

**Interviewee: Ardice Brower**

**Interviewer: Thomas Saylor**

**Date of interview: 20 December 2001**

**Location: living room of the Brower home, St. Louis Park, MN**

**Transcribed by: Kimberly Johnson, July 2002**

**Edited by: Thomas Saylor, August 2002**

Ardice Brower was born 21 July 1921. Her family lived at that time on a farm near the small town of Kennedy, Kittson County, in far northwestern Minnesota. The Browsers moved from there to Des Moines, Iowa, when Ardice was young, and it was here that she graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1939. Over the next four years Ardice worked at a small loan company in Des Moines, and later for a radio station in Omaha, Nebraska.

In December 1943 Ardice enlisted in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve; following Basic Training at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, she was stationed in 1944 at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, North Carolina, where she worked as secretary to the station legal officer. The primary World War II mission of Cherry Point, which was completed in 1942, was to train units and individual Marines for the Pacific theater. The air station also served as a base for anti-submarine operations; aircraft from Cherry Point were responsible for sinking two German U-boats off the North Carolina coast during 1943. Ardice remained at Cherry Point throughout her enlistment, leaving only to be discharged from Camp LeJeune in January 1946 with the rank of staff sergeant.

Following military service, Ardice worked in Chicago for a year, then married (husband Bill) and relocated to California. She raised four children, but still found time to attend USC for three years, and in 1968 graduated from Sonoma State University. After her youngest child started high school, Ardice worked in real estate, was president of the local Board of Realtors, kept active in her Methodist church, and was involved in volunteer activities, including Adult Literacy, the American Association of University Women, and the Community Development Commission. In later years the Browsers returned to Minnesota; at the time of this interview Ardice resided in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

Ardice was a pioneer – the Marine Corps Women's Reserve was only established in February 1943. She talks openly about being one of the first women in the Marines during the war. Also helpful are comments about adjusting to civilian life after the war, and some shortages, like housing, that persisted into 1946.

**Interview key:**

**AB = Ardice Brower**

**TS = Thomas Saylor**

**[text] = words added by editor, either for clarification or explanation**

**(\*\*\*) = words or phrase unclear**

**NOTE: interview has been edited for clarity**

**Tape 1, Side A. Counter begins at 000.**

TS: Ardice, first of all, I just want to thank you very much for taking time out of your day.

AB: You're very welcome.

TS: Let me just start with some general bits of biographical information. We've talked a little bit already, but just for the record here: When and where were you born?

AB: I was born in Drayton, North Dakota, July 21, 1921.

TS: Now your folks lived on a farm at that time, is that right?

AB: In Minnesota, across the border. Went to the nearest hospital there.

TS: Now, they didn't stay on the farm very long though, did they?

AB: They'd been on the farm longer before I was born (*laughs*). But they left shortly afterwards. They thought they would make their fortune in this rich, Red River Valley dirt, but it didn't work out that way, so they went back to Iowa.

TS: Had they come from Iowa originally?

AB: Yes.

TS: How long had they been in Minnesota then?

AB: It was several years, but I don't recall how long it was. My older sister was about seven or eight years old when they left, and she remembers being there a few years, going to school.

TS: So it didn't work out for them economically on the farm.

AB: They went with some siblings, so there were several other families who all went together.

TS: Did they all return to Iowa, or just your folks?

AB: Everybody left.

TS: Everybody left and went back. So you spent your childhood, then, growing up where?

AB: In Iowa, primarily in Ames and Des Moines.

TS: And that's where you finished high school, if I remember correctly?

AB: Yes. Roosevelt High in Des Moines, class of 1939.

TS: What kind of place was Des Moines as a high school student?

AB: Well, those years were Depression years, and we had no car. I went to high school on a bus, we got special tickets to—a streetcar it was—special tickets to go, and we didn't have enough money for me to even buy a student body ticket. We didn't have enough money to spend a nickel for an ice cream cone. We were living in a rented house, and we rented out two units upstairs that were kind of makeshift apartments. I can remember my father (*pauses three seconds*) telling one of the tenants who came in with ice cream to never do that in front of us because we couldn't afford it.

TS: What kind of work was your dad doing by this time?

AB: He was a butcher. He and my uncle and grandfather had had a family grocery meat market in downtown Ames, Iowa. They went bankrupt, and so he was working part time, barely making it. Later he and my mom got a divorce while I was still going to school. I was in seventh grade when they got a divorce. My older sister was away from home, and my younger sister and I were there. We were "latchkey kids."

TS: At a time when that wasn't commonplace.

AB: It may have been more commonplace then, but they just didn't talk about it (*laughs*).

TS: I think maybe you're right. And your dad moved out of the area then?

AB: He was there for a while, actually until after I graduated from high school. He came to my graduation, but then he eventually married somebody else and they went to, first to Nevada, I think the place was called Silver Springs, where he had a meat market. Then he went to... Los Angeles, where he managed a meat market for a chain, Ralph's Grocery Store. Then he eventually got his own market, in Hollywood, and some Hollywood stars would shop there.

TS: Did he do that until he retired, then?

AB: Yes. He did.

TS: He did that a number of different places, different locations.

AB: Yes.

TS: Well, let me ask you—after you finished high school, you worked at a number of different jobs. Is that right?

AB: Yes. In Des Moines, I had—well, you don't want a lot of jobs. I'll just tell the one I was in the longest, and that was working for a small loan company, where they made loans to teachers, railroad employees, and people with secure incomes. When they couldn't pay, they would roll over what they owed into the next loan so they could never ever get out of debt. And I wrote collection letters, and made a few telephone calls, and dictated letters. *(pauses three seconds)* Never wanted to be in that business again.

TS: That sounds like depressing work.

AB: It was.

TS: You also worked at a radio station, is that correct, in Omaha?

AB: Yes. We moved to Omaha, where my older sister lived, and I went to work for radio station WOW as a newsroom secretary.

TS: Did you like that job?

AB: That was a lot of fun. The whole thing was a lot of fun. And I was secretary to the News Director, the chief newscaster, and the engineer of the station. They all had their offices right in our complex.

TS: Were you working at the radio station when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on the seventh of December 1941?

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AB: *(pauses three seconds)* No. I was still living in Des Moines, but I can remember where I was. I was at my older sister's house, in Omaha, with her family and my friend.

TS: Let me ask just what you were doing when you heard that news?

