

Interviewee: Marlatte Edward "Ed" Holtz

Interviewer: Daniel Borkenhagen

Date of interview: 23 September 2001

Location: the Holtz home in White Bear Lake, MN

Transcribed by: Daniel Borkenhagen, November-December 2001

Edited by: Thomas Saylor, March 2002

Ed Holtz was born on 11 July 1921 in the southern Minnesota town of Waseca. He grew up there, graduated from high school, and subsequently attended Stout Institute in Wisconsin (now UW-Stout) until entering the US Army in January 1943.

In the service, Ed went through Army Air Corps technical training in Santa Ana, California, and Akron, Ohio, before being sent to the Pacific in 1944. Ed served as a mechanic on an Air Corps repair ship, doing rear echelon, or major, repair work on B-29 Superfortress bombers, P-51 Mustang fighters, and other aircraft. He spent approximately six months at Saipan and then another six at Iwo Jima, both times on a ship anchored off shore. Ed was stationed at Iwo Jima when the war ended in August 1945. He rotated back to the United States in December and was discharged in January 1946.

Again a civilian, Ed returned to college, and graduated in spring 1947. He got married in 1951 (wife Kathy), and helped to raise a family of five children. After finishing college Ed began a career as a school teacher in the state of Minnesota, remaining in this profession until retiring in the 1980s. In retirement he lived in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, where this interview took place in September 2001.

Ed Holtz died 1 October 2006 in White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

Interview key:

D = Daniel Borkenhagen

E = Ed Holtz

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

(*) = words or phrase unclear**

NOTE: interview has been edited for clarity

Side A. Counter begins at 000.

D: This is an interview on September 23, 2001. My name is Dan Borkenhagen and I'm interviewing Ed Holtz. Thanks for talking with me today, Ed.

E: Yes. You're welcome.

D: I'm just going to start off with some biographical information, so that people have a little background. When were you born and where was that?

E: I was born on July 11, 1921, in Waseca, Minnesota, which is in the southern part of the state.

D: And who were your parents?

E: Eric Holtz and Martha Holtz were my father and mother.

D: Did you live in Waseca throughout high school?

E: Right. I didn't actually leave the Waseca area until I went to college.

D: Where did you go to school?

E: I went to school at Stout, it was called Stout Institute. Now it's called Stout State University [University of Wisconsin-Stout]. That's over in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

D: We'll get to the war stuff obviously, and those years, but after the war what filled up your life?

E: I was halfway through my sophomore year, no my junior year, when I went into the military, so I had a year and a half left to complete. When I got out of the service I went back to school and finished up my year and a half. I was prepared to teach then, and I started teaching after that. I graduated in 1947 and then started teaching in the fall of '47.

D: And you got married eventually?

E: Yes, in '51.

D: And your wife's name?

E: Kathy Sias, and we met down on the job, teaching in Montgomery, which is down below New Prague, in that part of Minnesota.

D: And you had some children?

E: Yes, we've had five children, four girls and a boy. Most of them live nearby, I can walk to three of them, and I could ride my bike to the fourth one, but the fifth one's over in Poland. *(laughs)* I have to fly to get to them. She'll be back in a year or two. They're teaching in an American school over in Poland, their third year. That's Eric's mother and dad. *(Eric is a grandson of Ed that the interviewer knows)*

D: And you retired to White Bear Lake [Minnesota]?

E: Right, I'm retired already, I guess it's eighteen years. I just loved White Bear Lake and stayed out here my entire life.

D: So you had graduated high school by 1941. Where were you on Dec. 7th, 1941 [the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor]?

E: I was in college. It was my sophomore year.

D: What were you doing when you first heard the news?

