

*National Museum of the Pacific War*

*Nimitz Education and Research Center*

*Fredericksburg, Texas*

Telephone Interview with

**Mr. Marshall Barrett, Jr.**

Date of Interview: May 4, 2010

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## **Fredericksburg, Texas**

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Telephone Interview in progress.

Ed Metzler: [This is Ed] Metzler and today is the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, 2010. I'm interviewing Mr. Marshall Barrett, Jr. at his...his home in Florida. This interview is by telephone. I am located 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, and it's for the preservation of historical information related to this site. So anyhow, let me kick it off, Marshall, by thanking you for spending your time today; I know you're busy getting ready to...move back up north, but I appreciate your time. And let me get it started by having you just introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about...where you were born, etcetera and we'll take it from there.

Mr. Barrett: Marshall Barrett, Jr.; born in New Jersey in 1923, so I'm eighty-seven now.

Ed Metzler: And...so where in New Jersey were you born?

Mr. Barrett: Glen Ridge, New Jersey which is a...a sort of a suburb New York. My father worked in New York.

Ed Metzler: Oh okay, what did he do in New York?

Mr. Barrett: He was a...he was an insurance broker.

Ed Metzler: Okay; he didn't work on Wall Street now did he?

Mr. Barrett: Well, he didn't work far from it; he...he worked on Johns Street which was probably five blocks from Wall Street.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, well you can't admit that you work on Wall Street these days (chuckles); it's...doesn't seem to be a popular thing, but...

Mr. Barrett: Well I...I did. Late in life I was a futures broker for the firm of Dominick and Dominick, oh, in the '70s and '80s.

Ed Metzler: Oh really? And, okay, so let's see, uhm, your mother...was she a homemaker; did she stay at home or what?

Mr. Barrett: Yes, she did; she was...she was a housewife and a...a great cook; both my parents were great cooks and I've taken it up from there.

Ed Metzler: Really?! Well...

Mr. Barrett: I...I enjoy cooking, yes.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, well that's a good thing; that's a good skill to have in the family I'd say.

Mr. Barrett: You don't go hungry.

Ed Metzler: No (chuckles), that's right! And you were probably in shock when you were in the military during the war then...after...

Mr. Barrett: Well, I...I was on a small ship and I appointed myself Commissary Officer.

Ed Metzler: Oh, did you really?! Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Well, I imagine...I imagine the whole crew profited from that then.

Mr. Barrett: Well, I'm not so sure about that, but...I...I enjoyed doing it.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So let's see, did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Barrett: I have one brother who is five years younger than I am.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: He...he's also an insurance broker and he's still alive.

Ed Metzler: Okay, was he too young to be in the war then?

Mr. Barrett: He...he was in the...in the Korean War.

Ed Metzler: Okay, he caught the next war then.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Now, so you grew up there in New Jersey; went to high school there; did the normal things as a youngster I assume?

Mr. Barrett: (Pause), played baseball; played a lot of tennis.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: I played...the...varsity tennis and baseball in high school; went to Duke University in 1941.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so you were just getting into the university life when the war broke out then, huh?

Mr. Barrett: That's right; I...I joined the Naval ROTC just before Pearl Harbor.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: And through that connection I was able to...get three years of college in before I got my commission.

Ed Metzler: Okay. Uh, what caused you to go to Duke? That's a long way from New Jersey.

Mr. Barrett: Well, as a matter of fact, the...the second highest represented state, at that time at Duke, was New Jersey.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: Follow...you know, prior...North Carolina was first, of course.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: That...but...I had a...I had an uncle who was on the faculty there and that...that enticed me to go.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. And what...and what were you studying; what was your curriculum?

Mr. Barrett: Well, before the...before I...got my commission I was studying physics. But when I went back and finished after the war, I studied economics.

Ed Metzler: That's a switch!

Mr. Barrett: Well, it was a good one.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), yeah, well, alright. And so, you were...I guess a...were a freshman then when Pearl Harbor attack occurred then, huh?

Mr. Barrett: That's exactly right, yeah.

Ed Metzler: What do you remember about that day?

Mr. Barrett: I never heard of Pearl Harbor! I...the whole thing was a...was a surprise to me, and I didn't realize the full impact of it probably for a couple of days.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: But I was...I would...I guess I was fortunate in that I had...followed my father's advice to...to join the...the naval reserve.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: And I...I think benefited from that whole experience.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I guess, did he or you have a premonition that war was just around the corner and maybe that was a good reason to be doing that?

Mr. Barrett: Well, it was...it had been raging in Europe for two years.

Ed Metzler: That's a joint, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And I...I probably didn't realize much at the time, but I think almost everybody else did that it was only a matter of time before we got in it, and that's why...that's why I joined the naval reserve.

Ed Metzler: So the fact that you were in the...the naval reserve officers training corps...that allowed you to stay in school or what...is that how that works?

Mr. Barrett: Well, once...once you...volunteered for the Navy you didn't have to sign up for the draft, so I...I never did.

Ed Metzler: So you were...as good as in, you just were on campus and continuing your education and...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And did you have to spend a lot of your time involved in the...the naval...reserve officers...activities?

Mr. Barrett: Well, you...you took...a...a class or two a week; I don't remember which and we did drilling and...various military things on weekends.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. And so...

Mr. Barrett: And that...

Ed Metzler: Go ahead.

Mr. Barrett: ...well, I...I think...it's kind of important that...in...in 1943...the...the government started what they called the...the V-12 Program, and that was a...a Naval training program as well as the Marine Corps, and we all went on active duty in uniform attending school and...and accelerating our...our curriculum on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: And then...we had two more semesters and then we got our commissions.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so...but you didn't get a...full, four-year college degree then but you got your...

