

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR
(ADMIRAL NIMITZ MUSEUM)**

Center for Pacific War Studies

Fredericksburg, Texas

An Interview with

Robert H. Long

Big Spring, Texas

June 19, 2006

USS *Hinsdale* APA-120

Water Tender 3rd Class

Iwo Jima, Okinawa

Saw Both Flags Raised on Iwo Jima

Hit by Kamikaze on April 1, 1945

Two Battle Stars

My name is Richard Misenhimer and today is June 19, 2006. I am interviewing Mr. Robert H. Long by telephone. His address is 507 East 16th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720. His phone number is area code 432-263-8178. This interview is in support of the National Museum of Pacific War, Center for Pacific War Studies, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II.

Mr. Misenhimer

Bob, I want to thank you for taking time to do this interview today and I want to thank you for your service to our country during World War II. The first thing I need to do is read you this agreement with the Nimitz Museum to make sure it is okay with you. When I do these in person I give it to the person to read and sign but since this is by phone let me read this to you. "Agreement read." Is that Ok with you?

Mr. Long

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now the next thing I need to do is get an alternative address. We like to have an address of a daughter or son or someone because sometimes a year or two later we try to contact someone and they have moved or something has happened. So is there someone we might be able to contact in case we can't reach you?

Mr. Long

My daughter lives outside of Austin about 15 miles north of there at Round Rock, Texas. Russlene Waukechon. They live at 1401 West Mesa Park, Round Rock, Texas 78664. Her phone number is 512-828-5949.

Mr. Misenhimer

Thank you, I appreciate that. Like I say, every once in a while we try to reach someone and they have moved or something's happened and that gives us an alternative address.

Okay, let me ask you some questions and then you can tell me about your service and if I have more questions, I will ask them. Let me start out by asking what is your birth date?

Mr. Long

My birth date is August 16, 1924.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where were you born?

Mr. Long

I was born in Luther, Texas in Howard County.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Long

Yes I have one brother and one sister and they are both still alive.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was your brother in World War II?

Mr. Long

No he wasn't. He was exempted from that.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were your father and mother's first names?

Mr. Long

My dad's name is Ben Lewis Long and my mother's name is Jimmie Long.

Mr. Misenhimer

You grew up during the Depression. How did the Depression affect you and your family?

Mr. Long

Man what I remember of that time was hoeing cotton and picking it and working about as soon as I was old enough to be able to do that. We were very poor. My daddy was a cowboy and a farmer and stuff like that. He finally got crippled and my mother had to go to work here in town. We moved into town and she was a maid at a hotel here for three or four years.

Mr. Misenhimer

You lived on a farm, is that right?

Mr. Long

Yes we lived on a farm and ranch for many years.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you had your own garden?

Mr. Long

Yes we did. We raised all of our meat and stuff like that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you go to high school?

Mr. Long

I started school in Sterling City, Texas in 1930. I didn't finish school. I quit when I was in the 9th grade and joined the Navy in World War II here at Big Spring, Texas.

Mr. Misenhimer

When did you go into the service?

Mr. Long

I was sworn in the 10th day of December, 1941.

Mr. Misenhimer

Three days after Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Long

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where were you when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Long

I was coming out of a picture show.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you think when you heard it?

Mr. Long

I really didn't understand all of it right at once. Everybody was running up and down the street and hollering and going on about it and talking. We were standing around in little huddles talking to each other about it. The more I thought I about it I thought, "They're probably going to need people in the service." So I just joined the Navy.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were 17 when you went in, is that right?

Mr. Long

Yes I did and my dad had to sign for me.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was that called a minority enlistment or a kiddy cruise or something like that?

Mr. Long

Yes. I was in the regular Navy and I was supposed to get out when I turned 21 years old but I didn't get out when I was 21. They wouldn't discharge me. (laugh) I was in New York City at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer

And what happened?

Mr. Long

They just wouldn't discharge you unless you had so many points. I hit them up about that and they just laughed at me. They said, "If we were to discharge you, the draft would just get you then."

Mr. Misenhimer

Where did you actually go into the Navy at?

Mr. Long

I joined in Dallas. They sent me from Big Spring to Dallas. At Dallas they put us on a train and sent us to San Diego, California for boot camp.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was that train trip?

Mr. Long

It was just like it always was. I crossed the United States twice on a train while I was in the Navy. It was pretty nice when I went out there really.

Mr. Misenhimer

Had you been out of Texas before?

Mr. Long

No. I had been about 100 miles from home. That was as far as I had been away from Big Spring and that was far in between.

Mr. Misenhimer

At 17 years of age what did it feel like to leave and cross the whole U.S. that way?

Mr. Long

That was an experience by itself. I wished sometimes while I was going out there I had my family with me so they could see the sights. It really didn't bother me too much until after I got to boot camp and then it started working on me that I would like to be home.

Mr. Misenhimer

Tell me about boot camp there in San Diego.

Mr. Long

It wasn't too bad; really I can't complain about it. Of course it was all different than anything I had ever run up against. The thing about it was that you had to obey what they told you to do and everything. Everybody was in the same boat that I was in and we all had to march and learn what they were trying to teach us to get along with the Navy; regulations and stuff like that is what I'm trying to say. They were hurrying us through. It took us about, I think, somewhere in the range of four days to get out there. We stayed for just January and we finished boot camp. We didn't finish all of it I'm sure. After the war had gone on for two or three years then you had to stay I think at least nearly eight weeks. Maybe not quite that long, I'm not sure. But I don't believe we were in there six weeks of training because they took us out and moved us from the base where we were taking out training to another location because they were swamped with personnel

coming in and joining. They were standing in line you might say waiting for the gates to open so they could take training. They shipped us out; put us on a train and sent us to San Francisco. We got up there and we were there for a week and they took us to an island called Goat Island there in the bay. The bridge that went to Oakland and the one that went to San Francisco joined right there. They had it all figured out there about halfway in between two cities I guess. Then they put us on a big ship. You and I would call it now a luxury liner. They had told the companies that owned them that they had to have them to ship personnel out. There were about three or four of them lined up on the dock and they were filling them up with sailors. Then we pulled out of there. We were there for about three days or something like that taking on supplies and getting the personnel settled in and all that. Then we went to Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let me go back and ask you some questions about boot camp. Did you get any kind of weapons training in boot camp?

