

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with
Harold Clayton Sims
United States Marine Corps
Date of Interview: February 17, 2005

Mr. Rabalais: This is Larry Rabalais. Today is the 17th day of February, 2005 and I'm interviewing Mr. Harold Sims who was in the Marine Corps. This interview is taking place in Fredericksburg, Texas at the Fredericksburg High School and this interview is in support of the Center for Pacific War Studies, Archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Parks and Wildlife for the Preservation of Historical information related to this site. And Harold I'll ask you to just get started by going all the way back to where you were born and a little bit about your family, do have any brothers and sisters and where you went to school and let you take it from there.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, I was born in Sanger, Texas, 8th 15th, 21.

Mr. Rabalais: All right. What's the name of that town?

Mr. Sims: Sanger. S, A, N, G, E, R.

Mr. Rabalais: And you had brothers and sisters?

Mr. Sims: I had five brothers and one sister.

Mr. Rabalais: And what did your parents do there? What kind of work?

Mr. Sims: He was a carpenter, my mother didn't work. In Sanger.

Mr. Rabalais: You 'all didn't do any farming or anything like that.

Mr. Sims: No farming, he was just a carpenter all his life.

Mr. Rabalais: Where's Sanger at exactly?

Mr. Sims: Ten miles north of Denton.

Mr. Rabalais: OK, way up there.

Mr. Sims: Right before you get to Gainesville.

Mr. Rabalais: Almost an Okie

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah. I know it. I had a lot of friends up in Oklahoma.

Mr. Rabalais: Naturally, for sure. That's where they have a lot of thunderstorms and stuff like that.

Mr. Sims: Oh, I know it. Marietta, I had a lot of cousins up there, and their names were Hicks.

Mr. Rabalais: Do you go to school there in Sanger?

Mr. Sims: Yes, In Sanger. Yes I did.

Mr. Rabalais: Did they have a high school there.

Mr. Sims: Yes they did. They've got a new one there now too, they just built.

Mr. Rabelais: So, did you go through high school there?

Mr. Sims: No, I went through the ninth grade.

Mr. Rabelais: Ninth grade, OK.

Mr. Sims: I was promoted to the tenth.

Mr. Rabelais: That was pretty common then, my father too.

Mr. Sims: It was during the depression and we was having a hard time.

Mr. Rabelais: Times were tough.

Mr. Sims: So, at 19 I quit and joined the Marine Corps.

Mr. Rabelais: Oh, you went directly to the Marine Corps. Did you volunteer to go?

Mr. Sims: I volunteered. I was a regular.

Mr. Rabalais: OK, you were a regular. You did before the war.

Mr. Sims: Volunteered for four years.

Mr. Rabalais: Now, when did you volunteer? What year would that have been?

Mr. Sims: September, 16, 1940.

Mr. Rabalais: Oh, so way before the war.

Mr. Sims: Oh, yeah. 16th.

Mr. Rabalais: So you were an experienced Marine before the war even started.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, a regular.

Mr. Rabalais: OK, and so where were you stationed? Where did you take boot camp at?

Mr. Sims: San Diego. And Camp Pendleton there, fired the range at Camp Pendleton, California.

Mr. Rabalais: Was it pretty hard on you? Of course coming from a small town like that you were probably pretty already tough a little bit.

Mr. Sims: Well I did work with my dad, you know. And I did carpenter work.

Mr. Rabalais: Did you find basic to be really hard on you?

Mr. Sims: Oh no, no, no. I was nineteen then.

Mr. Rabalais: You thought you could conquer the world.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, Oh yeah. And like I said there were no jobs and so I got twenty-one dollars

a month to start with, three meals and a place to eat, a place to sleep what I meant to, should have said.

Mr. Rabalais: Do you remember anything about the food then?

Mr. Sims: Food, it wasn't bad at all, I mean, just regular old food. You know. Regular food.

Mr. Rabalais: And plenty of it, so you didn't have to worry about that. OK so, one of your first assignments, and this was before the war, there was no thought yet about Pearl Harbor, but things were coming, but where did you go first?

Mr. Sims: OK, I went from San Diego, I went through the Panama Canal on a destroyer, went around to the Atlantic, and got on the *William P. Bell*, ship, an old German WWI ship and went to Iceland.

Mr. Rabalais: That was your assignment, was Iceland.

