

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with

Mr. Richard Pauls

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Mr. Johnson: This is Kep Johnson and I'm the interviewer today. This is the fourth of December 2008. I'm interviewing Mr. Richard Pauls and the interview is taking place in Fredericksburg, Texas. This interview is in support of the Center of 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. This site being the National Museum of the Pacific War.

Mr. Johnson: Now I think the easiest thing, as you suggested, is to let you start from the beginning and tell us about how you happened to go into the navy and be in Pearl Harbor at that time and so on.

Mr. Pauls: Can you put a little ad-lib in there?

Mr. Johnson: Anything, absolutely.

Mr. Pauls: On January the ninth in 1941 I uh went to the federal building in Indianapolis and I was sworn in to the U.S. Navy. I was eighteen years old. We made the trip to Chicago and we didn't get in there until late at night and it was a big snow on the ground so the master-at-arms issued our hammock or mattress all the bed stuff and we went into a barracks and they had jackstays four feet above the deck and he showed us how to hang a hammock and that was a foolish move right there. We hung our

hammocks, climbed in on one side and rolled over on the other side. And after a few blessed words we ended up by just pulling the damn mattress out and putting it on the deck and laying there. Then the next day, well that was what we called, they called that uh let's see paradise, detention, we called that detention. And that's where we got our haircuts, we got our shots, we got our uniforms issued to us and my first day in the navy was on a Wednesday morning and if you knew, knew the original routine of a Wednesday breakfast at the train stations was baked beans and prunes and uh I think we got a half a grapefruit and something else we got. I've always remembered that. And then they issued you uniform and for your blues you got, had the thirteen buttons. Now you've had beans and prunes and that was a dangerous situation right there. So we were going around that. I put –

Mr. Johnson: This was at Great Lakes Training Center, is that right?

Mr. Pauls: Great Lakes yes. The uh, I also had been in ROTC and got out there with a bunch of those rednecks, excuse me, and they was carrying that rifle up on their shoulder with fixed bayonets and they did the about face they could decapitate you, but I got out of that and become a squad leader right away, got outside the ranks there and uh the, went through that and we went to, as I said in detention we were four feet above the deck. After two weeks we went to paradise, what we called paradise. Our hammocks was ten feet above the deck and you could get hurt. There was guys that fell out and did the ruptured spleens and this and that. Anyway, went through that and

uh finally got a short training leave and had to go out to the west coast to San Pedro and my first ship out there was the Brazos and it was in dry dock. Are you a navy man?

Mr. Johnson: My dad was in the navy in World War II.

Mr. Pauls: The uh, that is, that is a slave camp when a ship is in dry dock, but got through that and was sent over to Pearl and I got into Pearl let's see it was in, I think it was in April, about April and went aboard the U.S.S. Medusa and –

Mr. Johnson: What kind of ship is that?

Mr. Pauls: It was the number one repair ship of the fleet. AR1 and uh it was an old ship. It had a, you had to go through a airlock to get into the fire room. It wasn't a closed in boilers like they, well they don't have the boilers anymore on, on most of the ships. I think they're all nuclear now or the biggest part of them. They don't even have my rate anymore. I was a watertender I mean I ended up being a watertender and anyway the uh, I went aboard the U.S.S. Medusa and oh I played baseball for the, the team and I was on the rowing team. I rowed around Ford Island every morning before chow and then uh just leading up through, it was, it was a nice, Hawaii was a, was a wonderful spot and no worries, no problems and the morning of December the seventh, I got up, the uniform of the day was white shorts, skivvy shirts and I went down and had chow and it was, went to the head to brush my teeth and I heard an explosion. And I looked out the porthole and the doggone hanger at the end of Ford Island was being

blown up and so then the glaxen (??) started general quarters and they didn't know what was going on. And I run up on, to the quarter deck and the uh, it was a bosun's mate, he had the flag under his arm and he said, "We're being attacked! We're being attacked!" And I looked up and a plane just went by then and it was, it was real low and I seen the, the Rising Sun on it and my battle station was a thirty caliber machine, Lewis Gun on the port side of the bridge. And I went up to that and that's when, that's when the war began for me and uh, I know there's eyewitnesses, but the, everybody has a different view of what they see and our ship got credit of downing three planes and assisting, we got a citation, and assisting the sinking a two-man sub which come up behind us. And there was a lot of people in on that too. A destroyer was in on that one and the Curtiss which was a tender was right next to us and another thing the fogs of war, the Curtiss got a citation for two, assisting in two bombers, we got the three, but the one that one of them that we got crashed into the Curtiss and killed thirty-three people aboard the Curtiss and uh, the, how I know this is Doc Phelps (??) who is in the chapter that I'm in Indiana, Indianapolis, he was aboard the Curtiss and we were on the opposite side of Ford Island, of Battleship Row. Our ship the Medusa had tied up clear down there by, close to the hanger there at the end of Ford Island where the carriers tied up, and, but the Utah come in and, and we had to go over and tie up at a, a pylon thing that they had out there in front of Pearl City. And then there was us and then probably about oh, it wasn't even a

hundred yard was the Curtiss and then oh I don't know I couldn't tell a distance, but not too far were the, the cruisers, the Detroit and the Raleigh were. And so the uh, there was a lot of, I seen the Arizona blow, clear across, well it wasn't that far away when it blew, but I seen the other, the smoke and the other stuff coming up from the other ships over there and I did see the, I think it was the Nevada that finally pulled in cross-ways at the end of the harbor down there and run aground by that pineapple field. I don't know what the name of that is anymore. I've forgotten a lot. The, we were kept pretty busy and we, naturally we were surprised and our ship didn't have any big guns on it. We had a, two fifty caliber and two Lewis Guns and then we had a couple anti-aircraft guns, but the, I don't think they had anything up in the ready boxes for them at the time. I heard pro and con on that, but I wasn't on those gun stations so I really don't know and then there was two waves at the, approximately 7:55 and then the other wave at 8:55 approximately, Honolulu time. We were notified in between waves there for, for about ten minutes to get down and to get into our dungarees, pull or socks over our, roll our dungarees and pull our socks over them and get into long sleeve shirts. We were told there was getting a bomb blasts. See we were in shorts. We were in shorts and skivvy shirts and uh when some of those bombs was going off we did not get a direct hit. We had five destroyers tied up along side of us for repairs and that's what kind of saved our butt that day. And, but we were told to kind of get some protective clothing on if we could and then we got back

up to our gun stations. And in the afternoon after the uh, after they'd sounded the uh all clear for a while, the, I was on the rowing team so they had a, I think it was an ensign and a pharmacist and signalman, we went, we went around the harbor and tapped on some of the ships that were capsized over to see if we'd get any signal and then we was over on Battleship Row and that was uh, that was a battle area over there –

Mr. Johnson: Pretty much devastation.

Mr. Pauls: Pretty much devastation over there and it was still a lot of oil and everything. And the reason we rowed over there is because they didn't want any powerboats going through there at the time and so there was still, you know there was a lot of oil in the area. And then I went, we went back aboard ship. We picked up some uh some bodies and some debris and went back aboard ship and uh was kind of nervous and then that night those planes come in from the carrier, we shot them down. It was just a solid wall of, of tracers, just a red wall going up there and they had their, they had their landing lights on their, I think it's a green light and another light on their wings or something for whatever they were for. Or somebody said that was the color.

Mr. Johnson: Navigation lights.

