

*National Museum of the Pacific War*

*Nimitz Education and Research Center*

*Fredericksburg, Texas*

Interview with

**Mr. Kenneth Shaub**

Date of Interview: July 7, 2017

# **National Museum of the Pacific War**

## **Fredericksburg, Texas**

### **Interview with Mr. Kenneth Shaub**

Interview in progress.

Ed Metzler: This is Ed Metzler. Today is the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 2017. I'm in Marble Falls, Texas at the home of Patrick Shaub, and I am interviewing Mr. Kenneth Shaub, World War II veteran. This interview is in support of the Nimitz Education and Research Center for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission, for the preservation of historical information that is related to this site.

So, Ken, thank you for spending the time this morning to share some of your World War II experiences with us. I'd like to start by having you introduce yourself. Let's hear your full name, date of birth and we'll take it from there.

Mr. Shaub: This is Ken Shaub. I'm ... pressing ninety-seven years.

Ed Metzler: What's your birthdate?

Mr. Shaub: My birthdate was ... 7/22/20.

Ed Metzler: Oh. Well, you just got a couple of more weeks before you're ninety-seven years old!

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir.

Ed Metzler: Are they going to throw a big party for you?

Mr. Shaub: Evidently, it, too, will happen.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: I have a large family.

Ed Metzler: And you don't have any control over this ...

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: ... anymore, do you? (laughter)

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: Okay. Where were you born, Ken?

Mr. Shaub: Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and my home was Holtwood, Pennsylvania which is a power plant on the Susquehanna River. My father was the ... was having (?) ... the ... Holtwood Dam, and there was three others, so he was transferred to Baltimore, Maryland when I was twelve.

Ed Metzler: Okay. So, what ... he was working for ... what ... a power company?

Mr. Shaub: Power company.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Shaub: Pennsylvania Power and Light.

Ed Metzler: Alright. So, what kind of a power plant was this? Uhm ...

Mr. Shaub: This was just ... power supply to various cities.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Shaub: And he had to ... to distribute from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C.

Ed Metzler: So, were you ... raised in the country, in the city, where?

Mr. Shaub: Oh, I was raised in the ... Holtwood which is four hundred and fifty people and about forty-five children, and our schooling was with one woman with eight grades.

Ed Metzler: So, this was the one-room schoolhouse thing, huh?

Mr. Shaub: Absolutely (laughter), and we learned to be very quiet. It's just in those days, you got worse from your family than you did from ... the teacher if she ... was to disclose you did something wrong.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckle), so the note home to parents was always dreaded, huh?

Mr. Shaub: Uh, absolutely (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: And it was a wonderful life ... really was, but ...

Ed Metzler: You had brothers and sisters?

Mr. Shaub: I had one sister who was a very good pianist, and she was an "A" student.

Ed Metzler: Was she older or younger?

Mr. Shaub: She was three years older.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Shaub: And ... it was just a wonderful way for man, uh, a kid to grow up.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And I was in Holtwood until twelve ... till I was twelve. And then ...

Ed Metzler: Okay, so that's 1932 ...

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: ... when you moved. That's ... the depths of the Depression.

Mr. Shaub: (Unintelligible). And I was lucky. I mean, my father had a job right through, so we never had ... the pain, but when we moved to Baltimore, we saw the pain.

Ed Metzler: So, when he moved to Baltimore, he still had the job with the power company?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, he was ... then in charge of all three dams, and ... he had about fifteen people under him. He got his ... uh, he was on a farm, so, he had ... he used the mail and got his ... his ... uhm, high school diploma ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... which he owned. And then he went on to become an electrical engineer the same way ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum!

Mr. Shaub: ... through mail.

Ed Metzler: That is ...

Mr. Shaub: And, I mean, he was a great dad, that's for sure.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. And your ... and your mother managed the home front?

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: You notice we don't say housewife anymore (chuckles), we say (chuckles).

Mr. Shaub: No. She ... Pennsylvania Dutch and ... he was German and ...

Ed Metzler: I was going to say, Shaub sounds like a German sir name.

Mr. Shaub: It is; there's only nine hundred of us in (unintelligible) in the country.

Ed Metzler: Wow! Well, you know, I saw the Shaub on a ... on a person who just resigned from the federal government; he was working on one of these departments ... uhm, up in Washington and he resigned because he didn't think ... President Trump was ... would allow him to stay on, so I thought, "I'm going to interview a guy that has that last name Shaub.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so there are a few of you around.

Mr. Shaub: Shaub, there's nine hundred of us in the country.

Ed Metzler: I'll bet there's a ...

Mr. Shaub: S-c-h ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: ... there's a million of them.

Ed Metzler: Okay, well that may be the difference. So, you went to the public schools in Baltimore for the rest of your education?

Mr. Shaub: I did, and I was thinking, "My god, I'm going to ... big town where the schools have teachers that don't want more than ... fifteen or sixteen ... people in their class; went with ... trepidation, and I walked in sixth grade, and they put me in the sixth grade; two weeks later, I was in the seventh grade.

Ed Metzler: So, they decided you were ...

Mr. Shaub: So, the education with one through eighth ... hearing it repetitively day after day after day ... put more in my mind than the average child had.

Ed Metzler: So, you were really ahead of ...

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: ... what ... what would be expected if you had been in a ... traditional or a normal ...

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: ... big city school.

Mr. Shaub: And that's all from one lady ... taking care of eight grades.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Isn't that something! So, did you go through eleven or twelve grades in ... when you were in high ... in school?

Mr. Shaub: I went through twelve.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, a lot rural ... areas of the country back then only had eleven grades, but you went through twelve.

Mr. Shaub: No, I was in Baltimore.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, this is big ... east coast city, so ...

Mr. Shaub: Uh hum.

Ed Metzler: ... so, you were what ... eighteen so when you graduated from ... high school.

Mr. Shaub: Eighteen.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So, that would be 1938.

Mr. Shaub: Eight, yeah.

Ed Metzler: '38 ... '39, late 30s.

Mr. Shaub: No, openings for work ... for a kid. I finally got a job for twelve cents an hour; worked ten hours a day, six days a week.

Ed Metzler: Doing what?

Mr. Shaub: I was ... in a ... an outfit that was making switchboards for various ... people, and I was ... the tram boy that brings the metal he want ... from here.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And that lasted until ... uh, (unintelligible) Martin asked for people that wanted to become machinists. I jumped on it! I was working sixty hours for ... twelve cents and hour and they were giving me fourteen for a forty-hour ... week. Then at the end of a year and a half, I was ... a machinist, declared a machinist, and ...

Ed Metzler: So, they trained to ... be a machinist?

Mr. Shaub: Right; got in ... automatic screw machines; building machines; drill presses; jig bores, and I had ... ten people I was taking care of. So, when this happened, I ... on that same day, I joined the Marine Corps, and I came back and I told them that I was in ... going to be in the Marines, and they said, "No, you're going to spend six months with us training somebody for your job," and I did that. So, I got in ... in June of that year.

Ed Metzler: Now, had your father been in the military?

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: Okay. So ...

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: ... so, this was kind of a new thing then for the family, if you will.

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: But then we were talking about World War II and that was a new thing for sure.

Mr. Shaub: Yes.

Ed Metzler: Where were you on ... uh, December the 7<sup>th</sup> and what do you remember about that day?

Mr. Shaub: I really ... do not recall ... where I was, but I know that I went up the next day ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah!

Mr. Shaub: ... and signed up with the Marine Corps, and then ... when I got held up for six months, I had to go back and train this man. Then I was ... to buy my own ticket (laughter), and show up in North Carolina and ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Shaub: ... I did ... on the same day, and same hour, and I got marched off to ...

Ed Metzler: Now, that was down on Parris Island, right?

Mr. Shaub: ... Parris Island.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. I've heard stories about the training ...

Mr. Shaub: Yes.

Ed Metzler: ... at Parris Island; I've heard it's tough!

Mr. Shaub: A little bit (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Especially for the ...

Mr. Shaub: (Unintelligible) one more than I ...

Ed Metzler: ... than you thought.

Mr. Shaub: ... had ... anticipated.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, (laughter). Why the Marines; why did you choose the Marine Corps?

Mr. Shaub: I ... I've read ... history, and ... seemed to me that they were always ... doing their things, and ... that it was just in my mind, "If I'm going, I'm ... going to go as a Marine."

Ed Metzler: So, you were old enough that nobody had to sign for you.

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: Because you were ... twenty ...

Mr. Shaub: (Unintelligible), I was twenty-one.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you were twenty-one.

Mr. Shaub: Twenty-one, yeah.