Mr. Sims: I went to Iceland. That was my assignment, go up there and relieve the British. They had Iceland.

Mr. Rabalais: That's right, their war had already started.

Mr. Sims: We didn't want Germany to get that airport there especially,

Mr. Rabalais: Reykjavik, or however you pronounce it. Is that how you pronounce it?

Mr. Sims: Reykjavik, you pronounced it right.

Mr. Rabalais: Cold?

Mr. Sims: Cold, no trees. Hot water.

Mr. Rabalais: Lot different than Sanger.

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah, lot of hot water.

Mr. Rabalais: Natural hot water springs?

Mr. Sims: Yeah, we had it in our swimming pool inside and outside, swimming pool. Oh yeah.

Mr. Rabalais: Well, that wasn't so bad.

Mr. Sims: But they fish for a living there, I'll put that down. Let me tell you that.

Mr. Rabalais: And, pretty fishy.

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah. In the wintertime they had the fish out on the ground and the ships would come in there and load it up.

Mr. Rabalais: Now that was a pretty small Marine contingent there.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, we had a company there.

Mr. Rabalais: Just a company.

Mr. Sims: And we had to guard German prisoners there.

Mr. Rabalais: Oh, is that right? They had taken some prisoners.

Mr. Sims: The British did and when they left of course they stayed with us until they bombed Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Rabalais: So basically you pulled guard duty and stuff like that.

Mr. Sims: That's right, pulled the guard duty.

Mr. Rabalais: OK. But, were you all, at that point, were you all sorta on a combat footing or not really?

Mr. Sims: Not really, no.

Mr. Rabalais: Ok, there was no inkling about Pearl Harbor or anything like that. OK so how long were you there in Iceland?

Mr. Sims: Eight months. We had one German plane fly over. It was taking pictures.

Mr. Rabalais: A reconnaissance plane.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, that's before the British left. Well, the *Zero* went up and got him, *Spitfire*. I meant to say *Spitfires*. We didn't see any more of him. So I don't know if they got him or not.

Mr. Rabalais: When you left there, OK, from Iceland where'd they send you there?

Mr. Sims: We came to New York City. I caught a train there and they said you have thirty days from New York to San Diego to report in across country, San Diego. We formed new companies in San Diego.

Mr. Rabalais: Did you get a time at home during that thirty days?

Mr. Sims: Yeah, I dropped off at the house, you know, because I had thirty days and we were on our own, on a train all the way across.

Mr. Rabalais: So you get to San Diego and they assign you to a new company there.

Mr. Sims: Right, uh-huh.

Mr. Rabalais: Ok, now the war still hadn't broken out yet, at that point.

Mr. Sims: Oh, yeah, they bombed Pearl Harbor before I left Iceland.

Mr. Rabalais: Oh, they did. Oh, so that's why. You were there eight months. OK, when you heard about Pearl Harbor did you know where that was at?

Mr. Sims: Well, yes and it happened there at 7:00 in the morning and we didn't hear about

it until 11:00 for some reason in Iceland.

Mr. Rabalais: Yeah, I understand. Well the thing is, though, you might not have known where Pearl Harbor was.

Mr. Sims: Oh, yeah, I knew where Pearl Harbor was.

Mr. Rabalais: As a Marine you did. Most people didn't. Most people hadn't a clue where Pearl Harbor was, but Marines would.

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah, we knew that.

Mr. Rabalais: How'd you feel about that? Did you have any feelings toward the Japanese about that? A lot of people were angry, of course, and, or you really didn't have one feeling one way or the other.

Mr. Sims: Oh, I was angry.

Mr. Rabalais: Angry. A lot of people were.

Mr. Sims: That's what they were paying me for. Uncle Sam was.

Mr. Rabalais: How, were, just out of curiosity, at this point in time, what did you think of your officers and things like that? Did they look like pretty good people? The N.C.O.s and officers.

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah, they were all. . .

Mr. Rabalais: They were good strong people.

Mr. Sims: Oh yes, I'll tell you.

Mr. Rabalais: I guess it wasn't until later on that they had to scrape the bottom a little bit more, later on maybe.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, right.

Mr. Rabalais: Ok, so you're in San Diego, you're forming a new company.

Mr. Sims: And we had reserves, they came out of Ohio. They called the reserves in about that time..