E: Well, of course it was on a Sunday. I was just walking around the dormitory, sitting, kind of half studying, and half like you do, when you didn't have anything that was too urgent to be turned in. Then the news came on, and pretty soon everybody was talking and talking about it. I remember distinctly that on that Sunday night, we kids would get together in a dorm room and say, "Well, what's the use of doing any work or any studying, or turning in any work, because we'll all be in the military in a little while anyway." Well, it worked a couple of days, and pretty soon the profs realized that you were getting low grades, you're not doing any of your work, and some of you guys are going to be here for months and months before you get in. I ended up being there a year. I enlisted and I was still there for a year before I went into service. So you had to start doing something. *(laughs)*

D: Eventually, you had to do some schoolwork, eh?

E: Right, right. Because it was just such a big thing, they couldn't begin to take them all at one time. It took preparation. But that was so interesting how we just said, "Oh, what's the use, we're all going to be in anyway." Sort of that idea that, next month we're going to be in, but it was too big.

D: So you did you already kind of mentally prepare, do you think?

E: Oh yes. This was a little different than our present situation [after the attacks on New York and Washington, 11 September 2001]. You had a distinct goal, you knew exactly what had to be done. So you just mentally arranged yourself toward that goal. You knew you'd be in the service.

D: So was that your first reaction, to think that you'd be in the service?

E: We were kind of shocked, but we thought, "What were the Japanese doing, trying to bomb us? All they can make are little things out of straw." No kidding, it was funny, our concept of Japan was so ridiculous. We thought we could go over there with a couple of canoes and knock them off. It's funny, it's strange. Of course we missed it, by a long way. But our first thought was, "Well, this can't last for much more than a few months." Unbelievable.

D: You thought that right away. Thought that the war would be over right away.

E: Yes, well there were a few guys that probably had a better slant on it. They said, "Ha, ha, you wait and see." But a lot of us thought, oh well, it can't be much.

D: Do you remember much about how your family reacted?

E: Let's see. I don't distinctly remember too much about that. I probably didn't even talk to them on the phone. This was December 7th, so I probably didn't get home until Christmas time. Communications were so different in those days, you didn't do a lot of telephoning. Maybe wrote it in a letter, but that's all.

D: So for the next year or so, you said you were still in college.

E: Right.

D: How did that college life change? I know you said for a while, people kind of slacked off real bad, then you had to pick it up.

E: Well, it wasn't too long before you realized you were going to be there for a while. But guys kept going in. It was every couple of weeks a few of your friends would leave. And that went on just all the time, and that's the way they returned too, after the war. We were the first ones back. We were there to receive them as they all came in, in the same way they sent them off. We soon realized that we were in for the long haul, and that we had to study. It got back to pretty much normal.

D: Did your focus in the classes change much at all because of the war?

E: Yes, I think so; we had a lot more interest in geography and history. I think that was for sure. Because as I say, some of us were so misled to think all they could do was make little straw things. I don't know if I'm ashamed to say that, I mean how could I be so far off base? Anyway, that was sort of the concept a lot of people had.

(brief interruption)

D: Ed, did your interactions with your friends and family change at all right away at that time, because there was a war on?

E: Well, there was a united feeling really, very much so. A lot of people, I know you read that there were some who didn't think we should be going in, but that was a minority, and I wasn't too aware of any of that. Except I think people right away kind of geared up for, that this is going to be tough, it's going to be a long time. It wasn't long there that we had restrictions on, gas rationing and stuff like that. I remember driving the car with my dad taking me back there. I think we had a 35 miles per hour speed limit; it took us forever. And gas was rationed, of course, and so were tires; you couldn't get tires. So pretty soon, you wouldn't drive over 35 miles per hour anyway! *(laughs)* Those things had a definite effect.

D: Were there any other rationing effects on you?

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E: Yes. I wasn't so aware of it, but I know that silk items were hard to get, they needed that badly. And sugar was rationed. But the thing that I was more aware of was the gas rationing.

D: Did that affect the social life there that you were involved in?

E: Yes, I think so. Things were just kept closer at home, not going very far. Spent more time there.