AB: Well I was at my sister's for the day, with a friend who also worked with my brother-in-law. When we heard the news, we sat around the house just as stunned as everyone else was. Couldn't believe our ears. But the next day this friend that I was with, he enlisted.

TS: So he went right down to enlist the next day?

AB: Yes.

TS: Did you know where Pearl Harbor was when you heard this news?

AB: Oh, I'm sure I didn't. *(laughs)*

TS: Your mom was in Omaha with you too, right?

AB: No. I was visiting. We only moved there in 1942, after my younger sister graduated from high school in Des Moines.

TS: Do you remember how your mother reacted on hearing this news? *(coughing in background)*

AB: No. All I remember is just that scene in my sister's living room, there in Omaha. And we had the radio on.

TS: Did you keep the radio on for a while, and sort of stay tuned to the radio?

AB: That part I don't remember.

TS: But you remember hearing the first bit of news that reported about the Japanese attack?

AB: Yes.

TS: How did you feel yourself, if you can recall?

AB: Stunned is the word. Just kind of unbelievable that we would be going to war.

TS: So until that time, it sounds like you hadn't expected anything like this to happen. Sense any buildup or anything.

AB: I can remember hearing about Hitler when I was a senior in high school, only that it seemed so far away, really not touching us too much.

TS: In what ways did your life change after the US entered the war in December of 1941?

AB: *(pauses five seconds)* Again, the time that I was working in the radio station, we had all the war reports coming in daily on the teletype *(pauses three seconds)* and they were usually horrible reports. This wasn't the very beginning of the war, because *(pauses five seconds)* I remember especially hearing about the war in the Pacific, and of course there was the European theater before that, even though [the US] wasn't involved. Well, we had somebody from our newsroom, a reporter, who had enlisted. He was somebody I didn't know very well, but he was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. So I remember that part. And then, I remember hearing all these reports coming in about the tragedies, the men that were killed in the South Pacific, and all the problems, and feeling that I wanted to go to help.

TS: Something you felt early on, a desire to be a part of the war effort?

AB: Not at the beginning—I didn't think about enlisting at all. It was kind of a gradual thing with me *(laughing)*. And I didn't know anybody who had enlisted—no women at all.

TS: This one fellow from the radio station—anybody else from your circle of friends or the radio station that actually did enlist?

AB: Enlisted? I don't believe so. And I know when I came back on my first furlough and went to the radio station that there was a little article in the paper that I was the one who had enlisted.

TS: Suggesting that there hadn't been others indeed.

AB: Yes.

TS: Okay. From '41 to '43 then, you were in Omaha most of that time? Until you enlisted?

AB: Yes. That would be. But I can remember there weren't many men my age around—they were all gone by this time *(laughing)*. And of course I didn't have my old high school friends in the same town to know what was happening to them.

TS: Because you weren't in Des Moines any more.

AB: Because I wasn't there anymore. But, there just weren't young men around unless you saw them come back in uniform from the front someplace.

TS: Now, were you living with your mom and your younger sister in Omaha at this time?

AB: Yes.

TS: What was an average day like for you, and your mom, and your sister, once the war began?

AB: We all worked, all three of us. My mom worked at United Airlines back in the days when they prepared the meals that they put on the planes. My mom did the beverages. She had arthritis bad, and they would put the beverages in thermoses that she would have to tighten with hands that were crippled really with arthritis. And she went to the airport, and had to transfer twice on streetcars or buses to get there.

TS: And your sister, what was she doing?

AB: And she worked for (*pauses three seconds*), she worked for an ad agency as a secretary.

TS: Also in downtown Omaha?

AB: Yes

TS: In what ways did your responsibilities at home change, things like shopping, or rationing? Did you have shortages of different things?

AB: You know we had been through the Depression so we (*laughing*) didn't really think so much about the shortages, I think. We just weren't used to having a lot. (*laughs*) We didn't have a car, and we just barely made it most of the time.

TS: So from your perspective, the wartime shortages were no great shift for you.

AB: Not for me. I think maybe they got worse after I went into the service, and it probably helped to have more than one person in a household. I think about my mom having to live as a single person, and to make it on her own, because my sister and I contributed to the rent, and other things, and we could have shared rationing coupons.

TS: When you went to the service was your mom living with just your sister then?

AB: She was. Then my sister started traveling with a good friend of mine for a while—I don't know how long that was. She wanted to go into the Marine Corps and wasn't old enough yet. She wanted to go when I did. But she had her birthday when she was in Florida, and enlisted in Florida. In the Marine Corps. And she came in and got a job as secretary to the—now I'm getting too far ahead. I'll stop.

TS: What this means is that your mother, for a while there, was living by herself in Omaha.

AB: Right. She was. And then, well—I'm not going to go into anymore, because I get too far ahead.

TS: Ardice, did you notice before you went to the Marine Corps in December of '43—how did your neighborhood change because of the war?

AB: I don't recall any change. And again we were in the Middle West, and I know lots of changes on the coast that we didn't experience. I imagine that every way we felt safer and more secure than people did on the West Coast.

TS: Simply living in Omaha and not in New York.

AB: Right. Or not in California. Because I've heard my husband tell about how it was in California. It wasn't that way.

TS: You mentioned there were fewer young men around the neighborhood.

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AB: Yes. None. *(both laugh)*

TS: Were you a member of a church at that time?

AB: I was—I didn't go a lot. But, I did go.

TS: Did your place of worship sponsor any volunteer programs that you know of to aid in the war effort? Rolling up bandages, or food and clothing drives, these kinds of things?

AB: I did do a little knitting—I didn't know how to knit *(laughing)*—for Britain. This was before we got in.

TS: What was that all about?

AB: And I can't even remember now—who I did it for, how it got started, or who I delivered it to. But I remember doing it.

TS: What were you making?

AB: I think it was something like a vest—I don't think it was a whole sweater. It was something like that.

TS: For adults or children?

AB: Adults.



TS: Knitting—out of wool?

AB: Yes.

TS: Okay. Did you—when you attended church, did you notice that the message changes at all once the country was at war?

AB: That I don't remember. I think people just accepted things.

TS: How about your place of work? Was there a noticeable difference in the climate, or the morale, or the job itself—at the radio station for example?

AB: Well, we were at war most of the time I was there, so I wasn't really able to notice a difference, but the morale was good. There was a lot of fun and teasing the whole time. Wonderful place to work.

