

WORLD WAR II ORAL HISTORY SERIES

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Marcus Neuhaus

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Marcus R. Neuhaus

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World War II Oral History Interview
 Marcus R. Neuhaus

Speaker, Tape Counter, and Subject	Narrative
Myers	<p>This is JoAnn Myers. Today is 19 September 2005. I'm interviewing for the first time Mr. Marcus R. Neuhaus. This interview is taking place at the home of Mr. Neuhaus in Tow, Texas.</p> <p>Ok, first off Mr. Neuhaus, I want to thank you for letting us interview you and collect your story. I think it's very important we capture these stories from people because your story is unique to you and we want to preserve that. I'm going to start with where you were born and when you were born?</p>
Neuhaus	<p>I was born in Diaz, Arkansas. That was the same place Johnny Cash grew up. And that was May 26, 1917.</p>
Myers	<p>What were the names of your parents?</p>
Neuhaus	<p>My mother's name was Ona and my father's name was Henry Neuhaus.</p>
Myers	<p>Where and when did you enlist?</p>
Neuhaus	<p>I enlisted in Augusta, Arkansas in January 07, 1942. I got a request from the President and all my friends.</p>
Myers	<p>Oh, I see. The President asked you!</p>
Neuhaus	<p>Yes. (Chuckling)</p>
Myers	<p>Was there anything that made you decide to join?</p>
Neuhaus	<p>I didn't join. I had a good job with the US Engineers and I got a request to appear at the blackboard in Augusta, Arkansas. And when I got there they told me that I wasn't required under this schedule, that I had to wait until the next one. Well, I didn't like that at all, because I'd quit my job, spent my money. I told them I was going to volunteer, and they said, "No you can't."</p> <p>Well, I believed what the Army said, so I set tight until March 16th the same year. In other words the next draft in line, I was the first one on the list.</p>
Myers	<p>Well, that's a surprise to me too, because I thought anybody could join.</p>
Neuhaus	<p>I did too. Well, I hadn't kept up with things because I had a job away from home, from town to town and I hadn't kept up with anything except the war. And when I found out about the war I was driving to my apartment on Sunday night -- the day after it happened. I was so surprised I went from station to station on my radio</p>

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Speaker, Tape Counter, and Subject	Narrative
	thinking it was just, you know -- but it turned out to be the real thing.
Myers	Who were you working for?
Neuhaus	The US Engineers.
Myers	That was a Federal job?
Neuhaus	Survey jobs, testing water levels and working on down and things of that nature. Had a good job.
Myers	What was your reaction whenever you realized everything was real?
Neuhaus	Well, I knew it was coming because I was twenty-four years old and wasn't married on my own so I figured I was good bait for the draft.
Myers	What was your reaction to December 7 th , 1942?
Neuhaus	Oh, I just accepted it and they said go take a Doctors exam and I did and passed it. Took out for home, because I was away from home at the time.
Myers	Were you surprised that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor?
Neuhaus	Oh yes! I couldn't believe it, that's the reason I went from radio to radio stations trying to find something, you know, 'cause I couldn't believe it was real. It was just beyond my expectation.
Myers	Do you remember talking to anybody or the reaction of the neighborhood?
Neuhaus	No, because I was in a strange neighborhood. You see, I was on a job away from home and the only time I had Sunday time off and that was usually visiting some body or getting acquainted with where I was stationed.
Myers	So you didn't have any body to talk to?
Neuhaus	Well, there was people to talk to, but they had the same idea I did. It just happened and nothing we can do about it, you know, until we get the message.
Myers	Well, when you finally got into -- when you were drafted -- tell me about your training. Where did you go for training?
Neuhaus	I got on the bus and went to Little Rock, Arkansas. It must of been, -- what's the