Mr. Barrett: No, we did not.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Now...I didn't get that until after...on the...on the GI Bill after the war was over.

Ed Metzler: Right, after you switched to economics.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So you got your commission then...at the end of your third year of university; is that correct?

Mr. Barrett: That's right; I was...I was twenty...almost...just before my twenty-first birthday.

Ed Metzler: Man, a twenty...

Mr. Barrett: And...and that was in February of 1944.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. A twenty-year officer...in the Navy!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: Twenty years old!

Mr. Barrett: They needed them pretty bad, I guess.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), and we started them young back then, didn't we?

Mr. Barrett: We did.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. And...so when you got your commission, where did they send you off to and what kind of training did you get at that point?

Mr. Barrett: Well, we had had...we really didn't have an awful lot of training; we...our...we...we did...had had...one so...so-called cruise in the...in the previous summer where we went to a naval base in Florida and went out aboard patrol boats and got a little feel of the Navy that way.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: But it...when I got my commission, I was sent to the Canal Zone...

Ed Metzler: Oh!

Mr. Barrett: ...where there were a large number of...of YMSs which is a mine...uh, a yard minesweeper which is...which is what I served on.

Ed Metzler: Right, so...

Mr. Barrett: And it was there that I...that I was assigned to YMS-339 as a training officer.

Ed Metzler: Now the minesweepers didn't actually have anything other than a number designation; they didn't have names per se then, is that correct?

Mr. Barrett: That's right; there were no names...

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: ...just...just a number.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, and...and how come minesweepers in the Canal Zone? Is that just...

Mr. Barrett: Well, it was...it was a very important function. As you probably know, there were a large number of ships that went through the Canal every day.

Ed Metzler: Oh yeah.



Mr. Barrett: And they...they could not start through the Canal until...we had made a thorough sweeping of the channel into the Canal.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: So we had probably...twelve or fifteen YMSs there doing...doing sweeping all the time.

Ed Metzler: And so the concern is what...the enemy would sneak in at night and mine it or something like that?

Mr. Barrett: Well, they did do that.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Barrett: The Germans did...uh, mine the...the Canal or the...the channel into the Canal. We...we, my...my recollection was that they had put more mines in...in the channel from a submarine.

Ed Metzler: Ah ha.

Mr. Barrett: And...but...but...that happened before my time.

Ed Metzler: That was probably on the Caribbean side, huh?

Mr. Barrett: We...excuse me?

Ed Metzler: That would be on the east side of the Canal...probably by the Germans, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Well, actually...the...it's the north side of the Canal. The Canal runs north and south.

Ed Metzler: That's true; that's true. You're right.

Mr. Barrett: And yes, the mines were...were put there by the Germans. They were...they were discovered and sweep before I got there, but that didn't mean that...that we didn't have to...to make sure we didn't have any risk from then on.

Ed Metzler: Right. So that's where you got your sea legs then...was on one of these minesweepers, huh?

Mr. Barrett: That's right.

Ed Metzler: And so, what kind of duties did you have? You...you were Executive Officer at that time?

Mr. Barrett: No, I wasn't; I was a training...I was a trainee...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...just assigned...just assigned to the ship. But the...the other officers that were on...onboard the ship were...uh, one after another, given...given leave and the first thing I knew, I was the...the...the senior officer onboard.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), well, you'd been there a few months and you...and you had seniority, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Yep! Yeah, two months, two months.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), how did that feel...for a young kid like you?

Mr. Barrett: Well, we...we had two other guys that were assigned a ship the same as I was...training...one was an Engineer and these guys had gotten their same...their commission the same day or the same time I had, but I outranked them by a day.

Ed Metzler: Oh boy!

Mr. Barrett: So, and the...and the Engineering Officer...his only assignment was engineering; the other...the other officer was the Deck Officer and...he shared various duties as I did.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And then a...a new Captain was assigned that came aboard in...August of '44.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: And it was at that point that our ship was put in dry dock and...and prepared to go to the South Pacific.

Ed Metzler: Now what was this Captain's name; do you happen to recall?

Mr. Barrett: Maurice Fitzgerald (sp?).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, that's a good Irish name I'd say.

Mr. Barrett: That's right; he was a...he was a Boston lawyer.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), so was he a good guy, a good Captain or...?

Mr. Barrett: Well, we got along very well, yes.

Ed Metzler: What was his previous...assignment? Was...did he come off another ship or what?

Mr. Barrett: He had been on one or two other minesweepers.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: I...I don't remember which ones now.

Ed Metzler: So if he...

Mr. Barrett: So he had had...maybe a year and a half of...of minesweep duty already.

Ed Metzler: So he was experienced in that sort of...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, he was an old hand.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. And so...she was assigned to the Pacific theater then, is that right at...after that Captain came?

Mr. Barrett: Yes. We...we went...we went to the South Pacific; we...from Panama, we went to the New Hebrides and we joined the Seventh Fleet...

Ed Metzler: Hmm?!

Mr. Barrett: ...which was the amphibious...arm of...of General MacArthur.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, this is MacArthur's Navy as I understand it.

Mr. Barrett: That's right.

Ed Metzler: (Pause), okay. So the new...so you joined up with them in the New Hebrides, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, I don't know where...where. I...I think probably it was better to say we...we just...became part of the fleet. When we got to the Admiralty Islands, we went to Manus which was a major harbor.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: And, it was there that...probably there was a thousand other ships.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, getting there we were...probably one of four or five ships in a convoy.

Ed Metzler: Okay. Were...any other minesweeps in there or were this...just troops ships or what?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, getting to Manus?

