

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Nimitz Education and Research Center
Fredericksburg, Texas

An Interview With

Charles F. White

Carriere, MS

September 8, 2016

USS *Pawnee*, Fleet Tug

ATF-74

Pawnee

Mr. Misenhimer:

My name is Richard Misenhimer, today is September 8, 2016. I am interviewing Mr. Charles F. White by telephone. His phone number is 601-798-5589. His address is 369 W. Union Road, Carriere, Mississippi, 39426. 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.

Charles, 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. White:

Well I just wished that I had done more. You know, if I had been a year older I would have been in a year earlier too (*laughter*). But it just so worked out that by the time I got in it was, you know almost over. 7-27.

Mr. Misenhimer:

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

Mr. White:

Ah yeah, okay.

Mr. Misenhimer:

(Agreement Read)

Is that okay with you?

Mr. White:

Yeah, yeah it's fine with me.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now the next 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. So do you have a son or a daughter or someone we could contact if we needed to, to find you?

Mr. White:

There will be somebody at this number regard or not.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How is that?

Mr. White:

My daughter lives here now. My daughter and son-in-law lives here with me.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What is their name?

Mr. White:

Her name is Valerie, Valerie Bogart.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What is your birthdate?

Mr. White:

Birthdate is 7/07/27.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where were you born?

Mr. White:

In Picayune, Mississippi.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. White:

Only a half-brother. My mother died when I was born, but I had a half-brother.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What were your mother's and father's first names?

Mr. White:

Ruby was my mother's first name and Felston was my father's first name, F-e-l-s-t-o-n, which is my middle name.

Mr. Misenhimer:

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

Mr. White:

Since my mother died when I was born I was raised by my grandparents and he was a school teacher. So we had food and shelter, that was about it. But we had a roof over our head and we had food. But I was raised on a farm.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have a garden?

Mr. White:

Oh yeah, definitely.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have a milk cow?

Mr. White:

Yes we did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How about chickens?

Mr. White:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Pigs?

Mr. White:

Uh yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You had plenty of food then.

Mr. White:

Oh yeah, we raised our own for the most part.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then where did you go to high school?

Mr. White:

There in Picayune, Picayune High School.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What year did you finish there?

Mr. White:

Well I would have finished in '45 if I'd have stayed, but I dropped out with intentions of going in the Navy. So I actually come back and finished up in '47.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When did you drop out, what year?

Mr. White:

'45.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That would have been your junior year?

Mr. White:

Yeah, that would have been, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you dropped out what did you do?

Mr. White:

Well I enlisted in the Navy and I went in and had my..., in April I had my test, you know my physical and everything. But they didn't actually call me until, let's see, June. So I was just idle there kind of for about three months.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So what date did you actually go in?

Mr. White:

I actually went in 6/02/45, June 2, 1945.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you went into the Navy?

Mr. White:

Yeah, Navy.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how did you choose the Navy?

Mr. White:

I don't know, I had always thought I'd go into the Marine Corps because so many of my buddies went into the Marine Corps. But got down to it I just decided I'd go to the Navy. Well I've always liked boats anyway and that was just a choice.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Had you spent quite a bit of time on boats when you were growing up?

Mr. White:

On creeks and whatnot, not big boats. You know on creeks fishing and you know boating and johnboats and like that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah, so you had some experience on the water then?

Mr. White:

Oh yeah, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So where did you go for your boot camp?

Mr. White:

Great Lakes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tell me about that.

Mr. White:

Well it was interesting. Most of our company, that I was in, was mostly southern boys—Mississippi, Florida. And I rather enjoyed it, you know it was an experience. Of course there

was a certain amount of physical activity and plus the training and whatnot. I really enjoyed boot camp.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What all did you do in boot camp, what kind of training did you have?

Mr. White:

Well I haven't stopped to think. Well we had gunnery, we had boat work, and of course we had the normal marching and whatnot and schooling and firefighting. Even had a week of..., I was a lifeguard for a week in the pool. And that sort of thing.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have knot tying?