Ed Metzler: I mean, you could vote, you could drink and you could join the Marines if you wanted to!

Mr. Shaub: Yes. Well, I was ... playing clar ... clarinet and saxophone in the bars around town when I ... by the time I was sixteen.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: And ... my parents, I think, were ... thought I'd be better off in the Marine Corps (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Might be better for you (laughter).

Mr. Shaub: But, no, I was a machinist and ... played in a band, so I was nine to five with my machinist and then I was ... nine till one ... in the evening, and I didn't get much sleep but enjoyed every minute of it.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, when you're young ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... you can get by on that.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, my goodness. So, you did your six-month training for ... for the ... people who were going to take your place, and then you bought your own ticket and ...

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir!

Ed Metzler: ... got down ...

Mr. Shaub: And (unintelligible) there.

Ed Metzler: So, what sticks most in your mind about your boot camp experience?

Mr. Shaub: It was new (chuckles), and I had to listen to certain people (chuckle), and ... it was ... I think a very good, good thing for me. My parents were ... strict, but not overly strict. But when I got there ... when they said, "Do it," you do it.

Ed Metzler: And they were in your face, too, weren't they?

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir, Master Sergeant, and a Corporal. And the Corporal was a bruiser with arms like legs.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: And they'd take that ... wand and stick it out like that, and says, "Don't you bend your knees; don't you drop your (chuckles)," oh god!

Ed Metzler: Well, you were in shape when you came out of there.

Mr. Shaub: I was ... I was in good shape, yes, definitely.

Ed Metzler: So, uhm, boot camp is what ... typically, six, seven ... weeks?

Mr. Shaub: Three weeks. Three, I think I was ... was there ... three months.



Ed Metzler: It was three months back then, okay.

Mr. Shaub: And ... then I was transferred to Quantico for ... Radio School.

Ed Metzler: Did you chose Radio School or did they ...

Mr. Shaub: No, they chose it for me.

Ed Metzler: ... chose it for you? Do you think that was based on ... testing or they just said, "We need radio communicators?"

Mr. Shaub: I ... never asked.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), you just shut up and show up (laughter).

Mr. Shaub: By that time, I know ... don't ask (laughter) a question.

Ed Metzler: So, what kind of training did they put you through at Quantico?

Mr. Shaub: At Quantico? I was ... it was ... extensive, a three-month course ... learning to use the ... well, what the ... I can't even think of it anymore.

Ed Metzler: The radio communication?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. And I was very slow, but then it came all of a sudden, and I ... came out of there with good grades.

Ed Metzler: Hum! So, they're teaching you code and ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, it's a code ... (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: ... and yeah, Morse Code and ... and ...

Mr. Shaub: And then there's the (unintelligible) word. Instead of just a key, you had ... to learn to do it with a ... a new design deal that made it faster, and I got along with that pretty well, and that helped me in my ... deal when I got with a tank company.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And they ... that was a godsend; they transferred me to headquarters' company after we had been through Saipan.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Shaub: And they ... the headquarters' company lost their ... chief ... uh ...

Ed Metzler: We're going to get to that story ...

Mr. Shaub: ... radioman.

Ed Metzler: ... we're going ...

Mr. Shaub: Okay.

Ed Metzler: ... when ... when we get ... get you into the Pacific. So, what ... were you living in barracks, uhm, sleeping in a cot; what was going on while you were at Quantico? I mean ...

Mr. Shaub: At Quantico, I was in ... good quarters ... right in the main building.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And the school was off to the side, but ... no, I had ... lovely quarters there, and ... it wasn't too bad.

Ed Metzler: Did you meet some guys there that became kind of buddies and you all hung out together or did ... how did that work?

Mr. Shaub: No, we left ... one at a time ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... to where we were ... when we were ... declared ... uh, Radio Operator ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... we'd just go ... one at a time, and you didn't get time to really associate. It was ... to bed early and up early, and ... I really didn't connect with anybody.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So ...

Mr. Shaub: And I was ...

Ed Metzler: ... what was that about ... how ... how long were you ... in communications training?

Mr. Shaub: I ... I think it was two months.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And then they ... sent me to New River where I was going to be in ... ground troops, and then they decided to put me in tanks. And (chuckles) I was claustrophobic.

Ed Metzler: Oh dear!

Mr. Shaub: I had to (laughter), so, I ... stayed in tanks.

Ed Metzler: Well, you got used to it, I guess, huh?

Mr. Shaub: Uh, either or ...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), yeah, right!

Mr. Shaub: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: ... you didn't have a choice probably.

Mr. Shaub: That's right.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So, you went what ... out to Camp Pendleton at that point?

Mr. Shaub: Right, getting the Fourth Division together, and we was there three months. And we came from ... the west coast and the east coast.

Ed Metzler: They were just forming up the Fourth Division ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: ... at that time, weren't they? Pulling ...

Mr. Shaub: Right, yes sir.

Ed Metzler: ... units from here and there and ...

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: ... and pulling them ... together and training them as a unit. So, you went all the way from the east coast to the west coast of the United States.

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: Did you get ... home leave before you went?

Mr. Shaub: Yes, I got a ten-day leave, and that's ... when I met my ... lady (chuckle).

Ed Metzler: So, tell me about that meeting.

Mr. Shaub: Well, we actually met in the train station; she was going to Quantico, and I was heading back to North ... Carolina. I got her name and address; we didn't see each other until I got my ten-day leave; say goodbye to the family. I picked her up and ... took her from Washington to Baltimore and ... introduced her ... to my parents, and that was it. That's ... I took her back to work and ... I never saw her again, but we were writing to one another for two and a half years; came back, and five days later we were married (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), so you had a plan here it looks like!

Mr. Shaub: It was wonderful.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, that's great! But, you had a war to fight before you could do any of that.

Mr. Shaub: Yes. And I was blessed; oh god, I was blessed.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, it does sound that way. So, you ... after three or four months training at Pendleton ...

Mr. Shaub: Yes.

Ed Metzler: ... then ... it was a ...

Mr. Shaub: We went directly ... to Roi Namur.

Ed Metzler: Oh, you didn't do the normal stop in ...

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: ... the Hawaiian Islands or anything?

Mr. Shaub: No, it wasn't ... no, directly there. And then ...

Ed Metzler: What kind ... what kind of vessel were you on?

Mr. Shaub: I don't know what they call it.

Ed Metzler: It was an LST, wasn't it?

Mr. Shaub: It's ... a round-bottom job ... and ...

Ed Metzler: Oh, it was a round-bottom, okay.

Mr. Shaub: ... it (unintelligible), six LCMs with tanks inside and they pumped the water in and you run out ... with the tanks, but ...

Ed Metzler: So, this ...

Mr. Shaub: ... we were on this ... rolling ...

Ed Metzler: ... so, you're telling me this wasn't a smooth ride?

Mr. Shaub: Oh no!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: In ... thirty days!

Ed Metzler: That ... that's a long time to be going up and down and up and down!

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir!

Ed Metzler: How bad was your sea sickness?

Mr. Shaub: I didn't get sea sick; I ... I just got (chuckles) ...

Ed Metzler: You were blessed!

Mr. Shaub: ... yeah! No, I didn't throw up or anything, but I just ... didn't feel good.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Shaub: But I could get out and get on the deck, and ... I was pretty, pretty good there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: Get in the sack (chuckle), and you get that roll and ...

Ed Metzler: Start thinking about it and ...

Mr. Shaub: ... couldn't go to bed.

Ed Metzler: ... yeah (laughter). And a lot of the other guys were getting sick, too, probably  
...

Mr. Shaub: That's ... oh yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... until they ... they got over it.

Mr. Shaub: Sure!

Ed Metzler: Uhm! Did you know where you were going at that point?

Mr. Shaub: Yes, they told us ... told us about three days ... out that we were going to leave  
... hitting some small islands.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And I personally was in a group that didn't hit Roi Namur; we hit ... an island  
day before which was their radio support.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: A little island, and we went in and cleaned that out and stayed for the night, and  
then we took the rest of the islands, and I don't know what the name of the ...  
island was, but ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... the Army had taken ... the big island at the end, we ... we checked all these  
little islands as we went down.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And then took over ... cleaning up ... of the Army's uh, they had it secured ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... but there were bodies to bury and things to do.

Ed Metzler: Uhm. So, are you a ... a member of a tank crew at this point?

Mr. Shaub: Yes, yes.

Ed Metzler: So, we're talking the Sherman tank, I'm assuming.

Mr. Shaub: No, we had ...

Ed Metzler: Tell me ...

Mr. Shaub: ... the light tank.

Ed Metzler: Ah ha!