Mr. Pauls: So then after the uh, the attack, everybody was on, on alert there and you heard a lot of different stories about further invasion and this and that, but that never happened and I, I was relieved and well the Red Cross come aboard and we were allowed to send a gram, we were allowed to send a

telegram home. I think that was the second, second or third day that I am, we could write three words, "I am well" or "I am safe" and my mother still had that gram and well she had it when she, when she passed away. And the, I was transferred off the ship to put a new ship, the AKA-13, the U.S.S. Titania. That wasn't the original number of it, but it, it was commissioned in Kearney, New Jersey I think it was and, one of the first amphibious ships that we'd built. And I went aboard that and we trained Marines and soldiers up in the Chesapeake Bay and then, this was in 1942 now we're talking about and I, we made the Invasion of Africa, had Patton's uh part of Patton's Third Armored Division and we hit Safi, French Morocco and had to go in on the first wave of that and we left that and I was supposed to get off the ship in Casa Blanca –

Mr. Johnson: What capacity? What were you doing at time, what kind of a position?

Mr. Pauls: That was, I was an engineer on one of the tank lighters aboard the ship. See this was an amphibious. We had the, the

Mr. Johnson: The LCI or something like that?

Mr. Pauls: No, no it's not near as big as an LCI. It might be, oh I think it was around fourteen feet wide and it, they carried, we had a fifty caliber machine gun on it and it had two Gray marine engines in it and in the engine room on that, and I was an engineer and you had the cockson that had a little, well it was a real thin metal, it wouldn't protect you from anything and a ramp dropped down and you, we could carry, we could carry tanks and big, big trucks aboard it. But we made that invasion and then I was supposed to get

off in Casa Blanca and we got up there and three ships was getting blown up in the harbor, torpedoed as we was going in. And we got blanked out, so I didn't get off. We come on back to the states and they reassigned me and we loaded up again and went down through the canal and went to the Pacific and we got, we was out there the second run on Guadalcanal there. Excuse me, and the, we kind of just island hopped on up and I was at Sabo (??) too and we got on up and I got transferred off on Bougainville, on the first wave of Bougainville and went in there and I stayed there in a boat pool. It was a combination we classified as a boat pool, but it was PT squadron too and it was also a boat pool and let's see I think I was on there pretty close to three months and then got transferred back to, to Philadelphia to go to the University of Pennsylvania for a while to (unintelligible). And then I picked a ship in Sausalito being dealt with the AO-93, the U.S.S. Soubarissen. It was an oil tanker, but it, the only oil it carried is for its own bunkered for its own fuel. It carried water and we, excuse me, we made the invasions over through there and –

Mr. Johnson: Where was that?

Mr. Pauls: Well we made, we made the Leyte, we made Okinawa and uh it was Leyte and Okinawa on that one. Then we got, in Okinawa the, we was still getting the kamikazes and they'd, they'd surrendered already. It was after August the sixth, they'd surrendered when the bomb was dropped, and incidentally that's my birthday.

Mr. Johnson: August sixth?

Mr. Pauls: August the sixth 1922 is my birthday. But anyway the, we those kamikazes was coming over all the time and it was, it was just a kick in the head over there, even after the treaty had so-called been signed, I mean not on the Missouri, not the finality of it, but the uh the pre-sign after they dropped the bomb. We got orders to come back to the United States and they were rescinded and we went to China and went to Hong King, China and was there for I think we was there for about two-and-a-half to three months. I come back to the states and was sent to, I don't know if I ought to put this in about our skipper of the Soubarissen, but we was SOPA in Mobile, Alabama and he was, he was corked. Anyway, I got transferred off and had to go to New Orleans and I was stationed there for a while, but he got escorted off the uh, we put it on cold iron. We just run it ashore there in, in that river there that comes into Mobile Bay and it's recommissioned later on I found out at one of the reunions later on. It was uh the Soubarissen was AO-93 which is supposed to be a tanker, but it carried water and I got an order from New Orleans to put a new aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Leyte commissioned. And I was supposed to have caught it in Norfolk, Virginia. I got home and they give me three days, no five days delayed orders to get to Norfolk and I got, I got to Norfolk and the ship had pulled out on a shakedown to Guantanamo Bay and so I was waiting for it come in and they sent me over to Dam Neck, Virginia. It was supposed to take on ammunition and I missed it over there so the uh,

they give me a draft to take up later on, up to Quonset, Rhode Island, which I'd been up there before. It was going to pick up planes in Quonset, Rhode Island and so I went up there and caught it and I, I had 120 days terminal leave coming and I said you know if they could release me, but I was in the regular navy, I wasn't in the reserve and on a points system and so they said, "No, you're an oil king aboard a new carrier." I wasn't used to being around a flag and I ran around with my ass hanging out if I wanted. Can you put that in there?

Mr. Johnson: It's all right.

Mr. Pauls: Excuse me. Will kids be listening to this?

Mr. Johnson: No.

Mr. Pauls: But anyway the uh, they made me oil king and I had to make a trip to Valparaiso, Chile for the inauguration of the president of Chile and went down there and come back and uh we had a lot of problems with the F6Fs I think it was. The skipper and the executive officer aboard the carrier the Leyte, they got their flight time in on a Piper Club. It was just plastered to the bulkhead up on the hanger deck, but the pilots were the F6Fs and I guess that uh, oh we had politicians and we had the manufacturer's representatives out there, but the wings were shearing off on a nine gee when they was trying to bomb the spar we was pulling and I forget how many planes they lost and so finally the, after I got back to the states I was discharged, but I was on terminal leave yet. I mean I was discharged, but I still had terminal leave. I was still being paid by the navy. So I joined the

reserves and I was in the reserves for five years. Regular navy for six and reserves for five and that's, after my reserve time was up the, I didn't join anymore.

Mr. Johnson: Didn't reenlist.

Mr. Pauls: Anything, no.

Mr. Johnson: Let me go back if I can and kind of back or to the beginning even and maybe fill in a few holes that I know you may or may not recollect all the, all the details, but we'll see what we can do. Some things I think you can tell us, where did you grow up; who were your parents; what did they do and that kind of thing?

Mr. Pauls: I grew up in Chicago. Just this last, my father was born in Germany in Langeoog L-A-N-G-E-O-O-G in the North Sea. It's north of Essons, we call it Essons, E-S-S-O-N-S, but they call it Essons over there. It's about uh almost nine miles from the, offshore from up there. It's a small island and it's a resort island. There's no automobiles allowed on it. We were just there, my daughter and her husband and I were just there in September of this year and we were there for, well we were in Cologne and Dusseldorf and we went over to Holland too.

Mr. Johnson: And that was where your father was born?

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, he was born there. We went to uh, my grandfather was born there in 1840 something and my dad was born there in 1894. Now my father died when he was twenty-nine years old, he got pneumonia and he died in Chicago.

Mr. Johnson: And how did he get to the United States? How did he happen to, how'd they come?

Mr. Pauls: Oh, they come to the uh, my grandparents come over twice. They come over and my grandfather and my grandmother come over and they met in Dixon, Illinois and the, they got married in Dixon, Illinois and the two oldest boys Uncle Fred and Uncle Chris were born here. And my granddad thought he was going to die for some reason so they, one day they went back to Germany to Langeoog and, a lot of people say Langeoog, but anyway the, he went back and he didn't die. They were very fertile, they had six more kids including my dad, had eight kids and they come back and uh, in 1903 and was nationalized. I got their papers in 1910 and my father was in the U.S. Army in World War II that's how I –

Mr. Johnson: World War II or World War I?

Mr. Pauls: I mean World War I, excuse me.

Mr. Johnson: Okay, he came back in -

Mr. Pauls: In 1918 yeah.

Mr. Johnson: And they became citizens in 1910?

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Johnson: And your two oldest brothers of course were citizens because they were born here.