Mr. White:

Oh yeah, yeah there was some knot tying. Actually when I was on board the tug I was in charge of the line locker, I was a coxswain and I was in charge of line locker up forward. And being a tugboat we had a lot of rope, a lot of line along with the cables too. But the main thing we had fenders and you know rope work, a lot of rope work. Again, yeah we had some knot tying in boot camp and whatnot.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have swimming in boot camp?

Mr. White:

Yeah, that was one of the, kind of a requirement was they wanted you to be able to swim, I already knew how. We each had a work week in boot camp. We either worked in the kitchen or we did some other work. But I happened to be a lifeguard in my work week, in the swimming.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now you mentioned gunnery schooling. What kind of gunnery schooling did you have?

Mr. White:

Well we had rifle, we had regular rifle target practice. Plus we had shooting at a flying target with a machine gun.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What else?

Mr. White:

Well that was pretty well it on the gunnery part. We were you know, we had a couple of days of rifle practice and a couple of days there on the lake front really shooting out over the lake at a towed target. I hadn't even thought about these things in years, so they're kind of slow coming back to me a little bit.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's fine, that's fine. Were your drill instructors pretty tough on you?

Mr. White:

No, not really. Of course we had exercises, we had tiers in which we did just various types of exercises and whatnot. Wrestling even was one of them. Had that in boot camp.

Mr. Misenhimer:

About how long was boot camp?

Mr. White:

I think it was six weeks, if I'm not mistaken.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's not too long then.

Mr. White:

No, uh-uh they got you in, run you through it, and got you out and got you going.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you finished boot camp then what happened?

Mr. White:

Then I went overseas. I was shipped over to Okinawa where I got on my boat, in Okinawa.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well tell me about being shipped over, do you know what time you left to go over?

Mr. White:

Oh gosh no, not exactly. I went in about the middle of August.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now where did you ship out from?

Mr. White:

San Francisco.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you travel to San Francisco?

Mr. White:

By train.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that train trip?

Mr. White:

Oh it was interesting cause I'd never made one like that growing up. We went across country and I saw country that I'd never seen before. And I saw some plains areas that amazed me cause I was down here in the woods you know. And I'd see open airs, I'd see a house, a light at night, and might not see another light for a mile, two, three miles maybe you know. It was an open area, very interesting.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you had gone up to Great Lakes for your boot camp, how did you travel up there?

Mr. White:

We went by train.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That was train trip also?

Mr. White:

Yeah, we went up from Mississippi up to Chicago by train.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you went out west, where did you go to, San Francisco?

Mr. White:

Yeah, San Francisco.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did you do when you got there?

Mr. White:

We had about a week there of layover, we just played ball and messed around. Didn't have any real demands on us other than just amuse ourselves. But we had about a week there before we got on our boat.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what boat did you get on there?

Mr. White:

I have no idea, it was actually a Merchant Marine boat. And I have no idea what the name of it was.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's fine, I didn't need to know, okay.

Mr. White:

It was a Merchant Marine.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where did you go from there?

Mr. White:

Okinawa.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that trip over to Okinawa?

Mr. White:

It was fine with me, we had a few that were subject to sea sickness. One boy was so sick that he never ate hardly all the way over. When he got over there they flew him back home. But I never had a problem, never had a problem.

Mr. Misenhimer:

About how long was that trip to Okinawa?

Mr. White:

It was probably ten days or so.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is that all? Okay, that's not too long.

Mr. White:

No it wasn't, it wasn't that long.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Anything happen on that trip over?

Mr. White:

Nothing really. Nothing exciting, we just had no demands on us other than we did do kitchen duty a time or two. But other than that there was no other demands, we just kind of amused ourselves.

Mr. Misenhimer:

About what day did you ship out from San Francisco? Have any idea of what date it was?

Mr. White:

No, I can't say. I can't really say.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You don't have anything there?

Mr. White:

It had to be about the middle to the last week of August probably. That's a guess.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Had Japan surrendered yet or not?