Mr. Shaub: And it had a ... Ford motor, gasoline ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... supply, and a thirty-seven millimeter cannon.

Ed Metzler: Oh, it's a light tank then?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. One that ... you still could hit a Birch tree or something back here and clip it off and go, and we learned ... rather ... fast that you don't do that with ... a palm tree. We went down, oh yeah (chuckles) ...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: ... and it didn't give up (laughter).

Ed Metzler: So, you had to back away from the palm trees then?

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir, we learned!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), yeah. So, how many in a crew then for one of these light tanks?

Mr. Shaub: Five.

Ed Metzler: Okay. So, I guess you got the driver, the commander, the gunner ...

Mr. Shaub: You got the driver, and CPs down in the bottom, you got a gunner, you got a loader, and ... a commander ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... in the turret.

Ed Metzler: So, are you down in the ... guts of the ...

Mr. Shaub: Yep.

Ed Metzler: ... tank?

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: And you've got ... radio equipment then, so that you ...

Mr. Shaub: Just ... your radios ... to your right, and ... you have communication ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... to take care of.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And (chuckles) ... I say I was having such a terrible time because ... I was claustrophobic, and that was ... getting to me.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: (Throat clearing)

Ed Metzler: How did you finally end up dealing with the claustrophobia given your assignment?

Mr. Shaub: Oh, I did what they told me to do (laughter), yeah.

Ed Metzler: You just gutted through it?

Mr. Shaub: I thought (unintelligible) of it.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. Did it ... get to where it didn't bother you anymore?

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah, by the time we got in the big tank, uh, I was pretty good.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. Did you ... get to know these other crew members pretty well or ...

Mr. Shaub: I did, and you know, I wouldn't know the name of one of them ... today.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. Did you ... were you in contact with any of them after the war was over?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. I had ... contact with two of them.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And ... they died.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, it happens.

Mr. Shaub: But ... I wasn't in contact with any others.

Ed Metzler: So ...

Mr. Shaub: I had a whole new group of ... Fourth Division broke into ... a bunch of ... places where we were had a ... a group of eight for ... for Houston, and there's thirty-five of us from the Marine Corps.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: Uh, and I enjoyed that, but I outlived everybody.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah. So, on your first landing ... now, was this actually on Roi Namur or was this that small island that ...

Mr. Shaub: I ... we went to the small island the day before D-day.

Ed Metzler: So, des ... describe that ... that particular landing that you did.

Mr. Shaub: Well, it was just two tanks, and then ... I guess, it must have been fifty land troops ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... went in and ... cleaned out their ... uh, (pause) radio station, and ...

Ed Metzler: They had already left?

Mr. Shaub: No, they were there; we took care of them, and ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... and destroyed the ... equipment, and just stayed there overnight.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: But that was, I guess, a thousand yards over to Namur. And ... we sat up all night waiting for somebody to wade across ... across to get us, but nobody came, so we ... in the morning, moved down ... a whole list of islands, went south to the big island the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army had secured.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: So, I wasn't in the battle.

Ed Metzler: So, your light tank, when it's time to go back ... aboard ship, how does that work?

Mr. Shaub: They have ... LCM ... you run onto the LCM; the LCM ...

Ed Metzler: Takes what ... one tank at a time or ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: Okay, one at a time.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, and then they get ... into the round-bottomed boat; it opens up.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: Fills up, and you drive ... the LCM back into ... the thing ... with the tank in it, and then ... when you want to go out, they do the same ... the reverse, and you drive out the front-end and ...

Ed Metzler: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Shaub: ... do your landing.

Ed Metzler: Roughly, how many tanks would be ... taken care of in one of those boats?

Mr. Shaub: I ... just six.

Ed Metzler: Six?

Mr. Shaub: Six.

Ed Metzler: You ever have any mechanical problems with the tanks; the engine break down or any of that?

Mr. Shaub: Oh, we had several times; it's bound to happen.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, (chuckles).

Mr. Shaub: Loosing track was ...

Ed Metzler: Oh yeah!



Mr. Shaub: ... a ... a big one. (ringing sound)

Ed Metzler: The ... uhm, so when you got to ... Roi Namur that had been secured by the ... by the Army lads ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... what was there to do there for you guys?

Mr. Shaub: Clean up.

Ed Metzler: It was a clean up?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, and we stayed there about a month, but the ... the flies were so bad that we had to ... the cooking was done eight feet ... we had to dig it eight feet deep, then we had ... uh, wet ... uh, bags to get under so the flies wouldn't get in where they were cooking. And then go out the other end the same way. And then you had to run out in knee deep in water to get away from the flies to ... to eat.

Ed Metzler: Doesn't sound like a four-star restaurant (chuckles).

Mr. Shaub: No, it sure wasn't (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: Oh, I guess, ninety percent of us went to ... hospital when we left there; went directly to the hospital and stayed two weeks. We were throwing up and ...

Ed Metzler: From ... dysentery and ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, everything.

Ed Metzler: So, is that what happened to you?

Mr. Shaub: Yep!

Ed Metzler: (Throat clearing), so you got good and darned sick, huh?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, for two weeks that we were in ... nice hospital (chuckles) with good food.

Ed Metzler: Now, where was the hospital located?

Mr. Shaub: Oahu.

Ed Metzler: So, you went ... back ... to the Hawaiian Islands?!

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, Maui was our Fourth Division ...

Ed Metzler: That's right.

Mr. Shaub: ... return.

Ed Metzler: Now, this is all before Saipan and Tinian?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: 'Cause you went back and you were training; did more training and ... got well ...

Mr. Shaub: That's it.

Ed Metzler: ... again (chuckles) and ...

Mr. Shaub: And filled in ... those that were dead ... were replaced by kids that weren't in thirty-two days.

Ed Metzler: Now, where does Kwajalein fall into all of this?

Mr. Shaub: We went to Kwajalein after ... we ... stayed for about a month on that island that I don't know the name of.

Ed Metzler: So, this was ...

Mr. Shaub: It ... it ...

Ed Metzler: ... this was part of Roi Namur?

Mr. Shaub: ... Twenty (unintelligible). Yeah, we just went over there and parked, and we stayed there almost two weeks.

Ed Metzler: And Kwajalein had been secured at that point?

Mr. Shaub: Oh yes!

Ed Metzler: And ... so did you have clean up ... assignment ... in Kwajalein also?

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: So, you were kind of just ... waiting for somebody to send you somewhere at that point?

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: So, were mosquitoes a problem?

Mr. Shaub: No. No, we had flies.

Ed Metzler: Flies and more flies.

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: So, you didn't have to sleep under ... mosquito netting or ...

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: ... and the weather, I guess, is tropical or ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. But (throat clearing), it wasn't too bad, really. I mean, there were breezes blowing, and that took care of us.

Ed Metzler: So, did ... were you taking medication for ... malaria to avoid malaria or ...

Mr. Shaub: Uh uh.

Ed Metzler: Nobody got dingy fever or ... any of that?

Mr. Shaub: Nope, we didn't have any medication, and nobody was ... getting sick other than from the flies and ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... the throwing up, boy, that was bad!

Ed Metzler: Uhm, uhm!

Mr. Shaub: Two weeks of it.

Ed Metzler: So, was the food halfway decent although ... the surroundings weren't, I know?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. I'd say they did a remarkable job of ... setting up a ... rather than K-rations we ... we had ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... we had good food.

Ed Metzler: Real cooked food.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And ... did you stay together as a Marine unit or was there interaction in sharing of facilities with the Army or what?

Mr. Shaub: No, it was ... Marine unit.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: (Throat clearing).

Ed Metzler: So, it was ... back to Maui to get well ...

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: ... and to prepare for the next program then, is that right?

Mr. Shaub: Right, it was Saipan and Tinian.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, now that's getting to be pretty ... ugly at that point.

Mr. Shaub: Yes, it was.

Ed Metzler: Uhm, tell me about ... the stay on Maui; was this ... mostly just rest and recuperation or was there ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... or was there a lot more training?

Mr. Shaub: No, rest and recuperation.

Ed Metzler: And ... was there ... an event where a Japanese submarine ... actually shelled you, and was that on Maui or ...

Mr. Shaub: On Maui.

Ed Metzler: Tell me about that.

Mr. Shaub: They ... I don't know. Just one night ... but that was when we came back from Saipan.

Ed Metzler: That was later on!

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Shaub: And ... submarine just ... surfaced and threw a few ... rounds into the ... hills where we were, and ... there were a few people gathered ... down at the water edge ... I ... I guess maybe thirty-five of them, all prepared, until we marched (chuckles) down in mass and they disappeared.

