

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with

Mr. Joseph M. Dubray

Date of Interview: November 14, 2017

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Interview in progress.

Ed Metzler: This is Ed Metzler, and today is November the 14th, 2017. I am in Fredericksburg, Texas at the National Museum of the Pacific War, and I am interviewing Mr. Joseph Dubray. This interview is in support of the Center of Pacific War Studies, archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission, for the preservation of historical information related to this site.

So, may I call you Joe?

Mr. Dubray: Yes, by all means.

Ed Metzler: Joe, thank you for coming all the way from Hondo, Texas to do this interview; we appreciate that. Could I get you to introduce yourself please – full name ...

Mr. Dubray: Well, I ...

Ed Metzler: ... date of birth, etcetera.

Mr. Dubray: Okay, I'm Joseph M. Dubray. Uh, my ... I ... well, as I say, my ... date of birth ... I want to say ... that ... when people ask me my date ... date and so forth, I say 3/13/25. Uh, as I (chuckles), as that good enough for you (laughter)?

Ed Metzler: That's good enough for me.

Mr. Dubray: (Chuckle), uh, ...

Ed Metzler: If ...

Mr. Dubray: ... and that ... that's ... uh, I ... I go to military ... hospitals all the time, and they'd want to know your ... they want to know your date of birth, and they want to know your social security number. There ... there's the two things that ...

Ed Metzler: Well, at least they don't ask you for your ... for your military ID number from World War II, but I bet you know it!

Mr. Dubray: Uh, 841803.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckle)

Mr. Dubray: See that ... was my ... uh, well that was my ... Air Force number. My ... my ... uh, my Navy number was 183246487 (chuckle). But that was a diff ... oh, I ... I'm going to say that with reservation right now 'cause I ... I'll have to do a doub ... a second thought on that.

Ed Metzler: Well, we're not ... we're not going to check ... check you ...

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: ... to make sure you're accurate on that number. I'm impressed. Uh, tell me where you were born please.

Mr. Dubray: I was born in Austin, Texas.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so you're a local boy?

Mr. Dubray: Uh huh.

Ed Metzler: And did you grow up in Austin or where?

Mr. Dubray: No, but ... well, when you say grow up, uh, my final grow up was not in Austin. My final grow up was in D'Hanis, Texas. Uh, my mother, of course, was ... after my father passed away.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you said you lost your father at ... at an early ...

Mr. Dubray: I was three years old when ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... when my father died.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And my mother ... moved to ... to D'Hanis near my grandfather, and of course, I had an aunt and uncle living down there. And we lived down there, and of course, my ... mother died ... when I was five years old.

Ed Metzler: Oh my!

Mr. Dubray: So, I don't have a ... I've got memories of her. I ... I can't ... uh, explain how she looked or anything like that.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: I just have memories of her.

Ed Metzler: Do you have any ... brothers or sisters?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I got three sisters. Uh, my three sisters ... have ... Louise was my older sister.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, she was a nun in the ... uh, one of the nuns in the ... in ... she was a nun in the ... in the Catholic Church.

Ed Metzler: Now, were you the youngest?

Mr. Dubray: I was the baby of the group.

Ed Metzler: So, you got spoiled?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, well, if you want to say spoiled ... how can you get spoiled when you ... when your ... uh, mother dies at five.

Ed Metzler: That's a fair point.

Mr. Dubray: And ... and you ... uh, I'm sure I was ... probably.

Ed Metzler: So, who raised you then?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, my aunt and uncle who lived right close to us ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... on the farm down in Yancey ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... uh, not in Yancey, down Hondo, uh, no excuse me (chuckle), down at D'Hanis ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... excuse me.

Ed Metzler: Well, they're all close by (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: (Chuckles), I ... I'm going back too much too ... (unintelligible) life here that ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... but, of course ...

Ed Metzler: So, where did you go to public school; did you go to public school or (unintelligible)?

Mr. Dubray: I ... I started in Catholic school in D'Hanis until I was in seventh grade.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And then I went to public school ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... in D'Hanis. And ... from public school, of course, I turned eighteen, on the 13th of March and then public school ... I was drafted on ... uh, 16th of June ... (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: So, this is the middle of '43 you were drafted?

Mr. Dubray: Middle of '43.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. And so, you'd just turned eighteen, and you had ...

Mr. Dubray: But ...

Ed Metzler: ... you had graduated from high school?

Mr. Dubray: I hadn't graduated at the time. Uh, but I did graduate later ... was a ... because of the ... the ... closest to graduation that I had ... but I wasn't ... fully a graduated student at that time.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: My ... but ... in other words, I quit school, so to speak.

Ed Metzler: Okay. 'Cause ... they wouldn't have drafted you if you'd still been in high school I wouldn't think.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, well I ... uh, when they drafted me, I was already ... had been ... had completed high school.

Ed Metzler: Okay, okay.

Mr. Dubray: 'Cause ... this was in the 16th of June ... that I was drafted in the ... drafted into the Navy or ... that ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, so the Navy drafted you?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I joined the Navy ... through the draft. In other words, when I went through the draft board, they ... they had two lines – one of us went through the sailor's line, one went through the ... Army line. And they said, "Which line you want to go through?" Or I presumed that, and I ... I said, (chuckle), well, for some reason I said, "The Navy."

Ed Metzler: And you're ... and why ... why would you guess you said the Navy?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, good question. I ... one of the reasons that I ... I ... probably said that was that ... uh, I guess if we got hit with something, it would be big, it wouldn't be small arms fire (laughter). I guess I said that; I wouldn't say that with ... for

something for sure, but that ... that was a ... that would be a comment that I would make today (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I've heard that a lot. A lot of people said, "Well, I just didn't want to be in a foxhole!"

Mr. Dubray: Uh huh, well, I guess the rest of you could say that way, too.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: (Chuckle), but ...

Ed Metzler: So, what do you ... where were you on December the 7th, 1941?

Mr. Dubray: I was ...

Ed Metzler: You were just a teenager.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I was ... I was down ... down where my aunt and uncle had raised me; my mother's sister had ... had raised me and ... and they had a farm, and they were taking care of my grandfather who was blind at the time; he went blind. And they were ... had taken care of him and they were living on the farm; it was a farming ranch ... type org ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... organization. And ... uh, I was living with them. I was ... they were taking care of me in other words. They were ... they were raising me for the rest of my life until I ... I was ... turned eighteen of course, and went in the Navy.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: But ... at that time, on December the 7th, we heard that ... uh, news that came from D'Hanis, but uh, we ... we had no electricity in the house or anything like that, so we ... we had no knowledge ... to be by air or anything like radio or anything.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: But my cousin who was the ... had volunteered for Army service ... was in ... had volunteered for Army service and was ... going to duty for that ... that following Monday. He was given a week ... to iron out his things at the house (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Anyway, his girlfriend was down at their house, and Marybelle says, and she'd made an issue, you know, that ... uh, the Japanese had ... had ... attacked Pearl Harbor. And, of course, that was ... the first I'd ever heard of it, but I didn't know where Pearl Harbor was (laughter) or anything (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, most people ... ,most people didn't ... from what I understand.

Mr. Dubray: Uh (chuckles) ...

Ed Metzler: That was a long ways away.

Mr. Dubray: I didn't ... I didn't happen to have a lot of ... of reason (chuckles) anything to say about Pearl Harbor because Pearl Harbor was ... Pearl Harbor, you know?

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So how did everybody react when they heard the news?

Mr. Dubray: There was ... concern. We were attacked; we'd never been attacked that I remember before. We'd never been attacked, and here we are, we're in a war. Of course, we ... we were in support of a war in Europe though ... that we knew about; everybody knew that ... we ... we were in support of the ... the war. Of course, we sent ... ammunition, supplies and everything ...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Dubray: ... to ... to England.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: And ... uh, we'd sent them to Europe to our allies in Europe in other words. In other words, in other words, England was ... was our big guy.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, but this was different I mean.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, this is different. Now, look we weren't ... we weren't just sending supplies anywhere; we'd been hit with something.

Ed Metzler: So, how did life change for you after December the 7th? Or did it change?

Mr. Dubray: Uh ... I ... uh, life changed for me because of ... of the ... things that changed as far as supporting-type military ... things that began to happen there. Where I lived now in Hondo, they opened the ... the military opened up an Army airfield there. Uh, in fact, I applied there ... there when I quit high school, and went ... went to work there, and I worked there for ... one whole month because I was ... draft ... drafted into service.

Ed Metzler: Really?

Mr. Dubray: This ... this was probably ... May that I worked there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And I was ... I was drafted, of course, in ... into the ... Navy (laughter), I was drafted in ... in June.

Ed Metzler: Now, did ... all of the rationing and that kind of stuff ...

Mr. Dubray: All of the rationing had ...

Ed Metzler: ... start impact ...

Mr. Dubray: ... all the rationing had ... taken place at that time. I don't if we had shoes, uh,
...

Ed Metzler: You couldn't get tires, you couldn't get ... gasoline ...

Mr. Dubray: ... tires, tires ... tires and tires and gasoline and shoes.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: And ... and food, just sugar, I think, was ... was hooked on the ration; I ... I'm not sure.

Ed Metzler: I don't ... I don't ...

Mr. Dubray: But I ... I remember the tires were certainly were the big one that I remember because transportation was cut down to a ... a tight thing where people were getting together and ... transporting each other.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, you know, you had to have a ride to work, you had two or three ... had a guy ... kept ... picking up to ...

Ed Metzler: Carpooling, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... it ... it was carpooling ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... (unintelligible) for sure.

Ed Metzler: What did people think about ... Franklin Roosevelt during this period and how things were being handled?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, Franklin Roosevelt ... I know some people that (chuckle) believe it or not were ... staunch Republicans, so a Democrat just didn't fit into their picture ...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: ... in the right direction.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), that's a good way to put it, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: And ... but of course, as far as we got to knowing Franklin Roosevelt ... is a life that he had spent and everything ... the schools were getting into ... something about our President, too.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Our history classes were beginning to get local ... uh, we got to be ... get to learn about Franklin Roosevelt, and of course, how Franklin Roosevelt came along in *his* life ... and how ... how he managed to ... uh, survive with whatever he had. And of course, at the time, we didn't ... never knew that he ... he grew up with polio.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: Or he had polio (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, it's kind of hidden.

Mr. Dubray: And of course, people didn't know till later years that ... that he was ... he wasn't able to walk (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: Were times tough on the farm during the ... the 30s before the war started?

Mr. Dubray: It ... the ... the ... times ... times weren't any tougher than they were ... before. 'Cause what we were doing was ... we were raising cattle and raising crops on the farm. Uh, I can't tell that were any ... it was work. I hated work (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: Well, I understand that.

Mr. Dubray: But ... it was one of those things that ... it was ... farm work is that ... that ... at that time was ... quite an effort because to me ... I started the morning with my uncle waking me, "Time to get up." We had to milk cows. Well, we went out to ... up ... out to milk, and I was one of those guys that liked to ... hold onto the (unintelligible) bed.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: But anyway, that's the story I've given you that part of it. But (chuckles) uh, I remember we had a gate ... we had ... pets around the house, it was on the farm, and I'd hear the black ... back gate ... and just rattle and I'd get out of bed.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: And he'd say, "You better be getting out." That ... that ... that (unintelligible).
Now whether I'm here to say that or not (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Its funny how those little things stick in your mind ...

Mr. Dubray: Oh, they do!

Ed Metzler: ... after all these years.

Mr. Dubray: They do!

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Or ... this is what I'm telling you, the things that stuck in my mind.

Ed Metzler: So, where did you ... actually sign up or get drafted? Did you go into San Antonio?

Mr. Dubray: No. Well, I was ... I was drafted out of Medina County in Hondo.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, we had the draft board ... was at Medina County, and in fact, my ... my wife ... I later married (chuckles), her uncle was on the draft board up there. I didn't know him at the time (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: But anyway, he was on the draft board, Uncle Clarence, I found out later ... was on the draft board which in fact, when I retired from the Air Force, you know, you're not ... not ... you're not a ... not really retired until you get thirty years in.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: And I had twenty-two years, so he sent me a draft card and it was signed by Clarence (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Dubray: Anyway ...

Ed Metzler: So, you walked ... you had a choice of walking through the Army line or the Navy line.

Mr. Dubray: The Navy line; we went to San Antonio to ... what ... place called Dodd Field ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: ... in San Antonio. And of course, that was where ... where I chose to ... get into what ... whatever line we went into there, the Army line or the Navy ... part

of the line. And at that time, then we were ... uh, they put us on a train, and I ... the one of the things I remember is they said they always bragged; they always said, "We send our servicemen by ... Pullman." Well, our Pullman was (laughter) ... was a Pullman that was a ... the ... the cool air was supplied by ... ice; they put ice in the ... in (unintelligible). When the ice ran out, it was hot.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: But ... they put us on a Pullman and we headed for ... San Diego.

Ed Metzler: Now, did you get ... to go back home on ... before you went off to the ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: ... or did they just ...

Mr. Dubray: ... you know, uh, I'm trying to put that together. I might have and I might not; I'm not sure.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: 'Cause I'd ... might have gone home ... I'd ... gone home a couple of times after I got into the Navy ... a couple of ... one or two of the times after I went aboard ship, the trip ... the ships came back in.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, 'cause when I went aboard ship, I ... I don't recall (throat clearing).

Ed Metzler: So, did you do basic training on the west coast?

Mr. Dubray: On ... at San Diego.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: I was at ... basic training in San Diego at the ... and of course, San Diego is ... full of sailors at the time.

Ed Metzler: Boy, no kidding!

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, it ... it was white; you ... if you ... if you got a ... well, the way ... when we got in there, I think we got in there maybe three weeks or something in they ... they gave us shore leave or, you know, go ... go downtown.

Ed Metzler: Liberty.

Mr. Dubray: That was liberty. And we went downtown, and of course, the ... it wasn't much different than ... being (laughter) on base 'cause of the amount of sailors that was there (laughter).

