

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Nimitz Education and Research Center
Fredericksburg, Texas

An Interview With

Alfred J. Gluck
Lake Forest, California

July 12, 2019

Merchant Marine

Five Trips

Mr. Misenhimer:

My name is Richard Misenhimer and today is July 12, 2019. I am interviewing Mr. Alfred J. Gluck by telephone. His phone number is 949-939-9522. His address is 23145 Vista Way, Lake Forest, California, 92630. This interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War, the Nimitz Education and Research Center, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II. His alternative contact is his daughter Ms. Jessica Higa. Her address is 2283 Infantry Post Road, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 78234. Her cell phone number is 808-386-2625

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

Mr. Gluck:

Okay I'll try to be as much help as I can.

Mr. Misenhimer:

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

Mr. Gluck:

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

"Agreement Read."

Is that okay with you?

Mr. Gluck:

That's okay.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what is your birthdate?

Mr. Gluck:

July 8, 1923.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where were you born?

Mr. Gluck:

Long Island, New York.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Gluck:

I've got two brothers, one sister.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, were either of your brothers in World War II?

Mr. Gluck:

My older brother, he was stationed in the Fiji Islands.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What branch was he in?

Mr. Gluck:

He was working for Pan American Airway.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was he in the war then?

Mr. Gluck:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

No, he was not, okay. So neither one of your brothers were in World War II?

Ms. Higa:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what are your mother's and father's first names?

Mr. Gluck:

My mother's name was Fanny, my father's name was Charles.

Mr. Misenhimer:

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

Mr. Gluck:

Well it was a tough time I can say that's all. It was tough.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was your father's occupation?

Mr. Gluck:

Upholsterer.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was he able to keep working during the depression?

Ms. Higa:

So grandpa Charlie was an upholsterer?

Mr. Gluck:

Um-hum.

Ms. Higa:

I thought he worked on the dock.

Mr. Gluck:

Later on, yeah. He was brought up as an upholsterer. Then he went to working in the ship yards, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you get along okay during the depression then or did you have problems?

Mr. Gluck:

We did, we had to have a little help from welfare.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then where did you go to high school?

Mr. Gluck:

Alameda, California.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what year did you graduate?

Mr. Gluck:

I don't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was it before the war or after the war started?

Mr. Gluck:

Before the war started, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Would it have been maybe '41 when you graduated?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, right about there, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then on December 7 of '41 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, that's right, I remember now, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you recall hearing about that?

Mr. Gluck:

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how did you hear?

Mr. Gluck:

Through news.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On the radio?

Mr. Gluck:

Newspapers, radio.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And when you heard that how did you think that would affect you?

Mr. Gluck:

Well, at the time I didn't think it affected me much.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You would have just turned eighteen in July.

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah. What I did was, when the war broke out I graduated from high school and went to work at a machine shop, making parts for the military.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

Then the draft board got a hold of me. And they wanted to put me in the Army. But at the time I had seaman papers, so I was lucky enough to get a job as a seaman.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So when did you go into the service then?

Ms. Higa:

Well you already had your seaman papers, yeah?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Ms. Higa:

And how did you get your seaman papers? Well that was before then, right?

Mr. Gluck:

Oh yeah.

Ms. Higa:

Yeah, so he was already in, you know going to sea with the Merchant Marines before.

Mr. Gluck:

No.

Ms. Higa:

Oh you just had the seaman papers.

Mr. Gluck:

Just had the papers, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

Well the draft board threatened to put me in the Army while I was working at a machine shop.

So I decided I had seaman papers so why not go back and go to sea and get a job as a seaman,

which I did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

I shipped out.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any kind of basic training or anything like that?

Mr. Gluck:

No, really not, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you went to the Merchant Marine did you go into any particular unit or outfit or anything

like that?

Mr. Gluck:

No, just as an ordinary seaman.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

Well, as soon as I got the job I had to go the Union Hall. And they placed me on my first ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And do you know the name of that first ship?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, *Louis Sullivan*.

Ms. Higa:

No, the first ship. The first ship that you shipped as an ordinary seaman was the *George Baker*.

Mr. Gluck:

Okay, *George Baker* then.

Ms. Higa:

George L. Baker.

Mr. Gluck:

That was the first ship, yeah. That was a Liberty ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did you carry on that ship?

Mr. Gluck:

At the time, just general merchandise, anything you could think of. We went directly to Honolulu, so bringing in supplies for the people in the island.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And about what month of what year would that have been?

