

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

The Nimitz Education and Research Center
Fredericksburg, Texas

An interview with Henry Carroll
Cedar Hill, Texas
November 3, 2011

MIKE ZAMBRANO: This is Mike Zambrano. Today is the November the 3rd, 2011. I'm interviewing Mr. Henry M. Carroll over the phone. He lives in Cedar Hill, Texas. This interview is in support of the Center of Pacific War Studies, archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission, for the preservation of historical information related to this site. Okay! Well, first question we always like to ask is where and when were you born?

HENRY CARROLL: I was born in Waco, Texas, 1925.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: What were the names of your parents?

HENRY CARROLL: My father's name was Henry Carroll. Mother's name was Leona Carroll.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: And did you have brothers and sisters?

HENRY CARROLL: Had two sisters.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: So what did your father do for a living?

HENRY CARROLL: He was a salesman.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Does that mean that times got kinda tough during the Depression for him?

HENRY CARROLL: It was off and on as far as I can remember.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: What did he sell?

HENRY CARROLL: Insurance and I don't know what all he sold, really.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. So did you grow up in Waco? You went to –

HENRY CARROLL: No, I grew up around the Dallas area.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh, okay. Alright. Do you recall, well, I just want to get something straight.

Did you enlist before or after the war? I'm assuming it's after.

HENRY CARROLL: World War Two? It was before.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh, you enlisted before?

HENRY CARROLL: Well, actually after. It was about a month after it started.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Well let me ask you this. Do you remember where you were when you heard that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor and that there was a war on?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah, walking down the street in Dallas going to work. I had a small job I used to work at and I was on my way to it. People come running out their house hollering the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. I didn't even know where Pearl Harbor was.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: [Laughs] I hear a lot of that. So what motivated, well, let me ask this. You went ahead and enlisted. Why did you chose the Marines?

HENRY CARROLL: I liked their uniforms! [Laughs]

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh really?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Do you remember where you enlisted? Where the office was? I mean what city?

HENRY CARROLL: Dallas.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Ah, okay. And what generally would happen? You would go into the office, you would sign your papers? Did you immediately leave anywhere?

HENRY CARROLL: No, they called me up about two weeks I guess, two weeks after I'd been down there and had a physical and all that. And then they sent me out to San Diego.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: How did you get to San Diego?

HENRY CARROLL: By train.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: How long did that take?

HENRY CARROLL: Well as I recall about four days.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Four days. Was it packed with recruits or?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah it had recruits it picked up from Mississippi coming towards San Diego and of course it had other people on there too.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. So when you got to San Diego what happened?

HENRY CARROLL: They disembarked us and loaded us on cattle wagons and took us to out to the base.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Do you remember the name of the base?

HENRY CARROLL: San Diego Recruiting Depot.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. So I suppose, what, they start issuing you clothing and things or?

HENRY CARROLL: Well the first night they stripped you of all your clothes and you bundled 'em up and they give you underwear to put on to sleep in and they send your clothes back home. And then the next day they're issuing in physicals and so forth.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: And how much time did you spend there?

HENRY CARROLL: I spent about nearly two months.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Is that where you did your training also?

HENRY CARROLL: No. My training, well I pretty soon learned how to do my left and the right and the marches and things like that and the codes and names of things. They break you out by tests that they made and send you to different training areas.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: What rifle did you train with?

HENRY CARROLL: Trained with the M-1.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. And just to be clear, what year is this?

HENRY CARROLL: This was in 19, let's see. August of 1943.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Do you remember anything else about your basic training before you're shipped overseas?

HENRY CARROLL: I trained in two other bases after we got out of Recruit Depot. They break everybody down and send 'em different units that need help in 'em or people in 'em.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh, okay. Where was it that –

HENRY CARROLL: I was sent to Miramar. Right there by San Diego.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh. What did you do there?

HENRY CARROLL: Realy didn't do anything but make musters, and roll calls, march and things like that and that's about it.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay.

HENRY CARROLL: While they stepped into a unit that's forming.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: And you said that you went to two other places. What was the other place other than Miramar?

HENRY CARROLL: El Centro, California. Which is down in the valley next to Mexico.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. What did you do there?

HENRY CARROLL: There I become a defense student. For defending, I didn't know at the time, but that's where they make up groups to go on and make other units like Marine Corps at that time had formed an Observation Squadron. And that's when I found out they had an Air Corps. They need mechanics and cooks and different things like that and they defend themselves when they go someplace and that's what I wound up being. A Unit Defense Company.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: So just to be clear. So you basically would defend, say the perimeter of whatever air base the planes were at?

