

*National Museum of the Pacific War*

*Nimitz Education and Research Center*

*Fredericksburg, Texas*

Interview with

**Mr. William T. Schauer**

Date of Interview: December 29, 2015

# **National Museum of the Pacific War**

## **Fredericksburg, Texas**

### **Interview with Mr. William T. Schauer**

Interview in progress.

Mike Zambrano: This is Mike Zambrano, and today is 29<sup>th</sup> of December, 2015. I am interviewing Mr. William Theodore Schauer at his home in Cedar Park. This interview is in support of the Nimitz and uh, I'm sorry, Nimitz Education and Research Center, archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission, for the preservation of historical information related to this site.

Okay, sir, can you state your full name please?

Mr. Schauer: William Theodore Schauer.

Mike Zambrano: And can you tell me where and when you were born?

Mr. Schauer: Born in Chicago, Illinois, on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1928.

Mike Zambrano: August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1928. Uhm, what were your ... what were your parents' names? Oh, what were your parents' names?

Mr. Schauer: My father's name was William Frank Schauer, and my mother's name was Anna Mary Schauer.

Mike Zambrano: And what did your father do for a living?

Mr. Schauer: He was a real estate agent.

Mike Zambrano: Oh!

Mr. Schauer: And at that time, we were in Chicago.

Mike Zambrano: Chica ...

Mr. Schauer: Huh?

Mike Zambrano: In Chicago, you said?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah. And then we moved to Indiana, and he bought a farm. So, we lived on a farm there during the Dep ... it would be end of the Depression. This ...

and we was having hard times in the city, so he decided to try farming and we made it on farming.

Mike Zambrano: Ah okay.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: So, I'm going to assume that your family had plenty of food because it was ... you were farming, is that ... would that be right?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, we raised our own food, and ... and my mother always made sure we had food. I don't know how she did it, but she ... we never went hungry (chuckles).

Mike Zambrano: Did she do a lot of canning?

Mr. Schauer: Did she what?

Mike Zambrano: Did she do a lot of canning?

Mr. Schauer: Oh yes! Canning, she made her own clothes and everything she could do plus. And a garden and ... and we just all worked together.

Mike Zambrano: Yeah, that was ... it was a different time because, you're right, people worked together, people were more self-sufficient. I mean, I don't think you could find anybody who makes their own clothes these days, right?

Mr. Schauer: They don't what?

Mike Zambrano: I don't think you could find anyone who makes their own clothes these days.

Mr. Schauer: No.

Mike Zambrano: Uhm, let's see, so, did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Schauer: I have one brother and one sister.

Mike Zambrano: And ... and where are you in that – oldest, middle, youngest?

Mr. Schauer: I'm the youngest.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah. My brother is passed away back in 2001; my sister is still living.

Mike Zambrano: Oh okay. Oh, what are their names?

Mr. Schauer: Uh, his name was Arthur John Schauer, and my sister was [s/b is?] Violet Stephanie Schauer (unintelligible).

Mike Zambrano: Hum.

Mr. Schauer: It's ... I can't think of her last name.

Mike Zambrano: Oh, that's okay.

Mr. Schauer: Huh?

Mike Zambrano: Uhm, let's see, so, when you graduate from high school, you're ... where are you living again?

Mr. Schauer: In high school, we was living in ... we were staying in Argos, Indiana.

Mike Zambrano: Argos, Indiana?

Mr. Schauer: Argos, Indiana.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: And we was in a ... on a (unintelligible) farm there. And we ... he got it in ... bought it in 1941. And he was ... still coming out of the Depression, and so we ... so we ... we worked that farm. I was ... when the war broke out, Second World War broke out I was in high school. And while I was in high school, the war was going on. And when I was ready to graduate, there was some of my classmates got drafted into the ... the Army right out of school. I was lucky, I was under age yet. I ... I was seventeen when I graduated, so I had to go between that May and August before I was going to be drafted. So, I helped my father take ... put the crops out and get things going, and he signed the papers. He didn't want to, but enlisted in the Army Air Corps at that time.

Mike Zambrano: Uh hum.

Mr. Schauer: And from then on, why, I was in the service till 1949.

Mike Zambrano: Now, how old were you when you went into the service?

Mr. Schauer: Seventeen.

Mike Zambrano: So, that would have been 1940 ... '45?

