

**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR**

**Nimitz Education and Research Center**

**Fredericksburg, Texas**

**An Interview with**

**Louis C. Justin**

**Healdsburg, CA**

**January 22, 2015**

**313<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing**

**20<sup>th</sup> Air Force**

**Photo Lab**

My name is Richard Misenhimer, today is January 22, 2015. I am interviewing Mr. Louis C. Justin by telephone. His phone number is 707-433-3883. His address is 205 Cottonwood Circle, Healdsburg, California, 95448. His daughter Lorraine Plass is helping with the interview. This interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War, the Nimitz Education and Research Center, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well first off Mr. Justin I want thank you for your time today and thank you for your service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Justin:

You're welcome. I was happy to do that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The first thing I need to do is read to you this agreement with the museum to make sure this is okay with you.

Ms. Plass:

Okay.

Mr. Misenhimer:

*"Agreement Read"*

Is that okay with you?

Mr. Justin:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, good thank you. Now the next thing I'd like to do is get an alternative contact. We find out that sometimes several years down the road we try to get back into contact with the veteran he's moved. So does he have a son or a daughter or someone we could contact if we needed to, to find him?

Ms. Plass:

I'm his daughter, my name is Lorraine.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you live there?

Ms. Plass:

I live here, yes and I'm a Vietnam vet.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What is your home phone number?

Ms. Plass:

Area code 707-953-6016.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What is your last name?

Ms. Plass:

Plass, like a glass of water, only with a "p".

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what is your mailing address?

Ms. Plass:

1032 Langhart Drive in Healdsburg.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Hopefully we'll never need that, but you never know. Alright, Mr. Justin what is your birthdate?

Mr. Justin:

October 29, 1922.

Mr. Misenhimer:

October 29, 1922. Where were you born?

Mr. Justin:

Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Justin.

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How many of each?

Mr. Justin:

Four brothers and two sisters.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were any of your brothers in World War II?

Ms. Plass:

Yes. One was in the Navy, right?

Mr. Justin:

Yeah my younger brother was..., my brother Anthony he was in the Air Force, too I think.

I don't remember, he was in the service.

Ms. Plass:

One was Anthony, Anthony in the Air Force or Navy?

Mr. Justin:

My brother John was in the Army, I think it was.

Ms. Plass:

Hang on, he's writing this down. So you got the brother Anthony was in World War II in the Air Force.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Are any of his brothers still living?

Ms. Plass:

Anthony is still living.

Mr. Justin.

Oh no, he passed away.

Ms. Plass:

He just passed away, sorry.

Mr. Justin:

A couple of years ago.

Mr. Misenhimer:

If there are any of them still living I'd like to get their name and phone number and interview them.

Ms. Plass:

Okay, there's one living, right? Joe. Yes he's still living.

Mr. Justin:

I've got two brothers that are alive and my younger sister.

Ms. Plass:

Yes. Was Frank in the service though?

Mr. Justin:

Frank, yeah I think he was, yes, but I don't remember too much about it.

Ms. Plass:

He was in World War II. Frank, his brother Frank, was in World War II, but he didn't see any action.

Mr. Justin:

No it was after the war.

Ms. Plass:

After the war. So he didn't see action, but he is alive in Ohio.

Mr. Justin:

The older brother Tony was there in the Air Force, he's passed away, the oldest one.

Ms. Plass:

He was the oldest. Okay and then tell him about Joe, he had a brother Joe that's still alive.

Mr. Justin:

Well my other brother John passed away, too. He was the second oldest, I was the third oldest.

Ms. Plass:

Did John serve? John was in the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Justin:

He was a tank driver, I think.

Ms. Plass:

He has passed away, also. And then so you have one brother that is still living.

Mr. Justin:

Younger one that was in the Navy.

Ms. Plass:

Was in the Navy, and his name is Joe.

Mr. Justin:

Joseph.

Ms. Plass:

Joseph. He's still alive and dad changed his name after he got out, so his last name is his given name which is Juskiewicz and I'll have to spell that for you. Joe is J-u-s-z-k-i-e-w-i-c-z.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you have a phone number for him?

Ms. Plass:

Yeah, I'll have mom get the phone number while we're sitting here. Well that's what dad's name was while he was in the service too, and then he changed it on the way out.

Mr. Justin:

After I got out of the service and dropped everything and came to California. They didn't know how to spell Polish names, so I abbreviated it. And I go under Justin now. So my last name is Justin.

Ms. Plass:

But all of his service papers and separation have Juskiewicz on it, Louis.