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	<p>name of the base north of Little Rock?</p> <p>But anyway, they took me on a bus and it was only about a hundred and twenty five miles from where I lived to Little Rock. We joined, took a bus, went to there and started our military thing the same day. Like -- getting ready to take shots, getting your equipment, picking up the bucket that you had to pick up to measure your shoes cause they put the pressure on your foot it puts pressure so you get a shoe that size. The next day we got our clothing and all our shots and all of that sort of thing. Then the next day I was on KP, which that was an eye opener being on KP in the service. About nine o'clock that night you're already give out 'cause you started about four o'clock in the morning.</p> <p>They come in and said, "Be ready to depart tonight at eleven make sure you're at the station at eleven."</p> <p>Well, that was my first indication of where you "hurry up and wait." Because you hurry up and wait. We set there until twelve; finally loaded on a troop train and headed somewhere. I think to St. Louis or somewhere to pick up more soldiers and that was on the way to California, we finally found out.</p>
Myers	But you weren't told that.
Neuhaus	No, we weren't told that. We were told the next morning. We stopped at Amarillo, Texas and they blew the whistle. Everybody got outside and ice sickles was hanging all over the train we didn't have our jackets on and being brand new recruits, we thought that was kind of cruel.
Myers	That was cruel! You didn't have any coats of any kind?
Neuhaus	Un-huh. Just a shirt and trousers. But they make you trot around for a while and get limbered up then get in and get breakfast.
Myers	So, you finally got to California. How long did it take you?
Neuhaus	<p>I'm not sure, but I think a week. Because you sidetracked for everything that the military had that had to be there on time and so the trains, that was train days, back in those days the old whistle type and they didn't go quite as fast as they do today. But you had to sidetrack; in fact, we sidetracked one time and on an opposite track was a military troop and they were out marching. I kept hearing this guy give the orders and I said, "I know that guy!"</p> <p>So I raised the window when they relaxed the end where I was at and sure enough it</p>

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	was a guy I grew up with.
Myers	Oh my gosh! Isn't that something! Did you get to talk to him at all?
Neuhaus	No, because he was busy with his group and then we chugged off. So we got to California and they called us in and said, "You got to take your shots." We said, "Wait a minute! We've already had our shots!" "You don't have any records," we were told, so we had to take the shots again.
Myers	Oh my gosh! You didn't carry your shot record with you?
Neuhaus	Who ever was in charge didn't get there with the records, so we had a double set of shots. But everybody, the big people they wilted out and the little people just walked up and taken shots. It was no problem with me, but the big guy in front of me, he just kind of wilted down. They caught him and gave him a shot and walked him a little bit and he's all right.
Myers	Well, from California where did you go?
Neuhaus Deming, NM	I went to New Mexico. Deming, New Mexico
Myers	Oh really. I thought ---
Neuhaus	After two and a half years.
Myers	Oh, no. I mean, did you go overseas?
Neuhaus	Well, we're getting to that. They put me in California; 'course that was new to every body, getting troops ready -- this was a military base that trained bombardiers.
Myers	Do you remember the name of the base?
Neuhaus Victorville AFB, Calif.	It was Victorville back then. I think it's changed to Camp George, if it's still going. I don't know if it's still open. Yeah, it was Victorville. Victorville was a little town about like Burnet back then and now it's over a million people they tell me, I haven't been out there. But they assigned me to the military bombardier training -- issuing bomb sights with a forty-five; forty-five and a stabilizer had to go and that was part of the training.

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Secret Bomb Sight “Puttin’ the Pickle” accuracy	<p>They bragged on “puttin’ the pickle”, -- you know pickle jars at a thousand feet it was so accurate. But it was the highest, what would you say, guardin’ things -- it was the highest of its time, the bomb sight was -- and if they got shot down, they had to take that forty-five and shoot it [the bomb sight] in a certain spot and it ruined all identification for the bomb sight in case they were, you know, later on going over seas and bombing and whatever -- but it was high security, the highest there was at that time.</p> <p>Cause I went home on vacation after I was out there a little over a year and I stayed two and a half years there at Victorville. They said, “Boy, what in the world did you get into?”</p> <p>I said, “Why?”</p> <p>“There’s been FBI around here asking all kind of questions about you.”</p> <p>I said, “I don’t know any thing about it!” But they did -- they really do check you out if you’re in that high category of secrecy.</p>
Myers	So you had a background check and you didn’t know it!
Neuhaus	I didn’t know it until I got home. Every body thought I -----
Neuhaus	But that didn’t happen very often.
Myers	Do you remember what kind of plane that these bombsights went in?
Neuhaus	I think, they were called sixes, AT Sixes, but I’m not sure, cause that’s a small plane.
Myers	That’s what they trained in. What were they going to fly overseas?
Neuhaus	Yeah, Yeah, whatever they were assigned to overseas, the plane, I don’t know the planes, but I imagine they were – B24s was more of a cargo I think, but the plane made for that purpose, what ever it was. When I went overseas, it was just about over.
Myers	So what you were doing was just part of the training?
Neuhaus	That’s all.
Myers	Training the bombardiers?