Mr. Long

Yes I did. They trained us with some rifles. They issued us some, to every man. They taught us how to lower them and how to break them down. They were M-1's.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have swimming there in boot camp?

Mr. Long

No we didn't have any swimming.

Mr. Misenhimer

Your drill instructors; were they pretty rough on you?

Mr. Long

Yes they were; I thought they were. But thinking about it, they weren't nearly as tough as they could have been; us not being used to anything like that. Let me tell you something about that. The people that were in my company were kind of a duke's mixture. There were more young guys like I was than it was older men. But there were some people in there that were in their 30's at that time. The personnel came from all over the United States. There were some from Illinois and Ohio. Now this was in the company I was in. I got a big picture of it. I can't tell you how many were in that company. I can't tell you unless I go back and read up on some literature. Everybody was in the same boat. We had one Chief Petty Officer and he handled the whole thing. They taught you to stand in line and salute. When you marched they wanted you to march in cadence with the way they wanted you to march. Stand at attention. Salute with your gun. Salute with your hand.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you live in there?

Mr. Long

We were in barracks. I think they did this to show you that they could do it; sometimes late at night they would get you out on what they called the grinder. I remember that. It didn't make any difference whether it was raining or the sun was shining or what, or if the moon was up or whatever when they called you out on the grinder. Most of the time that was at night. At that time of year in San Diego it was subject to some rain. It never was heavy but there was some rain. I remember a time or two, I was getting wet and then about an hour after we all got wet they sent us back to the barracks. About the time we got dried out they sent us back out there to sweep down when it quit raining.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was the food there?

Mr. Long

It was pretty good to me; I thought it was pretty nice. They fed you all you wanted. I didn't have a gripe about the food.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get any kind of special training there?

Mr. Long

No. Don't get me wrong; it seems like there were about two fellows in our company that they kept and sent to what they called Instructors School. They were older people. They were older than the majority of us. They had went to training or went to college. One of the fellows I remember was a Master Machinist. I'm just telling you what they wanted when they pulled them out and told them they had to go to another unit for special training and you will be instructors when you come out of training. What they did was send them to school.

Mr. Misenhimer

So when you left boot camp they sent you to San Francisco?

Mr. Long

Yes they did. It took us about two days. We stopped a lot; I don't know, it was just one of those things.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then when you got up there you were only there for a short time at San Francisco, right?

Mr. Long

No we weren't; we were there about a week.

Mr. Misenhimer

What ship did you get on?

Mr. Long

I can't tell you what the name of it was.

Mr. Misenhimer

But it was a luxury liner?

Mr. Long

Yes it was a big luxury liner. That's what they told us it was at one time before the Navy said they had to have it.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were the accommodations like on that ship?

Mr. Long

They were pretty good. They had it fixed where we slept in bunk beds. It was better than what we had in boot camp.

Mr. Misenhimer

How many high were the bunks?

Mr. Long

About four.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was it pretty crowded?

Mr. Long

Yes it was. They had all of us that they could put on there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Do you have any idea how many people were on the ship?

Mr. Long

I have no earthly idea. Nobody told us. Some people might have wanted to know but I have no idea how many were on there.

Mr. Misenhimer

You went from there to Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Long

We went from there to Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did anybody on there get seasick on the way over?

Mr. Long

Yes they did.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about you?

Mr. Long

No. I never got seasick while I was in there when I was on ship. We had some people on there that had been in the service 20 years and every time they went in and out of port somewhere, for about two days they were seasick. Once they got over it they were just like the rest of us. A bunch of them got that way.

Mr. Misenhimer

Now you went under the Golden Gate Bridge when you left, right?

Mr. Long

Yes we did.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was that?

Mr. Long

It was okay. You look back and you say, "I don't know how long I'll be gone, but I hope we get back."

Mr. Misenhimer

I understand that there is some rather rough water whenever you leave San Francisco and a lot of people get seasick there.

Mr. Long

It was really some rough water just after you got outside of the Golden Gate Bridge. It was just like I said, some of those guys had to go get in their bunk and lay down. There wasn't much else they could do.

Mr. Misenhimer

On your way to Pearl Harbor; were you with other ships or by yourself?

Mr. Long

We were in a convoy. I remember this. We had picked up a tanker. We had been sailing for a day when we ran into this tanker. We picked it up. We had three escorts of destroyers. They were with us and there were three big transports in this convoy and this old tanker. That tanker broke down about half way over there. We had to circle for a day

and a half to two days out there because they wouldn't leave it by itself. We circled that thing and they finally got it repaired enough to get back underway and we finally made it. Of course it took us about, oh man I think we were ten days going over. They would go a ways one way and then they would turn that ship and they would go another way. This was pretty regular. They said they did that so that it wouldn't give the Japanese a good shot at us if we happened to run into a submarine.

Mr. Misenhimer

Zigzagging they called that, right?

Mr. Long

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have any general quarters alerts for submarines or anything?

Mr. Long

Yes we did. I remember one time it was at night when they called us out. We were on watch. They assigned us different parts of the ship to be on watch at night. They told us which way to look. There weren't any lights or anything out there and the moon wasn't shining. They said if you see anything, a bright light or something every now and then, report it. It was just one of them things. We did that one time that I remember.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else that you recall from your trip over?

Mr. Long

No, nothing extraordinary that I can remember. The only thing was during the daytime they had some activity always going on up on deck. They had some boxing matches and

wrestling matches going on every now and then.

Mr. Misenhimer

Could you get up on the deck?

Mr. Long

Yes that was on topside.

Mr. Misenhimer

How about the food on that ship?

Mr. Long

It was pretty good. I couldn't gripe about that too much. I didn't hear anybody griping about it and it didn't make anybody sick or anything so I guess everybody was satisfied.

Mr. Misenhimer

How many meals a day did you get?

Mr. Long

We had three meals a day.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then when you got to Pearl Harbor what happened?

Mr. Long

When we got to Pearl Harbor they put us on a receiving ship they called it. We went ashore and they started assigning people where they wanted to. I wound up at the submarine base.

