

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with

Mr. Robert Murry Storey, Jr.
Date of Interview: April 25, 2019

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Interview in progress.

Ed Metzler: This is Ed Metzler, and today is April the 25th, 2019. I am interviewing Mr. Robert Storey, and we are located in Fredericksburg, Texas at the National Museum of the Pacific War. 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, Robert, thank you for coming today and spending some time with us ...

Mr. Storey: That's great, thank you so much.

Ed Metzler: to tell us your story. I'd like for you to go ahead and introduce yourself. Give us your full name, and when and where you were born, and we'll take it from there.

Mr. Storey: Okay, well to start it off, I was born in Lott, Texas; that's over in Falls County, close to Marlin and so forth.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Storey: That's where I was born.

Ed Metzler: So, what's your middle name?

Mr. Storey: Murry, M-u-r-r-y.

Ed Metzler: Alright, so you're Robert Murry Storey.

Mr. Storey: Storey, Junior, yeah.

Ed Metzler: And what's your date of birth?

Mr. Storey: October 5th, 1919.

Ed Metzler: Well, looks to me like you're coming up on 100 here pretty soon!

Mr. Storey: You got it, did I have a ... how ... I did write that down on (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I think you, but I had to as you, see if you really remembered it or not.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And you did (laughter).

Mr. Storey: But I ... I got guys zeroed in on me to ... about being a hundred. He said, "I'm ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah. What are they going to do?

Mr. Storey: That one boy, he's ... he pretty well ... well off, Clive Ashley (sp?).

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: And he was a classmate of my daughter in Baylor University.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And he said he was going to throw a big, wild party. "When you hit a hundred, buddy, you're going to see all them girls from up there in ...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Storey: ... downtown (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Storey: But he's a good friend; he's a ...

Ed Metzler: Well, that's good (laughter).

Mr. Storey: He's great.

Ed Metzler: Uh, did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Storey: Had a brother.

Ed Metzler: Are you older or younger?

Mr. Storey: John ... John M. Storey.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Storey: And he, well, Bud ... well, he was in the Army.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Storey: And ...

Ed Metzler: Was he older than you or younger?

Mr. Storey: He's younger.

Ed Metzler: Okay. So, you're the ...

Mr. Storey: He was, let's see, sixteen months, about sixteen months difference I believe Mama said.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. And what did your dad do for a living?

Mr. Storey: Dad was ... well, he was a meat inspector for Swift Company a long time, way back there, years ago. I used to go up there with him to ... like to Fort Worth to ... we'd have ... he'd have to go up there to do some inspecting and all.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And I seen things up there I didn't like, oh!

Ed Metzler: Ah! (chuckle)

Mr. Storey: Knock an old hog in the head and just kick him off in that hot water, man!

Ed Metzler: I know, I ... I bet that was disturbing, yeah (chuckles).

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), makes you not want to have any more bacon (chuckles).

Mr. Storey: (Laughter), yeah. But I ... I do, that's my number one, I love that bacon (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: I do, it's ... it's hard to mess up.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: At least it's got bacon in it that's for sure. But so, you grew up in the country or in town or what?

Mr. Storey: In town, Lott.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Storey: And then we, like I say, when we moved to Mart, why, let's see, I was in the third grade, moved ... moved to Mart. And ...

Ed Metzler: Okay. So, the town you were born in is Lott?

Mr. Storey: Lott, Texas.

Ed Metzler: L-o-t-t?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Okay, okay. And then you moved to Mart, M-a-r-t?

Mr. Storey: Right.

Ed Metzler: Now, where is that? Is that close to Temple, Waco?

Mr. Storey: What Lott?

Ed Metzler: Uh, Mart?

Mr. Storey: Oh, Mart's, well, we're about I'd say thirty-five miles from ... out of Waco.

Ed Metzler: Okay, okay.

Mr. Storey: And you go through Mart and go to Groesbeck ...

Ed Metzler: Alright, so you're kind of headed northeast from ...

Mr. Storey: And places like that. Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... from Waco? Yeah, yeah. And so, you went to school in the public schools there?

Mr. Storey: Yeah, I went, uh, well, I was in ... I was in the third grade when we moved to Mart.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And I went from there to ... in to high school, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And I never did play no football. That's not ... that's not ... later on, I was interested in going in the Navy really.

Ed Metzler: Yeah? Yeah?

Mr. Storey: I was ...

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

Mr. Storey: I was a friend that was Navy submarine guy.

Ed Metzler: Oh, a submariner!

Mr. Storey: Oh gosh, boy, he told me some tales!

Ed Metzler: I bet, I bet.

Mr. Storey: But you talk about a rough talking guy? Now, he ... he was a rough one (laughter)!

Ed Metzler: A real sailor, huh? (laughter)

Mr. Storey: "This ... this S.O.B. and that S.O.B." (laughter) He ... he was a submarine sailor!

Ed Metzler: Now, what was he? An uncle or a ... a ...

Mr. Storey: Ah, he was just a close friend, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Just a close family friend? Yeah. Now ...

Mr. Storey: He said they found out, he was on one ... one of small subs, too, nothing like what we got today, you know?

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: But ole Fred said that they found out this Jap was ... Japanese was going to launch this carrier, and they sneaked into the harbor, and he said that thing come out of the drydock rolling like this. He said the second time it rolled, why, one of them ... one of them fish hit him broadside.

Ed Metzler: Broadside, right.

Mr. Storey: Blowed that thing plumb out of the water he said (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Just barely got out of port (chuckles).

Mr. Storey: (Chuckles)

Ed Metzler: So, I ... so, you graduated from high school?

Mr. Storey: Yeah, I ... I left in the ... I was in the ninth grade when I went in the Navy.

Ed Metzler: So, you got tired of being in school?

Mr. Storey: I did.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), so ...

Mr. Storey: And a lot of guys had already gone ahead of me. They just ...

Ed Metzler: And this was before the war started.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So ...

Mr. Storey: Oh yeah.

Ed Metzler: So ... so, if you ... so, what year did you join the Navy?

Mr. Storey: '39.

Ed Metzler: In '39.

Mr. Storey: To '45.

Ed Metzler: Oh, my goodness, you've got six ...

Mr. Storey: Six years.

Ed Metzler: ... six square years ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... right in the heat of things. Wow! So, what were you doing when you went in? Did you come right out of school and just go into ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... the Navy?

Mr. Storey: When ... I was going in ... I was ... several other guys had already checked out, the ... they was just like in the tenth grade or something.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And there was three or four of us went together, and so they ... I went up there ... Navy guy enlist ... enlistment outfit is in the courthouse in Waco.

Ed Metzler: In Waco, okay.

Mr. Storey: And he give us a good lecture, and talked to us, you know, and he said, "Now, you guys really want to go in the Navy?" I said, "Yeah, I guess that's it." So, he said, "Well, come right outside out here," and he was a lieutenant, and he ... he said, "Hold your hand up, and we'll ...," he ... he (unintelligible), he said, "You understand this, you understand this? From now on, you are in the Navy. Fall in out there in the street!" (Unintelligible) I knew it was over then (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: You knew, you knew you'd lost control of your life (laughter).

Mr. Storey: (Laughter), yeah. And the same way when we hit boot camp in San Diego, and walked in that place there in San Diego and walked in the gate and that ... that ole Navy drill sergeant we had, had him for the whole four months we were there. Anyway, we had him, and he said, "Where you guys from?" We told him, and he said, "Never heard of it," he said ... Texas. (Laughter), (unintelligible) Dallas, Texas, you know?

Ed Metzler: Yeah, just to make you feel small (chuckles).

Mr. Storey: Oh yeah (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: So, had you been very far from home before you joined the Navy or you just been around?

Mr. Storey: Not really, huh uh.

Ed Metzler: You were ... you're just a local boy?

Mr. Storey: Oh, we had traveled a few different places, you know, but you ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: ... uh, we'd go camping together, something like that.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Storey: This one boy, his dad had a big, big farm out there, and had a lake on it and everything, and so, it had good fish in it. We'd go out there and ... we had an old Model-T. We'd ... we'd go out there and ... and stay out there for two or three days or longer, whenever, and we'd ride his Model-T out there to that farm, and enjoyed it and all that kid stuff. But we ... we had a good time.

Ed Metzler: But when you join the Navy, you're going to see the world, as they say.

Mr. Storey: That's right!

Ed Metzler: So, you joined, and so, you were what, not quite twenty, yeah, I guess, when you joined?

Mr. Storey: Nineteen.

Ed Metzler: You were nineteen.

Mr. Storey: I turned nineteen.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. And so, you and what, your three other buddies all went together to boot camp out ... or did ... did you go by yourself?

Mr. Storey: Uh, I was by myself.

Ed Metzler: Alright, so you didn't ...

Mr. Storey: I had ... uh, what ... well, in those ... we signed up in the courthouse in Waco.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And then from there, they still had trains going then back and forth, well, they put us on a train to ... flew us to ... and we rode the train to Dallas, and we got to Dallas, why, the ole Navy Chief met us at the D-8 (?), you know?