Ms. Higa:

The date was May 22, 1943.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That was your first sailing then?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, that's my first job, ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what was your job on the ship?

Mr. Gluck:

Ordinary seaman.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you got to Honolulu what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

We docked, they took us right to the dock and the stevedores went aboard and quickly unloaded as fast as they could.

Ms. Higa:

You know Richard I'm looking at the, oh no that's correct, we brought out the documents, I'm just verifying his voyages.

Mr. Gluck:

Discharges.

Ms. Higa:

Yeah. So no that's correct, May 22 was the first one.

Mr. Misenhimer:

In 1943?

Ms. Higa:

Yes sir.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

Well, as soon as the ship was unloaded we sailed right back to San Francisco. When we left San Francisco as a big convoy, a whole bunch of ships all headed for Honolulu.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That was the first time, right?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you got back to San Francisco then what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

I got another ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what ship was that, do you know?

Ms. Higa:

Um yes, that looks like, this was the *Mormacgull*.

Mr. Gluck:

No.

Ms. Higa:

No, okay.

Mr. Gluck:

It's a Liberty ship.

Ms. Higa:

It was a Liberty ship, okay.

Mr. Gluck:

Baker, Louis Sullivan was it?

Ms. Higa:

That was the *Baker*, looks like May 22, '43. And then July 17, '43 is the *Mormacgull*.

Mr. Gluck:

It was one before that.

Ms. Higa:

Louis Sullivan says it was '44, April. *Mormacgull* looks like it was before

Mr. Gluck:

Okay, then it was the *Mormacgull*, I didn't think so. No, we took it out of the shipyard out of Richmond.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where did that ship go then?

Mr. Gluck:

We went right out into the Pacific to a, like at New Hebrides, New Caledonia.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you went on that ship were you in a convoy with a bunch of other ships?

Mr. Gluck:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You were by yourself?

Mr. Gluck:

By ourself.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any kind of escort or anything?

Mr. Gluck:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how fast could that ship go?

Mr. Gluck:

About eight knots.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's pretty slow because there were a lot of Japanese submarines out there weren't there?

Mr. Gluck:

Oh yeah, oh yeah. We're lucky we got through.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you did not have any escort?

Mr. Gluck:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did you have on your ship that time, do you know?

Mr. Gluck:

Military cargo, yep. Strictly military.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you got to New Caledonia?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what happened there?

Mr. Gluck:

Lay around until they unloaded. We had to wait around before we could get unloaded.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And did you get to go ashore there?

Mr. Gluck:

Nothing much but jungle.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you got unloaded what happened then?

Mr. Gluck:

When we got unloaded we headed back to port, San Francisco.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you were by yourself again?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You were very fortunate to make it roundtrip.

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you got back to the States what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

Then I took a little vacation and went back to sea again.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

I'm trying to think of (To Ms. Higa) What's that next ship, was it this *Mormacgull*, yeah.

Yeah I got on the *Mormacgull* as an Able Body Seaman.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I'm sorry what was that?

Ms. Higa:

So he got on the, the next ship was the *Mormacgull* and his rating was an Able Seaman.

Mr. Gluck:

New Guinea.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And do you know what ship you were on then?

Ms. Higa:

That one was the *Mormacgull*, I mean the New Guinea trip he thinks is the *Mormacgull*.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was this a different trip than the one to New Caledonia?

Ms. Higa:

Yes. This is a different trip, yeah dad?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you went to New Guinea were you in a convoy or by yourself again?

Mr. Gluck:

We were by ourself.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And was this ship about the same speed as your other one or was it faster?

Mr. Gluck:

A little bit faster.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you had no problems with Japanese submarines or anything?

Mr. Gluck:

Well one time we got scared and we had to keep

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do what?

Ms. Higa:

There was one time when they

Mr. Gluck:

Submarine went close by.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you ever attacked by the submarine?

Mr. Gluck:

No we weren't in attack. We ran into Samoa, because that's a safety port.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where did you go in New Guinea?

Mr. Gluck:

Just in the jungle there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you know what port it was, what town or anything?

Mr. Gluck:

I think Espiritu Santo.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you unloaded there?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah. Actually we didn't unload there. We were waiting for orders and then we got the orders and went up to, I think it was ..., I can't remember. Up towards where the action was.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On New Guinea though?

Mr. Gluck:

No, we left New Guinea and went up, up to the islands there, the Admiralty Islands and the

Mr. Misenhimer:

You say you went to Espiritu Santo?

Ms. Higa:

That was in New Guinea, the port?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Ms. Higa:

Then after that you went up

Mr. Gluck:

Up into the islands there.