Mr. White:

They had not actually, yeah well I'm not sure. By the time I got overseas I was at Okinawa, which had been captured, and at that time, yeah they hadn't actually signed. I don't think they'd

actually formally surrendered but it was in the process.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well August the 6th we dropped the first atomic bomb. Did you hear about that?

Mr. White:

It was probably, well I'm still saying it was probably the middle of August when I got shipped over. So by the time I got overseas basically the war was over. I enlisted, it was still going on when I enlisted but by the time I got overseas basically it was over. And that's what disturbed me, cause you know I was disappointed in the fact that I never actually saw action, duty yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now let me give you some dates here, like I say August the 6th dropped the first atomic bomb, August the 9th the second one, and August the 15th is when Japan actually said we quit fighting, we surrender.

Mr. White:

Yeah, yeah. Well that was about the time I was going overseas.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then September 2nd is when they signed the surrender on the *Missouri*.

Mr. White:

September the 2nd, okay. I was probably..., I'm not sure, I'm just not sure about that. I know when I got to Okinawa there was still some skirmishing going on. It had been overrun by, you know the Americans had actually overrun it. But there was still some skirmishing going on and then there were dead Japanese laying around.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you do on Okinawa?

Mr. White:

Well I was only there for a couple of days then I went on board my ship. It was stationed at Okinawa at the time.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what ship did you go on there?

Mr. White:

The *Pawnee*, USS ATF-74. *Pawnee*, an Indian Class tug, it was an ocean going tug. I can give you some ..., it was a Navajo class fleet tug, it was 205 ft. long, 38 ft. 6 in. at the beam and it had 85 officers and enlisted men. It had a three-inch fifty cannon on the front and two 40 mm machine guns on the stern. And it also could had anti-submarine gear.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So what did you do on that ship?

Mr. White:

Well the first thing we had to start pulling a bunch of ships off the beach. They'd had a hurricane on Okinawa just about the time that they had overrun Okinawa. And there were ships on the beach and we were just actually pulling off, dragging back out getting out into deep water again. We did that for a couple of months. Then we went to Japan to do some towing and what-not. We were in Japan for, oh I don't know, just two or three weeks. But basically we were a tow boat, that was our duty, you know. We moved barges around, supply barges that didn't have engines, we moved them around. We would go and the original duties of the tug was to go with the fleet and whenever a ship got disabled, in battle or otherwise, we would go in and tow it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

September 17th was when that typhoon hit Okinawa.

Mr. White:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You were there then?

Mr. White:

Yeah, yeah, uh-huh. Yeah we were, the ships all put out to sea and then it was assumed that the hurricane or typhoon, they called it, had changed course and then they put back to land. A lot of them put back to Okinawa and then the typhoon changed course again and just about laid

everybody up on. We stayed out, we weren't guilty of coming back too soon.

Mr. Misenhimer:

But you were on the ship when that happened?

Mr. White:

Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you were doing this towing of ships, were there more tugs than yours, several tugs?

Mr. White:

Oh yeah, that was a class of tugs. What they called the Indian class. There were several of those fleet tugs. They were all given Indian names, ours was the *Pawnee*. They were all given Indian names. But there were several of them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well now were you in a special group or unit or something? Did it have a number or name?

Mr. White:

ATF-74. I don't recall, I don't recall. Let's see I got the information on the tow boat here and whatnot. But it don't say. Gives these locations, I have the locations of it's service. But it don't say what group it was in or anything.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What locations are those?