Mr. Pauls: Well they said, they sent Uncle Fred back because he was supposed be conscripted. They conscripted over there at fourteen and – and we were there this September. We went to a Lutheran church, the only church on

the island and the, asked the priest if we could see some of the archives and they said the church was not built until 1950 or 1850 excuse me, 1850 something and uh he had transcript there and we asked him to read it to us and he would read and frown and then he'd smile and he said, "Your granddad was something else." Well what was he? Well he wouldn't tell us. And we asked if we could uh take a picture of the Pauls had two pages in that, in that transcript and we thought maybe we could take a picture because there's other names in there on the island and he wouldn't let us. He says, he says because of privacy act. So the, we had a good time there and they was very, very nice to us and –

Mr. Johnson: Now you were born in Chicago then after the second movement of your mother and dad to the United States.

Mr. Pauls: No, my mother, my mother was born here. She's from Indiana.

Mr. Johnson: Oh, okay.

Mr. Pauls: My granddad and his wife, my grandma, my dad was born after they come back the second time to the states, my father was born.

Mr. Johnson: Oh I see, I'm sorry.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah my granddad was born in 18 in the early 1800, well 1850s uh –

Mr. Johnson: You said 1840 something.

Mr. Pauls: '43 I think it was.

Mr. Johnson: And your father was born –

Mr. Pauls: And my dad was born in 1894, my dad was born in 1894. And so he come back in 1903, they come back when he was nine years old.

Mr. Johnson: So he was born Germany.

Mr. Pauls: Yes. On the island.

Mr. Johnson: And came with them on their second trip back to the states.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, and they migrated to Chicago and –

Mr. Johnson: And what did your father do? What was his?

Mr. Pauls: They had a business, well he was a, he was kind of a mercenary there for a while. He was, he fought down in Mexico and –

Mr. Johnson: With the U.S. Army?

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, oh yeah.

Mr. Johnson: We don't think of our U.S. Army as mercenaries as a rule.

Mr. Pauls: Well I know, but the uh family had a business, was Paul's Eurasian (??) Coal Yard and they had that in Chicago and the, and if they wanted to check the records my Uncle Fred is probably the youngest man to ever be admitted to the bar, but he like John Barleycorn too well and he didn't pay, he didn't pay insurance or he didn't pay protection and you know who was the head fred was back in Chicago in the early 1900s. was Al Capone. And supposedly he's the one that burned us out.

Mr. Johnson: Okay your dad uh was, his career was not in the U.S. Army though, his career was what in the coal business?

Mr. Pauls: Coal and dredge business. They had the company, the brothers had the company, but he put a lot of time in the service, yes. Yeah he put a lot of time in the service.

Mr. Johnson: But not, not continuously for twenty years or anything like that?

Mr. Pauls: Oh no, no, no he, he was only twenty-nine years old when he died.

Mr. Johnson: Okay.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah he was only twenty-nine years old when he died and he died of pneumonia and he died in March. Been working on a Model T Ford according to my mom and he'd been laying on the ground he got pneumonia and, used to pneumonia was almost like typhoid fever, it was almost fatal if you, they didn't have any, have the antibiotics and stuff now.

Mr. Johnson: Yeah, did you grow up in the Chicago area or was that in Indiana?

Mr. Pauls: My mother remarried and we moved back and forth from Indiana back there to Chicago and then we went from there to Detroit, Michigan. And from Detroit, Michigan to Saginaw, Michigan and then back to Indianapolis area, just different areas. I went to eight schools in twelve years of, of elementary and high school.

Mr. Johnson: A lot of different cities.

Mr. Pauls: I say we moved every time the rent was due. No that wasn't so, but the uh, that's what I tell a lot of people because I, they say you can't adapt. These kids that go to two or three different schools they just can't adapt, well I went to eight of them.

Mr. Johnson: And where did you graduate from high school?

Mr. Pauls: Fairland High School.

Mr. Johnson: In Indiana?

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, uh-huh.

Mr. Johnson: Indianapolis?

Mr. Pauls: Uh, no it's Fairland, Indiana, it's outside, it's eighteen miles from Indianapolis, but I went to Harshell (??) Technical High School and that's where I had my ROTC for my first two years. I graduated from grade school from Christian Park School and what's the siren, 11:00?

Mr. Johnson: No, no that's our fire, volunteer fire department. Somewhere there's a fire, a brush fire probably out in the country as dry as it is and this is what calls the volunteers in, this siren you're hearing.

Mr. Pauls: My daughter's husband, that's what he's a volunteer and that's their business. Well he, he's got a patent on an instrument and extradition tool that'll cut your windshield out and they can pull you out. That's why we went to Germany and their agent and, their agent in Germany, Klaus he met us at the airport and took us to uh, picked us up at Dusseldorf and took us to Cologne where their company is we spent three days there and – have you ever been to Germany?

Mr. Johnson: Yes I've been about two, two years ago we were just a couple of days and we spent a day in Berlin which was very, very interesting to see.

Mr. Pauls: We seen the great cathedral in Cologne and it was started it was being built; they started in the thirteenth century and didn't complete it until 1941, bad timing. And there's still scaffolds up where they're trying – the craftsmanship on the stonework there, there's nobody today that like those people back then could, they're not the artist that the, and they probably got too many modern tools.

Mr. Johnson: Let me stop you for just a minute. I'm going to flip the tape over because we're just about out of one side and I don't want to miss anything. (end of side one)

Mr. Johnson: You got away from high school; you went two years to college.

Mr. Pauls: No not two years. I went; I had to go for another purpose to the University of Pennsylvania up there while I was in the navy.

Mr. Johnson: No I'm talking about when you got out of high school. You said you went through ROTC.

Mr. Pauls: No I went through two years at Harshell (??) Technical High School while I was in high school in ROTC. I was in high school.

Mr. Johnson: Oh you were junior ROTC.

Mr. Pauls: That was before I even went into the navy. That's when I said about the rednecks turn, you know that's before I went into the navy and I went in the navy at eighteen. I mean I was in ROTC –

Mr. Johnson: What prompted you to go into the navy?

Mr. Pauls: The, the basketball team our junior year, we didn't have nothing else to do and there was six of us, went up and was just going to see what would happen. We went up to the uh, the navy recruiting station and talked to them a while and, and took an examination and I was the only one that passed the physical. And then when they found out our age they couldn't do anything so they had to wait unit, they called me every two weeks I think. When I reached eighteen they was on my back and the – yeah I was out of the six of us that was on the basketball team and –

Mr. Johnson: Well you, would you consider it that it was just a lark that uh you didn't have any real commitment to being in the military or anything like that?

Mr. Pauls: Not right then no. No it was a lark and as I say with the, all the detention and the beans and the buttons I didn't know what kind of an outfit I was in then either, but it uh, as I say when I went aboard the Brazos and it was in dry dock I was on the bottom stage when it was cleaning the antifouling of the ship and I think they pour the stuff off. I had that antifouling paint probably an inch thick on my top of my arms and shoulders and I had a hat on there, but it was, it was ruined, but I will say one thing about that paint, I had warts on my hand and it made them disappear. I don't know whether it was the diesel oil I used to clean off the paint or what it was, but it, but then after uh I got out of the navy I went to work at Citizen's Gas and Coke as a supervision of chemist there, laboratory supervisor and worked there for thirty-eight years and retired and been pretty fortunate. But when I was in the navy I got, I got test three out of four of my tests showed asbestos problems and uh they're not, they're slow.

Mr. Johnson: Has it really caused you a problem?

Mr. Pauls: Pardon?

Mr. Johnson: It has not really caused you a problem?