Mr. Schauer: '46.

Mike Zambrano: '46?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, early '46. The war ... and the shooting stopped, but the war was not officially over. And ... 'cause I belong to the Legion, and they won't take you in unless you're ... uh, in the ... time the ... during any war, you know?

Mike Zambrano: Right.

Mr. Schauer: So, it was still December of '46 that I ... I was eligible to get into the American Legion. So ...

Mike Zambrano: So, let's back up a little bit. Do you remember where you were when you heard about the Japanese bombing Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Schauer: (Pause), well, we lived there on the farm in Argos. It was probably either there or in school (chuckle); I would imagine I was probably in school.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: What made you pick the Air Corps?

Mr. Schauer: I just didn't wanted to be a foot soldier in the mud (laughter).

Mike Zambrano: (Chuckles), a lot of people say that, by the way.

Mr. Schauer: What?

Mike Zambrano: A lot of people say that ...

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: ... that ... that picked the Air Corps. So ...

Mr. Schauer: Well, you had to have a certain IQ to get in there to start with, too.

Mike Zambrano: Right.

Mr. Schauer: So, I decided what I really wanted to do ... I wanted to be an airplane mechanic 'cause ... 'cause I was mechanic-minded, and I done a lot of mechanic work on machinery and ... and engines and stuff. And so, I ... I went in, took a, well, I had infantry training as far as basic training, and Air Force, too, because we had to learn to put out gas fires and type of thing in our training, you know?

Mike Zambrano: Yeah.

Mr. Schauer: And so, I took training here in San Antonio.

Mike Zambrano: Uh, Fort Sam? Was it at Fort Sam Houston?

Mr. Schauer: Uh, it was ... don't ask me what city; it was near San ... uh, it ... it was, I think, east San Antonio.

Mike Zambrano: Uhm, couldn't have been Fort Sam.

Mr. Schauer: Oh, I'm sorry. This was west.

Mike Zambrano: West?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Okay. But where did you ... did you do your ... your basic training at the same fort or the same camp?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Okay. And you said you went in the service ... what ... was late ... let's see, you were seventeen in August of '45, so you went ... you went into the service in late '45?

Mr. Schauer: '46.

Mike Zambrano: '46.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, it was June ... June of '46.

Mike Zambrano: June of '46. And you would have done your ... your basic in San Antonio along with the training to become an aircraft mechanic, right?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, no, no, that was air (unintelligible). I never got that far. They wouldn't ... and we went to basic training and then they sent me overseas.

Mike Zambrano: Oh! So, you don't get to the point of being a mechanic.

Mr. Schauer: I [don't] get to be an airplane mechanic. When I got overseas, they says, "What do you want to do, be an MP or refueling airplanes?" I says, "Refuel airplanes." So, that's what I done for a while. And our fighter, see, I was in a fighter group, and I was refueling these planes, yeah, and they was flying because ... missions ... twenty-four hours a day, and one ... they sent three planes out at a time. And they go out ... until they come back in after ... and they had to be refueled, and then they change pilots and ...

Mike Zambrano: Now, is ... is this when you're on Guam?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, I ... I first ... went over and I ... they landed us on Okinawa.

Mike Zambrano: Oh yeah?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, so I ... and I was on Okinawa for assignment. And they ... they were still ... the Japanese were still hiding out there in the caves, and they was coming out every once in a while, not knowing the war was over. And that

happened on Guam, too. They, in fact, it was years later ... there was one Japanese soldier come out, didn't realize that the war was over (chuckles).

Mike Zambrano: Yeah, there were some, I think, one thirty years later.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Uh, it's ...

Mr. Schauer: But we noticed somebody kept coming on ... in different places, seeing stuff being stolen, you know, food stuff and that ... one thing and another. They'd come out at night (cough). And nobody was able to see them for some reason.

Mike Zambrano: Did they ever try to shoot at anybody?

Mr. Schauer: No.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: I don't think they wanted to be seen 'cause they figured they was there by their self anyway.

Mike Zambrano: Yeah, yeah, and with ... I mean, I'm sure they saw all the air power, all the soldiers. I mean, it was ... be a little bit overwhelming.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah. But ...

Mike Zambrano: So ...

Mr. Schauer: But yeah, they had that suicide cliff there, you know, on the north side. And that's where they chased Japanese over that cliff, a lot of them.