D: Did you live in the dorms or an apartment?

E: I lived in the dorms, before the war.

D: So people stayed in the dorms a little more?

E: Yes. On weekends.

D: Were you employed at all during that time, or did you see people's jobs change at all, going off to the factories maybe?

E: Yes. Of course there was a lot of that. Women started to work because the guys were pulled off the jobs. I did a little work, I was working at a radio repair shop. It was just kind of on weekends, like on a Saturday I'd put in a few hours. So I didn't really feel that, it didn't affect me.

D: What did you do for transportation? Did you have a car?

E: I did. Another kid from my hometown, he and I had a 1928 Whippet, which is the forerunner of the Jeep. We bought that thing for \$45, and we used that thing to go back and forth from our hometown. We tried to get home three or four times a year. It worked out pretty good. There was no heater in that car, and in the wintertime, my dad had a big chunk of steel, about an inch thick and probably ten inches square. I'd come home on a Friday, and the first thing he'd do was lay in on top of the furnace. And of course it would heat up to the temperature that the furnace was, and on the way back, that would lay on the floor. The guy that wasn't driving, he could keep his feet on there. Then we'd rotate that. It gave off a little heat almost all the way back there. Times were really different.

I remember another thing. The switch went out on the car. We didn't have much money, so we went to the dime store and bought a little push-pull switch that we mounted on the dashboard. So anyone could get in and drive it, because it didn't have a key, just this push-pull. No one ever took it. This was back in 1941. It probably wasn't very smart, because I'm sure in certain places it would have been stolen.

D: Did you see the community in Stout doing much because of the war?

E: Yes, they had, there were a few factories. They had a Presto Cooker factory there, and I think they geared up for something else and started making... I have never seen industry turn things around so fast. I mean whatever industry was working at, if they had something that was comparable that could be used for the military, they were in it in just a short time. Just as fast as they could get it organized, producing the product, it was just so fast.

D: What kind of things, do you remember any specifics at all, or just kind of a general impression?

E: Just kind of a general impression. I noticed this factory that made those Presto cookers went into something. I don't even know what it was anymore, but they did something.

D: So, you enlisted, right?

E: Yes, I didn't get drafted. After December 7th, then I enlisted in January [1942]. But I didn't go in until January of '43.

D: Why was there such a delay there, a whole year?

E: Well, I was going into the Air Corps, that's what I enlisted in, and they just had so many enlistments, they just couldn't use them any faster. Apparently they had their quarters where they had to keep people, and people training other people, and then finally it got going fast enough so they could use some other people.

D: So finally in January of '43 you were called up.

E: Yes.

D: Where did you go?

E: I went to California first, to Santa Ana, California.

D: Do you remember that day, when you finally headed out then?

E: Yes, that was a long, long train ride. It was a troop train, and it took a long time, they didn't go so fast. Well, the train was long and they had places lined up along the way where they'd stop and feed us. Thousands of people had to be fed. It was a big, big job.

D: Had you ever traveled much before this?

E: No.

D: So this was a completely new experience?

E: Yes, I'd never, I'd gone from Southern Minnesota to Wisconsin, and I remember we'd gone down to Iowa once, we'd gone up north through Duluth. Just a little circle of several hundred miles. That was my world. I never got beyond that, and suddenly the first time I saw the mountains, the first time I saw the ocean, and all those things. I remember how I was writing letters home saying, "You can't believe these mountains."

D: So it was completely different.

E: Yes.

D: Almost a sense of awe?

E: Yes. There certainly was. We were just a bunch of green kids all from the farm country.

D: Were all the kids shipping out kind of like that, from what you saw?

E: A lot of them; I think they farmed. We enlisted in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and I think a lot of the people that enlisted kind of came from Minnesota, Wisconsin, that area. In that particular group, anyway.

D: So you got out there, after your long, hard train trip. What happened after that?