Ed Metzler: You might as well be on base, huh (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: Well, I ... I guess maybe so (chuckles). Uh, but anyway ...

Ed Metzler: So, how was basic training for you? Was it a ... was it easy?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, basic training for me ... of course, when I was in basic training, San Diego gets real hot in the daytime in June. At nighttime ... gets cold at night; I got pneumonia, and I went into the hospital at Balboa Park. Balboa Park was, at the time, was a park that they had converted into a hospital, and I was in the Balboa Park ... uh, part that they converted into a hospital.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: It was in the park area actually, build ... building 217.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), my goodness!

Mr. Dubray: And I ... I forget ... part of it was ... I was on the floor 3-East or something like that ... anyway.

Ed Metzler: So, you had pneumonia, huh?

Mr. Dubray: I had pneumonia; they called it primary atypical pneumonia, whatever that meant. At the time, there was no ... antibiotics; we took sulfa.

Ed Metzler: Sulfa drugs, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Sulfa drugs were the ... what we had. But anyway, that was one of them.

Ed Metzler: But you survived that 'cause you're young, you're eighteen and ...

Mr. Dubray: By all means.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: And at that time, we were getting ... there were people coming into that hospital ... that had been already in the Pacific Ocean and back ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... back to the States, and some of those guys, if I can remember it, had been on Guadalcanal. Uh, remember one guy from Texas that I knew real well, guy by the name of Whitehead was from San Angelo. And Whitehead was ... was one of the guys that I befriended while I was in the hospital.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, he had been in ... in the Guadalcanal Campaign?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I'm going to ... yes, yes, right. I'm not sure that all of those were where they were coming from, but Guad ... Guadalcanal was ... one of the bases if I can ... ID it right (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, well Guadalcanal was '42, '43 and ...

Mr. Dubray: That ... okay.

Ed Metzler: ... here you are ... mid-43, so ...

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... that's all making sense.

Mr. Dubray: Oh yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, are they telling stories about what the war was like?

Mr. Dubray: No. No, they ... they were ... I can't ... if they were, I can't recall them. I've got to telling stories, I don't remember.

Ed Metzler: So, some of them wounded?

Mr. Dubray: But ... the ... no. The reason some are in there they had ... they had ... they had contacted ... uh, nasal ... problem that they were ... they had a ... had something ... they were called ... they were going into their nose and ... and opening up their nose ... nose (unintelligible) in their nose. They were ... I can't identi ...

Ed Metzler: So, some sort of ... disease ...

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... that they must have picked up.

Mr. Dubray: Well, one of it ... was a disease or whether it was something natural happened ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... or because of ... whatever that it would ... just something that happened ... happened to those guys.

Ed Metzler: So, when you got out of the hospital, you were ...

Mr. Dubray: I went back to boot camp.

Ed Metzler: and finished boot camp?

Mr. Dubray: I had ... I had to finish my boot camp. And, of course, in finishing my boot camp, I ... went in with some people that were ... had the amount of service that I'd had in my original boot camp, and ... and they had gone through a lot of boot camp. I remember a guy coming over and he said, "You haven't passed your

swimming test yet.” Well, to have been to boot camp, you had to pass swimming test. If you couldn’t swim, he taught you how to swim. Because in the Navy, you got to learn how to swim.

Ed Metzler: You need swimming if you’re in the Navy (chuckles).

Mr. Dubray: (Chuckles), (unintelligible) and of course, so I went over to the swimming pool and dove into the swimming pool, and the guy said, “You can get out now.” (laughter) ‘cause he saw that I could swim (chuckles). I wasn’t ... without ... without ...

Ed Metzler: Where’d you ... where did you learn to swim?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I learned to swim when I was ... ah, that’s a ... that’s a good memory. About ten years old in 1935 ... in D’Hanis we had a big flood, rain flood, at D’Hanis and ... uh, we were living ... that ... my aunt and uncle there that I lived with, they were ... we were living in between two creeks. One was called the Seco and one was called the Live Oak. The Seco was the ... more of a through creek, the Live Oak was a creek that started ... short time (?). Anyway, after the flood ... of course, we did a lot of praying and everything when the flood was going on because ... we didn’t get water in the house, but we ... we stuffed the front door, so the water couldn’t come in the front, and some how or other, it couldn’t get in the back. And we ... and the water got in the ... but anyway, after the flood, the ... the creeks were running ... beautiful. Oh, we had pretty creeks. So, we had a creek there called the Live Oak. Well, we used to go swimming in that creek. Well, I couldn’t swim, so what I did, my cousin did; he took me across and he says, “Swim back across.” Well, the nice thing about it was ... the ... the creek helped me ... swimming, so I could paddle and learn to swim. That’s when I learned to swim. I was ten years old.

Ed Metzler: Learned to swim in Live Oak Creek.

Mr. Dubray: It was ... no, no, the Seco.

Ed Metzler: Oh, the Seco, so ... so ...

Mr. Dubray: Seco, yeah, the Seco. The Live Oak ... the Live Oak was a creek that didn’t run anymore.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: It ... it might have had just a small stream, but it was a stream that ...

Ed Metzler: So, you got out of boot camp, you knew how to swim, they passed you.

Mr. Dubray: Oh yeah.

Ed Metzler: What did they do to you then?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, the do to me then was ... we graduated out of boot camp. And of course, we ... we went on leave; I went on leave to ... to ... back to D'Hanis or ... wherever I went on leave at that time.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And ... from there, uh, I want to say I reported, I'm not dead sure, that I reported back to ... San Diego, and at that time was transferred to ... a staging area out of San Francisco; I reckon I did. Greg, help me (laughter). Uh, it was a staging area and there was a million sailors there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And of course, they were putting them on ships. And I was assigned to the [USS] San Juan at that time ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... would come into port ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... it was in dry dock.

Ed Metzler: Okay so this is ... what?

Mr. Dubray: In December of ... '4 ...

Ed Metzler: December, is into '43?

Mr. Dubray: December of '43, yes.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: And ...

Ed Metzler: So, what did you think the first time you saw the San Juan?

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), well, I 'm not sure; I don't know what I thought (laughter). But ... I'd never seen a ship like that before in my life, and of course, and of course, see a ship that is ... five hundred and fifty-feet long (chuckle).

Ed Metzler: It's a good size ship (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: And it was ... well, for the ... as far as ships go, it was a smaller ship than ...

Ed Metzler: That's true.

Mr. Dubray: ... for a ... for a cruiser it was small.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, it was a light cruiser.

Mr. Dubray: It was an anti-aircraft cruiser. It was ... it was ... smaller than a light cruiser.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Dubray: Yes, the light cruisers are usually six, eight inch ... cruisers I'm going to say. Six, eight, I forget that was ...

Ed Metzler: Well, I think ... I think the heavy cruisers had eight-inch guns, and ...

Mr. Dubray: I think ...

Ed Metzler: ... I don't know, this was an Atlanta-class cruiser I understand.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I don't ... I don't remember what ... what class we were ... we were in; I ... I don't remember the class cruisers that we were in. I don't remember even the names of some of the cruisers that we were in. We had ... didn't we have twelves ... had twelves?

Ed Metzler: I don't know (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: I ... I don't remember exactly the ... bigger, I just know we had fives; that was our biggest, that was our ... biggest.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, the just assigned you ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh, yes, the assigned me ...

Ed Metzler: ... to the cruiser?

Mr. Dubray: ... assigned me to the San Juan, and ... that was there. And there were people there that ... what ... was happening to the ship, it was in dry dock at the time ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... and ... under repair. Uh, of course, which is what ... what dry dock ... you ... you get a new ... new paint job outside, of course, which is ... heavy ... I forget what is the paint out there, but it's a ... heavy stuff to keep the barnacles off.

Ed Metzler: Yeah!

Mr. Dubray: It's not a paint; it's a ... but anyway, this was ... I was assigned to one of the guys that was doing that, and I was a ... I was just his ... goffer (laughter). His ... his part is ...

Ed Metzler: Well, you got to start at the bottom ...

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: ... when you go in the Navy (chuckles).

Mr. Dubray: Well, anyway ...

Ed Metzler: (Throat clearing)

Mr. Dubray: ... yeah, and of course, the ... I got dirty and crusty underneath there helping him out. But like I said, and our ... our bathing facility and stuff was in a ... in a separate ... we would ... we didn't go into the ship at all for ... for anything like that.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so you were working on the exterior of the hull, I guess.

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, we were working on the hull of the ship. Well, they were working inside, too. The ship got ... got refurbished inside. I can't tell you ... what ... what part of ... I don't know. We got new bunks or and ... in ... inside or whatever that was. I do know what we had when I ... I ... can't put that together what we had then.

Ed Metzler: Well, they were doing all that work while you were scraping barnacles (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, but ... but ... it could have been (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: But anyway ...

Ed Metzler: Well, where were you ... where were you housed then? You were housed on shore?

Mr. Dubray: Now, that's a good ... good question. I'm ... I'm going to say ... we had a (unintelligible) house aboard ship, 'cause I don't remember being housed aboard shore, I mean, uh, uh ...

Ed Metzler: On shore, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... on shore. I don't rem ... don't remember just exactly where we were housed ... housed.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: But I do know we were able to ... to put on a ... uniform to go ... go on liberty 'cause we had lib ... we were ... we were given liberties. And of course, you ... you had a ... first of all, different uniform than dungarees ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... at the time. And of course, ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... to go on liberty, but I don't ... I don't really.

Ed Metzler: So, did you go on liberty in San Francisco?

Mr. Dubray: Yes, we did, went on liberty in San Francisco.

Ed Metzler: That was supposed to be a good town to have liberty in.

Mr. Dubray: Well, it ... yes and no. Of course, being as a ... a stranger from the country (chuckles), uh, a lot of it, of course, I was learning a little bit about the rest of the world, I guess, at the time, you might say.

Ed Metzler: You're only eighteen ...

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: ... and you were raised on a farm ...

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: ... so, you're not going to be worldly.

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, and the community I was in had ... maybe had five hundred people ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... at D'Hanis, and of course, the class I was in in school had, the senior class, I think, had eight people.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: ... so, well give me ... give me a little (unintelligible) ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, right!

Mr. Dubray: ... of how ... how ... about how it was.

Ed Metzler: So, you're learning lots of things about the world?

Mr. Dubray: Yes, about the ... about the big world.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And of course, uh, one of the things ... uh, (pause) what is a big ... big thing, big thing in San Francisco? You go down to ...

Ed Metzler: Well, there's Fisherman's Wharf, and ...

Mr. Dubray: Fisherman's Wharf!

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: You go to Fisherman's Wharf, and Fisherman's Wharf, you go to ... from San Francisco, you know, go ... as I recall it ... on a big hill (chuckles) to Fisherman's Wharf.

Ed Metzler: Oh yes, you do; there's hills everywhere there (laughter), yeah.

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), but anyway, yeah, uh, but that ... that ... you know, really, really I remember that (chuckles). Years and years (unintelligible) later when my brother was out there and we went down to Fisherman's Wharf (laughter) ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: ... well, he knew all about it. Well, he had been in the Navy, too, and so ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm. Now, were you ... at this point, you're an eighteen-year-old farm boy and you're a long ways away from home. Are you lonely?

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: Are you missing ... home?

Mr. Dubray: No, no, I wasn't lonely, so to speak. There was a lot ... there was a lot of guys.

Ed Metzler: You had buddies?

Mr. Dubray: Had a lot of buddies, had made friends with a lot of people, do what ... got ... where they were from. Uh, and of course, you were ... you were ... you were short-term buddies that you were with, so to speak because when we ... when we were out in the staging area out there, why, you met somebody, you didn't see them anymore. They didn't ... went ... go aboard the ship that you did ... or ... and none of them that I knew of. Uh, second ... (unintelligible) of this nature, and of course, you were aboard a new ship now, uh, you met guys that ... that were aboard ... that were aboard that ship, new people, that were on ... aboard. Uh, I don't particularly remember anyone ... that I can ... that I can ... I can mention that, you know, that I know of ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... at the time.

Ed Metzler: Were you ... assigned ... a ... a battle station?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, when I went aboard ...

Ed Metzler: Up front, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... when I went aboard ship, I was on the deck force.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And the deck force is that force where you ... scrape ... scrape paint and paint.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), yeah.

Mr. Dubray: And my battle station was aboard ... and I ... I'd been aboard several. I was on a five-inch gun as a hot case man. I was on a forty millimeter as a ... one of those second loaders or something like that; those were the two assignments I got when I was on the deck force. I wasn't on the deck force ... maybe a year, most of the year, and I met a guy that was in the radio shack, and he wanted out of the radio shack. And I said, "Why don't we trade?" 'Cause I didn't want to be on the deck force, and he *wanted* to be on the deck force, a guy, this kid by the ... young guy by the name of Bailey that I ... met (unintelligible) for full time we were in services. And ... (throat clearing) got up to (throat clearing) excuse me, Mr. Hewett (sp?) who was ... a Radio Officer at the time, and he says, "So, you think you want to become a Radioman?" And I (laughter), well I didn't know much about being a Radioman, of course. The only thing I remember being a Radioman ... is ... when I was in boot camp, they used to take us through that ... test us, school test, you know, about this that and the other, and I passed that ... that ... code test for radios.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And I said, "Well, that ... that (unintelligible)," so anyway, that's one of the reasons that led me to want to be a Radioman next. Well, I went into the radio shack; I got off of the gun crews then 'cause the radio people never (unintelligible) 'cause ... that ... that belonged to the Gunner's Mates and the deck hands.

Ed Metzler: Now, did you do this before you ... shipped out on the San Juan or did you ...

Mr. Dubray: No! No, no.

Ed Metzler: When you shipped out, you were still deck crew and gunners ...

Mr. Dubray: Well, that was ... that was ... when I shipped out, why, that was what I was on ... was on the gun crew ...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: ... as ... as a ... as a ship ... ship member.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: I was on the deck crew ... at the time.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And of course, uh, well, like I said, you did a little of everything. You ... you were the ... you painted and you scraped paint.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: And of course, like I said, the ... the paints always company that lives on the ship, and of course ...