HENRY CARROLL: Right. Whatever air base that we were there. The guys I was with, a group of individuals, we were to protect it and also guard our units.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. So where do you go after El Centro?

HENRY CARROLL: After El Centro we went all over, well actually I went back to Miramar and they got us all ready to go overseas. And then we headed out for Honolulu.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh, okay. You don't recall the type of the ship that you used to get out to Honolulu do you?

HENRY CARROLL: It was one of the freighters that they had at that time. I think it was the SS - JOPLIN, they called it.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay.

HENRY CARROLL: It was left over from World War One.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: How long did that take to get out there?

HENRY CARROLL: Took us a week.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. What were living conditions like? Was it pretty cramped?

HENRY CARROLL: Oh, they're crowded. They get all they can on the ship. I stayed out on the deck most of the time.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Really? How was the weather?

HENRY CARROLL: It was pretty nice. Maybe a couple of days. That was about it.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. So when you get to Honolulu, are you assigned to VMF-155 yet? Or not?

HENRY CARROLL: Yes, I was already assigned. We had already been assigned to what they called "VMO-155". Which meant it was an observation squadron. Took full loads and observed for other flight units to use. The pictures and things like that. To make their strikes with.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Alright. So once in Honolulu, then what?

HENRY CARROLL: Well there then we started, actually the flying portion of it. Officers started flight training. And the rest of us did our training that we were supposed to do in the units we were attached to.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Since you're part of this defense force, did you train with anything other than the M1?

HENRY CARROLL: Oh yeah, I trained on the 12mm, 155 weapon, which is the biggest one I trained on. And I was trained on manning the unzoned ships when we were aboard 'em.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Wow, okay. So you got kind of a wide variety of weapons training.

HENRY CARROLL: Right.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. What was your time like in Honolulu? Did you have any downtime? Any extra time?

HENRY CARROLL: Oh yeah, we still had weekend passes and after hour passes and things like that.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: I imagine that's pretty different from Waco or the Dallas area. What did you think of Hawaii?

HENRY CARROLL: I thought it was a beautiful place and a real nice place. It's full of mosquitos. [Laughter]. I thought Louisiana had mosquitos until I got to Honolulu and found out they had more mosquitos than Louisiana did. [Laughter].

MIKE ZAMBRANO: So where to after Hawaii?

HENRY CARROLL: Well we were there for about three, four months. But in the meantime they had needed some backup on Midway and they flew us out, the ground defense out to back up Midway. People out there they needed anti-aircraft people and protective people like that. Stayed out there a month and then they flew us back to Honolulu.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: What's Midway Island like?

HENRY CARROLL: It's a sand dune out in the middle of a lake. That's about all I can tell you about it. It's not a bad place. There's an airline that really developed it. They had hotel on that. Nothing big or anything like that. Just a one-story thing. And few facilities were a lot better than they were at some of the other islands, we found out later on.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: I understand that the sleeping quarters were underground?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah, you can call it underground. What they did, they took Quonset huts and scooped out as much dirt as they could without hitting the ocean and then they'd set one Quonset hut and then pile sand back on top of it.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Really?

HENRY CARROLL: Yes.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. I hear a lot about rats on Midway.

HENRY CARROLL: There was quite a few rats there but they really didn't bother us too much. I guess they bothered the Navy more than they bothered anybody else. [Laughter].

MIKE ZAMBRANO: So was there ever any sighting of the Japanese on while you were at Midway? I mean we all hear about the big battle in '42, but when you were there, does anything interesting happen in regards to the Japanese?

HENRY CARROLL: No, the only thing that was different, that's where I met my first Japanese was at Midway. They had ships coming in and dropped off some Japanese prisoners that they'd picked up. And then I helped escort the Navy with 'em, back to Honolulu and then I came back to the base. They were called Japanese Royal Marines and they were the biggest people I ever saw!

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Really? They were big?

HENRY CARROLL: Yes they were. What they were, they were, I found out later on, that they were actually Mongolian-type people. They were bigger people and not as small as the Japanese that everyone was talking about.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Wow, interesting. Was there anything else that you noticed about them? Did you have the opportunity, maybe, of speaking to any of them?