Ed Metzler: They left, yeah, in a hurry, yeah. So, Maui sounds pretty ... nice compared to ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh, it was lovely, yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... what you'd been through. Maui is a tourist destination now.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. Well, those people were wonderful to us, too. They ...

Ed Metzler: The native Hawaiian's you mean?

Mr. Shaub: Yes! I mean, when we'd get aboard ship, they all ... all be down there waving us off and ... .

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, and as we came in, a ... be there to ... shake our hands.

Ed Metzler: So, was this in a town or were you kind of out on the ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, there was ... I can't think of the name of the town anymore, but it was on the ... west side of ... of Maui.

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Shaub: And then ... on the east side, there was another town, little town, that ... we drove to occasionally.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: But that's about all there was. We were on ... side of the ... the volcano, but almost up the lip of the volcano.

Ed Metzler: So, you were ... that was where you were stationed?

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: You were up high.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, it's a little cooler anyhow.

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah, it was nice, uh hum.

Ed Metzler: So, when you got leave, you went down into ... some of the towns to ... check things out or did you not get leave? (chuckles)

Mr. Shaub: Didn't get leave.

Ed Metzler: Is that right?

Mr. Shaub: No, no. I ... it's a good thing ... 'cause ... we would probably have been ... drinking a little more than we should (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: It is an opportunity to ...

Mr. Shaub: That ... that's why when we came back ... the Captain would (unintelligible) and give each body, each guy ... a fist, and we had three days (chuckles) to enjoy ourselves in that (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: I have never ... heard that story before.

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir.

Ed Metzler: So, a fifth of ...

Mr. Shaub: Uh, good ...

Ed Metzler: Whiskey?

Mr. Shaub: ... whiskey, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah?

Mr. Shaub: Yep!

Ed Metzler: I'll be darned.

Mr. Shaub: Yep, that was our Captain ... Stevenson (sp?). But he ...

Ed Metzler: Was he ... was a good ... Captain?

Mr. Shaub: Oh, he was great! Fearless, and he did his thing.

Ed Metzler: In fact, I think he ... he won the Navy Cross, did he not?

Mr. Shaub: He won ...

Ed Metzler: I think on ... I guess that came on Saipan.

Mr. Shaub: ... I ... I don't remember what he got, but he ... he was ... killed in his ... jeep, and ... Taylor was his driver, and he was ... all broken up because he didn't get killed ... it ... was Stevenson.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: But that was a real loss, man!

Ed Metzler: Now, all this time you're writing letters back home and receiving letters from home, is that right?

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir! My lady ... put three to five letters a week ...

Ed Metzler: Wow, and how many did you write?

Mr. Shaub: Well, when I was ... on ... when I was back ... at Maui I could write.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: But they didn't ... deliver mail ... while we were in action.

Ed Metzler: No, of course not.

Mr. Shaub: And ... I couldn't write a letter there.

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Shaub: But she was ... stayed on the hook.

Ed Metzler: Well, no dear John letters ...

Mr. Shaub: None.

Ed Metzler: ... that's good!

Mr. Shaub: That's right!

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: As I say, well, we ... we talked it over and I said, "Look (chuckle), I'm with a wonderful outfit, but ... there is a good chance I'm going to come back minus something."

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And we didn't marry, and ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, that's even if you came back, yeah.

Mr. Shaub: ... (unintelligible) ... yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. When you were in the hospital recovering ... that was in Maui?

Mr. Shaub: No, when we came back, we went to Oahu ...

Ed Metzler: Oahu.

Mr. Shaub: ... to the hospital.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so tell me ...

Mr. Shaub: I ... just had two weeks there ...

Ed Metzler: That's right!

Mr. Shaub: ... got it straightened out and then ...

Ed Metzler: So, you got ... you were happy with ... how they took care of you there?

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah, that was wonderful.

Ed Metzler: I guess those nurses and doctors and ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. Got very good treatment.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, at this point, what are you missing most about, you know, being back home, other than your lady?

Mr. Shaub: That's it (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: After ...

Mr. Shaub: That's all I thought about (laughter).

Ed Metzler: That's all you thought about (laughter). I can understand that.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, she gave me a picture of herself. It's in ... in there on ... and I carried it in my pocket ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... for every ... every ... place we went.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: But I think we knew better ... knew each other better in that two and a half years by ... writing than we would have if we'd of been dating.

Ed Metzler: I can understand that.

Mr. Shaub: And it, I say, it worked just beautifully.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Now, when did ... you evolve to the Sherman tank from the light tank?

Mr. Shaub: When we went to Saipan.

Ed Metzler: So, you were going through the transition to a new piece of equipment ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... while you were training in Maui?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: What was your thought about the Sherman tank?

Mr. Shaub: Happily ... happily moved into it; more space, and ... a bigger, healthier gun.

Ed Metzler: More armor.

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir. Yeah, I felt ... more relaxed in that than ... I did in the light one.

Ed Metzler: So, it's still a crew of five?

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir, same, same.

Ed Metzler: Is the equipment ...

Mr. Shaub: You got a driver, you got ... the CP in the bottom, and a loader and a gunner and the commander.

Ed Metzler: ... and it ... the equipment that you're dealing with is very similar to what you were ...

Mr. Shaub: With the other, but ...

Ed Metzler: Yep.

Mr. Shaub: ... well, you had ... thirty-seven-millimeter shell versus ...

Ed Metzler: Right, but I'm thinking about the radio and ... and communications equipment.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, yeah, that ... communications ... same.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so you didn't ... really need any further training ...

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: ... per se; you just got an upgrade in equipment.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, it was time to go ... to the next campaign then?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, tell me about Saipan and Tinian.

Mr. Shaub: Well, Saipan ... they weren't too sure about the ... landing area, and there was deep ... uh, puddles they knew they had ... people in there swimming. And it was ... their ... worrisome about getting the tanks in ... uh, close enough that you wouldn't get one of these big ones. So, we had to build a six foot ... air breather



for the ... engine and caulk everything we could caulk, and that's the way we went in.

Ed Metzler: So, had you trained with that kind of equipment before you went to Sai ...

Mr. Shaub: No, no, and we hadn't trained ... after we put it on, we just had to say we done a good job.

Ed Metzler: Put it on and go!

Mr. Shaub: Yeah (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Shaub: Oh, man! But that was ... an interesting landing. And we really didn't lose any tanks when we went in, and we didn't hit any of those holes. But ...

Ed Metzler: But you didn't know, did you?

Mr. Shaub: No. After we got ... on land, that's when they came at us with some heavy equipment.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum. So what ... did you go ... on early in the landing or were you ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, we were ... first wave.

Ed Metzler: (Whistle sound.)

Mr. Shaub: With ... we had ... ground troops with us, but ... (pause) ...

Ed Metzler: So, I'm trying to remember ... Tinian was the easier of the two and Saipan was the first before Tinian, I think.

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: And you went into Saipan?

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: And ...

Mr. Shaub: I went ... I went into Tinian on my birthday (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: Is that right?! Boy, I guess you what ... twenty ...

Mr. Shaub: Twenty-three.

Ed Metzler: ... twenty-three?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), here's ...

Mr. Shaub: Seventeen and eighteen-year olds ... was ... the average.

Ed Metzler: Uhm. Now, who was your commander ... on the ... on the ...

Mr. Shaub: Captain Stevenson.

Ed Metzler: It was still Stevenson?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, you went ashore; you didn't drown out in ... in the ... the deeper parts on the ... the ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, it's land, right.

Ed Metzler: ... I'll call it a beach for lack of a better term. If I remember correctly, there was some coral reefs, too, that gave ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah, but they ... they didn't give us a fit, the tanks.

Ed Metzler: Okay, uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: The poor kids that were walking in ... I mean, they'd drive them as close as they could and ... then they'd still have to walk ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... they ... they took a beating. That ...

Ed Metzler: Now, there was a ... quite a bit of air support from ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah. But they ... they didn't get the people in the holes and the hills.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, Saipan is hilly, is that correct?

Mr. Shaub: Well, it has a slope from south to north, and north is pretty high. And they ... the women and children ... jumped off that cliff.

Ed Metzler: I've heard about that.

Mr. Shaub: That ... just ... to see that ... was ...

Ed Metzler: Did you actually see it?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, I mean, they just thought we were going ... to do them in ... (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: They'd been brainwashed.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: No question about it.

Mr. Shaub: And they had ... little kids ... walking along with ... uh, cane (?) ... and then they  
blowed themselves up, and take out ... maybe five men or ... with it. I mean,  
they'd walk beside ... you as ... I mean, the ground troops as they were ...  
marching along, and they'd march beside; nobody thought they'd ... this kid was  
going to do anything (sigh).