Mr. Pauls: Oh yeah, I've had pneumonia twice this year already. I had bronchitis all the time for a lot of years, but the, the – well the one thing that they do do, have you ever heard of Hines, Illinois, Loyola Medical Center?

Mr. Johnson: Yeah.

Mr. Pauls: That's where they send me for the blind. And it's probably the care that you get there, it's just like you're tagged and everything they do it goes on the computer and I, when I was there the first time I was released, supposed to be released at 10:00 to catch a plane from O'Hare to Indianapolis and I got through at 10:00 and they released me and they checked my blood and I had a real low blood sugar and they come out of the wall there. They was on me like right now. They made me eat and everything else before I left and my blood sugar went up and then they, they had to give me transportation to the airport and I flew home. They furnished that and then, the last time I was there for over a month and they sent a van after me and sent me home by the van and I'm trying to get back in for six weeks for a computer test and then after the computer, if I pass that they'll give you a computer to, after I pass that, my GPS course. And that thing is fantastic. I mean it's a little outfit you carry your, your transmitter thing on your waist, your coding thing and you can, and another thing on your shoulder for your uh –

Mr. Johnson: Battery pack?

Mr. Pauls: No that's one that tells you about where you're at. It's a transmitter too I guess it is and man it can find doorways with that thing. It's, I forget how many different satellites tie in on that. The more you tie in I guess they can, they can get you within a half inch of where you're going.

Mr. Johnson: Now is this, is this through the Veteran's Administration?

Mr. Pauls:

Yeah, this is through the VA, the VA; Hines, Illinois is on the southwest part of Chicago. Hines give uh the U.S. government one square mile and it was to set up a facility and they got Loyola University as part of it, a medical center there and part of it is uh a facility for blind veterans to learn them, reconstruct them for, now I didn't get this from the navy, my loss of eye site. I did get a burn in my right eye, an acid burn in my right eye while I was in the navy and, but anyway they, they said that wasn't what cause the, my macular degeneration is what I have, but uh it started, it's what they call a wet which is a hemorrhaging and my right eye is blank and my left eye is, I can see a little peripheral. I can, I can see your silhouette looking at you like this, but there's things worse. As they say you complain about not having a shoe, but you can see a guy without a foot or leg and so it's a, it's a kind of a, I always thinks it's the worst handicap you can have by not having your eye site, but then I've heard people that couldn't hear and it was just as bad. But you know our own troubles are always the worst.

Mr. Johnson:

Oh sure.

Mr. Pauls:

But the military, other than this asbestos and I don't know whether you know it or not, but during World War II all your steam lines and everything in the fire room and the engine room where, they were lagged with asbestos and asbestos come in a paper bag and it was shredded and powdered and you just got a bucket and poured some in a bucket, the powder and then poured water on it to the right mixture that you could

mold it around and, and then you molded it around the valve or around the steam line or whatever auxiliary line or whatever it was that had steam in it, hot and then you put canvas around that and painted it gray and put your beam number on it, stencilled a beam number.

Mr. Johnson: My dad was chief engineer on a carrier in World War II.

Mr. Pauls: What's your last name?

Mr. Johnson: My last name is Johnson.

Mr. Pauls: Johnson oh yeah Johnson.

Mr. Johnson: But so I saw a lot of the engine room on his ship, when we'd get a chance to go aboard and visit.

Mr. Pauls: What was his rank?

Mr. Johnson: He was a lieutenant commander.

Mr. Pauls: Lieutenant commander.

Mr. Johnson: And then a lieutenant.

Mr. Pauls: See that was a skipper, a lieutenant commander was a skipper of the Medusa.

Mr. Johnson: Yeah different kind of vessel of course. They had a captain as the, as the skipper.

Mr. Pauls: But my, my nephew Jeff Pauls, he, he retired as a commander in the navy.

Mr. Johnson: Well I want to go back and hit a few of your own personal military experiences during, during those World War II years. After Pearl Harbor you said you came back to the states.

Mr. Pauls: Got back in Indianapolis Easter morning 1942.

Mr. Johnson: In '42 and then you said you, you went to the east coast and –

Mr. Pauls: Went to Pier 92 in, went to Pier 92 in New York City and put that U.S.S. Titania in commission, the amphibious ship. It was over in the –

Mr. Johnson: An AK you said.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, attack, cargo.

Mr. Johnson: And from there you made the North Africa landings?

Mr. Pauls: Safi, French Morocco.

Mr. Johnson: That was in '43, was it not?

Mr. Pauls: No, no, that was the latter part of '42.

Mr. Johnson: Was it, okay.

Mr. Pauls: The, lets see I think that was, well I forget whether it was in November or just what it was in, but we hit, we hit Safi, they hit all up and down the coast, but we was the, we was the furtherest south closer to Dakar because we was hoping that they would come from Dakar after us and they didn't. I think –

Mr. Johnson: Now this was, this was on the AK right?

Mr. Pauls: Yeah.

Mr. Johnson: And when those operations, landing were concluded why your job was finished.

Mr. Pauls: No I was with the, I was supposed to go, they was supposed to take me on up to Casa Blanca and I was supposed to get off up there. We were unloaded yeah, we were unloaded, we'd had a part of Patton's Third Armored Division. See he hit Africa first and the, when we got up there,

there was three ships being blown. I don't know how the torpedo got in that, I mean the submarine got in that area, but it did and they blanked us out, get out of there right now. We come back to the states and reloaded and went around through the canal and went over to the Pacific again.

Mr. Johnson: Okay, okay and this is where you said you went down to, for the second Guadalcanal.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah.

Mr. Johnson: That was in '43 sometime?

Mr. Pauls: Yeah.

Mr. Johnson: Okay I wasn't aware there was another operation there.

Mr. Pauls: The, well the, it wasn't at that time, but –

Mr. Johnson: See the –

Mr. Pauls: The navy, the navy kind of pulled out there at Guadalcanal in that first one.

Mr. Johnson: Well February '43 the whole operation was over.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, yeah the, well –

Mr. Johnson: The island was secure.

Mr. Pauls: They was still fighting when I was there.

Mr. Johnson: Well I'm, that must have been very early in 1943.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah the, but the in '42 there is when they made the invasion of Guadalcanal –

Mr. Johnson: August, yeah.

Mr. Pauls: And –

Mr. Johnson: One day after your birthday.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, it was always something; they dropped bombs and everything else. The, that's when the navy had to pull out of there and left them poor Marines in there and they were kind of pissed at us for a while, but they, it was all rescinded later on.

Mr. Johnson: Okay, so after Guadalcanal you said you went to Bougainville?

Mr. Pauls: We island hopped on up to –

Mr. Johnson: Some other spots along the way then to the Leyte landings?

Mr. Pauls: Well, on Bougainville no, no. From Bougainville I got transferred to Philadelphia.

Mr. Johnson: Oh.

Mr. Pauls: Uh, Guadalcanal. There was several of us that was come back to the states for this deal in, in Philadelphia, but the, they flew us from Bougainville to, back to Guadalcanal and we got in there late at night and let's see it was, there was twelve of us and they give us sandwiches. You know what they were made out of?

Mr. Johnson: Bologna?

Mr. Pauls: No, hell no that would have been steak, canned tongue.

Mr. Johnson: Oh, okay.

Mr. Pauls: And ever one of us got ptomaine and they pumped us, man oh we was sick. We shit, we puked and we god oh mighty we was sick. And the, anyway we got, we over that and then they sent, some of us was sent to Philadelphia and I don't know where some of the others was sent. But

anyway the, that was after, after Bougainville and then after Bougainville and Philadelphia then I got aboard the AO93 the U.S.S. Soubarissen which was the oil tanker. Then I made the Leyte and Okinawa.

