

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

The Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

**An Interview With
Warren F. Bateman
Massie Valley, NC
September 6, 2016
PC-1126
Admiral Nimitz's Staff
January 1945 to December 1945**

My name is Richard Misenhimer: Today is September 6, 2016. I am interviewing Mr. Warren F. Bateman by telephone. His phone number is 828-926-2011. His address is P.O. Box 1986, Maggie Valley, NC 28751. 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. His wife's cell phone is 305-608-5296. His wife Marilyn is helping with the interview.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Warren, I want to thank you for taking time to do this interview today and I want to thank you for your service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Bateman:

Well, thank you.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now, the first thing I need to do is read to you this agreement with the museum to make sure this is OK with you. So let me read this to you. (agreement read) Is that OK with you?

Mr. Bateman:

Yes. January 1945 I was selected to serve on Fleet Admiral Nimitz's fleet PAC CINC staff detachment on Guam.

Mr. Misenhimer:

We'll cover that later.

Mr. Bateman:

I can't understand his questions so I'll just tell you what my deal with Nimitz. OK. I can't understand the questions so...from Hawaii to Guam in January 1945 I was one of three Ensigns

that were supposed to be his censors. Well, the flag secretary had us meet with the Admiral. He wanted to meet everybody on his staff so I was one of only three Ensigns that showed up. So, needless to say, I had a one on one interview with Fleet Admiral Nimitz and his piercing blue eyes told you you better tell the truth or what. He just talked about my background, my training and everything and I had the honor of after that the other two Ensigns were sent on their way and I became the Chief Censor and we had some Chiefs that actually do the censor. I was also the Education Officer so I gave a test to the enlisted men and the third duty I had was in charge of the Admiral's boat crew. They were, I don't know, where his boat was but whenever they had a party on the beach or something, I had to go with them and I was just amazed at how Fleet Admiral Nimitz was always on business. Like when he would go for a walk, and I was the Officer of the Day which was once every 12 days, we had to replace the Marine guard because he'd walk them in the ground. Now the Marines were about 18 or 19 year old kids and he was now in his 50s at that time and so he was really would walk them into the ground because he had to make decisions that he was all business and another thing about Admiral Nimitz, he supposedly loved boxing. We put on boxing shows at the theater but he never showed up for one and he was always business and the whole base was run business-like and military-like at all times. There was just unbelievable how much they were into the war and see the other thing that I thought was very noble was that Fleet Admiral Nimitz (I lost my train of thought) he had this Captain Layton that was in charge of intelligence and he was the one that helped win the battle of Midway because they used his intelligence. Captain Leighton was raised as a missionary's son in Japan so he knew how the Japanese thought. That was the whole base was run very military like and the other thing that as a side bar we treated the war correspondents as junior officers which Geneva Convention provides but MacArthur treated them like senior officers so like when I was

off for the day, if the war correspondents were sitting in the senior officers' section, I'd say, "I can't do that." They'd say, "Oh, we do this under MacArthur." I said, "Under Fleet Admiral Nimitz you can't sit there." So that was how MacArthur played up the press whereas Fleet Admiral Nimitz never did. The other thing that Fleet Admiral Nimitz didn't always require us to wear ties because it was very hot on Guam and we wore shorts and short sleeves but we always saluted officers, all the officers, at all times and I think that as I say, it was such an honor to serve there under Fleet Admiral Nimitz and that was the highlight of my military career. I stayed in the Navy and became a Naval Intelligence Officer and finally, in 1982, after I got my 20 years satisfactory service in, about 1965, I was a Lieutenant and I retired and am drawing military retired pay. I'm sorry I can't hear your questions and understand them. Now, do you have any. I'll try.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What is your birth date?

Mrs. Bateman:

October 13, 1922.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where was he born?

Mrs. Bateman:

Plainview, Minnesota.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did he have brothers and sisters?

Mrs. Bateman:

He had two brothers and one sister.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were his brothers in World War II?

Mr. Bateman:

Yes, both of them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Are they still living?