Mr. Justin:

Being in California, they didn't understand Polish.

Ms. Plass:

He had to do with a little prejudice in the military, too. Okay I have Joe's telephone number for you. And it's area code, 330-963-3969.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where does he live?

Ms. Plass:

He lives in North Carolina. And then what was your name, so I can call him and give him a heads up that you're calling.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now you grew up during the depression, how did the depression affect you and your family?

Mr. Justin:

You just had to get along with what you did and what does your work. After I got out of school, I worked in a machine shop. Service stations, I'd run my own service station, I worked for a service station for Standard Oil in Ohio. We came up from Cleveland, Ohio.

Ms. Plass:

So dad says mom says they lost their house, they lost their savings, they had to use all of that while they were saving for a house, so they went through that completely. (What else mom, anything else you can think of during the depression?) The commodities that they got, they remember the cheese tasting like soap.

Mr. Misenhimer:

They were still children, they weren't adults right?

Ms. Plass:

...the potatoes at a time and then they'd have to eat those all up because they would turn. So you were both talking to me at the same time, what did you say?

Ms. Plass:

Children.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what was his father's occupation?

Ms. Plass:

What was your father's occupation, dad?

Mr. Justin:

He worked at American Field Work company in Cleveland, Ohio. He retired from

\_\_\_\_\_ ((couldn't hear the rest of his comments))

((Phone noise – did not include comments))

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you go to high school?

Mr. Justin:

Went to Catholic high school in Cleveland, Ohio. I went to Catholic high school and after graduation I went to the Cleveland Trade School.

Ms. Plass:

He went to Saint Stan's High School.

Mr. Justin:

Saint Stan's High School and then I went to the Cleveland Trade School.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What year did you finish high school?

Mr. Justin:

Oh, geez.

Ms. Plass:

I've got his file out and got his separation papers.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When did you go into the service?

Ms. Plass:

He went into the service on 9 March 1943.



Mr. Justin:

I volunteered.

Ms. Plass:

Year '40.

Mr. Misenhimer:

1940.

Mr. Justin:

Cleveland Trade School.

Ms. Plass:

And then what was the other question you asked me about?

Mr. Misenhimer:

When he went into the service did he volunteer or was he drafted?

Ms. Plass:

He volunteered.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And which branch did he go into?

Ms. Plass:

U.S. Army Air Force, USAAF.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did he choose the Air Force?

Mr. Justin:

I just signed up and then they goofed up. I was supposed to go to radio school in Chicago but I was down in Florida and I guess my orders...., I wanted to go to radio school, they screwed up the deal so I ended up in Denver, Colorado. When I got off the train, a Lieutenant asked what am I doing here. I said, "Oh I'm supposed to go to the radio school." He said "What! That's in Chicago, you're in Denver." And I said, "What's over here?" I was at the airport, the main airport in Denver, and the Lieutenant says, "You want me to ship you back to Chicago?" And I

said, "What's this?" He says, "This is the photography school here." I said, "I'll stay here and take the photography course." (Laughter) I got into photography by another mistake.

Ms. Plass:

By proxy. So that was kind of off the point, but you've got more history there, right. Other questions you're probably going to ask down the line.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What all did you do in your photography course?

Mr. Justin:

I went to photography school so I used, I was developing and taking care of the cameras in the airplanes or the bombardiers, which ever one.

Ms. Plass:

He would take the film out of the cameras.

Mr. Justin:

Take the film out, I had to develop the film of the pictures.

Ms. Plass:

Printed it and copied it, and made enlargements of both aerial and ground.

Mr. Justin:

Yeah, I was in charge of the developing on the island of Tinian.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how long was that school?

Ms. Plass:

I think on his enlistment papers it has ...,

Mr. Justin:

I think I was at the photo school about..., I was in Denver I think about six months.

Ms. Plass:

It has nine months down here.

Mr. Justin:

Nine months, yeah that's it.

Ms. Plass:

And then a lot of it turned out to be on the job training when you were on the island, right?

Mr. Justin:

Oh I had training, I just..., I was in charge of developing all the film coming from the bombardiers, the Enola Gay. I developed the pictures from the Enola Gay when they dropped the bomb on Japan. I made the first pictures and I had two FBI guys in the darkroom with me. Watching me, I don't know what they were watching.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And was that on Tinian?

Ms. Plass:

Yes, that was on Tinian Island in the Pacific.

Mr. Justin:

Guam branch. That's the headquarters, Guam.