Mr. Johnson: Did you go through the, through the canal on that trip?

Mr. Pauls: Oh yeah.

Mr. Johnson: On that trip?

Mr. Pauls: Oh, no, no, not through the canal. We's on the west coast so put in commission on Sausalito, California.

Mr. Johnson: Yeah, okay.

Mr. Pauls: We went through on the Titania and we went through on the, the U.S.S. Leyte and you talk about a –

Mr. Johnson: So that was later.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah that was the last ship I was on. You talk about a screw up on that too. We went, we tried to go through the canal, we couldn't get through it. It was too wide. Had to burn all the side pods off and put them up on the, put them up on the flight deck and get back through and weld them back on. The antiaircraft guns on those side pods, they wouldn't go through the locks. I don't know whether it's sometimes that I get all mixed up on my sequences.

Mr. Johnson: Perfectly understandable. That's a lot of stuff to remember for a long time.

Mr. Pauls: And I don't get into the gory mess of bodies and some of the chaplains that have been around and, but the and kids in school ask me, "Was you scared?" And I said, "On Pearl Harbor, not right then no." But it was such

a surprise and you're so busy. Now if you were aboard, if you were aboard the Arizona or one of the ships that really got hit, and I don't think that they suffered any on the Arizona. When that magazine went off I imagine it was instant with the concussion that those guys got, but the uh when you're getting prepared to go into the battle and know what's a possibility when you're going into it instead of being surprised, that's when you get scared. And they say, "What makes you scared?" and I say, "Well the two "S", sight and sound is what makes you scared." And you see what's happening and you hear what's happening and that puts the fear of Christ in you then. So it's, it's and I've given talks in churches and schools and stuff and I don't like to get into that, that stuff there. I've seen a lot of it, but and a lot of it I wished I hadn't seen, but uh we talked about Pearl Harbor. I wouldn't want to see it again, but I'm not sorry that I did see it. Do you understand that?

Mr. Johnson: I think so, I think so, uh-huh.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah. I mean it's an experience and it's a historical experience as far as that's concerned, but the, no I wouldn't want to go through it again. But I'm really not, not ashamed of going through it or sorry that I went through it.

Mr. Johnson: You moved around a lot and were on a lot of different vessels and different stations and what have you during the war, did you have any friends that you maintain contact with from, from one period to another through the war years?

Mr. Pauls:

The Medusa, there's a couple of guys, and I don't remember the Medusa. I don't remember the, the guys on it and uh the Soubarissen we still have ship's reunion. The Leyte it's been decommissioned, it was an aircraft carrier. It was one of the big ones and the Titania, I don't know whatever happened to it. I think it was in, now on board the Medusa there was two guys that we all got transferred together, was Kennedy and Keating. Tim Keating and Erwin Kennedy and me and we all got sent to Pier 92 in uh New York. Kennedy and I went to the Titania together and so Keating was supposed to go and he got drunk and got on an "L" and was AWOL in New York when he come to. So he said if I'm going to hung I just as well get hung at home so he went on home and they picked him up at home and he got the, he got drummed out. He got a general and the army drafted him. They needed people I guess.

Mr. Johnson:

So he stayed, you did stay in touch with this one gentleman.

Mr. Pauls:

Well Kennedy is dead now.

Mr. Johnson:

Well, but for a number of years you stayed in touch?

Mr. Pauls:

Yeah, oh we stayed, I still keep in touch with his wife Margaret. Yeah he's from, he was from California. He was from Bakersfield, but and well after he was Cincinnati for a while and even in California they'd come and see us and we'd go see them and visit, but it oh I get – but oh Bill Tissure (??), Bill Tissure (??) was aboard the Soubarissen. He was aboard the Soubarissen and he's the only other guy that I keep in contact and I

haven't heard from him now for about three or four years. No the, I don't know if that's just with age or what it is, but you forget and I –

Mr. Johnson: I forget too.

Mr. Pauls: Eleanor Roosevelt didn't want some of us discharged without being degaussed I think they call it. And I don't know what the hell happened in Norfolk, Virginia, but I told them I went through a hypnotic lobotomy because I can't even remember my name half the time.

Mr. Johnson: Well you had a lot of –

Mr. Pauls: Experiences.

Mr. Johnson: Overly scary experiences certainly and maybe, maybe more scary when you look back on them than at the time you were experiencing those events like Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Pauls: The uh, Safi wasn't that bad and (end of tape one)

Mr. Pauls: We Empress Augusta Bay was the, was the main area and they, we built a fighter strip a bomber strip, but right out on a little point where this PT was attached to was a little, a twenty-seven acre island and it was, when we went in there, there was a big mahogany tree right in the middle of it and they had a uh mortar station up on top of it and they had a pill box down on the lower area on the ground. We had a hell of a time getting that. It took us three days to get that, the Marines went in with the Marines. I worked with the Marines, Army and Navy too. And I got that secured with quite a few lives lost. I know at one, one night there was fourteen Marines killed and uh when we were pulling in there I could see

the, some of them coming and jumping off the side of a, the beach there, there's about that much of a cliff and I seen them, like they was throwing, they might have been throwing hand grenades and they'd come and run and jump over the side there. And then we had to go around and go in on the back of it and they, that was called Parada (??). And then another time they had an active volcano. I've been in a bad earthquake too and that was in Bougainville, they, I mean it shook and, but they had an active volcano. You could see it from the, from Parada (??) there and that boat pool. I had to go down and pick up a patrol and they'd zeroed themselves in. They, they put out smoke for the pick up area and they were getting blistered bad. I, I don't know how many guys we had, but I was also the engineer and I also could use the machine gun up on the side and they was setting up a mortar down on the beach, the Japs were setting up a mortar on the beach. I got that out of the way and then we come in and dropped the ramp and had to go get those guys off and stuff. There was one gunny sergeant that they was giving him plasma and his color was, he looked dead to me, but he, he was talking and uh we, we got them out of there and busted a ramp, a ramp cord, cable. I don't know what hit it, whether a shot hit it or shrapnel or just what hit it, but the cockson had to back it down to keep it, we had to back, we backed way up, we made a big arc and got out of gunfire range too and the, but I had a setup for that. I had, I'd set in some 2x4s, or 4x4s is what they were and uh I had a chain fall down there just in case something like that were to happen. I had it in both the tank lighters

that I've been on and they were just a three man crew actually, but the, we got, we got a real bad bombing one night there in Empress Augusta Bay and Dillon (??) was the cockson and Cooksey (??) was the, was the machine gunner at that time and I was the engineer, it had two Gray marine engines in it, in the tank lighters and they both got hit bad and I was, the deck of the tank lighter, it's got a slope back like that and I was back in that lower part and I was hollering for my helmet and somebody kicked me a water keg down and, but anyway they got hit pretty bad and as soon as the all clear I took them into the beach. The, I never did hear, hear anything about them from then on. Dillon (??) was hit real bad and uh somebody said he'd died, but anyway the, I come back out. I'd had some spots on me and they put some sulfa on me and told me to get back out and got down there by the beach master and he says, "Take her on out." And I says, you could look at that thing and it looked like a sieve and I left it there and it, it sat, it sat and the next morning it was sunk. And I went over and got in a bunker with some Marines. I wasn't about to take that thing out there by myself.

Mr. Johnson: Well the, this is probably not an unusual thing, but can you recall any amusing things that happened to you or things that after you, after it was all over with you thought boy there's a few laughs in that?

Mr. Pauls: Well there's, there's always humor to associate with almost anything. But Bougainville up in Empress Augusta Bay we'd, uh that harbor was I don't know, sometimes it was pretty close to twenty feet deep in there, but we

would climb down and get those snails, cat's eyes. Have you ever heard of them?