E: That was Basic Training then; that's where you learn how to soldier and all that stuff. It's kind of tough, you know, because first of all, you don't really have any friends. You start making friends, but... And you get some rough old sergeant who

keeps telling you what the score is. But that was what it was—Basic Training, where you just learned how to take orders, and how to do things. You were on KP and all that sort of stuff.

D: So would you describe it as a positive memory, or not?

E: Oh, I didn't mind it, I knew it wasn't going to be like going to a resort. *(laughs)* I put up with it, and most of us did.

D: How long did that last?

E: Oh, I think probably about six weeks, something like that. It wasn't awfully long. They gave it to us in a hurry, a lot of gas warfare, instruction on how to use a gas mask, and you're going to shoot your carbine, and how to handle and take care of your mess kit, and all those little things.

D: Did you notice more a sense of being away at that time? Did you feel somewhat isolated?

E: I had been away to college for a while, so I don't think it bothered me that much to be away. Except it was, you didn't ever know when you were going back home. When you were at college you could plan, well, maybe next weekend I'll go home, or in a month I'll go home, or now. You didn't know when that time was coming, if ever. That made it different feeling. I think, when I was overseas, and never communicated with my parents, communication was so different, there were no telephones, just through mail. And I had very close relatives that died; you didn't go home. You just were there, period. So it was a little different. Those things were kind of tough to take.

D: Where did they send you after that Basic Training?

E: Then I went to Arizona for a while, then I went to Texas. It was in Texas where I started getting some training for what we were going to be doing when we went overseas.

D: So Arizona was just a brief stop?

E: Yes.

D: What did you guys do there?

E: We just took a lot of classes, in the college there. Actually, I felt like I was right back in school. You know, I had physics, math, English.

D: Were they training you to be an officer?

E: Well, yes, it possibly could have been. But they probably couldn't make use of us right away, so they put us in classes. Interesting classes, good instruction, really amazing. You studied all those subjects, and you sort of thought, "Oh, what do those have to do with war?" There's always a little relationship. If nothing else, they've got to keep you busy.

D: And from there they sent you to Texas.

E: Yes, that's when we started getting our training. Then I went out to Akron, Ohio, a big tire city. One of my things was repair of tires and rubber products.

D: That's what they were training you for, specifically?

E: Yes. From there to Mobile, Alabama, that was our staging area. We had training there, and we had bivouac, and we had marine training sort of, because we were going to be on board ship. So we had to learn how to abandon ship; they had a big tower, forty some feet high, and we had to step off.

D: They had you practice abandoning ship?

E: Yes, and knot tying, and rowing boats. The terminology, it's not a floor, it's a deck (*laughs*), all those things. That's where we had that kind of training. That's where we left from, Mobile, Alabama.

D: What year was that?

E: Oh, that would have been—I get these years kind of mixed up—probably early in 1944. Then we went down through the Gulf [of Mexico] and the Panama Canal.

Then we went through Panama Canal and we were all alone on this Liberty ship that I was stationed on. We went all the way from the Panama Canal, way out past Eniwetok [in the Marshall Islands]. Eniwetok was the first island that we saw where we realized there was a war going on. Practically all the trees had their tops blown off. In fact, I remember how all the guys just kind of got quiet. Just sort of, for once you realized you were out there. We didn't moor there, we went on further. We went on to Saipan, that's where we went.

D: When you first headed out to the Pacific, what were your thoughts?

E: Oh, I was a little worried. For example, we were all alone. I'm sure if some sub had come along, we would have been just an apple to pick off, because there wasn't any defenses. They [the US Navy] apparently knew where they were, and we had no trouble at all, all the way. And then that's when you got your sea legs, you found out what it's like to be on a ship. It gets kind of lonely and then sometimes it's boring, and all those sort of things.

D: Right at that stage, how did you perceive the Japanese and the Germans? I mean, how was it to you?