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I don't remember any other minesweepers; fact, no I don't think there were. I think we were the only one. We were there with...with probably three or four amphibious ships like LSTs...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: ...al...also doing the same thing; joining the Seventh Fleet.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum. Well...describe to me...a minesweeper now. These things are wooden; they're small; they're maneuverable...tell me what it's like being on a minesweeper.

Mr. Barrett: Well, the ship is about a hundred and...thirty-six feet long; about twenty-four feet wide, and a...a com...complement of about thirty...of maybe twenty-five or twenty-eight enlisted men and four officers. It was prepared to sweep three kinds of mines – moored mines; acoustic mines and magnetic mines. And...we...we were not a ship...loaded with supplies for...extended periods at sea. With...a yard minesweeper is...is what it was and...and so we...we had to...do with minimal rations at times.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: And...minimal water and that sort of thing. And we...we...therefore looked forward to getting into a harbor where we could replenish supplies and...get the ship ready to go again.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so you couldn't go out on these big, long cruises without...

Mr. Barrett: Well, we...we did; we probably...went...for a week at a time; we had about enough fuel for a week, but that's about as far as we could go...without getting...without refueling at sea or...getting some...some supplies.

Ed Metzler: Well now you mentioned three different kinds of mines. How did you...well I mean the moored mine you just...basically swept those up with...gathered those up with a kind of a cable...apparatus of some kind.

Mr. Barrett: We had a...we had a...you have a cable system with cutters on it.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: The...the moored mines are...are attached to an anchor with a cable and you try to catch the...the cable in your...in your gear and...and cut it loose and it bobs to the surface.

Ed Metzler: And then you just...shoot it or...?

Mr. Barrett: We...we had a...a demolition ship following the...the group. You...you swept in a...in a...in a sort of a ray like ducks flying.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And then there's a demolition ship that follows, and any mines that are cut loose...they...sink them with the twenty millimeters.

Ed Metzler: Okay!

Mr. Barrett: Sometimes they exploded.

Ed Metzler: And sometimes (chuckle) they didn't, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Hmm.

Mr. Barrett: Sometimes they sank and sometimes they exploded.

Ed Metzler: Uhm! And then the acoustic ones; now how do you...how do you get those?

Mr. Barrett: Well, we had a...an acoustic hammer which was a device that...on a...a tripod that we...were...were...was able...were able to...drop over the front end, and that hammer made a lot of noise...sending the noise forward so that if you encountered a...a acoustic mine, you would explode it in front of you.

Magnetic mines...uh, were...were...uh, we tried to...we tried to detonate those with a very...very heavy magnetic...electric cable that we dragged behind the ship.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: And it...it sent electrical currents between our ship and another ship, and the idea was that to...to try to detonate those mines between the two ships.

Ed Metzler: And was that pretty effective?

Mr. Barrett: Excuse me?

Ed Metzler: I said was that an effective technique; did it work?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, not too well.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), so it sounds like the magnetic mines maybe were the toughest ones to disarm.

Mr. Barrett: They were; no question about that. We did not encounter any of them until the...the very last invasion of the war.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: But we had to sweep our own mines.

Ed Metzler: Hmm.

Mr. Barrett: And we...we had mined a harbor in...in Borneo from...dropping magnetic mines from aircraft...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and we had to go in and detonate those.

Ed Metzler: Hmm! And...so...you guys were trained to sweep all three different kinds in your training, right?

Mr. Barrett: Yes, we were.

Ed Metzler: And...so you joined the Seventh Fleet and...did you say Manus, was that right?

Mr. Barrett: Manus.

Ed Metzler: Manus, yeah, Manus.

Mr. Barrett: M-a-n-u-s I think it was spelled.

Ed Metzler: Right, right...I...I had the spelling right, but I always struggle with...whether it's Manus or...Manus.

Mr. Barrett: That was a...a *very* large harbor, and I...I don't think I'm exaggerating to say you could put a thousand ships in there.

Ed Metzler: Uhm! So that was...the first real harbor that you came to. You didn't go through Pearl Harbor on the way or anything like that?

Mr. Barrett: No we didn't.

Ed Metzler: You went straight from the...from the Canal out there then?

Mr. Barrett: We did. Now I...that took...I told you we...we...oftentimes went to sea for maybe a week at a time, there wasn't much we could do. But when we left the Canal and went to New Hebrides we were in...at sea for thirty days, and we had to...we had to refuel at sea about every six or seven days and we had to get supplies...transferred to us from...from larger ships as we...as we went across.

Ed Metzler: So what kind of quarters did you have? You're...you're one of officers, but you're on an extremely small vessel, so...

Mr. Barrett: Well, the quarters were quite good.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: The...these wooden ships were built by...many companies that...that built pleasure craft and the...the officers quarters were...quite comfortable;



the...well finished, comfortable bunks; we had lockers and desks...very small but...but comfortable. I can't complain about that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, and so...now you're Executive Officer on this vessel, correct?

Mr. Barrett: Yep!

Ed Metzler: So what are you; you're basically the Captain's arms and legs and...carry out his orders, is that what...?

Mr. Barrett: Well, you call...you're the second in command, and if something happened to the Captain, it would be your problem.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But we...each of us had two or three jobs; one of us was Gunnery Officer and one of them was a Commissary Officer another was a...a First...a First Lieutenant which is a...(unintelligible) maintenance of the ship; that sort of thing.

Ed Metzler: Right. So did you have a pretty good crew onboard or were these guys experienced or you have a bunch of green horns or what?

Mr. Barrett: Well, there...there were a few that had been in the Navy, probably a half a dozen, but you...you get experience quickly.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), yeah, I bet! So what was the...the first assignment that you had after you joined the Seventh Fleet?

Mr. Barrett: Well, we went to...this...when we got out there the invasion of Leyte had just occurred.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: The Philippines.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And I think it was...was probably in October of...of '44...