Mr. Johnson: Yeah.

Mr. Pauls: And make rings and stuff out of them. The uh, go down and get them and we could even trade them off and sell them. And a lot of evenings we'd do that and uh –

Mr. Johnson: So that was just something you did for fun, for pleasure.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, yeah pleasure. And then uh the, when you was in a fire fight there wasn't much, there wasn't much humor to that period.

Mr. Johnson: Not at the time.

Mr. Pauls: No, but guys you could kid later on and well just like Great Lakes, going through Great Lakes and I, his last name was Taylor, had cauliflower ears, he was a professional wrestler, meaner than a snake and we got in line and they drilled us on both sides and he hit the deck. He passed out. We called him such a big candy-ass for fainting and I mean he was, he was tough and just a couple of needles and bang. He like to never lived that down and, and then in China we had a lot of fun in China. I had to go across the bay from Hong Kong over to Kowloon, kind of Kowloon was still communist hell and, have you ever been to China?

Mr. Johnson: Yeah I spent a fair amount of time in Hong Kong, but there were no communist in Kowloon at that time.

Mr. Pauls: No, well no. The, had you ever heard of Grenalda Goerhing (??)? Her dad was Swiss and he directed the Japanese fire from Kowloon to Hong Kong

and he was to be court-martialed and everything else. He was a Swiss guy, but the, but I went with that Grenalda (??) for a while. I took her and her mother out to dinner every now and then. They look for noodles, noodles, noodles. But anyway it was oh there's been a lot of times, but as I say, and then we had a lot of, I had a lot of fun on, in Hawaii and Pearl there too. I was on the baseball team and the rowing team. I thought I could box. That hurts. Art Keasling (??) he was light heavyweight champ for a while and I'd work out with him. I just had this tattoo and I'd hold my arm up and he'd hit that and boy that thing swelled up like that and um, I'd tell him not to hit me in the nose because it made me, made me mad and pow. Then I'd try, I was just, I wouldn't even a good middleweight at that time as far as weight was concerned. He would blister me then. I could hit him five or six times, but not hard. He'd hit me once and knock me on my ass. He was –

Mr. Johnson: After you, after you finished your, your navy service, regular navy during the war years and then the naval reserves you said in post war, did you ever look back after you left the navy and think that maybe you'd, maybe you should have stayed in, stayed with it longer?

Mr. Pauls: Oh yeah I always knew that. It was, it, well just to stay in the reserves, retire from the reserves. The different treatments that you get and the pension that you get is, is so much better.

Mr. Johnson: That's right.

Mr. Pauls: It was very good. I could go around the bush, I mean I get VA, I do get a small pension, but the, it's, the navy or the military, not only the navy is hurry up and wait. Now I've supposed to have been having a hearing on my lungs for I don't know how long and it's, and I've called and I've called my VA Affairs officer and I got my counsel that's, that's been, they say it's in the works and that's been for two or three years now it's been in the works. And Kennedy had, this Kennedy out in California, he was a, he was a water tender too and uh he had the problem. He had emphysema and everything from it and he finally got it and he died, he died. I just got a letter from them just before I left and I don't, I couldn't read it so I'm going to have my daughter check it out when we get back home. But they haven't even called me in for an exam. I get an exam every six months, but for this lung bit they haven't even given me an exam so I don't know. We got a state senator, I don't know if you've ever heard of him, Lugar.

Mr. Johnson: Uh-huh.

Mr. Pauls: With Obama, Lugar tried to get him to be one of his secretary of defenses and all that stuff, but he's our state representative and he's pretty good as far as uh –

Mr. Johnson: He's a senator.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, state senator.

Mr. Johnson: No he's, he's a federal, a national senator.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, he's –

Mr. Johnson: United States senator.

Mr. Pauls: Washington D.C., he goes there and –

Mr. Johnson: Richard Lugar.

M Mr. Pauls: Richard Lugar. The, the thing about Richard Lugar a lot of people don't like is that uh he was for integration way back when and in fact Indianapolis, we had (unintelligible) all black school and he sent his children to school there and it's not uh, you know it wasn't safe then. I mean he was, I don't know we kind of thought he was jeopardizing his, his kids because, there's still conflicts between black and whites in schools. Well when I was up in Chicago this last time, my god they, they had a thing going at the, they were just shooting the black kids right and left in, in parking lots at the school. And that's when Obama was you know politicking, running for the nomination. I like the, Lugar is a nice guy. My wife's brother, my ex brother-in-law he was mayor three terms of Bedford, down in Bedford, Indiana and he was, well my sister-in-law still contributes to the Lugar campaign fund. I mean he's so popular he don't even have to run, he don't run, he's always the incumbent. But the, and politics is something else right now.

Mr. Johnson: Do you have any sons?

Mr. Pauls: Do I have?

Mr. Johnson: Yes.

Mr. Pauls: I have a son Jerry Pauls. He went to Ball State and graduated and went to Eli Lilly's. I imagine you've heard of Eli Lilly haven't you, the pharmaceutical?

Mr. Johnson: Yeah.

Mr. Pauls: And he just had a BS degree and, in science they said, "Son, we need masters and doctorate degrees." And he was in ROTC too so, at Ball State so he went in as a second lieutenant and then he resigned in six years, which you had to stay in six years as a, as a captain and went to work as a controller in Indianapolis. And he says, "Dad, what do you think about the unions?" I says, "Don't talk to me about unions. I been on them in more grievances and arbitrations than you can shake a stick at. I don't have any use for unions today." Way back when they did some good, but not now. So he says, "Well, I..." I says, "Do what you want to do, what you feel like you should do." And he went out on strike and Reagan nailed him to the wall. They fired him and he had trouble getting a job and Jerry is sixty-three years old. I retired when I was sixty-two. Took a twenty percent cut right off the top, but I retired when I was sixty-two because I, I got a –

Mr. Johnson: He never did serve on active duty though.

Mr. Pauls: Just six years is all. He got a Bronze Star –

Mr. Johnson: Oh, okay I'm sorry.

Mr. Pauls: He got a Bronze Star over in Thailand is where he was at as a controller, that's what he done over there too, for getting, I forget how many planes in. Yeah he got the Bronze Star over there, but he got, he went to work as sanitation engineer at a bakery in Fort Wayne and we got a call and he'd been black-jacked and kicked in the face by a black guy who was a union man and it took him three months to get rid of that guy. Jerry never was

the same after that. For the last, the last sixteen years now he was sanitation engineer at Pendleton Prison in Indiana at Pendleton and our new governor Mitch Daniels, what they did there, uh they canned, in the summer time they canned corn and green beans and tomatoes for the rest of the prison and some of the old folks homes there in Indiana. And the, he privatized that and so Jerry got put in a laboratory then at, down there and then they privatized that and now he's a guard. And he had five bypasses and he needs that kind of stress. He's a guard now at the prison, but the – no he just uh, he had a good civil service job and he, he threw it away.

Mr. Johnson: Do you have grandchildren?

Mr. Pauls: Very fertile. We've got a bunch of them.

Mr. Johnson: Okay.

Mr. Pauls: Let's see, well we got four, I got four grandchildren and they're all girls. Let's see there's five and nine, I got fourteen great-grandchildren.

Mr. Johnson: Do you tell them about your, your experiences, have you talked to them about –

Mr. Pauls: Oh they've, they got one of these tapes.

Mr. Johnson: Are they interested?