TS: With the war on, did your financial situation—and you could maybe comment on your family's situation—do you think it was improved, or not as good as before the war started?

AB: I don't think there was any change.

TS: Your mom's job didn't change once we entered the war, or your sister's?

AB: No. And mine didn't change. And my sister and sister's husband, we all had the same jobs. We didn't do any war effort jobs. In fact, I don't remember hearing much about that kind of job where we were, in Omaha. There was a military base in Omaha—

TS: Was that Army?

AB: Army. *(pauses three seconds)* And again, without a car, we didn't get around, so we didn't even know our town that much *(laughs)*.

TS: What part of Omaha were you living in?

AB: It was West Omaha.

TS: West straight from downtown?

AB: From downtown. Omaha is on the [west bank of the] river, and Council Bluffs [Iowa] is right across the river—kind of like the Twin Cities, only smaller.

TS: Now, you joined the Marine Corps. I have to ask you—what prompted you to join the Marine Corps, and not the [Army] WACS or the [Navy] WAVES? Those were

already in existence, well before the Marine Corps started their own women's branch.

AB: I hadn't even especially thought about joining a women's group, and I just thought those Marines were terrific. We heard all the stories about the fighting in the South Pacific, getting teletypes [at the radio station] about the fighting and the losses. I don't know if I thought I was safe when I said, "I'll join when the Marines are formed," but that's what I said. And that's what I did (*laughs*) when the women Marines were formed.

TS: So this experience of the newsroom in a sense, of seeing this, maybe more news than other people actually saw, and being confronted—

AB: Oh, I think we did.

TS: --really, impacted you.

AB: And we had some military people come into the office—frequently.

TS: For what?

AB: You know, sometimes I don't even know. (*laughs*) I don't know—I can't remember—as the receptionist I saw them come in, but I don't remember them having any particular interviews with some of the news people. I don't remember that part. The newsroom was on the ground floor of this building, and all the rest of it was upstairs.

TS: So you would see everyone that came in, or most people that came in the building.

AB: Well, not necessarily. They usually were coming into the newsroom, or else they went upstairs. They didn't usually come in if they were going upstairs.

TS: So you joined the Marine Corps in December of 1943? What finally prompted you to go out and enlist? Because you'd been thinking about it, obviously a little bit?

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AB: I can't remember just exactly when the women Marines were formed, but it was very shortly after that in my memory that I just did.

TS: Was it a spur-of-the-moment decision where you got up one morning and said...?

AB: No, I don't think so. I think it was a little more thought out than that. I wanted to help end the war, and was responding to "Free a Man to Fight." But it definitely wasn't because I thought I would be happier, or because I thought I would have a lot

more dates, because there were no men around, or because I was a “loose woman,” as many people thought happened when you joined the service.

TS: Really? There was a certain stigma?

AB: Oh yes. In fact, I talked to a woman here in town who joined, and she didn't even like to tell people she'd been in the service because people would think that she *(laughs)* was not a very moral person if she did that.

TS: For joining the service? Now where did that come from, do you think?

AB: Well, you have to remember the times, too. Women didn't do things that men did. Much of anything. Women started working in a war plant, and that was totally new, and all these jobs ended when the men came back.

TS: And joining the service?

AB: That's about as bad as you could do. *(laughs)*

TS: Was there a local Marine Corps recruiting station there in Omaha?

AB: I'm sure there was. I don't specifically remember that part. But I did have to go to Des Moines for the official signup—had to have a physical.

TS: You were 22 years old by now?

AB: I guess so.

TS: How did your mom and your sister and the rest of your family respond to you joining the military?

AB: They just accepted it. My family was not a controlling family, so they didn't say, “You're going to do this or that or something else.”

TS: Did you sense approval or disapproval in any way?

AB: I don't think I exactly had a pat on the back *(laughs)* or anything negative either—just more acceptance is probably the word.

TS: It sounds like you told them of your decision, as opposed to “What would you think if I...”?

AB: I probably talked about it beforehand, before I finally did it. I'm sure I did.

TS: But you didn't get any negative feedback?

AB: No, I don't think anybody tried to talk me out of it. Except where I worked, they teased me a lot, about joining. Threw me a great big party.

TS: You remember that?

AB: Oh yes. The whole station came.

TS: How'd that make you feel?

AB: Wonderful. Great.

TS: Make you regret leaving?

AB: Well, as I said, I didn't leave because I wanted to leave there, I just thought it was a better place to be.

TS: The right thing to do?

AB: Yes.

TS: From the Midwest, where did you go for Basic Training?

AB: Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

TS: Now, was that a new part of the country for you?

AB: Of course, I was born out of Iowa—but in my memory, I had only been in Iowa and Nebraska in my entire life. Never did any traveling. Met people then from all over the country, once I went into the Marine Corps.

TS: Was this the first time you'd been away from home for any extended period of time?

AB: Oh, I'm sure it was.

TS: What was that like being so far for who knows how long?

AB: It was fine with me. I got along well. I was very well adjusted (*laughs*).

TS: Were there others in your Basic Training group who had a more difficult time adjusting to being far away, or in a new environment?

AB: I don't remember—I'm sure there probably were, but I just don't remember anything special. And we had much easier Basic Training than the men did.

TS: How do you know that? Did they tell you this?

AB: Well, just from what I heard of what men experienced. We didn't have anywhere near the physical kinds of challenges that the men did. We had the drill instructor who taught us how to drill and march and all that, and he was a very handsome young man, and that was a highlight (*laughs*).

TS: Was it all women in your Basic Training group?

AB: Oh yes.

TS: And how many of you were there?

AB: I can't remember that. There were a lot of women though. There were a lot.

TS: Did anybody not make it, or get washed out of this original Basic Training group?

AB: I don't remember that part either. We didn't do anything with artillery, guns—nothing like that.

TS: Did you do rifle or pistols?

AB: No. Nothing like that, except as observers on the artillery range. I'm sure all the women today do, but we didn't.

TS: So you had the Basic Training experience, stripped of all the weapons?

AB: Yes. And a lot of the physical challenges, we didn't do any of that. I can remember marching by moonlight as a bucket brigade, cleaning something (*laughs*), with buckets and mops over our shoulders, but none of that hard, hard stuff.

TS: Did that please you or disappoint you?

AB: It's interesting, just interesting. Of course when you go in, you have no idea what you've said "I do" to. (*laughs*)

TS: Do you remember arriving at Camp Lejeune on a bus, I guess, or a train?

