

## Paul Simpson Oral History Interview

MIKE ZAMBRANO: This is Mike Zambrano and today is April the 10th, 2015. I'm interviewing Mr. Paul Simpson at his home at Highland Estates in Cedar Park, Texas. This interview is in support of the Nimitz Education & Research Center, Archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission for the Preservation of Historical Information Related to the Site. Well, good afternoon.

PAUL SIMPSON: OK.

MZ: Can you tell me and when and where you were born?

PS: Well, I was born in Saylor, Kentucky. S-A-Y-L-O-R.

MZ: And when were you born?

PS: October 6th, 1926.

MZ: What were your parents' names?

PS: Huh?

MZ: Your parents.

PS: Henry and [Maribelle?].

MZ: And what did your father do for a living?

PS: I guess you would say he was -- had a general store. Last several years and before that he was a low income director.

MZ: Since these were the Depression years going on, how did your family fare?

PS: Not so good.

MZ: Did your father lose his job?

PS: Did my father do how?

MZ: Did your father lose his job?

PS: No.

MZ: OK. How many brothers and sisters did you have?

PS: I got, had six sisters and one brother.

MZ: Wow, that's a big family.

PS: Nice family. I got a good family.

MZ: So did I hear you correct in saying that the family didn't fare too well during the Depression?

PS: I think we fared better than that, we lived in the country on some acreage, so we farmed a lot, you know, small farming, to do for ourselves and always had milk cows and hogs and always had food. I couldn't, can't ever remember not having food.

MZ: You know, it's interesting because most of the men that I've interviewed here at Highland Estates were raised on a farm, give me almost the same exact answer, that they had, they had food, they weren't going to go hungry. It's interesting.

PS: I was telling somebody the other day, we butchered usually five or six [hogs?] a year and usually a steer, usually a

mutton or a sheep and so we always had plenty of food.

Chickens. What have you, have you.

MZ: Well, that's good. I mean, I'm sure you fared a lot better than the folks that were in the city that worked for somebody.

PS: Oh yeah. Very. Because we had relation that live in the city, in towns, part of that we (inaudible).

MZ: Did you live in Saylor all your life? I'm sorry, not all your life. Did you graduate from the high school in Saylor?

PS: I left from down there and went to Dayton, Ohio and went in the service from Dayton, Ohio in 1944.

MZ: Were you already 18 years old?

PS: Yeah. Well no, no. I turned 18, I was up there, because I went to work, I went to work when I was between 16 and 17, I'm sorry.

MZ: What did you work as?

PS: What did I work at? At that time, I worked as a kind of a, a young engineer doing repair work for a hotel.

MZ: OK. Do you recall where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

PS: I was having my dad unload a truckload of lumber to build a house with.

MZ: Do you, since you were with your dad, do you remember what his reaction was?

PS: He was surprised and yet he was, I guess like a lot of others, pretty devastated over it.

MZ: Yeah, a lot of people, they'd never even heard of Pearl Harbor. In 1944, when was it that you went in the service? What month was that?

PS: Well, I went in December the 1st, I was sworn in on December the 1st in 1944.

MZ: And where was that again where you were sworn in?

PS: I was sworn in in Fort Thomas, Ohio.

MZ: Fort Thomas, Ohio?

PS: Yeah.

MZ: Why did you pick the Army?

PS: Well, I guess the Army kind of picked me instead of me picking them.

MZ: (laughs) How so?

PS: Well, I guess at that time they were needing riflemen replacements worse than anything, really. That what I kind of understood. So I trained in the infantry at Camp Blanding, Florida.

MZ: Camp Blanton [sic]. Just to be clear, were you, did you enlist or were you drafted?

PS: I was drafted, actually.

MZ: Drafted, OK. And you did your basic training at Camp Blanding.

PS: Wound up at Camp Blanding. We went through, actually we went through Fort, Camp Atterbury, Indiana and got shots and uniforms and went to Camp Blanding.

MZ: What do you remember about basic training in Camp Blanding?

PS: I knew it was pretty hard because it was hot and sandy.  
(laughter) They was training us for the Pacific, that I realized.

MZ: I suppose you got quite a bit of rifle training, right?

PS: Quite a bit of rifle training.

MZ: And like what else? What else do you recall from basic training?

PS: I can't remember doing a lot more than rifle training, except go (inaudible). Well, we left Camp Blanding, we went to [Filmargo?] -- well, we got to go by home for a few days, then we went to Fort Org, California and went through in-field training courses and swimming courses and all that stuff.