E: They were the enemy, but I don't think that there was a deep feeling about it, but I could answer true or false on a question there. They were our enemy, but I don't know that I had a real feeling about it. Later on, I kind of developed that when we really got into action out there. Not at that early stage.

D: So, you guys sailed through the Panama Canal. You sailed past Eniwetok.

E: That's where you first saw the effects. They'd had the battle on Eniwetok already, that was [captured from Japanese forces in February 1944]. The trees were just all blown to pieces. Then we went on to Saipan. That was our destination. That was where the war was still going on.

D: So what happened when you started trying for Saipan?

E: We came into a harbor, and we dropped anchor there. Our function was to do third and fourth echelon repair on planes, on B-29s and P-51s. So they were already flying out of Saipan. As soon as they could, when they took some of these islands, they'd try and take the airstrip. Because then they could of course get aircraft in there. So our function was to do third and fourth echelon repair.

D: What do you mean by third and fourth echelon repair?

E: Well, that means more complicated. First and second echelon are kind of bailing wire and a pliers, repairs that anyone can do on the site. It's a little more technical than that. But third and fourth is the ultimate: we'd repair guns, we'd fix radios, we made oxygen for high [altitude] flying. So it was the very technical end of everything. That was one of the ideas of this: right away when we took over an island, we could have these elaborate shops prepared beforehand. Before that, they had to come in and set them up, and they took a long time to get things set up.

D: So did you get to work on the ship, or did you go off the ship to set things up?

E: No, we basically did our work on the ship. We sometimes had to go off for something, but we would have done that on the ship. The great thing was that they had helicopters that would fly stuff in, if it was small. And then we had ducks [small transport boats] that would take bigger things to shore and bring it back, and that went on all the time.

D: How long were you in the Saipan area?

E: About six months.

D: So you spent quite a significant time there.

E: Yes. Then we went up to Iwo Jima right after Saipan; that was closer to Japan. We did that same kind of work. Although we were getting closer up there. Most of the B-29s that were going up to Japan were coming from the Marianas, which was Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. They were all in the Marianas. They captured Iwo Jima [in March 1945], because if they had any planes that were pretty well shot up, and they wouldn't be able to get way back to the Mariana group, then they could land of Iwo Jima, and a lot of them did. Those were the ones we would repair, and then they'd take off and go back to Saipan and start working their route again.

D: So you said you did similar work in Iwo Jima?

E: Yes.

D: How long was that?

E: Oh, about another six months. Six to eight months. Basically I was overseas about a year. And that's where we were when the war ended, at Iwo Jima.

D: While you were in those areas, did you ever feel in danger or at risk?

E: Oh yes. Well, we were in bombing raids quite often.

D: Were you. What was that like?

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E: I tell you, that was tough. Once in a while, somebody would be assigned to be a guard for fire, in case there was a fire. And they could be closer up on deck. We actually... if you pulled that duty, you really liked that better, because you could see what was going on. Being down below, all you do is hear. Hear the stuff.

D: You just had to be at duty station.

E: Yes. You just sit around. There's nothing to do. You'd have your steel helmet on, you'd have your lifejacket on, but there wasn't anything you could be doing. We had a... my crew was kind of unusual. The ship was run by Merchant Marine people, the gunners were Navy, and then we were Air Corps that did the repairs. So we had three [service] branches on one ship.

My bunk was right down below, on the stern. That's where the five inch gun was. We had a three inch up on the bow, we had a bunch of forty millimeter guns, a bunch of twenty millimeter guns, and then this five inch on the back end of the thing. You'd piece this together. First you'd hear the five inch go (*makes booming sound*). It just rattled. You knew then that the target was quite a ways away, because that was our biggest gun we had. Then pretty soon you'd hear the three inch opening up, and that meant they were getting closer. Then you'd hear the forty millimeters. That was *the* (*makes quicker shooting sound*). Then the twenties (*even faster*

shooting sound). Then you'd know they were really close, they were right there. Right where you were. