Frances (Olson) Arcement was born 5 February 1926 in Columbia Heights, Minnesota; as a child her family moved to Minneapolis, where she attended vocational high school, graduating in 1942. After a brief period working at Anchor Laundry in Minneapolis, in early 1944 Frances moved to Renton, Washington, and took a job with the aircraft manufacturer Boeing; here she worked as a riveter, helping to assemble the B-29 Superfortress aircraft. Frances remained at Boeing until the end of 1944, when she returned to Minnesota and took a position at the Twin Cities Ordinance Plant in New Brighton. Frances worked there until June 1945, serving as an inspector on an assembly line for .30 caliber shells.

In May 1945 Frances married Norman “Bud” Arcement, then serving with the US Navy submarine service, and moved with him to New York City. When Bud was discharged in November 1945, the couple returned to Minneapolis. Frances worked from 1945-49 again at Anchor Laundry, but then found a position with Honeywell; she remained with the company until she retired in 1984. At the time of this interview (November 2001), Frances and Bud lived in May Township, Washington County, Minnesota. Frances Arcement died in October 2011.

The final pages have interesting reflections on the 11 September 2001 attacks.
Tape 1, Side A. Counter begins at 000.

T: Today's Friday, the 2nd of November 2001 and this is side one of the interview with Frances Arcement. First, Frances I want to thank you very much for taking time out of your day to sit and have this conversation.

F: Oh, you're welcome.

T: I wanted to ask you first when and where you were born.

F: I was born in Columbia Heights, Minnesota, on February 5, 1926.

T: Columbia Heights is, it borders Minneapolis, right?

F: Yeah.

T: And if I remember correctly you went to high school, Vocational High School in Minneapolis?

F: I went to Edison High School, which is northeast Minneapolis. And then I went to Vocational High School.

T: Is that also in northeast?

F: Yes, well, you'd call it south Minneapolis. It's in downtown. Like, it's the end of downtown.

T: So you took a bus down to Vocational High School?

F: Streetcar.

T: Okay. And when did you finish Vocational High School?

F: In 1943.

(1, A, 20)
T: So when the Americans entered World War II, you were about 16, 15-16 years old?

F: Oh, probably 17.

T: Well we entered in ’41, you were born in ’26, so you were...

F: Yeah, 16.

T: How did your folks react to hearing that news?

F: I don’t even know, really couldn’t tell you.

T: Do you remember anybody in your family or at school sort of being upset over the next couple of days?

F: Well, I think everybody was, at that time. We had radios and everything was on the radio, so it upset everybody. But, as to what I was doing at the time, I don’t know.

T: Hmm. Did you have any brothers who were of military age?

F: No. I had one half-sister and that was it.

T: Okay. When you were in vocational, when you were going there, do you remember any of the young guys leaving school to volunteer, join the military?

F: No.

T: Was the school mostly guys or mostly girls?

F: Oh, it was kind of half and half. It was a trade school is what it was, and I went in for power machine operator.

T: Did you, do you remember at any time thinking, “Maybe I’ll join the service when I’m done?”

F: Never thought of it.

T: Was it something you decided no, or never thought of it at all?

F: Just never thought about it.

T: When did you first meet your husband, Bud?
F: Let’s see, it was in February of *(turning to Bud and asking)* when were you there in Minneapolis? In ’42?

B: ’42, yeah.

F: February ’42, that’s when it was.

T: And not long then after you decided to leave the area with a girlfriend apparently, to leave Minneapolis to take a job somewhere else.

F: Yeah, we went to work for Boeing in Renton, Washington, right out of Seattle. We went to work on B-29s.

T: Now that’s, that’s a long way from the Twin Cities. Was that the farthest away from home you’d ever been?

F: Yep.

T: What was that, were you nervous about that, going so far away?

F: Well, I think I was glad to get away for a while.

T: Were your folks nervous or upset at all about that?

F: They didn’t say a word.

T: Okay. So how many of you went along out there, just you and one girlfriend?

