

*National Museum of the Pacific War*

*Nimitz Education and Research Center*

*Fredericksburg, Texas*

Interview with

**Mr. George William “Bill” Ogden**

Date of Interview: May 2, 2008

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## **Fredericksburg, Texas**

### **Interview with Mr. George William “Bill” Ogden**

Interview in progress.

Ed Metzler: This is Ed Metzler; today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2008. I am inter...interviewing Mr. Bill Ogden. We are located in Fredericksburg, Texas at the Nimitz Museum. This interview is in support of the Center for Pacific War Studies, archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission, for the preservation of historical information related to this site.

Bill, I want to start by thanking you for spending the time today to share your experiences with you, and to get you started why don't you just tell us your full name and when and where you were born and then we'll take it from there.

Mr. Ogden: The full name is George William Ogden; I was born in Milford, Indiana which is a few miles north of Warsaw which is (unintelligible) on the map.

Ed Metzler: What...what was your birth date?

Mr. Ogden: Oh, it...June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1922 is when I was born. I was one of five boys.

Ed Metzler: Any sisters?

Mr. Ogden: No, but these five boys were all born within five-year period...seven-year periods, we're all exactly twenty months apart!

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Ogden: Five boys, I...we never...we never figured what...how that happened!

Ed Metzler: That's precision, isn't it?! (laughter) What...what did your father do for a living?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, he (unintelligible) farm is what they did, and my dad went into World War I and he was a pilot. He was waiting in New York ready to go overseas when the war ended. And then he made furniture, and after that small furniture (unintelligible) Indiana in those days the...the '20s, these furniture (unintelligible) company are very small, so...but he...when he had (unintelligible) what they called furniture storage, he had about six or seven lines because you couldn't send a guy out to Kansas with one line. So he...was a Sales Manager at different places, so during those next years after I was born at three years old we moved to Springfield, Ohio then to Charlotte, Michigan, and then after a year or two moved back to Springfield Ohio. And then after another couple of years, we moved to Virginia.

Ed Metzler: Well, you're moving around!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, and after four years we moved to...to Kentucky, and I was, by that time, twelve years old.

Ed Metzler: So where did you go to high school?

Mr. Ogden: In Louisville, Louisville High School.

Ed Metzler: In...in Louisville? And were you the youngest brother or were you in the middle or what?

Mr. Ogden: I was the second one.

Ed Metzler: Okay, you were number two.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Alright.

Mr. Ogden: So I was only...but when I was (unintelligible) I ran away from school because my brothers (unintelligible) and...and my mother didn't know where I was because she had three more at home. So I got out of high school when I was fifteen and...and out of college when I was nineteen.

Ed Metzler: So where did you go to college?

Mr. Ogden: Purdue University.

Ed Metzler: Purdue! A Boilermaker!

Mr. Ogden: Well, you might call me that, but I was...in the Engineering Department.

Ed Metzler: What was your degree in?

Mr. Ogden: It...just Bachelors of Science and Economics.

Ed Metzler: Economics, okay, alright.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So let's see, when you got out of Purdue at the age of nineteen, that was just about 1941, wasn't it?

Mr. Ogden: It was 1942 supposed to be, but they speeded things up and I...actually I got out in...in May of 1942...when I graduated. And 1942, I'd already enlisted in the Navy in February of '42.

Ed Metzler: So you enlisted in the Navy even though you were still in college?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, but before the Officers Training (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: But if I...if I'd of waited, I would probably gotten drafted, but I...my older brother was already in the Navy at that time, so that's why I followed him.

Ed Metzler: So they tended to draft people before they got their college degree?

Mr. Ogden: Well, the...no, no...it was just...I would have been twenty; the draft age was twenty at that time, and I would have been...just another G.I, I guess.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah. So why did you choose the Navy?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, because, I guess, Jim was there already because...and because they wanted me, that's all. (laughter)

Ed Metzler: They would take you...

Mr. Ogden: They couldn't...they couldn't believe that I was coming down there with my college degree at nineteen years of age! And I didn't get called up until August 29<sup>th</sup> of '42...before they called me up...to active duty...because I got my commission on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1942 as an Ensign.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so where did you go to...to train...to Officers Training School?

Mr. Ogden: Great Lakes, but I...I say Great Lakes School, but the school was downtown on Michigan Avenue, downtown Chicago. And I think we had about...about eleven hundred students in our class...maybe...maybe more like ten hundred and fifty.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: But...at the time we graduated, the LST vessel was coming down the line; it just about (unintelligible) equality and we...near as we could estimate, we never had any proof of this, but we saw everybody...a lot of people we knew

when we...when we reported to Norfolk, Virginia on orders. It was right after the first of January in '43.

Ed Metzler: So the LST was a new thing back then, is that right?

Mr. Ogden: Yes, well, it had been probably been a year ahead of us, we...we didn't...didn't know about it, and what they needed was personnel for them, so it took the...practically the entire class and sent them to LS...to the Amphibious Force, and we trained off and on for different ships. The LSTs was already (unintelligible) ahead of us in getting commission in the Chesapeake Bay.

Ed Metzler: So now, when did you get your commission then?

Mr. Ogden: My commission...December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1942.

Ed Metzler: ...2, yeah.

Mr. Ogden: And '43 was when I reported for duty at Norfolk, Virginia.

Ed Metzler: Norfolk?

Mr. Ogden: Norfolk.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Ogden: But...we had got assigned to the...to the LSTs; they were also supplying crews for the LCTs. The LCTs are like drop-bottom barge mainly meant for harbor use.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: But...we were standing on the dock that day on Pier 7, Norfolk and got into a meeting with my buddy; he said, (unintelligible words) right there at that moment...that...

Ed Metzler: And what as his name?

Mr. Ogden: Joe Neely...N-e-e-l-y. Joe and I were talking and some sailor was there and he says, "Sir, (unintelligible)?" Said, "Sure we are." He said, "Well, you...you're going to get...assigned to a crew...training to." He said, "Let me show you something; you see that boat over there? That's an LCT; you (unintelligible)." So we got in there and...and the...we were in line standing up and (unintelligible) passing our papers (unintelligible); we finally got to the place where...for the submarines I realized...that was the assignment desk. There was a kid in front of me so the officer behind the desk said something about a new Ensign joining the Navy, "How'd you (unintelligible) you ought to be in Midshipmen's School right now," said, "How'd you do in navigation?" Complete silence..., 'I'm a Gunnery...'...complete silence...

Ed Metzler: This is the guy in front of you?

Mr. Ogden: (Unintelligible), he kept (unintelligible)...say something, and...and the guy said, "How about seamanship?" So he erased from his name LST-4108 and wrote down CT...something. So I'm the guy up, I got...the guy started asking me the same questions, I catch Joe Neely behind me, he says, "Well how'd you do in Midshipmen and Navigation?" I said, "Best in my classroom." "How about Seamanship?" "Best in my classroom." "How about Gunnery?" "Best in my classroom." The...the next thirty-five guys near as I can estimate; we didn't go back to count them all...got LSTs.

Ed Metzler: So once you figured how to answer the questions, you could get LSTs and not LCTs?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yes, well that...that particular guy! (laughter) But well a part of it, I guess, in an LST you're going to command a whole lot of men; we had a hundred and ten in our crew for a year (unintelligible), but the LCT was just a little, little flat barge and never...it had an Ensign there but it also had about eighty guys and about half of them would be out of the brig.

Ed Metzler: So an LST had how...a crew of how many?

Mr. Ogden: Well, we originally had about ninety-two; it worked up...we had a little more...about a hundred.

Ed Metzler: That's a lot!

Mr. Ogden: Well, the...the Navy, well, they kept adding guns to us, but I...when I left the ship they even added more guns; I think after that it was several...

Ed Metzler: So roughly, now big is an LST? Give us a little description.

Mr. Ogden: Three hundred and twenty-seven feet with a fifty foot beam, but the...the difference (unintelligible), it was designed...designed to go on beaches, and of course, it lowers the bottom door and that's where the...tanks and stuff would come and go...if you have those things. But they also had...an LC, I lost my train of thought there for a moment...

Ed Metzler: That's alright.

Mr. Ogden: ...but...

Ed Metzler: So you could carry troops as well as...?

Mr. Ogden: (Unintelligible) the LST had a...we had about four foot...no, this is (unintelligible)...four...four and a half foot draft forward and eleven foot aft, so we had...looked like a ski.



Ed Metzler: Right, right.

Mr. Ogden: And...and we called them Large, Slow Targets. (laughter)

Ed Metzler: That's pretty good! Large, Slow Targets. That's...

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, and we used to call (unintelligible), the LST.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, now what was...so you were assigned to LST number...?

Mr. Ogden: It was...well, not directly; we were...we were assigned to a training crew.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: And that...that training crew...we...we gradually over the next three or four months we assembled the people for that till it got to be May and by May we had a pretty well crew assigned there, but our ship wasn't quite finished yet. We picked up our ship at Evansville, Indiana...June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1942.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: But that...we took three railroad trains through the...to Evansville, is where it was.

