we went there and...we just had a wonderful time. Well there was one girl...particular there...that, oh, she was a wonderful girl. Andy and I liked her; Andy said, "She's just too good for us." We know we had no (unintelligible) her, and so anyway I was staying there...used to being ready to be transferred...That girl called me on the phone.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah.

Mr. Knebel: Andy'd already left; he went to Hueneme, and so anyway that girl called me. She said, "How'd you like to go to the Moon with me?" That's a little offer, but it wasn't long before I said, "Yes." (laughter) So we went to the Moon and we had a wonderful evening. And I said, "Well, now why can't we do this this weekend?" She said, "That would be fine." But I had no more than gotten back to (unintelligible) my name was called and I went to (unintelligible), Oregon; it was sixty miles from

Portland but I got to going into Portland every weekend. Got through...there's just two of us in the shop, and so we could take off anytime. Well there was one of us said he went to Portland, Oregon; worked at the foundry. So anyway I thought that was a good idea, so I talked to one of my other...buddy and I said, "I think I'd like to go to Portland, Oregon foundry...just for the novelty of it." "That's fine, go!" So I did. So I took a change of clothes; I know it's a foundry and took a change of clothes and everything...so I went to the center...center...service center (unintelligible) got to and I went to the girl there; wanted to clean up and go to dinner afterwards. And I come down; turned my stuff to the girl and the girl got to talking. I never did get to my...my dinner; I met the girl right there! (referring to a lady in the room with him). So anyway then...I didn't want to go...I (unintelligible) home here! Ethel Knebel would you get me a drink please?

Ethel Knebel: Made me want something, too.

Richard Misenhimer: No, I'm fine; thank you.

Mr. Knebel: So anyway this girl was talking about food; that's poor thing to talk about when you're in service! (laughter) And...so anyway, I said, "I'd like to have a good home-cooked meal." She said, "If you come to church with me Sunday, we'll have a good home-cooked meal." I said, "Boy that sounds good!" And I left; when I left I shook my head...what did I do that for?! I didn't want a girl...got one back home! I didn't

want a girl, but I don't know how it happened, but I got on a bus for Portland; stayed there at the center all night. Next morning she told me what bus to take. I'm just going to take that bus that went all the way around! I didn't...I felt...I didn't think I told the bus driver when I got off when...when I was supposed to get off. But anyway as we got to where I was...she told me to get off...the bus stopped! I...I knew that that's where I was supposed get off, but I didn't tell him that I was going to get off here! But the bus stopped...and opened his doors! Nobody got on. I thought, "Did I tell him that I was getting off here?" What happened...her sister was standing there waiting for me to get off! (laughter) And that's the reason...and so I went to church, and you know what? I married her! (laughter) Married in April of '45, wasn't it?

Ethel Knebel: Uh-huh.

Richard Misenhimer: That's a wonderful story!

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, and anyway she's been with me now...as a wonderful wife for...fifty-nine years!

Richard Misenhimer: Fifty-nine.

Mr. Knebel: Fifty-nine years. But anyway that's...the war ended. And we was at Hueneme at that time. And (unintelligible) had somebody with me...that's usually the case.

Richard Misenhimer: Sure.



Mr. Knebel: So it got time to discharge, why, I didn't want to go back in yet and get discharged; I wanted to go to San Diego. So the buddy and I, we decided to go to San Diego, so I went and bought me a car. Bought me a car and we drove to San Diego from Port Hueneme. We come back to...Los Angeles and we both stopped at a clothing store; we took our old uniforms off and threw them away! That's what I'll do.

Ethel Knebel: Didn't throw them away I don't think.

Mr. Knebel: No, I don't think I threw them away, but I...anyway I do uniforms.

Richard Misenhimer: Uniforms?

Mr. Knebel: No, no, civilian clothes.

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: And then I took this car and we drove back to Portland...her home; we was there till Christmas.

Ethel Knebel: Nuh-uh.

Mr. Knebel: Huh?

Ethel Knebel: You came home right before for Edith's wedding.

Mr. Knebel: Uh, yeah, I know, but...you know when I was there for Christmas?

Ethel Knebel: Where?

Mr. Knebel: At Portland. Don't you know...?