Ed Metzler: So, what kind of resistance did you encounter when you went in with your ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh ...

Ed Metzler: ... tanks?

Mr. Shaub: ... not, nothing ... big there. We were lucky; they had the big guns that would  
be on a ship, but they hadn't put them in place.

Ed Metzler: Oh!

Mr. Shaub: We caught them ... probably two months early. We hit before ... they thought  
they had the time to do it and didn't. So, the big guns didn't get to us. We were  
very lucky there.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Shaub: They had a mountain gun that would penetrate the armor that ... on the tank, but  
...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... we didn't have a gun or any big ... five incher (chuckle) ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... down our throats.

Ed Metzler: So, what about mortar fire?

Mr. Shaub: Well, that was ... their prime ... prime destroyer. Yeah, the ...

Ed Metzler: So, did you see other tanks being hit?

Mr. Shaub: The mortar could ... doesn't hurt you much unless you're outside the tank.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: 'Cause ... it'll take a mortar shell.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: So, I was ... feeling ... fairly safe in the tank.

Ed Metzler: So, tell me what happened.

Mr. Shaub: Hum? Well, I say, we moved ... rather rapidly. In fact, we moved too rapidly for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army which was between our Second Division and ... our Fourth Division.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And Howling Mad ... sent Smith sent back to (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: Howling Mad, yeah; Howling Smith ... that ... that's name.

Mr. Shaub: Well, they didn't move fast enough, and the gooks got in behind each of us. I mean, they laid back and they ... the gooks ... came in behind ...

Ed Metzler: Almost surrounded you, yeah.

Mr. Shaub: ... the Second Division and us.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: We had that to deal with ... as you're going forward, but ...

Ed Metzler: But you're in a tank and they don't have the big guns to train on you, so ...

Mr. Shaub: That ... that was smooz, but then we had some tanks that ... in fact, one ... went up ... over ... to the airport, I mean, the air strip ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: ... and he went over the hump and ... ran right into the big gun.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Shaub: It took our their tracks so they couldn't move back and ... he got ... Medal of Honor for ... getting out of the tank ... getting his boys to get out of the tank from the bottom.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: Well, he ... popped his head out of the ... deal with his ... machine gun, and then ... was killed right on the spot, but held off long enough ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, this was McCord, right?

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: McCard, I guess, McCard, yeah.

Mr. Shaub: McCard. Yeah, he's buried now in ... Oahu.

Ed Metzler: So, that happened ahead of you?

Mr. Shaub: (Unintelligible), yeah. Well, we were at the bottom going up; we didn't go up. He did, and he was the lead tank, but boy, he got his crew out of there, but he ... just stood up and took it.

Ed Metzler: Wow, sounds like he was ...

Mr. Shaub: He was such a good guy, and he had been a Major in the Army, and came into the Marine Corps, and he was a Ser ... three-stripper.

Ed Metzler: I wonder why he did that.

Mr. Shaub: I don't know; he never said. He was a happy-go-lucky, but ... not discussing.

Ed Metzler: Just wanted to be where the action was.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, that's it. And he was a good one.

Ed Metzler: The rest of the crew survived?

Mr. Shaub: Nah, two of them died.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: But the two ... the driver and ... the CP got out; they had this plate ... you had a plate under you; you can drop it and get down under the tank and ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... and crawl out, and they did. But the ...

Ed Metzler: So, you guys kind of fell back and regrouped after the lead tank got ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah. Well, we did what we ... we did; we swung around that area and didn't approach the ... landing strip.

Ed Metzler: Air strip, yeah.

Mr. Shaub: Right, we went out beyond it and around. But then ... we ran into places where ... it fell off ... fifty or eighty feet, and when you're in a tank, (laughter) you're looking out there ... you just see flat land ... all of a sudden, you know what you got; you back up. But ... that was the scariest part of every ... anything.

Ed Metzler: So, the ... the infantry guys finally caught up with you.

Mr. Shaub: They were always there; they had a phone on the back of the tank, and they'd ... give us information and ... we'd try to take care of them. But we ... were getting heavy fire, and they were ... taking it. That ... I ... I hated to see them following us, but it was nice to have them pick them off before they got on the turret or ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm! So, tell me what interaction you had with the native population there in Saipan, if any.

Mr. Shaub: We didn't. We built a ... a place to retain ... the women and children, and evidently, they had been told we were going to be ... horrific to them. And they kept running ... with their ... their pull back of the Japanese, their families, they would just follow them up the hill and ... and they'd jump off.

Ed Metzler: But some of them came to the compound, right?

Mr. Shaub: Some; we had about ten ... in the compound, ten.

Ed Metzler: Ten?!

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: Oh my!

Mr. Shaub: The ... the city ... that was between the Second and us ... uh, the people just took off and ... went to the hills.

Ed Metzler: Uhm! So, how long ... so ... so, you secured the island ...

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: ... ultimately. Uhm, did you stay there and ...

Mr. Shaub: No, we got aboard ship on my birthday and went to Tinian.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Shaub: And we landed on a thousand feet of beach. They (unintelligible) like they were going into the city and ... we went in on this thousand foot of beach (chuckles) with our tanks and went up hills that ... the average man wouldn't ... (unintelligible), but we got a freebee. We got up on top and ... nobody was there; they didn't have a ... clue that anybody'd be there.

Ed Metzler: So, you ran an end run on them?

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir. That was ...

Ed Metzler: And it worked!

Mr. Shaub: Right. The north end; it was crowded (laughter) ... (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: So, you made it to the high ground ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... on Tinian.

Mr. Shaub: And then it was ... just a gentle slope ... to sweep down over, and there was ... there was a number killed, but it was minor ... to what we had on ... Saipan.

Ed Metzler: Saipan, yeah. Well ... so, Tin ... Saipan and Tinian ... both were secured while you were there.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. Yes sir.

Ed Metzler: You look back on how ... we handled that whole campaign; you feel ... there were ... real mistakes made or feel good about it or how do you feel?

Mr. Shaub: Well, as far as I'm concerned, we were ... we had ... all the support we needed except for the fact that they got behind us, and that was the 23<sup>rd</sup> Army or whatever ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... but ... the Second Division and ... our Fourth Division ... got away pretty good.

Ed Metzler: Did you get ... up close and personal with any ... Japanese POWs?

Mr. Shaub: Oh, POWs, no. We got ... they were coming through the sewers and coming up behind us.

Ed Metzler: Tell me about that.

Mr. Shaub: (Unintelligible), I say ... we had ... a couple of them coming out of the sewers and coming ... crawling up behind us, and ... trying to pick us off from the back, but ...

Ed Metzler: Talking about ... sniper-like activities?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. Or grenades ... get close enough to use their grenades.

Ed Metzler: When you say sewer, so that implies to me some sort of a ... town or a city or ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, they had ... we were ... on both sides of ... the town, and then the Second Division was farther up, but 23<sup>rd</sup> was between us.

Ed Metzler: Now, this is on Saipan?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Shaub: But they ... we didn't take any army with us when we went to Tinian.

Ed Metzler: And you didn't take any POWs either?

Mr. Shaub: No, not ... not that I know of.

Ed Metzler: But I mean, they don't tend to ...

Mr. Shaub: No. Four o'clock in the morning ... *banzai!*

Ed Metzler: Tell ... oh!

Mr. Shaub: Tinkle, tinkle of the tinkle cans on the ... (throat clearing) ... I mean, we had barbed wire in front of us and then ... hang tin cans on it.

Ed Metzler: So, it'd make a noise.

Mr. Shaub: Right. Four o'clock in the morning (chuckles) ... *banzai!*

Ed Metzler: So, did they penetrate?

Mr. Shaub: They'd ... throw themselves on that barbed wire and the others would come a running over them, and we're sitting there with machine guns. I mean, take it out of the tank and set up a machine gun; that's ... about every thirty feet. Just mow them down, and they'd keep coming. And I mean, they were ... fearless; they were ...

Ed Metzler: Suicidal.

Mr. Shaub: Absolutely! See one with a two-handed sword coming running, and they ... they had given the officers these ... thirty caliber jobs, and short thing. It wouldn't bring anything down. I think they had fourteen clip ... had fourteen ...

Ed Metzler: Rounds.

Mr. Shaub: ... and ... they'd keep coming. Fourteen rounds in them and ... wouldn't stop them.

Ed Metzler: But in the end, you were able to take them all out.

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah, oh yeah, but ... you'd learned a lesson (chuckles); you don't want those guns anymore! And the BAR was not ... uhm, not the BAR ... oh, what the heck was it ... the (pause), my god. Everybody hated it. It was so modern, the new rifle that we got.