Mr. White:

Well it served in, she was assigned to the Pacific in 1942 and "she stood out of Pearl Harbor in January, steamed forward to Pacific area with an ARD-5 in tow." Whatever, I'm not sure what that is. "And reported to ComSoPAC for duty the 29th at Espiritu Santo," wherever that is. But the "*Pawnee* operated in the Solomons from June through August of '43 providing towing services at New Georgia and Rendova. She next provided services at Vella Lavella until October. Other operations took her to the Western Carolinas as well as to Okinawa, Leyte, and Luzon." She was reclassified as ATF-74 on May 1944. She served with Naval Occupation

Forces in the Philippines from 28 September of 1945, which I was on her then, until 24th of February 1946 when she sailed to Pearl Harbor, I was on her then. And of course she was decommissioned in '47. So I sailed her, well I was in Okinawa, Japan, Eniwetok, Philippines, Pearl Harbor, and then we sailed to Astoria, Oregon. And did service on the Columbia River towing LSTs, landing craft up the river to Portland to be decommissioned and put in the mothball fleet. And on our last trip up they took the *Pawnee* and decommissioned her and put her in the mothball fleet, and that was in, let's see. But this was in '46 that she was put in the mothball fleet.

Mr. Misenhimer:

1946.

Mr. White:

Yeah. And that I can give you the date of that too.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was that?

Mr. White:

Let's see. Along about the 3rd of August 1946 she was put in mothball fleet, the *Pawnee* was.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you still aboard then or had you already gotten out?

Mr. White:

No that's when I got out, we made our last tow up the Columbia River with LSTs alongside. And they took the LST and put it in mothball fleet and then everybody on board ship was sent home except those that happened to be in regular Navy, you know. And they were relocated to other ships. But the most of us were sent home from Portland. So that was my discharge time.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What date did you get discharged?

Mr. White:

Uh, let me find that again (*laughter*). First day of August 1946.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now let me go back and ask you some questions. You got to go ashore in Okinawa, is that right?

Mr. White:

Yeah, yeah I went ashore there. I was there for a couple of days. And had nothing to do so I was out roaming around, just messing around in Okinawa. And a couple of Marines come along in a jeep and asked me where I was going. I said I'm just walking, you know into Okinawa there.

And they said well you know there's still Japanese out here. So they put me on the jeep, brought me back down to the beach there. So there was still a little bit of skirmishing going on.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah it went on for awhile there. A lot of the Japanese didn't recognize that the war, that they had surrendered.

Mr. White:

Yeah, yeah they were slow. I was reading the other day where a couple of them in the Philippines didn't even show up until..., one of them was 1957 before he surrendered.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I think the last one was in Guam in 1974.

Mr. White:

Okay, alright, alright, yeah it was, it was. You've got better information than I got.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well there were a bunch of them in the Philippines too in the '50s and all that gave up.

Mr. White:

You know I've got to be careful when I make a statement around my son-in-law. He's got that little old phone thing and I make a statement about something in the past you know, that I'm not real sure about but I have to be careful cause he'll look it up and he can tell me whether I'm right or wrong. I don't fool with them, I'm not with that. Yeah I bet you've got everything there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what did you do in the Philippines?

Mr. White:

Tow jobs, we would move.... Well actually we were taking a floating dry dock, I don't know if you know what that is or not. It's a dry dock that they put ships in and they can sink it and let the ship pull in and then it rises up and they pump the water out. And it was a floating dry dock and we were bringing it from the Philippines up to Pearl Harbor. It had a yard tug in it. And we towed it from the Philippines to Hawaii. And we were supposed to take it to Australia, but our sister ship took it instead and hey we came back, that's when we came to port, Astoria. So I was hoping we were going to Australia, but we didn't make it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now how long were you in the Philippines?

Mr. White:

Oh probably not much more than a month, maybe. About a month, probably. We had time for a couple of liberties and whatnot.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you go ashore there?

Mr. White:

Where was that, Subic Bay was that it?

Mr. Misenhimer:

There was a Subic Bay, right.

Mr. White:

Yeah, that's where we were anchored, in Subic Bay. That's where we went ashore.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I mean on Luzon.

Mr. White:

Okay.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then not too far from Manilla.

Mr. White:

Okay (*laughter*). You know better than I do. It's been so many years ago and I just kind of, you know never a whole lot of thought over the years.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You say you went to some other places, Eniwetok?