Mr. Bateman:

No. I was the youngest brother.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did they do? Do you know?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, I should take that back. Charlie was in the service, my older brother, and he was blind in one eye so he served at Ft. Leavenworth and then later he was in the Philippines at the end of the war because he could be a guard on the prison wall. Stanley never went. He was in the CCC. He was not in the armed services.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You grew up during the Depression. How did the Depression affect you and your family?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, we were in a small town and we raised our own food. My dad had a little business and everything and we had no problems until Roosevelt closed the banks. Then that was the first time that we knew there was a Depression on because then they had to barter. Nobody had any cash because they closed the banks and that was when I first knew about the Depression. The other thing, the National Recovery Act, my dad didn't join it so his two sisters couldn't shop in the

shop. Later the Supreme Court held that unconstitutional but that was the only as far as Plainview we didn't have the Depression like the big cities and that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you go to high school?

Mr. Bateman:

In my sophomore year I moved from Plainview to South St. Paul, Minnesota. I graduated in June 1940 from South St. Paul High School as my dad went up there to work in the stockyards and then I went to McAllister College that fall and then I had two years at McAllister College and in the fall of 1942 I was in the University of Minnesota Law School and then I told you I was going to be drafted after I turned 20 so I had to join the Navy.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you choose the Navy?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, I told you because I couldn't go in the Army. I couldn't shoot another human being and I knew in the Navy you didn't have to do that so... I tried to get in the Reserves, like I said, at college but the billets were all filled. They asked me down for a Navy so I drew a Reserve Navy and the dentist said, "Open your mouth. Close it." He said, "We can't use you because you have an overbite." I didn't know it as a civilian but they had their quotas filled so they weren't taking anybody. I went in the Navy after that and nobody ever said anything about my overbite.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What date did you enlist?

Mr. Bateman:

October 30, 1942.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now on December 7, 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Did you hear about that?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, I was in college at the time that Pearl Harbor and I usually studied Sunday morning and so I heard that and when we went to classes on Monday, all us men knew that we would be drafted right away or pretty quick so the President of the college was teaching political philosophy at the time was surprised that we weren't prepared for the class. I even said, "Well, all of us guys will be gone soon so we aren't worrying about what's going to happen in class today" but that was certainly everybody's wake-up call for all of us and as Roosevelt said "a day that will live in infamy" but now it's not so infamous.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you go for your boot camp?

Mr. Bateman:

I went to Great Lakes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tell me about boot camp. What all happened there?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, it was in November and it was pretty cold and at Great Lakes there, especially that wind off, I took newspaper and cut pieces out and put them in the bottom of my boots or my shoes would have insulation because we had to get up at five and do exercises, you know, and drills and you wait in line for chow and waited outside in about fifteen and twenty below with a nice wind, you get pretty cold. Those pea coats don't cover much and we had a great thing after we went through boot camp, in December we got orders to Miami, Florida. I went as a Third Class

Storekeeper and my best buddy, Jim Swenson from Rochester, Minnesota and two others, the four of us went down to Miami, Florida and we thought the Navy was pretty good. Submarine Chaser Training Center at Miami, Florida.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Bateman:

Then I was on the staff, disbursing officer, helping pay the staff and then I got assigned to the PC1126 that was being built in Bay City, Michigan and as the only storekeeper in the crew I had a reserve for every fan and every bolt and everything because when you are at sea you can't go to the stores so I had to make sure we had all the supplies. The ship was built upside down because they didn't want to do overhead welding. It was better than overhead welding which they had to do if they built the ship the right way and they put them out in Lake Huron for a cruise and then they sent it down the Mississippi River and I caught it at New Orleans, went to Miami where we had a shakedown cruise and then we escorted a convoy from Miami to Panama. Went first to Gitmo Bay and then interesting about that, in July 4th of 1943 we went through a hurricane. The PC was 175 feet long and when we got to Panama all the paint was off the ship from the bow, two-thirds back, almost way to the stern because when we'd go up on those big waves and crash and as I say, kiss the land when we got to Panama. We were happy to be there. Then we went up from Panama to San Diego and I got transferred to this destroyer base there as an officer. Then I put in for, because I had a year in the service and two years of college, I put in for officers' school and I got accepted at Abbott Hall, Northwestern College, in Chicago and went there January 1944 and May 10, 1944 I got my commission as an Ensign.