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: And he said, asked down there, "What's your name?" I says ..., he says, "Never heard of it," just ... I said, "Oh man! (*Wuf!* sound)

Ed Metzler: Yeah (laughter).

Mr. Storey: And he said, "From now on, you're going to eat dirt (?), you're going to do this twenty-four hours a day. What I tell you to do, you do it." But boy, we hit that ground trying ... and we was top company of the whole outfit. I got a big picture of our company.

Ed Metzler: Oh really?!

Mr. Storey: And I had several good friends in there.

Ed Metzler: Well, what was the train ride out to the west coast like? That must have been a new adventure for you.

Mr. Storey: Yeah. Uh, you mean when I went aboard ship?

Ed Metzler: No, when you went out to ... to go to ... you did your basic training on the west coast, right?

Mr. Storey: Yeah, uh huh.

Ed Metzler: So, you ... how'd you get out to the west coast, by train?

Mr. Storey: Oh yeah, they sent us on trains.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, and what was that like? Just ... just ...

Mr. Storey: Oh, of course, we had a lot of railroad in ... in Mart there at home.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Storey: We had all them freights come through there, and had passenger trips to Dallas. If you wanted to fly ... ride a passenger, you know?

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: We had all that; had about everything that a railroad could have. And they even had a turntable in the ... in the repair shop there at Mart.

Ed Metzler: Oh! Okay.

Mr. Storey: Turn the (unintelligible) around and headed back the other way.

Ed Metzler: Right, so it was a bit of a railroad town then?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: Missouri-Pacific, yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, on the west coast, where were you in ... in San Diego at ... boot camp?

Mr. Storey: Boot camp, yeah, San Diego.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. Was the boot camp easy or hard for you?

Mr. Storey: Man, they ... they'd ground you out there. And right over across the river there was the Marine barracks, and I'd leave that ... (unintelligible) my bunk and ... when we'd get through, and I'd hear ... heard that Marine sergeant or whoever he was said, "Now, we're going to try that one more time when we (laughter) ...

Ed Metzler: Really, my gosh!

Mr. Storey: ... at ... at nine o'clock (laughter).

Ed Metzler: So, you're thinking I'm glad I'm not in the Marines! (chuckles)

Mr. Storey: Boy, I found out what the Marines was like then, but they were ... they'd come out of there tough guys when they come out of there (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Mr. Storey: And that's where we had ... we had to ... go on the rifle range at ... that morning was supposed to go, it was just pouring down raining, and that ole chief walked in there and he said, "You guys think you know ... uh, stay here because it's raining; you got another damned think there coming!"

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: (Laughter), we run over there. And I was laying there fix ... fixing to shoot with one of them old rifles we had, you know.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Storey: And just about (chuckles) about the time I got ready to shoot, that little Marine sergeant come by and just pushed my face down in that mud.

Ed Metzler: Oh no!

Mr. Storey: (Chuckle), he said, "That's what you get for not looking!" And I said, "Oh damn." (laughter)

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: It went from bad to worse (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So, after you got out of boot camp, did you get assigned to a ship immediately?

Mr. Storey: Uh no, I was ... I tell you what, it's a long history about the [USS] Indianapolis, too, you know?

Ed Metzler: I know about the Indianapolis, yeah.

Mr. Storey: Okay. I ... I went aboard the Indianapolis; it was in ... in the Navy yard there, and they said, "You'll be here till your ship comes in," and I said, "What's ... ," said, "You're going to to ... assigned to the [USS] Salt Lake City."

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And I went aboard ... well, I went aboard the Salt Lake City, a lot of them guys was already getting a little leave time and was going home for Christmas.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And there I was by myself for Christmas, you know?

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Storey: But I decided well, that ... that's the Navy (chuckle).

Ed Metzler: Well, weren't you originally assigned to the [USS] Louisville?

Mr. Storey: No, no, I never was on the Louisville.

Ed Metzler: Oh, okay. Says here, "I went to boot camp at San Diego and after a thirty-day leave, I was assigned to the USS Louisville bound for Pearl Harbor."

Mr. Storey: I tell you what ... what happened. Uh, I went over there and ... and I did make the trip from the States to Hawaii and I was assigned there to the Salt Lake City.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Storey: But ... but the Louisville was pulling back out going back out to sea, so they put me on the Indianapolis, and ...

Ed Metzler: Got it! So ...

Mr. Storey: ... that's where the stuff come in, yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, that was just your transportation ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah, right.

Ed Metzler: ... to Pearl, 'cause you hooked a ride on the Louisville?

Mr. Storey: I just moved back and forth.

Ed Metzler: You jumping from ship to ship.

Mr. Storey: Yeah. But I ... I got aboard the Salt Lake City, and it wasn't long till I ... I loved that ship, boy! Like all the other guys did.

Ed Metzler: What ... what did you love about it?

Mr. Storey: Well, you got ... I met all the guys on there that ... I was in the Fourth Division, that's in the Deck Force, and of course, some guys had gotten mad about it. But right off, I was assigned to mess cooking. At that time, we had ... had our mess in our own, uh, each division had their own mess where you ... I had twelve men on my mess. Okay, you brought the food down to them and fed them right there in the mess ... uh, in the barracks. And that's ... that's where I started, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so as ... and so, what did you do if you weren't bringing food to them? What did they assign you to do? Were you just ...

Mr. Storey: I was on the Deck Force, go up there, scrub a deck down, holystone it they called it.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Mr. Storey: And a half, about half of breaking ... scrub that deck down, then you rinse it off. And of course, when the world war started, we had an awning on the ... on our after part of the ship, and that was all in ... if you wanted to stay out of the sunshine, why, you had that awning back there.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I bet that helped.

Mr. Storey: In fact, that was where we was at when the war started.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Now, what ... were you assigned a combat station for when you, you know, and what was that for you?

Mr. Storey: I was in the relay room where they ... why, I had this one ... the turret, of course, revolved, you know?

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Storey: It had a tray in there. Well, it had a door there that opened just like this. Well, I'd ... I'd bring two bags of powder up out of the magazine, close that door, open that other one up, shoot it in there, and there'd it'd be right under the gun, and then guys would load it, the first loaders, you know?

Ed Metzler: Okay, so this is one of the turrets. What was the turret number? Was it number four or ...

Mr. Storey: Four ... four turret.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so that's at the back, that's at the stern, huh?

Mr. Storey: Had two big guns forward and ... and two guns aft.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: The one aft, we had three ... three (unintelligible) load in.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And that was in, like I say, in that relay room.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Well, I rode them two bags of powder in there ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... and they rolled right up to the guns.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And it wasn't but a matter of seconds before they fired that gun.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And we had a boy, guys that could get in there and that ... lay ... lay it out of there. Boy, they could shoot them. We had one hang fire there. Boy, scared the dog out of us 'cause we was afraid that thing was going to blow up, you know?

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Because it ... just time it. It went in in that tray, them guys loaded it in that gun, well, it just ... right after that, they got a buzzer to fire, you know? We were shooting on an island or something. But ... but we never did have no troubles. Them guys just educated enough to keep us out of any kind of trouble.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, those were eight-inch guns, right?

Mr. Storey: Eight inch.

Ed Metzler: Boy, that's ... that's as big as they get on a cruiser!

Mr. Storey: And of course, later on we had a lot of stuff added to it ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: ... when it ... when it drydocked.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, anti-aircraft mostly.

Mr. Storey: Oh gosh!

Ed Metzler: Twenties and forties.

Mr. Storey: Had ... had ... after forties, we had four ... four guns on each mount.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And was four ... four of them, four mounts of them ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... on the after part of the ship.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: They had also on ... and had twenties, thirty millimeters.

Ed Metzler: Well, the first, now the first time you sailed on the Salt Lake City, where did she go?

Mr. Storey: Well, we pulled out uh, if I can remember the first time, I don't know.

Ed Metzler: Well, I know you went ...

Mr. Storey: We just went down on kind of a shakedown cruise they called it.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I know you all went down to ...

Mr. Storey: And we did go to ... went to Australia.

Ed Metzler: I knew you went to Wake Island.

Mr. Storey: Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: And then Guam, and then you kind of ...

Mr. Storey: We hit about every one of them.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah. Anything exciting happen at any of those destinations 'cause this is all ...

Mr. Storey: Not till after the war started.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, this is all pre-war.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, everything is pretty tranquil, I guess.

Mr. Storey: Pret ... uh, mostly training cruise and all that.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Storey: And we'd go out ... go out to sea for training exercise.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: And you may ... might be an aircraft carrier with us that ... most the time it was Big E, [USS] Enterprise.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: It played a big part of the whole war, that Big E did.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, she was everywhere.

Mr. Storey: Oh gosh, that ... I know we picked that one ... this friend of mine, he was ... he lived in Waco, well, he was a gunner on one of the fighters that come off of the ship.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And the planes that we carried aboard, we had four ... uh, four (unintelligible) planes and we shot them off the catapult, had four of them on there.

Ed Metzler: Four planes?!