AB: Train. Well I left on a train—I don't remember if I changed to something or not. As we did many, many times, we'd just stand around in a group and wait for instructions.

TS: So, no great fanfare arriving? Just get off the train and wait?

AB: Oh no. Oh no.

TS: Were you nervous when you got there?

AB: Not too, just curious to see what happens.

TS: Do you have a positive memory of an incident during Basic Training that you can recall?

AB: I can't remember anything that would just stand out particularly, except for the bucket brigade (*laughs*).

TS: Is there anything that stands out as being a negative experience or memory?

AB: No. Just do this, and we get on to whatever comes next, and wondering what that would be.

TS: Were the days pretty busy during Basic Training?

AB: They were pretty busy, yes. I don't remember people particularly from that period, compared to after I was assigned.

TS: There was a difference then?

AB: Yes.

TS: How long did Basic Training last?

AB: It wasn't very long, I don't think—maybe six weeks.

TS: Well, once you finished Basic Training, you were assigned to your duty station. Did that happen right away?

AB: Yes.

TS: Did you have any input as to where you were going to go?

AB: They just decided where I was going to go, and probably most people, by what we had done before. I was thinking I would get into something different, new and interesting, but I was assigned to the station legal officer as a secretary (*laughs*).

TS: Obviously they must have asked you what your skills were and matched you with something.

AB: Yes. What you were doing. And I had no input as to where, and it ended up being North Carolina, not too far from Camp Lejeune.

TS: Was it the case that you did the same kind of work but just changed the clothes you wore to go to work?

AB: Yes, it was—it was a lot like that. Except we lived in a barracks, and cleaned our barracks and things like that, and we drilled periodically, I guess, on weekends, and we woke up to a whistle (*laughs*).

TS: In the morning?

AB: Oh yes. Fall out, and fall in (*laughs*).

TS: This was a big base, is that right?

AB: Yes, a very big base. A huge base.

TS: It had planes coming in?

AB: All kinds of planes. I thought it would be fun to be in the control tower, but I didn't make that. I could never do that because I wore glasses.

TS: If you're wearing glasses, it did limit you in several ways, didn't it? Can you describe the job that you did?

AB: It was a secretarial job for the captain who was in charge of the legal office. I had three captains during the time that I was there, and they would ship one out to the front, and someone would take his place, and I would be that person's secretary. We had an office full of men who had been established lawyers before they came to the Marine Corps. Most of them had been married, had families. They were all enlisted people, and I outranked some of them. They were privates, PFC's [private first class], corporals, and sergeants, even with all their education and experience.

TS: They didn't come in as officers, they came in as enlisted men?

AB: Yes, they did, except for our captain, the station legal officer. And we did courts-martial—everyone took down shorthand by hand, and transcribed those notes, which is different from what you do today, with tapes and machines—

**End of Side A. Side B begins.**

AB: I wasn't good enough to transcribe a trial, a court-martial, but I had to do it once and I nearly had a nervous breakdown (*laughs*). Because I would have to stop people and make them say it over, or wait until I could catch up, because I wasn't fast enough to get every word without breaks as you do in that kind of setting. In the legal office we had no computers and no copy machines—we made twelve copies of everything that went out of that office, with carbon paper, and they had to

be perfect. You couldn't have one single error. So if you had a single error, out went all twelve pages, and you started over (*laughs*).

TS: That's right—because you can erase the first sheet but you can't erase the carbons.

AB: Well, they just didn't allow you to erase anyway. So that was different from what it came to be.

TS: You mentioned men who you outranked. As a woman in uniform, can you say a little bit about how the men around you adjusted to your presence?

AB: Well, I wasn't the only woman in the office. There were many others.

TS: All in uniform?

AB: Yes. It was a pretty good-sized office of both men and women. We all got along well, and it was just as if there was no rank, except for the captain. People paid attention to him in a little different way. But for the rest of us, there was no rank, really. We got along well, and I can remember going from this environment of no men to just men everywhere you looked, and dates everywhere you looked.

TS: Sure, there were more men than women on this base, right?

AB: Oh yes.

TS: How about outside of your office, around the base—how would you describe the male-female relationship of people in uniform?

AB: Occasionally we would go off the base to Newburn, North Carolina, the closest place. And there was Fort Bragg, and then sometimes, too, there was a place just for recreation, a beach area in Morehead City. But I don't think that the civilians appreciated having men and women in uniform around all that much. They were never rude or anything like that, but I just never felt particularly accepted.

TS: By the local civilians?

AB: Yes. For me, this was not only my first experience out of the state, but certainly the first experience in the South where there was a difference as far as blacks and whites.

TS: How would you describe that?

AB: I had one experience when I got on a bus, and there was one other person on that bus, who was a black man in uniform—we were both in uniform—and I sat down not with him, but close to where he was sitting, and the bus driver said, "I will



not start this bus until you move up closer to me," because he was black. We were both in uniform. I just did what he told me, and I don't know today if I would've been so... Probably today I wouldn't have to, but... The way I'd been brought up, it was not the thing to do. I can even remember a conversation in our office with one of the other lawyers, who was from North Carolina. We were talking about racial matters some way, and he said, "You take care of yourselves, we'll take care of ourselves here in the South, and you just leave us alone!" *(laughs)*

TS: Were there any blacks in the Marine Corps at this time?

AB: No, not that I remember meeting. There may have been, but I don't know.

TS: Would you say that from your perspective that women in the Marine Corps were treated fairly and squarely?

AB: I think so, as far as my experience. I think—I'm sure people had different experiences. My personal experience was always being treated well. Everybody may not have had that. I even dated officers, which was strictly against the law.

TS: And the officers knew it too.

AB: Oh yes. Some of them even borrowed enlisted clothes to date. One did. But I never had any negative experience with the men in the Marine Corps.

TS: What limitations did women have in the Marine Corps because of gender, maybe jobs they could or couldn't have?

AB: Well as I said, anything that would have involved firearms. The women Marines at that time never went overseas.

TS: So all the jobs were stateside bases?

AB: Everything in the United States.

TS: When you saw women around Cherry Point, and I remember you said there were a number of them, what kinds of jobs did they fill?

AB: Mostly clerical. Some of them were mechanics, parachute riggers, control tower operators, cooks, things of that type. Some drove vehicles. I'm trying to think of other jobs, but I can't remember everything they did.