Mike Zambrano: Was Ok ... did you go to Okinawa after Guam or before Guam?

Mr. Schauer: Before ... before (unintelligible), yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Okay. And is that ... that's where you took the assignment of fueling aircraft?

Mr. Schauer: That's what I ... and on Guam, and they asked for ... I took the same refueling.

Mike Zambrano: Oh. At ... at Guam or Okinawa?

Mr. Schauer: Guam.

Mike Zambrano: Okay. And what were the types of ... you said they were fighters that you would refuel. Were they P-51s?

Mr. Schauer: No, they just ... I'm sure they were '46s.

Mike Zambrano: Oh, okay, okay; P-46s?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: What were your living conditions like on the islands?

Mr. Schauer: What?

Mike Zambrano: What were your living conditions like on the islands?

Mr. Schauer: Had (unintelligible) shacks.

Mike Zambrano: Really?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: And how many people would they ... would they room or house?

Mr. Schauer: There was ... these barracks with oh, probably (pause), at least thirty guys in it.

Mike Zambrano: Wow, really?!

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Oh okay. (Laughter), I thought you were going to say maybe eight or something like that, but okay.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: So, they were pretty ... pretty big then?

Mr. Schauer: Pretty long, long and narrow. And you had ... you had a row of bunks on each side, and had a walkway between ... between, and you got pretty cozy.

Mike Zambrano: Hum. What ... what other duties would ... did you have other than refueling aircraft?

Mr. Schauer: Well, I ... they found out that I knew something about mechanics, so ... and the motor pool, consolidated motor pool, they had gotten a new jeep in, and they couldn't get it to run. It would just start, but it wouldn't accelerate, and ... and so, they had a shop set up there for ground ... ground equipment. And they had first, second and third echelon, and they took that thing to everyone of them, and they couldn't find out what was wrong with it. So, the Motor Pool Officer told me, he says, "(Unintelligible), if you get that jeep running, you can have it for a week." I says, "Fair enough." So, I went out and looked at it, and pulled the spark plug wire off, and very little spark coming, red spark, and put a new coil on it. [It] took off like a (unintelligible)."



Mike Zambrano: (Chuckles).

Mr. Schauer: And ... and it took me about fifteen minutes, and I had a jeep.

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter).

Mr. Schauer: So, I come back (unintelligible); they handed me ... there's a motor pool ... running ... running the first echelon. They took me out of Refueling.

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter).

Mr. Schauer: So, I was running the first echelon, and where these ... where they checked the trucks out ... out and in, and ...

Mike Zambrano: Uh hum.

Mr. Schauer: ... and give the trip tickets out and stuff and put me in charge of that. And so, they had to really remember how long it was before ... they sent me to the Philippines to go to the NCO (clock chiming) and Motor ... Motor Pool Officer. And ... so, I had a (unintelligible) three weeks and graduated with honors. Of course, I was a ... I knew (unintelligible) hadn't learned anything new.

Mike Zambrano: Because you already knew it before.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah (chuckles).

Mike Zambrano: But, I guess, did you get that experience from working on the farm? I mean, that mechanical experience?

Mr. Schauer: And I ... I helped a ... in the filling station, and I helped in ... in the garage on weekends, and whenever I had spare time in the summertime. (Unintelligible) filling station on the weekend a lot of times on Sunday, they had me turn ... the ... the filling station over to me. And (unintelligible) but I eventually, at one time, I owned it; I bought it (laughter).

Mike Zambrano: Oh really?!

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, after we were married and everything and settled down. And our child was like what ... a year old, yeah. And I bought ... I bought it and I knew what it was going to be, but had ... had this child, and she got to the point where she didn't even know her dad. And I says, "This job isn't worth it." So, I sold it, and went to work where I could be home with ... with the family.

Mike Zambrano: Yeah. That makes sense.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: What do you remember most about your time on Guam?

Mr. Schauer: My time on Guam. Well, let's see, most of the time I was on twenty-four, seven there, and with the job I had, I would say on weekends, I ... I had a five ton wrecker there, and I would stand by for wrecker service if they needed it. And a lot of times, believe it or not, I ... I'd pick up wrecked ... wrecked jeeps where the officers had ... had, of course, they had some of the officers had jeeps to drive, and they'd end up getting plastered, I guess, and wrecking them.

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter).