MZ: Really? You had more training at Fort Org?

PS: Sure.

MZ: You had more training at Fort Org?

PS: Well, I had the infiltration and swimming. And I know if you couldn't pass your swimming you didn't get to go home, pass was on a week to go, so I think maybe. Not very many days. Then we went to Fort Lawton, Washington and that's where I went over to (inaudible) from.

MZ: Fort what Washington?

PS: Fort Lawton, Washington, next to Seattle.

MZ: Lawton. And what did you do there?

PS: At Fort Lawton? Waiting to get on the ship to go overseas. Three or four days. In fact, we were supposed to (inaudible) on three, I think about three days, but we got -- they marched us down to where they lowered down the boat, the ships and they were to getting a convoy and the ship, they was loading us on the top of them and pulled them back off and sent us back to the barracks. Something had happened to the ship and they had to -- it took a day and a night to repair it. So then they took us back down and got us back on and the convoy had already left and we, of course, convoys go zig-zag and when we left all we had, we had over the top (inaudible) so we caught the convoy, we went straight, was a blimp.

MZ: Oh, OK, I know what you're (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

PS: And once we caught the convoy you looked up and he was gone, we never saw it in the war.

MZ: Really?

PS: And we went from there to Saipan and we were in Saipan a couple of weeks maybe and went on some patrol there. But that island was about secured then. And then we went from, flew from there, they flew us from there to Guam. I was on a troop ship but we went to Saipan and then we was on Guam I think overnight or maybe a day or something, I can't remember exactly. Then they flew us to Iwo Jima on a C-47.

MZ: Where was it that you finally joined the 147th regiment?

PS: That was on Iwo Jima.

MZ: On Iwo Jima.

PS: You know anything about them?

MZ: The 147th?

PS: Yeah.

MZ: I read a little bit, about --

PS: Did you run into anybody else that was in it?

MZ: No. It seemed like the unit moved around a lot.

PS: Well, I guess -- let me try and tell you what -- I went in the Company K and we were on patrol about every other day for -- but they declared that island I think pretty well secured but then and the 147th had enough time in there to

actually was going to rotate back I guess to the States, I don't remember exactly. And then they transferred us to, transferred us to anti-aircraft outfit, but I can't remember the number and we was in it a while. Let's see how much to tell you. They transferred me in as the company driver, a Jeep driver, because I'd worked, you know, been in the country and was a pretty good truck driver. So we always had, we had a big truck and stuff and I drove it. And then let's see, let me think now. Then they -- something happened, I can't remember what. Then they rotated me out of that and put me in the 1758 Base Engineers and was supposed to be a heavy truck driver, but then they started me operating heavy equipment and dozers and carry-alls and turnip poles and those type stuff and heavy equipment and I had a license with everything the Army had except for a passenger car.

MZ: (laughs) You didn't have a license for a passenger car?

PS: No. They ought -- to that they give you a test for one.

(laughter) I can remember that. And also his name was JJ Murray.

MZ: JJ Murray.

PS: Yeah. That's funny how some names will stick out with you.



MZ: Yeah, it is. Well, it's kind of interesting, you can drive all these heavy things and the skill, real bulky, hardworking equipment but you couldn't drive a passenger car.

PS: I know, oh I got, well, let's see, I guess I need to tell you, if you're interested in -- when we go on -- the 147th on patrol, we captured a lieutenant, one of those guys in a cave and they had a, well you know, they took their swords. The lieutenant had a sword and the rifles and all this stuff and we put the names in the helmet and we drew for who would get what and I got the sword.

MZ: You did?

PS: And I got permission to ship it home, but it never got there.

MZ: Really? I guess somebody must have seen it along the way.

PS: And I don't know why I need to tell you this. I guess I need to back up a little bit. When we was in anti-aircraft up there, I'd been in it a couple weeks maybe, I don't remember exactly, but as I remember, we had a bombing raid, or supposed to, but it turned out to be a dry one and we were scrambling, getting out of, where we get in the foxholes and stuff and I fell and ripped this leg open, my left leg open and of course, had that bombing (inaudible) -

- they scraped and fixed it up then, but then I got authorized (inaudible) called my knee (inaudible) I had to have a knee replacement, so a lot of things happened and I never -- they said, well, I never (inaudible) for 60 some years I shouldn't be bitching about it now, you know. So I guess you've heard that story before, too.

MZ: Probably. So you relate that to hurting your knee  
(overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

PS: Of getting it ripped open, yeah.

MZ: Well, I would think so. It sounds pretty serious.