TS: But you saw mechanics and vehicle drivers as well?

AB: Yes.

TS: So, outside of just what we might call secretarial positions. Now in your office there were a number of other women as well, you said.

AB: Well, we worked in quite a large building, with lots of offices.

TS: Were all the people in uniform in that facility?

AB: Oh, yes.

TS: No civilians on base?

AB: No.

TS: Let me ask you, shifting gears here a little bit, about a person who may have had a positive impact on you—somebody you looked up to for whatever reason, a colleague in the Marine Corps. Was there someone like that?

AB: I think there were several in our office who were very highly respected people.

TS: Respected by you, for example?

AB: Yes.

TS: Why don't you select one of those people and tell me why you looked up to them?

AB: You know, I really think more of them as co-workers than as people on different levels that I looked up to. The people who were the captains were a little bit more remote than the others that we worked with, and we respected them because of rank. But if you're thinking about because of their lives, or something special they did—

TS: Or character, maybe. It could be a co-worker, someone the same rank as yourself, but who you thought had a real positive impact, just their character, what they did or didn't do.

AB: Character. I can think more of feeling that way about most of them, except for a few exceptions.

TS: People who made a negative impact?

AB: Yes, or people I would think in civilian life I wouldn't probably associate with you much because of the kind of things you think.

TS: Well, that's where this question goes—there are those who impact you negatively as well.

AB: There were just coarser people, is what I would say.

TS: In temperament?

AB: Yes. Or maybe more immoral, I would say. On the positive side, I can remember one woman that I became pretty good friends with who was in charge of the mess hall. In my mind, I think of her as an officer, but just recently when I looked up some of my old pictures and things, I find she was not, she was an enlisted person, too. I respected and thought that she was quite a person too. And she must have left before I did because in my book of memories I have a picture of where she was married in the church, and I don't think you could be married then and be in the service. She must have left the service. And then she had a baby. She was from Texas.

TS: What made her special?

AB: I don't know, I think maybe just because of the job she had and the responsibility she had, which was a lot.

TS: She had people under her then?

AB: Yes. Because being in charge of a mess hall is a big job.

TS: Sounds like a really big base, so there were a lot of people—

AB: Oh, it was, it was a huge base.

TS: Did you encounter any civilians at this time in North Carolina who made an impact on you?

AB: No, I don't remember any civilians that I met, except just in passing, in a store or something like that. We lived in a world all of our own on that base. As I said, it was very big. It had everything there.

TS: When you went into town, did you like the surrounding area, the town, or did you find it an uncomfortable place?

AB: No, it was very comfortable. It was fun to get off the base. I remember going to dinner in kind of an old Southern mansion that had been turned into a restaurant. Things like that that were interesting for me, new.

TS: Because the area was completely new for you.

AB: Just going out like that was quite new (*laughs*).

TS: Did you get off base very often?

AB: No, just now and then. However, being in the legal office, we all had liberty every day that we wanted it. We could go off the base any time we wanted.

TS: So you had the opportunity to go off base if you wanted.

AB: And we did some. We'd go to the beach, to a park, or on a date, go to dinner as you say. I don't remember going to movies much at all. We had them on the base, but I don't remember doing much of that.

TS: How did you stay in touch with family and loved ones back home?

AB: Letters. I wrote long, long detailed letters home.

TS: So you were a good letter writer?

AB: Yes. But none of those letters were saved. If they were saved I'd have a lot better memories (*laughs*). I would send a letter to my mom and send a carbon copy to my sister. And they lived close to each other. I'd go home on furloughs occasionally, and I hitchhiked on airplanes, because you'd just go out and find one that was going your way.

TS: Space available kind of stuff?

AB: Oh yes. I can remember going on a trainer and a bomber and a transport plane—just anything that was going my way. I remember going on the return trip from Omaha—I went up as far as Chicago, and I got a trainer there, and I ended up down in South Carolina, which was the closest I could get to my base. At the time I think I was a Private First Class, and I went in to find out if there was a plane going my way back to North Carolina. Of course you have this time limitation, or you're away without official leave, which is not a good idea. There was going to be a plane leaving from a different base, but I would have to get there pretty fast to catch it. The transportation would have to be a car. They arranged for me to go in a major's car with a chauffeur, and I was saluted all the way to the base (*laughing*). And I was a little PFC.

TS: How did you arrange that?

AB: They arranged it. I just went in, not knowing anything, and they just took care of it. I didn't have enough sense to get worried, I guess, or to be worried about going back in this little trainer. I couldn't talk to the pilot, there was no communication back and forth, just the two of us.

TS: Did the Marine Corps adjust pretty well, pretty quickly, to the female presence?

AB: They did as far as I was concerned. I don't know if it was true everywhere, or not. But my personal experience was okay.

TS: Now, you said you were a good letter writer. Did you get mail from home too?

AB: Oh yes.

TS: How important was getting mail?

AB: Oh we loved it, of course.

TS: Did you get regular mail deliveries, being stateside?

AB: Yes, we did. I remember my sister had a baby while I was in the Marine Corps, and of course you feel so far away and detached when you can't be there for anything.

TS: How did that strike you, this distance to happenings back home?

AB: I wasn't homesick, I wasn't sad. I just was very well adjusted to a new experience. And of course, we felt safe. We did. We enlisted for the duration and six months, so we knew it wasn't going to be forever. I haven't mentioned my younger sister, have I, who wanted to go into the Marine Corps when I did, because we'd been very close. She was younger and wasn't old enough to go when I did. She was traveling in Florida when she had her birthday, and she enlisted in Florida, and ended up in the same building as me, as secretary to the personnel officer, on a different floor. She may have asked for it, I don't know. I'm sure she probably did. But there's no guarantee you'll get anything you ask for.

TS: So you had a chance to see her on a regular basis?

AB: Oh, I saw her all the time.

TS: How was that to see her?

AB: Oh, that was great. Sure.

TS: So she ends up in the same building as you. Which means your mom was living at home by herself now.

AB: Alone. Yes.

TS: Did that worry you at all?

AB: That she was alone? Not too much. My older sister still lived close to her, but not in the same house. And I'm sure she was lonely, I'm sure she was.

TS: Did you find yourself writing more often to compensate for that, or calling on the phone or visiting more often?

AB: Well, I just liked to write and tell things. I don't know if I was compensating, it was just what I needed to do.