Ed Metzler: Yep.

Mr. Barrett: ...then we were sent to Leyte right after that; we got there in...in November of '44. And we...then...there...there probably...fifteen or twenty YMSs..., and we...then went on a number of invasions in the Philippines to...to sweep the landings...be...we'd sweep before the landings.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum. So, what were these; were these leading up to...the invasion of Luzon or...?

Mr. Barrett: Yes they were.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, so...

Mr. Barrett: (Cough), we...

Ed Metzler: ...we got Mindoro and...

Mr. Barrett: Well, we started with Mindoro.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: We went...we went from Leyte to Mindoro and we swept them in and went back and...we restaged, and I think the next one was Lingayen Gulf.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: And (cough), we swept that invasion in. Then we went and swept Corridor.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: And then we...and...and after that we swept...Bataan; there's a Bataan peninsula that was a...a landing from Corridor in that.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: And then we went and swept...a couple of more invasions in...in the...the more southern islands of...of the Philippines; I don't remember which ones they were. And then we wound up finally...spending about a month sweeping Davao Gulf in the southernmost islands of...of Mindanao.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so that's down in the...in the southern area of the Philippines.

Mr. Barrett: (Cough), yeah, the...the most southern.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, 'cause Mindanao is the big southern island.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And...so was the...the technique in the procedure pretty much the same at each ones of these or...?

Mr. Barrett: Yes it was. (Cough), we...all we did was sweep for moored mines; we...we did have our acoustic hammer down while we did the sweeping, but we...we never activated an acoustic mine. Most of the mines that we did sweep, and there weren't...that...all that many, were moored mines.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, so do you consider the Japanese...were they pretty...pretty good at mining? I mean, were...I mean was this one of their things they did well or what's your opinion?

Mr. Barrett: No, I don't think so.

Ed Metzler: Really?

Mr. Barrett: Now, my experience was...was restricted to the Philippines, so I...I don't know...about any of the other...islands that they had.

Ed Metzler: Right. But they...they seemed to be primarily moored mines and you weren't really finding that many mines in most of these locations, huh?

Mr. Barrett: That's right. We...we...I...I would guess altogether...we might have swept fifteen or twenty mines.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Barrett: Our...our one ship (cough).

Ed Metzler: Ah, 'cause you have this mental image of just pulling those things in by the dozens, you know? And it...not necessarily that way, is it?

Mr. Barrett: That's not what...that's not what we encountered, no.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so it's kind of a big deal when you got one actually.

Mr. Barrett: Yes it was. And...and when they...they exploded behind you, it's a very big deal!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), yeah! Wow! What about...ever...und...undergo any attacks from Japanese aircraft or shore batteries or anything like that?

Mr. Barrett: Well, we had...yes, we had...uh, the beginning of the kamikaze phenomenon when we were there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: It started right after we got there, and...we were...our convoys...often had a number of kamikaze attacks.

Ed Metzler: Hmm! And...

Mr. Barrett: Sometimes they tried to bomb us, but that didn't...they didn't work too effective. But we never had much in the way of shore battery against us...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: ...in the Philippines.

Ed Metzler: Well, that's good I think.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), I mean...one five-inch shell could make a mess out of that little wooden ship you were on.

Mr. Barrett: It...it...well, it...it did...when...not for us, but I saw...I...I've seen...I had seen plenty of ships that got hit and it would...it would take out...a good...good bit of it.

Ed Metzler: So these tended to be more...bombing and kamikaze actions that took these ships out, is that right?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So these were other minesweepers?

Mr. Barrett: No, we...we didn't...I don't remember losing too many minesweepers.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, in fact, I...I don't...I don't remember them losing any ships. I can remember the...the cruiser [USS] Louisville getting hit by kamikaze but it didn't even slow it down.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: They...they lost some men and so on, but they kept right on going.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. I guess by the time...the Philippines operations are underway, the Japanese are (beep sound) pretty well on the run, aren't they?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, they...they really didn't have much in the way of aircraft left. They...they were using them kamikazes, and once...when they did dive (beep sound), you know, that was the last that...you would see of that plane.

Ed Metzler: Right, right. Now where was General MacArthur during all of this; was he anywhere to be seen?

Mr. Barrett: He was in the...he was somewhere else; nobody (laughter)...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Barrett: ...he may have been aboard one of the big ships.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, well you may...

Mr. Barrett: (Coughing).

Ed Metzler: ...you may have been MacArthur's Navy, but you didn't see a heck of a lot of him, huh?

Mr. Barrett: No.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so you weren't around when he did his famous, "I have returned," to scene, huh?

Mr. Barrett: I think that occurred about...a...a week before we got there.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, 'cause I think he...as I remember, he staged that at Leyte and then I think he did it again when they took Manila, but I'm not sure about that.

Mr. Barrett: He may have.

Ed Metzler: So of...of those invasions where you guys swept, which one do you think was the toughest; the toughest for you guys?

Mr. Barrett: Well, I think probably Lingayen Gulf because that was the... (cough) that was the big area...close...the...Clark Field that the Japanese had taken over.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And they had...they had plenty of shore batteries there. Our own shore batteries had been put there years before by the military.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I don't remember much in the way of mines there...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: ...but it was a lot of...lot off shore battery action; a lot of...of air attacks, so I would say that was the...that was...the highlight...of the...of the Philippine Campaign.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, and...as I think about it, you guys are...one of the first guys to go in. I mean, really, in harm's way because...

Mr. Barrett: Well, we're supposed to drag our gear on the beach.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), yeah! And you're there before anybody else is there because they're not coming in till you've swept for mines I assume.

Mr. Barrett: That's right.

Ed Metzler: So, what kind of armaments do you have aboard the ship to protect yourself?