Ed Metzler: M-1?

Mr. Shaub: The M-1.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Nobody liked it?



Mr. Shaub: No, you got eight rounds and then ... (ringing sound), What do you need ... a noise catcher which is just as bad as having a BAR. That Browning Automatic you fire once and it'd roll eighteen feet ...

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Shaub: ... but you're dead.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Shaub: Boy! No, I wouldn't have wanted to be a B ... BAR man. That cough was a signal, and it was pinpointing you.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. And the ... were the Japanese able to get machine guns through and into ... your area or it was all swords and hand guns?

Mr. Shaub: That's ... the attack was with hand guns.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And ...

Ed Metzler: Grenades; did they throw grenades?

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah, they ...

Ed Metzler: That could be a problem.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, but they had to pop them on their helmet (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: Oh no.

Mr. Shaub: You'd hear that, and ... most of them were dead before ... they got a chance.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: I mean, when they hit that barbed wire, all the machines ... opened up.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And it was ... but they keep coming, but they ...

Ed Metzler: Were there any Japanese aircraft around at this point?

Mr. Shaub: Uh, not that I ... remember.

Ed Metzler: We had control of the skies?

Mr. Shaub: Right. Yep, we had ... but they ... came in and they strafed and they bombed and ... they were up in the holes, in the side of the ... hill.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, we learned that repeatedly through ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh ... yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... the whole island-hopping campaign.

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir!

Ed Metzler: You can bomb them until you think ... there couldn't be anything alive, and then they roll out the big guns and ...

Mr. Shaub: That ... that was terrible on Iwo. They had a gun in (unintelligible). They'd shoot the gun and then it would back up, and you could blow it out and they'd fix the track; zeroed in and they'd be back in business. And then, they were three-stories deep.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: That was ...

Ed Metzler: Okay, so we've dealt with ... Saipan and Tinian; where did you go, back to Maui again?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, that was our home base.

Ed Metzler: And ... replaced lost ... comrades and ...

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: ... rest a little bit and ... get trained. Get any new equipment at this point or were you still with the Shermans?

Mr. Shaub: We were with the Shermans, but they took ... the darned, uh, what is it ... the engines were diesel, and they took them out and put gas engines in them when we went into Iwo.

Ed Metzler: Was that good or bad?

Mr. Shaub: Bad! You had three gallons of gasoline.

Ed Metzler: You were a human torch ... ready to go up.

Mr. Shaub: Plus ... right, and ... that other one had a ... flame thrower on it, so it had three hundred and something gallons of ... napalm.

Ed Metzler: You were a bomb waiting to go off!

Mr. Shaub: Boy, when they went, they went!

Ed Metzler: So, did ... did your tank have ... a flame thrower installed in it?

Mr. Shaub: No, none that I was in.

Ed Metzler: Okay, now that's good.

Mr. Shaub: But ... but I was luck ... lucked out again; they put me in ... headquarters' company. They lost their ... head ...

Ed Metzler: Communications guy.

Mr. Shaub: ... communications man, and I went in there. So I had, by the grace of God, I wasn't going in till the fifth day, you know, on ... Iwo.

Ed Metzler: So, what was your ... responsibility in this new job? I mean, obviously when you're in a tank ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, well ...

Ed Metzler: ... that's ... we know what your responsibility is.

Mr. Shaub: ... to be able to communicate with the tanks and ...

Ed Metzler: Are you doing some coordination amongst ...

Mr. Shaub: No, I'm reading what they're sending, and ... sending what we're going to give them.

Ed Metzler: And you're doing all of this in code?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: [Did] the Japanese ever break our codes?

Mr. Shaub: I don't know. They ... I doubt it 'cause we had the ... Indian talkers ...

Ed Metzler: Ah! The Navajos!

Mr. Shaub: ... for ... right!

Ed Metzler: The Code Talkers.

Mr. Shaub: Right, and they were great!

Ed Metzler: Tell me about that.

Mr. Shaub: Well, I say they were a great group, but ... they ... gave us ... the feeling that we weren't going to be heard if we're communicating between tanks.

Ed Metzler: So, they were ... they weren't actually part of a tank crew though?

Mr. Shaub: No. Uh uh.

Ed Metzler: Were they ... doing anything ... that ... was related to what you were doing?

Mr. Shaub: They were with ... the ground troops, and ...

Ed Metzler: Okay, they were on the ground.

Mr. Shaub: ... not being interpreted.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. The Japanese didn't know Navajo (laughter).

Mr. Shaub: Yes.

Ed Metzler: That's what it boils down to!

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir.

Ed Metzler: So, who was your commander when you were in headquarters; do you remember him?

Mr. Shaub: In headquarters? No, I don't. In fact, I never ... no, I never saw an officer ...

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Shaub: ... while I was in there; no I ...

Ed Metzler: So, when you're in the ... headquarter communication roll here, what are you in ... a tent behind the lines or ...

Mr. Shaub: We're behind the lines, not in a tent.

Ed Metzler: Not, forget the tent part (laughter)!

Mr. Shaub: Yes. We had one tank ... for ... the ... headquarters' company, and we grouped around the ... the tank.

Ed Metzler: That was the headquarters (chuckles).

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, you're using ... communications equipment in the tank?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, that's all I had.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you didn't set anything up ...

Mr. Shaub: (Unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: ... on the ground?

Mr. Shaub: Not even with the headquarters. All we had was ... the equipment in the tank.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, when you sailed for Iwo ... from Maui, did they tell you where you were going at that point?

Mr. Shaub: At about ten days out.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, (laughter), they really trusted you, didn't they? (laughter)

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. Yes sir. (Throat clearing), they looked at our mail. My wife ... to be was talking about the letters had all been opened, my letters.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: Says, "What's going on?" But they ...

Ed Metzler: You couldn't tell her.

Mr. Shaub: No!

Ed Metzler: I mean, if they did, they'd ... uh, censor your letter to where there was ... thirteen words left (chuckles).

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. No, she knew somebody was (chuckles) getting into the letters 'cause you'd zip them open and ... read them.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), I've heard other World War II veterans tell me that they had kind of a code that they ... they could use when they were writing letters back and forth that maybe the censors wouldn't ... see and they could kind of tell them ... where they were or they were okay and ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh, they must have had a bunch of dumbbells!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: (Chuckles)

Ed Metzler: You didn't use codes, huh?

Mr. Shaub: Uh uh, no.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: They, if I had code, they'd come and ... grab me by the collar (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: That's right!

Mr. Shaub: "Who are you?!" (chuckles)

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: So, ten days on the ... on the high seas headed to Iwo Jima. Now, Iwo Jima probably had a reputation that preceded it. I would think people had heard what a ... mountainous (unintelligible) ...

Mr. Shaub: They told us that this was going to be the roughest one we had.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: And ... it was.

Ed Metzler: So, tell me what happened.

Mr. Shaub: Being ... with ... the headquarters company, I didn't go in till the fifth day. (Throat clearing), but ... my tank crew ... was lost in that ... first day ... in one tank I should have been in; had been blessed all the way, and lost it (throat clearing). And that was ...

Ed Metzler: How'd that happen?

Mr. Shaub: ... (unintelligible) to see ... bombed in ... in place ... five hundred pounders ... on the beach.

Ed Metzler: So, they set it up like a ... like a mine.

Mr. Shaub: Takes a tank ... to set it off.

Ed Metzler: Were there other tanks lost the same way, do you know?

Mr. Shaub: Not that I know of. I ... when I saw that, I wasn't looking anymore.

Ed Metzler: No, I guess not.

Mr. Shaub: And then ... the fifth day we went in, and ... I had a bunch of eighteen year olds ... taking in as replacements, and (pause) ... and ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, that must not have been easy to handle.

Mr. Shaub: I ... I was ... I mean, you cry for ... they're braver than anybody else. And there's more of them ... buried out in those islands now ... that are twenty year olds.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: (Throat clearing) ... (pause).

Ed Metzler: So, I guess everybody talks about ... Mount Suribachi.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And ... the famous ...

Mr. Shaub: Raising.

Ed Metzler: ... flag raising, actually, two flag raisings (chuckles) ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... as I understand ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... although and then later on a bigger one.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. There was an officer brought one with him.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: But he didn't place it. This took five men to place.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So, uhm, were you able to observe that placing of the flag?

Mr. Shaub: I was ... from the ship!

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: I watched it go up, yeah, but ...

Ed Metzler: So, there was a lot of tooting of horns and ... of the ships and ... don't remember that ... or (unintelligible)?