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Neuhaus	Yeah, that was our job. Issue and keep the bombsight usable, you know, but it kept me out of KP.
Myers	It certainly did. That was your first duty assignment?
Neuhaus	Yeah, That my only duty assignment while I was there two and a half years.
Myers	That's all you did, issue those bombsights, and they'd bring them back in?
Neuhaus	Yeah—they'd bring 'em back in.
Myers	What were your living conditions like there?
Neuhaus	Very good. I stayed on the Post, 'cause I was single. The flight line would get up to a 120. It gets hot there in Victorville; that's in the desert; and uh, at night you always used the sheet, though. You didn't have any air conditioning, and so as soon as the sun went down, the desert part of the country would get cool and really pleasant, but daytime it was really miserable.
Deming, New Mexico Supply	<p>Anyway, I went from there to Deming, New Mexico, and they put me in supply warehouse where you issue airplane parts to the people that work on the airplanes. And so I stayed there about six months and they sent me to San Antonio, Texas, at Kelly Air Force Base. And I stayed there from, let me see, I was in Deming about six months, and I got into San Antonio about March of 1945 and went through training there on the same thing I was doing, only a little different situation in San Antonio, 'cause we received and issued, and out there we only issued parts. But in San Antonio we received and issued parts for airplanes, primarily storage warehouse is what it was. It was interesting, and I left.</p> <p>I was looking on my discharge last night and I left there on my birthday. I left San Antonio going to Washington state and it took us about a week to go up there. Of course back in the steam engine days every thing was pretty filthy.</p>
Myers	Yeah, I'll bet it was! You had to sit up in the car?
Neuhaus	Well, we had air conditioned car, but that smoke would get in there anyway and it just had a kind of a coal smell not c – o – l - d but the other type -- coal!
Out to sea	We made it ok, the beds were ok. We stayed there about three or four days and boarded an old WWI ship. And we got out about a week, the air conditioning went out, and the fresh water went out.

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Out of water Going to Okinawa	<p>They gave you a canteen of water and said, “You can drink it, you can bathe with it, or you can throw it overboard. That’s all your getting.”</p> <p>And that’s all we got.</p> <p>So we headed West and we stayed all night about the first week I think in Hawaii. We left out and went by Guam and then we went down in the South Pacific where it was really warm and we anchored there for about thirty days. It took us about thirty days to go from Washington to a little island called MogMog in the South Pacific. [Ulithi Atoll, part of the Caroline Islands]</p> <p>It was North of Australia and we sit there thirty days. We thought we was going to the Philippines but we wound up going to Okinawa. But by the time we got to Okinawa we’d been on the sea for fifty-seven days and don’t forget the first week was the only time we had fresh water except a canteen. No way to bathe.</p>
Myers	That was a smelly ship. (Laughing)
212 Neuhaus	Let me kindly correct that. Down in the ship, of course there was two thousand soldiers on the ship, they said it didn’t, and compartments, and there was about fifty soldiers, I don’t know, that had their cots in there and the guy sleeping right next to me said, if they can’t furnish water, he’s not going to bathe. Consequently, he stunk!
231 Neuhaus	About six o’clock in the evening the time we got off ship we didn’t get any food, then they walked us about five miles, people would get so tired they’d just drop their bag or their gun or what ever and walk on. But they sent a truck the next day----- got that straightened out.
Myers	Well for some body who had been in supply all that time you really hadn’t been trained for long marches, had you?
Neuhaus	Yeah, we had two weeks right at first, when we first got into Victorville.
Myers	Yeah, but if you just had a regular job for two years
Neuhaus	See I was regular military, but when you got a job like that you’re not expected to get out and do things a regular old soldier does and so I was not used to hard work.
Myers 249	So were you doing the same job pretty much? In supply