Ed Metzler: So let me see if I understand. You picked your ship up at Evansville?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah...

Ed Metzler: On the river?

Mr. Ogden: Oh yeah, they were building...(unintelligible) building...built that...(unintelligible) I think somewhere up in Illinois; they were built...some at Chesapeake Bay and were built up the Ohio River...way up...further up the Ohio River near Pittsburgh.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so they would then take them down the Ohio River; down the Mississippi River...?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, no, no we...we rode it down to...to...that was pretty well outfitted by that time we got it...by the time we got down to New Orleans, and...and in New Orleans the...whole of stuff added including an LCT was added to our cargo. They put that on deck...specially like...when we got overseas we...we slipped (unintelligible) loosened the ship and dumped the LCT in the water.

Ed Metzler: So you carried one LCT kind of as cargo on the way over?

Mr. Ogden: Yes.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, well let me ask you this; what was your feeling the first time you saw your LST?

Mr. Ogden: Well, I don't know...that was...that was back in the Chesapeake Beach...Chesapeake Bay for (unintelligible) LST. I don't know, I guess, it was just wonderment...what...is this what we were going to be assigned to? And (unintelligible) they had one section side for the officers' quarters but they stashed three officers at a time in these quarters. And, of course, what the officers quarters was...the reason that we had so many officers in the cabin...let me see, we had one, two, three, four on the portside...starboard, and we had one in the middle and we had a Captain's (unintelligible). But we had...we had all these bunks that...because we carried a live crew, in other words, personnel, and the Army had Marines. We had to have some place to sleep the officers there.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: And the same thing with two down in the crew's quarters; you ever seen fold-up bunks...you pull up and goes inside in the daytime.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Ogden: But we had a place for...for all this temporary personnel, too.

Ed Metzler: Well, when you were training on the LSTs, you didn't have any knowledge as to what your post was going to be or what your roll was going to be yet or did you?

Mr. Ogden: Well, yeah, because Joe Neely and I...and Herb Anderson, by the way, all the officers are now dead except me. I...been dead long enough, I guess, I'm destined to make my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum!

Mr. Ogden: But...but...Joe Neely and Herb...and Herb Anderson and I were sitting on a bunk...and that's all...we...we were *the* whole crew at first! We were the first three assigned to it. And we were sitting on the bunk up in Solomon Islands and we found out...(unintelligible) and LST...they had a Supply Officer and had the Gunnery Officer and they had a...a Communications Officer and Joe Neely said to us...the other two of us, "You know, I was in the Supply Corps before I got into the service and the Army," he said, "Why don't I be Supply Officer?" "Okay, Joe, you're Supply Officer!" And I said, "Well, I know...this is...what I...kind of based on...I know (unintelligible) and Semaphore in the Boy Scouts; why don't I be Communications?" So...he said, "Herb, you're Gunnery!"

Ed Metzler: That...that's good logic!

Mr. Ogden: But they stuck the rest of the war; those specialties stuck, but...

Ed Metzler: So roughly when did you go up to Evansville to...to join up with your ship?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, we took a crew with (unintelligible)...

Ed Metzler: It's quite a book you got there!

Mr. Ogden: These are all my orders.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Boy, you got them all!

Mr. Ogden: Uh, this is back in Michigan.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Ogden: Says here...this is...July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1943...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: ...is when...date of report...detachment of Ensign Ogden. Now this is from the Personnel Officer at our training base...

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: ...at...in Solomons Island, Maryland, and...

Ed Metzler: So there's a Solomons Island in Maryland...that's the training base?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, down to...about the Potomac.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: And that's where I was...the Solomon, and it was...it was such that the...we went through there; they had...they did have a training base there and they had, by that time, set up barracks, but (unintelligible) boxes to sit on, and so you stuck your luggage wherever they had it.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: But that...

Ed Metzler: So when you went in Evansville, you then...you had a whole crew then put together, didn't you?

Mr. Ogden: Well, we took a crew...assigned to it; half of them were already at that time for some reason and I can't remember what in...in South Carolina on a mission...Savannah...it wasn't Savannah, it was...it was South Carolina...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: ...and they met us in Evans...in Evansville, and we took a train with the executive officers with us, you know? And I think...I think Herb was still with...with us, Herb Anderson, and...and Herb or...or the...the Executive Officer. And...and the Executive Officer got assigned to us along the way in...(unintelligible) and we had two or three...Executive Officers assigned to us before some got moved out and our ship. We...I was on four different training ships in the Chesapeake Bay for week or two at a time and the last one got wrecked.

Ed Metzler: Oh really?!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, well, my fault.

Ed Metzler: How did...tell me about that.

Mr. Ogden: Well, you (unintelligible) ships in column and...and how many ships they had training there and (unintelligible) gang up with...

Ed Metzler: I'm sorry, start over again on that.

Mr. Ogden: We were supposed to be observing (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: You were observing, yeah.

Mr. Ogden: We had three training crews out there, so we...(unintelligible) and of course there was...ships would get assigned and I guess they wound up in the Pacific or wound up in...in...

Ed Metzler: Wherever.

Mr. Ogden: So, when we got...we got...that...I'll tell you which ship I was in...(unintelligible)...

Ed Metzler: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Ogden: ...anyhow about the third ship...the last...last ship you were assigned to, the last training ship...and we, of course, were in columns headed toward Hampton Roads; it was nighttime. We were supposed to observe (unintelligible); I happened to be on deck that night...(unintelligible) and standing be...behind the watch officer on the bridge...up...little elevated place where they kept the magnetic compass. It was...I saw (unintelligible) Hampton Roads, I saw out our portside it was some kind of ship coming in there...

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: ...and the...and I looked at that thing and that poor little (unintelligible)...navigation...

Ed Metzler: You did what now?

Mr. Ogden: ...that little (unintelligible) that taught you navigation...

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: ...you hold out your fingers like this and it forms a forty...forty-five degree angle, and you see, uhm, there's a ship out there coming (unintelligible), so about half an hour later (unintelligible) same place...and about a half an hour later I decided to...same place. So I went up and told the watch officer; I said, "You know, that ship is going to hit us if we don't be careful," we were third

in column, and he didn't do a darned thing! I would have...should have  
canned him right then, but I didn't have the authority! So  
(unintelligible)...went back to my station where I was (unintelligible)...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: ...I did the same thing and the guy's even closer to us but on the same  
bearing!...which means we...as soon as that bearings...he'd going to hit us!

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: He hit us! Well, the watch officer never did a thing, you see.

Ed Metzler: What was wrong with him?!

Mr. Ogden: Well,...just dumb I guess.

Ed Metzler: I guess...

Mr. Ogden: Just because you're an officer in the Navy doesn't mean you're all that smart!  
(laughter)

Ed Metzler: That's true. (laughter)

Mr. Ogden: But...but he hit us in the bow and I thought of the Pharmacist's Mates are  
supposed to do in emergency...always pass out little brandy bottles.  
And...but...it...damaged the ship enough to have it sent to dry dock and we  
all got ten days leave...and then came back.

Ed Metzler: What kind of a ship was it that rammed it?

Mr. Ogden: Just...named the Roberts (sp?), it was probably a liberty ship.

Ed Metzler: A liberty ship?

Mr. Ogden: Yep.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: But it...it was apparent to me that I...I was three months experience in the Navy by that time, and that's not a hell of a lot of experience with it, but...enough to know that...that (unintelligible) happening and this guy...still...but what puzzled me...you got the lead ship and you got the second ship and you got your third ship...and I don't know who was in command there, but the lead ship guy...presumably was in command...had the flag up there and he didn't do anything about it either.

Ed Metzler: Man!

Mr. Ogden: 'Cause...wasn't going to hit him; probably thinking...but anyhow I got a ten-day leave out of it.

Ed Metzler: Well, yeah, something good came out of it!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, but then we came back and that's when we started collecting our...our (unintelligible) crew, and got to...

Ed Metzler: Did you get a chance to pick any of the crew or did the officers get a chance...?

Mr. Ogden: No, they...just assigned to you.

Ed Metzler: You were...just...got folks, yeah.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So when you got the ship in Evansville, did you train the crew onboard the ship or what?

Mr. Ogden: Well, most of them had had some training in LSTs...that could pretty well do it (unintelligible) we just assigned duties to everybody. Then...the time we got these people from...from Carolina to join us wherever they'd been...and



they (recording interference)...then we headed down river with the pilot and I think we changed pilots three different times.

Ed Metzler: Because they have to know the river and the sand bars and all that.

Mr. Ogden: (Unintelligible)...they're different all the way down so...my...

Ed Metzler: Were you the only ship or were other LSTs?

Mr. Ogden: No, we...were just by ourselves.

Ed Metzler: Soloing it?

Mr. Ogden: Because they were built up at Pittsburgh as I told you before; they built those all along there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Ogden: But...

Ed Metzler: So you went to New Orleans, huh?

Mr. Ogden: Yep.

Ed Metzler: Did you...did you stop there?