HENRY CARROLL: Well, they couldn't speak English and couldn't understand English and we couldn't understand the Japanese language on it. So the two that I guarded and brought back on a plane to Honolulu for interrogation were, really they didn't say anything or act like mean or anything like that. They come on back to where we de-planed 'em. I got on the plane and we flew back to Honolulu.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Wow. And, once you were done dropping them off in Honolulu, did you head back to Midway?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah, right, back to Midway.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: And how much time did you spend on Midway?

HENRY CARROLL: On Midway we spent about eight and a half months I think it was. And then they come and flew us off again.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: I'm just curious, two things. What was the food like?

HENRY CARROLL: Military food?

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Uh-huh.

HENRY CARROLL: It wasn't bad. Marine Corps ate Navy-type chow. 'Cause them being another part of the Navy, well, it come through the Navy. And they had pretty good food.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Since you're part of the defense force, what kind of uniform did you have to wear most of the time?

HENRY CARROLL: What did we wear?

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Yeah, what kind of uniform did you have to wear most of the time as part of the defense force?

HENRY CARROLL: It's a fatigue like the regular infantry group people did. Regular Marines wore the same clothes, nothing different.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. So after Midway, then where do you go?

HENRY CARROLL: After Midway we went to Kwajalein.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Kwajalein?

HENRY CARROLL: Uh-huh.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: What did you do there?

HENRY CARROLL: We took over the guarding in case the Japanese didn't come back and try to take Kwajalein and Eniwetok back.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: What's Kwajalein like?

HENRY CARROLL: Kwajalein was a nice island. Still had coconut trees on it and coconuts blooming off of some of the trees. What was left standing, it turned out to be a pretty nice island.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: How long do you spend on Kwajalein?

HENRY CARROLL: I think we stayed there six months if I'm not mistaken.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Wow, six months. What would you do in your spare time?

HENRY CARROLL: Walk up and down the beach and look at the shore and pick up seashells and things like that.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Wow. What about after Kwajalein?

HENRY CARROLL: After Kwajalein, we stayed there and come back to Honolulu again. And that just about rounds up. And then we went back, well I was sent back to Majuro or "Mah-gee-oh" they call it now. But it was Majuro. They make an airbase out of the island and we guarded it while the CBs fixed the runways and things like that. For the B-29s would come in and land on.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: So Majuro. Do you recall what year that is?

HENRY CARROLL: That was in the latter part of '44 I think it was.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Let's see. Since you've been with the defense force for a while, it's probably a little more than a year or so at this point? I imagine you must have made some friends along the way?

HENRY CARROLL: Yes, I think I made a few friends, yeah.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Do you recall any interesting stories about you and your friends?

HENRY CARROLL: No, not really. We all just kinda took care of ourselves and made the best of what we had and that's it.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Do you remember who your Commanding Officer was?

HENRY CARROLL: No, I don't remember what his name was. 'Cause he wasn't real out in front of everybody all the time. He spent most of his time in flight or in the office.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Did you have a Platoon Leader or a Squad Leader that was like your immediate superior?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah, I had Lieutenant Conners that was in charge of me. He was the Ground Officer which was over our detachment.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. He was the Ground Officer?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. What was he like?

HENRY CARROLL: They were pretty nice guys. No problems with him at all. And he had no problems with me as far as I know of.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: [Laughs] Well so far, as part of the defense force, would you say that your experience was pretty quiet or that, it doesn't sound like you had actually, like anything really dramatic had happened to this point.

HENRY CARROLL: No, we were far enough back from the planes to be safe. Relatively safe except for an occasional [indiscernible] trying to attack. But we weren't up in front where you were making beach landings and things like them.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Right, right. When we spoke briefly at the reunion you had mentioned, I think, was it Attu?

HENRY CARROLL: Attu, uh-huh.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Yeah. At what point did you end up going up there?

HENRY CARROLL: That was right after getting out of the recruit depot. They called a bunch of us that were going out on liberty in San Diego back into the base and had us get our transport packs ready and they put us aboard a destroyer. And that's when we found out, well a few days later we found out that we were headed north. And we went up to back up the ground crews up there where they probably thought that they needed more personnel. But the Japanese hadn't done anything other than land some troops up there and then they couldn't get back up there to do any relief work for them or anything like that. So there wasn't a whole lot to it.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: So the destroyer takes you all the way up to Attu and, well yeah, it takes you all the way to Attu, huh?

HENRY CARROLL: Uh-huh. They disembarked us and I don't know whether they laid off between Attu and the States or what but we were only up there about four or five days and then the Officer showed up again and loaded us and brought us back.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Were you provided with all the gear that you needed? For example, I'm sure it was pretty cold up there. Did you get special cold weather gear along the way?