Ms. Plass:

He did everything associated with the photographic lab tech. Part of that was learning to take apart and repair the cameras. As well as, you know process all the film with it. It says here that he served in the research team wing photographic lab of the research team bombardment wing of the 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force in the ...,

Mr. Justin:

On Tinian Island.

Ms. Plass:

... of operations for thirteen months.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Thirteen months, okay.

Ms. Plass:

So in his school thing, I'm looking back at his military occupational assignment, it has twelve

months private basic, I bet you it was twelve weeks. Basic Training 521 and then it has twenty months, but I beg to differ because I was a, well what do you call it, a record administrator. He was a Corporal and he went to Camera Technician School 941. Then it has thirteen weeks as a Sergeant Photographic Laboratory Tech 945. I'm sure it's weeks, not months.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When he finished the photo school, then what happened?

Mr. Justin:

What do you mean, what did I do when I came...

Ms. Plass:

Did you go straight to Tinian Island or did you go to Texas or anything first?

Mr. Justin:

Yeah I traveled, traveled several different places really. Working on the airplanes with the cameras on the fighter airplanes, I would check the cameras. And then at the end I was on Tinian, I developed all the pictures on the 9<sup>th</sup> Bomb School, the cameras, the film would come in and it would be the Enola Gay came back from dropping the bomb on Japan, I developed the camera, the film.

Ms. Plass:

Hold on dad you're on a loop here. He was asking you when you left photographic school, he wanted to know if you went anywhere else. And mom was saying Galveston, Texas. And what he wants to hear is what else you did. And I think you went there to learn how to drive jeeps and drive tanks and learn how to fire a gun and everything.

Mr. Justin:

No, just firing guns. I did...

Ms. Plass:

So he had a couple of stop overs before he went to the island.

Mr. Justin:

Oh I went to several different places before I went overseas.

Ms. Plass:

Okay, let him ask the next question.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When did he leave to go overseas?

Mr. Justin:

'44.

Mr. Misenhimer:

November 28<sup>th</sup> of '44.

Ms. Plass:

Yeah, 28 November '44. He departed the U.S. and he went over here, he went to the Asiatic Pacific and he arrived a day later.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did he go, how did he travel, by plane, or boat, or how?

Mr. Justin:

Boat, we traveled by a boat.

Ms. Plass:

Boat. Oh my God, I didn't know that dad, I thought you went by plane. Yeah he went by boat the whole way and it was pretty bad.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What were some things that happened on that trip over on a boat?

Ms. Plass:

Well he went over on one of those LSTs and they were very, you know they hit all the waves and it was just a bumpy ride the whole way. What else do you remember on the boat he's asking. A lot of guys throwing up?

Mr. Justin:

Just got to stand and look at the water.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you ever threatened by Japanese submarines or airplanes?

Ms. Plass:

Mom remembers dad sending them letters and telling them this, hold on just a minute.

Mrs. Justin:

Well they had a poker game going, they would sit on the deck there was so many guys that they would just move every couple of minutes, they would move a few inches and that's how they got fed. It was just go round, and round, and round you until they, you know fed them all. But they would be sitting on the deck of this boat. Is that alright?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Sure. Sure.

Ms. Plass:

Your question was if he ever got shot at while he was journeying. He said no, they traveled the whole boat over. They landed the boat on the sand and just jumped right off on the wharf and on the sand, just jumped right in, they walked right in. By the time he got there all the Marines and Seabees had cleared the land of Tinian, you know Japanese that were there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did he live in there?

Mr. Justin:

We slept on the ground I forget how long it took us before they got this shack, a little small shack, kitchen they made. Then we built up the whole island with, I mean the government, which was a small island and it was shaped like the city of New York, using the name of the streets like New York was, so they made you feel like you were home in New York.

Ms. Plass:

So they had streets named like Broadway and everything on the island. He has a picture of the map that they had there. We can e-mail that to you so you can see it. But he told me and I wrote his statement for the VA that they slept on the ground and they were exposed 24/7 to the noise and the airplanes coming in and landing and taking off all the time. And then they built tents and

then they kind of built wood, you know five feet up all the way around the tents to kind of make them semi-permanent and then they got cots finally.

Mr. Justin:

Built little buildings and then beds, everybody had them.

Ms. Plass:

And it took them, I think he told me once, nine months before they got everything built and then they got supplies and stuff to sleep in and everything.

Mr. Justin:

It was a comfortable situation when they got settled and everything was just like being home and the airplanes made the noise, but there were bombers landing on the northern part of Tinian.