Mr. Storey: Yeah, four planes. Well, Buddy (unintelligible) and Lieutenant Danner (sp?) had just been blasted off of our ship ... cata ... and they was flying back and they spotted that fighter off the carrier; it was in the water, right at a Jap harbor, but buddy said, "Let's ... let's get that guy!" But they landed right there, and Buddy crawled out on a wing and got that pilot, Navy, uh, pilot off of the carrier, he got him and got him in his cockpit. And he had one leg in the cockpit and the other one on the wing, and that plane, when it took off, and Buddy said, "When we left that water out there, I heard something *thump*," said, "a Jap hit that big pontoon on that ... on his plane," you know? And you ought to hear him tell that story. And that ... and I let ... and I was up on the deck most the times, and throw a line out there for him to catch a hold of ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... and I don't know, it just ... it just seemed like we had good luck. Boy!

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: I just knowed he was going to sink.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Storey: But they (unintelligible) and picked that ... that Jap up, and I mean, that American pilot; he was unconscious. He got the Navy Medal Cross for that.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Storey: Got a ... got a big reward, got a promotion.

Ed Metzler: Now, where did that happen?

Mr. Storey: It was ... well, we were ... they were just coming back off of on one of the islands, and I forgot what island it was.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Storey: But we ... uh, our ship, a plane was coming back, they ... they was spotting for our guns is what they was doing.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And they were start ... heading back to the ship when they spotted this plane down off the carrier. And that carrier guy, that pilot never did forget that. It was about a month or so later, why, we was ... had ... it was general quarters, and boy, they sounded that alarm, said there was a plane coming in right

directly towards us. Well, it was ... shoot it down, and he said, "I just (unintelligible) ...

Ed Metzler: Oh yeah, did a roll, yeah, uh huh.

Mr. Storey: ... upside down, yeah, roll and took off, and said, "I just wanted to tell you guys hi," and said, "thanks for everything!"

Ed Metzler: Said hi and ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: Hi and thank you!

Mr. Storey: That's the last we heard of him (laughter). I don't know (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), you may have got in a little trouble for that. I don't know.

Mr. Storey: But he was a great guy, I'll tell you! We just had an all-around good bunch of guys.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: Except them dang cooks! Now, I ain't bragging on my (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Oh okay, I want to get to that.

Mr. Storey: No, we did, we did have pretty good chow.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah. Now, who ... you ... you never cooked though? You ...

Mr. Storey: No.

Ed Metzler: ... or did you?

Mr. Storey: No, I never did do no cooking on there.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. So, the food was pretty good, huh?

Mr. Storey: Well, I guess it ... for war, it was pretty good stuff.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah. Did you ...

Mr. Storey: What I liked ... what I liked most was ... and when we pulled back in from being out to sea a pretty good while, first thing they did ... big milk truck pulled right up beside the ship on the dock.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And brought ... brought that milk in there and set a five-gallon can at each ... each table, yeah!

Ed Metzler: Five gallon?!

Mr. Storey: We had ... if we'd been out to sea long, well, we didn't have no milk or nothing, you know? And they'd bring us fruit and (unintelligible) made first class seaman, I ... I was running ... running them motor launches, and I ... I went over on the island and got a load of oranges. Well, I put a big dent in the bottom of a boat before I left, and I went over there to the islands, got little bananas and oranges, and I ... I come back to the ship with that. It had cargo net and they just picked that whole, sat them on deck and boy, the next ... next morning, you couldn't get down to that restroom back there 'cause them ...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: ... (unintelligible)

Ed Metzler: Have many ... have many green bananas (chuckles).

Mr. Storey: Then ole guys loaded up on them bananas, and (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: Some of them bananas were still a little bit green; they're small but they ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah (laughter)!

Mr. Storey: Now I laugh about them ole boys, "(unintelligible) you been in the mess hall, uh, the restroom in there?" And I said, "Boy, them guys, they ... they wrecked that place!" (laughter)

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), now tell me ...

Mr. Storey: But that's just the kind of stuff was going on.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Now tell me about Brisbane. What was that like down in Australia?

Mr. Storey: Brisbane, Australia?

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: Oh man, we had a luau over there.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Storey: One of them ... two or three of them boys wanted to get married to them gals over there and ...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: I had this good friend, he was a first class uh, seaman, my rating was same as his, and that gal really wanted to marry him and come back to the United States.

Ed Metzler: Now, that was before the war ...

Mr. Storey: And she was a pretty girl, too.

Ed Metzler: ... that was before the war started, right?

Mr. Storey: That was after the war started.

Ed Metzler: Oh, it was?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Okay. So, how long were you there? Just real ... just real quick or were you there for a week?

Mr. Storey: In Brisbane?

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: Uh, just a couple of ... about three days, I ... three days, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. But you had a luau, did you?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Tell me about that luau.

Mr. Storey: Well, that's what I called it, a luau. Had ... had a big over ring (?) over in uh, they had these ... the ... the girls that went with us, we started back to the ship at the dock, and our ... our time was about up, so, we was going back, and I don't know, they ... they got crossed up or something. Anyway, she was driving and slid on that tram track; it'd been raining, misty raining, and she slid on that track, and that dadgum uh, car we had, what ... hit right inside that building, and it was a bank building (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: My gosh!

Mr. Storey: But it so happened, her daddy, this big organization, he was one of the big shots like the Q-Clubs or something like that.

Ed Metzler: Oh, really?!

Mr. Storey: Her daddy ... her daddy was out there in a little while, and said, "Okay, now y'all ... y'all did that on accident." Said, "That ... that's alright," said, "just...," and they called Dan or something is his name, and said, "he says, 'Y'all just go on back, you don't have any ...,'" so that was the end of that (chuckle). That's all the time we ever had any mix-up like that.

Ed Metzler: Now ...

Mr. Storey: But they was really nice people over there in Australia.

Ed Metzler: I've always heard that, that the ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... Australians really liked the Yanks.

Mr. Storey: They was. Now, them Anzacs (sp?), that was them (unintelligible) and they ... they didn't take no buff (?) on the (unintelligible) like the Marines (laughter).

Ed Metzler: They're tough, huh?!

Mr. Storey: Yeah (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter). So, tell me where the ... the Salt Lake City was on December the 7th, 1941 (pause), Pearl Harbor attacked.

Mr. Storey: Okay, like I was telling you, we was ... we had been into Frisco for minor repairs on some of the ship, the Enterprise was with us.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And I ... of course, they picked ... picked the message up on the radio.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And they said, "Boy, the Japs had just bombed Pearl Harbor," you know?

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Storey: And we was two hundred miles out with our task force. Well, basically, there was a ... I don't how many planes that we lost off ... lost off our (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: They went to hunt the Japs.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: They didn't even find them; the Japs had already gone back home.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: They took off and left out. Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: But that ...

Ed Metzler: So, you weren't far away from Pearl Harbor when she was attacked.

Mr. Storey: No! Uh, like I say, we was coming back to Frisco about two hundred miles out.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And of course, we weren't ... we weren't allowed to come in at night and ... and but the next day they finally broke down and let us come inside the harbor 'cause we was out of fuel and everything else.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Storey: But they ... they finally let us come in. And boy, we were sick when we saw what happened.

Ed Metzler: Tell me what you saw.

Mr. Storey: Gosh! It was terrible! Guys floating in the water out there, trying to swim some of them done drowned. It just ... you name it, (unintelligible) just terrible. All their ships turned over in the harbor and ...

Ed Metzler: Lots of smoke and ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... oil burning and ...

Mr. Storey: It was terrible, just ... and I know ... of course, our captain, he wanted to ... his name was Ellis M. Zacharias, boy, he was a good guy!

Ed Metzler: Is that right?

Mr. Storey: And he later ... later on made admiral.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, what'd y'all do? You went up and tied in ... onto a dock somewhere or ... when you were ... when you came into Pearl Harbor?

Mr. Storey: No, I ... we just took on some provisions to get us by, and took off and went ... and went back out to sea. That was orders from the admiral, Admiral Nimitz.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, you went sub hunting?

Mr. Storey: Yeah. And we stayed out till they thought it was safe enough for us to come back in, and that's of course, we got to see what ... what had really happened.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, now you're with the Enterprise?

Mr. Storey: Yeah, Big E, yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, there's what a flotilla of ships of which the Salt Lake City was one.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: There were other cruisers and destroyers, I guess, and ...

Mr. Storey: With us?

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: Yeah, had ... had ... well, of course, the Enterprise was the king ship, it told us what to do, had Big E and [USS] Northampton, and oh, I can't think of ... about two or three other heavy cruisers.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And we had a bunch of cans with destroyers.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And later on, they said that one of submarines was hunting them, too, but that's about (unintelligible). All I remember about anything ... it really happened there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Terrible!

Ed Metzler: So ...

Mr. Storey: (Chuckles), that ole ... that ole boatswains made his first-class boatswain had about nine, ten years in the Navy.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Boy, he was tough, and he said, "Storey, tell that guy up there," said, "let's go get them son of a bitches!" (laughter)

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), yeah well, and you did!

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: You went and got them!

Mr. Storey: Oh!

Ed Metzler: So, after the sub hunting you then got assigned to Task Force Eight, is that right? Or maybe ... or maybe it was already the Enterprise was Task Force Eight, maybe that.