Mr. Misenhimer:

OK, go ahead.

Mr. Bateman:

Then from there they sent me right to Miami because I was expert on sonar, I sat on sonar watches as an enlisted man. I knew how that worked and so then I went to the West Coast Sound School and then I got transferred to a DE that was just newly built in Long Beach. We escorted some baby flattops to Pearl Harbor and then when we were at Pearl Harbor, they asked us to be on a special cover group that was four DEs and one baby flattop that were looking for a Japanese submarine that was lurking, sinking ships between Pearl and San Francisco. We never did find it and then when we got back there to Pearl in December of 1944 that's when I got transferred off the ship luckily and that's when I was selected by Admiral Nimitz to be on his headquarters detachment staff on Guam in January 1945.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You went to Guam with him, is that correct?

Mr. Bateman:

Yes. They flew me out there. When they stopped at Johnson Island I couldn't believe they could find that with a plane. It was a small island. Took us three stops. We had to stop at Johnson and Kwajalein because they were propeller planes. They couldn't make the flight nonstop.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you were escorting those CVEs to Pearl Harbor, what kind of ship were you on?

Mr. Bateman:

What they call a DE. It was a Destroyer Escort, DE-749. It didn't have the power of a destroyer and it didn't have, we had torpedo tubes and just five-inch guns.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you left Guam after serving on Guam with Admiral Nimitz, then where did you go?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, I didn't have enough points so I stayed on Guam from September to December of 1945 as ComMariannas. I was a 1st Lieutenant in charge of all the buildings and then I got sent back to San Diego in December of 1945 and then they sent me to Great Lakes to give...I didn't have enough points to get out so I was lecturing at Great Lakes from January to about April. I was there, lectured the enlisted men that were getting out on keeping their national service life insurance. I had I don't know how many lectures I gave a day to everybody that was going had to hear it because that was important to keep it because it was worth...the government paid for all the people that got killed during the war and so the insurance only had to pay for a very small percentage of the sailors and Marines and Army that got killed in peacetime in accidents and that so they had a big reserve and they gave us reserve and also I still have my national service life. I got discharged from there and I kept, you had to get 50 points a year, stay in active Reserve so I did two weeks' training duties and war correspondents and then when I got down to, like in Minneapolis I went to a Naval Intelligence and I got drills in Minneapolis for a while and then I moved to Miami in January of 1964 and then I went there a couple of years until I got my 20 years in and I became a 1635 designator officer which is Naval Intelligence.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you do that at?

Mr. Bateman:

That was just in Reserve. That's why I couldn't get promoted from Lieutenant because they were promoting the people in Washington, D.C. who were actually working in Naval Intelligence for

like Lieutenant Commander so that when you got passed over twice, you had to be x'd out but I had 18 years in so they had to give me another three years to finish to get the 20 years. That's how I was fortunate to stay in my 20 years active duty to get that retirement pay.

Mr. Misenhimer:

During World War II were you ever in any combat or anything?

Mr. Bateman:

No, the only thing was that we looked for that Japanese submarine that was sinking ships between Pearl and San Francisco was the only actual war duty. Well, the convoy, we convoyed merchant ships from Miami down to Panama. The German subs were sinking there, sinking in the Caribbean.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The first ship you were on was the PC.

Mr. Bateman:

PC-1126.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What kind of ship is that?

Mr. Bateman:

That's a Patrol Craft. It was 175 feet long, diesel driven. It was designed, it had a sonar shoe on the bottom and we had depth charges we'd drop if we located a submarine. First we had the cans and then they got the ones they found that they would only go down about 600 feet and the Germans knew they'd go a thousand feet and we could never do them. So they got the tear-drop depth charges so they would go down that far because the depth charge had to explode below a submarine. Explode above the submarine and it wouldn't damage it because you know all the

power would go up. The explosion that would be 20 feet above them would hardly even hurt them but if it was 20 feet below, it would really damage them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then you were on a DE, a Destroyer Escort?