Mr. Barrett: You don't have much; we had a three-inch gun, but it...I don't think that...we never shot at very much, and I doubt that it was very accurate. It wasn't...we had no radar control (unintelligible); we had...we had twenty millimeters and fifty calibers.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: But we...I think you...we depended on the...the capital ships that were outside bombard...

(end of tape 1, side A)

Ed Metzler: So this is side two, tape one. So you've got these guys...heaving these large shells right over your head; that must be a bit of a...eerie feeling.

Mr. Barrett: Well, it's comforting, really.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Barrett: Because they're accurate...the radar systems that they had...they were...they were fairly accurate. They...it was no risk in getting hit by a...your own...shells.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: I don't...I don't remember being concerned about that.

Ed Metzler: Hmm, and so after you'd swept right up to the beach as you said...

Mr. Barrett: Then we...then we left.

Ed Metzler: ...and then you would retire, and...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: ...then...then they would...the...the assault craft, landing craft and everything would come in. And what did you guys do at that point; just hang back and watch or...did you go back somewhere else or what happened?

Mr. Barrett: Well, we may...we may have been assigned to another sweeping area. When...when you get a...an invasion plan, they may have fifteen or twenty sweeping areas on there, and different groups of ships would be assigned to...different areas to sweep on different days. And so we may have gone off...swept someplace else.

Ed Metzler: Okay. And then so you're still busy sweeping other areas when one area is being used for landing then?

Mr. Barrett: That's right.



Ed Metzler: And...and typically how long do you hang around there; until...when the sweepings done...you guys just get out then, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Hmm.

Mr. Barrett: We would be...we would be told to go...in an approximate area to...to...maybe anchor or...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...maybe just have a...a slow patrol; something like that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Now one of the things that I've heard from time to time in talking to guys that are on minesweepers is this general feeling that they are...I won't say...unappreciated, but maybe underappreciated; don't seem to get very much attention, you know, when war stories are being told; what...what's your take on that?

Mr. Barrett: Well, (pause)...uh, I...I sort of wonder whether any of the...of these...invasion craft were very much appreciated; I had a lot of friends that were on LSTs and...

Ed Metzler: That's true.

Mr. Barrett: ...I...I wouldn't want to...I wouldn't want to be on one of them, and...have to step...sit on the beach while the Japanese *shot* at you!

Ed Metzler: No kidding! And we definitely wouldn't have won the war without those guys!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, uh, I don't know whether we're underappreciated or not.

Ed Metzler: Well you don't get much press time...that's for sure.

Mr. Barrett: No.

Ed Metzler: But maybe that's not all bad (chuckle); I don't know. You know, it seems like the fly boys and the guys on the aircraft carriers and the battle wagons and...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: That was the glamour.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, that was the...those were the glamour areas.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, we were...we were very informal, and uh, we...we did the...the job that we were asked to do, and...and frankly nothing more.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So did...did your Captain...did he run a tight ship or was...?

Mr. Barrett: No, no, it...it was very relaxed. We...we often wore no shirts.

Ed Metzler: Even the officers, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah (chuckle); I...I regret now having spent a year and a half on the equator with no shirt on.

Ed Metzler: Skin cancer, huh?! (Chuckles)

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, I got...every...every year I have a problem with that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you're paying for that now.

Mr. Barrett: I am.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, but do you think that's the best way to run a small ship like that...everybody informal or...what's your thought on that?

Mr. Barrett: I think it worked fine.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: It...it was that way...in...in with all of the ships that we were associated with.

Ed Metzler: So there was a...there was enough discipline to be effective, but not...

Mr. Barrett: It was no...it was no question of...of discipline at all.

Ed Metzler: Really?

Mr. Barrett: I never...there was no discipline...no discipline problem; I don't remember that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So do you feel like the...the crew was a pretty tight...uh, tightly knit team or...how would you describe the operation?

Mr. Barrett: Well, I...I think...I...I don't know about tightly knit, but everybody did their job. We...we spent an awful lot of time in general quarters.

Ed Metzler: Yep, I bet!

Mr. Barrett: And...everybody...everybody...uh, did their job; I don't remember any real problems. I can...I can remember we might be at general quarters most of the day and...and about the middle of the time, the Captain would tell the Cook, "Go down and make some sandwiches for everybody."

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: That would be about the size of it.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah. Now, you mentioned that you had kind of played a role as a...as, if not, one of the culinary directors onboard shall I say; tell me about that.

Mr. Barrett: Well, we did our...our best to make...make due with what we could...what we had to do. You know we just couldn't carry a lot of fresh supplies; we had to...have a lot of canned stuff and...and we didn't even have...we had dried stuff, too, dried soups and so on, and you'd reconstitute milk. And we...we just tried to do the best we could, and take advantage of...of whatever presented itself to us. I can remember one time...we...there was a ship that

came from...from Australia, a supply ship, and it had nothing but lamb and butter on it.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Barrett: And...and you could have...anybody...anybody was there...could have lamb and they can have...they can have butter.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), you could have buttered lamb or unbuttered lamb.

Mr. Barrett: And...well, we...in...in the Navy's wisdom, our Yeoman was a...was a butcher in private life.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: And he said, "I'll show you how to...how to fix that lamb," and so we had...we had lamb steaks...morning , noon and night for a week!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), can...can you look a lamb steak in the face anymore?

Mr. Barrett: Well, I have an occasional chop, yes.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Barrett: But...that...that happens that lamb from...from Australia and New Zealand is very good.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah, it is. It's not as strong as some of the other lamb.

Mr. Barrett: No.

Ed Metzler: But I have heard stories of guys that said, "I've never been able to eat lamb since I was in the South Pacific, 'cause that's all we got it seemed like!"