Ms. Plass:

So you were kind of out there in the elements you weren't in anything major. We have pictures of his lab and you can see they're kind of made out of plywood, you know and darkroom kind of things. I can send those to you so you can take a look at it.

Mr. Justin:

There was plywood, wood floors and a canvas top on the top of it.

Ms. Plass:

Yep, tents on the top and wood around the bottom kind of thing. Now the lab had little bit more wood on it, so it would block out the light. That was pretty much the same thing for the MASH set-ups with the hospitals and women arriving for entertainment, stuff like that, nurse things.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did he ever take any flights on the airplanes?

Mr. Justin:

No, I..., it was hard to get a choice, they were there to do their job. I tried to go one time and the Lieutenant wouldn't let me go. So I did all my work at the photo lab.

Ms. Plass:

Okay, hold on just a minute dad, let me ask you this question.

Ms. Plass:

They went on the plane, but then they said he (you) asked for hazardous duty pay like the other guys. So he wanted to hear about that.

Mr. Justin:

I wanted to go on the raids, the other guys were getting paid to go on the trips and when it became my turn to go they said they wouldn't pay me. So I said if you don't pay me I'm not going.

Ms. Plass:

Yeah, because he used to take the pictures of the guys coming and going. Sometimes they didn't come back, so that's just the whole photographic recording of everybody who's on the plane before and after when they came back because sometimes you wouldn't make it back. So he had heard about that, hazardous duty pay, and they weren't going to pay it.

Mr. Justin:

They paid the other guys that got on the airplane because they were pulling a dangerous flight over the enemies and anybody that was on it was on the payroll. You wouldn't get on the plane; and I said I'm not going if I'm not going to get paid for it for doing my job, I'm not going. So that's the way it was.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How close was he to the runways where his photo lab was? How close was that to the runways?

Mr. Justin:

No, we had the photo labs down away from the airport.

Ms. Plass:

How big was the island, one mile, three miles?

Mr. Justin:

The island was about the size of New York City and the streets were laid out like New York City.

Ms. Plass:



Let's see, so however big New York City is we're gonna have to look at the map. Mom you can get that book, if you can--all his photos and stuff and bring it in here we'll look for you. So they situated the photo labs away from the runway, so within a three mile probably. We'll have to look at your map here.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever see any planes come back that were damaged?

Mr. Justin:

Oh, well if they made it back to the island, sometimes they..., I remember a couple of them in the landing the wheels collapsed when they flew in. But I don't remember anything being real bad. They took off and came back and landed, and re-serviced. When they came back I'd be there to take the cameras out of them and take them down to my tent. I had a separate tent.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was there ever anytime you felt frightened?

Mr. Justin:

No, no the island was secure. Never had a problem.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you ever attacked by Japanese airplanes?

Mr. Justin:

No, I don't remember ever being attacked.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What's some other things that happened there on Tinian?

Mr. Justin:

Oh the only thing is they took off, come back and land. We checked the cameras, I checked all the cameras.

Ms. Plass:

I'm going to open this photo book to see, he brought pictures home, was here and we're gonna try to flip some pages to see if we can find any stories that he might be...,

Mr. Justin:

There's pictures with the camera.

Ms. Plass:

Yes the pictures of the tent lab, I'll e-mail those to him if he wants them on the mess hall and the field chapel. And I got dad sitting on some planes here. There's a lot of pictures with Lucky Lady and the Moose is Loose, Satan's Lady and Lucky Strike and White Mistress. And he's got some aerial views of Mount Suribachi and stuff like that. Let me flip here to see if we can get this to jog his memory about any stories. He wants to know of any neat stories of guys taking off and landing and not saying much, but getting their portrait. What's this picture here of you sitting here by this portrait cave that was built into the side of the cliff?

Mr. Justin:

I've got a picture of me sitting on the edge of it looking out over the ocean.

Ms. Plass:

Right, but didn't the people, originally didn't they hide in these caves when you guys were like landing?

Mr. Justin:

Oh yeah there were caves there. The people that were out there (the natives), they would come out and look over the ocean. Tinian was a real small island and it's about the size of the city of New York and the streets are laid out like the city of New York.

Ms. Plass:

We're looking, we're looking here. Iwo Jima and Mount Suribachi. We're looking here. Those were called the suicide cliffs because when they were capturing the island they were told they would, the people were told that they were going to torture them, so some of the mothers would, they would hide in these cliffs and they would throw their babies off the cliffs and jump in after them and commit suicide.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was the morale in his outfit?