Mr. Storey: Yeah, we ... we stayed with the Enterprise for quite some time. I've forgotten now exactly we were, but they'd change us up every so often, you know?

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. Yeah, they did ... you did a lot of changing around.

Mr. Storey: And we was out with some of the big battles we got in lost ... lost the aircraft carriers [USS] the Yorktown, one or two others that we lost later on.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, and the [USS] Wasp, yeah.

Mr. Storey: And that was to be expected. We knew somewhere along the line ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: ... we was going to get blasted.

Ed Metzler: Yep. So, was the Salt Lake City attacked by Japanese bombers at this point? Did you have any run-ins with the enemy up at the beginning of the war?

Mr. Storey: Their people never did ... they never did get that ... they fired at us once or twice, but we was never hit.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: At (unintelligible), well I think we lost about, during the war, we lost twenty-six men. Now, that was guys that got killed one way or the other.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And we had this one officer that was killed; they buried him at sea.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Storey: He was a lieutenant, and a shell, well (cough), one of the shells that the Japs fired, this boy was on a ... young kid, he was on a five-inch battery; he was a first loader on a five-inch. Well, a piece of that shrapnel that them Japs fired, hit him right in the top of the head.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Storey: And he had a shell in his hands fixing to load up the gun. Well, when you take it out of this fuse box, it's loaded.

Ed Metzler: Oh.

Mr. Storey: And you got to get rid of it right then. Well, he still, wounded as he was, he had the option of ... he throwed that shell right in that barrel of that gun, and they fired it right away. But that's just some of the things that happened, you know, that you remember.

Ed Metzler: Man!

Mr. Storey: And he was a good guy, too; I knew him. And he, fact, he was striking to be an aviation ordnance man, is what he wanted to be. He wanted to fly off ... of the carrier or something, but he ... had to bury him at sea.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Storey: Had a full military funeral or him.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Storey: (Unintelligible) the firing squad.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Storey: It ... it just killed us. Of course, we ... saw a few guys killed.

Ed Metzler: Yep.

Mr. Storey: That's the way it was.

Ed Metzler: Yep. Now, uh, the Salt Lake City was part of the fleet on the Doolittle Raid.

Mr. Storey: You better believe it!

Ed Metzler: Tell me about that.

Mr. Storey: Yeah. That was ... that was a heart-breaker there, too.

Ed Metzler: What do you remember about that particular (unintelligible)?

Mr. Storey: Doolittle Raid?

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Tell me.

Mr. Storey: Well, he is the one that really organized the thing (unintelligible) was Doolittle.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: And he was mad about us losing them ships and all that stuff, and he ... he believed that we could get in there and blow the dog out of them Japs, you know, which they did.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Now I think I wrote that down on my notes there.

Ed Metzler: That was one of the things that you wanted to talk about.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, was it rough seas out there?

Mr. Storey: But we pulled out, Doolittle kept it ... we man ... we managed to keep the whole thing secret till we got the planes pulled out about two hundred miles out, and that's where we picked up the planes for the Doolittle Raid.

Ed Metzler: Oh really?!

Mr. Storey: We ... we done everything we could to ... we knew those Japs would find us, see anything that went on, you know.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Well, they ... they ... Doolittle, he ... he set the thing up himself. And like that one boy said when they got aboard the ship there and we was out there about a couple of hundred, three hundred miles, and he said, Doolittle said, "I'll tell you what, I'm going with you guys." He said ... that ole boy said, "Oh hell, you ain't going, nah, you ain't going. He's ...," but he did. He was the one that got ... led the raid actually.

Ed Metzler: And that was on the USS Hornet.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: That was the aircraft carrier.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Was ... was there another aircraft carrier with you guys, or had the Enterprise gone somewhere else?

Mr. Storey: Uh, yes, the ... it was ... the Big E, I believe, was with us for about two hundred miles.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Then they turned around and headed back 'cause they knew the Japs was going to be after them.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And that's what they did. But that's why he designed them guys, told them what ... what they was going to do, and all them guys jumps up and hollering; they was ready to do it.

Ed Metzler: Were you able to see some of those aircraft take off from the Hornet?

Mr. Storey: Oh yeah! Fact, I lost money on this (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Storey: Oh, we ... we always had a bet going, you know, something. And first thing that came up about them launching them planes, is he'd ... he'd always tried them out, you know? You might remember this deal. They was out to this base out there, and he had a marker at the end of the lines, well, it was the size of an aircraft carrier. Well, them guys ... who got them ... got them planes landed us to where they ... before they got to that marker he had would take off.

Ed Metzler: They got to be airborne!

Mr. Storey: And he said, "That's an aircraft carrier!" (laughter)

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: (Unintelligible)

Ed Metzler: So, you get her into the wind, and you go fast as you can ...

Mr. Storey: That's right!

Ed Metzler: ... and hope that the wind will be enough ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... to lift that big B-25 off.

Mr. Storey: And we, of course, we had a bet going right quick, you know, and ...

Ed Metzler: What was your bet?

Mr. Storey: and I lost ... I lost my bet (chuckles). I bet they wasn't going to make it.

Ed Metzler: Oh, you thought maybe they ...

Mr. Storey: (Laughter), yeah!

Ed Metzler: ... they wouldn't be able to take off.

Mr. Storey: But I was standing up on the main deck, and ... and I seen that uh, but of course, he had already went through. He had this thing down pat, boy! And when they left that deck of that ship, I could see that sucker raising, you know, and I said, "There goes my money (laughter)!"

Ed Metzler: Yeah. In fact, they went airborne before they even got to the end of ...

Mr. Storey: That's ... that's right, yeah!

Ed Metzler: ... of the ship.

Mr. Storey: Yeah! They said probably two hundred yards, they was already airborne.

Ed Metzler: I know!

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Uhm. My ... as I remember, so the story goes, they saw some sort of a Japanese fishing boat ...

Mr. Storey: They did, they did.

Ed Metzler: ... or something.

Mr. Storey: It was a ...

Ed Metzler: A trawler or something?

Mr. Storey: They were several miles out when those Japanese fishing rigs of some kind ...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Storey: ... they was out there. Of course, they ... they figured that they had radioed in which they had, and that's where we had a lot of troubles shooting them Japs down, you know?

Ed Metzler: So, they had the launches, as I remember, before they really wanted to.

Mr. Storey: They did.

Ed Metzler: But they were afraid that they'd gotten ...

Mr. Storey: About two hundred miles short.

Ed Metzler: Right, right.

Mr. Storey: Right.

Ed Metzler: And that's what made it so difficult at the end.

Mr. Storey: Yeah. Usually, he'd ... he'd plan ... he'd planned to get in real close to ... so he could have better shots, you know? But it just didn't work out that way. And he was a gung-ho guy, I'll tell you! Phew!

Ed Metzler: Well, you were watching history when you watched that, weren't you?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: 'Cause they still talk about that to this day.

Mr. Storey: He never ...

Ed Metzler: So, after the Doolittle Raid, what did the Salt Lake City do then? Did she ...

Mr. Storey: Ah gosh, we was in every ...

Ed Metzler: Well, you guys ended up at Midway, didn't you?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: I mean, you weren't part of the battle, but you were part of the protection line of the ... of the island itself.

Mr. Storey: We'd ... (unintelligible) uh, we'd like (pause) like one of the ... up in the hills or something. (Unintelligible) Jap ... (unintelligible) one of our spotter planes they'd ... they'd call in and say, "Hey, this ... this (unintelligible)," and they'd tell about where we was, and that guy that ... back there in the turret ... they were going to (unintelligible) and they ... they'd call back and said, "Boy, you're right on target!" And man, we'd cut lose with all them guns. And of

course, later on in the war, we had ... we ... after forty millimeters and twenty millimeters which we didn't have before.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: We had all ... and all them things and (unintelligible), you know? And boy, they whittle that bounce so much ... you down twenty feet before they (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: But we'd done ... we'd done a lot of ... all the fires was ... at the ... only beaches over there.

Ed Metzler: Uhm. Now, you guys escorted the USS Wasp, didn't you, down to Guadalcanal?

Mr. Storey: The Wasp, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. In fact, she got sunk; she got torpedoed.

Mr. Storey: Yeah. Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And did you guys rescue some of her crew? Did they come aboard; do you know?

Mr. Storey: That's ... that was the Wasp?

Ed Metzler: The Wasp, yeah.

Mr. Storey: Well, the one ... the one that I remember we lost uh, that ship went in there to pick stuff up for the ... one of the supply ships.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And (pause) let's see, I believe that's the one that got sunk out there, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: It was a heavy cruiser, yeah, got sunk.

Ed Metzler: Oh, it was a heavy cruiser?

Mr. Storey: Japs got it. First torpedo hit it, blowed the whole bow off of it. And that ... there were ... they got the Jap sub though.

Ed Metzler: Hum! Now, was that ... was that the Battle of Cape Esperanto, does that ring a bell?

Mr. Storey: Espirito.

Ed Metzler: 'Cause it was the USS Boise that got sunk, I think.

Mr. Storey: That's right. Well, they had ... they had been in there on detail ... something about the ... it was ... it was ... at that time, they was already working on the atomic bomb.