Mr. Ogden: Well, we...actually we picked up our LCT; that's when we loaded that onboard.

Ed Metzler: Ah ha; the LCT!

Mr. Ogden: We...we spent about two or three weeks; went over to Panama City, Florida and then stopped back off at Gulfport, Mississippi and picked up some more stuff. We had some pontoons that were welded to our side...before we got overseas we went into Funafuti. Funafuti Harbor is where we wound up...we had these...(unintelligible) Straits and that's where we lost the LCT there, and also we lost the barge (unintelligible)...these little floats there...about...ten

feet by...by four feet; they assemble them into barges used in the harbors out there. But the LCT...was one of the things in there and three of the barges; different cargo barges (unintelligible) just a way of getting more material overseas.

Ed Metzler: Now the LSTs; they're assigned a number, correct?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: What was the number of yours?

Mr. Ogden: 172.

Ed Metzler: 172.

Mr. Ogden: But because...of course I was actually...172...(unintelligible)...so we were really 1172.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so then after you got the LCTs onboard and these various...

Mr. Ogden: One LCT.

Ed Metzler: One LCT and...and the...the barge items that you were mentioning, you then headed what...to the Panama Canal to go to the Pacific or what?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, we...worked around there for about a month and a half; we worked around the Gulf Coast...mostly over in Panama City and in the dry dock in Gulfport or in...docked alongside this place called Algiers, across the river from New Orleans.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: And that's where we outfitted. And then we assembled...somewhere in the river and somehow they got another LST there, so we assembled in...in some Captain's...some Pilot's quarters halfway down the river...the mouth of the

river to...to the Gulf, and then after that we went to Key West, Florida...but we...went through it like...like...(unintelligible) stuff out there. And then we went to Guantanamo Bay and that's where they assembled...actually the...the flotilla to go to...to Panama...but Panama is where we finally assembled the squadron...flotilla that went on from there to a place called Bora Bora, B-o-r-a B-o-r-a. Bora Bora...it's going to be a marvelous vacation spot now, but that was...that...that was four thousand miles over there...(unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: That's a long way...!

Mr. Ogden: Took us...took us twenty-one days. (Unintelligible) flotilla, we...they assigned three SCs to escort us; where they wound up I don't know. But the whole bunch of us wound up at American Samoa...the...the harbor. But that took us twenty-one days to get to...to Bora Bora and then I think it was...it was another fifteen hundred miles over to Samoa, and so...

Ed Metzler: That's a long way!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, when we got to Samoa, some...Jap (unintelligible) he lost his engines on a reef up...place called Nana mea (sp?), and to get into Nana mea...Bora Bora was where they brought Eddie Rickenbacker in (unintelligible), and Bora Bora was about fourteen miles diameter...reef...coral reef and...but it wasn't enough entrance...deep enough harbor inside...but they...they could put an amazing number of boats and ships in there, and in fact, we ran into the Battleship Indiana coming out of there later on.

Ed Metzler: I'll be darned!

Mr. Ogden: But...that's why they sent us into Bora...a ship had gone high and dry up in Nana mea before us and what...what happened...there was the Bora... Nana mea was a little atoll; we had a (unintelligible) air base there; how we got that established I don't know, but it was...it had...it had no harbor. So you went into this reef...reef with its five feet deep water and if the...if your bow of your boat and at the steer of your boat you had six hundred feet...yeah. So when you went on Bora Bora reef, you had to go on with the engines running at high tide and stand underway watches where...on the beach...(unintelligible)...that's (unintelligible) speed and...and...see the guy that (unintelligible) who...are on your port side...but you did...we...it took us about two days and Marines and drive trucks out there (unintelligible) lower tide; we full tide, we'd lower our ramp and open the doors and lower the ramp and they could put the cargo...off of that.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: They put other...but...how we got that original stuff I don't know, but it was...it was an airstrip there; it was (unintelligible). Of course, that was the path that the Japs were coming on from Tarawa to (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: (Unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Well let me ask you...let me back up a little bit. Tell me about the passage through the Panama Canal; was that interesting?

Mr. Ogden: Well, yeah, but see, you got a pilot there...in there.

Ed Metzler: So you just kind of rode, huh?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah. We stopped and re-assembled our convoy in...in Panama City.

Ed Metzler: And what...what is the LST like in the open sea? Is that...is that a...rough riding? I mean...its very shallow draft, so I guess she gets...jumps around all over the place, huh?

Mr. Ogden: Well, a lot of guys got seasick at different times. We had a couple of people, and I guess this happens...every ship...you never get over being seasick. So my radio...my one radioman he kept a bucket in his (unintelligible) wastebasket in the radio shack to throw up in. (laughter)

Ed Metzler: So what happened? What did they do with those people that never get better; do they transfer them?

Mr. Ogden: No we...we never transferred for that purpose, but most of them wouldn't admit it, and...and the...these were...pretty young bunch and we had...we had some guys out of the brig, too, and we...had a few people was very...orig...original nucleus of the crew...had six experienced sailors there; gunner's mates and stuff like that, and...and the Chief Boatswain's mate...some people with enlisted rank, so...

Ed Metzler: What about you? Did you get seasick?

Mr. Ogden: Not there.

Ed Metzler: Never did?

Mr. Ogden: Not until...well, it was...a different story. I was back in...stateside...put in command of a tug boat to take it down to Guantanamo from...from Little Creek, Virginia, and it stormed like hell that morning coming out of...there.

So (unintelligible) I got sick and threw...threw everything up; went up and laid down for an hour; came up...it was like I'd never been seasick before.

Ed Metzler: And after that...never a problem?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, but I hadn't been to sea for four months when that happened, so...but it...never had any problem. Then we went down...stopped off along the way to...that bridge (unintelligible) I can't remember the town...Charleston!

Ed Metzler: Charleston, yeah.

Mr. Ogden: Then we stopped in Charleston; we stopped in Miami Beach then we went on to Guantanamo and we had fourteen other...twelve other tug boats that arrived on the same set of orders, but we got there.

Ed Metzler: Now this is before...the LST...?

Mr. Ogden: (Unintelligible), no this is after...

Ed Metzler: Oh this is later!

Mr. Ogden: ...this...this is when I came home; I was teaching navigation at Little Creek, Virginia.

Ed Metzler: Oh. So let's go back over to the South Pacific now. So you're unloading these LSTs, and what was the name of the island again?

Mr. Ogden: It was...where were we unloaded our cargo?

Ed Metzler: Yes.

Mr. Ogden: Nano...Namomea; one word.

Ed Metzler: Nanomea?

Mr. Ogden: That was (unintelligible)

Ed Metzler: N-a-n-o-m-e-a, I guess.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, that was about two hundred north...northwest of Funafuti [s/b Funafuti?] which is F-u-l-a-f-u-t-i and that was the...that was the...really a collection point for...for invasion-bound...(unintelligible) Tarawa ships; a lot of the Tarawa ships (unintelligible). But we were...we'd get bombed by the Japs every once in awhile, but they never hit us.

Ed Metzler: That's good! So describe to me some of those bombing runs that you observed with the Japanese coming in?

Mr. Ogden: I really couldn't observe through the night time.

Ed Metzler: Okay, well we...

Mr. Ogden: All you could see was lights up there, but...they...we were in the atoll and we were anchored; we couldn't do anything except watch; we manned the guns; we fired a few three inch fifty shots at them, but at general quarters I was on the bridge also and the Gunnery Officer was up there, except our Gunnery Officer was in the Gun Tower. And then the Supply Officer was supposed to...to be up there helping...be as a talker on the telephone. It was a sound-powered telephone although (unintelligible) and only he got...the...he could not stand the gunfire, so we moved him up front the...(unintelligible); he got...and the gun...(unintelligible) which is the aft part of the ship...it's only six or seven feet away, and (unintelligible words) and...and so on...on the bridge would be the Captain, the Exec and me and the talker and a couple of enlisted guys....dur...during the...but he...he would...it was night time when he bombed us in Funafuti and the...I think (unintelligible words) enough of

ships out there...and I don't think they really hit any ship; they probably were after the airfield more.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Ogden: See that...that was pretty much key.

Ed Metzler: Now you were Communications Officer at this time?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: What does a Communications Officer do?

Mr. Ogden: Oh, all the codes; all the signals; all the radiomen; all the quartermasters...are in his division. And I...(unintelligible words) messages when we were leaving...by...by our blinker light...or by our radio, but we didn't...we didn't send much out of there; we weren't supposed to, and they had to come through me, that's all. And I had a safe down in the Captain's quarters that I kept all my codes in, and the Captain and I were the only guys that saw the codes.

Ed Metzler: Were those...would they switch codes?

Mr. Ogden: Well, (unintelligible) radio codes...you switched them; every...every week you switched them, but they...they had what they called a Strip Cypher (sp?). We didn't...that's...see this is the day of the ECMs; you've probably never heard that before, Electronic Coding Machine.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: They were coming in there, but we weren't big enough to have an ECM, so we had a strip cipher which was a little board with a little paper (unintelligible)...your...its...your strip was about...about eight, uh ten inches



long and you had a little board to put them in and according to the codes you received over the radio, you could...you...