Mr. Schauer: And ... and one time I didn't like very well, I picked a jeep up off of a ... off of an officer; he'd turned his jeep over and so happened to be on a coral rock, and that was the end of him. And I had to pick the jeep up off of him, and there was another time, there was one in the coral pit. See, Guam is all coral rock.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: And all the Marianas Islands are coral – Saipan, Tinian, and I was on three of them ... four islands because our motor pool was ... some part of us was detached on Saipan and ... and Tinian, and I'd have to go check on equipment over there and make sure everything was going right. So, we'd fly over to different islands at certain periods of time, but I always seemed to keep busy over there.

Mike Zambrano: So ... so, this is while you're (pause) oh, while you doing the ... the wrecker service thing, you're ... you're going to these three or four different islands?

Mr. Schauer: Uh, no, the wrecker service is just on Guam.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: But the other island ... was over there just to make sure the motor pool was running right. They had small motor pools on them, branches, and of course, our ... we had a consolidated pool and we was in control of all of

them, and make sure they had the equipment running and all that. And to me, doing the right maintenance and stuff on ... on them.

Mike Zambrano: Is ... now, is this when you're based out of the Philippines?

Mr. Schauer: What?

Mike Zambrano: Is this when you're based out of the Philippines that you're going to Saipan, Guam and Tinian?

Mr. Schauer: The Philippines is where I went to school for ... they thought they'd train me in NCO work, transportation officer. And I come out of there with a ... a honor diploma, and they had a Full Colonel present us with a diploma. It was myself and a Captain. They sent a Captain to that same school.

Mike Zambrano: Yeah.

Mr. Schauer: And I ... I think at that time I was probably a Corporal.

Mike Zambrano: Well, where'd they station you once you were done with ... with the school in the Philippines?

Mr. Schauer: Manila.

Mike Zambrano: Oh, Manila! Okay. Okay. (Pause) But as far as when you were ... when you were flying to the ... these different motor pools on Saipan and Tinian and so forth, where were you based out of then?

Mr. Schauer: Was out of Guam.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: As equality (?) called detached service.

Mike Zambrano: Oh okay (pause). What rank are you about this time?

Mr. Schauer: As ... probably about a Corporal when I went to school.

Mike Zambrano: Wow! Really?!

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Okay. What rank were you when you got out?

Mr. Schauer: Staff Sergeant.

Mike Zambrano: And when you would visit these different motor pools, would you, I don't know, would anyone go with you; would you have someone that ...

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, the uh, pilots; we had pilots over there that was flying out cargo planes and stuff. And (unintelligible) they would take us, uh, to the different islands we had to go to.

Mike Zambrano: Hum.

Mr. Schauer: But we ... we flew the C ... C-47s and 46s, cargo planes.

Mike Zambrano: Okay. Did you ever run ... did you ever run into any, you know, any kind of problems with any of these boat ... motor pools?

Mr. Schauer: Raising problems?

Mike Zambrano: Yeah, were there any problems that stand out?

Mr. Schauer: No, getting parts was a great problem.

Mike Zambrano: Oh.

Mr. Schauer: Getting parts for the equipment. I was told the Navy could get anything over there, and we had International trucks and they had to ... they had some Internationals, too, and there was more than one time we'd go to the Navy and get some parts off of them so I could keep our trucks going. We had trouble getting like brake cylinders and brakes ... was hard to ... hard on them and batteries. Batteries was especially hard ... that salty air. And you ... you could go to bed at night, and you ... you take your leather boots off; the next morning they'd be green.

Mike Zambrano: Really? Because of the salt air?

Mr. Schauer: Salty, damp air, yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Wow!

Mr. Schauer: Oh, and then bad mosquitos (laughter).

Mike Zambrano: Bad?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, and we had to sleep with mosquito nets.

Mike Zambrano: (Chuckle). Uhm, hum, so where did you go after Manila? You were ... since you were stationed there as a motor pool NCO, where do you go after Manila?

Mr. Schauer: Where'd I what?

Mike Zambrano: Oh, you know, let me ask this instead. Uhm, uh, what did you think of the Filipino people and the Philippines in general?

Mr. Schauer: It's ... Philippines in general? They was glad to see Americans.

Mike Zambrano: Uhm.

Mr. Schauer: (Chuckles), I'll say that for them, yeah.

Mike Zambrano: What about the weather down there?