Ed Metzler: Oh, really? Uhm.

Mr. Storey: And that's what the deal was. And they had ... had some of the ... I don't know what kind of stuff they had, but bringing it back, well, the Japs spotted that thing and they sunk it.

Ed Metzler: Oh, that's the [USS] Indianapolis ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... that got sunk coming back.

Mr. Storey: Yeah. Well, this was a heavy cruiser; one that had been sunk, too.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, she was a heavy cruiser. Now, did the ... the Salt Lake City got hit by some fire from enemy ships.

Mr. Storey: Oh, we got hit a number of times, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, what ...

Mr. Storey: We lo ... in fact ...

Ed Metzler: ... well, tell me about the first time you got hit; what do you remember?

Mr. Storey: Uh, we took a hit right up forward, up in the ... on the bow of the ship, and a piece of shrapnel hit one of our (unintelligible) officer's right between the head.

Ed Metzler: This is the one you were telling me about.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: That's ... and then we had uh, I'm trying to think of this other ... we lost several Navy ... Navy officers aboard ship.

Ed Metzler: Uhm! Uhm, uhm, uhm.

Mr. Storey: This one lieutenant, he just ... we was in rough sea, pretty rough sea, and this first lieutenant, he walked out, got up on ... had a hatchet, went down to the officers' country, well, he walked out and stepped out on that ... just about that time, we took one on (*Sssshew* sound). It never did find a part of him; they guy

just ... wiped him out right ... right ... we ... we had ... one of our destroyers, small, they stayed around there for about an hour, an hour and a half and looked for him. One of the guys even dove over the side trying to find him. They said, "Man, there's no way you're going to find that guy!"

Ed Metzler: What, he got washed ... washed ...

Mr. Storey: It was ... sea was kind of rough, too.

Ed Metzler: He got washed ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: ... off the deck?

Mr. Storey: Washed over the side. He was a pretty young officer and fact, he was still an ensign, but he ... he didn't know about how rough it got out there in that ocean.

Ed Metzler: It did get rough!

Mr. Storey: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: So, who was your best buddy aboard ship?

Mr. Storey: Uh, well, I had a bunch of good guys. I was ... one of them was Hollingsworth and uh, of course, Buddy Porterfield (sp?), he's buried out here in ... in Waco.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: He was ... he was tail gunner on that plane that I said that ship that picked that guy up off the ship.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And he was one of my best friends. And I had another guy, he was from uh, over in east Texas somewhere.

Ed Metzler: Did you ... did you ...

Mr. Storey: He was a first class ... he was first-class boatswain's mate. He's ... he's pretty rough (chuckles) on them guys (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Storey: He was a great big ole boy (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, did ... did you stay in touch with them after the war was over?

Mr. Storey: Yeah, for a little, you know, we had ... we used to ... every ... every year we'd have ship reunions.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Every year!

Ed Metzler: And you went to a bunch of those, huh?

Mr. Storey: I made ... made everyone. In fact, I got a lot of literature, and I had ... and this ... this one guy, he was a gunner's mate on a ship, but his wife organized that thing, buying stuff to sell us ... you ... like black helmets or any ... anything you want. Well, she ... they were ... their home was in Oklahoma, I think, and they ... they would get stuff to sell, you know, make money for the reunions and all that stuff.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: But we had ... it ... it lasted a long time, but just gradually everybody died out, you know?

Ed Metzler: Well yeah.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Finally gets to the point ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... where there's not many left.

Mr. Storey: (Unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Did you write letters home when you were aboard ship out there?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And did you get letters?

Mr. Storey: Like you ... you want me to show you ... put something in there that ... 'cause you don't know when that guy ... that one of them censors (unintelligible) little ... open up, see what's in there (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Unintelligible) ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Say ... , "We're not sending that letter!" (laughter)

Mr. Storey: Yeah (whoa sound!) Yeah, they told you about that, too (chuckle).

Ed Metzler: Yep. So, the censors were very tough on ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... what you could put in there. You couldn't talk about where you'd been or where you might be going, or ...

Mr. Storey: That's right, yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... which other ships you were with or ...

Mr. Storey: Of course, we was always where ... we knew keeping that dad-gum mouth shut ... said ... that ole chief said, and that's what we did. We'd ... we just didn't do no talking on the beach down there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Of course, we was pulling into Brisbane, Australia, why, we had a ... (cough) like I say, they had a big banquet for us, and then all that and ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... but they told before went in there, "Keep your mouth shut," so that's what we did.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: They ... they'd asked us different things, and we said, "Well, we don't know; you have to ... have to ask the admiral," something like this (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Yeah (chuckle), ask the admiral (laughter).

Mr. Storey: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: That was the safe way out.

Mr. Storey: Yeah (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: But they'd throw a big ring, uh, twice we was in there, and it ... well, they pulled a big feed for us, and man! You talk about something to eat now!

Ed Metzler: So, what'd they ... what'd they feed you?

Mr. Storey: And then ... oh, they'd had all kind of good stuff to eat, them Australians. Oh, they had all kind of salads and uh, fish, just you name it. I tell you another deal. We pulled into, I guess, back in Australia; we pulled ... we had pulled in there, and we went up on the beach, and boy, we was ... we was hungry as a hog anyway.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Storey: We ordered that meal ahead, salad and all that stuff. Just about time we sat down to this salad, and they said, "You Yanks go ... go ... we got shelling out here; you want to go in that shelter." Said, "The ... the Japs are moving in here!"

And we looked at each and said, “Heck with it! All the people running and getting in that shelter, and we just sat there and eat off of one another.

Ed Metzler: You sat (laughter).

Mr. Storey: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: (Unintelligible)

Ed Metzler: I’m not passing up this ... this food!

Mr. Storey: In fact, (unintelligible) like a Marine, he’s just ... he said, “Yeah, you Yanks is crazy!” Said, “Man, what ...,” he said, “we just ... them shells is already hitting around ... around us so many times, we just punch drunk anyway,” ...

Ed Metzler: That’s right!

Mr. Storey: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: Don’t bother you anymore! (laughter)

Mr. Storey: And all that food sitting there on the table going to waste! (laughter)

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: Oh lord!

Ed Metzler: Now, did the Salt Lake City, she ended up ... up in Alaska a couple of times, didn’t she?

Mr. Storey: Oh yeah!

Ed Metzler: Tell me about what happened up there.

Mr. Storey: Well, (pause) I ... they had ... at ... that’s about the worst part of the war, to me it was. Them poor guys on them ... over on the beach, you know, the Marines and all, uh, and ... and our pilots, they tried to take off up there and slide on that ice on the runway, and killed two or three of them. Well, we get ... found out this ... Jap cruiser was over there, so we went in and hunting for that thing. Well, we got ... got out there and more or less, got in a shooting scrape with them. Well, this lieutenant or whoever it was in the air force over there, he ... he put on his heavy equipment and he said, “Dad gum, I’m going to go out there and help that Salt Lake City.” He had bombs and stuff on his plane, you know?

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: Well, he went out there to ... took off and his plane skidded off that runway and killed him, tore the plane up, too.

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Storey: Said he'd get ... it was so bad and sorry up there, and man!

Ed Metzler: Rough weather, too!

Mr. Storey: Put on ... you couldn't put on enough clothes to keep warm! I ... sometimes I'd be extra on a five-inch gun up there, and I'd be right close to where the heat come out of the cooking room, and I just stayed right there and stayed huddled up (laughter), oh, it was cold!

Ed Metzler: Man! So, the Salt Lake City was in a pretty big battle up there with some ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... Japanese cruisers.

Mr. Storey: We did ... shore did!

Ed Metzler: And you got hit, again, did you not?

Mr. Storey: Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, what happened? Did ... tell me what happened to the Salt Lake City.

Mr. Storey: Well, really, uh ...

Ed Metzler: 'Cause this was ...

Mr. Storey: ... I think we lost (pause) ...

Ed Metzler: Well, you lost power there for awhile and were dead in the water, I think, huh?

Mr. Storey: Yeah. We took, we got a hit down there, but (pause) I don't know, we got ... the ... the hit we got was right in the (pause) biggest part of it was in the laundry room down there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And the water was plumb, just filled it plumb full of water. Well, the guys in (cough) the welding department said they went ... they went ... hung over the side with a big slab of steel and ... and welded this hole up, and hung over the side.

Ed Metzler: Hung over the side.

Mr. Storey: And they ... they said that they ... they could ... knew how to do it, and they did! They just went in and attached that big slab, four by eight sheet of steel, you

know, and we lowered it down on the side and they'd got it in and then he'd ... welded the thing to the side of the ship. And then we got in there and pumped that ... after ... what's funny though, was this doctor, you know, he was a a pretty heavy drinker we had on there.

Ed Metzler: Who was this?

Mr. Storey: Our doctor (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Oh, your doctor?

Mr. Storey: Yeah (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Your doctor was a heavy drinker.

Mr. Storey: Well, he had ... had Four Roses [whiskey or bourbon], he kept it under his bunk all the time.