TS: How often were you able to get back? You mentioned a number of trips.

AB: I went on several trips. I can't remember what we were allowed. I went whenever we were allowed. And by hitchhiking it didn't cost you anything.

TS: On the planes, it was free, right? As long as you could get the right planes lined up.

AB: Sure. And you never knew—well, it couldn't take very long. I never allowed a lot of extra time to get back. I can remember taking another long weekend about Christmas time and going to New York with some friends, and that was a lot of fun. New York and Washington. [\*\*\*] took a plane as far up as Arlington. I went to Saks Fifth Avenue and I got my first civilian coat, for when I got out.

TS: So you were already looking forward to being out of the service. Ardice, being on a military base during wartime, I wonder if there was an idea in your mind of who the enemy was?

AB: You know, I was thinking about that, and I think I was more aware of the war and what was going on when I was a civilian in the newsroom than I was on the base. On the base, we didn't have any radio in the office, and we didn't have any radios in the barracks. I can't even remember newspapers. There must have been some, somewhere, but most of our news I think we got just by scuttlebutt, just people saying "this happened," or "that happened."

TS: In a sense you were part of the world unto itself that went from day to day.

AB: It did. We weren't really as aware of battles and things, as I said I was in the newsroom.

TS: Because this stuff came across the teletype all the time?

AB: Yes.

TS: Would you say you didn't think much about the Germans, or the Japanese?

AB: No, I don't think I did. At least not as much as before, perhaps.

TS: You mentioned before how seeing those stories about the war in the Pacific caused you to want to be involved and to participate. Did you think then about the enemy, about the Japanese or the Germans in any respect?

AB: No, I never recall the hatred that some people had for the people in general. I don't recall that.

TS: Was it more abstract: There's them and there's us?

AB: Growing up in the Middle West, we didn't see a lot of people of Asian ancestry, or—very few blacks, we had two or three in my high school class. It was just this *(pauses three seconds)* kind of island *(laughs)* in the world where we didn't see a lot of that kind of thing.

TS: Ardice, you were at Cherry Point for almost two years. In what ways did your job change from beginning to end?

AB: It was pretty much the same all the time.

TS: Did people come and go?

AB: The enlisted personnel stayed, pretty much, at least in my office. The captains changed, but the people who did the day-by-day work were always there.

TS: So you pretty much had similar work and people that you could interact with and become friends with?

AB: Right. And then, in the barracks, we had the same group of women all the time. So it was a pretty stable feeling—that part. I became friends, as I said, with people from all over, learned some of their stories and where they were from.

TS: What was life like in the barracks? How many were in a barracks?

AB: It was a big barracks, and it was several stories maybe, not more than two. But more than one. It was big enough that you couldn't really know more than the ones that were close to you, because there were so many.

TS: Separate rooms, or was it just one big open room?

AB: Just bunk beds—one big open room. We had a laundry where we would go down and wash our own clothes. We would have inspections, and learn how to make a bed so that you could bounce a dime off of it.

TS: So it's really true—you really do learn to make your bed in the military. *(laughs)*

AB: That part of it. *(laughs)*

TS: How did you adjust, Ardice, to what sounds like a lack of privacy?

AB: It was. That part was different. But you do, you just become good friends, you just become close.

TS: By default almost?

AB: Yes. You know, you have these four bunks that are facing each other, the top bunks and the lower bunks, and those are make for a real close community. And a tiny little locker and locker box to keep things in.

TS: And that was it—that was your space?

AB: Well, we didn't have a lot, so...

TS: That's so different than the way people consider their space today. You had little privacy and little space, but you made do.

AB: You just go in and you think, "Whatever it takes, I'll do." And you do it.

TS: So the flexible people—

AB: Get along. My sister had a lot harder time than I did.

TS: In what ways?

AB: Well, after she got out of the service, but attributed to the service, she ended up in a mental hospital.

TS: Really? And there's a connection to the time in the Marine Corps?

AB: They made a connection. Whether there really was or not I don't know. But they made a connection which entitled her to veterans' hospitalization, and having that paid for.

TS: Which was a good thing I guess.

AB: Yeah, that part.

TS: Ardice, did you make any lasting contacts during you time in the military?

AB: I didn't, and I've talked to so many people who have military reunions. There's only one of the people I worked with that I ever saw again. She came out to California—her brother was an actor in Hollywood, and she came out to see him,



and looked me up. She was from New York, so she came clear across the country. We weren't the closest of friends, but we worked in the same office.

TS: Why do you think some people maintain contact?

AB: I don't know, I wonder. I really wonder why. The people in our office were from all over, and there weren't any others from California that I remember. But I think other people who had the same situation did get together.

TS: Is that something you miss, or wish had turned out otherwise?

AB: Oh, it'd be kind of fun to have occasionally at least gotten together and know just what turn lives were taking. *(pauses three seconds)* As well as the men in the office and the women that I bunked with, all those. I look at some of the pictures and we had a lot of fun together. It would have been kind of nice. I've never gone back to a high school reunion, though, so maybe it's just me. But I never heard of any reunion that anybody had that I missed, as far as the Marine Corps is concerned. Having graduated in Des Moines and moving to California, I just never went back for anything like that. In fact, nobody knew where I was for a lot of years. Eventually they did. I did have two friends that I graduated with that I kept in touch with. Forever. One of them died, and one of them is still in Kansas City.

TS: Another shift here: You were working at Cherry Point when President Roosevelt died in April of 1945. What do you remember about hearing that news?

AB: I was on a train, going back home [to Omaha], when I heard the news. I'd have to think of the exact dates . . . April '45 . . . So that would be right in the middle—that would be the only place I could think that I would have been going on that train, back to Omaha on a trip, a furlough. That was another stunner. I was a Roosevelt supporter. Now, I imagine some people stood up and cheered, but *(laughs)* . . .

TS: How about the other people on the train? Were there different reactions?

AB: Well, nobody got up out of their seats or did anything like that. How did we learn it? Somebody must have announced it, because I was riding on the train when I learned it. *(pauses five seconds)* I wasn't with anybody I knew.

TS: When you got home, do you recall your mom's reaction?

AB: *(pauses three seconds)* I don't remember anything specific. I think she, and my sister, and her husband, we all pretty much shared the same feelings about Roosevelt. We felt that he had done a lot during the Depression to begin with, and going on. And just about all of us that were not too old, we hardly knew anyone else as far as a president.