Mr. White:

We went out to Eniwetok to pick up a Japanese battleship that was going to be used in the test for....

Mr. Misenhimer:

Atomic bomb test?

Mr. White:

Atomic bomb test. You know they used Eniwetok for a..., I think for that. And pretty well destroyed the island I understand.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That was Bikini Island they used.

Mr. White:

Oh is that where it was?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah.

Mr. White:

Okay. But we went out to pick up that Japanese battleship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I think it was called the Nagato or something like that.

Mr. White:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The Japanese battleship was.

Mr. White:

Yeah, yeah. That was the reason we went to Eniwetok, it was anchored there. It had no, you know it had no power or they weren't running and we had to go tow it in.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what was your job during all this time on the ship?

Mr. White:

My job? I was a coxswain and I was in charge of what you call the line locker which was up at the bow of the ship. It had all the paint and paint supplies, it had all the rope, all the lines for towing and for making fenders and whatnot. I was in charge of the line locker.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is it just you or some other people working with you on that?

Mr. White:

They had a couple of seaman working, regular seaman working with me.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what rank did you have at that point?

Mr. White:

Coxswain. Above from Seaman 1st. It's the lowest rank, a bosun, lowest rank bosun. Line locker, yeah but it had all the paint supplies and I had all the ropes and everything that we used aboard ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you would tie up and dock did you have to put the ropes out or what did you do then?

Mr. White:

Well when we tied up dock we just dropped fenders overboard and put lines out to the you know,

tie-off spots. And maybe about three lines would be about all we used.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Let me go back and ask some questions here. Now this is before you went in. April 12th of '45 President Roosevelt died, did you hear about that?

Mr. White:

Of course I heard about it, but yeah I'd forgotten that it'd happened at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was the morale on your ship?

Mr. White:

Good, good. We had a good crew, everybody got along good. And we had a good Captain and Lieutenants. Yeah, it was very good. Yeah we had no real problems.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever hear Tokyo Rose on the radio?

Mr. White:

I never heard her. We didn't even have radio, where we could hear it or anything on board ship. Now we did have movies at night, but as far as radio service was concerned we never had it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever see any USO shows anywhere?

Mr. White:

I'm trying to think. Can't recall one. When you're aboard ship like that and that size ship, it's very unlikely that you, you know that you would run into one.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah, I didn't know if you'd seen one on shore somewhere or not.

Mr. White:

Yeah, that was mostly bigger ships and also for servicemen on land. But smaller boats like that,

just didn't have that opportunity very often.

Mr. Misenhimer:

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

Mr. White:

Yeah. I got a rifle from Japan and I shipped it home in my sea bag. When we left the boat they just took our sea bags and shipped them home. I had my rifle in the sea bag and when I got home I found that they had taken the bolt out of it. So it was useless as far as..., but I've still got it around here. And a bayonet. And I also got a piece of the flag, the pennant of my ship, about a foot and a half piece of the pennant. But other than that that was about it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. White:

No, no never did. No, uh-uh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you enlisted, how long did you enlist for?

Mr. White:

I enlisted for the end of the war. I went in, you know I didn't go, it wasn't a four year enlistment, it was just for the end of the war basically.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well I think a lot of them were duration and six months or something like that.

Mr. White:

Yeah, that's basically what it was. Uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now have you had any reunions of your outfit?

Mr. White:

No, I've never had any. The whole time I was in the Navy I never saw anybody from my hometown and ever since I got out of the Navy I haven't seen anybody that was on board the ship I was on. So it's just completely, you know just haven't happened. I see a lot of these ships that have reunions you know and whatnot, but we never did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you belong to the VFW or anything like that?

Mr. White:

Yeah, I belong to VFW.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did y'all ever cross the equator?

Mr. White:

Never made it. Never made it across the equator. I crossed the time zone a time, you know. But I never made it across the equator.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you got out did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Mr. White:

No, Lord no (*laughter*). No, no problems. I went on back to school, went back to school and I still had a year of football I could play, so I played football. And settled back into normal routine.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you use your G.I. Bill for anything?