F: Yeah, my one girlfriend, Chaddy, and I went. I think we were both in the same position, we were both kind of tired of everything, and they had a deal in the newspaper where they would pay your fare, and find you a place to live, and I think we got a bonus if we went. So, we both decided to go, and off we went!

T: Off you went. Now you took the train out there, right?

F: Oh yeah.

T: Up through North Dakota and Montana, that way?

F: Yeah.

T: How long did that take, the train trip take?

F: I don’t know, I really couldn’t tell you.

T: Did you arrive in Seattle then at that time?
F: We had to come into Seattle, and I think we had buses waiting to take us.

T: So there were more than just you and your girlfriend Chaddy going out there.

F: Yeah, we’d come from all kind of places. And then we got to Renton and they had places for you to live. It was like, well, it would be like, right now it would be like patio homes, but they were all hooked together. My girlfriend and I had like a living room, and it was like one bedroom, and small kitchenette. And we could walk to work.

T: It was on the grounds of the plant there?

F: Well, no, not on the plant. We had to walk but it was like, it would remind you of a housing project, because kids were coming in from everywhere to work.

T: What was the mood around that little community?

F: Well, I don’t know, because everybody worked a different shift. Like, you know, when we started, we had to go in on the second shift, and then later on we could get day shifts. We had to go in for training, we had to learn how to rivet, and oh, they had to show you everything.

T: Were there mostly women in your work group or were there any men there?

F: Well, we had a few men that couldn’t get into the service, so then they would work for Boeing.

T: How did the men and women get along in this, in what little group you were working with?

F: We got along pretty good, in fact I had found me another boyfriend while I was there.

T: Can you say a little bit about that, I mean that’s, that’s interesting!

F: (laughs) Well, yeah, I did, I met a, well, there was Chaddy [friend with whom Frances traveled to Renton] and I, my girlfriend and I, and we were sitting on the end of the dock having lunch and two guys came up to us and they started talking and so we just started going with them, you know. I mean, he [Bud] was in the service, but we weren’t engaged at the time, so we started going together and, and, well, it was just, you just went together. In fact, you walked back and forth to work because they still lived in another place, you know, like I said, they had rows of these places. They were all mechanics. I was a mechanic and we just, you just, well, lot of friendship is what it is, everybody was from a different state so, you know, you found a lot of new girlfriends and, I don’t know.
T: Can you describe your work day, or first of all your actual job, what you did?

F: Well, let’s see, on a B-29 it was right where the nose, where the cockpit is, and you join to the body of the plane. The fuselage. Well, there’s a big, where you join the two, this is what I did (motions with hands, fitting together two parts), I had to put all these rivets in with a rivet gun.

T: To connect those two pieces together?

F: Together, yeah.

(1, A, 133)

T: Were there other people doing the same exact job as you?

F: Oh, yeah, there was other people, but I think as I, when I was finished with mine, then you go to another plane. But the planes were loaded with people working, everybody had their job, and that was mine.

T: Were the planes moving down an assembly line, or were you moving from one plane to the next?

F: You know, let’s see, I would, no, we would move, because a lot of the other stuff took longer to do.

T: So you’d take your rivet gun and move to the next plane that was behind that, and then keep moving.

F: And there was nothing, it seemed like nothing was in a hurry, and yet we produced planes like crazy.

T: How big was this assembly hall?

F: I don’t know, I couldn’t tell you how many planes were in there.

T: More than one plane in the place at a time?

F: Oh, yeah, much more than one plane at a time. It was huge.

T: What was the atmosphere like in this hall, was it big or noisy, or regimented?

F: No, it seemed like everybody got along, it, everybody did the work. There was no goofing off or anything, but everybody got along fine. We had good bosses.

T: Were your bosses men and women, or mostly men?
F: I think we had men.

T: Did you perceive yourself, Frances, as being well-paid?

F: Very well-paid. I sometimes wish I’d have stayed.

T: Were you piece work or salary, or hourly?

F: Hourly. You see, when we first started we were “C” – we had ratings – and then if you got better, you had a “B”, which I had a “B” rating. And then when my girlfriend and I decided well, it was time to go home, it was getting towards Christmas [1944], then they offered us a pay raise to keep us. More money involved. But we decided no, we were going to go home.