TS: That's right—just about thirteen years he'd been president, since being elected in 1932. It wasn't long after this that the war in Europe ended, the war against Germany, on May 8, 1945. What do you remember about that?

AB: Again, as I said, I don't remember any big announcement. It was just kind of a word-of-mouth thing that this happened. There was no big celebration on the base.

TS: Why was that, do you think?

AB: Well, of course the war was not over. The Marines especially were in the Pacific still. But it was: "Thank goodness, we're getting closer."

TS: Was there a difference then to the reaction on V-J Day [in August 1945], when the Japanese surrendered?

AB: Then those of us who were women knew we were going to be going home in six months.

TS: Because you had enlisted for "duration plus six months"?

AB: Right. Our thoughts turned to going home.

TS: That was the shift? Once the war ended, it was countdown time?

AB: Sure. After that happened, we were told that the women Marines could go to Hawaii for the first time, if we wanted to sign up. So I put my name on the list—

**End Tape 1. Tape 2, Side A begins.**

TS: So you put your name on the list for the Pearl Harbor trip?

AB: And then I got to thinking about it overnight, and hearing about the tales of these "wild men" coming back from the war, and I decided I didn't want to be there. So I erased my name, and took it off the next morning (*laughs*).

TS: So you never left the continental United States while you were on active duty?

AB: No.

TS: Was there a celebration on the base for V-J Day when the war against Japan ended?

AB: There wasn't. There wasn't anything like that.

TS: Did you go into town that day, do you remember?

AB: No, no, I'm sure I didn't.

TS: Consciously wanting to avoid going to town?

AB: Well, the base was home, and you just didn't think about going, just for no reason.

TS: Were you aware of others who were looking for a way to celebrate and who did leave the base?

AB: No, I don't remember anybody doing that. I don't.

TS: In August 1945, the US Government made the decision to use atomic weapons against the Japanese, dropping two bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the time, did you feel our government was correct to use atomic weapons on the Japanese?

AB: I don't think I understood enough about what was really happening, until afterwards.

TS: So you got the news that these weapons had been used at the time.

AB: You know, in my mind, most of what I remember is: "The war is over." Not how it happened. I didn't think about the nuclear weapons at that time—in my memory—but my memory is getting pretty feeble (*laughs*).

TS: How have your feelings changed on this since 1945?

AB: Well, I've done a lot of reading about it. And horrible as it is, I understand [President] Truman's feeling that lives on both sides were going to be saved. And since then, it has changed everyone and their feeling about war, too. So far. I don't know how long it's going to hold.

TS: Days like these make you wonder, don't they? [both making reference to the events of 11 September 2001, and the aftermath]

AB: Yes.

TS: You were discharged from Camp Lejeune, in North Carolina. So you had to go to another base to be discharged out. What was your initial reaction to being out of the military?

AB: It was an easy transition for me to go back. (*pauses five seconds*) I think I was already pretty much decided that since I was involved with somebody that I thought I was going to marry who was still in the Marine Corps, that I knew what I was going to do. I was going to go home, and then I was going to Chicago where his family

lived and where my sister—wait a minute, no—I got out before she did. What did I do when I first got out? I didn't work anyplace until I went to Chicago.

TS: And that was a couple months later?

AB: It couldn't have been very long. So I went to Chicago and I lived with somebody I just met who needed a roommate. Later I moved in with a friend and my sister when she was there, working there.

TS: Was it hard to find a place to live when you got to Chicago?

AB: Well, I didn't look for anything special. I just looked for a roof over my head (*laughs*). And was able to find it. It wasn't a very pleasant experience with this unknown person. Then I moved in with my sister and this high school friend of mine who were in Chicago—they got an apartment in what was called the "Old Polish Embassy," right on Lakeshore Drive across from the Lake [Michigan]. I understand it's no longer there. So that was fun.

They had taken this beautiful old building and chopped it up into little cubicles. Mostly young people rented there. I got a job in the Financial District as secretary to five insurance agents. I could walk and often did walk to work. It was fun, we had a tiny little place with two studio couches and we opened one up, so we had three beds, and they were of varying degrees of hardness. One was so hard we called it "the bricks." And so one person wouldn't be condemned to that forever, we changed beds every night. Rotated them. We had a tiny little closet with all our clothes in it—this was one room, and this little closet, and our clothes were so tight we'd have to press everything we wore each time we wore it. We had a tiny little kitchen that was made on a stairway—this had originally been the servant's dining room. The stairway had a hotplate with two burners and a tiny little foot-square sink, with a little refrigerator at the top of the stairs. You would have to go up the stairs to operate these various appliances. You could pass things up and down, but you couldn't pass each other (*laughs*). It was tiny. The bathroom was across the hall. But when you came into this place, it was beautiful, with this huge lobby and a big winding staircase and lots of mirrors. It was a gorgeous entrance. But that's where we lived.

TS: So it sounds like by chopping a building like that into little places that finding enough apartments was a concern.

AB: Oh probably. And also, it was a wonderful location and close to downtown.

TS: How about finding a job in Chicago? Was it hard?

AB: I didn't have any trouble finding a job at all.

TS: Was this the first place you applied?

AB: I don't even remember that. But I didn't have any trouble. I don't even remember how I got it, if I looked in the paper or went to an agency, but—I may have gone to an agency.

TS: But you were working pretty quickly? Is your recollection that you were earning okay money?

AB: Reasonable.

TS: When you got out of Camp Lejeune, do you remember the first thing you did once you were a civilian?

AB: Well, of course, when you're a civilian, and you're going home, you don't have any clothes but your Marine Corps clothes. So that would be one of the big changes, changing your clothes, and that didn't happen until I got home.

TS: So you wore your Marine Corps stuff all the way home?

AB: Oh yes.

TS: But you traveled as a civilian now?

AB: Yes.

TS: How was it to see your family and loved ones again?

AB: Well, that was great, it really was. It had been a long time, and they had been in a totally different environment from what I was.

TS: You actually worked in an office every day.

AB: I worked like a civilian, really, who wore a uniform.

TS: And you had regular 8 to 5 hours, too?

AB: Yes. With weekends off.

TS: So you were doing a civilian job with a uniform on.

AB: With rules and prohibitions. And this class system of the ranks, enlisted and officers and all that stuff.

TS: Did that get in the way very often, or was it just clearly noticeable?