Mr. Misenhimer

About when did you arrive at Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Long

The 26th day of January; I'm guessing. I could miss it two or three days one way or the other. But that would be pretty close to it.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you hadn't been in but maybe six weeks at that point?

Mr. Long

That's right.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you got to Pearl Harbor was there still a lot of damage left from the attack?

Mr. Long

Yes it was. We didn't get any liberty or anything. It was May before we got any.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have to help clean up any of the stuff?

Mr. Long

We stood guard duty and stuff. I'll tell you this, Admiral Nimitz was over there at the submarine base and that was his headquarters. We had to stand full guard duty for that and for all the officers and the buildings. We were on guard with Marine personnel. The Marines took care of all the officers. They did all the driving for them. We used to stand guard duty at the front door for him. When he would come out with his officers and stuff he might take off and be gone all day or maybe he would be gone two hours and he would be back. I saw him many times while I was there.

Mr. Misenhimer

How close were you to him?

Mr. Long

I would say about 12 feet when he came out the door. You didn't get right up against him I guarantee because he had Marine guards and all his officers came with him, front and back. I never did speak to him but I had to salute him. (laugh) That was something else.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were at the submarine base, right?

Mr. Long

That's right and I went to school there. I went to school for three months and the rest of the time I was a compartment cleaner because I was just waiting for a place to go to school. When I got there they would assign so many to a class and I kind of got left out on the first bunch, but I got in on the second bunch. After I did that, I stayed there from the time we got over there, and it was about a day before they sent us to where we were going, then I stayed right there until I believe it was July when they sent me to Ford Island. That's where they had that airbase. At Ford Island I stayed over there about a week. One morning they came and got me and told me just as I was getting out of bed to get all my belongings and stuff and they told me what door to go out and to get in a pickup. They carried me out to the landing field to a seaplane. Not only could it land on land but it could land on the ocean too. It was a mail plane and it was going to the island of Maui. They flew me down there to a brand new airbase for the Navy. They were still building it when I got there. They had a bunch of it up but they still had a bunch of it that they were doing; paving and stuff like that so they could land planes. It was more or less a training station for some of them. They had that naval base also so that when the carriers came in to Pearl Harbor; before they got into Pearl Harbor they would fly the

planes off that carrier and send them over to Maui. Sometimes there wasn't a plane over there and then it wouldn't be two days before they were swamped with planes coming and going. They were practicing landings and whatever.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let me back up; what kind of school did you go to?

Mr. Long

I went to electrical school but I didn't follow that trade. I wound up when I got to Maui they didn't have any place for electricians. I was still what they called a fireman. They said, "We need someone to fire the boilers. Do you want to try that?" I said, "Sure." So I changed my rate to water tender.

Mr. Misenhimer

What rank did you have?

Mr. Long

When I got discharged I was a Third Class Petty officer.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you first got to be a water tender what rank did you have?

Mr. Long

I was a Water Tender Third Class.

Mr. Misenhimer

So you went to electrical school but you never did work on anything electrical, right?

Mr. Long

That's right. I never did follow that.

Mr. Misenhimer

How long were you there at Maui?

Mr. Long

I was there 21 months.

Mr. Misenhimer

What all did you do there?

Mr. Long

I fired a boiler for a big laundry that they built over there. When I first got there we had one for the barracks and it wasn't too big, but it was big enough. We had personnel that fired it around the clock. Then when we got that big laundry built that was about a year after I had been there. They put me up there on it; me and another guy. You would be on shift for 24 hours and then you were off. But in these 24 hours you got to sleep 8 hours. In other words you had to shut that laundry down because they had civilian employees. They came on at 8:00 in the morning and they didn't get off until 5:00. Then we shut her down and went down to the Biergarten and had a few cool ones.

Mr. Misenhimer

What kind of fuel did this boiler burn?

Mr. Long

We had fuel that they brought in. It was kind of like diesel; fuel oil is what they classified it as at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything in particular that you recall from your 21 months there?

Mr. Long

Not anything that I can remember. It was a good place to be but all the time we were there they were fussing about it, about something. They were real particular about you would get liberty but you could only have liberty once a week and you couldn't stay away at night. They didn't have any liberty at night there. They let you off the base about 9:00 in the morning and you had to be back it seems to me by around 6:00.

Mr. Misenhimer

Where was there to go; what was there to do on liberty?

Mr. Long

They had a couple of pretty little towns there that you could go to. It's a pretty good sized island. There were four of us and we used to go around together. Some people had got hold of an old car and fixed it up and they drove that until they got transferred. We bought that thing from them and we used to go over to the town of Lahaina which at one time was a big whaling industrial town. It wasn't really very big. I would liked to have gone back over there to see what it's like now. They tell me that they have built up a golf club and hotels and all that on the island. I would like to go take that in. That's what they say now when you hear something especially when they are playing a golf tournament. They had some golf courses over there but they weren't lavish or anything like that. We had some people there that played golf; I didn't. Some of the guys on the base did. They would get the day off and they would get their golf clubs. You could hire a taxi; they didn't charge very much, maybe about 50 cents to take you to one of those little towns. The towns weren't real close to where we were at.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was your pay as a Third Class Water Tender?

Mr. Long

When I first went in I got \$21 month. Then in about 1942 the government gave us, I think they doubled that and we got \$42 a month. Then when I got out I think I was making \$80 something. It was \$82 or \$81, something like that.

Mr. Misenhimer

After your 21 months in Maui, then what happened?

Mr. Long

An officer came around one day and he said, "You're Robert Long?" I said, "Yes I am." He said, "How long have you been here Mr. Long?" (laugh) I told him, "21 months." He said, "You haven't had a leave or anything?" I said, "I sure haven't. They wouldn't let us have any leave." He was a real nice guy. He said, "They are building up the Navy back in the States to man ships that they are building in shipyards and they are going to have to have people to man the new construction. We are going to send people back to man the new construction. We've got to send you." I said, "Okay, whatever, you say." He didn't ask me if I wanted to go or not. He just kind of made his point, "We've got to send you back to the States. When you get back there you will get some leave, I guarantee it." When I got back, they sent me back to San Francisco. I stayed there until they got my orders ready. I was there about three weeks. They gave me 30 days delayed orders from that point until Terminal Island, down close to Long Beach at San Pedro. I was to report there. When they gave me the leave this was in May. In May is when they made the big landing in Europe. I remember that pretty well. I can't tell you the exact date but I can

remember that it was in May when I came home. They gave us 30 days delayed orders. It took three or four days to get home and about three or four days to come back. I did get to stay home a little over two weeks. That was the first time that I had any leave since I had been in.