Mr. Rabalais: So you'all were the regulars were sort of a core of the unit and then they bring in reserves to finish you out.

Mr. Sims: And when I went to Iceland, before I went, they had them there, you know and before I went to Iceland, when I was going to Iceland they split us up like I said, you know and then reformed. Some of them went to Wake Island and Guam.

Mr. Rabalais: Ooh! The ones that went to Wake Island didn't have a good deal. Ouch!

Mr. Sims: Some I went through boot camp with. And later on I was on Guam, but I'll tell you about that later.

Mr. Rabalais: OK, so, now you're in San Diego, the company's been formed. Are you 'all getting ready to ship out anywhere? Did they tell you ahead on time where you were going?

Mr. Sims: No.

Mr. Rabalais: Not until you're aboard ship?

Mr. Sims: And we went to Samoa.

Mr. Rabalais: Directly to Samoa? You 'all didn't stop at Pearl?

Mr. Sims: Well, we stopped at Pearl and then went down there.

Mr. Rabalais: Did you 'all do any more training at Pearl, like beach landings or anything like that?

Mr. Sims: No, not at that time. But I came back through there later.

Mr. Rabalais: So you 'all went to American Samoa.

Mr. Sims: I was down there sixteen months.

Mr. Rabalais: Sixteen months! So, that was a long time. Why were you there so long?

Mr. Sims: They put us on an island with fourteen of us.

Mr. Rabalais: Oh, just a small number of you 'all.

Mr. Sims: On another island. Away from American Samoa. Here's a port and another island over here. There's eleven islands in the group.

Mr. Rabalais: It's a cluster of little islands.

Mr. Sims: And part of em's British and part American. We went on this island and had, we had a radio. So we were watching for Japs. That was our job.

Mr. Rabalais: And, how long were you there?

Mr. Sims: Sixteen months.

Mr. Rabalais: Sixteen months. There wasn't a whole lot to do for you 'all, really.

Mr. Sims: Oh no, we could swim and catch fish.

Mr. Rabalais: While all these other guys are assaulting islands you guys were fishing.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, and I was carrying out orders so, then from there, after we left there, we went back to Pearl Harbor. And then from Pearl Harbor, and a few days there, I went to Maui. That's a beautiful island.

Mr. Rabalais: That's what I understand.

Mr. Sims: It is beautiful. We had a little deal going there, we lost six out of twenty-one men in a, two planes ran in together. Our own planes crashed, went down and killed twenty-one Marines while I was there.

Mr. Rabalais: At this period of time in there, now what rank did you have then, about Lance-Corporal?

Mr. Sims: I was a Sergeant, buck Sergeant.

Mr. Rabalais: Oh, you were already a buck Sergeant. OK, because were a regular and had been in a while. OK, what were you 'all doing on Maui, just training?

Mr. Sims: We was training, we trained right up until . . .

Mr. Rabalais: Trained for beach landings or something like that?

Mr. Sims: Oh, yeah. LSDs.

Mr Rabalais: You 'all would go out and come back in.

Mr. Sims: Actually, back then it was a Higgins boat.

Mr. Rabalais: Higgins boats, yeah.

Mr. Sims: Old man Higgins built them. Back then. I don't know if you remember those.

Mr. Rabalias: Oh yeah. My dad built them in New Orleans.

Mr. Sims: Is that right? I didn't know that.

Mr. Rabalais: Anyway, so you 'all trained there for a good while at *Maui*.

Mr. Sims: Four months.

Mr Rabalais: And this would have been. What year would that have been, '43? '44?

Mr. Sims: Yeah, '43., but I left something out. I caught a disease in Samoa, *Philoritis (Elephantitus)*. It's caused by mosquitos and we had to sleep under mosquito nets there and so, when I got to *Maui* and we did that training, here I go back to the United States and they put me up in California, in a hospital in Oakland. And I got duty, I came home, you know, they called me back over. Now that was about the time I got married. I got married in '44 and my wife's going to have my first child, which he's fifty-nine and I was stationed, while she was in the hospital, right before and when he was born, right after he was born, I was in Corpus, I pulled guard duty down there for about four months.

Mr. Rabalais: So that wasn't altogether too bad, cause a lot of Marines at about this time were invading all the islands and they were catching heck. And you could have been in deep trouble over there. OK, did they ever move you from that out back to the Pacific again?