Mr. Bateman:

Yes. That was as I recall that there was about a 180 men and there were eight officers on that. On the PC there was only four officers. I was a Captain's talker when I was on the PC as a Storekeeper and I also stood the sound and helm watch. You'd ping for a half an hour and then just stand on the helm for a half an hour because you couldn't do that for four hours, sit and listen to the ping, you wouldn't be able to pick up anything.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you were in that hurricane, did your ship have any damage?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, as I say, it didn't have any paint. We didn't have a light bulb that worked and I was surprised the engines worked. The last two days into Panama we didn't even have a mess because anybody'd go down there to get something to eat because nobody could stand. It was just unbelievable how we'd go up on a big wave, see the ship wasn't big enough to go through it. It'd go way to the top and when they got to the top, they'd crash down and you'd figure the whole ship would break apart.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That can be quite exciting.

Mr. Bateman:

It was scary as hell. (laughing) My bunk was in the middle of the ship on the bottom and I got

less of it than the guys that were on either ends in their bunks because man, they couldn't even stay in the bunks.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was the morale on your PC?

Mr. Bateman:

See on the PC we had a Captain Stedman, real sharp Captain, and everybody, it was a very happy ship and he said right to me, "Stores, if we need anything ashore be sure to get it, you know." He was always asking you how you were and everything and so it was a very happy and efficient ship. The DE was actually the opposite of when I was on the PC-1126 and he was a Captain Bligh that figured that he should get so mad. The one thing that was amazing like when those officers then went ashore in Pearl Harbor we had 60 crewmen go ashore. If one was caught downtown in Honolulu not saluting an officer, jaywalking or not having his hat on square, why I'd get four days in hack because as Officer of the Deck when he left and there was no way with 60 men there wasn't somebody that wasn't first all enlisted men put their hat on the back of their head and the other thing was that when they got downtown they saw a bar across the street they wouldn't go up to the end and after three drinks or so they weren't saluting any officers. So all of us officers had so many days in hack that we couldn't go ashore except to the Officers' Club and the enlisted men the same way. He was just a crazy guy. I'll tell you how bad it was, when we were on the Okinawa invasion, they were on the outside group and they were supposed to fire at the kamikazes and it was the only ship that wasn't damaged by the kamikazes but was also the only ship that never fired a shot because when the Captain ordered them to fire the gunners knew that they shot up the tracer bullets the kamikazes would come down so that's why the crew was just always, as I say he was like Captain Bligh and that's not the way to get the men under

you in the ship like the Captain Stedman we had on the PC was a brilliant officer and he treated everybody with respect.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now on April 12, 1945 President Roosevelt died. Did you all hear about that?

Mr. Bateman:

I don't remember hearing that. I remember that when Admiral Nimitz and MacArthur went to Pearl Harbor. See Nimitz wanted island hopping when we were retaking the Pacific and we knew we had to take like Okinawa and Iwo for fighter bases to invade Japan and we had the 1st Armor and 3rd Marine, or vice versa, on Guam training to invade Japan and when MacArthur and Nimitz went to Pearl Harbor to skip the Philippines, I don't know if that was Roosevelt or Truman at the time, but anyway MacArthur won so we had to invade the Philippines and they actually had to do the landing twice to get the photograph for the PR right. See that's the way MacArthur wanted to say, "I have returned". We would have saved all those lives that got killed taking that island if it been through Nimitz. See he knew that like we were on Guam and the little island of Rota. There's Guam, Tinian, Saipan and Rota. Rota was occupied by the Japs all the time during the war and then he knew it was not worth killing some Marines to go over there and capture it. See he expanded that out for the whole Pacific war to island hop and save because once you had those Japs not getting supplies they couldn't do anything. They had no airplanes or anything like that. That's why I figure Admiral Nimitz was the most brilliant man I ever knew and he was certainly one of the hardest working men.

Mr. Misenhimer:

He was very good, right. Did you ever hear Tokyo Rose on the radio?