Mr. Pauls: Oh yeah, my daughter well she's going to pass it on to her daughters too. Jerry is, he's kind of anti and he's got two jobs and he's, all he does is work his butt off and like I say he just works, works, works. Kyle he can, they got two daughters too with a bunch a grand kids. They have to help take care of her. They're (unintelligible) I mean they're financially better

and, but the, now I have my nephews, Jeff was a commander, his brother retired from the navy and his son Ricky has been in the navy. The, my half-brother uh, my younger half-brother he's on the side of a glacier up in Alaska, he and my two nephews, they, their plane crashed up there, but the were too little to reproduce. And Jack had the three boys which was half-brother though.

Mr. Johnson: Well you have a big family an extended family.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah I got half-brothers and, but the, and it's the Pauls group, well Jeff and Rick both or Dickey, they were both in the navy. My brother retired from the air force. He was chief master sergeant in the army.

Mr. Johnson: Do you live in a retirement home now?

Mr. Pauls: Assisted living.

Mr. Johnson: Assisted living, okay.

Mr. Pauls: My wife died a year ago last May and the, we had two or three reservations for assisted living in different places and she died and wasn't able to make it. We were going to move in, I moved was having been moved in the day the she was buried actually, being moved in a place. I'd left there, that one place, that Country Charm and the damn food is no good in assisted living place. It's worse than the navy.

Mr. Johnson: Won't they let you make your own?

Mr. Pauls: Huh?

Mr. Johnson: Won't they let you make your own?

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, but hell I'm not going to pay for them to make one too. The oh yeah I got a stove and a refrigerator and all that good stuff with the microwave, but uh-uh. I pay over \$3000 a month just for, for my place there. It's not; I can't see to cook my own meals too. Oh I eat out quite often though, about every chance I get, but and I am a diabetic, but the uh, the food at this other place that's called The Hearth at Stone's Crossing is, but we have a happy hour every Tuesday and Thursday. You get one alcoholic drink, wine, beer, whiskey, scotch, one drink or you get Coke, water, coffee or whatever you want and they have quite a few activities and we, we go places to eat every week. And they, they watch over you pretty good, but the, they're susceptible old people staggering around falling and breaking.

Mr. Johnson: Have to be careful.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, and –

Mr. Johnson: How many of the reunions have you been to for the Pearl Harbor survivor group?

Mr. Pauls: Well we were supposed to go Pearl in '06 but the, we had to have insurance and the wife was really bad then and I had to cancel that. Kyle went.

Mr. Johnson: Had you been to several of them though?

Mr. Pauls: No uh-uh no. I was just trying to think. I think this is the first one I've been to.

Mr. Johnson: Really?

Mr. Pauls: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah this is the first one I've been to. We've had some; I got three ship reunions I go to. One was in Ames, one is in Ames, Iowa and the others are whoever is sponsoring it. One of the members aboard ship they, anywhere from Texas to California to Idaho and the east coast and I think there's somebody that's going to give you know in Indiana this year. It's one of the members. I don't know even who he is. But that's –

Mr. Johnson: So you really haven't had close contact with this, this group in a number of years. Well I hope you enjoy this weekend with them.

Mr. Pauls: Now I had the, I was president of our chapter, but the I know the uh, one of the guys and I, I've been having a little problem with it. They call it the Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field and Schofield Barracks, them places in my mind that's not, that's not Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Johnson: Well I think the, the name is uh is one that's recognizable by everybody in the United States. Pearl Harbor, the Pearl Harbor attack was an event you know it was not just in a single place. It was an event that occurred all over the island of Oahu really.

Mr. Pauls: Well they hit, they hit the airfield, they machine gunned –

Mr. Johnson: Well like I say it was all around the island, the whole –

Mr. Pauls: They machine gunned through it. The devastation and the, and well not all around the island because it was just those, those two airfields over there.

Mr. Johnson: Well that's, those were other parts of island from Pearl Harbor though.

Mr. Pauls: They didn't hit, you know they didn't hit some of the other military bases there.

Mr. Johnson: Yeah, but like I say I think the reason they call it the Pearl Harbor survivors is, is that's where the greatest devastation was as I say the recognition of the American public is that Pearl Harbor was an event, not just a place, but an event and whether they were at Schofield Barracks or –

Mr. Pauls: It's an event and if you don't believe it –

Mr. Johnson: Or the airfield it was all part of that event.

Mr. Pauls: Listen to President Roosevelt at the time. And I dedicated a memorial and, just a while back, a new library there in Indiana and I stepped on my cloak that day. And one thing, they was trying to investigate and the commissions that had been signed to whether we knew, whether Pearl Harbor was going to be attacked and I didn't at the time, but you go thinking back on it, everybody else knew about it, thought it was going to happen. All the other countries knew, thought it was going to happen and the and, so I made this statement how do you get the American's attention, just think back. How do you get American's attention?

Mr. Johnson: Well that certainly did.

Mr. Pauls: You got to kill a few people. 9-1-1. Remember the Alamo. Remember the Maine. Remember the Lusitania in World War I. And it's uh, and it was a stupid move.

Mr. Johnson: As it turns out certainly.

Mr. Pauls: No the preplanning and how they was going to do it. It was stupid to just come in there and bomb that. If they had an amphibious forces to come in

there and take the island, we'd have been in deep hockey, which they could have taken it.

Mr. Johnson: Probably, yeah.

Mr. Pauls: They could've taken it if they'd had anything.

Mr. Johnson: Strategically it's a little more difficult to hide and invasion force of, of let's say seventy-five or a 100,000 men.

Mr. Pauls: As big carrier force as that was with that many carriers in it was –

Mr. Johnson: Yeah, but when you, when you're going to transport 100,000 men to an invasion you got to have more than a few aircraft carriers. You've got to have hundreds of ships.

Mr. Pauls: You talking about an invasion, that –

Mr. Johnson: D-Day and Normandy.

Mr. Pauls: Well the African invasion that I made in on was I forget how many hundreds of ships was in on that. They hit all up and down the coast of Africa.

Mr. Johnson: See that's what I'm saying. The same thing would have been true if the Japanese had tried to invade Oahu.

Mr. Pauls: But we maneuvered out in the Atlantic Ocean for over a month before we did that. I know we, they even tried out the bazooka aboard our ship. It was a, but it was, I don't know the different, different opinions I guess, different strategies.

Mr. Johnson: Well hindsight is always better than foresight.

Mr. Johnson: Oh yeah. Another thing here being over in Germany, we just blitzed the hell out of that place and I mean we tore it up, but they got wind, they got wind energy from the windmills now and they're all over that place there and we got some of them around this country, but we need a lot more or we wouldn't be – and I noticed their new bridges over there, they're different structure. They're cables, those doggone cables are about that big around and, and they got three pilings, three cables on each side and I forget what kind of strength that they, and they got give to them. And I don't know whose engineering that was, but oh, oh and the reconstruction. All that rubble, instead of just burying that stuff they chopped it up and made aggregate out of it and made stuff to make buildings out of, blocks and stuff out of it.

Mr. Johnson: Recycling.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, recycling is what it was which they probably had to. We waste, we waste so much stuff over here in this country and they, I was just seeing it on the other day, they've been complaining that coal is a dirty energy. Coal is one of the dirties energies, bad energies that there is and the start of the 1900's there that was one of the biggest contaminators we had, still is today. And they was talking to, do you algae is an energy?

Mr. Johnson: No I didn't know that.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, it lives off of carbon dioxide, carbon and what they're going to do now, they're going to put their cooling under the refuse off these, these cooling towers and, for coal burning and I don't know whether, I don't

know whether the new, nuclear waste is, but coal burning is, the steam that they use to do their turbines for electricity is CO² a lot of CO² is in that and they're farming algae beds now and I forget how much energy they can get from that.

Mr. Johnson: That's interesting, yeah.