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah, yeah. I went to Guam and I said I told you that. I think I was there about three or four months, in a tent, it rained for a solid week there, I remember the rain part.

Mr. Rabalais: Oh, really. OK that was in Guam, it was real rainy. We had taken back Guam already.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, we took Guam and Wake Island.

Mr. Rabalais: There was still a few Japs in the back, somewhere out in the jungle.

Mr. Sims: Oh, yeah, well, you see, they had already hit down all down in there, all the islands around where MacArthur was and all that down in there.

Mr. Rabalais: Leyte down in the Philippines.

Mr. Sims: All the Philippines. And I forgot about being in the Philippines. I was in the Philippines too.

Mr. Rabalais: Were you were in the Philippines too?

Mr. Sims: I went there before I went to Guam, I mean Hawaii.

Mr. Rabalais: Now, they had already taken the Philippines at that time or?

Mr. Sims: Yeah, they already had a battle down there. They had already taken them back.

Mr. Rabalais: So you were not involved directly in any fighting at that point?

Mr. Sims: No and they had a sea battle there and ships were sunk out there, I could see them. I was just there a couple of months. That was across the equator, the only time I went across the equator.

Mr. Rabalais: Were there any Kamikazes around going after those ships while you were there?

Mr. Sims: No, no, I lucked out on that.

Mr. Rabalais: So you ended up in Guam again after the Philippines and stayed there for awhile til the end of the war? Or did you go anywhere else from there?

Mr. Sims: I went from there, Okinawa, you know, they took Okinawa. And we took Eniwetok. We finally got into battle.

Mr Rabalais: That was sort of a tough one.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, I finally got into battle at Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.

Mr. Rabalais: You were a Sergeant at that time.

Mr. Sims: I was a Staff Sergeant.

Mr. Rabalais: So you had a platoon basically. I forget, if the landings opposed very much at Eniwetok or did they wait until you got in a little bit? It's not a very big island.

Mr. Sims: They bombed it fifty-two hours with battle wagons, big guns. Knocked down every tree on the island. When we got ashore they had blasted everything, you know. They were down in those tunnels they talk about in that show. Dug in, you know. And I

was trying to think how long I stayed there. Just probably about, maybe six months.

Mr. Rabalais: You were involved directly, I guess you're involved directly in some rifle platoon firing and all that there. Did you have any friends that were hit. Or people that you knew that were hit?

Mr. Sims: Yeah, but it happened so fast and everything, you know, and like I said, part of those guys in my unit, at that time, were reserves.

Mr. Rabalais: So you weren't really close to them.

Mr. Sims: No I wasn't close to them.

Mr. Rabalais: You didn't want to get too close to them.

Mr. Sims: I was close to my wife's cousin. He was over there in the Marines. He cracked up and was called back here and got 100% discharge.

Mr. Rabalais: So Eniwetok was a little bit bloody then?

Mr. Sims: Yeah, it was, like you say, a small island. I came back here and then, I got married, I was already married. I told you that. And then I enlisted, my time was up about four years, so you see, that was in '44 going on '45.

Mr. Rabalais: So you did a reenlistment.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, and I thought it would last two more years so I enlisted for two years, extended, they called it and it lasted seventeen more months and I had to stay in. That's when I went to China.

Mr. Rabalais: From Eniwetok, where did you go from there?

Mr. Sims: Back to the states.

Mr. Rabalais: Back to the states again. OK, and you got to see your wife and child at that point in time?

Mr. Sims: Yeah, my oldest son was eighteen months old. He didn't even know me. She lived with her mother and dad.

Mr. Rabalais: All the way back to here in Texas.

Mr. Sims: Right here in Texas, Fort Worth. Like I say, my son's fifty-nine.

Mr. Rabalais: So you're still in the Marines now?

Mr. Sims: I'm still in the Marines. I'm going to China.

Mr. Rabalais: Now you're sent to China, now the wars over with.

Mr. Sims: Wars over.

Mr. Rabalais: So you're here in the states when the war ended.

Mr. Sims: When they ended the war, I can tell you that. I was in San Diego. I heard it. A lot of celebration, and like I said, I was back here and when I went over there I was a Staff Sergeant.

Mr. Rabalais: What were you doing in China?

Mr. Sims: We were over there just trying to keep the peace. At that time, the Communists .

Mr. Rabalais: And Chiang Kai-shek were fighting each other.