Mr. Barrett: Well, we got a lot of lamb!

Ed Metzler: Yeah, well I guess it's good...good nourishment if nothing else.

Mr. Barrett: Yep!

Ed Metzler: Hmm. So...I...you worked your way through the Philippines Campaign. I think the last thing you had mentioned to me was...the Davao Gulf where you were doing some sweeping; what happened at that point? Was...we're still...what...in early '45 now?

Mr. Barrett: I'd say we're in May...

Ed Metzler: That late?

Mr. Barrett: ...maybe June...June 1<sup>st</sup>, and...and the Philippine Campaign was...was about over.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, and so you missed Iwo and Okinawa then?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, but we...we had a...we had a real party in...in Borneo.

Ed Metzler: Okay, tell me about that.

Mr. Barrett: Well, that we...the last invasion of the war took place on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945, the last amphibious landing. And we went down there at D minus sixteen to sweep, and this was where we had dropped the...the magnetic mines from aircraft and...and they had...effectively shut off the...access to the oilfields by mining this...this harbor...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: ...or the...or the...the entrance to the harbor. And the...the Australians who were...we were...sweeping for wanted to land near there, and so we had to sweep these magnetic mines. And we devised a special sweep to do this, and what we did...was we...we tied the...our moored mine gear to our magnetic gear so that the...the magnetic tail...instead of going out straight behind the ship...formed a...sort of a "J."

Ed Metzler: Uh hum (unintelligible), yeah.

Mr. Barrett: In other words, we...we curled it around and had it out to the side of the ship. The idea was to try to throw a magnetic field to the side of the ship if we could and gradually sweep in closer and closer trying to get those mines, and we...and we were successful to some degree, but we also lost...four or five ships doing it.

Ed Metzler: Whoa! How did that happen?

Mr. Barrett: Well, they would...instead of sweeping the mine with their gear, they swept the mine with the...with the magnetic field of their ship, and what would happen...when we swept, I...I should say this...all hands were above deck, so that if we had a catastrophe, you...you wouldn't be confined to...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...the engine room or some locker somewhere.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And when these ships would hit a mine, the...the whole ocean would explode and the ship would sort of disappear, and when the water settled, you'd see it...kind of sinking and broken in half. And we'd send another ship next to it and take the guys off, and I don't think we lost very many guys...on those four or five ships that we lost.

Ed Metzler: But these were all wooden minesweepers that were...?

Mr. Barrett: Yep, all YMSs.

Ed Metzler: Wow! So, for the most part, guys survived, but the ships definitely didn't.

Mr. Barrett: Right. We...in...in one sweeping sequence, we lost the ship in front of us and the ship behind us.

Ed Metzler: Good gracious! All of this down in Borneo?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: And...and it was never established that it was an important or necessary invasion at all.

Ed Metzler: Really? I mean...I'd...I would have thought there wasn't any...be any active Japanese resistance down there anymore.

Mr. Barrett: Well, there was; they fired at us from the beach.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: Uh, they were protecting those oilfields, but I don't think they could get any oil out of it anymore...because they...we...we sunk all their ships.

Ed Metzler: Right, right. Uhm! So that was probably the...about the closest call you had then was...was down there in Borneo.

Mr. Barrett: Yes it was, because we...we were...we were sweeping one time...this "J" sweep which...and...and...as you can guess, hauling that...gear through the water slowed the ship down.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: We had a...we had a...a top speed of about fifteen knots, but wide open with that gear out, we could only go five.

Ed Metzler: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: And we were the last ship...in a sweeping sequence, and when we...made our pass and turned away from the beach, we got fired on and we got straddled which is the...what the Navy tries to do...is straddle their targets.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And, so we cut our gear off.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: And...and the ship went from five knots to fifteen knots in...about ten seconds.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), yeah right!

Mr. Barrett: And...and then...

Ed Metzler: Five...five to fifteen in...

Mr. Barrett: ...and they never had...they never came close with a shell after that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so you figured the next shot was going to be splitting the difference between two straddles...

Mr. Barrett: That's right!

Ed Metzler: ...and you were going to be there!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So when you just cut all that equipment and...and basically cut and run, maybe that's where that term comes from (laughter); I don't know!

Mr. Barrett: It might be!

Ed Metzler: Now that I think about it...uhm, do you have spare equipment onboard and you can...

Mr. Barrett: Yes.

Ed Metzler: ...okay.



Mr. Barrett: And...and (cough) we had equipment that we swapped back and forth between ships, yes.

Ed Metzler: Right, right, hmm. So you managed to avoid...uh, catastrophe, at least your ship anyhow down there in Borneo. So how long did that last; were you there...what...a week or something like that or...?

Mr. Barrett: D minus sixteen, so we swept sixteen days every day prior to the invasion. And then after they...they went ashore, we spent another, I think, two weeks there sweeping.

Ed Metzler: Oh, that's more...

Mr. Barrett: Now we were all...all together there probably a month.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so that's basically the month of...what was that...July then, huh?

Mr. Barrett: No, it was...half of June and half of July.

Ed Metzler: Okay, alright. So after that was over, the war was still not over...so...

Mr. Barrett: Well, it was...it...it was...it turned out to be because...our ship was...was sent back to Manus for...uh, dry docking.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And...then...by then the...the war ended.

Ed Metzler: Uhm. So were you back in Manus when...when the war was over or...?

Mr. Barrett: Yes, as a matter of fact, I got a leave then and I went back...I went back to the States.

Ed Metzler: Okay. So, how was it like to be getting back to the good old U.S.?