PS: But I've always worked, made a good living.

MZ: Let me back up a little bit. Do you recall anything about the ship when you crossed the Pacific?

PS: I think we, it seemed like to me, we was in the convoy and we was the back ship and we saw some submarines coming up and going back down but never did, well, some fired at us but they never hit nothing. That about all I can tell you about it. I know they won't let us throw those cigarette butts, no food or nothing over, overboard then.

MZ: Why was that?

PS: They thinking it would float on the ocean and those submarines would pick it up and follow us then. I can remember that.

MZ: Do you recall if your ship was overcrowded?

PS: Sir?

MZ: Do you recall if your ship was overcrowded?

PS: It was loaded. I'll just put it that way. And then I came back on a ship, I think I came back on the Queen Mary.

MZ: Do you recall if you got seasick at all?

PS: Recall what now?

MZ: If you got seasick?

PS: No, I didn't but a lot of my friends did. (laughter) You'd tell them at the mess hall, when you come out the door you was getting seasick, even (inaudible). (laughter)

MZ: Yeah, I've heard stories about soldiers not eating because they were so sick, they didn't want to.

PS: Yeah, we did stuff like that. Oh, too, I think it was on the Saipan, if you didn't know, if you didn't know somebody next to you, you didn't eat. They usually would call the MPs or guards or whatnot, calls, oh, those Japs would go and put on American uniforms, they'd get help, they'd come down and get in line and get their gear and everything and not seen them, you know.

MZ: Really?

PS: Yeah. I saw that happen several times.

MZ: And they would just get in line for like (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)?

PS: Just get in line, in the back of it. But if you didn't know who's in the back of you or front of you, you didn't eat. They gotcha.

MZ: What happened to these -- on Iwo Jima, what happened to this lieutenant in the squad that you guys captured in the camp?

PS: I can't remember. Well, I don't remember -- but the biggest thing I remember I was coming back and oh, I can't actually remember, I know he was there -- I guess, what would you call him? It's slipped my mind. But we was on patrol with him, (inaudible) but I can't remember, maybe we'd pick up a Jap here and there. They'd come out of the caves and surrender but -- and some of those caves there on Iwo Jima, you go back in them and there would be like a doorway, entranceway and you back further and there would be big rooms, twice as big as this and you'd go through a hallway, cut out again in rock, into another one. How much of that there were I'd never, I was in a lot of them while out there because I was there over 13 months.

MZ: Wow. How many Japanese do you think you rounded up when you were on these patrols?

PS: Seemed like to me we got, well, at one time, excuse me, we got a whole squad, to where there were 15, but then after that there would be one or two at a time.

MZ: Were you scared? Were you scared?

PS: I'm still --

MZ: Were you frightened? I mean because the Japanese had --

PS: We were in a way, you know, in a way you felt, well, I'm like everybody else. You took a chance. You do the best you can.

MZ: Why do you think they surrendered?

PS: Why did they what?

MZ: Why do you think the Japanese surrendered?

PS: Well, I guess, I don't whether they -- they had radios. I guess they may have heard over the radio, you know, that Japan had surrendered. I don't really know, but we had them cornered, they had to or die.

MZ: Yeah. What other things did you have to do when you were with the 147th?

PS: What else now?

MZ: What other kind of duties did you have with the 147th?

PS: Usually just, usually patrol and rifleman, that's in the 147 was about it. We had a little -- they had a little

deal going. Anybody that messed up, though, had to carry the BAR the next day, if when you went on patrol.

MZ: Is that because it was so heavy?

PS: That was a heavy, a heavy gun.

MZ: Did you ever get into a fire fights when you were on patrol?

PS: No. Most again that one thing was the biggest, (inaudible) I were in.

MZ: Mm-hmm. What would you normally wear when you went out on patrol?

PS: Fatigues.

MZ: And did you have backpacks or?

PS: Well, sometimes, most, you'd take sometime, it depend. If you'd gone on however one it might be, we'd have a backpack sometimes, sometimes just a rifle. And (inaudible).

MZ: And how long would these patrols usually last?

PS: Sometimes three to six, seven hours. And they had different sections that you went one day, you know. And they had -- well actually, I guess what really had the Marines kind of -- how would you say it? The (inaudible) more or less did the (inaudible) work for them.

MZ: The mopping up duties.

PS: Yeah.

MZ: And wasn't the 147 attached to the Marines?

PS: (inaudible) yeah.