Ethel Knebel: Oh yeah, but then we came on in October.

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh, but anyway we was there and...and I planned on leaving back to Indiana on Christmas day and her folks was just upsetting to us!

“You’re not going to leave; you’re going to stay! You’re not taking Ethel Knebel away from us! And they just wanted us to stay!”

Ethel Knebel: They wanted us to stay at (unintelligible).

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, and so anyway at night...you know God talked to me. He said, “Go as planned.” I can just hear that just as plain as can be; “Go as planned.” So we did. Then I stayed on the farm. Well I...I helped Dad one year and Harold died, my brother died...farm...then I went to Bass Lake and farmed...dairy farm. But anyway things didn’t go right at Bass Lake because (unintelligible) I lost money. And...so anyway then...we come back here to Star City and I said to Ethel Knebel, I said, “We went to Portland and back,” and I...I said, “Now you’ve been to Portland; going to do one of two things...either build new houses at Start City or I’ll take a load of stuff in the truck...bring her back to Portland.” She said, “I’d rather be in Star City.” (laughter) So that’s when I built this house.

Ethel Knebel: Well here we are, huh, (unintelligible)?

Mr. Knebel: I...I was going to go out and get me a job. I know you know what this is all about...

Richard Misenhimer: Sure.

Mr. Knebel: ...but I wanted to go out and get me a job after I got this house built. But before I got this house built, there was Brown over here; he wanted a new house. I said, “Earl, I can’t build you a new house. I just work them by myself.” “We’ll hire somebody to work with you.” So he did.

Before I got that built, Harold something out there he wanted a new house. I said, "Harold, I can't do it because I'm working by myself." "We'll hire somebody." So built that house and about the time I get that house...here another one come...another (unintelligible). Bill said, "I want a new house." I said, "Bill, I can't build you a new house; I'm working by myself." He said, "I don't want to work by yourself; I want to work...work with you." He built a big house. So we got that house built and there Joe Newman with that kind of home and he said, "I want you to built me a house." I said, "Oh gee, Bill!" Here I am building houses and no help! So I got me a federal number and that (unintelligible), and I was at it for twenty years.

Richard Misenhimer: Twenty years.

Mr. Knebel: I did an awful lot. I built thirty plus homes, plus a lot of out buildings; remodel jobs. You pretty near name it, I've done that. And then my wife she was having problems with her nerves. We had to do something for her. We got her a job but she didn't last long. So the doctor said, "She's going to have to get her a job." So this store was sale here at Star City. I said, "Ethel Knebel, that's my dad's store." "No, I'm not going to buy that store." I said, "Yes we are going to buy that store." I did; I bought that store. I put her and a meat cutter in there, but it wasn't helping her. So the meat cutter took sick and we had girl hired; she was sick, so that just left Ethel Knebel. So I...went to the job and told I was going in to help Ethel Knebel. So anyway I told her that...make a

(unintelligible) out because the girl would find out, “I can’t.” I said, “You can.” “I can’t.” “You can; you can do better than Jane.” So I forced her into making a (unintelligible) out, and she did a wonderful job of making that grocery out...but it took me to do it.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah.

Mr. Knebel: So I went to my right-hand man, (unintelligible) over in Tijuana for John Hoffman, uh, pardon me, no it...Bill (unintelligible) over in (unintelligible), and then I come in and helped Ethel Knebel and I could see that I was the only one that could help her, so I turned my construction job over to him and he took over and he eventually retired with my job. And so I stayed (unintelligible) with Ethel Knebel for twenty years; best thing that happened! She was...she come out of it; she is a wonderful girl! But ya’ll didn’t know the part it...there was an imaginary line between the milk...I mean the meat department and the grocery side. I didn’t dare stop to step over that line! (laughter) If I stepped over that line, she’d say, “You get back on your side!” I didn’t dare...

Ethel Knebel: You know that’s what I’d say. (laughter)

Mr. Knebel: Of course she was in charge of the groceries. If I’d say, “Why’d we order that?” “You get back over there!” That’s right! But she did a wonderful job of ordering the groceries, and we had a real nice store.

Ethel Knebel: I grew up anyway, right?

Mr. Knebel: We was there for twenty years.