Ms. Higa:

A different island?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah. I'm trying to think.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Guadalcanal?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is that where you unloaded?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, that's right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did you have on your ship that time, what was your cargo?

Mr. Gluck:

All military. And also at night we, see we were unloading at anchor. And at night we raised the anchor and went into this hidden, in between some small islands to be safe. Then during the day we'd go back offshore and continue unloading.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So about how long did it take you to get unloaded?

Mr. Gluck:

I think it was about a week.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

We went back to the States.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you were by yourself again, no escort?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's unusual.

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was your job on the ship?

Mr. Gluck:

Able Seaman.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now did you have Marines on the ship?

Ms. Higa:

Did they outfit your ship with some guns?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, oh yeah. We had two big guns, one in the bow, one in the stern, three inch guns.

Ms. Higa:

Was it Navy or Marines on?

Mr. Gluck:

And we had a Navy crew on board the ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

A gun crew?

Mr. Gluck:

Gun crew that's right, gun crew.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have anti-aircraft guns also?

Mr. Gluck:

Yes, well there's all over the place, yeah.

Ms. Higa:

On the ship?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, on the foredeck, on the bridge, anti-aircraft guns, right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you ever attacked by any Japanese airplanes?

Mr. Gluck:

No we weren't.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then you left Guadalcanal and went back to the States, is that correct?

Mr. Gluck:

I think so, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Back to the West Coast?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Gluck:

Got another ship again.

Ms. Higa:

After the *Mormacgull*, it looks like November 29, 1945, no. This is strange. Oh maybe you were on the *James Lick* (1704) before the *Mormacgull*.

Mr. Gluck:

That's what I'm trying to say.

Ms. Higa:

Yes, I see it now. Because this is typo, they had to change it. So the trip to New Hebrides must

have been on the *James Lick*, the *Mormacgull* was in New Guinea and Guadalcanal.

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah. That's better. Because I knew something wasn't

Ms. Higa:

Okay there's the *Baker* and

Mr. Gluck:

After that the *Mormacgull*, it wasn't *Sullivan* was it?

Ms. Higa:

The *Sullivan*, April 15, 1944 he was on the *Louis Sullivan*.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where did that one go?

Mr. Gluck:

I was in the Pacific, in the islands there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened next?

Mr. Gluck:

As far as I, just routine, just unloading there. We didn't get bombed, we didn't get torpedoed, or shot at. We're just lucky.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yes, very fortunate, right. How many different trips did you take, do you know?

Ms. Higa:

I think after that maybe one more, the *John Swett* (2171).

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's what, five or how many total?

Ms. Higa:

Yes, I think five (*counting*). It looks like the *John Swett* was the last one. (To Mr. Gluck) From San Francisco do you remember where you went to? Maybe you can tell him how you guys,

what you guys had to do to the ship so that you wouldn't be, like you know you guys went blackout.

Mr. Gluck:

Oh yeah. Oh yes blackout, yeah.

Ms. Higa:

And you had to be quiet now.

Mr. Gluck:

It was routine run that's all I remember.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And that was to where?

Ms. Higa:

Do you remember where these trips were?

Mr. Gluck:

I don't remember. Towards Okinawa.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okinawa?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you land on Okinawa or where?

Mr. Gluck:

It was already taken like, it was just the end of it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how did things go there?

Mr. Gluck:

Well it was alright until we hit, a typhoon came.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, tell me about the typhoon.

Mr. Gluck:

We almost lost the ship. We almost got washed ashore. But we barely got underway and made it. That's the only thing I remember about Okinawa, we almost lost a ship in the typhoon. At that time I was 3rd Mate.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And this was after Okinawa?

Ms. Higa:

Yeah, it looks like the day he shipped out was September 7, 1945.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, that's after the war then.

Ms. Higa:

Yeah, that was after the war. You went to go help, what were you bringing there then, like supplies?

Mr. Gluck:

We had a hospital, that's right an old knockdown hospital. That's what it was, I remember now.

Ms. Higa:

And what do you mean about the hospital?

Mr. Gluck:

Everything that you need to build a hospital, all the supplies, material.

Ms. Higa:

At Okinawa, and that was a long voyage because you came back March 26, 1946.

Mr. Gluck:

Mm-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what happened on that date in March?

Ms. Higa:

Oh that was when he came back, March 26, 1946 is when he came back.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Back to the U.S.?

Ms. Higa:

Back to the U.S., yes. Discharged in Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What date was he discharged?