Mr. Barrett: Well, it was something I never thought would happen.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Barrett: I...uh, uh, you know, when...when you're...out there in the...in the Philippines, you...you never see the end. It's never...impossible to see what's...how this thing is going to finish. So I...I was very fortunate.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I guess you do get a feeling of...kind of being out there on your own, don't you?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Especially when you're in a small ship.

Mr. Barrett: You get pretty chummy with everybody; there's no question about that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I guess you got to know everybody pretty well, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Absolutely.

Ed Metzler: Hmm. Have...have you had much contact with them after...after the war was over...have, you know, did the ship do reunions and that kind of thing?

Mr. Barrett: No. As a matter of fact, uh, I had little or no contact with...with anyone after...after the...after I got out of the Navy...until this year; sixty-five years later...

Ed Metzler: Hmm.

Mr. Barrett: ...when the Captain's nephew, uh, Fitzgerald's nephew, a fellow by the name of Ed Fitzgerald, decided to write a book, or an essay about his uncle's experience in World War II. And in that, he tracked me down.

Ed Metzler: I'll be darned!

Mr. Barrett: And...and as far as I know, and as far as Ed Fitzgerald knows, only...only me and Harbert (sp?) Groover (sp?) are...are alive from...from that crew.

Ed Metzler: My goodness! Out of thirty something, there's just the two of you left!

Mr. Barrett: As far as we know. Well, none of the other officers are alive, I know that.

Ed Metzler: Huh! Yeah, and you were such a young officer that, you know, you might as well have been, you know, just a...a normal Seaman as far as (unintelligible)...

Mr. Barrett: That's right; that's right.

Ed Metzler: ...concerned, because some of the officers in the Navy were amazingly elderly, you know, at the time! You know, in their thirties and that kind of thing, so...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, that sounds odd now, doesn't it?!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, it does.

Ed Metzler: A couple of old guys like you and me talking about that.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: But...so that kind of reopened the whole chapter in your life again then, didn't it?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, I...I had to go back to sea again, but I...it was un...better conditions than...than my experience during the war.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so you said you had to go back to sea again; what...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, I went back...I went on two other ships...on...to...I...I went on a...an AM which is a fleet sweep, a big ship.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: A...hundred...two hundred and twenty foot ship, and then I went back to another YMS.

Ed Metzler: Where...where was that?

Mr. Barrett: Japan.

Ed Metzler: Of all places!

Mr. Barrett: I...I took...I took the fleet sweep out to Japan and brought the YMS back to San Francisco.

Ed Metzler: Did you really?!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Boy! Well, was it like you remembered it?

Mr. Barrett: How's that?

Ed Metzler: Well, I mean, you said that..., you know, you're...you're reliving the...the old, old times...when you were on the YMS again, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, that was great.

Ed Metzler: Was it...

Mr. Barrett: I...I was...I was a ripe old age of twenty-two; I was the Commanding Officer.

Ed Metzler: Wow, that must have felt good!

Mr. Barrett: Well, you have some responsibility you haven't had before.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, (laughter); turns out that...that's a two-edged sword, isn't it?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, it is.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), I'll be darned! So, you said in the last year or so you've, you know, you've gotten kind of reconnected with...the whole activity in the war, right?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, (cough), uh, it's been rather interesting to...to...be re-exposed to the whole thing.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: I'd say Beau Fitzgerald, and...Holden...Harp...Harper...Harper Holden who...who wrote the essay was...as Quartermaster did a magnificent job in recreating the...saga of the YMS-339.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. And so is...you...you say there is going to be a book or is there a book already on...?

Mr. Barrett: There is; I have...I have two...lengthy stories about the ship – one by Fitzgerald and one by, uh, Holden.

Ed Metzler: Hmm. Well, that...so...is it...has it been published?

Mr. Barrett: Oh no; no I don't...I don't think it's...it...I don't...it's...I don't believe that that was their intention at all.

Ed Metzler: Okay. It's just...tell the story...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ...completely and...and get it on the record.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Well, when you were over in the Philippines, did you have much contact back home?

Mr. Barrett: (Pause), you mean, by letters or...?

Ed Metzler: Yeah, or whatever was available which I guess it was letters. That was the only way you got to stay in contact with your family.

Mr. Barrett: I got letters from my...my mother.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And...and that was...that's about it (chuckles). No, you didn't have a...you didn't have a lot of contact; we...we did have some radio that we listened to and they...they would announce ball scores and that sort of thing...

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles).

Mr. Barrett: ...but that's about it.

Ed Metzler: And that...between that and Tokyo Rose, you were...you were pretty well entertained, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Did...did you ever listen to her?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Was that amazing to you or annoying or...?

Mr. Barrett: Oh...just...it didn't annoy me. I didn't hear it very often, but I...I knew that it existed.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, but....didn't bother me much.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So when you look back on...that experience in the war, how do you feel like it changed you, or did it change you as a person?

Mr. Barrett: Well, I think you...I think you grow up in a hurry.

Ed Metzler: Uhm, especially when you're twenty (laughter).

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And you're an officer.

Mr. Barrett: But I...I enjoyed...I enjoyed going back to school. I think my senior year was magnificent at...at Duke!

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Barrett: To be...have that all behind and...be able to go to school for practically nothing and have a good time.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, yeah, I know that you pretty well endured the toughest thing that you're likely to in your life.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Did...how were you treated when you came back; you know, a...a veteran from the...war front? I mean, just...one of the guys or...kind of treated special or how...how did that work?

Mr. Barrett: (Pause), well, we were all...almost everybody I knew had been in the service one way or the other and...and I don't think it was any special treatment (pause); I'd say we're all lucky to be alive!

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah, and you were just one of the crowd, too, because almost everybody had been in...in some hair-raising situation.