Mr. Sims: Were fighting each other, 1946, well in 1949, of course, the Communists took over.

Mr. Rabalais: Yeah, they won.

Mr. Sims: But, while we were there, I took a leave up to the Forbidden City, Peking they called it, not it's Beijing.

Mr. Rabalais: Beijing.

Mr. Sims: Beijing. Back then it's Peking. The Communists changed that name, I don't know why. I couldn't figure that one out, but anyhow we went up there to the Forbidden City. I liked that.

Mr. Rabalais: It was very different. A very different life, the people and all of that.

Mr. Sims: While we were there, I have to tell you this, on the track going from where I was, Tiensin, up to the Forbidden City, on the train. Well, the Communists took over eight Marines, stripped them off and walked them down through the town and one of the Marines got loose and reported to my Captain. So my Captain informed the Communists to turn them loose or we're coming up there to get them.

Mr. Rabalais: Wow, got a little tense.

Mr. Sims: Got a little tense there so then they turned them loose and we went on liberty and had to be two men and you had to be armed. You couldn't go on liberty by yourself. Too dangerous.

Mr. Rabalais: Even then the Communists were putting pressure. . .

Mr. Sims: Oh, the Communists, the Chinese Communists, you know, then, oh yeah. And I think that was about all the trouble we really had with them, but, like I say, you couldn't go on liberty by yourself.

Mr. Rabalais: How big a unit were you 'all in China?

Mr. Sims: In China, just about a company.

Mr. Rabalais: About a company, and what did you' all do, patrol or?

Mr. Sims: We just sat there.

Mr. Rabalais: Just sat there. Did you' all eat the local foods any or . . . ?

Mr. Sims: Yeah, we tried it, but it wasn't too good. I mean, it was eatable you know.

Mr. Rabalais: Wasn't something you were used to.

Mr. Sims: That's right.

Mr. Rabalais: That's for sure. They eat some strange things sometimes.

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah, you know, they eat raw fish and all that stuff.

Mr. Rabalais: Well, so after that was over with, by this time, you're past your intent, well almost up to the end of your re-enlistment schedule.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, right. I came back to Oakland under the Golden Gate there.

Mr. Rabalais: Did you request a discharge then or did you get discharged?

Mr. Sims: I got discharged, My time was up and, of course, I got the discharge and came home.

Mr. Rabalais: So all together you spent six years then in the Marines.

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah, six years and five months.

Mr. Rabalais: A dyed-in-the-wool Marine, for sure

Mr. Sims: Six years and five months.

Mr. Rabalais: Wow! Well probably one of the reasons that you might have survived as because you had gotten sick.

Mr. Sims: Well, that one time, I guess, but I didn't have any say-so where I was going to begin with, when they split us up in San Diego.

Mr. Rabalais: But you were lucky, in a way that you . . .

Mr. Sims: I was lucky in a way . . .

Mr. Rabalais: Because they got some hell beat out of them on some of those islands, Saipan and Iwo Jima and stuff like that.

Mr. Sims: Oh, yeah.

Mr. Rabalais: Especially Iwo. You missed that one. Where were you at when Iwo occurred, were you still on American Samoa then?

Mr. Sims: Iwo Jima? No, the war was about over then.

Mr. Rabalais: Well, that's true, that was in '45.

Mr. Sims: The last battle, really, was the one I was in.

Mr. Rabalais: I was trying to remember where you were at, at that time. You might have been back in the states when Iwo occurred.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, I was back there in the states. That's when. There was a history show the other day about the '25s that bombed Japan. Did you see that?

Mr. Rabalais: Yes.

Mr. Sims: I didn't realize that, but all those planes didn't have enough fuel to get back and had to land in China, crash land. Part of them died and everything else.

Mr. Rabalais: The Chinese treated them really well.

Mr. Sims: But they got in with the wrong crowd though.

Mr. Rabalais: The Japanese still held parts of China and they did capture one crew and I think they beheaded them.

Mr. Sims: They had twenty-eight of them, that movie I saw. I didn't know that.

Mr. Rabalais: Did you see that new movie that they had on last night.

Mr. Sims: Yeah, I saw that last night.

Mr. Rabalais: Were you out there at the theatre? I was there, I was upstairs and that was interesting.

Mr. Sims: But that was Army.