Ed Metzler: Oh, did he really?! (laughter)

Mr. Storey: (Laughter), yeah, that ... that story come out.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: Well, he told us all ... when we got out of that water down there, as cold as it was, said, "You guys just come on up here in the stateroom," said, "I'll give you all a drink." Well, he had that Four Roses and he got that out. Every guy that walked by there, you know, he'd give ... and in about fifteen minutes, why, he looked out there and said, "Damn, I didn't ... I didn't know y'all ... you ... you guys all wasn't down there ... down there in that water!"

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: "Get the hell out of here!" (laughter)

Ed Metzler: So, half the crew ...

Mr. Storey: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: ... worked in the water it turned out, huh (laughter)?

Mr. Storey: (Laughter), but he was ... just talking about the guys in the water down there that got wet.

Ed Metzler: Oh (laughter).

Mr. Storey: But them guys out ... deck force and everything, they just lined up there and get that shot of whiskey (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Did you guys ever get issued a beer or anything? Was there any alcohol aboard ship; do you remember?

Mr. Storey: No, I really don't ever remember. Now, on special occasions sometimes, we'd have something, may get a drink, but I don't ever remember, of course, guys would smuggle whiskey aboard ship, you know?

Ed Metzler: Oh really?

Mr. Storey: (Unintelligible), they'd do that, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Mr. Storey: One ole boy, got to talking to him, and he had a fifth under his bunk, and then that day ... lieutenant was on the uh, main deck up there, he walked by and he took that plug and just (spew sound) busted ... busted it out there (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Broke that bottle of booze!

Mr. Storey: Yeah, but he'd had it in a pocket in the back of his blue jeans, he had it back there and when he pulled it around there, he hit him with that club (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Storey: I don't know why you remember all this stuff, you just ...

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

Mr. Storey: To keep you alive, I guess.

Ed Metzler: Well, it sticks in your mind.

Mr. Storey: (*Eeeh* sound).

Ed Metzler: Now did ... what did you guys do to pass the time when you weren't, you know, when there ... you weren't in battle and you didn't have to be, you know, at your station? I mean, you play cards?

Mr. Storey: Well, yeah, we played all kind of cards, and dominoes. I was on repair four back there, I was in charge of that (unintelligible), and then we'd go back there and just play dominoes. And checkers, if you wanted to. They had that stuff in ... aboard ship and ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: But now, if you started gambling, you might get caught with the chaplains, and that would be bad.

Ed Metzler: Is that right?

Mr. Storey: (Laughter), yeah!

Ed Metzler: Is that right?

Mr. Storey: The chaplain come back there and just scooped all that money up one day and put it in the ship's fund.

Ed Metzler: Did he really?!

Mr. Storey: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: So, that ... so, that kind of puts ...

Mr. Storey: (Chuckles)

Ed Metzler: ... that kind of slows down the poker games then ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah, yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... doesn't it?

Mr. Storey: I just ... fact, remember a lot of stuff that took place. It's ...

Ed Metzler: So, what'd you think about your officers? Are they good guys? I know you liked the captain.

Mr. Storey: Eh, we thought the world of all of our captains on there, Zacharias.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And, in fact, I've got a big picture at home ... a friend of mine, he's a ... he's an artist; he did a lot of drawing for Hollywood. Boy, he's ... he can draw. He's got this picture, it's every bit of this wide and about this deep.

Ed Metzler: So ...

Mr. Storey: It's got a picture of ship on there, and me on one side and the ... Officer Zacharius on the other side, just as pretty as ... and that's ... that's why he got this job with Hollywood. They ... they called him to do drawings for them.

Ed Metzler: So, he did that after the war?

Mr. Storey: Nah, during the war; he ... well, yeah, he did that picture of me after the war.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: And I had a big birthday; well, I didn't really know the guys anywhere else. Well, he'd already ... he brought that up there once I called him and invited him to my birthday 'cause I was turning ninety-eight.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Storey: And ... I didn't know it till he ... he stayed in there and we was fixing to eat, and he opened that thing up, that big picture ...

Ed Metzler: Big picture of ...

Mr. Storey: ... it was about this ... about ... about that big.

Ed Metzler: Oh really, like ... (unintelligible).

Mr. Storey: Got a picture of the ...

Ed Metzler: ... like three feet

Mr. Storey: ... ship (unintelligible) behind.

Ed Metzler: Three feet by two feet, big!

Mr. Storey: Man! Yeah, it was ... it was a big ... big picture. And he got the ship in the middle like this.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And Captain Zacharius is in the picture right up above that.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Well, I'm in the middle of all ... of ... of them. And he ... he drawed that whole thing up and give it for my birthday. Boy, them people up there that come to my birthday party, they said, "My gosh, where did ... you get that picture like that?!" I said, "That guy right there drawed it (laughter)."

Ed Metzler: So, was he younger than you or ...

Mr. Storey: Oh, he was about my age. Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, he did that when he was ninety-eight?!

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Wow!

Mr. Storey: And I said ... I believe he was ninety-seven 'cause he was a little bit younger.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: But he done such a good (unintelligible) of stuff like that and like I say they ... they ... some ... some way or other, he got hooked up with Hollywood ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Storey: ... doing ... doing sketches for them.

Ed Metzler: Well!

Mr. Storey: And which was good, boy, I mean, he could draw!

Ed Metzler: Good money in that, yeah!

Mr. Storey: Whoa!

Ed Metzler: Now, tell me about the first time you crossed the equator.

Mr. Storey: (laughter), oh lord.

Ed Metzler: I understand that that's a big deal in the Navy.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: And they make a big deal of ...

Mr. Storey: It ...

Ed Metzler: ... out of shellbacks.

Mr. Storey: ... we had it right before the war started.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And we was out at seas, and (pause) they ... they ... first thing they did, come down there and wake you up at your bunk.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And told you to ... , "(Unintelligible)," and they ... they'd take your name down, then they'd have King Neptune's ... I ... I got a thing at home about the name, great big thing that I got for crossing the equator. And ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: ... it was quite an interesting deal (laughter).

Ed Metzler: So, they make you do silly tricks or ...

Mr. Storey: Oh yeah!

Ed Metzler: ... did they dress you up or what?

Mr. Storey: They had the royal dentist on there and he'd had a whole thing full of salted (unintelligible) in your mouth, you know (chuckles)?

Ed Metzler: Oh really?!

Mr. Storey: Yeah, all kind of stuff like ... they had the royal uh, the royal cook on there. He'd had the sorriest bunch of slop and everything and it ... it (unintelligible) in your mouth (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Oh no!

Mr. Storey: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: Just to see if you could take it?

Mr. Storey: It got pretty rough. That ... that lieutenant that ... they ... they baptized ... had a big ole tank up to cover ... full of water, and they shoved him off in there and boy, he got mad! God dang! That ... that captain (unintelligible) said, "If you don't like it, just get off of it." He told him he didn't ... didn't want to be in it. "Well, just get out of there!" And he did, he ... even the captain didn't get along with him (laughter).

Ed Metzler: So, when you think back through all of your experiences on the Salt Lake City, what was the ... the scariest and the toughest time for you? What was your closest call when you went, "Whoa, that was close!"

Mr. Storey: (Unintelligible) gosh, I don't ... you know sometimes you even have to ... you wouldn't think about it after ... till it was all over and ...

Ed Metzler: That's right!

Mr. Storey: Yeah. Well, of course, like I say a while ago, the sickness thing was when we went back into Pearl and seen what the Japs had done, you know?

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: All of them ships gone, dead guys floating everywhere, and that was one of the first thing, and I ... I said, "Man!" And that ole big boy was ... was like I say was a boatswain's mate, and he said, "Let's go get them son of a bitches!" (laughter)

Ed Metzler: Uhm! And what was the funniest thing that ever happened to you?

Mr. Storey: Oh man, I don't know it's ...

Ed Metzler: Did you ever play any tricks on any of your buddies or did they play tricks on you or ...

Mr. Storey: Oh, they'd come down and sometimes, uh, if it was cold or something, come down and wake you up, you know, or jerk your bunk off.

Ed Metzler: Oh no!

Mr. Storey: Uh, one ole ... one ole boy, he'd always give you ... somebody a hot foot. Well, we was out there and the sea was rough and boy, and everything. Well, he'd always sleeping on the bunk now. Well, this ole boy, he eased down there, tied his uh, bunk to a ... one of them statues there, and that ship rolled. Well, he went across, all the way across that mess hall (laughter) and on that sloppy

water, had his ole bunk turned over, and he fell out, and “I’ll kill the son of a bitch that (laughter).”

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: (Laughter), but ... but that ole bunk of his slid all the way; he was laying on a cot ‘cause we’d had some ... some of them bunks had got tore up; anyway, (chuckles) I remember he was laying there in that thing and oh, it made him mad, boy!

Ed Metzler: Uhm. Now, when you first went to sea, did you get sea sick?

Mr. Storey: Uh, really I don’t ... I only remember when I first went aboard ship, we had cots. And you had ... well, that was later, but I had that dad-gum uh, swing by ropes is what it is.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Had ... had ... it was your sea bag and you’d take it apart and ... and you just hang it up on them hooks.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: And you have a bunk like that.

Ed Metzler: Right, right.

Mr. Storey: Well, I got to where I slept pretty good on mine. Some of them guys fell out of them things, hit their head on the deck (chuckles), by that time, you get rolling like that ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... but I really tied mine down. I knew how to ...

Ed Metzler: But you never got sick when you first went?

Mr. Storey: No, I imagine just ... did, you know, not ... (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Yeah, well you were lucky ‘cause ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... some people got *really* sick when they first went out.

Mr. Storey: But I never did ... I know I never ... well, I ... later on during the war, I got ... I got sick. We was heading back to Pearl, and I got ... I was just ... just like ... well, it wasn’t even morning, but I just had the flu, you know?

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Pills from the flu.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And I found out we was ... when we got back to Pearl, they was going to put me in the hospital instead ... and there I had been all the time out there at sea and everything, and then they were going to stick me in the hospital. That's what that corpsman told me.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: He said, "Tell you what, Bob," said, "on my rounds in the morning, I'm going to give you two pills." Said, "You put them damned things right under your tongue and hold them there till that doctor comes by and checks you." So, and I ... that's what I did, and I said, I forget, well, I'm trying to think of the doctor's name. He was a pretty good guy. Well, he come by and he took my temperature and all that stuff, says, "Well, I started ... your temperature has kind of down," and said, "you're doing a little better." Said ... said, "I might ... might just let you go on back to the States with us," we was going back to California.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: For minor repairs.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And so, I just ... that corpsman come by and he had ... right before he come by and put them two pills ... I don't know whether it was aspirin or what it was, anyway, he said, "You just stay aboard and go on back to the States with us, a little visit." I ... I ...

Ed Metzler: That's a lot better than going into a hospital (unintelligible) (laughter).

Mr. Storey: Yeah (laughter). And I ... I could see myself getting kicked off of that thing. And I said, "I sure wasn't in the hospital later on when the war started (laughter)"

Ed Metzler: Uhm, uhm! So ... so, that happened before the war started?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Oh! Okay.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Okay. So, when you were out there, what was the thing that you missed the most?

Mr. Storey: What I missed the most?

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: (Pause)

Ed Metzler: Was it ... being ... cooking or ... a girlfriend or being able to drive a car or what ... what did you miss?

Mr. Storey: Well, I ... I had two or three friends at home, main buddies, you know, that ... that ... right after I first went in, I ... I missed them guys for a while, you know?

Ed Metzler: Uh hum, uh hum.

Mr. Storey: But found out later that ... they'd all went into the service, you know?

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And I ... I run around with my first cousin ... real good. Well, he had joined ... back then they had them CC camps. Guy that worked out there, they cut stuff down, but it really put them in good shape all the time.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: And ole Roy was a electrician but a (unintelligible), and that was what ... what helped me out.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. Now, did you become a painter second-class aft ...

Mr. Storey: That was my second rating. I ... I ...

Ed Metzler: Tell me how that happened.

Mr. Storey: Well, I started out, you know, and then I made what they called second class seaman.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Well, I worked on the deck force up there and I was (unintelligible) good, then ... then that chief come up one morning and told us, said ... and I had ... I had to stand watch on the bridge up there and ... and part of that ... learning this first class seaman, you had to steer the ship for a while up there.

Ed Metzler: Oh really?!

Mr. Storey: And I ... I ... god-dang it, it scared me, had ... had all that brass up there.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Storey: Had a commander up there, and every once in a while, the captain'd come up there, and he'd just stand there and said, "What's your course there, sir?" And I said, and I'd tell him right off what the ... what ... and I was watching them compasses, you know?

Ed Metzler: Right, right.

r. Storey: He said, "You're doing a good job," said, "you're a first-class seaman now." I said, "Ah, dang, whoa!"

Ed Metzler: Wow! Just right on the spot?

Mr. Storey: Yeah! But he said ... do what he tell you, you know?

Ed Metzler: Well, that's fair.

Mr. Storey: And ... and that lieutenant said, "You got it, you got it made!"

Ed Metzler: Uhm. Now, the Salt Lake City got involved in both Iwo Jima and Okinawa, didn't she?

Mr. Storey: Gosh, you know, we got every one of them battles, just all that stuff. Just danged lucky, boy, I'll tell you! Lucky or had ... good being aboard ship.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: Uhm.

Ed Metzler: Did you ever see any kamikaze aircraft, you know, where the Japanese would try and crash their airplanes into your ship?

Mr. Storey: (Pause), oh yeah. We had ... early one morning there was three of them, three or four of them, they was coming in just ... water level. I mean, head right for ... but we'd already had forty millimeters at Pearl Har ... I mean, at ... when we went to the States ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... had uh, eight of them, forty millimeters in the back, pom-poms, you know?

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: Well, them danged two Jap planes was coming in right about ... through it, and they was right in line with them forty millimeters. Well, them guys just ... boy, they ... they had them clips in it, they just loaded that thing, and they shot them suckers. Well, they got hit pretty bad 'cause they got over between us and the aircraft carrier, and they was ... really done wrong. When they got in front of

that aircraft carrier and all them guns, they had on there, good gosh almighty!
They chewed that ole plane off, they went down right in the middle of that
harbor (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Now, was that at Okinawa or Iwo Jima?

Mr. Storey: No, we just out on uh, I forgot what island it was; we'd been shooting out ... out
there, and ...

Ed Metzler: Well, you guys were so ... at so many islands ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... it's hard to keep them straight.

Mr. Storey: Yeah. That was (pause); that was one of the main islands I guess that we hit.

Ed Metzler: Tell me what, if you remember when you guys heard that the Japanese had
surrendered.

Mr. Storey: Well now, you talking about the Doolittle Raid now?

Ed Metzler: Uh um, I'm talking about with the end of the war (pause) when the Japanese
surrendered.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Did ... did the Salt Lake City actually go to Japan after the war?

Mr. Storey: Well, a big part of our fleet was ... showed up there when the war was over, you
know.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Storey: And we pulled out ... I know the battles ... well, the big (unintelligible) is where
the side ... where that ... we was in there with it.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: And we was ...

Ed Metzler: Tok ... Tokyo Bay, yeah.

Mr. Storey: ... all ... all of us ships like that we were still being readied for fight. We didn't
... we didn't trust them people nowhere.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: But we stood back ... stood our ground out there.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And ... but you know, we lost ... we lost a lot of planes right there, and I think we lost a hundred and forty planes. What they was doing, they would ... they fire bombed Japan, and they said we lost a hundred and ... about a hundred and thirty or forty uh, planes that went in there, but they were ... rocked the dog out of that place, god! That's before they dropped the A-bombs, you know.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: And they come back again and fired that place up again. But them Japs still would not give up.

Ed Metzler: I know; it took them forever to ...

Mr. Storey: You know, they ... they ... we found out later they even still had some stuff left after they blowed that place apart, and it was on the other end of the island, and they were still going to (unintelligible). But they ... they changed their minds when they got (*Uf!* Sound).

Ed Metzler: So, did ... did the Salt Lake City act ... did you ever go ashore in Japan after the war was over?

Mr. Storey: I never did, nuh uh.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: I ... well I didn't really have any desire. Now, my brother, he was a master sergeant at Yale University in the ... in the Army. Well, he was assigned to go over there and ... he had to go over there and do paperwork. And I talked to Bud a lot of times about the ... he said, "Boy, the (unintelligible)," said, "god-danged people laying all over the place blown all," said they wiped that place out.

Ed Metzler: Hum. So, was there a big celebration aboard ship when the Japanese surrendered?

Mr. Storey: Yeah, I guess ... I guess you'd call it a celebration (laughter). They just ...

Ed Metzler: It was kind of a (*pshew!* sound).

Mr. Storey: Yeah (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Because if we'd had to invade Japan ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... that would have been a mess.

Mr. Storey: (Pause), yeah, it real ... uh, fact, the President, he'd already give them orders maybe to stand by the ... go in there and get them!

Ed Metzler: Do you remember when FDR died?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: That was a sad time.

Mr. Storey: He didn't have much help. When we got Lyndon Johnson in there its (laughter) (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Well, Harry Truman was the Vice President.

Mr. Storey: Yeah (laughter).

Ed Metzler: But he became President right away.

Mr. Storey: Oh, (unintelligible) give it up, boy! (chuckle)

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Now, so when the war was over, did the Salt Lake City come back to the States right away?

Mr. Storey: (Pause)

Ed Metzler: Or did she stay out, do you remember?

Mr. Storey: Nah, of course, I'd already left to come home.

Ed Metzler: How'd you get home?

Mr. Storey: (Pause), well, actually, when I come back to the States, I was on this ... they transferred me off the ship; I was on this ... well, they called it a tracks ... uh, attack transport. Well, it was ... been shot all to pieces.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles)

Mr. Storey: Well, they transferred me to that thing, and I had a buddy on there ... was on there with me; he was a first-class engineer down in the engine room.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: He and I was the only one there, but we ... we just looking for an easy ride home which ... which I got. I didn't have to do nothing except eat and do what I wanted.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: But he volunteered to go down in the engine room. He said, "If I don't go down there and help them guys out," said, "them young kids don't know nothing about that engine."

Ed Metzler: They don't know anything.