Richard Misenhimer: Twenty, yeah. Let me go back and ask a few other questions. I mean, did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Knebel: Yes, I got four brothers.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: No sisters.

Richard Misenhimer: Were any of your brothers in World War II?

Mr. Knebel: Yes, let's see...Harold went to the Air Force...my brother, Harold, next under me; and Bill, he went into the Army, he went to the Philippines; and our next brother, Jim, he wasn't old enough. He went to Great Lakes and he joined the Navy and Dad didn't like that very well. Well, how it happened...they went to Logansport to do some grocery shopping and there was a note on the seat in the car; it was from Jim...said, "I joined...I've joined the Navy." "Why he's too young!" So Dad called him out there at the Great Lakes. No I'm not sure if he called him or whether he went. I think he went up there. Got a hold of Jim and Dad told him, "You're too young to be in this, and if you want to I'll get you out!" So he give him some money and come home. Pretty quick Jim calls and says, "Maybe I better get out." So he got out and then he returned later on when he was of age about the time the war was over. And (unintelligible, the youngest and you probably know (unintelligible), the youngest one...he didn't go in the service at all. But...

Ethel Knebel: Too young, wasn't he?

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, he was too young.

Other person: Yeah, he's my age roughly.

Mr. Knebel: Is that right; but he was too young.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, did your...your brothers that went into the service...did they all come home from the service, did they?

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, Harold went overseas; Bill was overseas, but Jim never got over; World War was over. But (unintelligible), no Harold...he stayed in the Air Force; he was in the Air Force as a mechanic in the Air Force and he stayed forty years and then he retired from there.

Richard Misenhimer: Let me ask you, now what day did you actually go into the service?

Mr. Knebel: January 4, 1941... '42.

Richard Misenhimer: '42, okay. Now you volunteered?

Mr. Knebel: I volunteered.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay. You were telling me something about Dr. Hallick (sp?) before we started; what was that about?

Mr. Knebel: Yeah. Dr. Hallick, I had to go to him; I had a physical to go in the service. I wasn't wanting to go into the service. I went to Dr. Hallick and he tells me, he said, "You...your health is real good; you're 1-A." I said, "But I don't want to go to service. My number is to be called pretty quick; I don't want to go to service." "Well," he said, "there's ways out." I said, "Nothing doing...nothing doing." Well then the war come along; then I got exit to go in."

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, yeah...this would...this would have been before the war before that was?

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, that was before the war.

Richard Misenhimer: Right, they started drafting in '40...it was '41...'40.

Mr. Knebel: '40, this is '40...late '41...it was August, I believe in '41 because my draft number come up.

Richard Misenhimer: Right, okay, alright. Oh, do you have a middle initial?

Mr. Knebel: E.

Richard Misenhimer: E., okay. Now tell me about your basic training at boot camp up at Great Lakes. What all happened there?

Mr. Knebel: Well we took basic training just like all of us going into the service, and there we took our (unintelligible) training and we did little bit...quite a bit of calisthenics or the... those exercises, you know, and...

Richard Misenhimer: Marching.

Mr. Knebel: Marching, oh yes! We did a lot of marching there. But I don't believe we used any rifles there.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: But we did...later on. They give us little carbine rifles...

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah.

Mr. Knebel: ...because it couldn't work with the big rifles.

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: And I will say this that we...when we'd go into a place, the Navy...they all marched first then the Marines goes in, then the Seabees goes in...

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: ...after the Marines cleans the place up. But over in...I can't think of the name of the island now...I should know what the name of the island...but anyway, there's one island...the Marines was late to the island...the Seabees went in first! (laughter) And they lost some Seabees, but these big bulldozers kept their blades down. Maybe you've seen this on the picture side; they went in and they...they took and cleaned out the dumps with these bulldozers! (laughter) Yeah, but they lost...they lost some men there.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, in your boot camp did you have knot tying and that sort of stuff?

Mr. Knebel: I don't remember too much about tying. But they do, I know. We did have some knot tying, yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: Then when did you get your weapons training?

Mr. Knebel: I think it was with...when we went to Mattoon, Illinois.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: Pretty sure that's where it was.

Richard Misenhimer: What did you...when'd you go to Mattoon?