T: How many hours a week were you putting in?

F: I think then we were working 48, probably 54 hours.

T: Six days a week, this was?

F: Yeah. Sunday I think, that we had off. Like I said, it’s been a long time. But it was a good place to work.

T: As far as the atmosphere or the pay?

F: Even the work, everything was good about it.

T: Did you feel, Frances, that you were just putting planes together, or did you feel you were serving a larger purpose?

F: No, we knew we were putting those planes together for the war, that’s why we were there.

T: Did you think about that when you were working, or was it just in the back of your mind?

F: Well, I think we all thought about it, we knew they needed them, and we got them out.

T: Did that purpose make you work more carefully?

F: Oh, I’m sure. Everybody was careful.

T: Now when you were on second shift, what time did you have to start work?
F: Second shift I think we started at 3, 3 or 4, and you worked till midnight, one o'clock.

T: With time off for meals and breaks then?

F: Oh, yeah.

T: Was there a canteen at the place for dinner?

F: Well, there was places there for eating, but we weren't on second shift too long before we had days. And then sometimes in the evening my girlfriend and I would go to the USO. That was in town, the small town. And there was (****) at that time, well before that, I had played the piano a little bit, so we played piano, and we'd all sing, go home and that was it.

T: Was there a good social life out there?

F: Oh, very good. But there wasn't a lot of drinking. It was, at the time, I don't think people thought too much about drinking. It was just, you went to the USO to entertain, to talk the people, the service people that were there.

T: Was it free to get in?

F: Oh, yeah. The USO was always free.

T: Were there a lot of servicemen there too?

F: Yep.

T: What was the mood around the USO?

F: Well, everybody was happy. You didn't see anybody that... they were just plain happy. A good feeling.

T: That's good. Now it is also the case that you must have had to buy groceries and other stuff when you lived out there, too, right?

F: Oh, yeah, and at that time you know we had (kind of aside, or to Bud) what do you call those stamps?

T: Rationing?

F: Ration stamps.

T: What do you remember about the ration, rationing system?
F: Well, I could remember where we would have rations stamps and we would trade some of the guys so we could get stockings and they could get cigarettes.

T: So you swapped the stickers?

F: That’s right!

T: Was that legal?

F: It was legal, and we’d have to go into Seattle to get that, so we’d have to take a bus in there. Yeah, we’d stand in line there for our nylons, and the guys would go get their cigarettes.

T: Were there, do you remember standing in line for lots of different things?

F: I think nylons and mostly with us it would have been sugar, because we did a little cooking at our place. But I think that was what... gas we didn’t need, because everything we did, we walked or took a bus.

T: Right. Was buying your daily foodstuffs, your groceries, easy or a hassle?

F: No, it was easy.

T: Did you find mostly what you wanted in the stores?

F: Oh yeah, no problem.

T: And that’s with, without your ration stamps, you mean?

F: Without ration stamps, yeah.

T: Anything you remember being in short supply?

F: I can’t really remember being short of anything. Of course, we didn’t eat a lot, you know, two girls in a small place, we didn’t cook a lot, and we ate out a lot.

T: Eating out a lot suggests the pay must have been good enough for you to afford a social life.

F: Oh yeah, yeah.

T: Were you saving money or sending money back home, too?

F: Saving it. Financially I was doing fine, better than when I was home.

T: Really, before you left, you mean?
F: Yep.

T: What did you do before you left to go out to Washington?

F: Well, I just got out of school in 1943, but while I was in school I was working part time at Juliette Originals, which was a dress factory in the Merchandise Mart Building, at 400 1st Avenue North in Minneapolis. When you were a student, they sent you from Vocational High School to different places to learn more about your trade, like I wanted to be a power machine operator. Well, I wasn’t fast enough for a power machine operator, but I did, the boss there we had was terrific, too, because he’d let me try at some other stuff, so I did, like… You ever see trim work on dresses and stuff like that? I used to do that, then he would put me, he said, “Now if I show you how to steam press these,” he says, “you can go far with just ironing,” and I hate ironing to this day! And then you had, when you were short of work, you know, you have to put the patterns, we had a guy who cut out these dresses, suits and that, and you’d have to lay the parts, only we could do that, too. It was more or less getting us out to do what we were trying to learn at work, or at school, and we’d go and work in the dress factory.