Ed Metzler: So, where did the San Juan go on her first mission with you aboard (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: We went ... we went out of San Francisco, under the Golden Gate Bridge, and we had ... another cruiser that was a sister ship, the [USS] San Diego, which was a ... I think was 53; we were 54, our number was.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And went up to San Francisco and we had ... uh, we had a blimp escort, or I guess, for submarine protection, I'm not sure. But at that time, I was probably already sea sick.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), I was going to ask you that question.

Mr. Dubray: Oh yes!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I'm going to say ... I don't know for how long, but by the time we got to Pearl Harbor, I was okay. I was ... wasn't sea sick anymore, and I don't know how long ... I was ... I'm going to say a couple of days; I'm not sure. Uh, I know at the time, well we were already having ... gun practices and things like that.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: A (unintelligible) just ... just knowing where the stations were and stuff like that because what happened was ... they were ...

Ed Metzler: There was just the two ships?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, just the two ships. Of course ... of course, the San Diego, we never saw any more 'cause, I don't know, they were on a different spot ...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: ... when we got to Pearl.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: Well, we ... I guess we went with them to Pearl Harbor; I don't know, but I know that ... I recalled that we were ... we weren't moored with them or anything like that.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, we ... well, we were getting indoctrinated aboard ship ... what ... what aboard ship, what life is going to be aboard a ship ... is that ... with the old sail ... half of the old crew took off ... that we only had about half of the crew that was on the ship now are new people and the old people were ... uh, like I said, the ones that they left on the ... the ... aboard the ship.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Of course, a lot of them were transferred to a ... to other ships, I ... I presume.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And they got into (chuckles), anyway, well, we had our ... had our (unintelligible) there, indoctrination aboard ... aboard the ship. And then I remember being sea sick; I didn't go to dinner, of course, ... notice, "and of course," I could have cared less. But anyway, I was ... informed that I could have been court martialed. And I ... don't remember ... my response, "Throw me overboard, I don't care."

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), (unintelligible) miserable.

Mr. Dubray: I ... I, you know, it was just one of those things, that ... that you're ... you're miserable ... when you're sea sick. But anyway, as time passed, of course, the ... the ... our ... our indoctrination to the ship was ... taken care of at that time. Of course, we used to do that, had ... had ... general quarters type ... uh, notices or whatever you have to get aboard and do ... do ... go to battle and ... just ... just your ... uh, how can I say that ... your (chuckles) ... the (unintelligible). Well, we just ... practice is what it is; you did a lot of practicing.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And of course, we did a lot of practicing all throughout the war, especially at ... at port we did practice. We had planes to come over with sleeves. Oh, we had ... small, uh, small aircraft that were ... radio controlled aircraft that they used to do ... do submarine, uh, torpedo plane runs on us to ... to give our ... five inch and ... that ... that twenty millimeter, I don't ... uh, forty millimeters work to do, guys to give them practice ... on them. And of course, uh, that was ... that was ... well, this was part of our indoctrination. Not ... not indoctrination, this is part of the practice that we had.

Ed Metzler: So, after you got over your sea sickness, do you feel like you adapted to life on the ship ...

Mr. Dubray: By all means.

Ed Metzler: ... very quickly?

Mr. Dubray: By all mean! Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Good.

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, I was aboard ship, then I ... I don't recall it. One of things I ... that indoctrination (unintelligible) ... where you slept and things like this, of course, this is your ... your indoctrination that you had to do, and then (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: So, you're ...

Mr. Dubray: Of course, the job on it, the job was different. You're ... you're on the deck force, uh, you're doing a lot ... lot of just general type work. You (unintelligible), and of course, that ... that's certainly what I wasn't used to, but I don't recall that ... my rebellion or ... against or anything like that.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, you had what ...

Mr. Dubray: (Throat clearing)

Ed Metzler: ... a bunk up on the fourth level (chuckles) or something like that?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, (laughter) ... I had bunks ... several places, but ... (cough) my final bunk that I had ... I was on the fourth bunk (laughter), and ... in radio ... in that ... in deep six we called it where the compartment was deep ... deep six. And the San Juan had a compartment right amid ship that I always wondered about ... if we ever got hit, we're sunk ... because there would have been a hole in it.

Ed Metzler: You were so far down in it, and right in the middle of it.

Mr. Dubray: Well, thing was that ... that the ... the midships, the hole was so big ... that if you ever got hit ... amid ... amid ship, you'd ... it ... you'd fill up with water pretty quick (chuckles). Well, I ... I often, I never gave it a thought that much, but oh, oh, it would ... bring it as a passing for thought ... maybe once in a while. If you ever think ... if you got hit, I mean, you discussed it with guys every once in a while, "What if you ever get hit, what do you think is going to happen to us here, guys?" "I'm hoping ... just hope I'm not down here sleeping! I hope I'm in the radio shack!"

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: But I ...

Ed Metzler: Now, where was the radio shack located?

Mr. Dubray: Radio shack was up in the superstructure, about a ... second deck or third deck, say ... it was in the super ... forward superstructure ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... of the ship, yeah. Well, we had two radio ... areas. One of them was a radar, uh, and a ... and I guess they did radio back there, but I was, I mean, the radio shack was in the forward superstructure. Uh, I'm going to say ... gosh, second, third deck, I don't know, but ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: ... but I don't remember how many decks we had.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: 'Cause you had a ... finally, you finally wound up in the ... (chuckles) up on the ... where you had all the ... your lookout ... positions and ... and well, the Skipper used to sit up there on ... on the top lookout, give us directions in the evening for ... uh, oh, how do I say ... uh, distance ... the ... the dir ... the evening instruction order was to ... uh, use just ... just ... uh, plan six. We were to ... we were to move according to plan six, whatever plan six was.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: Uh, that was our ship's maneuver in the evening time ... for night ... for ... night operation, I'm sure that was for submarine purposes.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, is that a ... like a zig zag type of ...

Mr. Dubray: It was zig zag according to plan six, yes.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: That ... that was ... that was the ... the story of the zig zag.

Ed Metzler: So, you zig zagged your way out to Pearl Harbor, is that right?

Mr. Dubray: No, no. We didn't do that; I ... I don't recall we did anything like that.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so you took a straight shot out to Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Dubray: Well, as ... as far as I know, our shot to Pearl Harbor was (chuckle) ... to Pearl Harbor. In other words, we got to Pearl Harbor (unintelligible) okay. And ...

Ed Metzler: How long were you in Pearl Harbor? Was that the ... (unintelligible) stop or ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh, very short time, because as ... as I recall, the ... the fleet was massing really at that time, and from there ... there, we went ... went to the Marshall Islands; we went ... and got to the Marshall Islands. We ... then ... this was ...

Ed Metzler: So, you went there with the fleet?

Mr. Dubray: Went there with the fleet, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Which fleet was that, do you ...?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, the same fleet, different command. Uh, when the fleet was ... under Admiral Halsey, it was the Third Fleet; when we were ... it was ... it was Admiral Spruance, we were in the Fifth Fleet, the same fleet, the same ships and everything, just a different fleet.

Ed Metzler: Okay, who was the Admiral ... when you took ... out of ... Pearl Harbor? Was it Spruance?

Mr. Dubray: I ... (unintelligible) to say it, I'd say it, but I'm not sure.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: Maybe the Third Fleet, I don't know.

Ed Metzler: What did you think about your officers?

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: Were you impressed with them, or frustrated with them or ... happy with them?

Mr. Dubray: ... uh, well, you could ... you could put that on ... on a lot ... lot of stories on that same thing.

Ed Metzler: Well ...

Mr. Dubray: A lot of them!

Ed Metzler: Yeah?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, good guys, bad guys, guys that knew what they were doing, some didn't know what they were doing.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Young people. We had older officers that ... that were our ... head officers, too, our Gunnery Officer was not a ... he had ... he had (chuckles) ... (unintelligible) on his ... on his collar, our ... our ... navigation-type officers. Uh, the ... the Skipper, the Skipper was a ... a ... we called him a Captain, a Navy Captain, who was the same as a ... as a Colonel ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... a Navy ... uh, Air Force-wise Colonel ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... was ... was always a Captain, and we had several Captains whenever I was aboard.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Dubray: Yes. Uh, (throat clearing) but ... go ahead.

Ed Metzler: So, you went to the Marshall Islands?

Mr. Dubray: Went to the Marshall Islands and ...

Ed Metzler: What happened, tell me.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, the Marshall Islands were hit by the fleet, and of course, I'm not sure ... about the landing forces or anything like that at the time. Our landing forces did, but we ... our island was ... Majuro, I'm going to say, (unintelligible) I did. There's, of course, there's several islands in the Marshalls – Eniwetok, Majuro, the Kwajalein ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... uh, islands of this nature. And of course, they're ... so, they were ... and ... really, when you get back to it, (pause), uh, as my little turb says in there, "refreshed a lot of memories on ... on there, the Skipper put on." Uh, we went to the island out there called Truk.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Truk was a ... one of the islands that ... uh, we didn't invade. What we did was ... was the ... the carriers ... really, the ... the aircraft targets were just ... neutralized these islands. And of course, they had ... the ... the Japanese had ships there, that were deactivated, of course, at Truk. But at Truk, we never ... never landed any forces that I know of at ... at Truk Island. Truk Island was never invaded as far as I know.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: But ... from Espiritu [Espiritu Santo], now ... now, we went to Espiritu ...

Ed Metzler: Espiritu Santo, was it?

Mr. Dubray: Espiritu ... Espiritu Santo.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: And went across the equator, and of course, you got Shellbacks and Pollywogs.

Ed Metzler: I was wondering if you ...

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: ... became a Shellback or not.

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), and I was a Pollywog (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Well, you started out ... a Pollywog, yeah (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: (Unintelligible) by all means, you were a Pollywog (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Yeah? Well tell me what happened.

Mr. Dubray: Oh gosh (laughter)!

Ed Metzler: I want to hear about the hazing that they gave you.

Mr. Dubray: Okay. Well, to begin with, the hazing starts a few days early that you ...

Ed Metzler: (Unintelligible), so they build up to it?

Mr. Dubray: ... oh yes, yes! We had a Chaplain aboard ship that I remember.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And our ... our Shellbacks were making shillalas out of canvas, rolled canvas, that they ... they'd put together. It was a ... it would ... it was a ... like a club, I guess, whatever.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: They used to soak it in salt water.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: And they'd get hard, they'd soak it again and that, by the time they got used again, it was ... it was a ... hard item. Uh, I forget what the sched ... the ... that our Chaplain's name was, but I do know that ... that (chuckle) it got ... word got around ... that he ... he got us through of them, but not many. He'd say ... he'd want to look at a guy's shillala and say, "Ah, that's a nice looking shillala," and throw it overboard. And of course, they got onto the Chaplain on that; they never would let ... let him see their shillala anymore, but the Shellbacks (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: But anyway, time came, and ... and ... uh, we got ... the Shellbacks said ... we had one Lieutenant JG I remember, he wouldn't let the Shellbacks alone; they'd go to a meeting and he'd have some time antagonizing them. Well, that's a sign of (unintelligible) put a fire hose on him, something like that 'cause they're ... they're a Shellback and we had a ... we had a deck ... aboard ship, I forget, a quarterdeck ... aboard ship that was in between the two ... superstructures, and they'd get out there and have their meeting, and he'd get on them ... on a fire hose and ... wet them down.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: And they ... they, I guess, they beat the hell out of him, I don't know.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: Uh, but finally one of the ... the ... I don't know if it was the ... the Skipper or ... or our Executive ... (unintelligible) officer ... said, "Wait a minute, guys, don't do it anymore 'cause you're going to hurt him. We don't want anybody hurt." (laughter), "But he'll ... he'll get hurt if you ... if you do keep this going." Because they ... he said, "He ain't got enough sense to quite (laughter)."

Ed Metzler: Uhm, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: So ... so, this was one of the stories that went with it. Okay, the day came when we were going to go across ... the equator.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: They were set up for us ... aboard ship. I think it was probably one of the first places you went in; you went into a chair, you opened your mouth in ... sickbed,

mixed up some stuff that was black and it was dark and man, it tasted ... and they had a squirt gun to put it in your mouth with, and they told you to say, "Shellback." You couldn't say Shellback 'cause they had your mouth full of stuff.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), oh my gosh!

Mr. Dubray: Anyway, they tipped you over, they called it the Boatswain's chair ... or I think they called it the ... Boatswain's chair, and we went out ... down the side of the ship, and then we got ... I don't know what it is called ... this ... they put up a ... a kind of a ... pool, water pool, and they had a ... chair in it and you ... or you got into the ... uh, what do they call it ... Boatswain's ... barber ... or whatever ... something (unintelligible) to get a haircut, and you got up in that thing and they ... they say, "We're giving you a haircut." Well now, your haircut was one of these ... skin haircuts, you know (laughter)? Everybody ... they'd ... they'd run the clippers through your hair (laughter) and that was it. So (laughter), and when you got out of that, they tipped you backwards and you went into that water pool. When you got out of that water pool, and of course, going down from the chair to the water pool, you had a long stretch of deck that you went through. And I remember falling ... and when I fell, of course, slipped ... slipped and fell, and one of the Shellbacks was right there, he was one of our ship's officers I remember though, he grabbed me right there, 'cause I don't know ... the possibility of going overboard or would have passed (unintelligible) or not ... or what it was. But he said, "You okay?" I said, "Yeah, just slipped (laughter)." But I ... but anyway, that's one ... one of the ... in the chair to get my hair cut. They tipped me out of that ... chair, and you had to climb out. When your times out ... and all the time you're get the ... the picture ... or getting the ... whatever the shillalas had to do to you, you were getting ... you were getting those things on your butt.

Ed Metzler: Get whopped!