MZ: Yeah, when I read about it I thought it was a little odd because I thought they'd be part of an Army division, but it seems, like I said, like they moved around, even before you got there, they would move around from one spot to the other.

PS: And you know the 147 was out of Ohio. I met a, and I can't remember his name, I wish I could, he was (inaudible) for a construction company and he was in the company next to, he was in Company E, I believe and I was in Company K and we chatted back and forth a lot about it. And I felt a booze, you could get 50 bucks for it with no problem, if you could get the booze.

MZ: (laughs) What would you do in your spare time?

PS: You'd write home or girlfriends and guys, you know, just something to do.

MZ: Did you write home a lot?

PS: Yeah. I did. And then we'd play poker a lot.

MZ: Did you make some pretty good friends with the units?

PS: Yeah. Yeah.

MZ: When you moved to the -- how do you say it, 1758?

PS: Huh?

MZ: The 1758?

PS: Yeah.

MZ: Base Engineers. Can you tell me a little bit about what you did for them?

PS: Well, I run a dozer and a grater and heavy equipment for them.

MZ: And like what were they trying to do? What were they working on?

PS: Well, build the roads. Put in -- we had to take the dozers sometimes, I went and drove them, post hold digger over the road and over hills, you know, stuff like that and they always send, we always done that. And moved stuff from one place to another one, with equipment. And sometimes after a part, you know.

MZ: What rank were you about that time?

PS: A T-5.

MZ: Oh, a T-5. When you left the service, though, did you stay a T-5 or were you higher in rank?

PS: No, that's as far as I went. I was supposed to went to a T-3, but -- I didn't stay there long. I'd have had to stay another, I forget how long, it wasn't very long but I decided I'd just come back.

MZ: So you said you were on Iwo Jima for 13 months?



PS: Thirteen months. Thirteen months and two or three days, five days maybe.

MZ: What was the weather like there?

PS: It was always warm. I think I remember, I think it was in '45, no, yeah, I think we went swimming on Christmas, it seemed to me, I think that's when -- you has to be careful of the sharks because they come in on, I guess a lot of them were around that island.

MZ: Sharks?

PS: Yeah.

MZ: (laughs) I don't know that I would go swimming with any sharks in the water. (laughs) Sleeping arrangements. Where did you sleep?

PS: Well, we had, that last, well, at first we had just tents. But then we got in some Quonset huts. And then actually I had done, another boy and I roomed, just the two of us and that was good. But we usually, (inaudible) bed -- you know.

MZ: Do you remember who your commanding officer was for the 147th?

PS: No, no. I know who my training officer was in (inaudible) basic training, though. It was Captain Bell.

MZ: Captain Bell?

PS: Yeah.

MZ: Why do you remember him?

PS: Well, I guess I had fell in basic and bumped this knee and it was sore and I walked from bed (inaudible) or maneuvers back into camp and he did, too. He said, "Well, if you can walk back with a bum knee I know I can make it, too," and the ones that made it, I think we got a pass that evening for the weekend and the ones that didn't had to stay there, be on duty, so that they don't let you, how many, (inaudible) leaves at a time, or two-thirds I guess it was.

MZ: What weapon did you generally carry when you were on Iwo Jima?

PS: I had a M-1 (inaudible) when I was on Iwo Jima and I had a [Pupsom?] part of the time.

MZ: Do you remember who your commanding officer or your sergeant was for your time with the 1758?

PS: Warren.

MZ: Warren?

PS: He was out of North Carolina, home was a little town, well, not too far from Fort Bragg. We used to correspond back and forth a whole lot, but he passed away years ago.

MZ: Was he a sergeant?

PS: Yeah, he was a sergeant. On my first charge in that outfit I happened to think of was Malcolm G. Martin.

MZ: Malcolm G. Martin?

PS: Yeah.

MZ: And he was a sergeant, too?

PS: He was [master?], yeah, he was the head sergeant.

MZ: Malcolm G. Martin. I'm just curious, but what did you think of the food in the Army?

PS: Well, you know, some of it was, I'll have to say some of it was pretty good. They gave you pretty nourishing food. Seemed like to me, well, like I'd SOS in the morning, I always enjoyed that morning. And they had pancakes, I always enjoyed that morning. But I think they tasted pretty good. The only bad thing was if you was out in the field like in basic or whether they were just feeding you out in the field and it was raining, we went, (inaudible) of course, it dripped off the edge of the tent, cook tent and they'd drip a lot of that in your food so you kind of had soup made out of the -- (laughter) you know, it was something like that, but I think they done pretty good. And I liked the K-rations pretty good. I mean, considering, you know. We had them, when I first went over

we had them quite a bit. I never cared for the C-rations, but the K-rations was pretty good.