Mr. Schauer: Hot and humid.

Mike Zambrano: All the time?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Hum.

Mr. Schauer: Yep, and we had a lot of typhoons go through there, and they ... they still are, you know?

Mike Zambrano: Right.

Mr. Schauer: It's on a track through there.

Mike Zambrano: Now, you had mentioned a lit ... before we started talking, uh, before we started recording that there was a typhoon that came through just about the time you are about to get home?

Mr. Schauer: There was a what?

Mike Zambrano: Do ... you mentioned something about a typhoon coming through?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Uh ...

Mr. Schauer: Oh, that was when I was ready to come home. My enlistment was up, and they was going to send me home. And they wanted me to stay; they asked me to go, and I should have done it but I didn't do it. They wanted me to go to West Point and ...

Mike Zambrano: Oh!

Mr. Schauer: ... I ... I just couldn't see spending any more time in the military. I wanted to get on to something else, so I enjoyed what ... what I was doing there. I ... kept ... kept myself busy, and timed in (unintelligible) busy seven days a week, and (pause) was (chuckle) my ... my wife was my girlfriend back then, and she'd send me cookies, and wait for her cookies (laughter). And of course, everybody else was, too, and they all kept ... all kept wondering when she was going to send some more cookies (chuckles).

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter), well that would be a nice surprise.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah. But ...

Mike Zambrano: Did you ... did you write home a lot?

Mr. Schauer: Did I what?

Mike Zambrano: Did you write home a lot?

Mr. Schauer: I ... I ... her and I corresponded quite often, yeah. And she said she didn't think it was fair because I got my postage free and she had to pay for hers (laughter).

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter). Did you use ... did you ever use those little ... those little V-mail things?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: To send postage or to send mail? Yeah.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Yeah, I think it's ... pretty amazing the way they just kind of condensed everything on that little piece of paper and ...

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, on one sheet.

Mike Zambrano: ... get it off. Yeah.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Did you ever try and of the local food at any of these islands that you were on?

Mr. Schauer: Sorry, try any what?

Mike Zambrano: Of the local food?

Mr. Schauer: Local food?

Mike Zambrano: Yeah, of ... on ... from any of these islands that you were stationed?

Mr. Schauer: No, I ... I didn't ... wasn't there ... for that long. I ... Okinawa was the only thing. Of course, that was regular GI food; it was like ... almost like on field ... field work, you know, there was some C-rations and some K-rations and some mad (?) mess halls set up or they would add cooked food. And we had, of course, on Guam, it was more or less at the base, you know? And it was set up with a mess hall. Then we'd go to ... and all ... all the outfits on the base there ... we had several outfits there on ... on our base, and the ...

they entertained ... eat their breakfast, noon and supper. And we had, oh of course, but most of it was powdered food – powdered eggs, porridge, milk and uh, they made their own bread. And the flour ... they'd ... I remember one time they made over a holiday, they made a fruit ... what was that ... had a fruitcake or something. And ... and looks ... bottom of the back side of it there, and I seen the imprint of wings; they was bugs; the flour was buggy. And then they just cooked the bugs and all. And had fresh meat ...

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter).

Mr. Schauer: ... with our bakery.

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter), that explains probably all the little black things in the bread?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Huh, okay.

Mr. Schauer: So, you looked at it, and you didn't worry about it, they're dead (laughter).

Mike Zambrano: Okay. Did ... well, okay. Uhm ...

Mr. Schauer: You was glad to get the fruitcake.

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter), I can see.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah. But ...

Mike Zambrano: Uh, on Okinawa, did you ever have an occasion to see or speak to any Japanese?

Mr. Schauer: No. We didn't, none of them came out while I was there. We was ... was out there and seen some of the caves, and we was in some of the caves. And they used a lot of tunnels and a lot of caves out there; it was a tough battle for them. Of course, it was over when I got there.

Mike Zambrano: Right.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah. But we ... actually, we (unintelligible) I think it was the same. These more or less staying there to hold it, you know? I don't know the word for it now, but ... occupation, I guess.

Mike Zambrano: Yeah.

Mr. Schauer: Occupational troop, yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Did ... since ... since you say you ... you explored some of the caves, did you ever find anything interesting?