HENRY CARROLL: No, they didn't have too much to issue back in those and they just ordered a lot of things, but it was pretty cold and you had to get used to it. They brought us back and we never did get any winter gear.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Did you see any Japanese up in Attu?

HENRY CARROLL: No, never did.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: What's Attu like?

HENRY CARROLL: Kinda like a coastal town. It wasn't nice or anything like that. It was just cold and rainy and damp.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Hmm. Okay. Before I forget, how many other marines were there in your defense force?

HENRY CARROLL: I don't know the exact number but there were about 50 of us that made up our division.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. So you've been to Attu. We've talked about, what was the last one? I think Majuro. You said in 1944. Do you recall where you went after Majuro?

HENRY CARROLL: No, I think then we took a break for about a month. And then a ship came in and picked us up and I headed back to the States.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: You headed back to the States?

HENRY CARROLL: Uh-huh.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Was that for leave? Or you were headed back to stay?

HENRY CARROLL: That's the rotation that they give you. After you've been overseas so many months or something like that, they get a ship available, they'll bring some of 'em back, bring some new ones back over.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. What year is this?

HENRY CARROLL: That was in '44 I believe. The later part of '44.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: When you were overseas, I'm sorry, go on-

HENRY CARROLL: I'll tell you what, this is a long time to try and remember all these times and all!

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Well you're doing pretty good! [laughs] Did you get a chance to write a lot when you were overseas?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah, I didn't have anyone to write to. But you get adequate time to do things like that. Spent a lot of time swimming in the ocean.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Did you stay in touch with any of the friends that you made in the defense force?

HENRY CARROLL: I did for a while and a lot of 'em got, when they were transferred in to other units, had gotten killed on some of the island landings that they went on. So I lost, am down to about three of 'em and they died later on. I don't know what from or anything like that. I hear that they're dead.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. What kind of planes would your unit protect?

HENRY CARROLL: Our Squadron flew Grumman aircraft and then the Corsair. Before, Corsair was their main plane.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Did you ever get a chance to, well, I know you're part of the defense force and pilots are in a different world, but did you ever get a chance to talk or know any of the pilots?

HENRY CARROLL: Oh yeah, 'cause we were on the ground with 'em. They had to have someone to talk to and they get tired of lookin' at each other I guess [laughter]. So they'd come along and talk to you for a little bit.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: I've heard that John Glenn was in the unit. Did you ever get a chance to talk to him or meet him?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah, I met him and his wife before they married. They got married in El Centro all the way down there. And at that time he was a pretty nice guy.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Yeah? Let's see. Any other pilots that you recall?

HENRY CARROLL: Oh, Captain Ochoa which was a real nice, he was an excellent Officer and a good pilot. Then there were officers – Sides.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Who?

HENRY CARROLL: Sides, S-I-D-E-S.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh. Okay. And the other one was Ochoa?

HENRY CARROLL: I just talked to him around his plane and such. For some reason my gunsman was close to his plane where it was parked.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay.

HENRY CARROLL: So you'd talk to 'em. You know, pilots close to sea.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Right. And considering that you're providing a secure airfield for them to fly out of, I'm sure that they must have appreciated you quite a bit.

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah, they always wanted to know how things went today while they were gone, something like that.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: How often would they fly out?

HENRY CARROLL: Just about every day they'd fly someplace. Have an assignment to either drop some bombs on a Japanese emplacement so they'd bypass them or something like that. They patrolled the skies all the time.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. I have a picture of the unit patch on my computer here, and I just have to ask. I don't know if you know the answer though. Ready Teddy. I mean, it has a little picture of a teddy bear with a parachute. Do you know what the story behind that is?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah. Back when that patch become part of the unit, they had let all the units in the Marine Corps, Aviation and other things, make up a patch to wear on their shoulders of their uniform. Which they don't allow anymore. But they come along and said you can make your own patch up. Well that patch was made up by the officers' wives and not by the enlisted men.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: [Laughs] So the officers' wives came up with Ready Teddy?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Well, when you get back to the states, you're still in the Marine Corps, so what do you do? What happens to you?

HENRY CARROLL: Well wherever they bring you back to, they bring you back into a gathering area. That happened to be at Treasure Island that I hit when I came back. And they make up your papers there. Give you, and you go on your leave and your papers also had the next base you're assigned to. Went right back to El Centro and went back and become a Sergeant of the Guardsmen. At El Centro.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: A Sergeant of the Guards?