Mr. White:

I used it to go to school one year, up in Meridian there's a vocational school there that I went to for a year. And I used the G.I. Bill for that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what was your civilian career when you got out?

Mr. White:

Well I was going to, I went to that vocational school pick up electricity, sheet metal work, and refrigeration. And I planned on getting in refrigeration but I ended up going to work for Ma Bell, telephone company. So I worked there until I retired.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you do for Bell?

Mr. White:

The first thirteen years the part that I enjoyed the most was construction. I enjoyed, I love construction. It was in my nature, I guess. Then after that I bought my farm up here in Picayune, I was in New Orleans when I went to work for Bell. And I worked construction in south Louisiana really for thirteen years. Then I bought my farm up here in Picayune, which is my hometown, out from Picayune. And then I transferred to Picayune and to installation and cable repair and eventually into PBX work down at the test site. Stennis test site here in Mississippi. That's where I was working when I retired.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what date did you retire?

Mr. White:

'84.

Mr. Misenhimer:

1984 when you retired then?

Mr. White:

Yeah, yeah, '84.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How big is your farm, how big of a farm do you have there?

Mr. White:

Right now it's 57 acres. I had 87 acres and I sold 30 of it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you raise crops or what do you do on it?

Mr. White:

Not now, my wife got to be an invalid and I had pretty well got to take care of her and the house and the yard and whatnot. And I went ahead and sold my cattle. And when I bought the farm it had a crop on it of tung trees, which you're probably not familiar with. Tung oil was a big crop here in this area during the war, because the oil from tung nuts was the fastest drying paint oil. They developed so many other things for paint now that tung oil is not even used hardly anymore. But it was a fast drying paint and it was used in all the military paints and whatnot.

Mr. Misenhimer:

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

Mr. White:

Not really, no. Where you are to the museum here and that's the reason I ended up over there. So anywhere I want to go he's more than willing to take me.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So your son flew you over there then, right?

Mr. White:

Yeah, yeah, uh-huh he's got a plane.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What kind of plane does he have?

Mr. White:

Don't ask me, it's just a little four place plane. You can crowd four people into it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you stay in the reserves when you got out?

Mr. White:

Yeah, I was in the Naval Reserve, the Naval Reserve that I was in wasn't active. So I just stayed in it. Then when I went to Meridian, I was going to school in Meridian like I told you, I joined the Marine Reserve up there. And then when I came back to Picayune I transferred to National Guard. And it went to Korea but circumstances happened in such a way, it wasn't my doing, but I was discharged because my wife had just lost a baby and they didn't want me to go off and leave her. So the commanding officer wrote me up a discharge. And I would have looked like something, I don't know what, if I'd have refused.

Mr. Misenhimer:

About when was that discharge, about what year was that discharge?

Mr. White:

I don't know what year it was.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Korea War started in June of '50 and ran till '54, so somewhere in there.

Mr. White:

Okay, well the group that I was with was a bridge and pontoon group. And they went over for six months and built, you know floating bridges and whatnot.

Mr. Misenhimer:

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

Mr. White:

No I don't know of anything else, you've pretty well covered everything, more than I knew.

Yeah, I think you probably got the better part of the history of my life, really.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And again thank you for your service to our country and thank you for your time today.

Mr. White:

Well I wasn't planning on doing anything except getting out on the tractor after a little bit.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You said a friend of yours was killed in the Marines, what happened?

Mr. White:

Yeah he was, Stuart, his name was Billy Stuart. And he was, I think, let's see, I'm not sure what island he was on, really. But he was, well Picayune lost several, you know. He was closer because we played ball together and whatnot.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did he get killed, what happened?

Mr. White:

Well he was helping an injured, from what we heard, he was helping an injured man back to safety, you know. And evidently a sniper got him, you know killed him. Yeah, that's all we heard, you know that's all I heard really was that he got killed helping an injured buddy back to safety.

(End of Interview)

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