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Neuhaus	<p>Eventually we did, I laid the first box on Okinawa runway. There wasn't no buildings -- everything was in tents. Anything you had to keep the weather from deteriorating, was where you slept -- in twelve man tents. And before I left, I laid the first box that had to do with my training in the past years. And then of course after we got there in that short distance after we got our tents and everything, there was a company right down below us that set up a picture show. They set up the projectors and things and we'd go down at night. We were pretty safe; we had bombers. These light bombers come over and drop a few bombs on them, we were pretty safe. We didn't have any foot soldiers to deal with on Okinawa. They had pretty well taken care of that.</p> <p>And incidentally, there was an experience when I got there and if you don't like what I say just take it out. Because they took bulldozers they pushed Japs, dead Japs, up in a pile and set them on fire, 'cause of those things took place over there.</p> <p>...and so it was just necessary that they got rid of the dead because of sanitation...</p> <p>It was, if you were in Okinawa like I was, and nothing there but soldiers, you can see how difficult it was for the soldiers to take Okinawa. They had trenches from hill to hill and the hills was dug out. They had paths and spaces inside for guns and ammunition. There were sleeping quarters inside. It was necessary to stay in our working and sleeping areas because it was too dangerous with the Japs inside those caves.</p>
Neuhaus	<p>...And I'll never forget it. By the way, we had two typhoons while I was there. One in October and another in November. All of our tents were blown away.</p>
288 Tracers War is Over! Fireworks	<p>There wasn't no chairs, you just sat on the ground or took you a little blanket or what ever and watch the picture show about nine o'clock that night and all at once, was tracer bullets. I don't know if you're familiar with tracer bullets, but they make a streak through the air. You can see where you were shooting. And they started going up all over the island just once in a while. Then about ten or fifteen minutes the whole island lit up with tracer bullets. A lot of people went to the hospital, but they weren't you know, bad. They just got burns and stuff like that; in fact, the guy sitting next to me -- a bullet come through the tent and got him.</p> <p>It burnt its way through. You know, they're hot and I've got pictures of that if you would like to see them. I'll show them to you when we get through.</p> <p>Now, the island was lit up with tracer bullets and so every body of course headed toward their particular squadron.</p>

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Going Home	<p>This guy from another company asked, “You got any tracer bullets?”</p> <p>I said, “No sir, I don’t. But if you do, shoot them! ‘Cause the war is over! “</p> <p>Man, pandemonium was on the Island.</p> <p>And so, we had very little to do between –let’s see that was in August, wasn’t it? Yeah, August, September, October, November and December and two days before Christmas. They went by points, to let you out. Well, I had nearly four years of points, but I wasn’t married. So that left me down the road a ways. Anyway, two days after Christmas, we boarded on a Liberty ship to head for home and it didn’t but take us one week to get to the states.</p>
Myers	That was going wasn’t it?
Neuhaus	<p>That was going. But we had to stop every time they seen anything floating they had to shoot it. Well, they’d get out there and shoot. They had a fifty caliber on the ship and the Liberty ship was pretty light and it was bobbly, so they didn’t hit much – didn’t blow up anything that I saw.</p> <p>So we came on and came in to Catalina Island about two o’clock in the morning -- didn’t stop -- just saw the lights. They said that’s what it was, I don’t know. But we debarked in L. A. Harbor, got on a train and it was about three- four o’clock in the morning. We was only on that train just a few minutes until it stopped and let us off at some Camp. I don’t know where it was, except in L. A. area. And I was taking my stuff that I had gathered over there and was going to mail it. I had a duffle bag full of different things -- didn’t amount to a whole lot except for me -- and while I was on my way to the Post Office, which was down the end of the Base, they called my name and said be ready to get on a train. I think it was thirty minutes or something, cause we had had our big breakfast all ready. When we got to that Camp they fed us steak just like they promised.</p>
Myers	Wow, I bet that was good?
Neuhaus	<p>Yes it was. But anyway I asked, there was a guy, a soldier, came up to me and I said, “Do you know where the Post Office Is?”</p> <p>He said, “Yeah, I just left it.”</p> <p>I said, “I’ll give you some money and this bag. Will you mail it?”</p>

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	<p>He said, "I sure will!"</p> <p>Because I had to go. I mean, I had to get on my way! I wasn't going to miss that train! Got on the train and we came the Southern route down by San Antonio and up and got discharged at Camp Chafee, Fort Smith, Arkansas.</p>
Myers	Then you were almost home, weren't you?
Neuhaus	<p>Well, I was about fifty --let's see, it was about a hundred miles from home -- right at it.</p> <p>Happy guy, I didn't want to be a soldier! They offered us old-timers -- I say old timers 'cause to us we were, we weren't the fighting group, but the old timers. We were the supply people and I said, "No! No! No! I'm not a soldier and I don't want to stay in the service."</p> <p>They was going to give us an extra grade if we stayed. So I headed home and got home and about two months later they called me at the depot and said, "There's a bag here for you."</p>
Neuhaus 367	[inaudible]
Myers 372- 389	<p>So he did mail it! Wow, that's good. I really, I thought sure when you said that you were going to tell me that it turned up missing, but he did mail it.</p> <p>[inaudible]</p>
Neuhaus	While we were there, the natives, they had let the natives out after the war and they would gather up wild potatoes, whatever they could scrounge up and that was interesting, cause somehow or another they still had a horse and a cart and a man rode it and a woman walked behind it with a basket on her head.
Myers	Oh, wow, and that was in Okinawa?
Neuhaus	Yeah, that the way they operated. They would come out once or twice a week and pick up what they could, you know. Couldn't get much out of the ground, 'cause every thing was really burned up. But they would come out once in awhile whenever they would let them out.
Myers	Well, were your parents still alive at this time and did you go home and visit them