HENRY CARROLL: I wasn't a Sergeant, I was just a Corporal.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Well what does a Sergeant of the Guards do?

HENRY CARROLL: Get everybody mad at you [laughter]. Mine was supposed to guard and change the guards and muster 'em, and just the regular daily routine like that.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. And did you do that until you got outta the corps or what?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah, I was make a permanent Corporal out of the temporary rank that they give me. And I made permanent Corporal. Just before I got out.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh, okay. Is that where you are when you hear that they drop the atomic bomb?

HENRY CARROLL: No, I think, you know, I'm not sure where I heard about it. I knew they dropped it in New Mexico on the test. But as far as actually dropping it goes, I don't remember where I was when that happened. But I was in the States. I wasn't overseas at that time.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Right.

HENRY CARROLL: But I was glad they dropped it anyway.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Did you ever hear any talk, well since the atomic bomb was so secret, you know, the other option was to invade Japan. Did you ever hear any talk about that?

HENRY CARROLL: No, there wasn't a whole lot except all of the guys that I knew who were in what they called the "line company", wasn't lookin' forward to it, I'll tell you.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: No, I'd imagine they wouldn't be. Do you remember where you were when you heard that the war was over?

HENRY CARROLL: I was at Camp Elliott at the time.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Camp Pendleton?

HENRY CARROLL: Elliott. Which is right there by Peleliu.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: I'm sorry, say the name again?

HENRY CARROLL: Elliott.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh, Camp Elliott. Okay.

HENRY CARROLL: Mm-hmm.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Do you remember what you were doing?

HENRY CARROLL: I was in charge of rig at Camp Elliott then.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: And what did you think? I mean the war is just over all of a sudden.

HENRY CARROLL: I thanked God that it was over with and thought boy, we can get out of here and go home now for a while.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: How long after the end of the war did you actually get discharged from the service?

HENRY CARROLL: I got discharged in, let me get the exact date. I got my discharges in front of me. Let's see what date they put on it. 1946.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. So you, and you were at Camp Elliott until '46?

HENRY CARROLL: Uh, yes.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Did you take advantage of the GI bill when you were discharged?

HENRY CARROLL: No.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. What did you do when you got out?

HENRY CARROLL: I had already trained as an aircraft rigger. And I went back in the aircraft industry for Lockheed aircraft. And then I got out of that and went back into civilian business.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh, okay. Okay. So you were in, basically you worked in and around airplanes for the rest of your life?

HENRY CARROLL: Just about until I think in about '49. Then I went into the industrial business and I became a safety man.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh, okay. Did you get recalled for the Korean War?

HENRY CARROLL: No, I didn't. They put me on notice but that's all I got.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Were you ever a reservist?

HENRY CARROLL: No, uh-uh.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: So basically World War Two was your only war experience?

HENRY CARROLL: Right.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Alright.

HENRY CARROLL: For the most part I didn't have anything important to do with it.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Well, you know you could tell me about you ate, what you wore, and what it was like. I mean it's not always about, you know, battles and bombs and what you shot. Actually, did you ever have to shoot your weapon when you were in the defense force?

HENRY CARROLL: Yeah, we had a couple of types that came over and we had to ward 'em off. Some would always board ship. That was about it.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: You mean Japanese planes?

HENRY CARROLL: Yes, uh-huh.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Well is there anything else that you'd like to add? Any interesting or funny stories that happened while you were in the service?

HENRY CARROLL: Oh, I can't think of anything right now. Just thank God that I was born in America and live here.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Okay. Well, you know, I guess that's pretty much it.

HENRY CARROLL: Alright sir.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh behalf of the museum and myself I just want to thank you for your service and for making time for us to have the opportunity to interview you.

HENRY CARROLL: Alright, I appreciate it. I'm going to tell you know, you really have the best Admiral I ever heard of.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: The best what?

HENRY CARROLL: Admiral.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Ah.

HENRY CARROLL: Nimitz. He's kinda my idol.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh really?

HENRY CARROLL: Yes.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Have you ever been out to the museum in Fredericksburg?

HENRY CARROLL: Yes I have.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Oh, okay. Yeah, he was quite a man.

HENRY CARROLL: Yes, he was. He was.

MIKE ZAMBRANO: Alright then. Let me turn off my recorder here, but don't go away because I just have a couple of things I want to pass on to you.