MZ: Why? Why didn't you like the C-rations?

PS: Did you ever eat any of them?

MZ: If I did it was a long, long time ago. They just weren't good?

PS: (laughs) Let me see. I don't know.

MZ: You said that you were with the anti-aircraft outfit for a little bit.

PS: Was what now?

MZ: You were assigned to an anti-aircraft unit for a little bit?

PS: I was drafted.

MZ: Oh no, no. When you were on Iwo Jima you said that you were assigned to an anti-aircraft unit.

PS: Yeah, yeah.

MZ: How did that happen?

PS: Well, I guess they needed someplace to transfer from the 147th so that's where they sent I think five of us. I went into the different companies of 147th and then they transferred five of us into this one particular anti-aircraft company. And then they, they pulled out. That's where they went off, when they was in the anti-aircraft.

MZ: When you got there, did they train you on the gun?

PS: Yeah. Some.

MZ: Do you remember what kind of anti-aircraft gun it was?

PS: I think, that was I think they used 40-millimeter.

MZ: And you said that after that they assigned you to be a Jeep driver? You said that after that they assigned you to be a Jeep driver?

PS: Yeah, they assigned me actually to, as a company driver because -- by this time they was a few USO shows coming over. And there had to be somebody who knew how to, I could drive a vehicle and how it trigger hooked back to do what, you know, boo-boo-boo, and I was always pretty good with stuff like that.

MZ: So you helped move around some of the things for the USO shows?

PS: I was, I had the privilege of driving I think with three different ones while I was there. I did that one (inaudible) too.

MZ: OK. And so did you see anybody in a show that you remember? Like Bob Hope or someone like that?

PS: I drove one time for Frog Millhouse. Guy who played with Gene Autry. And there was a group of girls I drove one time and what was (inaudible) -- then there's a bunch of

singers and I forget who they were, but they were country singers. I think they was part of the Bob Hope, no, when Bob Hope it was another group, but I think it's three different ones I drove. And when you was -- they to drove, you had to go up to the Provost Marshal around. They issued you a special 45 (inaudible) loaded and you had to protect (inaudible) with and they wasn't allowed to leave you without commission, permission from the Provost Marshal. If they had a written agreement from him, then you could let them go with another officer or whatever, but if they didn't you'd come, you were responsible for them.

MZ: So you had to stay with them the whole time.

PS: Yeah.

MZ: Did you say the name Floyd Millhouse?

PS: Frog Millhouse.

MZ: Frog.

PS: Yeah, he's the guy that -- rode with Gene Autry all the time, the big, that guy's always falling off his horse and oh, that horse looked like a black ring around his, did you ever see that show? Around his eye?

MZ: No. The horse had a ring around his eye?

PS: Yeah. I don't know whether it was painted there or whether it was real.

MZ: And this was the horse that Millhouse rode?

PS: Yeah. He rode it, but now he didn't have it. I just saw shows, movies with it, you know.

MZ: What else do you remember about your time on Iwo Jima?

PS: Well, I remember being scared a few times, I mean, you know, not, I guess what would you say, scared-scared. I remember a bomb, a B-27 that couldn't get rid of a bomb one time and they had to come back over the island and they, the crew jumped out with a bomb ready to fall, but they couldn't get it out.

MZ: Oh, OK. You saw them jump out, all parachute out?

PS: Yeah.

MZ: And what, did they --

PS: I think they shot it down, them with B-38s, when they got out of those and they said they'd get some straight, when the captain jumped out.

MZ: Wow.

PS: Oh! I was in a tidal wave while I was there.

MZ: A tidal wave?

PS: Yeah. And I was in a typhoon, a real bad typhoon --

MZ: Yeah, I heard there were some really bad ones out there, it was the end of the war.

PS: They were. And let's see what -- they were supposed to kept the atom bomb, the first drop, stored it on Iwo Jima for overnight or two and the bomb shelter it fit in, that's the one we stayed in, got in when they (inaudible). You know.

MZ: And how bad was this typhoon?

PS: It was bad. It take them jeeps, it take the jeep and buried it. Sometimes you'd see the windshield sticking out, sometimes turned on the end of them, part of the front wheels or the right wheels were right down the --

MZ: Where it would turn the jeep upside down and --

PS: Yeah.

MZ: Wow.