Ed Metzler: Translated from code to what the message was.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: And then I guess you had to do the reverse when you sent?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah, well, we didn't send.

Ed Metzler: That's right; you were mostly receiving.

Mr. Ogden: We didn't send anything until we got...disabled halfway down to New Zealand (unintelligible) out of the war.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Ogden: We got disabled because somebody left the wrench inside the casing of the reverse reduction gear for the starboard engine, and I was on watch that night because I was up (unintelligible) to stand that many watches because I had a Relief Officer onboard. And we...taking over the ship at twelve thirty at night and all of a sudden this tremendous grinding happens, and sounded like the ship was coming apart.

Ed Metzler: Now this is on a trip down to New Zealand?

Mr. Ogden: From...from New Caledonia to...to New Zealand.

Ed Metzler: Okay, well, you kind of skipped to New Caledonia.

Mr. Ogden: Yes, yes.

Ed Metzler: Let's go back and pick up the story after the bombings and your...and your time there...where did you go next?

Mr. Ogden: Well, we went back to a place called Espiritu Santos in New Hebrides. But they...then we had to go over there three...or two times for major repairs.

Ed Metzler: What kind of repairs?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, our engines were all torn up.

Ed Metzler: How did that happen?

Mr. Ogden: Just...usage.

Ed Metzler: Wear and tear?

Mr. Ogden: And then they were adding new equipment to it. You see, when we went overseas, we had six twenty millimeter pop guns and one twenty...two twenty...forty millimeter guns...

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: ...(unintelligible) is fifty, and my...and the officers forty-five; that's all we had for our weapons! (laughter) So we didn't...but we didn't have to originate any messages because then you...of course you were revealing your...

Ed Metzler: You're a target then.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Well what did...so they're adding new equipment; so the added additional guns?

Mr. Ogden: Well we had...we...we finally wound up, I think, with something like sixteen to eighteen guns...I...because I wasn't there for all the...toward the end, (unintelligible) so they added a few more after I left, I think. But...we had the...the guns, we had some...they added two forty millimeter pop guns; they

had two of them. But you have to...saw gun mounts, I think; you had to do a lot of (unintelligible)...that's why we were sent to Espiritu Santos...to get that stuff on.

Ed Metzler: So after Espiritu Santos where did you go?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, Guadalcanal.

Ed Metzler: Oh, down to Guadalcanal?

Mr. Ogden: No first...we first made the New Zealand...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: ...to take the cargo...(unintelligible) equipment that needed...for trucks that needed repair down there and that's where we broke down...halfway down.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so you've got a cargo of Ford military trucks?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, that...to deliver to New Zealand.

Ed Metzler: That needed repair?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah. We...we were supposed to wind up, in that particular trip, on vacation in Sydney, Australia, but we never made it; we spent it in New Zealand. You had...you had to wait...you had to fly...parts for that thing...big...big reduction gear...they had to fly it out from San Francisco to Hawaii before we got it.

Ed Metzler: So...so you're enroute from New Caledonia to New Zealand when all of a sudden this great grinding noise...

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: ...and so are you dead in the water at that point?!

Mr. Ogden: For a period of time out there...about six hours, we were in the water, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Now how did your repair the damage?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, we could go forward but we couldn't go backwards...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: ...so we had to get word to...to (unintelligible); they had to find out what caused the thing. You know...you know somebody left a wrench inside the reduction gear casing, and...and I say...I was up forty-eight hours of that was...you're doing the training, of course I was training my new Watch Officer who was relieving me. Then we got down to New Zealand and they didn't have...it...it took us ten days, I think, to clear Wellington in order to around the east side of the...upper New Zealand and then into Auckland Harbor. That's where they probably had to cut a big hole (unintelligible) to get out and take the engine part out. The main...the main deck had a cargo hatch right in front of the...of the pilot house...of an LST. So...

Ed Metzler: And the pilot house is located where on the LST?

Mr. Ogden: Well, the LST...great big deck; steering was almost like a...like a oil tanker...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: ...it...and...and the...the officers quarters are there, too.

(Unintelligible)...there's one deck above that where you had the radio shack and the pilot office and the...the Control Office. I...you stood your watches in the open area most of the time (unintelligible) second deck. And then...

Ed Metzler: So tell me about New Zealand; what was that like?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, one day off ship; one day on...leave ashore.

Ed Metzler: So you got...half the time you were on shore?

Mr. Ogden: Well, you could...we...we weren't supposed to say it, I mean, I didn't have any (unintelligible) or anything like that, but...

Ed Metzler: Oh.

Mr. Ogden: ...so, but...the Captain would...would give himself leave a couple of days; two days at a time...

Ed Metzler: So this was in Auckland?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, in Auckland, but there was nothing else to do. The...the civilians had crews...did the repair work, 'cause we...we spent about the first ten days waiting for that thing to come from...from the States.

Ed Metzler: Oh my gosh! How boring!

Mr. Ogden: But, yeah...

Ed Metzler: Just sitting around.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, then after that...we...we...after we got to New Zealand, we spent, I think, till about November...till November...the dates are in here...uh, we spent about November 20<sup>th</sup> enroute to New Caledonia and then we went on to Guadalcanal.

Ed Metzler: So is this '43 or '44 now?

Mr. Ogden: Now we're into '44.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah. And we...during the meantime, we had been shuttling around that whole Central Pacific area doing cargo missions and stuff like that. And...and so they sent us back there once and then...(unintelligible) by now after we got to New Zealand, they sent us to Guadalcanal. And we

(unintelligible) in Guadalcanal...rest of the islands over here about forty miles...across from there is this...is Hawaii, and we had to shuttle back and forth there. And (unintelligible) helping there; we saved all the Marines staging for...for Okinawa...that time. And of course, this is...December of '4...

Ed Metzler: 4.

Mr. Ogden: ...of '44, yeah. Then...then February of...January of...'45...then February of '45 we were just taking Marines and staging them and doing work with them, and...having cargo there. (Unintelligible) we had a whole lot of Marines staged there, so finally when Okinawa came along, we had the whole damned team...

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Ogden: ...that were on it. (Unintelligible) I got...about half the team that went to Okinawa.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, now...

Mr. Ogden: (Unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: ...you...you had mentioned earlier that you were slated to spend some time in Sydney on R&R?

Mr. Ogden: Yes.

Ed Metzler: But you didn't get a chance to do any of that?

Mr. Ogden: (Unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: So your R&R was shore leave in New Zealand every once in awhile, huh?

Mr. Ogden: Every other day; we (unintelligible) aboard ship.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Ogden: And I guess I...

Ed Metzler: So were the people in New Zealand friendly or what?

Mr. Ogden: Well, yeah, in fact, we had no problem with them because our sailors...some of them were...get out of hand and we'd have to...discipline them a little bit. You won't believe it, but I...I got...I went to a movie ashore and...and Tom Gardner (sp?) was with me that night and we were walking outside of the theater and these girls were...came by in a car and tooted at us...that got us in there. I...I didn't remember that part until she reminded me later on.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum!

Mr. Ogden: That same girl, I saw her several times in New Zealand and her father was...was doing a lot of...something about government work...shuttling back and forth between there and India...

Ed Metzler: And India.

Mr. Ogden: But anyhow, I found out...but anyhow Marjorie (sp?) showed up in the United States in...about year 2000...2001 I think she was over here.

Ed Metzler: Is that right; the same woman?!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, same one!

Ed Metzler: Well, did she look you up?

Mr. Ogden: Well, yeah, unfortunately on purpose. But...

Ed Metzler: Well, you got to renew old acquaintances.

Mr. Ogden: Well, it wasn't that great! But the...the problem...well she found...she became a travel agent after the war and she'd been (unintelligible), but

(unintelligible), “Well,” said, “I’ll send you a Christmas card and stuff,” you know, but that’s the last I heard of her until...hey, this is not part of the war at all. In New Zealand...(unintelligible) showed up in Louisville, Kentucky, and...and he said, “We...just demonstrating apples.” Is...we had a whole...had twelve...had eighteen couples going around demonstrating New Zealand apples around...all over the whole United States.

Ed Metzler: Oh, promoting them, huh?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, and this...this guy said, “I (unintelligible) know you were in New Zealand once.” And...and I said, “That’s a long time ago.” He said, “What’s was her name?” I said, “Marjorie Kennerife (sp?), but I...I just lost track; I don’t know what’s happened to her.” He says, “I’ll find her.”

Ed Metzler: I’ll be darned!

Mr. Ogden: And the guy went back there and a month later...I got this call one night. My wife was still alive in the nursing home at that time...then I get home and it’s eleven o’clock at night and this call from Australia...but this is...(unintelligible) phone message; verbal message, said...it starts out...it says, “Call me!” And so I called her at eleven-thirty at night; talked to her about an hour, I guess, that night; but it cost me a \$125 bucks! (laughter) I...I got that straightened out, so...fifteen hours to (unintelligible). But...but he had gone back there and gotten on the radio...somebody he knew at six o’clock on Saturday morning...