Mr. Schauer: No. Nothing interesting (chuckles). I had a hard time finding anything interesting (laughter). But yeah, the only thing I did, I got stung by two wasps on one of the cliffs where we was at. And two wasps come at me and nailed me at the same time, about knocked me off the cliffs.

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter).

Mr. Schauer: (Laughter).

Mike Zambrano: Well, I hope it wasn't too ... too far of a drop for you.

Mr. Schauer: (Chuckles).

Mike Zambrano: What would you do with your spare time?

Mr. Schauer: I didn't have any.

Mike Zambrano: No? You were always busy?

Mr. Schauer: I always made myself busy, yeah. I ... our ... was just lucky that our barracks was right next to the motor pool, and it was very ... on weekends, there was always some officer next to us, maybe two or three of them maybe, wanting gas. And the gas dump was closed, locked up, and I had the key to it, of course, so they would want fuel for a jeep to run around with. So, they ... officer would come in the barracks and, "Where is Sergeant Schauer at?" (laughter)

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter), 'cause he wanted to get gas?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah. So (chimes ringing in background).

Mike Zambrano: Let's see, uhm, did you ... when you went home, did you leave from Manila to come back to the U.S?

Mr. Schauer: No, we come through Hawaii ...

Mike Zambrano: Oh okay.

Mr. Schauer: ... coming home.

Mike Zambrano: When ... when did you get home?

Mr. Schauer: I got home actually in ... it was I think in the wintertime, uh '49, and I was used to hot weather. And come home in the wintertime, and my folks had moved back to Chicago in the meantime. They ... they couldn't take care of the farm by their selves.

Mike Zambrano: Oh.



Mr. Schauer: And my father wanted to get back into real estate I guess, and that's what they did. They moved back to Chicago. So, I come home to Chicago (chuckles).

Mike Zambrano: (Chuckle).

Mr. Schauer: And so, I didn't know what it was to come back home. And so, a place I had never been before. So, I stayed there and I was stationed at ... when I come home, I was stationed in Indianapolis at uh, it was the Tenth Air Force there; they finished out my enlistment. They got my full three years. They wanted me to re-enlist, they wanted everything (chuckle).

Mike Zambrano: Is that the time they mentioned West Point?

Mr. Schauer: Beg your pardon?

Mike Zambrano: Is that the time that they mentioned West Point?

Mr. Schauer: No, they did that when I was overseas.

Mike Zambrano: Oh okay.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah. Wanted to know if I would be interested in going. They said, "Of course," said, "your enlistment will stop, and your rating don't mean nothing." And I think I was a Sergeant at the time, and ... and if I would have washed out, I would have picked up my time ... I would have picked up my time, finished it.

Mike Zambrano: Oh.

Mr. Schauer: And I wasn't ... I didn't really go to college prep school. And we come to a little ole country town, there were a thousand people and it was Argos, and that's where I was ... was born and raised, in this little town of Argos (chuckle). And it was ... it was an experience. When we moved ... we moved there, remember that my father (cough) we ... we lived on a farm; it's about six miles, trying to think. It would be east of Argo and on a ... on a farm, and ... and Richmond Center. All it was was a country school and a store. They actually come out of the corner of our farm. That was there ... it's eighty acres there, and so, when my father traded, he'd still be in real estate, you know?

Mike Zambrano: Uh hum.

Mr. Schauer: And traded farms. We moved with a horse and wagons, a team of horses and a wagon.

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter).

Mr. Schauer: Except (chuckles) machinery stuff. Of course, the cattle ... we ... they ... we leased a truck, a cattle truck, and all our (unintelligible). We had cattle (unintelligible) and pigs, and I think we had sheep at that time, and livestock. And we ... we moved into (unintelligible) farm, bigger farm and they had two barns. And we raised a lot of hay.

Mike Zambrano: Then ... and what year was this again?

Mr. Schauer: Huh?

Mike Zambrano: What year was this? What year was this when you moved?

Mr. Schauer: In the ... the war broke out right after we moved.

Mike Zambrano: Oh so ...

Mr. Schauer: '41.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, the war ... war broke out and I was in ... in the eighth grade of school, and ... and (unintelligible) yeah, 'cause the next year we moved in March and everybody moved in March back then, farmers.

Mike Zambrano: Oh. Oh, because of the crops?

Mr. Schauer: Crops, yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Okay.