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	when you got back to Arkansas?
Neuhaus	<p>Yeah. Well, yes and no. My Mother wrote me. My Dad just never was a sociable type fellow and he was a farmer on top of that. But then Mother would write me, maybe ten times while I was over in Okinawa. And she never mentioned a divorce. Never mentioned it. And when I got back, I didn't know where to go.</p> <p>Finally I said, "Well, maybe she said." I had four sisters, two brothers, and sure enough she was there. They had divorced. He died in May, I guess.</p>
Myers	After you got home?
Neuhaus	After I got home. I got discharged 13th day of January of 1946. That was my last day in the service.
Myers	Then he died that same year?
Neuhaus	<p>He died that same year. In May. 'Cause I heard he lived quite a ways away. I tried to find him several times and did talk to him a couple times before he passed away.</p> <p>But I'll never forget it. I was sitting in a barber shop getting a hair cut and shampoo and some guy, two or three guys awaitin', they said -- one of them said, "Who's that guy died last night over on the River?"</p> <p>I didn't even know where he was at.</p> <p>The other guy said, "I don't know, but I think his name was Neuhaus."</p> <p>And it was my Daddy, and I was sitting there in the barber chair.</p>
Myers	Oh my gosh, what a way to find out!
Neuhaus	<p>But anyway, that's the way it was.</p> <p>I left out a little something I should of mentioned.</p> <p>When I was at Kelly [Air Force Base], a friend of mine was a friend of a lady that worked for the same place that my wife worked in and they said, "You want a blind date?"</p> <p>I said sure, said ok and we was supposed to meet them in front of the Gunter Hotel on Houston Street in San Antonio. Of course, the Kelly Field bus could take us any</p>

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	time. So we went in and the first time I saw her was on a blind date.
Myers	Oh, isn't that some thing.
Neuhaus	So we corresponded all the time I was gone during that fifty-seven days. We got to Okinawa; we got an address, and when my mail caught up with me, I had thirty-two letters! Sure did. Then we corresponded a year in May. We corresponded when I got back, and got married on August 5 th , 1947.
Myers	So, did you go by and see her on the way back?
Neuhaus	Yes, on the way to Kelly Field we came through San Antonio on the troop train. It was about three o'clock in the morning and I got off the train and called her. And the old man they stayed with in his apartment. He'd taken to his room.
Myers	(Laughing). You were making too much noise?
Neuhaus	No, there was two stories, see, and when he went upstairs, he'd take a stick and he'd hit the floor. I never will forget that, I can hear him just pounding away. Finally, --'cause they [the military] only gave us a few minutes, said if you're not there, [at the train] we're not going to wait on you and look for you. So I took a chance
Myers	So you woke her up and talked to her for three minutes. Well that's really a nice story.
Neuhaus	She came to Arkansas and I came to Texas, after that blind date.
Myers	You knew she was the one for you.
Neuhaus	I guess so. Anyway, that was 58 years ago.
Myers	Oh, that's nice, that is really nice. Fifty-eight years!
Neuhaus	That's about all I can say about my military, I guess.
Myers	Well, there's a few more questions here. You've gone through the major points but there's a lot of little things that we usually ask people like: were you issued any kind of weapons? You were supply man, but were you issued a weapon?
Neuhaus	Oh, yeah, we carried a rifle.