Mr. Misenhimer

How did you come back from Hawaii to San Francisco?

Mr. Long

I came back on an aircraft carrier. It was modified; they had built a few of them in the war. It was a small aircraft carrier; it wasn't a great big one. They had to go back to the States because there was something wrong with the engine or the superstructure or something that needed repairs. They wanted to put it back in the shipyard and work on it and get it like it was supposed to be and then they were going to send it back to the war zone. That was what we came back on. It didn't take us long; we were back in the States in less than a week. That thing made a straight shot when it left Hawaii.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did it have planes on it?

Mr. Long

Yes it did. It had some planes and they were ready. The officers, man they were sending officers back; the ship was full of people they were sending back. I liked the trip pretty fine. The first thing they did was line us up on the flight deck. That's where I saw all the people that were on it. They asked for some volunteers. There were some First Class people, boatswain's mates and things like that. They asked us for volunteers. Of course nobody wanted to volunteer but I did. Shoot I volunteered to see what it was like. I knew

they weren't going to shoot me. I volunteered and the boatswain's mate came and got me and he said, "Since you're the first one that volunteered I've got a good job for you." He took me down to where the mess hall was at and showed me a machine; it looked like a washing machine and that was where they peeled potatoes. All you had to do was pour a sack of potatoes in there, turn the water on and turn the machine on and it peeled them. You dumped it out in a big pan and sent it up to the cook. There were people standing there waiting to get it to take it up there to where the cook was. Well I got all that done for the breakfast run and then I went back to my quarters and I was off for the day. I didn't have to go back down there until the next morning early. I thought a lot of times if you volunteered for something they probably wanted you to stand guard or something. I didn't much like that guard duty especially when you had to stand at attention nearly all the time.

Mr. Misenhimer

What were your quarters like on that aircraft carrier?

Mr. Long

They weren't bad but I'll tell you what, where they put the biggest end of them, they had a bunch of cots just under where the flight deck was. There were little compartments back there. When you first got down there, you left the flight deck and went down a ladder and you walked into what they called a gun turret or gun tub, with 20mm's or 40mm's, depending on what kind of guns they had on there. Back behind there was a big room and they had those cots in there. I guess there were about 10 or 12 guys in each one of them. As far as sleeping, it was okay. I didn't see a thing wrong with it.

Mr. Misenhimer

After your leave where did you go back to then?

Mr. Long

I went to Terminal Island to pick up a ship. We were waiting on construction. They assigned us to a ship and told us what name it was going to be, but it wasn't there. They didn't have it ready yet and we had to wait there on that island. *(tape side ended)*

Mr. Misenhimer

You were waiting on construction of your new ship?

Mr. Long

We were waiting for the ship to be finished in the shipyard. They assigned us to a barracks and we found out right quick that they didn't go in for luxury stuff. They had two bunk beds; one on top of the other one and they were made out of 2 X 4's. They had a little thin mattress on it. When I first got in the Navy I had a thin mattress but they quit doing that probably about six months after that. They ran out of hammocks I guess and figured it was a waste of time. That was the only thing at Terminal Island that I really hated. They gave you liberty every night. unless you had a job. I don't remember us pulling any guard duty there on Terminal Island; not the sailors. There was a whole bunch of us waiting. I can't tell you how many but it was a bunch. When they lined up for chow I thought I never would get up there and get a plate. That was morning, noon and night. That was the only thing that I could kick about was where you slept and like I told you I had an extra mattress so I put that in there and it wasn't so hard. We caught that ship in October. They pulled it right up to that island. They had some wharves and stuff there where you could just walk off of there; you walked on the gangplank and just

went onboard the ship. We caught that in October. We had some shakedown cruises after we got aboard. We spent Thanksgiving there. We had some trouble with it and we had to bring it back and tie it back up in the shipyard there at Long Beach, California. It was a repair shipyard. They got that all done and then after that we left. We pulled out and we had been sailing about a day and we pulled back in somewhere in California. I don't know exactly where it was at now. That's when we got the crews and landing ships and stuff. They had the boats and we had to get them onboard and get those people all settled. They had quarters for them. They were a separate part. They weren't part of our ship's crew; they weren't part of the ship's company. They called them the landing party.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was the name of this ship?

Mr. Long

This ship was the USS *Hinsdale* APA-120. Hinsdale was a county; they named it after a county in Colorado. The thing was 455 feet long, 62 feet wide and it had one 5 inch gun on the fantail and then we had two quad mounts of 40mm's; one of them had four guns and one of them had two. Then we had ten 20mm's mounted on the sides of the ship; half of them on one side and half of them on the other side.

Mr. Misenhimer

Were these twin 20's or single 20's?

Mr. Long

It was single 20's. We had three men on the single 20's and they split the crew. Half of the machine shop and half of the boiler room and put them on the guns. That's just the way they did it. They did that so if they got hit and needed some crew members that

knew what they were doing and experience down in the fire room and the engine room; then they would have them. In other words, say if half of your people got killed, they had to have somebody to run the ship, if it was still runnable.

Mr. Misenhimer

What was your job on this ship?

Mr. Long

I was a water tender. I was a Fireman First Class when I first went aboard and then they took that Fireman and made it a Third Class Water Tender. Third Class Water Tender was the equivalent of a Sergeant in the Army or in the Marine Corps; I had three stripes.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you put these landing craft on; what were these, LCVP's, Higgins boats?

Mr. Long

Yes Higgins boats. It seems like they just had one pretty good sized one that would probably hold somewhere around, they might have gotten 30 people in it at one time with their equipment. They had to come back; in other words they didn't get them all on shore with the boat that we had. The boats were coming and going. We had about 1,200 Marines at Iwo Jima and at Okinawa we had about 1,500 men. These were people that were going ashore, that they had to put ashore.