Mr. Pauls: And they harvest the algae and they make it with corn now and soybean.

Mr. Johnson: Well what you divert from or into energy from corn and soybean is taking away from food for the world.

Mr. Pauls: Well.

Mr. Johnson: So that's a two way street.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah that can come back with like well I you know and this environmental protection and the, our biggest bread basket is the, the biggest area that covers this, this universe and that's water and people does not realize just how polluted our oceans are.

Mr. Johnson: I'm sure that's true.

Mr. Pauls: I mean it's getting scary on the amount of harvestable fish that they're allowing and what fish they are getting is loaded with mercury and very toxic and tuna and all that other. So I don't know, I don't know what their answer is, I think as far as global warming is concerned I think they've passed a point of no return on that now. And if they mess up our oceans completely the, but they say the ocean is a lot like the human body. There's a lot of vital organs in your human body, even the brain, the heart, the liver and stuff, is, it can be fixed. We have a friend that got the last

rites and he had an Oldsmobile distributorship and he had whole blown in his head the size of a dime and survived and lived for pretty close to twenty years after that and liver transplants, kidney transplants, heart transplants I guess they can do brain and about anything else too, to a certain extent.

Mr. Johnson: Is this your first visit to Fredericksburg to the Nimitz museum?

Mr. Pauls: Yes, my daughter was down here, she lives down here in Texas. And we've been, we've been all down to Houston. Went down to Houston and went to ball game in the Astrodome, got a rain check, the damn roof leaked. No they moved us and it was all right.

Mr. Johnson: Well that's long gone.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, but they said that the, the athletes said man that was a god saver. I guess they got mosquitos down there that'll carry you away.

Mr. Johnson: Oh yeah. It's tough. Well it's too bad that your, your vision is not going to allow you to see a whole lot because there's a very interesting –

Mr. Pauls: They can tell me the, I can reconstruct if I, if I have it explained to me and the, and I think that's who, we have a barbecue this afternoon I think at 3:00 of something.

Mr. Johnson: Oh really?

Mr. Pauls: Yeah I think. And then the, is the dinner tomorrow?

Mr. Johnson: I think there is a dinner tomorrow.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah.

Mr. Johnson: Got a big parade tomorrow you know.

Mr. Pauls: Parade tomorrow yeah.

Mr. Johnson: That's a town, that's a town thing. Fredericksburg has lots of parades.

Mr. Pauls: We have our parade, we have our parade well we had it Armistices Day, the eleventh and then we have another, we go all over Indiana. We got a memorial on a float.

Mr. Johnson: No but I mean the town, Fredericksburg.

Mr. Pauls: This is called the –

Mr. Johnson: Lots of parades.

Mr. Pauls: This one here though is a parade of lights or something.

Mr. Johnson: Well this is Weihnachten. This is the beginning of the Christmas season, Germany Christmas season, but we have, we have a parade for the Fourth of July every year and there's a parade for the county fair every year and a livestock show and they got –

Mr. Pauls: Are you a native here?

Mr. Johnson: No, no, no. No I've been here fifteen years and I've seen a lot of it.

Mr. Pauls: We went down through downtown last night and went, and it looked like the balconies are something like New Orleans. Is it a lot like New Orleans?

Mr. Johnson: There's well a little bit. I mean there's a little bit of that appearance. There are a lot of the street side buildings that have a balcony and uh those buildings range in age from oh, some of them have been built within the last three or four years I mean new facades and things like that, but they go back to 150 to more years old.

Mr. Pauls: Our old home place, well there's a street named Pauls in Langeoog and the, yeah I've pictures, we got pictures and I'm trying to pull the sign up out of the ground. Anyway the, the old home is two story and it was brick and they used to have a barn attached. The cattle lived, because that helped heat them, heat the place up and another thing is, it's not real cold up in there. I thought it would really be cold and a lot of snow and it's not. They very seldom get a snow on the island and I forget what the mean temperature is in the wintertime, but it's, there's no ice out there in the bay hardly I guess. That surprised me because you got Norway and Sweden and all them others right across, right across the water just a little ways and the North Sea up there and it surprised that it wouldn't be real cold. And every roof has windows in the roof over there. They don't have air conditioning and that's for circulation for and at night.

Mr. Johnson: Well I hope you get a chance to, to visit around the town and just look around the town.

Mr. Pauls: We're leaving; we got to leave uh Monday. We'll be here Sunday and then we got to leave.

Mr. Johnson: Well you can see a good part of it in a couple of days. It's not a great big place, but there's, as I say there are a lot of interesting things to see.

Mr. Pauls: Now do they have a big airport here?

Mr. Johnson: It's not big, but it's a vibrant airport that uh –

Mr. Pauls: Man we had to land in San Antonio.

Mr. Johnson: Well we don't have an airport big enough for airliners.

Mr. Pauls: Oh. Yeah we, I figured it was, the town looks pretty big to me. I –

Mr. Johnson: Well I don't know how big you think it is. This is a town of about 10,000 people.

Mr. Pauls: Oh, no more than that?

Mr. Johnson: That's right.

Mr. Pauls: Oh. Franklin is 12,000 and, and the main street is not uh three blocks long in Franklin.

Mr. Johnson: Well see uh –

Mr. Pauls: But it's a college town.

Mr. Johnson: Well that makes a lot of difference. That adds a lot of the population for one thing, but Main Street here is a lengthy street, but there's not a whole lot other than residential areas.

Mr. Pauls: Where, where's a good place to, good steak here?

Mr. Johnson: Oh let's see a good steak. I don't, I don't eat steak much myself so I'm probably not a good source of information.

Mr. Pauls: They got a couple of good German restaurants here they say.

Mr. Johnson: Yeah there's some good, some good German food.

Mr. Pauls: But I've, we've had a lot of good German food.

Mr. Johnson: There's a new Italian restaurant that just opened out on, south on Washington Street which is a street that runs by the Nimitz Museum.

Mr. Pauls: What's the name of it?

Mr. Johnson: What the heck is the name of that thing? Well –

Mr. Pauls: Not the Olive Garden or anything like that is it?

Mr. Johnson: No, no, no I take it back it's on sixteen. It's on south sixteen on Adams Street and it's uh, it's an Italian name –

Mr. Pauls: Giuseppe's or something like that?

Mr. Johnson: Well yeah, something like that, but it's, it's a fairly new one, but apparently is quite good, making good entrees. And as I say good German food in two or three places.

Mr. Pauls: Yeah, I like a good old Texas steak.

Mr. Johnson: I'm sure there's a good Texas steakhouse somewhere in town, I just like I say I'm not a steak eater so I'm not a –

Mr. Pauls: See that's what we got back in Indiana, Texas Roadhouse, they call them and they've got the best steaks and ribs that there are, the barbecue ribs. Oh they're great.

Mr. Johnson: Well there's some, some good barbecue places in some of the other towns around here, but there's, there's none in Fredericksburg. There's a Cranky Frank's Barbecue out here and I don't know if whether they're a steakhouse or not. They're a, they're kind of a different flavor.

Mr. Pauls: We ate between here and San Antonio is fifty some miles, we stopped at a place we thought and they had hot dogs, god. I mean we all got it all over us. They had chili dogs and stuff like that. Well –

Mr. Johnson: Well you'll find some good food someplace I can assure you of that.

Mr. Pauls: We're supposed to have barbecue after a while here.

Mr. Johnson: Okay, Mr. Pauls I appreciate your coming in, taking your time -

Mr. Pauls: Mr. Johnson, glad to –

Mr. Johnson: Your, your effort to come and see us.

CD – 2482B Pauls, Richard 120408

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