Ed Metzler: Isn’t that something!



Mr. Ogden: ...said...(unintelligible), and said the things...that Bill Ogden's looking for his girlfriend of...1940s at...and she heard on the rad...somewhere these were...these were people, friends...knew and got hold of this radio guy on a talk show at six o'clock in the morning...their time, and we heard them say that she's in Australia, so he called her in Australia; told her about it and...

Ed Metzler: And she called you?!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: I'll be darned! Well, let's go back to Guadalcanal.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Now...you...you're shuttling Marines and equipment back and forth to Guadalcanal and back...

Mr. Ogden: Yes.

Ed Metzler: ...after that...

Mr. Ogden: Well see, well see, except for (unintelligible) we never were in any battle action.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh, uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: They're all...just...it's sometimes after; see, we were worried about submarines and stuff like that but, hell, we figured...they torpedoed us...that with our...forward draft being so small that we could pass...

Ed Metzler: Go right underneath, yeah!

Mr. Ogden: ...but nothing ever happened like that. And...but the whole thing...and I was gone...I was out there, the whole twenty months with that thing before they took me out and gave me leave at all. And...and all that...right in the center

of the (unintelligible) battle action, we went into Tarawa four months after...the...had ended. And the invasion of Tarawa was February of that year, I think, and they had the...the Tarawa thing; we went in there to take some kind of deal we had there, and our Executive Officer got detached to go home because his father had died back in Rhode Island. So Tarawa was the...was the...is about, oh, I'd say, sixty, seventy, eighty miles above...above the equator and I think it's on the other side of the Date Line. But we went up there; we lost (unintelligible); we were told twelve-hundred and ninety-eight Marines that day...the first day they invaded there, so we went into Tarawa...and...and...but (unintelligible) got detached. And then, by that time, I was on the bridge and knew navigation pretty well and...we upped anchor that day to get out of Tarawa Harbor. Tarawa's Harbor is the most difficult I ever saw.

Ed Metzler: Why?

Mr. Ogden: Oh it just...atoll...and coral...all over the place, so you had to zig zag out there, if you had never been there before. Once you learned the route...we had a chart; I don't know how we got our charts so quickly, but the Navy was pretty good about that, and as we...we were on the bridge that day and Wrightman (sp?) was the Navigator; had been the Navigator. Of course the Captain could do that pretty well, but I couldn't do it that time. But I wasn't doing it, see, because...so the Captain looked at me said, "Okay Mr. Ogden, take her out." (laughter) Just...so everything...go around like that.

Ed Metzler: Well, you obviously did a good job!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, well, (unintelligible words)...needs. As I remember the navigation charts we blew these...harbor charts up a little bit so you got a little better visibility, and about two inches squares...two, two and a half inches square, I forget exactly what they were, but you...you know, constantly (unintelligible words)...they take bearings on stuff at shore and assure you're alright, so by the time you get through these things...the anchored ship is something different, too, so you got a spot in the middle of the water assigned to you and you're supposed to anchor it and the only way you could get it is by bearings on some object onshore. So we got our...we came down...(unintelligible) chart route...

(end of tape 1, side A)

Ed Metzler: Okay, side 2; go ahead.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, but you're taking so many bearings that you...that every two square of the chart where your (unintelligible) is it comes back. So when I got to Guadalcanal, sometime later...Joe Neely took over navigation from me and so I got my orders to come back to...to the States...and Joe Neely was taking over.

Ed Metzler: So this was after twenty months out there, huh?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah, and this is the end of it. And Joe...I showed Joe how to get his (unintelligible) out there (unintelligible words) fleet there...a lot of the fleet...for Okinawa. Well, we had a spot assigned to us out in the middle off of Guadalcanal, and...and I took Joe over that thing four times and he wouldn't let go; wouldn't let the anchor go, so finally it started to rain and I

said, "Listen Joe, Joe...it's all yours now." Well Joe came down and put that ship into position; his chart was black, too. Your first time you do it, you're so damned nervous (laughter)...

Ed Metzler: I'll be darned!

Mr. Ogden: So...Joe had the same experience, and Joe stayed in the Navy though for...he became a Captain in the Supply Corps.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Ogden: He stayed in twenty-three years.

Ed Metzler: Who...who was your Captain on...on the LST?

Mr. Ogden: Joseph J. Kein, K-e-i-n.

Ed Metzler: K-e-i-n?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, he...

Ed Metzler: Good man?

Mr. Ogden: ...he had been...he was...was...those captains, you know, were pretty distant in those days; he was twenty-seven years old, I think, twenty years old.

Ed Metzler: He was the old man, wasn't he?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah. But...he has to make decisions that his crew does not like always, and...and so he...he...(recording interference), yeah, he's supposed to keep himself distant.

Ed Metzler: He's not one of the guys?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, supposedly, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Right, right.

Mr. Ogden: Except when I got back to the States; he got back ahead of me...couple of three weeks because he said we got orders the same time, and he borrowed twenty bucks and he never paid it back. (laughter)

Ed Metzler: Oh my gosh! Now, one of the things that I was...your son was mentioning to me before we started the tape...he said be sure get you to tell the story about how you had to navigate eight hundred miles by dead reckoning and you came in within a mile or something like this; I'm paraphrasing what he said. What was he referring to?

Mr. Ogden: Well, this was sometime after July of '43...uh, of '44...I'd been made Navigator anyhow, and...and we were at Funafuti...(unintelligible) out there. Funafuti is part of the...what they used to call the Ellice Islands...is now called Manuela (sp?)

Ed Metzler: Called?

Mr. Ogden: That...that's Tavu...Tavulu is what they call it now; but it was then the Ellice Islands. So it was the Ellice Islands is where we had to beach on that big rock...Noumea. But we were in Funafuti Harbor and we had to get down to Samoa, and we shuttled back and forth there; we were just kind of the errand boy for awhile. But we...it stormed like hell and we did have a gyro repeater and...but we didn't have radar; we didn't have any of that kind of stuff, but we had to go from...go from...from Ellice Island...I mean from Funafuti to Samoa, but it...it was storming...you just learned to read the wind and the waves is all, and we had the...the gyro repeater but that's...it's...with the wind, that sets you off course. Even an LST it...it started with (unintelligible)

course, so we...we had no sun; no stars; no nothing (laughter) for the whole five days of the trip it took us. We were only traveling about eight knots, I guess, but I...I only...about eight hundred and twenty, about eight hundred and thirty, yeah, I couldn't get it exactly, but these are nautical miles...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: ...and...and that's the (unintelligible), so the only thing we had to do was just...you...you could see the water and you could drift and you could see the waves and you just had to learn to run and make direction, but I only missed my landfall...could not see anything up in the air...any...any real navigation and stuff like that for five days I only missed my landfall by a mile and a half.

Ed Metzler: Wow! And what was landfall?

Mr. Ogden: Virgin Samoa.

Ed Metzler: Okay Samoa.

Mr. Ogden: But it was the north side of the island.

Ed Metzler: So were you just lucky or you really that good?

Mr. Ogden: Well, I guess, usually by getting by God. (laughter) But of course the Captain was (unintelligible) at that time and he...but he...he didn't monitor me all that much; he...he just trusted me, and...and I'd been navigating probably two or three months after I took over the navigational stuff...before that happened.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum. So were you still a Communications Officers at this point?

Mr. Ogden: Well, a Communications Officer...was...was...your collateral duty was...you were a Deck Officer.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: So you're on...I was on...the bridge...I did...I stood regular watches on the bridge, too, till I got made Navigator. Then they took me off of regular watch list.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. What was the food like on this glorious ship that you were on?

Mr. Ogden: Well, I probably shouldn't say these words here, but you get a lock of horse cock which is...was shit on a shingle is what they called it. (laughter) You would...dried beef...

Ed Metzler: S.O.S. (laughter)

Mr. Ogden: ...but we...we went ashore in Samos...somehow we did it; we...we bought and killed a cow there for meat.

Ed Metzler: Oh really?!

Mr. Ogden: Well, on...on British Samoa...we were in there.

Ed Metzler: And brought it onboard?

Mr. Ogden: Yep!

Ed Metzler: Put it in a meat locker?

Mr. Ogden: Yep!

Ed Metzler: Well, good; you got some steaks out of the deal.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, we...we had...well, we had a crew of a hundred and some people; we didn't much out of...out...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you know, one...one and one seventh...

Mr. Ogden: Well, once the officer's crew caught a, what we estimated was about a fifty pound fish, white fish, off our stern...then we fed the whole crew fish...fresh

fish with that one; that's when we were anchored he did that. And he was a Filipino named Congo (sp?). But...

Ed Metzler: So you had some Filipinos onboard?