Mr. Shaub: No, as far as I ... concerned ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... it was no more ... no more noise ... than was made by the dive bombers.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: (Throat clearing) ... dive bombers ... in their cabin (?). God, they had ...

Ed Metzler: I'm trying to remember if ... kamikaze had become a major factor at that point in the war, and I think there were some kamikaze at Iwo; were ...

Mr. Shaub: I really don't know; I ...

Ed Metzler: You didn't experience that?

Mr. Shaub: ... didn't experience any of it.

Ed Metzler: And you went in on the fifth day.

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: And what did you do on shore then at that point, what happened?

Mr. Shaub: Just set up with the company, and ... listened to and sent ... messages to the tanks.

Ed Metzler: What were you hearing that was going out there?

Mr. Shaub: None, nobody had anything to say. From the tanks, we heard rebuttals from what I sent them.

Ed Metzler: Is that right?

Mr. Shaub: They ... they were quiet; they were too busy.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir.

Ed Metzler: And so, you ... would be ... sending them messages, in code ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... that would say ... move forward or ... or ... turn or ...

Mr. Shaub: Whatever they told me to do.

Ed Metzler: And who was telling you ... to send those messages ... the ... giving you the message to send? This is staff ...

Mr. Shaub: This ... this is a ... the runner.

Ed Metzler: And he's coming in with a message from somewhere back even further?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, right, right. I didn't even know who ... who we had.

Ed Metzler: So, they'd give you a message, and it was ...

Mr. Shaub: In (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: ... in code already or ... written in ...

Mr. Shaub: No, written.

Ed Metzler: ... full English ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... and then you coded it ...

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: ... and sent it?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Was there anybody else doing ... your job ...

Mr. Shaub: Yes.

Ed Metzler: ... besides you ...

Mr. Shaub: Yes.

Ed Metzler: ... so you had several guys?

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: That's a pretty important job you had!

Mr. Shaub: I would ... believe me, I know! And I hadn't been ... with code for ... (pause)  
Saipan, Tinian, I hadn't had it since then. And ...

Ed Metzler: Your code got rusty?

Mr. Shaub: I was rusty!

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Shaub: Absolutely! That's scary! But I ... I didn't admit to it, and ... let somebody else take over.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you just suck it up.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. You lose a lot of things. I mean, I had it in my head, but I wasn't using it every day. And then when I got in and tried to use it, I'd forgotten it. No, I was a ... pretty poor (chuckles) character ... to be there, but ... we had a lot of boys that backed me up.



Ed Metzler: So, were you sleeping in a tent?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, once in a tent, but mostly a foxhole. A tent ...

Ed Metzler: Tent ... was a luxury!

Mr. Shaub: ... (unintelligible) ... (laughter), not to be in.

Ed Metzler: Well ...

Mr. Shaub: You get your head down! Of course, on Iwo ... you could dig six feet deep and in the morning you're flat out (laughter).

Ed Metzler: 'Cause of the sand would just ...

Mr. Shaub: ... just come in and ... seep in ... (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: And I've heard, the ground was hot, too, warm because it was a volcanic island.

Mr. Shaub: I ... I didn't ... didn't run into that.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Shaub: I *felt* (laughter) hot!

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you felt hot (laughter).

Mr. Shaub: When I woke up in the morn ... morning, it was ... I was looking straight at it (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: So, the foxhole filled in overnight?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: Isn't that something!

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir. Well, guns were rumbling, big guns were rumbling and the sands would move.

Ed Metzler: So, you endured a lot of shelling from up in the hills?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And they had their big guns at Iwo!

Mr. Shaub: There and the ... they actually had a launcher for fifty gallon drums, (pause) and ... (chuckles) they'd come whistling through the air ... full of gasoline and explode, oh boy!

Ed Metzler: That's a big Molotov cocktail!

Mr. Shaub: It sure is (chuckles), get you to thinking!

Ed Metzler: Did you see any POWs in Iwo?

Mr. Shaub: Nah.

Ed Metzler: They were still ... doing the ... banzai charges, and ...

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah.

Ed Metzler: Ran into the same thing you did in ... Saipan?

Mr. Shaub: They did ... they didn't give a darned for life.

Ed Metzler: That's right.

Mr. Shaub: That's for sure.

Ed Metzler: Uhm! So, what was your closest ... scrape ... on Iwo?

Mr. Shaub: I wouldn't ... be able to tell you (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: It all felt close? (laughter)

Mr. Shaub: Absolutely! (laughter) When I hear it whizzing over my head, or getting in front of me.

Ed Metzler: You had some of that?

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah! You ... you're bound to. They had snipers all over, and they were good.

Ed Metzler: Did you think you were going to come back to the ...

Mr. Shaub: Never, never did I think I was going to make it. But ... I don't know. Being moved to ... the ... headquarters company saved my life 'cause my tank ...

Ed Metzler: You were witness to that.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: How's that make you feel?

Mr. Shaub: Bad.

Ed Metzler: Bad?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. I'd been with them ... through thick and thin, and here I am sitting out in a boat ... while they're ... taking it.

Ed Metzler: But that wasn't ... because of any action *you* took.

Mr. Shaub: No. I said ...

Ed Metzler: Somebody had to make a decision.

Mr. Shaub: I listened to my ... commands, but ... I'd say that saved my life for sure ... in that trade-off. You feel bad about that then.

Ed Metzler: What do you think about the Japanese?

Mr. Shaub: I don't think about them. No, I had a chance to go back to Iwo, but I had to hold the hand of the ... of Japanese that was on Iwo, and I says, "Blow it off, I'm not going!"

Ed Metzler: When was that?

Mr. Shaub: I ... I guess we'd been back ... a year, so ... I was out of the Corps, and I was offered ... to go with this group, and there was eight or ten of them that did go.

Ed Metzler: This is ... just to go back and ... visit the old ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... battle sites?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah. And I just ... I think that was ... best move to have been made anyway. If I'd of gone, I wouldn't have enjoyed it or anything. I was there once (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: Once is enough?

Mr. Shaub: That's it.

Ed Metzler: After you came back from the war, did you think about ... your war experiences, have dreams about them, do you feel like it impacted your life?

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah, yeah. And ... I got married and I was being questioned ... constantly (chuckles) by my wife and what (unintelligible) which ...

Ed Metzler: Was she just wanting to know what happened to you or ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, and then when Fourth Division, Eight Group in ... uh, in Houston ... we had thirty men from Fourth Division.

Ed Metzler: This was a reunion of some sort?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: How long ago was that?

Mr. Shaub: We ... we stayed ... well, they stopped in August of last year ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Shaub: ... because ... everybody's ninety-five.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, I know.

Mr. Shaub: So, my wife would go to the meetings with me, and she'd ... attack each one of them trying to get ... get some noise out of them, and ... they were the same as me.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, when was the last ...

Mr. Shaub: (Unintelligible) recalled.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, when was the last one you went to?

Mr. Shaub: That ... just three years ago, then we broke up ... (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, how long were you ... on Iwo before you left? Did ... did you stay on a while or ...

Mr. Shaub: We were there ... until it was declared ...

Ed Metzler: Secured?

Mr. Shaub: ... secured.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Shaub: Still rifle fire (chuckle), but ... I ... that was only about ten days after they ... declared it.

Ed Metzler: So, back aboard ship?

Mr. Shaub: And ... back home ... to ... Maui.

Ed Metzler: So, back to ... your home away from home.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, that's it!

Ed Metzler: Maui. Have you been back to Maui since ... uh, ...

Mr. Shaub: I wanted to take my wife, and she didn't want to go. So ... no, I have not been back.

Ed Metzler: Okay. So, back to Maui; Iwo is secured in March or maybe, yeah, in March of '45; went in in February and secured it by March, so you're back to Maui, but the war is still on.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, what's ... what happens?

Mr. Shaub: Well, we got notice that we were going ... to hit Tokyo.

Ed Metzler: Oh! You got to go to Tokyo!

Mr. Shaub: Uh huh, and ... the estimated death rate was going to be ninety-five percent.

Ed Metzler: Oh my ...

Mr. Shaub: They did this ... while we were on ... on Maui. It wasn't ... week till we get out and go, and then Truman did his thing and ...

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Shaub: ... ah! Saved me again!

Ed Metzler: So, you were still on Maui when they dropped the first ... or the bombs?

Mr. Shaub: They did, oh yeah!

Ed Metzler: And you fortunately ... didn't have to participate in Okinawa?

Mr. Shaub: No, that was worse ...

Ed Metzler: Even worse than Iwo.