Mr. Schauer: And it ... get your footing so you can get your crops out in time. And so everybody moved then. And so, we got on a ... on a bigger farm, the war broke out, then the farm we moved on had no electricity. It was on a country road ... road, and we was back about a ... a mile on this road, and nobody on that road had electricity because they hadn't put it in yet, rural electricity ... hadn't got in yet. So, there wasn't no ... no electricity until after the war because the war had froze everything. Everything was rationed, and all the ... all of the tin, copper and aluminum and all ... all the metal ... those froze for public use; all had to go into the military.

Mike Zambrano: Right.

Mr. Schauer: And of course, we all had rationing back then; you probably heard about that.

Mike Zambrano: Oh yeah.

Mr. Schauer: (Laughter), and no, there was no different ... rationing.

Mike Zambrano: So then, for rationing, for example, I guess your family would have like a booklet with what ... stamps?

Mr. Schauer: They what? Yeah, we had stamps. Think you had stamps, meat stamps, and we had butter stamps I think it was, and of course, they ... they allowed you so much on canned goods and stuff. But we had ... we ... wasn't ... after we got our gardens put out, why, we ... was the only thing we ... flour, my mother would have to buy sugar and flour. Sugar was rationed. A farmer could get the gas for tractors, but they used different stamps. Think it was (unintelligible) stamps they used. And they A ... A stamps and B stamps. B stamps was farmer's stamps. C stamps was on the ... if you went in the factories, you had a C stamp to (unintelligible), otherwise you was allowed a ... I think just three down ... three gallons of gas on an A stamp a week.

Mike Zambrano: Hum.

Mr. Schauer: So (chuckle).

Mike Zambrano: What would gas cost back then, do you recall?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, I ... I remember when we ... before we moved before the war, we had those stations there where we was at; you could get six gallons for a dollar.

Mike Zambrano: Wow.

Mr. Schauer: (Chuckle).

Mike Zambrano: That's six gallons for a dollar?

Mr. Schauer: Six gallons for, no, not ... for five gallons, I mean. Six dollars for five gallons. 'Cause we always bought (recording interference).

Mike Zambrano: Let's see, do you remember when you heard that, oh, this was going to be before you went into service, when you heard about the atomic bomb being dropped?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Do you remember what you were doing or where you were?

Mr. Schauer: Uh yeah, I think I was ... we was there on the farm, yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Do you ... were you ... I guess you were at the farm, too, when you heard that the war was over?

Mr. Schauer: Well, it was just getting over with, yes. But then, don't recall that much; I was more interested in getting the farm out. I wanted to get my service in, so ...

Mike Zambrano: Did you ... were you shocked when the war ended when it did?

Mr. Schauer: Well, yes. (Unintelligible) yes and no. I ... I figured pretty soon they had to get a win on it, you know?

Mike Zambrano: Hum.

Mr. Schauer: They was losing a lot of people.

Mike Zambrano: Right.

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Uhm ...

Mr. Schauer: And I was here in ... I was just ... my father was in World War I, and he really didn't want to sign the papers, too, for a while. I ... I told him, I said, "I got to go; I'm not taking a ...," I could have gotten a deferment maybe for the farm, and I said, "No, it's my duty to go. See, you went, I'm going to go." And then my brother was drafted; he was five years older and he had to go down for a physical. And he went and couldn't pass because of his eyes. And so, he went on as Studebaker. He was building Army trucks at the time, and he went there and soon as the Korean War broke out, they called him back, passed him, he went to Korea. He was in, of all places, the Airborne, the First Airborne.

Mike Zambrano: Oh really?!

Mr. Schauer: Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: (Chuckles).

Mr. Schauer: And he ... he could hardly see without glasses, so ...

Mike Zambrano: Wow.

Mr. Schauer: ... but the ... they gave him an extra pair of glasses and says, "Go." And they used that for everybody for World War II, that was available. Her dad

was called up, and, of course, he only had one eye at the time, so he didn't pass either.

Mike Zambrano: Oh.

Mr. Schauer: He lost his eye in an accident, a home accident. So ...

Mike Zambrano: What did you do after the war as far as work?

Mr. Schauer: What'd I do after the war?

Mike Zambrano: Uh hum? What ... what'd you do for work?

Mr. Schauer: I was in school.

Mike Zambrano: Oh, you went to school?

Mr. Schauer: After the war, or when the war started?

Mike Zambrano: Oh no. After the war, what did you do when you got out of the service?