Mr. Ogden: The...the officers (unintelligible) yeah, but he...he was, I...I think he had the rank of a Chief Specialist, but he...he looked after the three Mess Lieutenants we had...then actual full duty. Of course the Bakers and those guys, except for the battle stations, all those guys had duties in...in Bakery and did not usually associate with the ship. But we ran out...if we could stay up with the fleet, we generally would come across a reefer ship...which is...a reefer is a...a refrigerator ship, and we could get fresh stuff, and that's where we...we did some of that in Tarawa. But they would come into Funafuti now and again, so once...but once you had duty...ran across the reefer ship...they...in Funafuti I ran a small boat over to it and they were stocking up. You couldn't...we...we had we had gotten milk in Tarawa, fresh milk, supposedly fresh milk, but you know it was refrigerated...but decent milk, and...and we then traded a case of eggs; they had it...for a bottle of whiskey; we had it.

Ed Metzler: Eggs for whiskey?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah. And...and when we upped anchor, that's when I took it out of harbor by...me the Navigator...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Ogden: ...every damned egg was rotten! (laughter)

Ed Metzler: Oh really!



Mr. Ogden: So...so we didn't get that. But we just stayed close to these reefer ships, but as they were...progressed beyond us, see, first part Funafuti where we were based, got a lot of...actually people that were in the battle, and we...just happened...when that happened, we were in the back water and we thought we could get relieved of that duty, but they just never did.

Ed Metzler: Hmm! And what about communications back home? Did you write letters...what...to your parents or...?

Mr. Ogden: Oh yes. The...part of the problem I had was I was also the ship's censor.

Ed Metzler: Oh, you were the censor!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, not a necessity, but once in awhile the...my sister would help me later on, but you...I had to read everything opened and check it...all we're writing home.

Ed Metzler: And so what would you do, just black it out if it...?

Mr. Ogden: Sometimes...just snipped it; sometimes though we got (unintelligible)...write is over.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, start over.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: This won't...this won't work! (laughter)

Mr. Ogden: Yes, but we didn't have too much trouble with that. And a lot of the guys could...just weren't very versatile with writing, and...and...

Ed Metzler: They weren't good writers, yeah. I know, but what about you, you stayed in contact with your family back home?

Mr. Ogden: Well, every once in a while I'd write them a letter, yeah, but of course, you never knew, sometimes...sometimes it took the...as long as it ever took...is when we got shipped on one occasion over to do repairs out in Espiritu Santos, and just as we got ready to come back there, the post office found out about it, and where our next thing was back to Funafuti again. So I went ashore; we were anchored in the harbor then, and Herb Anderson (unintelligible) he was Officer of the Deck that time, and Herb (unintelligible) down, "You get the mail?!" "No, Herb, they sent it back to Funafuti."

Ed Metzler: Oh no!

Mr. Ogden: Herb is one of those guys that left a girlfriend behind...

Ed Metzler: He did what?

Mr. Ogden: Left a girlfriend behind in the States.

Ed Metzler: Oh yeah.

Mr. Ogden: Her father would not let them get married before she...he went overseas; that was pretty smart of him.

Ed Metzler: Because he was worried about...?

Mr. Ogden: The worst problems that...that...back in the States had been...well, the guys who got married like that...we had several of them...and they got shipped overseas and their wives...they suffered, you could...and they suffered; the sailors suffered, too. But that was the worst damned thing they could do was get married and then go...

Ed Metzler: And then be separated...

Mr. Ogden: ...you see now in Vietnam.

Ed Metzler: Right. Yeah, you never knew whether they're going to come back or not and...

Mr. Ogden: But I...frankly, I never had...I...I never got scared out there, I guess, because I see them young...or something.

Ed Metzler: Just didn't know any better, but...

Mr. Ogden: But as far a Communications Officer, they probably made the right choice when they made me Communications Officer...over the other Ensigns there. Of course the original...and the original choice on the ship after we got there was somebody else and the original choice was mine and Joe Neely's and Herb Anderson...when we said...(laughter)...

Ed Metzler: When you were sitting down there giggling it up...ahead of time!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah! (laughter) But...but...

Ed Metzler: Well, do you have any recollections of...of that time that you think are particularly humorous that you'd like to share with us? Usually there's some pretty good humor stories, but sometimes not; I'll try you out on that.

Mr. Ogden: I don't remember any particular ones, no, of course, it's been...it's been what, now sixty-three years since I was discharged, yet I never did...and...and of course I stayed in the Reserves...and they...they make us...when I got out of the Navy...when I...civilian duty, I went to Chicago on a trip; I got in the furniture business and we seen a place called Pierson's (sp?)...a (unintelligible) furniture mart in...in Chicago; north side of Chicago in the business district, and I went to this Hotel Pierson (sp?) where we used to stay, back...I stopped by the bar on the way back to (unintelligible), and seven

Lieutenant Commanders...this is...the Korean War just started. Seven Lieutenant Commanders walked in...in fact I...I...Peter was on the way to be born; my wife...who had gotten her new car and I was ready to get called up, and I walked in that...that bar that night and seven Lieutenant Commanders...I knew all of them!...from my Midshipmen's class.

Ed Metzler: You are kidding!

Mr. Ogden: They...then they stayed...they got in the Reserves and they hadn't been called up now; this is...is October of 1950, yeah, '51.

Ed Metzler: '50, '51, yeah.

Mr. Ogden: And...and they had, so I figured, "Hell, I'm not going to get called again!" They never did...but they...they...officially though I...I was liable to get called...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Ogden: ...they finally sent me this (showing interviewer document), but...but I didn't get that till...

Ed Metzler: Certificate of Satisfactory Service, United States Navy, served in satisfactory completed a period of training and service on active duty, World War II, United States Navy; Lieutenant USNR; period of active duty, 31<sup>st</sup> August, '42 to 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, '46. So when you got...after your twenty months after you were sent back...you went back stateside...?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ...and, but you remained in the Navy at that point or were you...?

Mr. Ogden: Oh no, I...I never got discharged...this is...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: (Unintelligible words)...with a three...more...star, I thought surely they (unintelligible) go for that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, now so when you went back to the states after your twenty months of active duty, what did you do then?

Mr. Ogden: They sent me to Little Creek where we started from and that's...that's where I was...I had...I...I...decided Navigation School, and I taught Navigation.

Ed Metzler: Ah ha!

Mr. Ogden: Now...there wasn't any manual; I still got my notes and all that I talked from, but...my class...my students were all fresh out of the Naval Academy.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: And here I am teaching them how to behave, but...but...

Ed Metzler: So this is what...still in '45?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, it's either...'40 in...it was June...that's when they pulled me out of the...the Navigation with all the other guys the Navigation School knew they were looking for somebody who could navigate...an officer to take this...boat down to...to the (unintelligible) civilian...(unintelligible) enlisted crew... (unintelligible) Guantanamo Bay.

Ed Metzler: This is the...is this the tug boat that you were talking about earlier?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah. But not a one of them wanted to go to sea...at all; they hadn't been to sea the whole war because they were late coming...one was a Lieutenant Commander, but he'd been a Reserve...being older, but...I taught...I taught there. After I got through Guantanamo, I came back after

only three weeks...I came back and...in...in July, mid-July, and I got me a...promoted to Full Lieutenant the 1<sup>st</sup> of August and then...they...that's when I knew I was going to get (unintelligible) over again, and that's when...it was either fortuitous of...of gunboats...LCI; LCIs are narrower; they're not as long; they only had three officers on, but (unintelligible) like a flotilla over to...to...Pacific and...

Ed Metzler: Probably for the Invasion of Japan...

Mr. Ogden: ...yes, yes.

Ed Metzler: ...that they expected to do.

Mr. Ogden: But the Nav...uh, (unintelligible) Washington D.C. had somehow got leave of it (unintelligible), and I was up there to see a friend of mine who was a Naval Wave at that time, and then I got...found out the bomb had dropped. And Washington D. C. was a madhouse that day...

Ed Metzler: Tell me about that.

Mr. Ogden: ...and every...everybody was just happy as hell. So I walked into Bureau of Personnel and told this guy that had my personnel card...

Ed Metzler: You walked into where?

Mr. Ogden: Bureau of Personnel.

Ed Metzler: Bureau of Personnel, okay.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, Bureau of Personnel...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: But...I talked to Bureau of Personnel and this guy and I said, "I really don't want to go overseas again." He says, "Well take your card; go where you

want to go!” And I know...I could go over the hill at this point, but I went down the steps...in...front steps of Bureau of Personnel over in Wash...over in...in Arlington and this fellow I knew from Purdue came by; he’d been behind me in my...in my class, and said, “What’s the matter, Bill?” And I said, “I don’t know where to send myself!”

Ed Metzler: (Laughter) Don’t know where to send yourself?! (Laughter)

Mr. Ogden: So, yeah, yeah, so he said, “Why don’t you go to,” this is the funny part of the story, “Why don’t you send yourself to Separation Center? I...I’m going to Chicago.” And you know the interesting thing about that...we had, near as we could find out, they...not too far...but (unintelligible) six separation centers *already set up* in the United States, and the war hadn’t even ended!