Mr. Barrett: That's right.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, that's hard to relate to today, but that was, I guess, the way it was back then. Well what do you think is the lowest, toughest time you that you had when you were overseas during the war; I mean, the time when you were the most down or scared or...whatever?

Mr. Barrett: That's a tough question. Well, I was scared all the time.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Barrett: (Chuckle).

Ed Metzler: Well, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: But I, you know, I...in...in reading these two things that I got...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I didn't remember half of what...what...apparently we went through.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Barrett: So I appar...I...I...apparently I've been able to erase a good bit it from my mind.

Ed Metzler: So you...

Mr. Barrett: But you know, we...we would have one day...sweeping an invasion and then...then we'd have two weeks...of comparative calm.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Barrett: Something like that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: It wasn't like being in the...the Marine Corps where you had to keep going every day.

Ed Metzler: Uhm, yeah. So, do you ever think about those war years and some of the experiences, you know, at night or...ever have any trouble sleeping or have nightmares about it?

Mr. Barrett: No, no, no; that...I never had any of that.

Ed Metzler: That's good.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, not that I remember.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, hmm. And so when you came back, it was...went ahead and got your degree in economics and...took it from there, huh?

Mr. Barrett: Yep!



Ed Metzler: Well, what...what do you feel about the Japanese; do you hold anything against them or...what's your thinking on that?

Mr. Barrett: Well, some of my Marine friends...Corps friends do, but I don't have any...problem with them. I had some...little bit of business with them...and...it was, you know, very easy to do.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And, of course, the Japanese have taken everything that we've invented and done it ten times better.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, it seems like it. Yeah, I think a lot of that has to do with whether you were nose to nose in hand to hand combat and seeing some of the atrocities of war as opposed to, you know, being maybe not...directly involved with the enemy.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: You're pretty much working on things the enemy did earlier...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ...rather than, you know, open combat. So I could see why you would be less affected than some of the guys were. Some of the guys I've talked to, I mean, they're just still...upset about the whole thing sixty something years later.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Which is a shame, but I can...I can also have some empathy for why they feel the way they do from the stories I've heard. But, well, what else can we talk about, Marshall?

Mr. Barrett: Well, I don't know that there's...not...not much more that I can recall. I'm delighted to have been able to...to chat with you about it. I don't know whether I...(pause)...

Ed Metzler: Well, one of the questions that John Holden asked me...now this...all of this is by email; he and I have become email (chuckles) communicators. He said, "Well how many other minesweeper crew members have you guys interviewed there at the Museum," 'cause I was telling him that we had...like...four thousand oral history interviews, just like the one that you and I've just...winding up on now. And so I went back and looked and we had five or maybe six cases where we either had a text or a tape recording and text from interviews like...with you, and so, you know, it's pretty rare. And I've only done one other one myself and I can't remember the number of the minesweeper, but I remember that she was involved in sweeping...Corridor and Bataan on the retake, you know, when we re-invaded and took it back. And I...it was interesting to note that you mentioned that...was one of the...

Mr. Barrett: Well, we were...we certainly were in the same group.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you probably were.

Mr. Barrett: No question about that because there were...probably ten sweeps that...that did that and we swept all around Corridor and then back into the...in the Bataan Bay, I guess, it was.

Ed Metzler: Right, right. So...so, you know, you minesweeper guys are pretty rare...rare breed, and so I, you know, I...I think it's great that we get a chance to get some more of these stories down. And I think it's really great that

somebody's gone to the effort off getting the story in-depth like, you know, John Holden has and...what was I...can't remember the other guy's name that you mentioned, but...

Mr. Barrett: Fitzgerald.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah! I mean, that's...that's really good, so that story is down for good now and...

Mr. Barrett: And...did...did you get a copy of...of John Holden's record?

Ed Metzler: No I have not; maybe I should ask him...

Mr. Barrett: I think you should, yeah, that's great!

Ed Metzler: (Unintelligible words) that's what I'll do; I think that's a good idea. And I think what we'll do is...we'll...we'll add that into the archives here along with the...with the stories of the interviews of you guys because...sound like he's put a heck of a lot of effort into it.

Mr. Barrett: Well, he did, and his...his father did such a great job; his father was the Quartermaster, and he was very bright and very articulate. And his handwriting is very legible and he's got a lot of...of the...of the diary that he...he maintained, and he wasn't supposed to do it, but he did.

Ed Metzler: Hmm, well...

Mr. Barrett: And you...you can read his own handwriting.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, isn't that something?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Well, that's what I'll do. Well, alright, let me...let me go ahead and...if nothing else comes to mind, Marshall, let me go ahead and finish up the

interview here. I appreciate your time and sharing your experiences with us, and...want to also thank you for what you did for our country during the war. We, I don't think, do enough of that, so let me just go on record, on tape here, and thank you once again for that.

Mr. Barrett: I appreciate it.

Ed Metzler: And, you know, we'd...be a different world if it hadn't been for guys like you. So, anyhow, why don't I go ahead and close it down here, and I know you got...I think...somebody coming in with a package for you or something, and I know you're getting ready to move back up to New Jersey for the summer, so I'll just close it by thanking you for your time. And I would hope that within...and it's probably...could be a couple of years...you'll get a draft of...of this interview in transcript form and let you check over it and send it back to us and then when...we'll send you a final copy of it.

Mr. Barrett: Well, thank you very much; I'll look forward to that.

Ed Metzler: Okay. Alright, well good, thanks again, Marshall, and you have a good day, okay?

Mr. Barrett: Thank you very much; my pleasure.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, take care, bye.

Mr. Barrett: Bye bye.

(end of interview)

**FINAL** copy  
CD – #OH02865 – Mr. Marshall Barrett, Jr.  
Transcribed by: K. Matras  
Houston, TX  
July 12, 2018