Mr. Bateman:

Oh, yes, we used to listen to her. I'd go out and I'd get a kick out of that, how they're doing, dust off your I can't think. They had the other military guy, the Armed Forces Radio, they'd put her on once in a while but they had, the Armed Forces had a guy, you'd wake up in the morning, how you take off your shoes at night that was very good but there was not, it was limited as to how much radio time you actually had.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever cross the equator?

Mr. Bateman:

No. Oh, Guam, I can't remember. I don't think that's... I can't remember now, we crossed the International Date Line I remember that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you crossed the Date Line did you have any kind of a ceremony then?

Mr. Bateman:

No, I was never on a ship when we had to do that, when they hazed you for being the first time across the equator. I flew like I told you from Pearl to Guam. That's how I crossed the equator.

Mr. Misenhimer:

But you flew across then?

Mr. Bateman:

I flew from Guam back to Pearl Harbor and then I took an aircraft carrier from Pearl Harbor to San Diego in December of 1945.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you were overseas, could you get your mail with any regularity?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, the thing like on the PC when we'd stop, we didn't get much mail. The carriers would get mail and I think sometimes we got a delivery where we had to refuel. That was when we went to refuel because the PCs only had enough for 12 days at sea of potable water and then not much more gas, so we'd go alongside of a tanker and sometimes I know they passed the mail pouch from the tanker to us and of course on Guam, that was my chief job, chief censor and the mail so we had to trouble getting mail on Guam.

Mr. Misenhimer:

May 8 of 1945 Germany surrendered. Did you all hear about that?

Mr. Bateman:

Oh, man, we knew about it and let's see the Indianapolis stopped at Guam after distributing left the atomic bombs on Tinian because he had to report directly to Admiral Nimitz that that was safely done. Then of course they were going to the Philippines with the Indianapolis and they were supposed to arrive and they didn't arrive and the Philippines base commander in charge of the harbor didn't notify anybody so that's why the Indianapolis was hit by a Japanese sub and it was three days before they went out to rescue any of them and of course it was a disaster but I knew another thing that when Bull Halsey was there, Admiral Nimitz that his flag secretary was Stassen who had been the governor of Minnesota and I was from St. Paul so Nimitz's flag secretary had me come up there and meet Bull Halsey's flag secretary and I got to see Bull Halsey because they came to report directly to Admiral Nimitz.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On August 6, 1945 they dropped the first atomic bomb. Did you all hear about that?

Mr. Bateman:

Oh, yes, because one of my roommates was a photographic intelligence officer and they knew

that and we were celebrating that at the officers' club because we knew when they dropped that, that would be the end of the war and of course as I told you we had another one and once we dropped the second one to prove we had more than one. But we knew. I was close to the intelligence and everything going on over there and we knew that would be the end of the war because the destruction of that and the fact that Enola Gay, they had the training they had to go up at high speed and lob the bomb in because otherwise they'd get in part of the atomic explosion that was so big even up there. On Guam we knew that was going to be. We were surprised they didn't surrender right away but when we got that, that was the other big thing. MacArthur wanted to take over that but Nimitz had it and had the Missouri and that's where the surrender was made. So that was one of the things to get signed on the Missouri and go up and watch the surrender because I knew that was a big historic event. I was a Lieutenant, j.g., had no chance. I was friends with a Lieutenant Commander and he got up there and watched that on the Missouri. That was the famous picture of them signing. But the media, see how they play how MacArthur did that. Well it was Nimitz that was in charge of that because he was in charge of the Pacific operation area.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you anywhere close to where they had the surrender there?

Mr. Bateman:

I was still on Guam. I stayed there until December 1945.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On August 15, 1945 Japan surrendered. Did you have a celebration then?

Mr. Bateman:

Oh, yes. We had the officer clubs we turned them over. They had free drinks and everybody was

celebrating because that's the only thing. We had drinks for only ten cents in that and we didn't...there was no heavy drinking as you might say. I don't remember seeing anybody that was like a drunkard or that so that everybody did it with a little...They're all talking about how well we're going to do after the war because everything, everybody was wanting to go back and what were they going to do. That was what the G.I. Bill helped when you go back. I was already in law school before the war so I came back right into law school as soon as I got home.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you used your G.I. Bill for that, then?