T: Now that was 1943, by that time.

F: Yeah. I had that job before I went to Renton, Washington, to work for Boeing.

T: How easy was it to find jobs in Minneapolis in 1943?

(1, A, 237)

F: I really didn’t look, I just went there when they sent me, and that’s where I stayed.

T: They hired on after you were done?

F: Yeah. I wasn’t there too long before we took off to Renton, Washington.

T: Before you left, were you living at home?

F: Stayed at home.

T: Were your folks bothered by rationing or shortages that you recall?

F: Nay, didn’t bother them either. We managed fine.

T: What did your folks do during the war time?
F: My mother was, she worked for Gross Brothers, the dry cleaning plant on 15th and Nicollet [in Minneapolis]. She was a floor lady in the curtain department. My dad, my step-dad, was a truck driver for Pratt’s Express.

T: And both of them had all the work they wanted during war time?

F: Yeah.

T: When you decided to leave Boeing and come back to Minneapolis, what brought you to that decision, because it sounds like you had it pretty well set out there?

F: Yeah, I decided to get married.

T: So you were writing to [Bud], or he was writing to you?

F: Yep.

T: Who popped the question first?

(1, A, 251)

F: That one. (points to Bud, across the room)

T: Now when, when was that, do you remember?

F: Oh, Lord, I don’t remember when. (calls to Bud) Do you?

B: No, I don’t.

T: Sometime when, well, obviously, ’44 when you were out there in Seattle?

F: Yeah.

T: And you said, you wrote back and said yes, and then decided to come back to Minneapolis?

F: Yep, we got married May 19, 1945.

T: Now after you left... Did your girlfriend Chaddy leave Boeing the same time you did?

F: Same time as me.

T: Frances, when you worked there, do you remember a lot of turnover among the employees, people coming and going?
F: Seems like the bunch we came in with, that bunch stayed. They learned their job and they stayed. I mean, it was good money for that time, and it was a lot of people that didn’t have work, well, they found work and they were going to keep it.

T: Now was the work physically demanding work?

F: No, it was an easy job. All of the jobs. You had one thing you did, and it seemed liked we worked them and you make it easy.

T: Did that make it monotonous in any way?

F: Nope, you had a lot of people to talk to. There was always somebody working ‘round where you were.

T: And you could talk while you were working?

F: Sure you could.

T: How big were those planes?

F: A B-29 is, I don’t know how big they are. They were like the B-52s. It’s a big plane. It was huge. And we had the gun turrets up there. Where I worked putting this ring in, there was a gun turret right up here.

T: Was it noisy in this hall?

F: I don’t think so. I don’t know why, either that or you’re used to it.

T: Maybe. Well, what did you do when you had free time out there, besides go to the USO? Did you go outside of town or travel at all?

F: We’d go in to Seattle every now and then for a show. Or downtown. I don’t think Seattle is more than about 45 minutes from where we were. We took a bus in.

T: Definitely close enough to go, like on Sundays?

F: We went to a theatre or shopping, that’s, at that time you know, we weren’t old enough to drink.

T: Was it 21 to drink?

F: Yeah. Even if it was 18 I don’t think it would have made any difference to us, we just weren’t into the drinking scene.

T: Okay. Well, when you came back [to Minneapolis], you had another defense related job. What was that?
F: At Anchor Laundry I worked in the front offices for four years.

T: Well, this is before that. After Boeing you went to Twin Cities Ordinance Plant [in New Brighton, Minnesota], right?

F: Yeah, that’s right, I went there first. And I worked there, and I worked on the assembly line, as an inspector of .30 caliber bullets.

T: Now how did you, how did you find that particular job?