Mr. Misenhimer

It seems to me that most APA's had either six or eight landing craft on them; three or four to a side.

Mr. Long

Yes, they had a couple that they could put tanks and stuff in; landing craft like that. They

sat them crossways on the ship. They had all kinds of cranes and stuff on there. They had it all fixed up so they could get it done. I had just got back from leave and hadn't even got on the boat good yet.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were saying that you stopped on the way to San Francisco to pick up these landing craft and then you got to San Francisco.

Mr. Long

I really don't remember exactly where we got them. It doesn't tell me a thing in any of my papers that I've got here. After the shakedown cruise all it says is San Pedro area the new attack transport sailed the Pacific reaching Pearl Harbor. Somewhere I saw what kind of landing craft.

Mr. Misenhimer

You went to Pearl Harbor again?

Mr. Long

I guess we went to Honolulu. Now we went to San Francisco. We got this boat crew and we went to San Francisco and they put chicken wire and asphalt shingles and a bunch of 2 X 4's and a whole bunch of stuff like that on our ship. They didn't only do us that way; there were some more transports that were going with us over there. We left out of San Francisco and we headed for Pearl Harbor. We didn't zigzag too much on that deal that I remember. We had ships behind us and we had all kinds of escorts with us. We didn't pull into Pearl Harbor. Some of them that were in that convoy might have but we anchored outside of Honolulu. Then they started unloading us and they pulled us in and unloaded the stuff that we had on there. Then they pulled us back out to anchorage after

we got unloaded. We sat around there until after Christmas; just anchored out in the bay there. Right after Christmas we left Pearl Harbor and we went to the island of Maui, exactly where I had been at for 21 months. We pulled up to one of the little towns; I can't think of the name of it. It had a pretty good sized docking area and we pulled up there and there were about three or four more big transports with us, just like ours. They were troop transports that they had built in California. Some of them weren't exactly like ours but that's what they were. We picked up Marines there and we got 1,200 Marines there. When we got them loaded and the other ships got theirs loaded; every day for about a month we sailed at night out in the ocean and we would come back in the morning. We would put those Marines back on the beach at Maui and they would make a false landing for practice. Then they would put them back on there. It would be way up at night before they got them all back on there. I don't know exactly when it was that we left but one morning we left and we didn't come back in. We kept sailing and we wound up close to the equator and we filled up with fuel and went by Saipan and filled up with fuel. We pulled out of Saipan and they told us about two days out where we were going. Nobody knew anything about Iwo Jima. Sailors had never heard of it; I hadn't, I know. We wound up there and that's when we made the invasion. It was somewhere around February 19th that we hit Iwo Jima. Then we were there, after we put everybody on the beach, we were there and they turned us into a hospital ship receiving the wounded and stuff like that. We stayed there and we were still there on the morning of the 25th. We were pretty close to the beach and they were loading up wounded people. We took a 40mm shot from shore. We saw a bunch of that. We were standing watch on the guns every day and you could just see the bullets hitting the water, coming right towards the ship. One day one of them

hit and killed an officer on there and wounded some other people. Then we pulled out and on the 27th of February we sailed from Iwo Jima, stopping at Saipan for fuel and reaching Guam on March 3rd and disembarked 166 casualties. We fueled up there and went back to Saipan. Then we sailed around there and put them on the beach every day. This was another bunch of Marines. This was when we were going to Okinawa.

Mr. Misenhimer

Let me go back and ask you some questions about Iwo Jima. Did your Marines go in on the first wave or what wave did they go in on?

Mr. Long

We were in on the first bunch.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did any of your landing craft get shot up and not make it back?

Mr. Long

They worked our landing craft over good there at the invasion. We didn't get but about half of the boats back that went in. They said that half of the 1,200 Marines that we had on board were killed in the first wave. There was a whole bunch of wounded that we got back but nobody said whether they were on our ship before. It didn't make any difference which ship they were from. They didn't have any place for them on the hospital ship; it was full. That's the reason why they got these other ships.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have a doctor on your ship?

Mr. Long

Yes we did. We had a doctor and in fact they put two on there and we had a bunch of

hospital corpsmen. We didn't have any of the ladies.

Mr. Misenhimer

What Marine outfit was it that went in, do you know that you had on your ship>

Mr. Long

It was the 2nd Marines at Iwo Jima and I think it was the 3rd that we picked up at Saipan.

Mr. Misenhimer

At Iwo Jima you think it was the 2nd Marine Division?

Mr. Long

I can't tell you exactly what division it was. I've got it somewhere I know, because I've read it, but I can't remember it. It's been too long; there's been too much water that has run under the bridge.

Mr. Misenhimer

You mentioned a 40mm shell hit your ship one time; was that the only time you were hit there at Iwo Jima?

Mr. Long

Just one time at Iwo Jima and we never did go back there.

Mr. Misenhimer

Only one time that your ship was hit by enemy fire?

Mr. Long

It was hit one time at Iwo Jima and it didn't do anything but kill that one officer. It wasn't a big bomb or anything like that and it wounded some more people. Let me go back just a minute, I've found some stuff. This was the 25th Marines, 4th Division, 74 officers, 1123 men and their assault equipment were embarked at Kahalui, Maui on 27-28 December

1944, and after strenuous rehearsals, the *Hinsdale* departed from Saipan for Iwo Jima on February 16, 1945, taking station as column guide and flagship of Transport Division Forty-four, as a part of Transport Group Baker, which with attached units, composed Task Unit 53.2. The *Hinsdale* was underway to see her first action and participate in the seizure of steppingstone bases to Japan. Before this campaign was concluded and Old Glory raised on Mount Suribachi, the U.S. Marine Corps, and other ground units supporting it, was to meet the toughest opposition encountered in the 168 years of the Corps' history. What it says about Old Glory; you've probably heard this and read somewhere too about it. They took that flag down and put another one up. That actually happened. I saw that. I was watching through some binoculars on the ship that I was on; watching that all take place. When we saw that first one go up we all hollered, of course they couldn't hear us because we were too far off. It was a good ways over there to where that hill was. It was something to see. We were glad. Then they took it down and we couldn't imagine what in the world happened then. We thought maybe the Japs had taken back over again. It was serious battle. That was something.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then you saw the second flag go up too, right?