Mr. Knebel: That would have been...let's see...that would be '42, oh, Mattoon, Illinois...I'm not sure. Let's see...January...I...that's where we went to from Quonset Point. I believe it was in about Apr...around the first part of April I'd say. Then...then we went to Norfolk and we left Norfolk...May...I don't recall the date...(unintelligible) of May...



Richard Misenhimer: '42 is when you left out of Norfolk? What ship were you on?

Mr. Knebel: We was on a troop ship.

Richard Misenhimer: Troop...you know the number or name or anything?

Mr. Knebel: Oh no.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay. Now what outfit were you in now?

Mr. Knebel: We was up in the...Number One Seabees!

Richard Misenhimer: Number One Seabees, alright.

Mr. Knebel: (Unintelligible)-first Battalion. We got to Quonset Point at...Quonset Point and they was trying to find a name for us, and they come up with the Seabees. You probably...

Richard Misenhimer: Everett is showing me a cap here that says, "Seabee Veteran" and it has a...a bee flying, and what's that she's got there?

Mr. Knebel: This is a gun.

Richard Misenhimer: A gun, okay.

Mr. Knebel: And there's a hammer.

Richard Misenhimer: Oh, a hammer, okay.

Mr. Knebel: And a wrench.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: I don't know if there is any more on there or not. I know we have a hammer and a wrench and a gun.

Richard Misenhimer: And a gun, okay, alright. And you were Seabee Number...Number One.

Mr. Knebel: Number One.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, the very first construction...

Mr. Knebel: Battalion, uh-huh, very first one.

Richard Misenhimer: Seabees stands for Construction Battalion.

Mr. Knebel: Seabee (unintelligible)...

Richard Misenhimer: Seabees, right.

Mr. Knebel: Seabees counts for Construction Battalion.

Richard Misenhimer: Alright, you went in as a Third Class Petty Officer?

Mr. Knebel: I went in to...Third Class Petty Officer as a Carpenter's Mate.

Richard Misenhimer: Even when you were in boot camp, you were still a...?

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, then when I got out of boot camp and before we went overseas I...I think we was at Norfolk...when they wanted me to mill these Billy clubs and then the Ensign come up to me; he said, "We're giving you Second Class Petty Officer," and he said, "Later on we'll give you Petty Officer First Class." But they got...well this was when we come back...before we went to...(unintelligible), he said, or I mean to (unintelligible) they told me when I'd get back on the ship I'll get to First Class, well I didn't get back on the ship.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, okay. Now tell me about the trip down through the Canal; how was that...Panama Canal?

Mr. Knebel: Oh, that was a wonderful trip! It took us a whole day to get through the whole there, and of course there's locks...I think there was three of them, is that right? I believe there's three locks. Of course you go into the lock there, and they raise you up...

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: ...and then they'll send you through, and they raise you up a second time...I'm pretty sure there are three (unintelligible)...

Richard Misenhimer: And you get up on top and there's a big lake, I think, up there...Gatun Lake or something?

Mr. Knebel: I don't (unintelligible) up there. There might be; there might be but we didn't see any lake, I don't think.

Richard Misenhimer: And they go across that and then go down the locks on the other side, right.

Mr. Knebel: Yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: Then you went down the lock on the other side.

Richard Misenhimer: How was that trip through there?

Mr. Knebel: Oh it was nice; we enjoyed it.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah.

Mr. Knebel: We enjoyed it.

Richard Misenhimer: Now when you went on this were you by yourself or were you with other ships?

Mr. Knebel: We had escorts.

Richard Misenhimer: Escort, okay.

Mr. Knebel: We had a Navy escort...

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: ...and that's when we heard...when we was out in the...in the Pacific that...no this was when we was still in the Atlantic before we got to the

Panama Canal. There's supposed to have been a...a torpedo that just missed our ship.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah.

Mr. Knebel: They said waves went right by. Thank goodness!

Richard Misenhimer: Right. They do what?

Mr. Knebel: I thought they turned the lights out.

Richard Misenhimer: The city's?

Mr. Knebel: No, the...

Richard Misenhimer: On the ships?

Mr. Knebel: ...ships.

Richard Misenhimer: Oh yeah, the ships did.

Mr. Knebel: Un-huh.

Richard Misenhimer: Right, okay. Now when you got through the Canal on the other side, then where did you go?

Mr. Knebel: Then we headed towards the South Pacific; we went through the...what do they call it, the time zone...?

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, the international date line?

Mr. Knebel: International Date Line went through there.

Richard Misenhimer: So when you left the Canal, you didn't go to Hawaii or any place, you went straight...?

Mr. Knebel: We went straight through to the Tong...Tonga Island.

Richard Misenhimer: Now where...Tonga...how do you spell that?

Mr. Knebel: T-o-n-g-a.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, Tonga, okay.

Mr. Knebel: And...

Richard Misenhimer: And that's where you set up this hospital and all?

Mr. Knebel: Yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, there was...

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, set up a hospital.

Richard Misenhimer: Battle of the Coral Sea I think was in like April or May of '42.

Mr. Knebel: That's when...when we was there.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah. But Midway was a little later after that.

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, oh those before the Midway.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, right.

Mr. Knebel: But, yeah, we was close to the Coral Sea Battle.

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: Fact is our patrol...those patrollers...they hit the Japanese; they were at the Coral Sea.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, April 8th of '42 was the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Mr. Knebel: Okay, that's about right.

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: That's about right.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, so you were down there by then. So you...you went in in January and in April you were already down there?

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh.

Richard Misenhimer: So you'd of been pretty quick through...

Mr. Knebel: Well, May the 8th you say Coral Sea?

Richard Misenhimer: April the 8th.

Mr. Knebel: April the 8th; that's about right, and we was going in...while that Coral Sea Battle was going on.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: So we heard...first we got in there in the afternoon and set up our tents and everything. Then the next morning two of us went out and built a temporary hospital; I was one of them.

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: Went out and built a temporary hospital.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, so as far as the Battle of the Coral Sea, you didn't actually see any of the fighting or anything?

Mr. Knebel: No, but we heard the boom; you could hear them.

Richard Misenhimer: Oh you could actually hear the shell?! Oh okay, you were that close!

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh.

Richard Misenhimer: Alright. And that was before the Battle of Guadalcanal, of course.

Mr. Knebel: Oh yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: Right, okay. And so that's where you built your...

Mr. Knebel: That's where we went in and put up our camps and then we went and put a hospital up. Yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: And you were there about how long?

Mr. Knebel: Two years.

Richard Misenhimer: Two years, okay. And you mentioned the natives. What were the natives there like?

Mr. Knebel: They was Polynesian race, and...nice people; these are nice Christian peoples. And I know one time there was a death right close to us; you could hear them wailing all night long! Next morning we went out there on a job at the hospital and there was a cemetery right there and then there's a little lake right off there. Pretty quick we could hear them coming; they carried a body up on their shoulders, you know, two men carrying a body, singing all the way along. You could hear them a coming...singing and they sang and they come and then we halted our jobs because we didn't want to work while they was burying a body there.

Richard Misenhimer: Right, yeah.

Mr. Knebel: So they come in and we watched them. And they come in there and they set the body down right on the ground with the sticks and everything and just sat him down there and walked away. Then they had a brigade of sand.

Richard Misenhimer: They had what?

Mr. Knebel: They had a brigade that (unintelligible) up and pick up all the sand and cover the body and their mounds was like this.

Richard Misenhimer: Oh, okay, a mound of sand.

Mr. Knebel: They never dug a hole; they just carried a mound of sand - mounds of sands all over that cemetery.

Richard Misenhimer: Now was the body wrapped in something?

Mr. Knebel: Not sure what it was wrapped in, but...

Richard Misenhimer: But it was wrapped in something?

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh, it was...it was like yellow wrap...that...that...

Richard Misenhimer: You enjoyed yourself in service?

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh, I really enjoyed it.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah.

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh. We didn't get any action; we got close but we didn't get any action.

Richard Misenhimer: We were talking about the natives on Tonga.

Mr. Knebel: Yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: Did they have...real black or...?

Mr. Knebel: No, no, they are the Polynesian race and...

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: ...and they're...pretty near half way from a white to a black.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, right.

Mr. Knebel: They just got little...little darker skin...

Richard Misenhimer: Right. What kind of hair do they have?