Mr. Dubray: You were getting whopped. And ... as it went on, we had to go around and they finally had put up a ... a ... tow target sleeve. We used to ... tow tar ... had to

tow targets which ... you went into port to the ... the planes would tow targets for us ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... for us for ... five minutes especially (?), and they had a tow target sleeve there and you had to crawl through that. Well, what they had done ... they'd gotten a bunch of boards, where they got them, who knows. And ... they had a bunch of boards stacked there, and you crawled through this ... sleeve and while you're crawling a sleeve, you could hear, "Well, don't lift your head ... 'cause you'd get hit in the head (laughter) through that sleeve," and of course, that was already known (chuckles) ... when you called through a sleeve. And then you picked up a board and you were a Shellback, and so the next guy that comes through there, you got to whack him (laughter).

Ed Metzler: You got to whack him.

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter). As I remember specifically ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Dubray: ... we had a Warrant Officer that was aboard, kind of one of these guys that ... you really didn't appreciate him enough (laughter) can't ... don't want to identify him here (chuckles), but anyway, he was the guy behind me, and I know he got whacked.

Ed Metzler: You whacked him! (laughter)

Mr. Dubray: I whacked him (laughter).

Ed Metzler: So, this was ... when you were headed down to the Marshall Islands, is that right ... on ...?

Mr. Dubray: After the Marshalls, I ...

Ed Metzler: This is ...

Mr. Dubray: After the Marshalls, but we ...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: ... but we went ... we went through there, and I'm going to ... I'm going ... I don't know exactly ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: ... the time we went through it. We'd already been through Truk or not or ... or but ... but (unintelligible) that ... where we went to Espiritu ... I do know a lot of parts of the ... Pacific that we went through after we were ... went through ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... Espiritu.

Ed Metzler: Now, one of the things that I noticed when I was reading up on the San Juan ... is a lot of ... duty ... protecting aircraft carriers. It seemed like ... she was assigned to protect a lot of the aircraft carriers that we've all heard of – the [USS] Enterprise, the [USS] Hornet, the ...

Mr. Dubray: All of the ships were in there ... look, the aircraft carriers were the center of the fleet.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Or the center of that task force; they were ... the fleet ... the fleet had several task forces.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And the ... the ... the ... battleships were there first, by the ... by the ... the carriers, then you had your heavies ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... and then, of course, the San Juan was the ... we didn't have many San ... San Juans; there was only about four or five of us, anti-aircraft ... so, we were sitting at a ... a position (unintelligible) there or whatever, and then the destroyers were in the outer ring, and these are the guys that ... everything that was there was there to protect the carrier.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, plus the fact that we had aircraft ... to ... to protect carriers. So, with ... uh, I don't remember, well wait, some places the carriers did get hit, but this is ... later in the war type of ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, after the kamikaze and that kind of stuff, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Oh, man, yes, it's just ... yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, did ... when did you see your first enemy?

Mr. Dubray: Oh! (pause), good question!

Ed Metzler: So, you were a Radio Operator at this point, huh?

Mr. Dubray: Yes. Well, no!

Ed Metzler: Not yet, okay.

Mr. Dubray: No, not yet. Uh, in the Philippines, we were the ... an island called ... (unintelligible) ...and one night ... the (unintelligible) was ... at ... was ... (unintelligible) islands as they were either protected ... I guess one of the Filipinos, I'm not sure ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... because ... uh, and (unintelligible) had ... had ... they sent out ... torpedo planes and we were ... we were shooting at torpedo planes, and they were dropping windows. Of course, a window ... you (unintelligible) story of what a window was already, I'm sure.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I'd like to hear the story.

Mr. Dubray: Window ... window ... windows were ... were ... uh, were uh, tin foil or aluminum foil ...

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: ... dropped by the planes that would discourage ... or would dis ... distract the radar.

Ed Metzler: Confuse the radar.

Mr. Dubray: And we ... we shot at a lot of ... lot of window panes, I'm sure that night. I ... I don't remember that ... uh, I was on a twenty millimeter on the fantail.

Ed Metzler: A forty millimeter?

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: We had a quad-forty back there.

Ed Metzler: A quad back there, okay.

Mr. Dubray: Yeah. And we did a lot of shooting at the windows that, you know, (unintelligible), you know? Uh, or you say this is the first time I ever saw a Japanese was, of course, (laughter) in Japan (laughter). (Unintelligible sentence.)

Ed Metzler: Well, I (unintelligible) but I'm talking about engaging with the enemy.

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), yeah, okay. Yeah. Uh, the real ... real danger on them ... uh, 'cause I don't remember the Marshall Islands were. I do know the Marshall Islands where we ... we ... were on one of the Marshall Islands ... and that ... that ... there, we were at ... one of the islands ... I forget ... (unintelligible) Eniwetok ... Majuro? Majuro was ... would have been ... and the Marshall Island, and the next morning ... from the bombardment and then everything that the Japanese did ... that ... the harbors there ... were probably kind of full of ... whatever ... the residue was, you know, as far as the ... the bombarding and whatever the ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... I didn't know what the Japanese had set; I didn't see that it ... we ... I don't recall the Japanese there at the time we were ...

Ed Metzler: So, when you were on the anti-aircraft battery at the back ... now, how many are on the crew of a ... of a quad, a forty-millimeter quad? Is it ...

Mr. Dubray: Forty-millimeter quad you had four guns; you had four first loaders, and then you had ... loaders that were in the tub. You had a tub around it ...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Dubray: ... that was loaded with ammo, and I don't know if you had second and third loaders for them or not. I do know you had ... I know you ... I do know you had to have a third loader that ... that was ... taking the stuff out of the racks ... of the tub and possibly giving them to a second loader; I don't know.

Ed Metzler: And what was your ... role in the ...

Mr. Dubray: I was ... I was one of the (unintelligible) I was ... one of my roles was getting ... getting the ... the ... it was a ... it was a four ... four clip, uh, it was four ... four clips and one ... one clip of ammunition (unintelligible) ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, four rounds, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... getting ... getting four rounds where you're getting them out of the tub ... for the ... for the ... for whoever you give them to to get to the ... the first loader. Of course, the loader, uh, the first loader was the guy that was sitting on the ... was up there with ... the gun and was loading in to ... into the ... into the ... weapon itself.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And, of course, it doesn't take long ... long to shoot four rounds.

Ed Metzler: No.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, and of course, like I said ...

Ed Metzler: Where do you ... who handles the casings that ...

Mr. Dubray: You know, I don't know. I think the casings ... what happens ... those were at the done gun club.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, they just pile up and ...

Mr. Dubray: And I think that ... that ... I ... I don't remember what happened to our casings at all.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, later on ... we dis ... we discarded ... casings. We had ... into a ... it ... it was into a ... a ... into a unit where you would ... well, where your ... where your ... ammunition came from; you put your casings back in, I'm going to say, back into those casings that were in a ... I don't know how many rounds were in one of those casings that you brought. I remember loading them ... that they were heavy. So, you had ... you had more than ... just four rounds in them; I don't know how many rounds you had in one of those casings, uh, gun ... what do you call them ... gun clips.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: Not, well, they weren't clips, they were ... they were (chuckle) ... heavy ammunition in them. Uh ...

Ed Metzler: So, how often would you say you ...had to go to general quarters and ...

Mr. Dubray: Oh (laughter) ...

Ed Metzler: ... was this a frequent thing or ...

Mr. Dubray: Oh (laughter), yeah general quarters were something that ... that you lived with (chuckles), and ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... uh, general quarters were something that ... it certainly ... (unintelligible) the island area, you were ... you were ... and of course, general quarters ... you went to general quarters every morning. Uh, we had general quarters every morning and that was our sun up ... sun up of ... engagements every morning you went to

general quarters whether you were ... engaging a ... engaging anybody or not.
That was a morning that was set aside for engagement to happen.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: So, therefore, we went to ... dawn ... it was dawn general quarters.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, when you were a Radioman ... your ...

Mr. Dubray: (Cough)

Ed Metzler: ... your general quarters ... assignment was still back on ... the BAA (?) or did you still (unintelligible)?

Mr. Dubray: No, no. The radio ... radio tech ... no.

Ed Metzler: Alright.

Mr. Dubray: I ... I lost ... lost ... I don't think that when I was in the radio shack ... that I was ever on a weapon again.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I do know the operations of five inch, we were close ... closed five-inch mounts, and we had ... uh, dual five inches ... on ... on one ... one. And I was what they called a Hot Caseman, and a Hot Caseman ... you had ... on a ... on a five inch ... of each gun, you had a Loader, you had a ... you had a Powderman and you have a Hot Caseman. And what they did on these ... on these, uh, five inch ... is they had ... whatever ... whenever they fired a round, it kicked the case back out, and of course, it had a ... a little chute and I don't recall ... is ... whatever altitude you were at ... the way that hot case was built, it wouldn't kick it out; it just ... would stop it. So, you were standing there with ... your ... asbestos gloves on.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: It's a real ... its ... its an easy ... job ... that ... that would ... and to fire the ammunition and kick the case off, they case would come back and it would hit ... it would ... if it didn't go out, it would hit the ... the ... case where its supposed to go out of ... for the case. And it would bounce, and you just grabbed it and threw it out. And it was ... it was a ... it was a (unintelligible) type thing that you'd ... (laughter) ... it's an easy practice to do.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: It was easy, you know?

Ed Metzler: So, was the San Juan every hit by enemy fire when you were aboard?

Mr. Dubray: No. It was ... well, (pause) I was on a sky lookout when a ... zeck (?) got through; it got through the screen one evening, and I guess ... I don't know why ... well, it couldn't turn back ... (unintelligible) whatever ... whatever (chuckles) guns he had ... with machine guns he had, and he hit part of our ... some of our ... our ... we had some ... uh, lines aboard ship that were water lines that ... I guess it's what we ... what we loaded uh, fuel with ... as the lines we had.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: I don't know if that was it or not. But supposedly he hit a couple of those. And I was a sky lookout (pause) and ... saw the ... (chuckles) I mostly say I saw it ... saw it coming or whatever; you couldn't duck that quick enough 'cause it was already past. And the Skipper was aboard ... doing his evening job, uh, and they ... that was the original Skipper ... kindly ... I'd like to identify this (unintelligible) the Skipper's name; I will here if you let me (chuckles) if you keep me here two days.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: But anyway, he ... he was giving the evening orders for the ... the ... the ... movement ... movement on zig ... zig zag ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... according to plan six. And (unintelligible) he was ... he was giving those orders, and he had a couple of adjectives that he ... added to the ... people that were on the guns ... could they ... could they do anything better than let this guy shoot ... you couldn't hit him, you know, in other words ... what he said. But the guy, I don't know what over ... whatever he did, I don't have any idea.

Ed Metzler: So, he strafed the ship and ...

Mr. Dubray: But, it did, and ...

Ed Metzler: ... and passed and ...

Mr. Dubray: ... turned ... turned him lose and ... and whatever he did, he turned it lose and he was gone. And I don't ever remember if he ever was hit really.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Dubray: Ah! Captain! Captain ... (unintelligible). He was a big red-headed guy, real short fuse.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: I remember that with him.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: He was ... he was a ... he was a different guy than any that were on there when I was there. There was another Captain onboard ship that this Captain relieved when I went aboard ship.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: (Throat clearing), there was a Captain Mare (sp?) on the ship in '42; the guys talked about Captain (unintelligible), and this was ... this was Captain ... oh, Joe! Anyway, he was ... he was the Skipper aboard at that time, and like I said, he was ... he was a guy ... pretty ... just pretty short fuse. He ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Dubray: ... uh, would ... would give us (laughter) ...

Ed Metzler: So, what do you think was your closest call on the ... in the ... when you were on the San Juan when ... things were kind of looking a little ... dicey for you?

Mr. Dubray: Oh! Good question (chuckle).

Ed Metzler: Or maybe there weren't any ... times!

Mr. Dubray: Uh, (pause) ... kamikazes, uh ... would ... did we get hit while I was aboard? The answer is no, not ... not while I was on machine gun fire. Did we get hit with anything bigger than machine guns that I ... that I can recall? No. Of course, like I said, too, uh, no, the ship was hit one time; I told you told.

Ed Metzler: That was before you were ... (unintelligible)?

Mr. Dubray: That was before I went aboard.

Ed Metzler: Did you see much kamikaze action toward the end of the war?

Mr. Dubray: Oh! Yeah, (chuckles), yes, yes, yes, yes.

Ed Metzler: Well, tell me about that.

Mr. Dubray: They guys ... the ... the kamikazes ... everybody had kamikaze; the Japs had kamikazes all over, but they were ... they were limited in the amounts and some were ... depending on where they were. And as the war went along, you got to

see more kamikazes. And at Okinawa (pause) there was lots of kamikazes. And there was a ... I was in the radio shack at the time, of course.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And the (unintelligible) kamikazes that came over and were, of course, you didn't see the kamikazes, they were ... you ... you'd see the results of the kamikazes. And of course, the big targets for the kamikazes was the aircraft carriers, and of course, we could that ... were they after a light (unintelligible) ... were they after a light cruiser? Probably they ... something was probably ... a fifty-six (unintelligible) is what it was.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Dubray: Whether they ... whether they were (unintelligible) ... where they wanted to go.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, but if you were an anti-aircraft ... light cruiser, one of your jobs was to protect those carriers from the kamikazes.

Mr. Dubray: Yes, yes, yes. That was the thing is our area aircraft guns were going at the time, no doubt about it!

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, they were going, of course, is ... I was in ... I was in the superstructure at the time ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... in the radio shack, and of course ...

Ed Metzler: So, what kind of messages are going over the radio? You sending out ...

Mr. Dubray: (Throat clearing)

Ed Metzler: ... out and you receiving.

Mr. Dubray: (Throat clearing)

Ed Metzler: You were getting, you know ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: ... situations like that?

Mr. Dubray: None that ... uh, we had ... we had our inner-ship communications (pause), but we are not ... I can't put a ... put anything on it.

Ed Metzler: So, are you communicating with, you know, other ships all the time?

Mr. Dubray: Yes, we ... yes, we were. But I don't recall that ... that (chuckles) doing any communications at that time because we were subject to the ... the amount of communication or when ... that we could communicate.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: And I ... or I don't ...