Mr. Justin:

I don't remember any problems with morale. Just your everyday work, whatever your job was to do and when you got through you could walk if you're lucky, it's a small island you could walk around. The whole island was laid out like the city of New York, the streets were named like the street names of the city of New York.

Ms. Plass:

Okay I flipped to a page here in the book and I actually have, I created this book a few years ago when we were going through all the photos he gave me this information here so I wrote it down. When he went in his initial camera school was weapons' training and then he went to McCook, Nebraska. I have some better dates and times there if you want to go back to that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Sure go ahead and tell me those.

Ms. Plass:

Okay so he went in in '43, he went to basic training in St. Peterburgs, Florida. And he went to his initial camera training in Lowery Field, Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Justin:

Oh that was a mistake!

Ms. Plass:

Yes and you already told him that. And let's see, from April to July of '43. And then he went to weapons' training in Tampa, Florida through a U.S. Air Force base, in a P-38 outfit, he thought. And he got more training on field weapons, guns, and machine guns. And then it has down here McCook, Nebraska in 1944. On the island thirteen to fourteen months, total. Armistice signed October '45. Got to the states. Then Christmas in Bakersfield in an infantry division and he got out in January 2, 1946 to go home. So the war was over August 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945. Something about going to Nebraska, left island at the end of November 1<sup>st</sup> and got home on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What day did he leave, I'm sorry?

Ms. Plass:

He left the island at the end of the day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. And then he was in transit the whole month to get home.

Mr. Misenhimer:

He arrived home in December?

Ms. Plass:

December 30<sup>th</sup>, uh huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Two months getting home then?

Ms. Plass:

Yeah, that's funny. Wonder what way they ...,

Mr. Misenhimer:

What kind of ship did he come back on?

Ms. Plass:

He doesn't remember.

Mr. Justin:

Just a regular ship. Just a regular ship they had picking up deliveries.

Ms. Plass:

We have pictures. We went to the World War II Memorial here when they had all the living presidents there. Once we went to the National World War II Memorial dedication, got a picture of that and tickets. Here, just trying to see what else we have here. Some kind of photograph of, of a story that was a copy, a photographic copy of a story that was called "The Trick That Won a Stepping Stone to Japan." And the first page talks about for the, "for thirty-nine days from Tinian they watched the American devils on Saipan only two and a half miles to the north across the channel." So this is somebody's story and he talks about girding for the battle and a rage with the enemy. And it's about a ten-page photographic copy that was circulating around in the

unit and at the very end of it, signed J-Day plus 157. So I don't know if it's somebody, a writer, you know, rendition of time on the island. But it's a copy of somebody's notes. That's interesting. But his book here is filled with a lot of photographs of all the planes. You know how the nose art, of the nose-art. I have a lot of that here. Let's see what else can we help you with?

Mr. Misenhimer:

How many men was in his outfit there on Tinian?

Mr. Justin:

I don't know, pictures, I was in a photo lab.

Ms. Plass:

You know we'd have to look up the history of this research team bombardment wing, 9<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group and Squadron. But you know they came and went as their missions were, with their going. So I'm looking at, you know these pictures and their like artist's renditions of life in the island, you know. So there's drawings that have a lot of tents, gee a dozen tents or so. He says he was in a small photographic unit, you know that had their mission.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you think of the officers you had over you?

Mr. Justin:

I don't remember their names anymore.

Ms. Plass:

Do you remember any incidents before, were they nice, were they good to you, were they mean?

Mr. Justin:

No problem.

Ms. Plass:

You had one officer that liked you a lot when he helped you, gave you his photographic manuals and all that kind of stuff he came home with.

Mr. Justin:

No.

Ms. Plass:

Then I'm looking at these scenes from Tinian and it has a campsite. (Counting.) I see fifty tents, I don't know how, if they're small two man tents or not. He has pictures of the landscape up on the mountain. He was telling you again that Tinian was this small island. I found the map that— just figure out how big it was.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is there anything else that you recall from your time on Tinian?

Mr. Justin:

The island was laid out like the city of New York and the streets were named like there, building things up to resemble those in New York.

Ms. Plass:

I can send you a picture of that, do you have an e-mail, I can e-mail some of this stuff to you to use or keep or share? You know we went through all of his photos that he had remaining and we put them in a book and made little notations beside them. There was some film left in the lab when he got there and he would say this is a possible pre-invasion picture and it shows a town with the natives there and he would take pictures for the families of the natives that were there to mail home. And how they kept the natives busy creating landscaping in their sections and keeping it up all this time and stuff. Very interesting notations here and pictures of his brothers, he was talking about. And here's a caption over the lab manual, his Captain gave him his manual, this set of "Quality Assurance in the Lab." So there's kind of fun things here and I could take pictures and e-mail them to you, if you want.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you get home from the war with any souvenirs?