Mr. Knebel: I believe it was black.

Richard Misenhimer: Big fuzzy or not?

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh. Not too fuzzy but somewhat, yes.

Richard Misenhimer: Did they speak any English?

Mr. Knebel: No, only one girl (unintelligible)...you got that shut off?



Richard Misenhimer: No, it's going.

Mr. Knebel: Uh?

Richard Misenhimer: You want me to turn it off?

(recording temporarily stopped)

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, I said...as far as that goes, but I'm glad I come back.

Richard Misenhimer: Sure. So that's the only place you were overseas was Tonga?

Mr. Knebel: That's all.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah.

Mr. Knebel: We stopped in Fiji...no, not Fiji...we stopped at Fiji, too. We stopped in at...and picked up with the rest of them there at...oh, at New Hebrides.

Richard Misenhimer: New Hebrides?

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: So half our group was Group B went to New Hebrides and Group A which I was in went to Tonga.

Richard Misenhimer: How was your food there when you were on Tonga?

Mr. Knebel: Well it...pretty good. It was...every morning we always called chip on it.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah. (laughter) S.O.S?

Mr. Knebel: Yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: S.O.S.?

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, but we ate a lot of powered eggs...I mean powered...potatoes, eggs and things like that. But every once in awhile...we was close to Australia...every once in awhile they'd bring a sheep...

(end of tape 1, side 1)

Richard Misenhimer: This is...this is side 2 with Everett Knebel. Okay, yeah that mutton didn't smell too good.

Mr. Knebel: It didn't smell too good, but we ate it...whether we wanted to...

Richard Misenhimer: You ever see any USO shows anywhere?

Mr. Knebel: Oh gee, yes! About every month, I mean, we saw (unintelligible) a month...we was always having a USO show.

Richard Misenhimer: (Unintelligible) in Tonga?

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, and who all did you see...anybody famous like Bob Hope or anything?

Mr. Knebel: No, we didn't see Bob Hope. But the group that always come in there that...they was mostly singing groups and, but not that I can recall of that was popular like Bob Hope...

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: ...we didn't have Bob Hope, but they would put on good show; they put on good shows.

Richard Misenhimer: Good. Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Knebel: No,...

Richard Misenhimer: When you were there?

Mr. Knebel: Never had any experience that I know of with the Red Cross and all.

Richard Misenhimer: Could you get some mail with any regularity there?

Mr. Knebel: Well we got the mail, but I think it was sometimes about a week or two old...yeah, to get it.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah right. When you were there, did you ever hear of Tokyo Rose on the radio?

Mr. Knebel: Oh, yes! Yes, I listened to her. We had radios there; yeah we listened to Tokyo Rose.

Richard Misenhimer: How was she?

Mr. Knebel: Well she's entertaining. Uh, that's about all I can say about her...(unintelligible).

Richard Misenhimer: How about Armed Forces radio? Did you ever hear Armed Forces radio?

Mr. Knebel: No.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay. Now in April of '45 when Roosevelt died, you were here in the States then, right?

Mr. Knebel: Uh-huh.

Richard Misenhimer: And any reaction to people when he died?

Mr. Knebel: That's so far away I can't remember any reactions.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay. And how about when Jap...Japan finally surrendered?

Mr. Knebel: Oh yeah! When Japan finally surrendered, that's after I was married. We was in Port Hueneme.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: And I was in long enough that it wasn't long till I could get a discharge.  
Yeah...(unintelligible)...

Richard Misenhimer: Any kind of a celebration then?

Mr. Knebel: Well celebrated a lot; we was happy that it was over but we...I can't recall any great celebration. Anyway we was so happy to see it over I know that. And the bombing at Hiroshima...that's...that was a wonderful thing there. I mean, it was too bad that it had to happen because it took so many lives.

Richard Misenhimer: It saved a lot of lives on both sides.

Mr. Knebel: It sure did!

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: It sure did.

Richard Misenhimer: Have you had any reunions?

Mr. Knebel: Yes, I think I went to about three of them. One...one was in Chicago...I think two to Chicago and...yeah, but that was in the earlier days.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah. Did you ever use your G.I. Bill?