Mr. Long

Yes. They put the flag back up and that's what they took the picture of that you see today. I remember that too. We were talking about it. We didn't think much about the first one but when they put the second one up, they put a big one up this time. They wanted to be sure that they could see it. I don't know who took it down, but they put it back up.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else that you recall from Iwo Jima?

Mr. Long

That's about it for them.

Mr. Misenhimer

Of your boat and landing crew; how many men did you all lose? Do you have any idea?

Mr. Long

I've got a list. This is people that were wounded at Iwo Jima, wounded and of course some of them passed away. Killed in line of duty was one Seaman First Class and there was a good many of them wounded. I see about six or seven. One of them was killed.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was this people on the landing craft or on your ship?

Mr. Long

This was on landing craft. There were more than that. I've lost the page that had that. It wasn't too bad at Iwo Jima. There were more wounded people than ones killed outright. Some of them might have passed away but it doesn't say on here.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else on Iwo Jima?

Mr. Long

That's about all at Iwo Jima.

Mr. Misenhimer

Then you went down and loaded up for Okinawa?

Mr. Long

Yes we went to Saipan. We got the wounded all down to Guam and unloaded them. It didn't take us but about three or four hours. We unloaded them and they had ambulances there waiting. I understood that the Army had a big hospital on Guam. They had been contacted and they came and loaded them up. We helped them unload and get them off. We stayed there long enough to take on some fuel and then we pulled out. We went back to Saipan. At Saipan we picked up 4th Division Marines there. I think it was the 4th, it might have been the 3rd, I don't know. We picked up 1500 that time. We did them the same way. About two or three weeks of landing them on the beach every night and loading them back up at night. We would make a circle at night and then come back the next morning. Then we pulled out and we were out to sea about two days and the Captain came on and said we were going to Okinawa. Everybody got nervous when they found out where Okinawa was, looking at the map, it was part of Japan. It was a good long ways from Tokyo but it was the tail end of Japan. That was the first invasion that they made on it. We were about to unload. We were all on alert the 1st day of April and that's when they told us they had us scheduled to land. About 6:00 in the morning a suicide plane hit us. Before then everybody was standing their regular duty. Just like if I was a fireman I would go down to the boiler room. I got up that morning; they came and got me for my watch. I went down to the fire room; me and two other guys that I worked with every day. We were on shift work. We ran that shift night and day and there were three of us to a shift on the boiler. When my GQ station was called; when they blew the whistle for that I had to go up to it so I left there. I hadn't been out of that fire room it seemed like to me ten minutes; it may have been longer than that; I don't know how long it was,

when that thing hit. We were on the gun up there. When it hit that stopped us dead in the water. It hit and the plane when they found it, half of the body of the Japanese pilot was on the back of the boiler. It came right in at the water line and it had three bombs on it. Two of them went off and one of them was a dud and it landed right on the turbines that ran the propellers for the ship; it landed on them. We didn't know this thing was down there and this was after they pulled us over to one of the islands they had taken, to one of the bays. There were a bunch of ships in there that were bummed up like our ship was. They found that thing, some people off of a repair ship. A demolition squad got that thing out of there. They said it wasn't any good and that was the reason it didn't go off. It killed about 15 men; everybody in the fire room but one guy. It wounded about 40 people, Marines and Sailors. We just floated around out there on the water until a tug came and got us. We floated around out there for a day and a night. The next day the tugs came over and got us and pulled us over to Kerama Retto.

Mr. Misenhimer

What did you do with the Marines that you had on board?

Mr. Long

They sent some ships over and got them; an LST came and got some. They kind of scattered them out like that. We also had a flag officer and his crew on there, an Admiral. I don't know what he represented in the way of the attack but he had some officers and people with him and a detachment of Marines with him that were his personal guards. They got him off right quick because we were dead in the water and didn't have any power. We couldn't put any boats in the water to get anybody off. They finally got them off and we were just floating around. There wasn't anything we could do with any of

them. Right today, I still can't remember how we spent that night. I know we didn't go down in the sleeping quarters because we didn't have any lights and we couldn't get down there because we couldn't see. I think we put off all our lifejackets and foul weather gear and made pillows and maybe a little bed in that gun tub where we were at and just stayed there all night I imagine. It's gone blank in my mind; too many years have went by.

Mr. Misenhimer

But you were hit before you unloaded your Marines to go in, right?

Mr. Long

Yes we were. We still had a full cargo on there. We were lucky that there weren't more people killed really, as many people as were on there. They were stacked like lumber on there. When we went to chow, as soon as they got through with breakfast they started lunch and I'll tell you this, the chow wasn't very good. They fed you but they didn't feed us good. It was kind of potluck.

Mr. Misenhimer

So they pulled you over to Kerama Retto then?

Mr. Long

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

And that's where they took the bomb off?

Mr. Long

Yes that's where they took the bomb off. There were three holes in that thing. One of them was big enough; the big bomb shot a hole in there big enough that I could stand up

in it and I'm 5'6". Imagine what it was. They pulled us over there and they tied us alongside of another APA and that way we could have something to eat. They fixed it so that they put some cables over our ship, across it and they pulled them holes up out of the water. Then they put some pumps down in the hold. It was a salvage crew that went in and did that. They put a plate over it. They had a boat come in with welding equipment on it and they put some steel plating on it to cover up the holes. They had the welders on there and they welded that stuff on there. Then they set it back down in the water. Luckily nobody messed up on the welding so it held the water and then they put some pumps on there and they pumped it down as much as they could. They did a pretty good job. They got it down to where you weren't sloshing around in water down in there. Then they put the engineering forces down in there. Everybody got a five gallon bucket and they started cleaning up. That was quite a job. We did that until they came along one morning; I don't know two weeks maybe, I don't know exactly how long. They put a big cable on us and got us turned around and they had a seagoing tug that helped get us out of there. That ship had gotten hit and it knocked out all of their steering power but they put some temporary steering power on it and it had all its engines and steam and stuff. They pulled us down to Ulithi, down in the Caroline Islands. We got in there and tied up alongside a repair ship. We stayed there and we left in May sometime to go back to the States to get that thing repaired. The first place we stopped coming back was Pearl Harbor. We pulled in there and stayed about two days. We didn't get any liberty. The Captain and his main honcho went over to the submarine base. Our division headquarters were over there and they talked to them about it and they told us where we were going to be repaired. They put some what they called reefer boxes on it because all the