Mr. Shaub: ... than Iwo, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Shaub: (Unintelligible)

Ed Metzler: Did you ever hear ... or listen to any of Tokyo Rose's broadcasts?

Mr. Shaub: You couldn't ... couldn't ... escape it (laughter).

Ed Metzler: You couldn't ... (laughter).

Mr. Shaub: Aboard ship they had ... cranked up loud ... and she's ... giving you the "F", yeah, I've heard her many times.

Ed Metzler: I guess most people kind of took that ... as ... almost humor. Nobody

Mr. Shaub: We all ...

Ed Metzler: ... took it seriously.

Mr. Shaub: ... all were laughing ... at what she was doing.

Ed Metzler: Didn't you wonder how she found out ... as much stuff as she did?!

Mr. Shaub: Well (laughter), that ... that's ... somebody else's ... problem.

Ed Metzler: Somebody else ... (laughter), yeah, I ... you had enough to ... on your mind I suspect.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: I always have a hard time spelling Kwajalein. I don't know why; I've a mental ... K-w-a-j-a-l-e-i-n. Okay, I'm just making notes here of ... where you ... where you touched land and ... made an impact.

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir!

Ed Metzler: So, the war is over, and then what happened ... to you?

Mr. Shaub: They put us on a boat, they put us on an aircraft carrier with no planes and rowed us back to San Diego, and five days after I was at San Diego, I got a ten-day leave to go home. And ... went back and ... (pause) where was it ... I got a

... I got with my wife; no, we got married ... five days after I got back on that ten-day leave.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), you didn't fool around, did you?!

Mr. Shaub: No, well, we knew each other ... better than after we'd been dating.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, sometimes ... it's easier to open up when you're ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... writing letters; I think that's true.

Mr. Shaub: Bound and determined, and she consistently sent me letters saying we're going to have five boys (laughter). And thinking of that (laughter) ... support five boys! Well, we had them.

Ed Metzler: So, when you ... when you landed in San Diego, did you get down and kiss the ground, good ole ...

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: No, I was ...

Ed Metzler: But it felt good, I'll bet!

Mr. Shaub: ... happy to be there, and I went to the phone ... first thing ...

Ed Metzler: Started putting nickels in (laughter).

Mr. Shaub: ... calls (unintelligible) ... quarters (chuckles)!

Ed Metzler: Whoa, that's right, long distance calls!

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir!

Ed Metzler: That was a big deal.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, how do you feel your wartime experience ... changed you in the way you look at life and things?

Mr. Shaub: I don't think I changed. I mean, (pause) I felt ... relieved and I don't think I changed ... much.

Ed Metzler: Do you think that's good?

Mr. Shaub: Well, for my wife it is (chuckles). I mean, I did ... one time ... I was in my sleep, reached over and I was choking her. I mean, I had dreams.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, sure.

Mr. Shaub: And she forgave me (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: She didn't punch you in the nose or anything?

Mr. Shaub: She did.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: She (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: You came out with a black eye that morning, huh?

Mr. Shaub: Oh yeah ... I knew I had been hit!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), oh man! Well, what ... about your war experience have we not talked about? What secret stories do you have that we haven't touched on?

Mr. Shaub: I ... nothing.

Ed Metzler: Did you ever ... play poker with the boys during the war?

Mr. Shaub: No, no, I wasn't a poker man. But poker games did go on. I was never interested.

Ed Metzler: So, you got to save all that money for combat pay and ...

Mr. Shaub: Yeah, all that ... twenty-nine dollars (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), did you ... uh, have any ... mementos that you brought back, you know, artifacts ... from your war experience?

Mr. Shaub: I brought a ... I sent a couple, but never got there.

Ed Metzler: Oh?!

Mr. Shaub: But then I ... brought back some whittling that I was doing; I didn't know I could do.

Ed Metzler: Well, tell me about that.

Mr. Shaub: Well, I just ... I had my pipe, and I ... whittled it for ... in fact, you folks have that pipe now.

Ed Metzler: That's what I understand.

Mr. Shaub: That's where I started, and then I ... got to whittling ... my younger son has ... one; my imaginary wife (chuckles) had me in my uniform ... and it turned out real well. And I've never ...

Ed Metzler: What did you whittle it out of?

Mr. Shaub: ... the ... the small ones were ... uh, Japanese officers cane.

Ed Metzler: Oh?!

Mr. Shaub: It was a ... material, reddish and had absolutely no ... no falling away, was soft enough to ... to let me get ... little things and details and it wouldn't break off. So, I ... whittled those two there. Most of it was ... a tree.

Ed Metzler: So, you had time to do that ... what ... when you were in Maui or ...

Mr. Shaub: In Maui and I did ... actually ... the intricate one was done on Saipan.

Ed Metzler: After you secured the island?

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: After I secured the officers ...

Ed Metzler: Right (laughter).

Mr. Shaub: Yep.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Shaub: And I never knew I could do it, but ... they turned out real well.

Ed Metzler: Did you continue to whittle ... whittle?

Mr. Shaub: No, no.

Ed Metzler: Forget that!

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir! When I got back ... I'd been thinking about ... how I'm going to support ... this family.

Ed Metzler: Of five sons.

Mr. Shaub: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Shaub: She had it all ... set ...

Ed Metzler: All planned out.

Mr. Shaub: Yep. We're going to school, and we're going to Mexico, New Mexico ... man that owned a mine out there, Clora Pickroll (sp?) ... and the war had ended and this Clora Pickroll was (unintelligible) so he had to shut the thing down. He had promised me a job that I could take on. We got out there and my job wasn't there, but she got a job with the telephone company, and I was a fair mechanic. And I went downtown and did the cash work.

Ed Metzler: Now where was this?

Mr. Shaub: In Socorro.



Ed Metzler: Socorro.

Mr. Shaub: New Mexico.

Ed Metzler: I know Socorro.

Mr. Shaub: Yes sir.

Ed Metzler: That's in the middle of ...

Mr. Shaub: School of mines.

Ed Metzler: ... middle of nowhere (laughter).

Mr. Shaub: It ... it was wonderful, it really was. I did ... deer hunting ... for the first time in my life, and ... my wife bought me a beautiful rifle.

Ed Metzler: When you think back on your war years, what ... do you have any ... humorous ... memories of things that ... were funny or kind of ... make you slap your ...

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: ... knee?

Mr. Shaub: I can't think of a ...

Ed Metzler: Any tricks you played on your buddies?

Mr. Shaub: No.

Ed Metzler: Didn't really (unintelligible).

Mr. Shaub: ... you didn't ... you didn't pull any tricks (laughter) on anybody (laughter).

Ed Metzler: And what do you think was the most difficult for you in ... in the whole war?

Mr. Shaub: I really don't know. I would ... I really wasn't ... feeling too bad about it. I thought ... I'd made a pretty good choice and was living with it.

Ed Metzler: Well, you got anything else you'd like to ... go on the record, Ken, talking about?

Mr. Shaub: Nope. About the only thing I thought about was my wife to be, and ... it came to pass which is a miracle ... in itself.

Ed Metzler: And you survived the war.

Mr. Shaub: Yes, I say!

Ed Metzler: And you were right in the thick of things.

Mr. Shaub: Right.

Ed Metzler: Well, I thank you for spending the time with me today.

Mr. Shaub: Well, you're ... wonderful ... and (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Everybody's, of course, proud of your generation and what you were able to do for our country.

Mr. Shaub: The ones ... should be proud of is those kids that are laid out ... in that sand.

Ed Metzler: I agree; I understand.

Mr. Shaub: I say ... somebody congratulates me, I don't want to shake hands. I don't ...

Ed Metzler: I understand, I understand.

Mr. Shaub: ... want to be part of it.

Ed Metzler: What about when somebody thanks you?

Mr. Shaub: Well, I'll accept the thanks.

Ed Metzler: Can I thank you ...

Mr. Shaub: Well, thank you.

Ed Metzler: ... for what you did for our country. We ...

Mr. Shaub: I'm glad I did it, and ... I was ... sensible enough to get in the Marine Corps.

Ed Metzler: And lucky enough ...

Mr. Shaub: And then my son and then his son ... so there are three ...

Ed Metzler: Semper Fi!

Mr. Shaub: ... three generations.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), something to be really proud of.

Mr. Shaub: And that kid signed up for ... five years, and ... was in ... uh, where are they ... I don't know, but he served two terms ... overseas.

Ed Metzler: Was he overseas?

Mr. Shaub: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. Okay, well, Ken, thank you for your time. I'm going to end the recording here.

**FINAL** copy

CD – #OH04885 – Mr. Kenneth Shaub

Transcribed by: K. Matras

Houston, TX

March 3, 2020