Ed Metzler: You probably had a lot of radio silence periods there, too.

Mr. Dubray: Radio silence was a ... is a ... is a talk (unintelligible) that was the idea really ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... radio silence. In other words, you were in radio silence ... uh, well, (chuckle) all the time I guess you might say. Well, I would say ... when ... when ... when we weren't in any particular area, where there was ... any action going on ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... or something like that, I ... I ... uh, I guess on our way to Espiritu when we were ... pretty open area, one of the things ... again, one of the things I noticed about the ocean in that part of the world ... was ... there are no ripples on the waves, the waves are slick.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Dubray: All of your ... your waves out there were ... well, you had waves, but it didn't have a ripple on them ... in the South Pacific.

Ed Metzler: They were smooth ones, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Smooth, smooth, smooth, yes, we had those ... up there.

Ed Metzler: Did you ever hear Tokyo Rose on the radio?

Mr. Dubray: By all means, yes.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: Uh, Tokyo Rose would ... what we had aboard ... aboard the ... the ... in ... in the radio shack, we had an S20R; it was a ... it was a really good ... just a regular radio ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... but the regular rad ... uh, frequencies that we would get and ... Tokyo Rose would get on there ... this (unintelligible). You got the good word what your girlfriend's doing, what your wife's doing.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: Uh, uh ...

Ed Metzler: Do you ever wonder how she found out all that stuff?

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), you know, we could have cared less (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Nobody paid attention to her?

Mr. Dubray: No, that ... well, the only thing they paid attention was ... to get the ... get her ... their verbiage that you would use (unintelligible) ... what she was saying.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: But, you know, we just ... uh, (chuckles) ... my S20R brought me a lot of ... lot of information. We were not ... we were ... we were in the Pacific. I don't know where ... when the World Series was going on ... I ... you don't know (unintelligible). Well anyway, and had a guard, guy aboard ship, and we ... we were always ... uh, opinionated about what baseball team we like and (unintelligible). I remember this was the Detroit Tigers (pause) ... was playing the ... the Chicago Cubs, and ... Andy was a real Tiger fan, and (chuckles) and Andy ... Andy was a ... Andy was ... one of the guys that came aboard ship later, but he was ... still a Radioman. Well, he and I used to get in ... to talk about ... because he was a Detroit fan and ... and I don't know I ... if I was a Cub fan 'cause I was always a Yankee fan, but anyway, I ... I guess I went with the Cubs 'cause he was a Tiger fan.

Ed Metzler: That's a good reason (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), but ...

Ed Metzler: But you could pick up the World Series games?

Mr. Dubray: And uh, no. Uh, later (chuckles) I did pick up one time ... a (unintelligible) not a ... just didn't pick it up but I picked up ... WOAI out of San Antonio.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And ... I don't know if I was listening to the game or got the score, but the Cubs had won the ... initial game nine to nothing; they had the guys that they'd gotten from the Yankees by the name of Hank Baroy (sp?) who pitched a game for the Cubs; the Tigers had two guys on there and I'm sure they were probably crippled or some kind ... whether they were really good, but they were pitchers

and Andy was talking about it. And of course, Cubs never won another game after that (laughter) ... they were ...

Ed Metzler: Well, we know they were losers.

Mr. Dubray: Finally ended (unintelligible), but ... but Andy and I was ... talking about, but I did ... I do remember picking him up. I had ... uh, probably when I was on duty ... I used to go over the (unintelligible), used to pick up ... use ... just this regular radio, and pick up ... see what I could pick up on it. And of course, it ... that night I had ... WOAI on it. But I don't know ... we were pretty far out there; I don't know how close to whatever we were ... at the time. And of course, we worked (unintelligible) door really.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: And of course (chuckles) ...

Ed Metzler: Now, uhm, I ... read somewhere where the San Juan was part of a task force that was responsible for the sinking of the Yamato, that big Japanese battleship that they sent down. I think was Okinawa period.

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: Does that ring a bell with you? Did ... did you ever hear or ... talk about that?

Mr. Dubray: Yes, did ... did hear. I can't ... cannot ... can't ... can't get a lot farther than what (unintelligible) was.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, yes!

Ed Metzler: Of course, it was aircraft that destroyed her.

Mr. Dubray: Yes, yes.

Ed Metzler: So, it was probably one of the aircraft carriers ... that you were protecting.

Mr. Dubray: (Throat clearing), well, I don't really know. In other words, ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... there's stuff that went on outside ... that wasn't visible to me at all ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... all ... at ... at the radio shack.

Ed Metzler: That's right!

Mr. Dubray: We were ... we were doing lots of shooting, but it wasn't visible to me ... at that point.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: Did ... did you get letters from home?

Mr. Dubray: By all means, why, yes. Uh, had a girlfriend, uh, Louise, (chuckle) ... that was my girlfriend ... not ... no sister (laughter). And my aunt, my aunt that raised me, she was religious and would write me once a week.

Ed Metzler: That's wonderful. Did you write back?

Mr. Dubray: Yes. Shell Hand (sp?), Shell Hand, she wasn't a young person at the time anymore; she had ... she had ... she had a hand ... she wrote with a ... a straight pen, you know, that ... that dip pens, straight pens?

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: That's what she wrote with.

Ed Metzler: You mean, no ballpoint pens back then?

Mr. Dubray: No, ballpoint, wasn't such a thing, you know? And her ... her penmanship ... that caused that, but she would write me a letter. It was ... it was ... it was ... you could bet it was once a week ... she would write me a letter. And of course, uh ...

Ed Metzler: That mean a lot to you?

Mr. Dubray: Oh gosh, me, yes it did, yeah. Well, when ... you always waited for a letter from home and, of course, it was your girlfriend or your aunt, those were the two most popular (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Uhm, those are the two most important, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), uh ...

Ed Metzler: And you wrote letters back?

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, I did; I wrote letters back. Uh ... we weren't allowed to ... or we had people that ... that monitored our ... our ... our mail, and of course ...

Ed Metzler: Censors, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... they had censors and that ... those were the officers ... that we had that ... well, we had Radio Officers and I ... well, I don't know, those were the officers that monitored our mail or who hon ... monitored, but I don't remember.

Ed Metzler: Well, they knew all about you, if they're reading your letters.

Mr. Dubray: Oh, by all means, they did. They'd already commented about it (laughter) ...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: ... what you were saying. Unless you said something that ... where you were at or what you were doing (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: They ... they cut it out, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, well, they ... either that or ... or ... or I heard that some guys got their letters back that they had (unintelligible) that they ... they sent them back to them and said, "Rewrite your letter."

Ed Metzler: Said, "Try again!" (laughter)

Mr. Dubray: Try again, yeah!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: They did that them (chuckle).

Ed Metzler: What do you miss the most when you were out there? What ... what did you miss the most?

Mr. Dubray: Uh (pause), huh! (Pause), home, (pause) missed your girlfriend.

Ed Metzler: You bet.

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, missed ... missed my girlfriend. Uh, (unintelligible) what I missed the most. Uh, (pause), seemed as though I did a lot of stuff or I was busy, and where ... didn't have any idea what I missed the most, but I certainly had to have ...

Ed Metzler: Well, it's good if you were busy because you didn't have time to miss a lot of stuff.

Mr. Dubray: Well, the thing is ... is that when you were on duty though, you were ... you weren't busy, you were ... I don't know that ... uh, well, our ... our watch system was a condition three watches that we had ... that you were four on, four off excepting the evening watches where you ... you (unintelligible) you were ... you'd split the ... split the watch to ... two hour watches so ... which ... which

means that it turned the watch system over for you so you didn't get the same ones all the time. And we were on that watch system excepting whenever we were in hot area that I recall. We were ... we'd go to condition two or we'd go to battle ... battle stations ... all the time, you know, or ... or we went to that ... that all depends on ... one easy or what they used to call ... uh, we be in condition (unintelligible) or one of your susceptible or whatever it is.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, that could have been, I don't ... I don't know. Uh ...

Ed Metzler: What did you do when you were off?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, good question. Uh ...

Ed Metzler: I guess there's always sleep (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: Uh, yeah, uh, one of the things ... well, the dead ... the ... the hours so ... that ... put you to sleep a lot of times, and of course, like I said, lot of times, you said, "What'd you do?" You might have been down in general quarters (unintelligible), or ... no, not general quarters ... or you might have been at general quarters. Or if you're at condition one easy, you were in the radio shack, too.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: Well, I've heard a lot of stories about ... poker games and ...

Mr. Dubray: Oh (laughter), well some of those ...

Ed Metzler: ... now, tell me about ...

Mr. Dubray: ... I wasn't ... I wasn't a ... one of those ... I guess I did get into some ... some of those games. They had ... blackjack games, I guess ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... a lot. I know one guy in particular ...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Dubray: ... what we were ... well, we were being limited to so much pay; we wouldn't get our full pay, and I don't know if we got ten or fifteen dollars a payday; we were paid twice a month, and well, I remember one guy saying ... he used to get in a blackjack game ... poker game, he says, "Well, I'll give them my money

this time, again!” ‘Cause he’d put (chuckles), it sounded like he’d planned on losing it all (chuckles), ‘cause he never won (laughter).

Ed Metzler: You’ll never win if you plan on losing!

Mr. Dubray: He said, “Well,” and ... and he always said (chuckle) ... and he always said ... well, I can’t remember the guy’s name, but he always said (chuckle), “Well,” he says, “I ... I’ll get into ... want to get ... get in and sit down,” he says, “Well, I guess I’ll donate mine this time,” and he did ... usually. But ...

Ed Metzler: Was there any alcohol onboard?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, no. No. (Throat clearing), the alcohol that was onboard was in the officers’ quarters.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Officers quarters had them. We had ... we had alcohol, we had beer aboard the ship that was put up in the cell locker, and we had a Boatswain’s Mate ... that got ... that was guilty one time; he was a First Class, he got in the cell locker and got ... some of the beer.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckle)

Mr. Dubray: More the beer, I guess, the way they got him. They broke him to ... down to Seaman. Uh, I think a couple of months, he was back in the Boatswain’s mate, back up again, so that didn’t take too much to ... (chuckles), but anyway, I forget what his name was. But I do know that he got into the ... the ... ‘cause we carried beer and we’d ... when we’d get to some of these places where there was no entertainment or anything, we’d ... really ... they’d take aboard to ... board ... or board to ... the island. That was ... this was Mog Mog that we talked about. You get over to the island, you get a couple of beers and ... and they’d let you have a couple of beers and, of course ...

Ed Metzler: Did you make it to Mog Mog?

Mr. Dubray: Oh gosh, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Tell me about Mog Mog.

Mr. Dubray: Well, we were ... Mog Mog was just an island that ... that ... that ... didn’t have anything on it but palm trees that I recall. Mog Mog wasn’t a ... a ... an island that was ...

Ed Metzler: Well, that was your R&R station, right?

Mr. Dubray: One of the R&R, but ... but that R&R was because ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... it had a ... if I'm right, it had a harbor, a natural harbor around it that put in there by the ... uh, what is that?

Ed Metzler: The Seabees?

Mr. Dubray: No, no, no, not ... no, not ... not ... that was natural built.

Ed Metzler: Oh okay.

Mr. Dubray: What is ... what's the stuff?

Ed Metzler: Coral?

Mr. Dubray: Coral.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: It was a coral island that had ... had ... had ... they said had one entrance they told us it only had one ... that ... that the fleet went into, and of course, got hung up in there one night.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: And the Japanese, we had a couple of islands out there that were accessible, I guess, to the ... to the fleet that was in there. We got a couple of planes got off and ... uh, we were ... we were not on easy street, I guess, you'd call it, but every plane that was coming in from the States and everything, the place looked like San Francisco Bay; it was lit up. Well, you're in a ... in an area say, its ... guess what it's supposed to be, but like I said, it ... we didn't have any worry. In any case ... anyway, there was two planes got ... got off, and one ... one hit ... one hit one of the carriers; I can't think of the name of the carrier, and where the other one hit, I don't know. But that's, you know, the only one that ... that got claim to fame what when he hit the fantail on one of the carriers. And we were at general quarters the rest of the night.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Dubray: Because everything that was coming in had lights on it. And we had thing called IFF, you've heard that, and ... IFF was ... the guys were coming in without their IFF ... some of them, and they were ... that would mean, we were

lit up, they were lit up, and we were at general quarters all night (laughter)
which was, I guess, a collective way to keep you ... keep you awake (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: So, what did you do at Mog Mog?

Mr. Dubray: Nothing. So, like ... I don't ... I don't really remember what we did over there.
I remember that we were there; we might of ... did we have games? I don't
remember games that we played. We might have had ...

Ed Metzler: I've heard they played softball and that kind of stuff.

Mr. Dubray: Might have been, might have been that; I'm not sure that ... that we did. I knew
that ... that ... inn Espiritu they had a lot of games going on. Of course, there
were a lot of ... lot of people on the island of Espiritu because like I said, there
was ... there was Army there, Navy, there was Marine Corps, uh, there.

Ed Metzler: You weren't on ... the San Juan when she went to Australia, were you?

Mr. Dubray: No.

Ed Metzler: That was before you came aboard then.

Mr. Dubray: When it went to Australia, that is when it got hit. It was ... got hit ...

Ed Metzler: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: ... the ... when it got ... the fantail got hit, yes.

Ed Metzler: Where were you ... and the San Juan when ... they dropped the bomb on Japan?

Mr. Dubray: Of course, on the coast of Japan, excuse me.

Ed Metzler: When they ... when they dropped ... Hiroshima and ...

Mr. Dubray: (Unintelligible), the evening before, we were on the coast of Japan pulling raids
off of their ... on the coast of Japan.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Dubray: Aircraft was, and we pulled out to sea, and not knowing why, nothing was said,
you know, we pulled out to sea. The next morning, we got the word, they
dropped an A-bomb on Hiroshima.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Dubray: So, that's how we got together to know that they ... dropped an A-bomb
(chuckles).

Ed Metzler: So, what is everybody thinking at that time? Now, the war is over or what?