Mr. Knebel: No, no. I guess I could have, but I didn't.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay. Did you get any ribbons or medals?

Mr. Knebel: No. See we didn't have any actions. And only thing I would get ribbons is those bars, you know, for the service.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, you probably got the Asiatic Pacific; they gave one for our time...there, right.

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: Good conduct?

Mr. Knebel: I got a good conduct, yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay. Now the Seabees, you were actually in the Navy, right?

Mr. Knebel: I was in the Navy. The Sea...it's a part of the Navy; we was in the Navy, yes. It's part of the Navy.

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: But you know what? Our buddies was in the Marines, believe it or not. Yeah, the Marines is our buddies! And we couldn't help but notice that they got on the...can't think what they call it now...construction groups. They have a name for it, but I can't think...but we'd go by it and here's an Army built something out over here...they couldn't get anything done doesn't seem like. But we'd go in there and get something done!

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: But we couldn't help but notice the difference from the...the Army and the Seabees because we went in there just...well we just like civilian work. We just go out...certain mornings...and come in at a certain time in the evening. But really I couldn't have found a better branch of service to get into for me.

Richard Misenhimer: Right, right. What was your pay as a Petty Officer?

Mr. Knebel: I went in at...sixty dollars a month because I was an officer; sixty dollars a month and I got out I think it was ninety dollars a month...if I remember correctly.

Richard Misenhimer: And what was the highest rank you got to?

Mr. Knebel: I just got through the Second.

Richard Misenhimer: Second.

Mr. Knebel: If I...if I'd of gone out...over again, they was going to five me First Class.

Richard Misenhimer: First Class, alright.

Mr. Knebel: Yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: Any kind of...any...do you remember any humorous incidents or anything funny happen along the way?

Mr. Knebel: Oh, I expect...I could tell you one (laughter), but...might not be anything to put in the paper. Oh, now I've lost my train of thought; turn it off till I get it back. (recording turned off momentarily)

Richard Misenhimer: They had...(unintelligible)...

Mr. Knebel: The Seabees now, they had a lot of road equipment and that's the first thing that they would do. And of course that's (unintelligible) Carpenter's Mate...that was a...can't think of the name of it now, but anyway they're the ones that had bulldozers...

Richard Misenhimer: And graders.

Mr. Knebel: ...yeah, graders and things like that. Now see...what the Seabees supposed to do when they go into an island...like the Navy (unintelligible) goes in...bombards and then the Marines goes in; clean up...then the Seabees goes in there and make roads...things like that for them.

Richard Misenhimer: In no time they come in...they took her on a first date sometimes...(unintelligible).

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, sometimes it didn't take long if they could get in.

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

Mr. Knebel: But that...(unintelligible) got in before the Marines.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, right.

Mr. Knebel: And...what have you got? (veteran speaking to a child followed by a brief conversation with a child).

Mr. Knebel: You don't have any kids or grandsons?

Richard Misenhimer: What did you think of the officers you had over you?

Mr. Knebel: Oh we had wonderful officers! Yeah, Ensign was...can't think of his name right now...he was up around South Bend...and Jordan...Ensign Jordan, he was our Company Commander and we always liked him. I knew him personally and that's when I went to...try to go with him when he went out...

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: ...but he couldn't get me on.

Richard Misenhimer: Alright.

Mr. Knebel: Jordan, he was our ensign from the time we left till we got back to Camp Parks then he went with most of the group to Borneo. Boy, I hated to see (unintelligible)! Till...you get used to a bunch of boys like that that you don't want to leave them.

Richard Misenhimer: Oh sure, right!

Mr. Knebel: And...

Richard Misenhimer: Now you mentioned the Number One Seabees, about how many men were in that?

Mr. Knebel: Oh, it was quite a few. See, it was a battalion. And then in the battalion there is an A and B Group...

Richard Misenhimer: Okay.

Mr. Knebel: ...then I was in the A Group, but I...I can't tell you how many was (unintelligible) on the...(unintelligible)...I mean on a...battalion. And our Battalion, ...is what...it was A and B, and As which I was in went toTonga and B went to New Hebrides.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, now what...what other troops are on Tonga besides Seabees?

Mr. Knebel: Oh, there was all of them; there was the Army and Marines...