Mr. Schauer: Oh. When I got out of the service? It was hard finding a job, and everybody was getting out, and I ... I couldn't go to college or anything, they was all full ... four or five years. So, I had ... my father had a garage in ... in Chicago, so I worked for him for a while, and then I ... I decided to go to Indiana. And I didn't want to ... I didn't like Chicago, so I went and did mechanic work. And when I got into ... where'd I get into first? Oh, I got into ... oh, a nuts and bolt factory where they made nuts and bolts. And I worked nights. And, believe it or not, they was paying seventy-five cents an hour, had to work at nights. And I had to have a micrometer and a scale, yeah. (Unintelligible) a one-inch micrometer, six-inch scale? I bought that and it cost me a week's wages (laughter).

Mike Zambrano: Wow! What ... what would a week's wages have been then?

Mr. Schauer: Seventy-five dollars a ... no, seventy-five cents an hour, so it wasn't forty dollars.

Mike Zambrano: (Chuckle). Gosh!

Mr. Schauer: So, I ... I stayed there until I found a job in Argos itself, and it was in a box company where they used to make these cases for portable sewing machines and uh, record players.

Mike Zambrano: Yeah.

Mr. Schauer: And I used to have to put the hardware on them with a routing (?) machine, and that job about killed me standing on one foot all day, pushing a lever on a (chuckles), but it was a dollar an hour, big money (chuckles). And so, I and ... manager and I got into it, I can remember that.

Mike Zambrano: Yeah.

Mr. Schauer: They had one shift on of girls, one ... one line release boxes and I had all I could do to keep up with them. They put a second line on, and I ... and I had to keep up with both lines. And finally, I told him, I says ... I says ... I got mad. I was working my ... I said, "We can try and do ... find out what it takes to kill a guy ...

Mike Zambrano: (Laughter).

Mr. Schauer: ... I says, "I'm leaving!" (laughter) I did. I had no trouble getting a job. Then I got into grocery ... a trucking company then as a mechanic, eighteen wheelers (chuckle). So (unintelligible) got in the union, that's where I got started in transportation.

Mike Zambrano: So, did you end up doing that for the rest of your life?

Mr. Schauer: Well now, let's see. Yeah, pretty much, yeah. Of course, I jumped around a little bit because I get to better myself and work for a better outfit. I never in my life draw any ... two weeks I draw unemployment, and that was all I ever drew, and I had a bunch of job. And I ... I never wanted to live off of anybody; I was too independent. So ...

Mike Zambrano: Hum. Is there anything about your time in the Pacific that I might have not asked you or any interesting stories or any special memories that pop up?

Mr. Schauer: Uh, which time?

Mike Zambrano: While you were out in the Pacific, just after the war.

Mr. Schauer: Well (long pause), well, I don't know. We had ... we was on the alert all the time ... time because Korea was starting to flair up, but nobody else knew about it, you know? There was actually ... that's the reason they was patrolling 'cause they wasn't sure about Korea, and ... other than that, I don't know. It was more or less routine.

Mike Zambrano: Uhm.

Mr. Schauer: And keeping occupation, keeping things safe there.

Mike Zambrano: Well, I think that pretty much covers (chimes ringing in background) everything I ... I've got for you today.

Mr. Schauer: You what?

Mike Zambrano: I think that covers all my ... my questions.

Mr. Schauer: Does it? Yeah.

Mike Zambrano: Well, just to be clear, you got out in (tsking sounds) you ... you came home in the winter of '49?

Mr. Schauer: Yeah, June 17<sup>th</sup> of '49.

Mike Zambrano: And what ... when was it that you actually got out of the service?

Mr. Schauer: June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1949.

Mike Zambrano: June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1949; okay.

Mr. Schauer: At that time, they'd already changed it from Air Corps to Air Force, so I was in both of them.

Mike Zambrano: Hum. So, did you have a ... I guess you switched from the brown to the blue uniform?

Mr. Schauer: I didn't ... I wasn't in it long enough after it ... changed to get a blue uniform, no.

Mike Zambrano: Oh okay.

Mr. Schauer: I was still in khaki.

Mike Zambrano: Alright, I guess that's all I have for you today. Well, on behalf of the Museum and myself, I want to say thank you for your service.

Mr. Schauer: Thank you.

(end of interview)

**FINAL** copy

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