Mr. Dubray: Well, didn't have any idea what the A-bomb was.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: And then ... then you get to hearing the results of the thing ... and ...

Ed Metzler: And you guys heard the results ... when you get the word?

Mr. Dubray: Oh, you ... but ... yeah, oh yeah. Said it annihilated ... annihilated... a cloud ... the city.

Ed Metzler: Whole city, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: (Chuckle) and of course, never heard of an A-bomb ... before that. Uh, heard of where the A-bomb came from, about ... about ... the history of the A-bomb. The history with the A-bomb was dropped off of a ... one of the aircraft ... off of the ... one of the islands ... if I could I.D. the island I will, the ... it was in the ... uh, we got two islands right together.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, the Tinian. You're thinking of Saipan and Tinian.

Mr. Dubray: Tinian, yeah, Tin ... Tinian was ... was Tinian.

Ed Metzler: Tinian is where their ... the airfield was.

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: The landing field.

Mr. Dubray: There's a ... well, there's another island next to it, the one that we had secured is one of the islands where the Japanese, and didn't know it till later, that the Japanese were committing suicide on this island jumping off of a bluff.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, that was Saipan (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: Saipan.

Ed Metzler: I think so.

Mr. Dubray: Yes.

Ed Metzler: Well, they jumped off a lot of bluffs, so yeah.

Mr. Dubray: This is a (unintelligible) where they ...

Ed Metzler: (Unintelligible)

Mr. Dubray: But Tinian ... Tinian, of course, was a ... we were anchored ... right outside of Tinian, and Tinian was a lot different looking ... looking piece of material (chuckle) because the ... the ... uh, what's the first island I said?

Ed Metzler: Saipan?

Mr. Dubray: Sai, no, yeah, no, yeah!

Ed Metzler: Well, Saipan and Tinian ...

Mr. Dubray: Not ... not the Saipan, the other one.

Ed Metzler: Tinian?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, yeah, yeah, Saipan. Saipan was a mountainous land.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Okay, Tinian was a different looking island altogether 'cause it was a ... it looked like a ... flat top.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: This is where they ... had a ... had ... had launched ... launched ... launched.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, they got the two-mile landing strip and they took off the ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I have no idea.

Ed Metzler: ... off the cliff and up into the air, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Never saw a plane take off of that thing.

Ed Metzler: Really?

Mr. Dubray: Not ... never ... never saw any, never saw that ... that type. I did see, when they were ... (pause) on Tinian ... and Tinian had a ... between Tinian and Saipan was a (unintelligible) of ... of ocean so to speak.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: It was a channel or whatever, and the lower end of Tinian was loaded ... it looked like palm trees or something, it's flat, and I know that we watched, believe it or not, P-47s ... that they were using and they used them over the ... they dropped their bombs over on Tinian and then they come across that ... I called it a flat top (chuckles), they come across there and turn their machine guns lose because we ... we were in close enough for that. We didn't discharge any. We were in there; I don't know what we were there for, but we were in there. But anyway (chuckle) ...

Ed Metzler: So, when the ... when the Japanese surrendered, you guys got that message what ... via radio ... on ... aboard ship?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, our ... our inner-ship communications ... what got it.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: (Unintelligible) in fact, I brought back ... I had a couple of little, uh, what the heck ... I can't forget ... was ... remember what was their ... inner-ship communications that we had was ... was a ... uh, anyway, we had a ... (chuckle) when we just ... just talk to us. In other words, that ... that was our inner-ship communications that we had. And we had a ... Commander at the time I remember, and I ... I used to man that in the radio shack because it was plain language and this was ... this was ... had only one ... one station only ... that was a one-frequency only.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And the Commander says, "You have ... if you encounter some Japanese that haven't heard (chuckle) that our ... ," we had an agreement with the Jap ... Japanese the ... the Japanese ...

Ed Metzler: Government, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... government that the ... they're ... they're surrendering, "if you have ... get a hold of one that hasn't heard it yet, shoot him down in a (unintelligible) friendly manner." Was ... I remember that article that I had at the house; it was one of our ...

Ed Metzler: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckle)

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, just shoot him down in a friendly manner. So, I don't remember if we ever had ... had the opportunity or had the ... the case where we had to shoot them down in a friendly manner, but like I said (chuckle).

Ed Metzler: So, was there a bit of a celebration aboard when ...

Mr. Dubray: Not for ... not that I recall.

Ed Metzler: That's interesting.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, there could have been, but I don't recall one. Uh ...

Ed Metzler: They didn't break out the beer or anything?

Mr. Dubray: No, no, no. You ... well, you need ... you couldn't have a beer. No, no, that ...

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: ... that was a QT ... that don't ... no beer (chuckle). You could get ashore and have a beer, but not ... not aboard ship.

Ed Metzler: So, did the San Juan go then to Japan after the war was over?

Mr. Dubray: By all means!

Ed Metzler: So, tell me what hap ... where you went and what happened.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, well ... somebody tells us we was the first ship that went into Tokyo Bay, I don't know.

Ed Metzler: Okay, I'm going to ... put her on hold for just a second (recording stopped momentarily).

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: So, let me ...

Mr. Dubray: ... there is a ... yeah ...

Ed Metzler: Okay, here we go.

Mr. Dubray: My ... my ... little notice that I got from the ... from the ... what do you call it? (Chuckles), from the ... that I ... that I have all the paper I brought here today about Tokyo Bay is that we were the first ship they sent into what ... Tokyo Bay. Now, that ...

Ed Metzler: First ship, okay!

Mr. Dubray: Yes, and we ... to get into ... into Tokyo Bay, we had a ... Japanese pilot aboard ship ...

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Dubray: ... that escorted us in. Now, we were escorted into Tokyo Bay ... and from there on ... I remember the liberation day, in other words, what happened right then at Tokyo Bay (laughter).

Ed Metzler: So, tell me about the Japanese pilot? I mean, did ... you actually him?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, yeah! Okay, well he was ... he was in the pilot house. Now, the radio shack was right below the pilot house.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And he was ... pilot house, and he's on the steering wheel. Of course, this is the ... the ordnance go down to ... to go down to the people that are really actually steering it.

Ed Metzler: Sure, sure.

Mr. Dubray: But of course, he's ... he's at the steering wheel, and that's ... uh, that was my only observation; I didn't stick around ... (unintelligible) ... (laughter), uh, that he was ... he was one of the guys, Japanese pilots that was aboard and of course, I ... one of the things that I did notice for sure that he was Japanese. Of course, uh, I hadn't seen many Japanese ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, to get ... you ... you've had (unintelligible) just to ... (recording temporarily stopped) ...

Mr. Dubray: Oh! When you go to the ...

Ed Metzler: Okay, you just ...

Mr. Dubray: ... the terms on the ... okay, the terms on the surrender was ... of course this was the surrender terms that ... uh, the ... the ... any gun emplacement had to have a white flag on it, and when we were in Tokyo Bay, yeah, I noticed that.

Ed Metzler: The ... lots of white flags!

Mr. Dubray: That ... that ... mountain was total white.

Ed Metzler: Well ...

Mr. Dubray: Then ... it was ... when you say lots of white flags.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, now what did Tokyo look like physically?

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), big city that was ... well, a lot of places destroyed. Uh, destroyed by ... by heavy bombing, by ... uh, bombings that blew the place away.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, incendiary bombings that had burned the place down. Believe it or not, it was a lot of it put together ... I guess ... we went into a drug store one time ...

Ed Metzler: Okay, so ... so you went ... you went ashore.

Mr. Dubray: Went ashore.

Ed Metzler: Now, was this after the ceremonial of the USS Missouri?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, yeah, this was after, yeah, this was after.

Ed Metzler: So, where was the San Juan when the Missouri ... signing thing happened?

Mr. Dubray: You know, my little book says fifteen miles, but ... uh, again, I remember seeing it and it didn't look fifteen miles to me. But we were ... we were in the ... we were in the ... with the fleet; the fleet was in the harbor.

Ed Metzler: They filled the harbor up, didn't it? (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), yeah, there was ... I ... I can't identify it, just that the shore was ... the harbor as I ... I recognized, they showed the Missouri; I could see the Missouri ... whatever the, you know, the peace treaty was signed, supposedly or whatever.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, the ships ... had a ... I ... I just can't picture the ships, but they were loaded ... might have been loaded.

Ed Metzler: There was a flyover, wasn't there, with aircraft?

Mr. Dubray: We had a flyover and I don't remember that either.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: But they said we ... that ... that ... but ... but the ... the flyover (unintelligible) forever. Course, one of the things when you were on duty, you weren't outside.

Ed Metzler: That's true. What was the mood aboard ship?

Mr. Dubray: Do what?

Ed Metzler: What was the mood aboard your ship ... while all this was going on?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, oh yeah, yeah. It's ... it's over. That was ...

Ed Metzler: So, is it relief or ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: In your mind, was a relief or was it just a ...

Mr. Dubray: Yes, yes. Well ...

Ed Metzler: ... time of celebration?

Mr. Dubray: ... well, like I said, the ... the biggest, biggest thing is ... that it's a relief about it is that ... it's over! That ... that was the ... that's the comment that I ... I think I recall. It ...

Ed Metzler: So, you went ... you went ashore.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, this was ... this wasn't at that time.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: That time ... after this, we were ... well, we were already on ... on liberation duty, but when the peace treaty was signed, we joined the fleet again ... whenever they signed the peace treaty.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: We were in the fleet. Then we went back out and we were on liberation duty again.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: And I was ... I was a ... one of the parts of the ship ... ship-to-shore radio, and we had a ... that we had one that ... that was on one that was at the ... where we ... the landing where the boats came in to pick up the prisoners, and then what I was at the railroad station where they brought some of them in.

Ed Metzler: Okay so, tell me ... uh, were you at the railroad station?

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Tell me what you saw and what happened.

Mr. Dubray: Uh (pause) ... Japanese ... kids.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), saw lots of Japanese.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, not ... not at ... at that town ... Japanese.

Ed Metzler: How did they treat you when you were there? I mean, were they very deferential or were they friendly?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, not ... you can't describe friendly (chuckle), but they was ... they were, you know, they were ... they were not mili ... militaristic or whatever. Uh, they ... they ...

Ed Metzler: They (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: ... they just acted like (chuckles) I don't know how to say it. Well, when you did something (unintelligible), you got a bow; they (chuckle) you ... uh, I remember ... I have to tell ... tell that ... Greg that ... uh, in town I remember we had some rations that they ... set apart for us to eat, and of course, one was cheese and bacon; was a good ration. And I gave a piece one time to one of the little Japanese guys. Well, he was reluctant to take it to begin with, but he did. And ... he backed off from me ... from, you know, from whatever distance it was over there and took off ... and ran. And I told the guys, the ... I said, "Whenever this happens again, "I says, "I'm going to follow one of them again," because those people are (unintelligible). So, I followed one and ... one ... he went home to the mama-san and went in the house, and mama-san had a dish in there and

there was food in it. And this ... of course, this piece of cheese ... whatever it was that I gave the kid ... well, it was just cheese and bacon ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... was in that bowl. Of course, there was food in there that the kids were, I presume, that were bringing stuff in.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, from the GIs and from the ...

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, something to ... for them to eat.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Was one of the things about it.

Ed Metzler: Bound to have been hungry.

Mr. Dubray: They were, they were hungry. Of course, they had rice lines for them. They had their bowl, they'd get in a rice line, uh, well, usually ... the comment, I used to spell our corn that we used to put in a ... in a ... water barrel on the farm for the hogs, and of course, it softened that corn up, and they let ... (unintelligible) kind of sour.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And that's the way that ... that ... rice wine comes (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: But ... there were a lot of people in those rice lines where they had ... looked to me like a little cup that they were ... this is not rice.

Ed Metzler: Now, where was this in Japan? Was this the Tokyo area or ...

Mr. Dubray: No, we were at ... well, I can't exactly tell you because ... we were ... an island, an island there, I guess you might say.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: Sendai (sp?), I remember Sendai being one of the islands that we ... we were at. Uh, they ID'd ... uh, I can't tell you exactly where ... at the ... at ... in fact, I tried to ... tried to get it out of a Japanese where Sendai was one time, and I couldn't.

Ed Metzler: Uhm, couldn't do it.

Mr. Dubray: Uh uh.

Ed Metzler: Now, did the San Juan go in where there were any ... Japanese naval facilities?

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: You know, maybe some ships that never ...

Mr. Dubray: When we went in (laughter) ... right in Tokyo Bay, uh, well, to get the (unintelligible) how that ship got there, uh, on June the 19th, if I could get a memory right, 19th ... what the hell was it, '44? What it ... (unintelligible) time, we encountered the Japanese fleet that was trying to get out of the Philippine islands, and it was headed for Japan and we had radared them. We didn't have a ... and we were on our way to ... to do something ... was to refuel, not refuel, we were (unintelligible), let's see, I think we were in ... in ... heading for port for ... to take in stores (unintelligible), and these ... these ships were encountered, and they were encountered headed for Japan. And we were at (unintelligible), I don't know how far but ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... so, the Fleet Admiral says, "Attack." So, our ship's aircraft attacked these ships, and of course as I recall, the ... the aircraft were assigned ... uh, one ship. And I don't know how many ships there were; I'll get to one of them. But, I'll give you more of the story that ... that when they came back, of course, it was dark, and we had to turn on lights for those guys to get there. A lot of them didn't ... them planes didn't make it ... back ... to the carrier. Of course, they ... a lot of carrier ... I don't know if they were able to land on a carrier; I know that ... that we lost a lot of planes.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, they had to ditch a lot of them; they ran out of fuel and couldn't find their ...

Mr. Dubray: And ... and not only that, uh ...

Ed Metzler: I think that was the Battle of the Philippine Sea if I remember correctly.

Mr. Dubray: Uh huh, uh ...

Ed Metzler: Maybe not.

Mr. Dubray: ... no, wasn't Philippines ... if ... if I can go back with the Philippine Sea, I don't think so. Philippine Sea was another story (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Okay, well let's hold the Philippine Sea story for a moment; we'll come back to it.