Mr. Storey: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: We'll never get home (laughter)!

Mr. Storey: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: So, you came home on an old transport?

Mr. Storey: Yeah. There ... right at thirty days before we landed in Frisco.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum. So, you came in under the Golden Gate Bridge?

Mr. Storey: Yeah, I think it was, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: Where we pulled into a dock there (chuckles) them ole guys they ... they'd done a lot of the work on repair on ships and all.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And he said, "That thing ain't nothing but a Junker." And I said, "We're going to scrap it (laughter)."

Ed Metzler: Well, it got you home!

Mr. Storey: Yeah (laughter).

Ed Metzler: How'd it feel to come home?

Mr. Storey: Well, I ... I felt good, but you know, fact, I found out all the guys that got killed and didn't make it and ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: ... fact, I got to get a big book at home shows a lot of the Marines and all that got killed, and the world ... and I had some pretty good friends that never did make it.

Ed Metzler: How do you feel about the Japanese?

Mr. Storey: Well, it's just like that buddy of mine said, "I didn't like one of them son of bitches and I don't like them now." (Chuckles), that's all he said (chuckles). But I ... I ... like ... yeah, I don't think you can blame all the Japanese people for ... I don't believe you could ... just ... that's my idea, do you?

Ed Metzler: No, I think they were doing what they were told.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Just like you were doing what you were told.

Mr. Storey: They was afraid ... afraid of that sucker. What he'd tell them to do, they have ... if they'd of told them to kill all of them, why, that's ... that's ...

Ed Metzler: So, do you think being in the war changed you in the way you looked at life and how you felt about the world?

Mr. Storey: Well, I ... I've had somebody asked me that. I think after years, it just wears off, you know, that's ... that's my way of thinking.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you were in for a long time.

Mr. Storey: I just ... six years in the Navy, but I ... uh, I guess what ... I just enjoyed being on the Salt Lake City 'cause it was a go-go-jo (chuckle).

Ed Metzler: Was ... it was like home to you, huh?

Mr. Storey: Yeah. I was the number one guy on lots of stuff in there, and I just (pause) and the boys that I was with, two or three of them was from Texas. They ... they died a long time back.

Ed Metzler: Did the Salt Lake City have ice cream aboard?

Mr. Storey: Every once in a while. Uh, had one dish I really like was one of them cooks down there cooked up was ... it was kind of chili-flavored meal for supper, and I liked that. It was really good.

Ed Metzler: Hum!

Mr. Storey: Some of the guys didn't like chili, but I ... I said, "You ain't never been down to (unintelligible) home, have you?" (laughter)

Ed Metzler: Yeah, that's right, you're obviously not from Texas!

Mr. Storey: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: No.

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Storey: But we ...

Ed Metzler: Do you ever dream about what happened during the war or wake up in the middle of the night dreaming about time out there?

Mr. Storey: I guess the only thing I, in the early days back, I ... I dreamed one time I remember I dreamed about we was pulling into Australia over there, you know?

I guess 'cause I met some of them girls over there, I don't know (laughter), but anyway ...

Ed Metzler: That was a good dream!

Mr. Storey: Yeah (laughter).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), that wasn't a nightmare, that was a dream!

Mr. Storey: No, but that had to have been them girls, they wanted to get married, you know? They wanted to marry Americans.

Ed Metzler: Well, they figured you guys had money.

Mr. Storey: Ah, I said, "Man, please help me out; I've got to get back home before (laughter)."

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), so you didn't want to stay in Australia, huh?

Mr. Storey: But we had ... one of the (unintelligible) off ... come ... we went over there, we ... we went on the beach over there in Australia, Brisbane ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... and our band come over there and played for dancing, and boy, you never seen ... they never had seen those dances like that that them boys ... I wasn't much of a dancer, but I ... some of them guys got out there and they ... our band was playing and boy, they'd get out there and they could ... them girls wanted to dance how they did (laughter).

Ed Metzler: They'd never seen dancing like that, huh? (laughter)

Mr. Storey: No (laughter). And ...

Ed Metzler: Oh my gosh!

Mr. Storey: I'm going to get a little shot of this water.

Ed Metzler: Oh yeah, why don't you! Wet that whistle! I found it's sometimes hard to get into those bottles. If you need ...

Mr. Storey: My daughter can just turn that thing, and I ... and I ... sometimes I'm lucky, I just can't get it lose.

Ed Metzler: Have you got it?

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Alright, that's good. So, what else ... what else would you like ...

Mr. Storey: My ... my fingers.

Ed Metzler: Go ahead.

Mr. Storey: Both my fingers ... I have (unintelligible) in the end ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... things like that I ... I ... it's hard for me and both ... both my knees went out on me.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: Just old age.

Ed Metzler: Well, I mean, you're coming up on a hundred, man! You're ... you're due to have a few aches and pains!

Mr. Storey: That's what that doctor told me in Waco up there (laughter). He walked down the hall with me, that doctor did. He said, "Robert," said, "I tell you what I can do," said, "I could operate ... operate on both knees, but it ain't going to do you one damn bit of good." I've known the doctor a long ... he's a good guy. He said, "Now, I'll tell you what I'm going to do though, I'm going to drain both knees." So, he rolled this machine in there and stuck a needle here and a needle over here ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... both of them. And I thought it was blood, but he said, "No, that's ... that's just infection stuff.

Ed Metzler: Fluid ... fluid, yeah.

Mr. Storey: And I ...

Ed Metzler: Well, what else are we going to talk about? You've told me a lot of stories.

Mr. Storey: Oh, it's a lot ... just a lot of ...

Ed Metzler: Now, you were heartbroken when you heard about the "queen" being sunk

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Tell me about that.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: The queen being the Salt Lake City.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: How ... how did they ... what did they do – shoot her up, they field target practice?

Mr. Storey: Okay, they uh, (pause) they moved it down there to an island. The hulls ... did you ever been (unintelligible) that they wanted to take off.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: They moved it down there at that uh, and they used that thing ... one morning one the pilots told about it, they used it for target practice, and finally just wound up and sunk it right there.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, but they couldn't sink her during the war!

Mr. Storey: No, that's what ... they made a lot of them guys mad. This one guy, he ... he went and told (unintelligible) in Washington what he thought about it. Said, "That ship there has fought half of the war (unintelligible)!"

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: I didn't see no sense in ... they just used the thing for target practice.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Storey: And that one boy that ... that went down there and looked, he said that they used atomic bomb part on ... on part of it just trying to see what it'd do, you know?

Ed Metzler: Yeah, from what I read ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... she was one of the targets ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: ... in some of the Bikini ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah!

Ed Metzler: ... Atoll test, but she survived all of that ...

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... and so, they ended up, you know, scuttling her ...

Mr. Storey: Sending all them dive bombers and stuff and they just used it for practice.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah. Well, what else can we talk about?

Mr. Storey: Man, I don't know. All them years, you have to think sometimes (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Oh, I know! I know.

Mr. Storey: But I really enjoyed coming over here to see you, and I just ...

Ed Metzler: Well, I mean, this was ...

Mr. Storey: ... my daughter was telling me about coming over, you know, and ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah. Have you had a chance to go through the Museum yet?

Mr. Storey: No, I hadn't yet.

Ed Metzler: Well, you're going to enjoy that!

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: You will enjoy that. Well, what I'd like to do then, if you've run out of stories, and I've run out of questions ...

Mr. Storey: (Laughter)

Ed Metzler: ... then I think what we'll do is we'll shut her down. But I wanted ...

Mr. Storey: But I really enjoyed uh, everything and being with you talking about ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah. And I know a lot of people do this, but I'm going to do it, too. I want to thank you for what you did for our country.

Mr. Storey: I ...

Ed Metzler: Appreciate that.

Mr. Storey: I ... I met a lot of people that ... see me, you know, and they just thank you for ... and I don't know the number of times I've been ... I've had on one of them Navy caps or something, and I have ... even at home I've been in a café and I go up there and pay my bill, and says ...

Ed Metzler: It's too late.

Mr. Storey: ... , "That guy ... that guy that just left paid your bills," (laughter).

Ed Metzler: Well, that just shows you how we feel about you guys.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: So, Robert, thanks again for spending the time with me and ...

Mr. Storey: Well, my daughter had been talking about that all the time and ...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter)

Mr. Storey: ... you know, she's got a big retirement; she's go about as pretty home down at Lake Belton ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: ... and she put in forty-five years as athletic director at the air fair ... uh, Air Force base in San Antone, and she said, "Dad, don't tell them people that." I said, "Well, man, that (unintelligible)."

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), she ...

Mr. Storey: Said, “Good gosh,” I said, “you get a pay check!” And her husband, he was a ... a chief engineer and worked the other air base.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Storey: And they ... only had a fence between them at ... at Kelley ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Storey: ... and I don’t know what kind of ... Don got a big pile of money, retirement, too, from the ...

Ed Metzler: Well, I’m going to shut this down.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: Thanks again.

Mr. Storey: Yeah.

(end of interview)

FINAL copy

CD – #OH05019 – Mr. Robert Murry Storey, Jr.

Transcribed by: K. Matras

Houston, TX

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