refrigeration was out. They put some fresh water on it. We had some but we were rationing it. They put some food on there so we could make it back to the States. We were there about two days I guess. We weren't there very long and we pulled out and we got about two days out and the Captain came on and got everybody listening and hollered down from the bridge that we were going back to the States. We had made some repairs while we were in Ulithi at the repair ship. They had repaired one boiler enough to get the steam back on. He told us that we were going to New York City. Of course we were all speculating where we were going to hit; whether we were going back to Long Beach, California where they built it. Wilmington is where it was really built and it's pretty close to Long Beach. Or if we were going up to Portland, Oregon or up to Washington; anywhere on that West Coast they had a shipyard. You know how scuttlebutt goes around. Nobody ever dreamed that we were going to New York. Finally when we got up there and they pulled us into a shipyard and started pumping water out and got that thing into the dry dock. They did this before we even knew what was happening. The first thing you know they blew the whistle for liberty. Everybody could go ashore for liberty that day. We got in there the 2nd day of July, 1945. Everybody went ashore but one bunch. A quarter of the crew had to stay on for watch. We didn't know where we were going but we had to see what was going on; watch those shipyard workers work I guess. There wasn't anything else going on. They came in there and they tore that thing all to pieces. They were down in that engine room putting new stuff down in there and everything; rebuilt that one boiler. Boy they did a good job on it. We were there when the atomic bomb hit. After that went off they finally said that Japan surrendered. We were there about a week when they told us that they were going to give half the ship 30 day leave

and then we had to come back and let the other half go. That's the way we did it. I was right there until they told us we could start being discharged. They went by a point system. If you were married you got so many points, your age amounted to so many points, length of service you had amounted to so many points and it was how much time you had been overseas, it counted I think. When they first started I didn't have enough points. I wasn't married. I thought, "It looks like I never will get out of here." I turned 21 and I was on the minority cruise so I went and talked to my officer. He laughed at me and said, "Man, you aren't going anywhere. You don't have enough points to get out yet." So that was it. I finally got out in November. They sent me over to the main city over there. They put us on a train and said that I couldn't get discharged until I got to California. I went right back to Terminal Island and worked. Terminal Island was part of my life. We stayed there for three days before we got discharged and finally got out.

Mr. Misenhimer

That was crazy sending you from New York to California and then back to Texas, huh?

Mr. Long

Yes. We went all the way from New York; we stayed all night in Chicago. We got in there real late in the evening and a conductor told us, "I'm going to put your car right up in the main station." There were eighteen of us. They had a diner car on there for us. Boy they treated us like we were kings. That's the way they did us on that ship when we got in. They fed us like, I can't describe it. (tape side ended)

Mr. Misenhimer

So you say in New York when you were on the ship they really treated you well with your food and everything, right?

Mr. Long

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you came back, you came through the Panama Canal, right?

Mr. Long

Yes we sure did.

Mr. Misenhimer

How was that?

Mr. Long

It was alright. It took us all day long to get across it. There were so many ships in there.

We pulled in there and we anchored out in the bay. We were there a day and a night and

the next morning they put us through the dock. They pulled us into the dock and it took a

while to do that. I don't know how long we were in the dock. Then they put us up in the

canal part but there were so many ships ahead of us that it was a slow go. It took us all

day and we didn't get over to the Atlantic side until it was late; the sun was already down

by the time we got tied up. They gave us four hours liberty because they had to take on

supplies. They gave us four hours liberty then we came back and they gave the other guys

four hours liberty. This was over in Colón on the Atlantic side. Then we pulled out of

there and they estimated, they knew about how fast a ship could go through there, they

told us that we would be in there about the 2nd of July. We sailed up the coast. One time

we were close enough that we could see land on the East Coast of the United States. They

told us that was what it was. We were somewhere off the coast of Florida. The rest of the

time we didn't see any land until we pulled in there. It's always stuck with me. I knew

about the Statue of Liberty and had seen the picture, but that was something else to see and to sail right by it. It made you feel good to say that it wouldn't be long before we would be back in the United States.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever hear Tokyo Rose any time?

Mr. Long

Oh yes. We heard about her after Iwo Jima. We got to talking about it and they told us that while we were in the little bay at Okinawa, while we were waiting to get repaired, you've probably heard about Ernie Pyle. He was there at the time and he got shot. They told us about that when they picked up the news. That was big headlines. That was just something that was of interest to us.

Mr. Misenhimer

April 12, 1945 President Roosevelt died, did you all hear about that?

Mr. Long

I don't remember that. We heard one time that Tokyo Rose predicted that we were making a mistake attacking Japan or something like that. That the United States was making a big mistake. I think this was while we were going to Okinawa after Iwo Jima.

Mr. Misenhimer

You were in New York on August 15th when Japan surrendered, right?

Mr. Long

Yes I was in New York City then.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have any kind of a celebration?

Mr. Long

Yes they had a big celebration. Those shipyard workers that were working on the ship; when they told them that the war was over they just threw their tools down and we didn't see nothing of them for a week. They headed out. We were pulled into this dry dock and just right outside the fence from the dry dock, you didn't have to walk very far and you were out in the city. There were four or five bars right along this fence line you might say; it was a street. You could watch those shipyard workers, when they got off work they all ran over there and got them a drink. I guess they did; they all went in there. I imagine some of the Sailors did too that were on liberty that day. I wasn't on liberty that day. I happened to have duty on the ship and I didn't get to go. But I went the next day and they were still celebrating in New York.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get home with any souvenirs?

Mr. Long

No, I sure didn't get any souvenirs or anything like that.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you ever see any USO shows?