Mr. Dubray: Okay.

Ed Metzler: So, keep ... keep on with your story.

Mr. Dubray: Anyway, when they got back, we only lost something like fifteen or ... less than twenty people by that ... but anyway, the ... the lights are on and of course ... when you're out at sea, it does ... there's no dark, there's no lights or nothing at sea. Uh, and when we got to Japan, the battleship, Nagato, was in Tokyo Bay.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And ... it looked like (chuckles) a (unintelligible); they'd bombed a lot of it but it didn't sink it (laughter).

Ed Metzler: So, she had ... she looked damaged ...

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: ... but she was still fighting?

Mr. Dubray: Oh, by all means, it looked damaged, it was ... it was still floating there; that's the only ship in that ... re ... remember that was ... back there. Uh, Philippine Sea, you're getting away from me there. And I ... I can't ... Philippine Sea was something that was ... and I can't put a ... put anything ...

Ed Metzler: I think the Phil ... the Battle of the Philippine Sea was also referred to as the Marianas Turkey Shoot.

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: This is where they shot ... I don't know how many Japanese planes out of the sky.

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: I didn't know whether the San Juan was involved in that or not.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, that ... the Philippine Sea ... Philippine Sea is a thing that ... that rings a bell.

Ed Metzler: Well, of course, there's the Battle of Leyte Gulf ...

Mr. Dubray: Okay.

Ed Metzler: and I think ...

Mr. Dubray: Okay.

Ed Metzler: ... and I think the San Juan was involved ... at a distance.

Mr. Dubray: We were not in Philippine Sea at that night; we were on the other side.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: The Seventh Fleet was at Philippine Sea, and they ... they ... lot of action over there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: But ... we all commented that they saw all the bogies, we didn't.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: At that particular time.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Uh yes. Uh, but you know more about this than I did (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Oh, I don't know about that, but ... I've been reading ... (laughter)

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), well yeah, that's good!

Ed Metzler: I've been reading up on your ship here.

Mr. Dubray: (Chuckle), no that ... that's okay! That's okay.

Ed Metzler: Well, it does mention the Nagato ... of this write-up, so ...

Mr. Dubray: (Unintelligible), okay.

Ed Metzler: ... and I got ...

Mr. Dubray: The Nagato was there at ... at ... and it had been well hit, and of course, that's the only part of the Japanese ...

Ed Metzler: That was all that was left (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: All that was left ... left, I guess, that was all that was ... but of course, it's the only one talked about that was ...

Ed Metzler: Now, there is reference made to ... unloading the prisoners of war from some of the POW camps.

Mr. Dubray: Uh ... you know ...

Ed Metzler: What was your experience; what do you know about that?

Mr. Dubray: Well, you know about a lot of that. Believe it or not, that was done ... by the boats ... that were unloading those ... that ... that ... were ... that we had just ... that had distributed at the landings. Of course, (unintelligible) radio at the landing and of course, at the landing then the ... the boats would come in and pick these people up. And of course, I don't remember ... exactly ... uh, those that were ... inactive or hurt or ... or unable. I do know there's a lot of those that

were ... okay, and they distributed ... they were distributing to the ... the sick ones, those that are bad enough, we had a couple of hospital ships out there.

Ed Metzler: Uhm, that's correct.

Mr. Dubray: And I think the [USS] Solace ... I ... I say Solace really, but those weren't the two that ... my ... my ...

Ed Metzler: Well let ... let me just read you a ... a paragraph here ...

Mr. Dubray: Okay.

Ed Metzler: ... and see if it rings any bells for you. It says, "San Juan ... in ... in San Juan's embarked unit commander, Commodore Roger Simpson was assigned responsibility for freeing, caring for and evacuating allied prisoners of war in Japan. On the 29th of August, the San Juan entered Tokyo Bay and landed parties which liberated prisoners at camps at Omori and Ofuna (sp?) and at the ship, and at the Shin ... Shinigagawa [s/b Shinigami?] Hospital. The former pris ... prisoners were transferred to hospital ships, [USS] Benevolence and rescue."

Mr. Dubray: Good question.

Ed Metzler: Then it says, "After evacuating camps in the Tokyo Bay area, the San Juan moved to the Nagoya-Hamamatsu area to the south, and then several other areas."

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I do remember the south. Uh, do remember prisoners of ... uh, (unintelligible), don't know where we're at. Can't identify it ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... exactly.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I do remember ... when you talked about Nagoya that that ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, that's mentioned here, too.

Mr. Dubray: ... but Nagoya rings a bell.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: But I can't ... I can't, uh, capitalize on that.

Ed Metzler: Now, the war was over, and ... the San Juan came back to the States, I'm assuming?

Mr. Dubray: Yes!

Ed Metzler: And ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh ...

Ed Metzler: ... you were aboard?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, we didn't come back till November.

Ed Metzler: Really?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, we didn't hit the States till the 29th of November.

Ed Metzler: No kidding?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, we had orders from the Fleet Commander at the time to pick up ... uh, some of our prisoners out of Noumea, New Caledonia or ... where they're ... some of our troops. I don't whether they're prisoners or troops.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: (Unintelligible) Noumea ...

Ed Metzler: So, this is ... this is part of the Magic Carpet thing that took everybody ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh, whatever ... you want to call it ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I think that's what they called it.

Mr. Dubray: ... I don't know; I can't identify the Magic Carpet.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: But this was part of the thing that ... 'cause remember that the ... talked to the guys especially, we were to ... arrive ... San Diego, whatever ... on the 29th of November and after I got ... after a well-spent time in the Pacific, we were to(unintelligible) on December the 6th which didn't leave us a lot of time back to the States.

Ed Metzler: Well, you didn't get much of a breather, did you?

Mr. Dubray: I did. The commander wrote to the ... to the (chuckle) the big shot and says, "Say, we don't need all these people to get, you know, to pick up people. Can I get ... let some of the people that have been on here a while, let them go ashore." So, I got ... I was given to ... I was given ... leave at that time.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: I went on leave (laughter).

Ed Metzler: So, you left the San Juan at that time?

Mr. Dubray: I left the San Juan at that time.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: I want ... I came back (chuckle) ... when I got up with ... uh, I reported San Diego and they said, “Well, you got a ride coming; you’re ships in ... at Everett, Washington.” And that’s ... I had a ride ... took the rails again and rode to Everett and I joined the ship in Everett, Washington.

Ed Metzler: And you joined which ship is it?

Mr. Dubray: The San Diego, uh, I mean, the San Juan.

Ed Metzler: The San Juan again? Okay.

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, the San Juan ... went to ... what ... (throat clearing).

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: Went ... went to Everett, Washington ... where it was deactivated then at that ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: And of course, I heard it later on that was just bought ... bought by some steel company and ... and ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, they scrapped her in (unintelligible) of ’59 or ’57 something like that.

Mr. Dubray: Something going on.

Ed Metzler: Well, let me ask you a couple of questions. Uhm, what do you think about the Japanese after all these years?

Mr. Dubray: Amazing. As I recall, the Japanese is what ... what I’d read about the Japanese ... uh, it tell you ... I remember ... I was in Catholic school in D’Hanis, and had a Reader’s Digest book in there; I don’t know how new it was, and an article says, “We were in Nanking,” and it was a story about the Japanese when they went to China, and they did ... a lot of bad things.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, the Rape of Nanking is what it’s called, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, and they said, “We were in Nanking,” and ... and I ... I had a view of the Japanese at that particular point (chuckle) of what the Japanese were like.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: Of course, like I said, because ... couldn’t draw a picture of it. Uh, were they ... and not only that ... uh, and some skepticism was ... was the fact, even after the war, were they a reliable people anymore because they didn’t ... they didn’t treat us right at Pearl Harbor ... there ... definitely. Uh, during the negotiation, we

had ... we had Japanese people in Washington that were (chuckle) talking to Roosevelt (chuckle) ... well, uh ...

Ed Metzler: Now, when they attacked ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh, we had ... we had a General and an Admiral at Pearl Harbor that ... I'd heard some comment about that they didn't know about ... had some (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, who knows?

Mr. Dubray: Who knows?!

Ed Metzler: So, how do you feel today about the Japanese people; you okay with them?

Mr. Dubray: Oh yeah, I've ... I ... I don't have any qualm about ... I think they're ... they're great (chuckle). One of the things they did ... they ... they taught the Americans how to build a car (laughter).

Ed Metzler: It's a good point!

Mr. Dubray: We ... and we ... we were ... we were putting together a bunch of junk over here, and they said ... sent over ... we said, "Well, we got ... and we can't ... we can't ..."

Ed Metzler: Let us show you how to do it.

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), yeah.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: (Unintelligible) the Russians (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Now, you went out as an eighteen-year-old kid ...

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... to ... to the Pacific, and you came back ... months after the war was over.

Mr. Dubray: And I was about twenty-one years old.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so ... did the war change you in any way?

Mr. Dubray: I'm sure it did.

Ed Metzler: Tell me about that.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, well it ... it put me (laughter) ... well really, (pause) I don't know, maybe I didn't get straightened out, I don't know! 'Cause one of those things, I guess, man, one of the things you ... you're afraid to admit it sometimes, but I ... uh,

was just unsure of myself about ... about ... about things, you know? What to ... what to ...

Ed Metzler: When you came back you mean?

Mr. Dubray: Yes. Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: You were ... unsure?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, there was ... there was a lot of things that were unsure, and of course, uh, I did this, I was in Houston ... uh, quit a job in Houston. The job that I was with there ... working for Underwood, my ... uh, wasn't working, went to my cousin to ... of course, gave me ... (unintelligible) in D'Hanis and that ... that ... from D'Hanis and he ... and he had a garage and taught me how to work on cars. Of course, at the time, uh, really what I'd learned in the service wasn't ... wasn't good ... (unintelligible) what ... we didn't have to ... couldn't do ... any ... many things about radio (laughter), and ... and then scraping paint on a deck or something like that ... Nav ... Navy experiences didn't teach me much.

Ed Metzler: No. You ... scraping barnacles wasn't useful ...

Mr. Dubray: Well, I didn't scrape barnacles; I was the top (laughter) ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Well anyway, go ahead.

Ed Metzler: Well, yeah ...

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... I ... I ... I mean, I ask that question of a lot of ...

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: World War II veterans because some of them came back traumatized, you know, and ...

Mr. Dubray: Uh huh.

Ed Metzler: ... I mean, we've all heard of ... of combat fatigue and PTSD and that kind of stuff.

Mr. Dubray: I don't recall of ... having ... having that ... that feeling about ... about the combat fatigue certainly about ... uh, of course, or combat fatigue was ... will get you a lot wherever ... really, it got up on top of you, I guess, I don't know.

Ed Metzler: Uhm, uhm.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, I ...

Ed Metzler: Did you ever dream about ... your experiences in the war after the war was over or dream about (unintelligible)?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, that's a good question. I don't know.

Ed Metzler: I know some people ... relived their war experiences.

Mr. Dubray: Well, memories, yes! Yes, you talk about memories, yes.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, okay.

Mr. Dubray: I can ... I can live memories; I still do. Uh, are they ... memories that you fear or anything like that ... no! They're just memories.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: This ...

Ed Metzler: Did you not talk about it at all when you came back; kind of just ... put the war behind you (unintelligible); what did you do?

Mr. Dubray: Well, did do ... after ... when I came back, everybody had been in the war.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Dubray: Everybody you met were ... were ... had been in the war. I ... I worked for Underwood, and I had an outside job sometimes, not all the time, but sometimes ... whenever we got a little bit ... and ... I met people that ... all of ... there wasn't ... seemed like ... seemed like they were any better ... was ... anybody that hadn't been in the war.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: At that time. So, of course, we didn't talk about the war a lot.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: But of course, well that was ... that was about it.

Ed Metzler: Did you stay in contact with any of the buddies that you hooked up with during the war ... after the war was over?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, (pause) ... only one, and I wasn't in contact with Tony. Uh, Tony told me ... or (unintelligible) he was in the radio shack and he said ... told me is, "When I get back home, I'm going to get married," and I got a wedding invitation from him. But as a lot of these ... I don't recall ... staying in contact with ... with any.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: I might have been, but if I ... if I was, I don't ... just don't recall it ... having ... stayed in contact.

Ed Metzler: Now, did the ... the San Juan crew have reunions after the war was over?

Mr. Dubray: They did have ... they did have. I ... I noticed in one of the ... the ... the VFW magazine or something like that ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: ... that they had a ... this was a long time back when, and they had their reunion in ... uh, Boston, Massachusetts or something like that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, and that's a long ways away (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, it's a long ... long ways from Yancey or ... or where I was living in Houston.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Dubray: So, I didn't go, and then they ... they talked ... I'm sure ... I read in one of the VFW magazines ... (unintelligible) ... that I was getting.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: They ... they put all those ... those reunions and stuff in there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And ... yeah, they did have, but I didn't ... I didn't participate in anything. It's sad that (chuckle) we ... at that time that I knew about it.

Ed Metzler: So, what's your fondest memory of that whole war period?

Mr. Dubray: Oh gosh! (Chuckle)

Ed Metzler: Something that kind of makes you chuckle or maybe a joke you play ... played on a buddy or ...

Mr. Dubray: Oh, could there have been? Yeah, I'm sure there could have been.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: Uh, (pause) (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: That's kind of an unfair question. I ... I ... sided ...

Mr. Dubray: Well, that's so you couldn't ...

Ed Metzler: ... I blindsided you on that one.

Mr. Dubray: I'm sure that ... I'm sure there was some, and of course, I'd have to ... I'd have to ... put a ... put a definition on something again like that. And ... uh, I'm sure there was ... jokes that we pulled on people.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), well, if you're like me, you'll think of it tonight after (unintelligible) ... (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: Uh, right. Well, like I said, at my ... my stage of the game right now as far as my ... my memory goes ... 'cause my memory gets ... , you know, is way past bed doesn't stop. Uh, well I'm sure aboard ship, we used to pull something on a guy once in a while, and I can't remember what ... is the only thing. But they ... we used to pull something on a guy every once in a while ... that we did. Uh, but I can't ... can't put an idea on it right now.