Mr. Bateman:

Yeah. It was great that we had that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What would you consider your most frightening time?

Mr. Bateman:

It was going through that hurricane in the Caribbean in July of 1944. I thought that was, as I say, when I got to Panama I kissed the ground because I thought I was never going to see it again.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever see any U.S.O. shows anywhere?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, I got a story about that. We had them on Guam on Nimitz's headquarters and Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor were out there and they did the show and I was in charge of backstage and the photographer was taking pictures of Debbie Reynolds like pull up her skirt a little bit and everything and I said, "Wait a minute, we're wasting a lot of film here." He called me aside and he says, "There's no film in the camera." We had Charles Ruggles, too, that came

and had a U.S.O. show but we never had Bob Hope but we had I think about three of them, the U.S.O. shows, and they were very good. Like the entertainers, this Alan Brown was Executive Officer that I served under and he'd shot the March of Times before the war and he'd been in Hollywood so he knew all the Hollywood people and we got to know them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Bateman:

Well, the Red Cross when we were on Guam, they had a little canteen and they would serve you coffee or doughnuts. I don't drink coffee so I didn't go much, but the other thing they would have the tip jar out there. When I was an enlisted man, I was up in Bay City, Michigan, and the Salvation Army, there was no Navy headquarters up there or anything so we slept in the Knights of Columbus. There was only about ten or twelve of us enlisted men up there. We slept in the Knights of Columbus and every morning we went to the Salvation Army and they served us breakfast and they never asked for a tip or anything but that was the Salvation Army I still support every time I can. The Red Cross, the other thing was a buddy of mine wanted to go home to the funeral for his mother and he couldn't get approval from the Red Cross. I found out you had to be a big donor to get approval to go home on that so that's why I always never too hot for the Red Cross.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I've heard that before.

Mr. Bateman:

One of my civilians that stayed in home he said he couldn't believe when the servicemen came back, they didn't like the Red Cross.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you get home from World War II with any souvenirs?

Mr. Bateman:

Souvenirs of World War II. Well, I had some shells from Guam that when we were walking, we'd go down the beach, you know, and you'd walk and pick up shells and the natives told us just bury them and let the ants eat them out. Don't put any water on to shine. I had those and that was a sad story. The last five star flag that flew over Guam, Nimitz headquarters, it was placed on a Marine Colonel's, head of detachment, which I was part of, on his desk and I was down there. It must have been on a Sunday or something and nobody was around so I swiped the flag. I brought it back to Minnesota and I made the mistake of giving it to the V.F.W. Club in Starbuck, Minnesota and they lost it. I always wished I'd kept that and I'd have given it to...see I was one of the earliest contributors to Fleet Admiral Nimitz Memorial there and I would have liked to have that flag and sent there for display as our five star flag and that's what I might say. To fly a five-star flag some place or just have it on your hats too because he was one of two Admirals that ever was a five-star Admiral. He and Admiral King were the only two. You know why they had them be five-stars?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Why?

Mr. Bateman:

Because England had an Admiral of the Fleet and General of the Army so they would outrank us, so Eisenhower couldn't have led the D-day battle, it would have been Montgomery because he outranked him if he'd only been four-stars but by being five-stars, then they had the equal rank and then they could raise it. That's why we had to have Nimitz in charge of the Pacific operation

area and in charge of the British and everything, he had to outrank them and they had an Admiral of the Fleet was rank that I don't know if anybody at that time had it for Britain but that's why they made the five-stars.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you got out, did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Mr. Bateman:

No, no problem. I was always worked and went to pre-law and then law school. I worked 40 hours, went to law school all the time so I was always used to duty, working, not wondering what I was going to do so I was always busy. When I was in service I gave it my all and yesterday on my calendar it says "When you go, go with all your heart" Confucius saying and that's what I did when I was with Fleet Admiral Nimitz, I did everything that I would know that would be an officer and a gentleman and make sure to help everybody.