Ed Metzler: Well, I guess we knew it was going to be ended sooner or later.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah, but soon as...(unintelligible) GI Bill of Rights is what it was, and I think it was probably 316 as I remember it, and...and he says, “Why don’t you go up there with me?” So he told me where the desk was and I went in there and told the officer, “I’d like to go to Separation Center for duty.” Like that; it’s done! So I got a year...uh, a week’s leave and...and two days travel time to get to Chicago. And...and six weeks later that’s where I met my wife.

Ed Metzler: I see.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So what kind of duty did you have at the Separation Center?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, they taught us how...to work with probably (unintelligible words) benefits...GI...GI Bill of Rights.

Ed Metzler: So you're just basically telling people what their rights and benefits were?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yes, but the way (unintelligible words) Separation Center where we had the enlisted men...where coming through there

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: When I was in New York, I got assigned to...aft...after I got through the Separation Center, they made me a professor. So I taught...the GI Bill of Rights (unintelligible words). (laughter)

Ed Metzler: Taught it to whom?

Mr. Ogden: To...to other officers coming through.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So all the way...

Mr. Ogden: All the way.

Ed Metzler: ...all the way up to a professor?!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, well it gets better than that. Because after...about Thanksgiving Day that year, they started to just shut the thing down because we had so many people trained to do that job I was doing, so my orders called for me to report to New York...to Long Island. And when I got up there, the guy...(unintelligible) Commander in the Navy in the world, because he had been in that thing, and he...he had been a student at...at Great Lakes in Chicago and I got up there and he's in charge of the joint, and he's depending on me! (laughter)

Ed Metzler: And he's what?



Mr. Ogden: He...he's depending on me.

Ed Metzler: Oh my gosh!

Mr. Ogden: So...so I became...a...the, I called...the Professor of Military Science (unintelligible), because I got...PMS...Professor of Demobilization Science Attacking. But I...I actually...I could...at that Separation Center, you get (unintelligible words) a little group of GIs that come through and we'd give maybe forty, fifty of those...like how nice you've been all that stuff.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: But...I was in charge of all that stuff...(unintelligible), and all that...that...and...and I had a...one of the...one of my instructors was a guy that had his top of his head shot off in...he crossed the Rheine in civilian clothes before our troops did, and Hans Bliss (sp?) is a Jewish guy, from...just down...in Columbia, but golly at that time, maybe this shouldn't go in the record, but the atmosphere...in his area was...(unintelligible)...family...(unintelligible) just taking the weapons still from...from Americans.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, and he was just...had a wife and was miserable all the time. (Unintelligible), and he was crying on my shoulder, and here was a guy that probably...(unintelligible) close to forty years old, and I was still only twenty-three at that time.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: And...(unintelligible words) men like that. I still got a forty-five revolver, forty-five pistol, not a revolver, forty-five pistol that he gave me, but he got it off a dead German across the Rheine in civilian clothes in the OSS.

Ed Metzler: In the OSS?!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, I'll get back to that. So anyhow, I lost track of Hans some time back, but...but he...well, I did that for three months up there. And we could discharge fifteen, sixteen hundred people a day through there, but I could interrupt the procedure with my position if I had to get some guys...mother's dying...something like that...

Ed Metzler: Get them out fast?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, get them out of there, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Right, right.

Mr. Ogden: So on March the 1<sup>st</sup>...the 7...18...Chicago...

Ed Metzler: And so you were there when the war was over?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: What...what was that like? That must have been crazy, too.

Mr. Ogden: Well, but...but I...the war actually over August 15<sup>th</sup> of the year before.

Ed Metzler: Oh, I'm sorry, you're up in...'46 now?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: I thought you were still in '45.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah, no...

Ed Metzler: Where were you when the war was...V-J Day was announced; do you remember what you were doing?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, yeah, I was still in Norfolk teaching Navigation.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Ogden: I was over at the Officers Club in that...it would be Norfolk which is the naval operating base at Pier 7 and that...that was the big, big thing in the Navy at that point. And that's first time I ever saw Admirals and Captains all come down the neighborhood...with the other officers.

Ed Metzler: With the common officers?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, (unintelligible) named after that date, but I...I was in the...still attached to Little Creek at that time. That's why I say when I when...when we went up to Chicago at...at that time...before that...uh, I think the declaration came either just short of...or before...or while I was in New York, uh, Washington at that time. The...the guy...that fellow I told the guy I really didn't want to go over again, but...as...as it happens, as we went by and seen that tin shed out there, the...the other guy from Purdue, I wouldn't have known, so he said, "Get yourself transferred."

Ed Metzler: Yeah, what...where do you think you would have ended up if you hadn't had that conversation?

Mr. Ogden: Well, I...I suppose, and I'd done something else in January that (unintelligible) in January of '46...it was possibly becoming a Lieutenant Commander if you were willing to take some assignment overseas again; just more necessary duty, but not more duty. And I...didn't...the...there was a flotilla of...of LCIs, yeah, but...I would have reacted with that, I don't know. Of course my mother was...didn't...

Ed Metzler: Who knows?

Mr. Ogden: ...my parents didn't want me to do anything. See, my older brother was in Seoul, Korea; he was in Okinawa when the typhoons started, and was...blew him down at the post office, and it blew the orders away for everybody...all except the US...Seoul, Korea a month later, and he got orders to come back to the States and the Captain had to stay. But what happened...the Captain's orders got blown away; he was supposed to be...be sent back overseas to Seoul, Korea...the Captain was, and...and my brother was supposed to taking command there. But because of that typhoon...blew everything away!  
(laughter)

Ed Metzler: Messed everything up!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, so he...so he beat me out; he beat me...he got discharged sometime in November, I think. And...

Ed Metzler: So was it good to be back home?

Mr. Ogden: Well, at that time, I don't know; I never...never was homesick; I never was...worried about being overseas or not overseas, but you...you, I don't know, you got a certain...peace of mind comes over you and you do what you gotta do, and had I been an enlisted man, I don't know what I would have done.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Ogden: But as an officer, my living conditions were generally pretty good except for food for that period in...in Samoa when we were out four months; one time we just couldn't find anything!

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: But we...we had food to eat, but you get tired of that C-rations and stuff after awhile.

Ed Metzler: I would think so. So if you look back on...on that whole period of your life, what was the low point you that whole time? You know, when things look the darkest or you were the most discouraged or...?

Mr. Ogden: Low points in what way?

Ed Metzler: Oh, just from what was happening to you, and maybe dangers you were in or things that you saw that happened?

Mr. Ogden: I never had any. (laughter) I never had any low points.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: But again, that's why I think the problem...I...I had a girlfriend and she just passed me from her being in January of...of '43...'42; we broke up and that was the end of that thing, so I didn't have any relationship with that. I should tell you about my nine blondes, but...

Ed Metzler: Well, tell me whatever you want to tell me.

Mr. Ogden: Well, we...we started high school...a fifteen year-old girl and I had a...a blond for...who...who was a junior and we were getting kind of serious about each other, a junior in college, and then I got to Harvard...(unintelligible words) broke up and then I came back to blondesville. Then there was Ma Kepner (sp?); Ma (laughter)...Ma was two years older and two inches taller than I was...

Ed Metzler: Oh my gosh!

Mr. Ogden: ...but...but she...but they called her Fraternity House Ma.

Ed Metzler: Say again.

Mr. Ogden: Ma is what they called her around the fraternity house.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Ogden: But then I got to Chicago and then...then Marjorie Clarkson (sp?) (unintelligible words) afternoon with another friend of hers from Northwestern University (unintelligible words)...just get acquainted and I seen her several times before I left Chicago, so she came down to see my parents and...in April of that year, but I had to leave. And...and then I went overseas and came back two years later...she's gone. But I knew that she was...probably (unintelligible) go to New Zealand, so we get to...to Norfolk and you see some guy that says, "Hey, I know a girl over here," that...that...one of our officers came home to her...and that's how I met...hell, I can't get her name out...it's Cherry Rickers (sp?), and...and I started...Cherry Rickers is probably have...owns a lot of land in Virginia Beach and they had to go out there to supervise things, so they came by everyday and picked me up at the gate, but I had to leave that night...and took me...so anyhow we went...so I left...got ready to get (unintelligible words) and I got shipped to Chicago...(unintelligible words) to meet my wife and (unintelligible) they shipped me to New York, so...

Ed Metzler: It's tough to get serious, isn't it, when they're shipping you all around?!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, so...but I tell you...as soon as this...I came back to came back to the one in Chicago...

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Ogden: ...to get...I came back there for discharge and started all over again.

Ed Metzler: And finally made it, huh?

Mr. Ogden: But...but that...yeah, nothing from Boston (unintelligible) for that!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter) That's quite a list of women you had!

Mr. Ogden: But, well, they were...they...made acquaintances; you did not in those days, do the things they do today just because they're crazy.

Ed Metzler: Oh, I understand.

Mr. Ogden: And...and but they were all nice people. And all...all, I can't remember a one of them that was dumb; they were all smart. In fact my wife was in the advertising business when I met her. She had just gotten out of the University of Illinois half a year before, and she...was number one graduate in her class when...