Mr. Long

Yes I did. On the island of Maui they came one time. One of the bands, like the Benny Goodman band but it wasn't him. I can't think who it was now but they came and they put on a good show. That was the only one that ever came to Maui. We had a full house for that. We enjoyed it, I remember that very well.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Long

Nothing big. One time while I was in San Francisco, the first time that I was there; they were handing out cigarettes and stuff like that to us if we wanted them when we were going aboard ship.

Mr. Misenhimer

When you were on the ship could you get your mail with any regularity?

Mr. Long

Yes pretty well. We would pick it up when we came into port like when we went to Saipan we picked up some and then we picked up some after Iwo Jima when we went back to Saipan. It wasn't just right on the button or anything like that but I wasn't expecting there to be a letter every time we got some.

Mr. Misenhimer

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

Mr. Long

I couldn't see anything wrong with them. They were doing their duty just like they were supposed to as far as I was concerned. I never had any real big dealings with them. Every where you went you had officers over you and stuff like that. We had some good officers on the ship. I'll tell you something about that though. This is something that happened there that I had never had happen before. Every officer that we had had come up out of the ranks of the enlisted people and they were all old hands. Everyone of them had been a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy and then when the war broke out, they were all Chief

Petty Officers, they set them up as Ensigns and then some of them were already Lieutenants. Our head engineering officer was a full Lieutenant and the other two were jg's. We had one officer that was an Ensign and he had just been promoted up to that grade when we picked him up. He got on the ship the same time we got on it. Everybody that was assigned to that ship got on then; well we got a couple of enlisted men that came on after. We got one of these guys just after San Francisco.

Mr. Misenhimer

What would you consider your most frightening period?

Mr. Long

When they took us for ten days up to R&R in the northern part of California. We had just come from Hawaii and they said, "Man you were on R&R all the time you were over there." I aid, "No we weren't either." We never got anything like that. That just stirred up a bunch of us that had just been overseas.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there any time that you felt really scared or frightened over there?

Mr. Long

Yes. I was really scared when that plane hit our ship. I'll tell you what, that was a scary feeling when the ship was listing and it was nearly over on its side. It listed so bad and they told the Marines and everybody, they got word to them and said, "Run to the high side everybody and see if their weight would kind of help that ship get to an even keel." The water was rushing in it. They got around and secured the doors around the engine room. The water went down in there and the ship finally started straightening back up. When it got back on an even keel, the only thing you could tell that was wrong with the

ship was that it was lower in the water. It wasn't high; normally they floated pretty high. It had a certain height that it would float at depending on the cargo and people that we had on there, but it was lower than that. Of course that water was weighting in\it down. I was on the gun and I got to thinking. I had on a heavy kind of jacket; foul weather gear they called it. It was kind of like a rain suit or something like that only it was real heavy material. They never did find one that would fit me. I thought to myself, "Now I know that water is cold and if I jump in there without this rain suit I'll freeze to death and if I don't pull this off I will drown." It wasn't funny to me then but I really got scared.

Mr. Misenhimer

Was there any thing funny that happened along the way at any time?

Mr. Long

There were a lot of funny things that happened but I can't remember anything that was special. You always had something to laugh about I guess if you wanted to laugh.

Mr. Misenhimer

What medals and ribbons did you get?

Mr. Long

I wasn't a big hero or anything like that. I had the Asiatic Pacific ribbon and I had one for World War II and I had one for the battles Iwo Jima and Okinawa, with a star on it. The star means combat; two Battle Stars.

Mr. Misenhimer

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

Mr. Long

Not really. Everything came pretty good for me. It took a little while and sometimes I

would think, "I've got to be back somewhere at a certain time and stuff like that." They were always telling you that you had to be back on base or you had to be back on ship or something. I was lucky. I got out there the 10th and on the 13th day of November I was discharged. I came home and I looked for a job until I got one. But on the 4th day of December I went to work at an oil refinery in Big Spring here. It's been here for years. I applied for a job and a guy told me, a good friend that I went to school with asked me, "What have you been doing since you got discharged?" I said, "I've been looking for a job." He said, "You ain't found one?" I said, "No, not yet." So he told me, "You go out to the refinery and you apply out there and put in your application and get that all straight." So I did and on the 4th day of December they called me to come to work if I wanted a job and to pick up a slip. I had to see a company doctor. So I did that and that was on about a Thursday or Friday or something like that and they told me to come to work on Monday and I worked 35 years for them. I finally retired on disability on account of my hearing. I lost part of my hearing while I was in the service and the refinery was some of it too. They gave me a pension. Every year that you worked you got so much pension money; a percentage of your wages.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you get any disability from the government?

Mr. Long

No I didn't get any yet.

Mr. Misenhimer

Did you use your GI bill for anything?

Mr. Long

Yes I did; I bought a house. They floated the loan for me.

Mr. Misenhimer

Have you had any reunions of your ship?

Mr. Long

I haven't attended one yet. I think it was two years ago that they had one in San Antonio and I wanted to go but I just didn't have the money at the time and I didn't feel good. I've got emphysema real bad so it was just one of those things. They've got one in South Dakota this year. Some of the guys, every year, some of them say that they would like to be the ringleader and handle it. They've had it all over the United States. I think they had it one time in Houston.

Mr. Misenhimer

And that's for the *Hinsdale*, right?

Mr. Long

That's for the *Hinsdale*, yes it is. I want to tell you something. This boat crew, the ones that were assigned to the boat crew beach party and stuff; they weren't assigned to the *Hinsdale*. They weren't part of the *Hinsdale*. So after we got hit and everything, the officers told us that they were going to take a vote to see if we wanted to accept them as ship's company. Everybody said, "Sure, why not. They were with us through all of this mess. I feel like they were a part already." So we did that and they assigned them to certain departments.

Mr. Misenhimer

Anything else that you recall from your time in the Service?

Mr. Long

I think that's about it for today, don't you?

Mr. Misenhimer

I think so. You've answered all the questions I can think of.

Mr. Long

I'll send you some stuff and you can go from there. You just do with it whatever you want. I've got some that's already copied up. They send me some stuff every year. We pay our dues into our ship for the reunion and they always send us a bunch of literature and all this. Who's passed away and who's still going and where they are at and what they are doing and what we missed and everything.

Mr. Misenhimer

I want to thank you for your time today.

Mr. Long

Thank you for calling.

end of interview)

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