Mr. Misenhimer:

During the World War II, what was the highest rank you got to?

Mr. Bateman:

I was a Lieutenant, jg, when I was in...I forgot when I was promoted to Lieutenant. I can't...I think I was in the Reserve when I got promoted to Lieutenant but in Guam I got promoted from Ensign to Lieutenant, jg, and I can't remember when I got to be a Lieutenant but I made Lieutenant.

Mr. Misenhimer:

But you were an Ensign and a Lieutenant, jg on Guam.

Mr. Bateman:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have you had any reunions of any of your outfits?

Mr. Bateman:

Let's see. I'm trying to think if I went to...the PC had reunions, the DE I didn't go to. No, I just went to Reserve duty. I would sign up for two weeks of Navy Reserve duty and I went to like the one in Washington, D.C. where they give the diplomats going overseas that's cleared for top secret and you could go. It was a two-week course and I went to that twice or maybe three times but it was limited as to how often you could go to that. But that was one of the brilliant things and I got to see my Lieutenant Commander that was Allen Brown. After the war he became the Secretary of Defense speech writer and so he'd write me orders when I was in law school. Said I would take two weeks training in Washington, D.C. at the Secretary of Defense and they assigned me to reviewing court martials and that's when I started to get in Naval Intelligence.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What ribbons and medals did you get from World War II?

Mr. Bateman:

I got the American Ribbon because I was in, like in Panama before I went to Midshipmen School, so I could wear that and then I got the Asiatic/Pacific Ribbon for serving over in Guam, and then the World War II Victory Ribbon.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have you been on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.?

Mr. Bateman:

They asked me but I said I don't think I could take it now.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I've talked to several people who have been on it and they've all really enjoyed it. Thought it was very fine.

Mrs. Bateman:

Yeah, we've talked to some people too but he just didn't think he could handle it because it's up and back in one day, right?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well some of them are but a few of them now are spending a night but most of them are still one day.

Mrs. Bateman:

Yeah, yeah. That would just be...he thinks it would be too much for him.

Mr. Bateman:

I had at least three two week trainings in Washington, D.C. and my youngest son liked the Smithsonian Institute and we saw everything and they would take the tours while I was in school every day and then on the weekends we did that...we'd go to the things around there but I just...

Mrs. Bateman:

But you never did the one that they've offered, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's fine. I just wondered. Marilyn, one thing I need to do is get an alternative contact. We find out that sometimes several years down the road, try to get back in contact with a veteran, he's moved or something. I do have a daughter's phone number. Who is she?

Mrs. Bateman:

You mean my daughter, Karen?

Mr. Misenhimer:

I guess.

Mrs. Bateman:

No, Sue Ann. I'll give you mine. Suan, last name Swenson. She's has three addresses. I don't know which one to give you.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The main thing is a phone number.

Mrs. Bateman:

Oh, OK. Her phone number you have: 612-202-8044?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is that a cell phone or a landline?

Mrs. Bateman:

That's her only phone. Is that the one you have?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yes. What town does she live in?

Mrs. Bateman:

Minneapolis and Houston.

Mr. Misenhimer:

But you can get her on that phone wherever she is.

Mrs. Bateman:

That's correct.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's her cell phone.

Mrs. Bateman:

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

OK. Well, Warren, that's all the questions I have unless you've thought of something else.

Mrs. Bateman:

Well, I've thought of one thing. When you put this all together, and I know that it's piecemeal right now, when you put it altogether can we have a copy to us at P.O. Box 557395, Miami, FL 33255.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You'll be there from October 1 to when?

Mrs. Bateman:

Until April.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Warren, thanks again for your time today and thanks for your service to our country during World War II.

Mrs. Bateman:

Did you hear that, Warren?

Mr. Bateman:

Thank you for the Fleet Admiral's Headquarters there at the Museum at Fredericksburg. I think you've done a tremendous job so that I support it at all times and will continue to support it and thank you for your help.

End of Interview

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