Mr. Justin:

No, I didn't take anything. Just my personal belongings.

Ms. Plass:

Just some pictures and personal belongings.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever see any USO shows anywhere?

Mr. Justin:

No there was no shows.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Justin:

No problems, no.

Ms. Plass:

Were they there on the island, Red Cross?

Mr. Justin:

I don't recall them. We had doctors and everything.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What date was he discharged?

Mr. Justin:

.... nothing else to do. Tinian was a small island and there wasn't .....

Ms. Plass:

Dad says they had their own doctors.

Mr. Justin:

When you had some time off you just went over to the edge of the cliff and sat down and looked at the ocean.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What date was he discharged? February 20, 1946. When you got out did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Mr. Justin:

No.

Ms. Plass:

He met mom right away and everything returned to normal. They're laughing.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was the highest rank you got to?

Mr. Justin:

Sergeant. Buck Sergeant.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have you had any reunions of your outfit?

Ms. Plass:

No he didn't. Well wait a minute mom's saying one. They went to a reunion in Sacramento, but they really just went out to see all the planes and stuff like that. Okay mom was talking to me, she said there was nobody left out of his group.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did he use his G.I. Bill for anything?

Mr. Justin:

Yes.

Ms. Plass:

Mom said school. You went to accounting school, right? CPA school?

He went to business school, used his G.I. Bill for that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever hear Tokyo Rose on the radio?

Ms. Plass:

He's not remembering that he did, but he said it was probably quite possible, he doesn't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer:

April the 12<sup>th</sup> of 1945 President Roosevelt died, did you hear about that?

Mr. Justin:



I don't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then on August the 6<sup>th</sup> of '45 when they dropped the first atomic bomb, of course he took pictures from the Enola Gay, what was the reaction when they heard about the atomic bomb?

Ms. Plass:

From previous years he told me that was top secret, so they didn't hear about it right away.

*(Begin side 2 of tape)*

Ms. Plass:

He doesn't recall anything, but I think mom does. You remember dad telling you about that whole situation.

Mr. Justin:

The war was over when they dropped it.

Mrs. Justin:

I remember him saying that when he found out and that the war would be over and that they were joyful about the whole thing, they were very very happy about it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when Japan surrendered did they have any kind of a celebration?

Mr. Justin:

I don't recall.

Ms. Plass:

He doesn't recall, we've lost a lot.

Mr. Justin:

We probably had a few .....

Ms. Plass:

Celebrations.

Mr. Justin:

..., we probably had some drinks together (laughter).

Ms. Plass:

He's not sure. Yeah, I don't remember him telling me anything about that. So I can't recall it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What ribbons and medals did he get?

Mr. Justin:

Got an American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three bronze stars, Good Conduct Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal.

Ms. Plass:

And those were for the campaign for the Japan Air Offensives. And then the Eastern Mandates Conflict and then the Conflict in the Western Pacific. Those were the battles or they used call them campaigns at the time. Then those are the ribbons that he received for those conflicts.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Let me go back and ask a question, on December 7, 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, did you hear about that?

Ms. Plass:

He can't recall at the moment.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What else do you recall from your time in the service?

Mr. Justin:

I just did what I was told to do. Well I was in the fighter squadron in Florida and Texas before I went overseas. And I took care of the fighters, the cameras I'd put them in, take them out, then I would take the film and develop the film and took it over to the Lieutenant. I don't know what he did with it.

Ms. Plass:

Sent them to Washington, DC. I remember him and mom remembers him saying that he had taken a lot of A-bomb pictures and they confiscated all of it after the war. The spies and the Red scare. They came to the house, our house in Eureka, California. And they went up into the attic

and went through all of his photographs and stuff and took them. Yeah it was very scary. I remember that, mom remembers that. Another thing he visited there. The runway is still there and some of the highway system.

Mr. Justin:

Took a vacation.

Ms. Plass:

Beautiful.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well I want to thank you all today again for your time today.

Ms. Plass:

You're welcome.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And I want to thank Mr. Justin for his service to our country.

Mr. Justin:

Okay, thank you.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yes sir, okay well that's all I have we'll keep in touch.

*(End of interview.)*

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