Ms. Higa:

March 26, 1946.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what was your rank when you got discharged?

Ms. Higa:

3rd Mate?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Ms. Higa:

3rd Mate.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now I've got some questions for you here. On April the 12th of 1945 President Roosevelt died,

did you all hear about that?

Mr. Gluck:

I don't remember much about that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

There was quite a bit up in the air about that when that happened. Now when you were overseas did you ever hear Tokyo Rose on the radio?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah a lot of it, almost every night.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you think of her?

Mr. Gluck:

Pretty good, interesting woman.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I understand she played good music.

Mr. Gluck:

(Laughs) That's right. Good music, right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And did you cross the equator?

Mr. Gluck:

Oh yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any kind of a ceremony when you did?

Mr. Gluck:

A little bit yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now May the 8th of 1945 Germany surrendered, did you all hear about that?

Mr. Gluck:

I think so, yeah. I don't remember too much.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then on August the 6th of '45 they dropped the first atomic bomb, did you hear about that?

Mr. Gluck:

Not much.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You didn't hear about the atomic bomb?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah we heard of it, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then August 15, '45 when Japan surrendered, did you have any kind of celebration then?

Mr. Gluck:

I was in San Francisco and we had a heck of a celebration. We were on the ship loading when the war ended, in San Francisco.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was the morale on your various ships?

Mr. Gluck:

It was always good.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now have you had any reunions since you've been out?

Mr. Gluck:

No, no, never did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you keep up with anybody you were in the service with?

Mr. Gluck:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you got out did you get the G.I. Bill?

Mr. Gluck:

I didn't, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I wasn't sure if the Merchant Marine got the G.I. Bill or not.

Ms. Higa:

Merchant Marines did not get the G.I. Bill, right?

Mr. Gluck:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What would you consider your most frightening time when you were in the service?

Mr. Gluck:

I guess during that Okinawa storm.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That typhoon probably, uh?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

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

Ms. Higa:

Yeah. Remember what did you bring home, what souvenirs did you bring home?

Mr. Gluck:

That little war club. Not much.

Ms. Higa:

He brought a war club from, was it from New Guinea?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Ms. Higa:

Yeah from New Guinea that we still have, that my mom still keeps under her bed.

Mr. Gluck:

Tell him about that coconut (*laughs*).

Ms. Higa:

And he brought back a small coconut.

Mr. Gluck:

I painted on it.

Ms. Higa:

Yeah, that he drew. He always drew some pictures and maps and such. So he drew the date on a small coconut from, where was that?

Mr. Gluck:

New Guinea.

Ms. Higa:

New Guinea and Guadalcanal it says.

Mr. Gluck:

Oh yeah, Guadalcanal that's right, sorry.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you were in the service did you ever see any USO shows anywhere?

Mr. Gluck:

I think so.

Ms. Higa:

Remember where?

Mr. Gluck:

I don't remember, I think I did, yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Gluck:

We didn't have much to do with them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

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

Ms. Higa:

No, you never went to Washington, D.C. on an Honor Flight, no?

Mr. Gluck:

No, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What else do you recall from your time in the Merchant Marine?

Ms. Higa:

Tell him the time when your tooth.

Mr. Gluck:

I don't remember that.

Ms. Higa:

That's a funny story though dad.

Mr. Gluck:

You tell him.

Ms. Higa:

(Laughs) Well what was the background, I know one time, this is to me and you know I'm in the medical field but I always find how to say

Mr. Gluck:

I had a problem.

Ms. Higa:

And where at?

Mr. Gluck:

I had a bad tooth, so I went ashore see if I could get help and get it taken care of. And they had a little tent there and a dentist was there. And they had to drill my tooth and put a filling in.

Well it didn't have electricity, so they used a bicycle with a chain that spun the drill. And that's how I got my tooth filled.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what?

Mr. Gluck:

That's it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What ribbons and medals did you get?

Ms. Higa:

You got some ribbons.

Mr. Gluck:

Oh yeah, I got all the ribbons for the different

Ms. Higa:

Do you remember the names of those ribbons or medals? Do you want to look at it, do you

know the names if you see it?

Mr. Gluck:

You can do it right there, just a minute, yeah. I've got all the ribbons that were available for me, sailing in the Pacific.

Ms. Higa:

Yeah, it's like a Pacific War Zone and this one There's a Foreign Service ribbon and one for Pacific War Zone and a World War II. And I don't know what this one is. Do you know what that one is? What that one is called and what that one is?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did the Merchant Marine get battle stars?

Mr. Gluck:

No, no, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

No battle stars?