Other person: And the Seabees.

Mr. Knebel: I think that's about it.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay and you say ya'll...your buddies were the Marines, huh?

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, we liked the Marines! We didn't care for the Army, I guess...that...that was our...least group of people we would associate with, I think. Well we didn't associate with any of them except your own group. But we would notice what difference ones do and...notice a difference.

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, right. You know what Marine outfit it was that was there?

Mr. Knebel: Oh I have no idea!



Richard Misenhimer: Okay, alright.

Mr. Knebel: But anyway, we built a tower for parachute dry, forty foot tall, and I think it was twenty foot square. Stood the thing up there and we had to put a roof on it. Nobody would get up there but me. I got up there with two by fours...up there forty foot high and they handed the materials up and I put the roof on there! (laughter) And nobody else would do it!

Richard Misenhimer: And what'd they use that for?

Mr. Knebel: Uh, parachute drying.

Richard Misenhimer: Hang your parachutes to dry?

Mr. Knebel: Yes, uh-huh, to dry.

Richard Misenhimer: Okay, alright. And that was on Tonga?

Mr. Knebel: That was on Tonga. Yeah, and...

Richard Misenhimer: You left your first construction battalion.

Mr. Knebel: Yeah, I drug out...damage, you know...the (unintelligible)

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah.

Mr. Knebel: Then I went into a stevedore outfit...

Richard Misenhimer: Oh!

Mr. Knebel: ...at Portland. But as...it took a lot of skilled men; there was forty of us, of skilled men went to Portland...I went to Portland...Trask (sp?) and I, and when we got our jobs done they started putting on the stevedore group. I didn't want to go down there and load ships!

Richard Misenhimer: Yeah, right.

Mr. Knebel: I didn't want to at all...but did go down there. And you know when we got through; there was two of us boys left. One was me and one was a sergeant; his name is Keith Sergeant (sp?); he was a Mormon. And we had a whole shop together. If somebody wanted to do a repair or they wanted something repaired they'd call over there. We wasn't very busy; we'd...I built a...a chest for myself while I was there and he built one for himself and we didn't have much to do. (Unintelligible) had time off to go to Portland to meet that wife I've got. (laughter)

Richard Misenhimer: Oh, okay. (laughter)

Mr. Knebel: She's a good woman to me, yeah.

Richard Misenhimer: Well, Everett, anything else you can think of?

Mr. Knebel: Not right now anyway.

Richard Misenhimer: Alright, okay.

Mr. Knebel: The only think that I can say...did you (unintelligible)...the only I can say is that I sure enjoyed being in the Seabees and I couldn't took a better...any better service (unintelligible)...

Richard Misenhimer: Better choice than that, right.

Mr. Knebel: That was a real good choice; I'm happy with it. I loved the Seabees and sometimes I wish we was the Seabees over there in Iraq right now!

Richard Misenhimer: Right.

(recording stopped momentarily)

Richard Misenhimer: You were just telling me about a Quonset hut and the Great Lakes; now tell me the difference what you was just telling me here.

Mr. Knebel: The Quonset buildings...they started to build on Quonset Point, Rhode Island. And if I remember correctly it was about twenty foot wide, but they have a straight side about...that's...about four foot and they have an angle that goes about another four foot...oh, maybe probably more than that and then they've got a straight one on top, but there were no curved ones that I know of...in fact a record of...of Great Lakes. Now the Great Lakes...they was completely rounded...

Richard Misenhimer: The ones that were...

Mr. Knebel: From the bottom all the way around.

Richard Misenhimer: All the way around, okay.

Mr. Knebel: And that was the Great Lakes.

Richard Misenhimer: And you were at Quonset Point putting those together for (unintelligible)?

Mr. Knebel: I was at Quonset Point; that's where we first went...to watch them put them together and making them there. And...but now...the Great Lakes...I'm not sure where they were built. But they...that's what we used for hospitals; large buildings...

Richard Misenhimer: These are the rounded ones now?

Mr. Knebel: That's the rounded ones we used...but for our quarters where we stayed and our offices we had...

Richard Misenhimer: You called it Quonset...right. Okay.

Richard Misenhimer: First tape; this is the end of this tape.

(end of interview)

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