Ed Metzler: Wow!

Mr. Ogden: ...from the University of Illinois.

Ed Metzler: Wow!

Mr. Ogden: So...you just...I guess smartest girls have always attracted me more.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. How do you feel about the Japanese after having...having them as an enemy during World War II?

Mr. Ogden: Well, you know, we heard of a few of them still roaming around in (recording interference) while we were there. We never actually saw them and never was in a situation where there was any combat...any hand-to-hand combat. You...they may have been some in (unintelligible words) on shore in

Guadalcanal, but most of the time we didn't come in contact with the enemy. We knew about them, and we avoided them, and we were more worried about submarines and stuff like that, and then after awhile you knew damned well you didn't have any way of...of equipping and provisioning submarines (unintelligible) as far as we were. And besides we figured if a submarine fired a torpedo at us, we were so shallow he'd go under us.

Ed Metzler: Go right under, yeah.

Mr. Ogden: We didn't know...we didn't...we didn't experiment with it, but...I don't know it just...to...to...Tarawa we went into the...they had a bunch of...the entry of the atoll was halfway down the eastern side of it, and that...the...the northern side, the Japanese had all these gun ports up there, and we...the DD-500 went in behind them...destroyed (unintelligible), but...but we went to...by the time we got to Tarawa, it was awfully hot up there in that damned place and the pillboxes were over there. And some...some soldier (recording interference) remains of the body (recording interference).

Ed Metzler: Wow!

Mr. Ogden: (Recording interference)...but...but...yeah the Japanese and the dead...but they...used to...what...(unintelligible) burned to death inside those things.

Ed Metzler: My gosh!

Mr. Ogden: But, yeah, that was...that was four months before we got there.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Ogden: And, what always amazed me when we started to go over to some new place like that, the Navy had...it was another dangerous job the Navy had at that



time; we never knew how dangerous it was...was servation (sp?); they had to get close and do a lot of that stuff before we conquered the (unintelligible)...they...

Ed Metzler: Survey ships?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Just getting depths of the waters and...

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: ...and getting those charts that you used?

Mr. Ogden: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Ogden: So the first thing we did when we got orders like from...from Guadal...uh, from...Noumea to go down to Guadalcanal, I mean down to New Zealand, you go into the...the Port Director's Office and before we went down to Espiritu Santos we'd go into the Port Director's Office in Espiritu Santos to go down to...to Noumea. But they had all these (unintelligible) very short time after we got...to taking over a lot of these places.

Ed Metzler: Hmm! Well, what else...what stories have we missed that need to get while we've got the tape going here?

Mr. Ogden: Well, I...I just can't reach out and (pause)...

Ed Metzler: Or have we pretty well covered everything?

Mr. Ogden: I think so, because there...there was a lot of time and distance and things that happened but none of them are really battle stories.

Ed Metzler: Well, don't have to have battle stories; I want your story.

Mr. Ogden: Well, you got most of it...

Ed Metzler: Sounds like it.

Mr. Ogden: ...I think. The...the big...biggest fun I had out of the whole deal, I guess, as far as the sailing was concerned was being the Navigator...when I got that thing. And, of course, when we were working Guadalcanal to Tulagi...to Russell Islands before the Invasion of Okinawa, the...the...I was not standing watches anymore, and so I...(unintelligible) up there and we had a canopy built over the front of the doc...the boat...boat deck...to get sun off of us. I stood there and every once in awhile I'd take a check then we'd change courses a little bit, so they called me C.C....change...

Ed Metzler: Change Course, huh? (laughter)

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, and...uh, that was...but I...I was right underneath that canopy shade there for standing the watches. (Unintelligible words) I turned over to Gardner (sp?) al...already, and we had...we had four more officers on my ship...on the LST that were not there when we went to sea that time. And we had one guy that got sick and...and we put him ashore in Samoa; he got sent back to Sun Valley, Idaho because he had...homesick. He came out of Mississippi he should have more...ability that that to not be so homesick, but he got himself physically sick, you know...

Ed Metzler: How can you get physically sick when...?

Mr. Ogden: I don't know; I didn't...he couldn't find out what the hell was wrong with the guy. I mean, no disease; no nothing.

Ed Metzler: Sounds like battle fatigue, but he never had a battle.

Mr. Ogden: No, no he just...he was out of Mississippi which doesn't make any sense, but...he...just was emotionally unable to handle it.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Ogden: And...

Ed Metzler: You ever have any dreams or anything about the war years after you came back and entered civilian life?

Mr. Ogden: Uh, not really. It...they...maybe being moved around to five or six different states where I...before I was twelve years old...I don't think that really had anything to do with it, but...

Ed Metzler: Well, it just made *used to* being...

Mr. Ogden: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Ogden: But I...the thing I didn't do one time when we came into, I mentioned this already, when we came into Funafuti and these...places full of ships...most of them cargo ships at that time...but some, I mean, we weren't gunships or navy ships...and as we hit the beach it seemed like...you're brothers in the ship. And that...you got four miles out of the harbor, but of course, I...I guess, I don't know whether it was because of the Boy Scouts or whether that was...I could read...you say you can read that book out of the corner of your eye, and I was really paying more attention to my...my... to landing duties. (Unintelligible)...but you just automatically start reading that...dot and dashes out. (laughter) And...and...but the other officers never learned to read that...that...called the blinker light. I don't know why because you didn't

expect the Captain and the Exec to, but neither (unintelligible words) they just didn't learn it. Of course, I...every time you saw one of those things on...and then sometimes we'd practice and put a guy up in the bow of the ship and he would start with the signal gun up there (unintelligible) light...

Ed Metzler: Signal gun, yeah.

Mr. Ogden: Yeah, and...he's practicing, and of course, the...the (unintelligible words) something that difficult and he learned to...

Ed Metzler: So is this the case where the Boy Scouts really helped you out then, huh?

Mr. Ogden: Well, they certainly didn't have a Semaphore; I think the Boy Scouts did not, but the other stuff, yeah, (unintelligible words) First Class (unintelligible) way back there. I didn't stay in the Scouts that long. After I got to...to high school, I kind of dropped out of the Boy Scouts.

Ed Metzler: Dropped out, yeah. Well, okay, why don't we end it here.

Mr. Ogden: I think we will. I...I wish I could tell you how many guys I shot; how many guys at me, but they didn't.

Ed Metzler: No, I...I talk to lots of that never saw a bullet, and that doesn't mean that their stories aren't interesting and it doesn't mean that you played your part.

Mr. Ogden: Well, thank you; I appreciate that remark, but...but...

Ed Metzler: In fact...

Mr. Ogden: ...I guess the greatest thing...at one point in my career, my brother, Jim, he was ahead of me, and I did see him in Funafuti, but my brother, Bob, was...4-F; he had bad eyes, and he joined the...the Field Service, the emergency ambulance drivers and he went out...around the whole world! And

actually...the eight months after we...the U.S. got in...he signed up to Burma and he got some kind of malaria or something over there, and they shipped him home. So he...he came home (laughter), in full, English Officer's dress...is what they used for American Service...Field Service.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Ogden: Yeah! That...that was what he was supposed to wear! And then my brother, Dick, had signed up for the...he got to be eighteen...I was home on leave when he...when he...he did that and...and he was sent to (unintelligible) the...what they called the STP, service...American...something, and that's where they...

Ed Metzler: STP?

Mr. Ogden: AA...yes, AATSP...whatever...but anyhow he went to college for (unintelligible) for about four months and they shipped him over to Whittenberg (sp?), (unintelligible words), and...but I went home...he was just starting to graduate from high school and...and took him out to Purdue and introduced him to fraternity, and the jerks that were on my old fraternity house at that time looked like jerks to me; all the guys (unintelligible words), and I said, "Psst, come on, Dick, let's go over to the (unintelligible) House; I know the guys over there!" (laughter) Now, so he became a (unintelligible). But that was...that was the Davis (sp?) (unintelligible)...so he had bad eyes, so he never did...and he wouldn't have been old enough anyhow with...

Ed Metzler: So Fido is?

Mr. Ogden: What?

Ed Metzler: You...you mentioned Fido, is that what you...?

Mr. Ogden: Phi Del (sp?).

Ed Metzler: Phi Del, sorry.

Mr. Ogden: (Unintelligible words).

Ed Metzler: Okay, by my not being a Greek letter guy, I...I...

Mr. Ogden: Phi Delta Theta.

Ed Metzler: Phi Delta Theta.

Mr. Ogden: And...and...but the...yeah, I knew some of the Phi Dels from there; I knew there was a couple of them from Louisville that became Phi Dels, but they got shot down over the channel.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Ogden: Lot of guys...didn't make it like that.

Ed Metzler: Well, a lot of guys didn't make it, yeah. Okay, well let's..let's end it here. Let me close by thanking you for spending the time, and for also what you did for us during World War II. I don't think we thank you guys enough, so this a chance for me to thank you again.

Mr. Ogden: Well, thank you.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Ogden: I appreciate it.

(end of interview)

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