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Myers	Did you? What kind of weapon was it, was it an M1?
Neuhaus	It was M1. Started to say, sixteen, but I can't tell you.
Myers	It was a rifle?
Neuhaus	I never shot it. Yeah, it was a rifle. Yeah, and that's what a lot of the soldiers did as we marched off of the ship to our bivouac area. They'd just drop it. Well, they had every thing they owned with them. They had the gun, the clothing, and you know, some of the older people would just drop it and walk on, wouldn't say a word.
Myers	Describe your meal times? Since you were in a regular thing in Victorville, you probably just went to the mess hall and had regular meals. How were the meals over in Okinawa? Did you have the K rations or C rations?
Neuhaus	Well, some, but most of it was just regular cooked, then you'd have eggs and potatoes whatever, they could prepare ahead of time-- not the real thing, but the instant stuff. But most of the time you had a good meal and they fed us extra good going back. I couldn't eat the stuff going over, it was terrible. I lived out of the ship's store. Candy, cookies and what not.
Myers	'Cause the meals were awful?
Neuhaus	Yeah, or, I'd just set and watch the guys gamble.
Myers	So that's what they did all that long time, mostly guys gambled. They played cards?
Neuhaus	They gambled. The soldiers would get together and gamble.
Myers	Well, did you have any special friend during this time that you made?
Neuhaus	Oh, yeah, I was trying think of their names. I even went through some records, but I can't remember anybody. It's been too long. My memory, shoot, I won't even remember your name till you get home. (Laughing) That's the truth.
Myers	Well, I'm not good at names either. I'm really not good at names. So you didn't stay in touch with any body after the war?
Neuhaus	No. See, I came to Texas. See, I married, and me and my brother worked together

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	<p>and that was in the trucking business. Didn't make any money, but we stayed alive and then I didn't go back to my old job, that's the mistake I made.</p> <p>They promised it to us, but I don't know if I could of got it or not because I really wasn't interested in anything but freedom for several months.</p>
Myers	Just wanted to do what you wanted to do.
Neuhaus	That's it; that's exactly right.
Myers	Do you remember any of your superior officers or Commanders or any thing?
Neuhaus	I remember one. When I got into Okinawa he was in charge of this bonsai boat. He was a Captain and he would take us around over the bays. Of course, they were just building -- lumber everywhere. He decided he was going to build him a house there in Victorville and so his trucks, you go through the gate and they were not allowed to open anything they couldn't --the gate.
Myers	Because of the secrecy.
Neuhaus	<p>Yeah, and so he got the thing nearly built and one day I got an order from a Captain that I was to meet in a certain building for interviews.</p> <p>Well, I had no idea what in the world I'd done to create interview with the military. Anyway, I went.</p> <p>They said, "Go in and sit down in the chair." It was a pretty good-sized building and I think there was either ten or twelve military, like Captains and Majors and what have you. It was either ten or twelve of them in a semi-circle, and you was sitting up here and right behind you was a Judge and then you had an interviewer.</p> <p>And they said, -- they didn't ask you did you do it -- they said, "Did you do it on a certain day." "Did you go out the gate with a four by four?"</p> <p>"Yes, sir."</p> <p>"What were you hauling?"</p> <p>"I don't know."</p> <p>"Well, was this on your part, that you volunteered? Or was this some thing else?"</p> <p>I said, "No, Sir. Our Captain requested our presence at a certain part of the field at a</p>

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 Marcus R. Neuhaus

Speaker, Tape Counter, and Subject	Narrative
	<p>certain time, on a certain day.”</p> <p>Anyway, the whole thing was, he was loading the lumber in that truck. Of course, they had a canvas over it and they weren't allowed to look in it, 'cause they was secret. I mean nobody except the ones that had use of that bombsight, regardless of who you were. It was all a secret. You didn't talk about it to anybody. I guess he was turned in that was a workin' cause he was usin' military people. We just hauling the lumber and I heard he got a dishonorable discharge and I forgot how many thousands of dollars he had stolen.</p>
Neuhaus	<p>The Okinawa kids couldn't speak English, but they did learn to ask for cigarettes. They called them “Cigs.” They'd come up and pull on your britches leg and say “Cig! Cig!”</p> <p>This friend of mine said, “He's wanting a cigarette!”</p> <p>And I said, “No, I'm not going to give you no cigarette!”</p>
Neuhaus	<p>This typhoon came and the natives could say, “October typhoon, November can't go to sea.” Boy, that was the truth. The typhoon in October was mild but the November one blew all of our tents away, blew all the buildings away.</p> <p>These two building you see in the picture was all that was left of the Japanese. It stripped the whole thing off of the outside and you were on your own. There was no getting away. Sit and watch our tents swell up and come down, swell up and come down and pretty soon they took to the air. Everything above ground just about in our area was flattened out.</p>
Myers	<p>These pictures here that you've got of the surrender was that there on this Island?</p>
Neuhaus	<p>No, that was on a ... the surrender was on ship.</p>
Myers	<p>But that's on land.</p>
Neuhaus	<p>Yeah, you have to separate it from I don't know what this is. I imagine this was at Headquarters be my guess a guy gave me a bunch of these pictures and told me what they were and I should of written on them but I didn't.</p>
Myers	<p>And this right here is about the surrender?</p>
Neuhaus	<p>Yeah.</p>