F: It was advertised in the paper. They were looking for help again.

T: Did they have trouble finding enough people for these places?

F: Yep.

T: Did you specifically look for a defense industry job?

F: At that time, yeah, because of the war. Well, I figured if I could do it if they needed it, so somebody has to do it. I was more than glad to get the job, go in and help. The pay was good there, too. Now I can’t tell you how much, but it was good for the time, you know.

T: Lot of folks working up there?

F: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Lot of people there. That one, there again I worked shifts.

T: And they were going around the clock up there?

F: Yeah.

T: What else did they produce up there?

F: Well, they had to have other stuff. I just stayed right, you know you didn’t walk around a lot, in a plant like that. I know we did .30 calibers, but I know they had bigger ones.

T: Now what exactly did you do?

F: Well, I was just, I had a machine that just sent bullets through and I had to check them. I was an inspector. I had to check them for, to see that there was nothing wrong with them.

T: How do you check a bullet? Seems like an awful small thing to look at.
F: I don’t know, you had a light and a mirror, and it rolled by [at this time] and you had to be fast enough to pick them out. You had to look for nicks or whatever.

T: So you were looking for specific things on all sides of this particular...

F: All sides. Just like on a belt, they came right by you like that. But they weren’t that fast. You got a chance to look at them good.

T: Were other men or women doing the same thing?

F: Oh yeah, we had a big line.

T: Mostly men or women, or mixed?

F: I think we had more, more women than men there again, too, because most of the guys were in the service, so you figured the guys that were working there, didn’t qualify to go in the service. (***)

T: How did you get up there? Was there a streetcar up there, or a bus?

F: We used to pool rides. Because I still lived on Central Avenue, at 19th and Central [in Minneapolis], and this is over in New Brighton. So we pooled.

T: Okay. Being back in Minneapolis again, how was Minneapolis changing because of the war? What do you think?

F: I don’t know, I don’t know if they were living faster or what, I really don’t know. Because, like when we worked at the Ordinance Plant, even then when we’d pool a ride we went bowling, we had a league. We’d either go downtown, East Hennepin, or, you know, like on Hennepin and 7th there was a bowling alley there. Or we went to Elsie’s, which was Northeast, and we bowled there. We had leagues, so we always went out. Especially, you see, third shift we’d go out right after work, early in the morning, and bowl, a bunch of us. Then have breakfast, go home, go to sleep. And then get up in the evening and you were ready to go back to work again. That seems like that was our thing, was bowling.

T: Do you recall your folks being better off because of the war or not as well off?

F: I don’t know, I think about the same.

T: Did your folks switch jobs at all during the war?

F: They both kept the same jobs.

(1, A, 326)
T: And they seemed to be not bothered by the rationing or shortages?

F: No, not bothered.

T: Was your half-sister living at home then?

F: Yeah. She was four years younger than me.

T: So she didn’t finish high school until after the war then I guess.

F: Probably, yeah.

T: How about you yourself when you working up there in New Brighton, you were still living at home. How did you see yourself, as financially doing okay?

F: Yeah, because I used to give my mother some money. In fact, I remember my first paycheck from there, it was close to Easter [1945], and I bought my mother a new coat, a new hat, a new dress, new shoes for Easter out of that first paycheck. And my second paycheck, I bought her a new kitchen set.

T: How many hours were you working a week up there?

F: Oh, we were working 60 hours.

T: Same as at Boeing, okay. And you were hourly here?

F: Yep, oh yeah.

T: Did you, were you a member of a church at all at this time?

F: Yeah. When we were in Columbia Heights we belonged to Immaculate Conception, which is a Catholic church. When we were in Minneapolis we belonged to St. Clemons, which is another Catholic church. It was also in Northeast.

T: Was your place of worship, did they sponsor any volunteer programs to aid in the war effort?

F: Not that I can remember. They probably did, but I don’t remember too much about it.

T: Do you recall the message from the pulpit changing at all, once we were at war?

F: Well, they talked about the war a lot.

T: In what way?
F: Well, how would you say it? They just wanted you to pray more, and to do whatever you could for the country.