PS: A lot of people were running in caves. I mean they warned us pretty good, they knew it was headed there. And they took all the planes. Let's see, I guess I was trying to think if the war was over then or not. But I know the planes, they took them all, finally went, took them other places. I'd say I'd be at the B-29 base for a long time.

MZ: What was the thing that you mentioned about the atomic bomb a minute ago? You mentioned the atomic bomb a minute ago. What was it again?

PS: What was it?



MZ: Did you say that it went through there or?

PS: The atomic bomb, they had to store it on Iwo Jima I think overnight and so we were told.

MZ: When it was your turn to go home, how did you get there?

PS: Well, we rode a ship from Iwo Jima into -- California, what, Oakland. Yeah, we come into Oakland. Once in America, I think we stayed about a day and night there, maybe a couple of days and I can't remember exactly. Then we went to -- Fort Sheridan, Illinois. That's where I was discharged from.

MZ: Fort Sheridan?

PS: I guess you know where all these camps are, don't you?

MZ: It seems a new one pops up every time I do an interview. (laughs) I hadn't heard of Fort Sheridan, though.

PS: Yeah. I don't know where (inaudible) a person or not. I was told at Fort Washington that the Air Force and the Army had combined in some way and they had put a big museum there.

MZ: Yeah, that sometimes happens when, at some of these bases. So what other memories do you have of being in the service?

PS: Oh, I don't know. In a lot of ways I enjoyed it. I guess I was good at it. (inaudible)

MZ: Say that again.

PS: Break you or make you.

MZ: Break you or make you?

PS: Yeah, or make you.

MZ: What did you do when you got out of the service?

PS: What did I do when I got out of the service? Well, (clears throat) I operate a dozer for a guy for a while and the weather got bad and he laid us off and I went to work, drove, went back and drove a big truck, an 18-wheeler. And then I, the company I was driving for, I went into their warehouse and sales office as an inside salesman and then I taught a guy the ropes and then he went to college with one of the owner's sons, University of Dayton and there was a promotion coming up, a sales job outside I wanted I didn't get. He got it. Had me train him. And I said that's enough of this old boy, he's going to move on somewhere else. So then I had a chance to go into mechanical school, a chance to go to be a plumber and I served apprenticeship and went to mechanical school. Graduated from there and was in business, I worked for the companies, I worked for them for 10 or 12 years, then went in business for myself.

MZ: Who was it that you worked for 10 or 12 years?

PS: HJL (inaudible) Plumbing Company out of Dayton. And I worked for [Verne Weller?] Plumbing Company out of Dayton. And then I -- later on then we started our own business.

MZ: Was it a plumbing business?

PS: Plumbing, heating, air conditioning.

MZ: And was that in the Dayton area also?

PS: I was in the Dayton-[Zane?] area.

MZ: OK. So when you went to the mechanic, you said it was a mechanics school, did you use a GI Bill?

PS: (inaudible)

MZ: Did you use the GI Bill to go to the mechanics school?

PS: No. No. She worked and -- always figured that maybe I owed though the country more than they owed me.

MZ: Oh yeah. You were on Iwo Jima when the war ended.

PS: I was on Iwo Jima when the war ended.

MZ: Do you happen to remember what you were doing?

PS: No, I don't, not really.

MZ: What about when you heard that the war was over?

PS: Well, it kind of pleased us. Because we was getting ready, they was getting ready for us to go another, invade another island. And it seemed to me like it was (inaudible) -- it's hard to remember but it seemed like that's where we were going to invade it. But I know we was getting the

equipment ready. That's probably what we were doing when it ended with Japan. We was probably getting the equipment ready to move.

MZ: You opened your own business, when did you close it? Or did you sell it? Your business, the one you opened.

PS: You remember what year we opened the plumbing? Let's see, let me think a minute.

Fl: What'd you say, Paul? What did you say?

PS: What year did we start our plumbing business?

W: What now?

PS: What year did I start the plumbing business?

W: Quit the plumbing business? Quit? Oh, let's see, Paul.

PS: It had been, what, '67, '68, somewhere in there, I started plumbing trade (inaudible) about '50.

MZ: So you had it for about, gosh, 20 years?

PS: Yeah. And then I guess I actually retired 29 years ago, or 25 years ago.

MZ: Is there any other memory that stands out for you, about being in the Army, about being in World War II?

PS: No, but I'm proud I was able to serve.

MZ: OK.

PS: And survive.

MZ: That's even more important. (laughter) Well, that pretty much covers all my questions. Sir, thank you for your service.

PS: Well, thank you.

END OF AUDIO FILE