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Speaker, Tape Counter, and Subject	Narrative
Myers	I think there was one of these that had, that said " Japanese Surrender ."
Neuhaus	Yeah, there is, there is one of them I think it's on a boat.
Myers	It's on a ship?
Neuhaus	Yeah, you see, I wasn't near the ship.
Myers	It says Jap surrender delegation, and there's a whole bunch of people there too.
Neuhaus	Well, what that is, is actually the thing on the ship with Mc Arthur and then they had these other things in connection with the surrender. So I don't know enough about it.
Myers	Can I take those and copy them?
Neuhaus	Sure, yeah
Myers	And your discharge paper there too? [Pictures of men holding Okinawan flag]
Neuhaus	Yeah, just make sure I get it back. Any of those other you want, that I know anything about. The guy started to leave and had a bunch of pictures and didn't have time to
Myers	Is that Japanese writing? It looks Japanese; it looks like it's French? This looks Japanese.
Neuhaus	Oh, this is! You're right, here. I don't know what this is. Yeah, this is Japanese.
Neuhaus	Yen, and Ken... you could have a whole pocketful of money and still not have a dollar. Oh that's some kind of thing they gave me, let's see what it says on there. Fidelity, efficiency, -- man, I was some thing, wasn't I? (Laughing) I got two or three of those things. I just keep them all.
Myers	This was after the typhoon it says.
Neuhaus	Yeah. These air planes they look like they're on the runway but they're not. They're stacked up. The ships that's what took a beating. The Navy, oh, man they were stacked on top one other.
Myers	The back of this picture says, suicide cliff. Tell me about the suicide cliff.
Neuhaus	Oh, I forgot about it.

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Speaker, Tape Counter, and Subject	Narrative
	<p>Well I said at the time, "I'll never miss any of that stuff."</p> <p>I will.</p> <p>The Suicide Cliff is where the Japs surrendered at the end of the war. At the end of Okinawa was this huge cliff and if you're down here, (pointing to area on the picture) which you're not quite on the ground, and you see a man standing up here on top, he's just a little short thing. It was that far.</p> <p>After the war I got with a friend and I said, "I've been a-wanting to go down to suicide cliff. Do you want to go with me?"</p> <p>He said, "Yeah." We weren't going to take any pictures, 'cause we liked to never get down there. It's straight up and down almost, and huge boulders at the bottom.</p>
Myers	Here's another pictures of the boulders. Did you climb down in there?
Neuhaus	Neuhaus: Yeah, um-hum.
Myers	Did you climb down there?
Neuhaus	Yeah, we had to climb down and the ocean...can you see the ocean?
Myers	Um-hum.
Neuhaus	We'd heard instead of the Japs surrendering, because of our decimation of bodies, that they would go and jump off and kill theirselves. So we decided that we go down, didn't have anything else to do. It was after the war. We finally made our selves down. Well, going down was these huge boulders and some of them was sharp.
Myers	Looks like lava rocks.
Neuhaus	Yeah, it does. Well, down were they jumped, I told him I'm not taking pictures of any bodies down here 'cause they just splattered. When they jumped off, they'd just come apart on them sharp rocks and the odor was pretty bad.
Myers	So there were still bodies down there?
Neuhaus	Oh, yeah. Well, they were decayed, you know, but they were still in there, the ones that didn't splatter and tear all their garments off -- a part go this way and a part go that way. It was pretty awesome.