T: How did you take that to heart?

F: Well, I figured it was fine. That’s what you should do. You have to help. Especially with bonds, like buy war bonds.

T: Did you?

F: Yeah. That was, that was the thing.

T: Did you feel that was something you should do, or something you wanted to do?

F: I figured it was something I wanted to do, and it was something we should do, it was to help.

T: So you recall the war being at least mentioned at your church during this time?

F: Oh, yeah.

T: Let’s see, when you were living out at Boeing there, you worked days out there for a while. Could you just, if you can, walk us through an average day for you, from when you got up in the morning to when you went to bed?

F: Oh my, I couldn’t even remember.

T: What time did you get up in the morning?

F: Can’t remember.

T: Let’s see, your first shift started when?

F: Probably six or seven. And it would probably take us maybe a good half hour to walk.

T: So you were getting up pretty early, weren’t you?

F: Yeah.

T: Did you usually have breakfast at home, or at the...

F: Oh, we always had it at home. In fact, I think we’d pack our own lunches even.

T: So it was cheaper to pack your own stuff than to eat at the canteen or something like that.
F: Oh, yeah. I think there was a bus, but I think we walked most of the time, because we weren’t that far. Everything was kind of more or less close, you know. So a half an hour’s walk was nothing.

T: It’s almost longer to wait for the bus, or get on and make stops and then get off.

F: And I figured I could walk and save the money.

T: So there must have been a lot of folks arriving at the same time at the plant as you.

F: Oh yeah. Now at the main entrance we had to show our badge. Had your name and number on it.

T: No picture, though.

F: That I don’t remember definitely, but maybe it did, because I don’t know how else you’d get in. You had to have a badge to get in, that’s a fact, or you wouldn’t have made it in. I mean, it was war times.

T: Was there security at the plant?

F: Yes. All over, even when we went and sat at the end of the dock and they rolled the planes out, there was always security there.

T: Did that make you feel more secure, or more nervous?

F: More secure.

T: Were they army soldiers?

F: They were just people I guess Boeing hired.

T: Well, now let’s see, once you showed your badge actually… did you ever forget your badge, by the way?

F: Oh! No, I never forgot it.

T: Now when you got in, was there a, did you have to change into work clothes, or did you wear them to work?

F: We just wore them to work.

T: And did people punch time clocks here?
F: Uh huh.

T: You punched a time clock.

F: That’s the only time I ever came to work on time, was there.

T: Because you had to punch a clock? *(laughs)*

F: I had to punch a clock when I worked at Honeywell too, but that didn’t mean I was not there with maybe half a minute to spare.

T: Now from where you came in and punched a clock, how far was it to your actual work station?

F: Oh, I couldn’t tell you.

**End of Side A. Side B begins at counter 387.**

T: Side 2. Did you have a tool kit that you had to bring to work, or was that stashed there?

F: It was stashed, we all had lockers that we could put our stuff in.

T: So you could lock your stuff up. So you had a riveter, a rivet gun?

F: Yeah, we had all, that was all there.

T: How big is a rivet gun, by the way? Is it a big thing?

F: It was, you could handle it, because I had to learn how to rivet on the side of a plane. It had to be something we could handle.

T: So it was a two-handed thing?

F: Two hands, yeah.

T: Loud?

F: Yeah, like a rivet gun.

T: How would you describe that sound to someone who has never seem a rivet gun?

F: Well, to me it sounded like a, a rat-a-tat-tat, you know, by the time you got the rivet in, then you went on to the next one. You put this thing, there were little holes you had to put the rivet gun up to and then it made this sound and then, put the rivet in... *(motioning with hands)* and then you move to the next hole.
T: Were there a lot of, a lot of holes?

F: Well, you had to put the rim in, so you had to have, so I don’t know how many holes. But it took you a while.

T: And then you just moved to the next plane and did the same thing all over again. Interesting. Let’s see and you, on the assembly line here, did a whistle blow for lunch, and everyone left to go for lunch at the same time?

F: Right.