Ed Metzler: What would you like to talk about ... about World War II that we haven't talked about yet?

Mr. Dubray: (Pause) ... uh ...

Ed Metzler: You've got the stage, what would you like to say?

Mr. Dubray: Uh (chuckle), said I'd go home (chuckles) somehow.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), okay, I get the picture (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: I don't ... no, no, no (laughter). No, I ... I better not say that, can't ... well, that ... you know?

Ed Metzler: I ...

Mr. Dubray: That's ... that's not true (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: No, I understand.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, but ... I don't know. We used to pull tricks on guys every once in a while. Uh, had one guy in the radio shack ... not ... not a trick that we used to pull on him, but Charlie Moore was one of the Radiomen and Charlie was a guy that you ... was hard to get out of bed ...

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Dubray: ... when you woke ... that you ... had to wake up the crew ... to ... to go in, of course, you wake them up and then ... they would (unintelligible) show up for ... watch, you know, and you'd say, "Hey, better go and get again." But Charlie was one of the guys ... that I didn't, but one of the guys took and lifted him out

of the bed ... and (unintelligible) up (chuckles), stood Charlie up. And so, this time ... Charlie, you know, Charlie was one of the guys that they said ... slept pretty hard every night, but ...

Ed Metzler: He slept hard; I like that term, yeah (laughter).

Mr. Dubray: ... but I slept hard too. 'Cause when you ... when you get out of the radio shack, uh, you're listening to a lot of codes, you're listening ... uh, you ... it ain't constant. You ... you have relief coming on, and I don't know how long we ... we stayed on ... on one station ... on ... on, not station, but ... on one machine ... how long we stayed there, but then we always had people relieve us come (unintelligible), and the guy would ... when you're ... the main thing was skeds (?) when ... when you're on skeds; that ... you got the skeds on there? No skeds? Anyway, skeds are ... they're ... are just the ... the fleet messages that's coming out ... from Pearl Harbor ... from the ... for the fleet.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: And these are constant messages that come across all the time; they're a hundred percent ... six ... (chuckle) twenty-four hours a day.

Ed Metzler: And they're all code.

Mr. Dubray: And they're all code; five-character ... five characters on a ... on a ... on a group, ten char ... character ... ten ... ten groups per line, and then, of course, the ... number of groups were ... identified by the ... whoever it was ... that was sent to get a station sending, and at Radio Pearl Harbor was ... our first station. And then we moved out from Radio Pearl Harbor to Radio Guam which was closer to the areas that were working.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Dubray: 'Cause we were ... we were next to Guam in the Marianas, and of course, we stayed in that area ... pretty good while. Uh, yeah (chuckle), uh, (chuckle) but ...

Ed Metzler: So, it was ... it was ... you really had to work, you had to stay alert, you had to focus.

Mr. Dubray: You were ... it was constant. You ... you were ... you were in motion all the time.

Ed Metzler: So, you came away tired after a stint in ...

Mr. Dubray: You ... you were ... you were ... yeah, you were ... you were ready to get off of the machine ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: ... when ... when that time comes, yes. Uh ...

Ed Metzler: Are you ready to ... get off this machine now?

Mr. Dubray: Uh, whatever.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: Whenever you're ready, I'm ready.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), okay.

Mr. Dubray: I haven't ...

Ed Metzler: I ... I appreciate you spending the time with us today and to share your experiences.

Mr. Dubray: Well, I didn't ever time elements ... I ... I don't have time elements on anything anymore.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, no deadlines, huh? Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: No deadlines. That ...

Ed Metzler: So, we've spent a couple of hours talking about your experiences and I appreciate that. And ... as always, we appreciate what you did for our country.

Mr. Dubray: Uh well ...

Ed Metzler: So, thank you for ...

Mr. Dubray: Well, thank you!

Ed Metzler: ... spending the time with me.

Mr. Dubray: Thank you for the ...

Ed Metzler: And ... I'll go ahead and ...

Mr. Dubray: ... considerations, you know?

Ed Metzler: ... I'll ... I'll go ahead and end the recording now.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, okay.

Ed Metzler: Okays, this is ... track number two with Joe Dubray.

Mr. Dubray: We were ... we were ... I ... I'm going to say Mog Mog or Ulithi in the west ... wasn't Ulithi Mog Mog?

Ed Metzler: I don't know.

Mr. Dubray: 'Cause I ... I'm going to say yes. Okay, we were ... well, we were dispatched to the southern coast of ... somewhere along Japan. We weren't going into any place that we're going to do any shooting or anything like that. We're ... we're ... our ... our ... radio and radar deception.

Ed Metzler: Okay, now this is in '45 ... roughly ...

Mr. Dubray: This is '4 ...

Ed Metzler: ... Okinawa era.

Mr. Dubray: ... this is ... and ... Okinawa was (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: And ... we were ... we were dispatched ... and when we ... the morning we joined the fleet. Of course, we never saw anything, it was lots of fog, uh, lot of ... lot of stuff that we didn't see, but ... but we got back to the fleet and this won't be that ... really long. We got ... got back to the fleet and like we said, there's a war going on. And there was ... there was a war going, and of course, the ... the [USS] Franklin got hit, and of course, we had ... we had ships that got sunk. And of course, the Japanese, at that time, uh, if you were outside, you saw a lot of kamikazes. They ... they're kamikazes were ... all they had left at the time you might say. But they had ... had a lot of them supposedly because there was a lot ... lot of them coming ... in that area.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, they ...

Mr. Dubray: And of course, one of our cruisers ... I don't know which one it was, was ... went up aside the Franklin, was going to help him ... give it fire, and ... the Franklin's magazine started ... blowing and the guy with the cruiser said, "Sorry about that; I've got to ... I've got something to take care of here, too." So, he left, and of course, the Franklin, I guess, got taken care of. But he ... he did ... I understand he did come back to the States, the Franklin came back, but it had a ... pretty good list, thirteen degrees they said.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: This is ... this is a memory of what ... whatever. This was what television, no newspaper memories (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Yeah, the Franklin was ... a floating hull at that point, I imagine.

Mr. Dubray: The number was VC-13 (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Is that right?!

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, if I ... if I ... if you ... look it up for me some time.

Ed Metzler: I'll look it ... I ... I believe you; I don't have to look it up.

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), well, if I had to look it up ... I was going to say thirteen ... that ... probably ... probably was not ... that ... that number rings a bell though.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I don't know.

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), but thirteen probably rings a bell for something else, too, that I know, but I ... I don't know what it would be, but ... anyway, yeah. But anyway, this was just ... just a ... the ... that you might say is the end of the ...

Ed Metzler: It was right at the end of the (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: Well, we had been up the coast in Japan, uh, and of course, uh, northern Japan ... we had had ... had raids on northern Japan, and one of the guys in the radio shack had taught me how to use a DF, a direction finder. We had a DF and on our ... on our ... general quarters mornings, uh, and always ... and ... Andy helped me and I had to man the DF. I was manning the DF when ... we were up north to ... Hokkaido?

Ed Metzler: Hokkaido is the northern island, yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Hokkaido ... we were up in that area and the planes were doing the bombings and of course, I picked up a radio signal and we reported the radio signal. I couldn't read it because it was Japan ... well, it was Japanese type code, too; I couldn't read it and of course, I do remember that I didn't hear him anymore, so apparently ... (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), he got taken care of.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, he might have got taken care of, yes.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: (Chuckle), but ... anyways, I do remember, too, we had foul-weather gear that ... in there and that ... that's cold country.

Ed Metzler: Meant to ask you ... and I forgot. Did you go through a typhoon?

Mr. Dubray: Oh, (laughter), god, god.

Ed Metzler: Tell me about the typhoon.

Mr. Dubray: Oh gosh. Oh, I didn't tell you (laughter)?

Ed Metzler: No sir, you didn't, and I didn't ask.

Mr. Dubray: Oh, okay. But okay. Went through more than one.

Ed Metzler: More than one time?!

Mr. Dubray: Yes. Uh, I'm going to say ... two.

Ed Metzler: Well, that's more than one.

Mr. Dubray: Uh, and I don't know if we went through those or dodged one or whatever, but ... when you ... when you dodge them, you don't go through them. Admiral Halsey was (unintelligible), I told you, Greg, about that. Admiral Halsey was the ... the Admiral of the ... of the Fifth Fleet at that ... that time, and ... we left the Philippines. I'm sure that ... I ... I don't know that ... that ... yeah, that was our home base, and we were headed for ... uh, I'm going to say Okinawa or that ... that part of the country.

Ed Metzler: You were headed north.

Mr. Dubray: Yeah, we were headed north.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Anyway, uh, we got to ... got to ... into a typhoon. Well, our orders were ... I was had ... go ... maintain speed, uh, the ... uh,

Ed Metzler: Well, you maintained speed.

Mr. Dubray: Main ... maintained ... speed to five knots, and stay ... stay on course. Stay on course, maintain your speed. Get on your feet to five knots and maintain your speed. Uh, excuse me, to ... to maintain your force ... maintain your course and stay at five at ... at five knots.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Dubray: And we did. And yes, uh, one of the things that (unintelligible) or anything that those were have ... have some fears about it ... that ... I did. Uh, I was told one time we took a forty-seven degree ... roll, but my little paper says it was only forty-six (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: But anyway, I was ... I (unintelligible) but ... you felt like you were taking a roll all of the time. One of the things ...

Ed Metzler: (Unintelligible) you might go over!

Mr. Dubray: (Chuckle), we never heard at the time ... that we had lost destroyers. I heard with the History channel that we lost destroyers. I do remember we had two aircraft carriers, two of our first-time aircraft carriers ... got flight decks buckled under from ... bouncing waves. Uh, that's about all I can tell you. I didn't tell you ... uh, to motor in one of those ... well, we had a ... had some (unintelligible) sometimes that were breaking (unintelligible), and we had ... six people that were ... dis ... dispatched to go out and ... and anchor them down; they didn't get them. They got a ... wave hit them and they got broke ... broken legs on the guys.

Ed Metzler: Oh my!

Mr. Dubray: And as I recall, everyone had a broken leg.

Ed Metzler: Uhm! Uhm, uhm, uhm.

Mr. Dubray: I do remember seeing the guys in sick bay, and we transported them aboard the ... hospital ship later, but I don't know ... I don't remember where we were when we did that, but I just know that we did. The guys (chuckles) uh, how could I say that ... it ... well, like I said ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I'll (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: ... the ... the guys got broken legs out of ... out of the deal.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, they're lucky they weren't swept over.

Mr. Dubray: You're right, you're right! Because ...

Ed Metzler: A lot of people were. I mean ...

Mr. Dubray: Oh! Uh, (chuckles) a lot ... one of our aircraft carriers ... we were in ... I don't know whether it was a typhoon or heavy water or what it was, but an aircraft carrier ... over our TBS ... , "(Unintelligible) man overboard!" And everybody was looking for a man overboard, and he says, "Oh, delay that last statement; he's back onboard ... overboard." A wave swept him over and brought him back (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Oh, my word!

Mr. Dubray: And that was on a ...

Ed Metzler: And he lived through it?!

Mr. Dubray: (Laughter), huh?

Ed Metzler: And he lived through it?!

Mr. Dubray: I'm sure (chuckles), well it's up to ... put him back ... said the ... that was on our TBS, the guy said, "We got a man over ... man overboard," of course that was a statement, and just shortly thereafter said, "No, re ... re ... delay that; he's back aboard."

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: And we thought ... well, everybody thought ... , "How in the world can that happen?!" But it did (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: I'll be darned.

Mr. Dubray: But ... that's one of the ... short ... short explanation that I can tell you about ... I don't know (laughter). But ...

Ed Metzler: Anything else while you're on a roll here?

Mr. Dubray: Well ...

Ed Metzler: Huh!

Mr. Dubray: ... you never, never know ... I can't ... I ... I don't know. In other words, its ... things that come to your mind ...

Ed Metzler: I know.

Mr. Dubray: ... and ... and aren't on them.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: But there ... the instances that ... might have happened that ... that ... did happen at that time.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Dubray: Of course, I ... I go back to explaining things. The way we had a ... we had a ... antenna on ... that I remember, and of course, these are instances that you remember. Had a ... one of our receiving antennas aboard the ... we were on the forward superstructure ... was, and that's where our receiving antenna is, radio receiving. One ... one was broke and we had a Chief Petty Officer in there that run the crew ... they run the ... they really (unintelligible) radio shack people, and he said, "I need a guy up there to ... repair that antenna." See, he didn't ask me (laughter), but he did ask a guy and the guy was kind of snappy about it. He

said, “Chief, you can’t make me go up there.” Chief says, “No, sure can’t.”
And we had a guy that ... (unintelligible) ... I forget his name, Rodman (?) says,
“I’ll go up there.” And he went up there and repaired that antenna. But the guy
that said ... you can’t ... you can’t make me ... uh ... fix that thing can you? ... he
came ... he had all kinds of ... extra duty (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Dubray: He did all kinds of things (laughter).

Ed Metzler: I’m surprised they didn’t’ ...

Mr. Dubray: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... put him in the brig.

Mr. Dubray: Well, he couldn’t do ... you couldn’t do that ‘cause you couldn’t ... couldn’t
make a guy ... go up that antenna like that. That was ... somebody said we were
a hundred and four feet from the waterline; they said ... super ... that ... being
that ... yardarm was a hundred and four feet from the waterline on that ship.

Ed Metzler: That’s getting (unintelligible).

Mr. Dubray: Somebody said that.

Ed Metzler: Ten ... that’s ten-story building!

Mr. Dubray: Uh, and of course, to get to the yard arm, you had to climb a ladder. We had a
... a crow’s nest up there about half way up, and of course, in that ... heavy
weather, we didn’t man a crow’s nest; it was ... not manned.

Ed Metzler: That’s good!

Mr. Dubray: And ...

Ed Metzler: Okay. Alright.

(end of interview)

FINAL copy

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