AB: Oh, it was noticeable. You would have to salute all the time, that kind of thing. So it was very noticeable. And you'd hear stories of people who got in trouble

because they crossed the line. As I did, I crossed the line, but I didn't initiate any of it. But I didn't turn it off, either *(laughs)*.

TS: Who would've got in trouble when you were dating officers? Would both parties have been reprimanded, or would the male officer have got the worst of it?

AB: Oh, I think so, I think both.

TS: Because you both knew the rules?

AB: Sure.

TS: What was the hardest thing for you with readjusting to being a civilian?

AB: The hardest thing for me was deciding what to do about the man I was going to marry.

TS: This is the fellow from Chicago.

AB: Yes. I would go out to his parents' home every weekend, and I got so I just couldn't stand it anymore. And the more I thought about him, the more I thought we would never work. He was a lot of fun for a date, but I didn't think he was the man I wanted to marry. So that was the hardest part. Then I broke it off, and I went back to Omaha, and he came to see me with his father, if you can believe that. Then I was sure he wasn't the one *(laughs)*.

TS: Now you married Bill in September of 1947, in Omaha.

AB: Right—in our church there.

TS: And then you moved to California. What was your impression of California in the late '40s?

AB: Well, again, we did most of our dating in California, and my father lived out there. So I had that experience. I was never so cold in my life as I was in our apartment in California *(laughs)*. Housing there was horrible. You couldn't find anything.

TS: When did you first go to California to live?

AB: In 1947, the day we were married.

TS: So even then, in 1947, it was hard to find a place to live?

AB: Oh, people were paying bonuses, and buying a few pieces of furniture for several hundred dollars, just to get a place to live. While Bill was back in Omaha before we

got married, he was evicted from where he was living, so we went back and just had to pack up and get out. Then we found another place we had for two weeks, and we were evicted because they said they were either going to sell it and didn't want anybody in it, or they were having family come back to live in it. Then we found this little place some people had built on the back of their lot. It was like a playhouse—single-wall construction. You could see air through it. It was small, and there was no septic system, no plumbing connection, they just had a hole that you could run water into. We had to use the bathroom in the people's house. No hot water except what you would heat on this little stove. There was one room and this little bitty kitchen, and the room was so small that they had something smaller than a standard-size studio couch in it that we would open up to sleep on. They had a table that would just hold two dinner plates, and it was a drop-leaf. When we opened up the bed, to get across the room we had to walk across the bed. That's how big it was.

By this time Bill was back working on the police department. He spent every minute he could trying to find us another place. Of course he was doing that (*laughs*)—we kept finding new places and having to leave. So we finally went to this one place that was a duplex—they had two duplexes facing each other. He noticed there was a vacancy, and he talked to the owners about it. They weren't sure they wanted to rent to a policeman. They'd had some bad experiences and thought maybe they'd be better off leaving it empty. Oh, there was rent control, too. They wanted to meet me, and after they met me, they said they would rent to us. They adhered to the rent control, so we rented that for \$35 a month. And this little place I just described was \$55 a month. Of course, they weren't under rent control—they were totally illegal in every way.

TS: And you knew it, too?

AB: Oh sure. But we needed a place to live. So we stayed in that duplex for four years, until we were able to buy a house. The last month's rent, the owners gave it to us free—now how many owners would do that as a going-away present?

TS: Had your rent increased by the time you moved out?

AB: We practically begged them to increase the rent and they wouldn't do it. I think they finally went up to \$40. But we asked for an increase, because we knew we had a good deal.

TS: That must have been a good deal by that time, because rent controls were lifted while you were living there?

AB: I think so.

TS: Was the move to California a good one?

AB: I think it was. I liked the Middle West, and I didn't go to California because I wanted warm weather. I like the change of seasons in the Middle West. But that's just where Bill's job was, so that's where we went.

TS: To conclude, let me ask you this: While you were in the Marine Corps, or even before that, Ardice, what did the war mean for you personally?

AB: *(pauses ten seconds)* I think I was very concerned about what Hitler was doing. That's primarily what it meant to me. And then I was concerned about what was happening to Britain, as they helped. I felt that we needed to get together.

TS: Did the Pearl Harbor incident make that more intense for you, or change it in some way?

AB: That, of course, brought the war home to us, so that we felt we were defending our country. You know, though, sometimes it's hard to think about how your thinking may have changed over the years, and how much you believed at one time and how much you believed later. Of course, today, and with all the reading—did I believe that the Japanese were less than human, and the horrible, horrible people they were depicted to be? I can't believe I really did. But again: did I think more of it then than I did later? I don't know. Today I have a Japanese-American daughter-in-law, and we have a nephew who is married to a Chinese girl. So our family in general has not been one to hate.

TS: How do you reflect on the war now, more than fifty years later?

AB: A terrible time, and I'm glad we won. Our lives would have been much different if we hadn't stopped Hitler. And I'm glad to have played the small part that I did. I'm concerned about what [US Attorney General John] Ashcroft is doing today, too—changing civil rights—because I know that's how things like that start. Things that Hitler did started the same way. How easy it is to get pulled into something you think is good, and it really isn't.

TS: Anything else you'd like to add as we conclude?

AB: I just thought of something funny that we did in the Marine Corps. We had a letter from an owner of some property—an island that was off the coast of our base. They had heard that this island had been blown up in artillery practice. So we had to find out if it was true or not. We first said that we didn't even have any record of such a place. Then they had all the description. So one of the men in our office who was a lawyer, with me along for no reason other than company I think, were sent to go out in a rowboat and find this island *(laughs)*. And we found it!

TS: Had it been destroyed?

AB: No. It was there. It was all there.



TS: How big was it?

AB: I could show you a picture of it. Just tiny, tiny.

TS: And this guy had claimed that it had been destroyed, and you had to find it?

AB: Yes. Blown up.

TS: So what happened as a result of this legal case—anything at all?

AB: No, they just said, “You still have your island, everything’s intact,” and that was the end of it.

TS: Was the property owner trying to get damages from the Marine Corps for destroying this?

AB: If it were gone, they would have. I’m sure that was the whole idea.

TS: So the Marine Corps had to prove that it had not destroyed this island, and it was all the same as it was before.

AB: Right. And he still had his property.

TS: That’s a good story. Well, let me thank you very much for the interview, and at this point I’ll turn the machine off.

**END OF INTERVIEW**