Mr. Rabalais: Yeah, that was the Army, Army Rangers. They didn't look like much, but they got the job done. They sure did.

Mr. Sims: But, they treated us. . . The first thing they did wrong, the Japanese, was down in Guadalcanal. Our troops went in there, you know, Guadalcanal. They waited until they got in there and they were up in the trees and they shot them in the back.

Mr. Rabalais: Lot of snipers.

Mr. Sims: Snipers shot them in the back, Marines in the back, let them walk in. So, that was the Carson's Raiders. I volunteered for that and I didn't get it. I wanted to go there, but I didn't make it.

Mr. Rabalais: Well you had some close, well you moved around quite a bit so I didn't know if you were able to keep up with close buddies or not, I mean.

Mr. Sims: Not really.

Mr. Rabalais: Not really, because you were moving to different places.

Mr. Sims: I was changing you know. All that, splitting us up and all that stuff, you know.

Mr. Rabalais: Probably wiser, because if you get too close to somebody and he gets killed than

that hurts really bad.

Mr. Sims: Well, we all, we had good people in there, I mean. They looked after each other, you know.

Mr. Rabalais: Are you proud of your service in the Marines?

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah. If I hadn't gotten married I would probably still be in there, or longer, you know.

Mr. Rabalais: What did you end up doing when you got back home? Did you work around Fort Worth?

Mr. Sims: Well yeah. I, you know the government paid for your schooling. So I went to Texas Hotel and learned how to be a chef and for two years, and then the time was up. And that was 1949 and so I went out on the North Side at Cattleman's Café and I was chef out there two years. I was doing all the hiring and all the buying and everything out there on the North Side. Cooking 500 steaks on a weekend. Plus breakfast and lunch and like I said I was a chef. So my wife had a sister up in Illinois we went up there a lot. So we got into the car and went up there on vacation, but when I got back, I had fired a guy, and when I went back to work he was working in there. This guy I was working for, he had five restaurants. Two in Dallas, one in Arlington and two in Fort Worth. Name Roach, ex, well ex-lawyer. He had lived in Austin at one time, he told me and for some reason they disbarred him. Anyhow I went into his office when I got back, this guy was working, like I said. I said: "Well, Roach, I just fired that guy before I left." "Well I hired him back." I said: "Write out my check." He said: "Harold, you want your check?" I said: "Yeah, I want my check. I said: "When I fire them they stay fired." I said: "You know, you paid me to do this and I don't want him in here." I had my own reasons, you know. I went to G.D. (General Dynamics).

Mr. Rabalais: That was a good move.

Mr. Sims: Thirty-five years. It was the best move I ever made in my life.

Mr. Rabalais: Came out a lot better.

Mr. Sims: Stayed out there thirty-five years. General machinists ran high-tech stuff .

Mr. Rabalais: You had to learn that trade.

Mr. Sims: I was the lead man out there. I ran every machine.

Mr. Rabalais: But, you had to learn that, since you hadn't gone to school for that.

Mr. Sims: Oh yeah, I had to learn that.

Mr. Rabalais: Well, you must have been pretty adaptive and smart.

Mr. Sims: Well I was the lead man on the second shift for twenty-four years. And I did all the layout work, all the blueprints.

Mr. Rabalais: Did you keep in touch with any of your buddies from the Marines over the years. Did you ever go to any of the reunions?

Mr. Sims: No, I didn't do that.

Mr. Rabalais: Because, see, you had moved around quite a bit so you weren't particularly attached to any one unit.

Mr. Sims: No.

Mr. Rabalais: That's very interesting the Iceland assignment. I did not know that. Most people don't know that.

Mr. Sims: I lot of people don't know about China.

Mr. Rabalais: Yeah, right after the war.

Mr. Sims: We went into Tiensin, China first. On a LST, the water was real shallow and I remember that part of it. Off the ship in there.

Mr. Rabalais: Up in the river. Well, Harold I can't tell you how much the museum appreciates you sharing these experiences with us and letting us put this on tape. And like I said we will be getting a copy of this to you, mailed to your address. We want you to edit it if you see something you might have missed, write it in and we will re-type it and send you a final copy and that final copy plus the tape will go into the permanent records of the museum for historians and your family to look at whenever you'd like and it will be something that the nation can share with you. Again I extend our thanks from the museum now. OK?

¹ Mr. Sims informs me that Philoritus was what they called Elephantitus.