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Speaker, Tape Counter, and Subject	Narrative
Myers	Sounds pretty gruesome.
Neuhaus	<p>It is gruesome, it was!</p> <p>And I told him, "I'm not going to take any picture of bodies. I'm going to take just what I see here." The way we had to go to get down here and what we had to do to get back! But that's where suicide cliff came in; they jumped off rather than surrender. They jumped off.</p>
Myers	Is that you there? (Pointing to man at bottom of picture)
Neuhaus	<p>Yeah, that's me. I didn't know for a long time that he took that picture. [Pictures of cliffs]</p> <p>Yep.</p> <p>Yeah, I made me a camera.</p>
Myers	Oh, yeah?
Neuhaus	Yeah, I found the thing that takes the picture.
Myers	Shutter?
Neuhaus	<p>Yeah, 'cause after the war, they shipped in everything that didn't move over there to Okinawa to separate it. That's what we spent a lot of our time doing from all around in the South Pacific after the war. They sent it to Okinawa for us to separate it and we'd pack it, the stuff, it wasn't in cosmoline, but if they didn't have cosmoline on them and they were parts we just throw them in.</p> <p>What do you call that thing that went out in the ocean, like an automobile? Anyway, we would load them down and they go out in the ocean and throw all the parts over in the ocean. We kept very few -- Even the Japanese turned us in for over-working them to the Red Cross.</p> <p>Man, what in the world is the world coming to? They're already after us for abusing them they said. Anyway. That's just part of the war. That's what we were doing when we got ready to ship out.</p>
Myers	So you scrounged some parts and made a camera.
Neuhaus	Yeah, well all I had to do was get a cigar box, like that. That's what that was there, a cigar box. I cut a hole in it and put that thing in it and I made me a trigger on the film.

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Speaker, Tape Counter, and Subject	Narrative
	I often wonder if that film right there is what I made.
Myers	I was going to ask you if any of this is what you made.
Neuhaus	I don't know. I did have some, but I don't know what I did with it. Anyway, I had some of them in here somewhere.
Myers	Is this you here?
Neuhaus	Yeah, that's me, Headquarters at Naha that all blowed away. Oh, No, this is not me.
Myers	Are any of these you? Did you take the picture?
Neuhaus	I guess I was taking the pictures.
Myers	Do you remember who any of these people are?
Neuhaus	No. I've been over them and over them but I cannot put two and two together.
Myers	These are really good pictures. You took some pictures while you were at Victorville?
Neuhaus	Yeah, but, I think a guy was fixin' to leave and he didn't want them so he give to me and then left, so I didn't get that, he told me a little bit I think.
Myers	This says getting off the ship in Los Angeles . Now is that when you were coming home?
Neuhaus	That's when I was coming home. Yeah. Man we got off the ship, went up the gangplank, walked just a short distance, got on a train. That must of been our ship out there in the water.
Myers	That looks like Mount Fuji.
Neuhaus	I don't know what that is, could be.
Myers	It's an old volcano.
Neuhaus	Those pictures that guy gave me a whole bunch of those and I didn't have time. Well, it was in the war zone, most of them. I tried to keep mine separate, I tried to keep this thing here, that's the reason I put Okinawa on it.

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Speaker, Tape Counter, and Subject	Narrative
Myers	This has got little holes punched in it, so it probably goes with that.
Neuhaus	Yeah. You run in to that one where they bathed in an outdoor...? That all blew away.
Myers	Yeah, I saw that. Pictures of local people]
Neuhaus	The whole family sits in there and takes a bath. Well, I'm recording this.
Myers	That's not something you want to record, huh.
Neuhaus	Well, it's not all that bad, but we built our own outhouse. You're familiar with those? It was a three-holer and so, I went out to use it one day and a -- we called them gooks -- lady was using one of those three. So I said to myself, "What am I going to do?" So I just walked in, used it, and waved bye!
Myers	And she didn't care, huh?
Neuhaus	No. Well, she couldn't speak English, and they were used to you know, take baths -- they would -- the whole family -- they would get in those, -- they were huge concrete -- they were built up about a foot or two high and filled full of water and everybody would just get in there and take a bath. So she was used to that, I guess.
Myers	Ok, I've got a stack of pictures here and we're just about at the end and I got a stack of pictures I'm going to take back to the library and copy and let Marcia bring them back to you. I want to thank you again for letting me spend your time and listen to your story. I really enjoyed it.
Neuhaus	First time I had an opportunity to go kindly go back in my mind. I've thought about it a million times. I enjoyed it. I was kind of looking forward to it and I enjoyed it.
Myers	I did, too. Well, I'm glad you did. And thank you for your service to our country. Bye.

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Links to Photos and documents mentioned in transcript

[Marcus Neuhaus, 1943](#)
[Norden Bombsight](#)
[History of Ulithi](#)
[Map of Mogmog Island](#)
[To Okinawa](#)
[Troop Transport](#)
[War Devastation and Surrender](#)
[Local People on Okinawa](#)
[After a Typhoon](#)
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