T: So this must have been a mass exodus towards...

F: Towards outside, or the cafeteria, wherever.

T: How long did you get for lunch?

F: Probably half an hour. And I think our breaks were like 15 minutes, at that time.

T: That’s not much time, either.

F: Well, they don’t have to give anything, really. I enjoyed it though. I really liked it.

T: What did you like best about that job?

F: I don’t know, I just liked working for the people. They were good people to work for.

T: Did you like being away from home?

F: Well, for a while, then I got lonesome, and it was time to go home.

T: Well, you got back to Minneapolis about the end of 1944, is that right?

F: Yep.

T: And living at home again. Did you, do you recall your neighborhood being any different because of the war?

F: No, same old thing, because we lived in an apartment, so you knew all the neighbors. They hadn’t changed at all.

T: Any young men or women from the neighborhood go into the service?
F: One that I know of. One went in the service. But there weren’t a lot of younger couples in there. You have to remember, I think I might have been one of the youngest, and then this fellow that went in the service. The rest were all older men, or else, yeah, they were all older.

T: Kind of an older neighborhood.

F: Yep.

T: Well, you were living at home when President Roosevelt died in April 1945.

F: Right.

T: Do you remember how you reacted to that, that news?

F: I don’t remember how I reacted, but I know my mother and dad, they were, well, they liked Roosevelt, so you know all their feelings were that he was a good president. I mean, like you are sad to see him go, you know?

T: You weren’t old enough to vote by that time, were you? You were only 18, 19?

F: Yep.

T: Any reaction at your, people you worked with? You were up at the Twin Cities Ordinance Plant at that time.

F: No, just the usual conversation, you know.

T: People not worried or sad or anything?

F: No (coughs), they didn’t like, I mean, they were sad that he had died, but, that’s about it.

T: Now you and Bud were married in Minneapolis in May 1945, right after the war in Europe had ended.

F: Yeah.

T: That war in Europe ending, did that have a, make an impact on you, that the war in Europe was over?

F: No, we were just glad it was over.

T: That change anything at work for you, because you were still at the Ordinance Plant.
F: Yeah. No, it didn't change a thing. Still producing.

T: Okay. Now you were married in May, because Bud was back in Minneapolis by that time, back by May.

F: Yeah.

T: How long did you stay in Minneapolis then?

F: We were in Minneapolis two, three days. We got married, I was home, that was on Saturday, May 19th that we were married. We were home the next day, and the third day we took off for New Orleans, where his folks were. And we were there for a month, then he had to go to Napa, California. He had to get his orders. So we had to take the train from New Orleans to Napa, California, for his orders, and then he had to go to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, (turns to Bud) right?

B: No, first I went to New London, Connecticut.

F: Okay, so he went to New London, I went home, till we found out what was going to happen. Then he got transferred to Brooklyn then, so then I went to Brooklyn, too. He had to go to school there. And I think we were only there six weeks. And then the war ended, the war against Japan ended. And he was discharged in November, so then we came home.

T: When the war ended against Japan, Frances, did that have an impact on you?

F: Oh yeah, I was glad he was home.

T: Now there was a personal impact, wasn’t there, because the war ending against Japan meant, means Bud wasn’t going to be shipped out.

F: That’s right, because he was in the Pacific to begin with so, it was, we were happy it was over.

T: So the war ending against Japan had more of an impact for you than the war against Europe had had.

F: Right.

T: Do you recall any of the celebrations that went along with the war ending against Japan, because you were in New York by that time, right?

F: Let’s see... I was home [in Minneapolis], and Bud was in New York. We didn’t do anything, because he was on shore patrol in New York, and I was home, but we didn’t do anything.
T: Was your street or your neighborhood celebrating?

F: Not that I know of. Minneapolis downtown was celebrating like crazy. They had, we probably did down on Central Avenue, too, but it was nothing like downtown. I mean, downtown was parades, you know, ticker tapes out the windows. Our neighborhood was kind of, as far as I can remember, I think it was kind of quiet.

T: But it was mostly residential where you lived, right?