Mr. Gluck:

No, no battle stars.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What else do you recall from your time in the Merchant Marine?

Mr. Gluck:

Oh I know that we got a nice thank you note from the President Truman, saying what a nice job we did. MacArthur also made a nice statement about that, about the Merchant Marine, what a good job we did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What else happened?

Mr. Gluck:

That's about it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Oh you went back to the Korean War then or what?

Mr. Gluck:

I was in the Korean War on a ship. And the thing I remember most is bringing back disabled Army trucks, all shot up. We had a whole load of Army trucks and we took them to Japan. And the Japanese overhauled them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you get back in the service, did you stay in the Reserves when you got out?

Mr. Gluck:

I stayed in, I stayed in, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You stayed in, okay.

Mr. Gluck:

Until the day I retired.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you retired from the Merchant Marine then, right?

Mr. Gluck:

Right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What date did you retire?

Ms. Higa:

April 9, 1981.

Mr. Misenhimer:

By the Merchant ...?

Ms. Higa:

Yeah. I'm reading his, oh here's his medals. He got the Pacific War Zone Medal, World War II Victory Medal, the Merchant Marine Defense Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Oh, you went on beyond, Vietnam too?

Ms. Higa:

Mm-mm.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You were in the Merchant Marine the whole time?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now I understand they did finally say that the Merchant Marine were veterans of World War II, is that correct?

Ms. Higa:

Yes, they finally said you were a veteran of World War II.

Mr. Gluck:

Oh yeah, yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then at that point you got your G.I. Bill I think.

Mr. Gluck:

That's right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

But that was sometime later.

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now the highest rank you got to when you were in the Reserves, what was the highest rank you got to?

Ms. Higa:

Well, no he wasn't in the Reserve, he just stayed in the Merchant Marine.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I mean, yeah when he stayed in the Merchant Marine, what was the highest rank he got to?

Ms. Higa:

Was it Captain?

Mr. Gluck:

Oh yeah.

Ms. Higa:

Master?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Anything else you recall about all that other time, I didn't cover that? Now in Korea, did you all haul supplies over to Korea?

Mr. Gluck:

Just that darn cold weather, icy and snow.

Ms. Higa:

What was it you took to the Korean War?

Mr. Gluck:

Gosh yeah. I remember it took a lot of food storage for the Korean War, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then where all did you go during Vietnam?

Mr. Gluck:

Oh Saigon and _____ and Saigon.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now you were on a ship's crew during most of your time in, is that correct?

Ms. Higa:

Um-hum, yes. Part of the ship crew?

Mr. Gluck:

Crew member you mean, what?

Ms. Higa:

I don't think we really understand the word crew.

Mr. Misenhimer:

He wasn't stationed ashore, he was stationed on a ship?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, crew member, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You took a lot of cruises then.

Mr. Gluck:

Tell him we were the last ship out of Vietnam, the last ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Anything else you recall about Korea or Vietnam?

Mr. Gluck:

Yeah, when the end of the war that we had to pick up our barges. And we went in there to pick up these barges, when the war ended we had to leave. They almost invaded Saigon at the time, so we had to get out of there fast.

Ms. Higa:

What else is on the ship, what else were you picking up?

Mr. Gluck:

That was it.

Ms. Higa:

Tell him the story about you guys were supposed to wait for somebody, yeah? Didn't they ask for you to pick up some of the passengers?

Mr. Gluck:

Yes, some Asians. They were evacuating personnel involved in the war and we were supposed to pick some up. We never got a chance. They took over so suddenly.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What's some other things that happened?

Mr. Gluck:

One of our sister ships got mined there in Saigon. We never did. They swam under the water and put a mine on the hull, blew it up. That's in Vietnam.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well Alfred is there anything else you've thought of?

Mr. Gluck:

No, that's it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well thank you Alfred, you too Jessica, thank you all for your time today for doing this.

Ms. Higa:

Oh our pleasure. Thank you Richard for volunteering all these years and really capturing so many different stories.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I've heard worlds of stories, that's right.

Mr. Gluck:

That's nice.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well and again Alfred thank you for your service to our country. We'll keep in contact, bye then.

Ms. Higa:

Okay, bye-bye. Thank you.

Mr. Gluck:

Thank you.

(End of interview.)

Transcribed by:

Gayle Misenhimer

Harlingen, Texas

August 8, 2019

Oral History by:

Richard Misenhimer

P.O. Box 3453

Alice, Texas 78333

Home: (361) 664-4071

Cell: (361) 701-5848