F: Yeah.

T: Were you living at home then also, when the US government, when the US dropped the atomic bombs on Japan?

F: Yeah.

T: Do you remember hearing that news or seeing it in the papers? That we'd used this new device against the Japanese?

F: I remember reading about it, and we heard it on radio.

T: What were you thinking when you heard that?

F: Well, *(pauses three seconds)* it was one way to end the war, looks like that was the only way it was going to end. It was not a good way to go, but you had to do something.

T: How have your feelings changed since 1945 on the use of atomic weapons?

F: I don't really like it. Even now, with what's going on here [with the attacks in September 2001 on the World Trade Center in New York and Pentagon in Washington, D.C.], *(pauses three seconds)* I don't know how to say it. Not a good thing, and yet it's going to last for a long time I think.

T: How do you think, finally, how do you think the war from beginning to end changed your life, individually?

F: Well, I don't know. It wasn't that good at home [living with my folks], so when I got married, it was a much better deal. *(pauses three seconds)* You know, we could work for what we wanted. At home it was, [my parents] goals weren't the same as what I wanted, you know what I mean? So it helped, it helped us both, because [Bud] came from a poor family also, so we did what we wanted to do and we did alright.
T: And the war, it sounds like, opened up those opportunities.

F: Right, it did.

T: I imagine you wouldn't have gone to Seattle without the war.

F: Oh, no, I wouldn't have thought of it.

T: Wouldn't have met Bud, without the war.

F: No, I wouldn't. He'd have never been, he probably would have never known what Minnesota was, or where it was. I did a lot of traveling. Seattle, New Orleans, California, New York. And we've traveled ever since.

T: Do you think that was, that traveling kind of started an interest in traveling for you?

F: Oh, yeah. And we've traveled everywhere.

T: You have, haven't you? Lot of places. Outside the country, too.

F: Oh, yeah. In fact, if Bud weren't in the condition he is now [in poor health] we'd probably still be traveling.

T: You traveled just till very recently?

F: Two years, well, the last year really we'd still been in New Orleans when he had this last stroke.

T: You were in New Orleans when he had...

F: And he was in New Orleans the year before when he'd had a stroke. So I said, "That's it," I said, "that's it."

T: Okay. Frances, was the war the right thing to do?

F: Yeah, I think so, because, let's see, how would I say it? (pauses three seconds) I hate to say too much on the tape, but Japan was (pauses three seconds) kind of sneaky. The attack on Pearl Harbor. I know more about that one than I do the European one. It just wasn't right what they did, so we had no choice but go back and do the same thing. We had to keep this country free, just like what we are trying to do now [in the aftermath of the attacks of 11 September 2001]. I think we did the right thing. There's only one thing, if it'd been me, I would have cleaned them out good all the way, I wouldn't have stopped.
T: You mean, as far as invading Japan?

F: Yep.

T: Wouldn’t that have cost possibly a lot of casualties possibly on our side, too?

F: I’m sure it would, just like it’s going to cost us a lot right now [again, a reference to the 11 September 2001 attacks]. I think it will cost us more now than then. We don’t know what we are fighting now. At that time we knew who we were fighting. It’s a different way of life, is what it is. This is not going to be a good one, because we don’t know who we’re fighting. We know names, but we don’t know how many others there are, we don’t know.

T: It’s a very different situation.

F: Very different.

T: Anything you want to add to the conversation?

F: No, except I don’t like war, period. I don’t think anybody does. But on the other hand, we have to do something, because we can’t live the way they do.

T: Did you feel the same way during the Second World War, too?

F: The Second World War I felt the same way, but we knew who we were fighting, and we knew where they were. This one here we just, we don’t know.

T: Does that make it scarier for you?

F: Much scarier. It’s not enough that I’m going to stop doing what I normally do, but it’s not good. At my age now, I don’t have too much to worry about, but my kids, my grandkids, my great-grandkids, what kind of life are they going to have?

T: Legitimate questions.

F: Really.

T: I am going to turn the machine off. Thank you very much for the interview.

END OF INTERVIEW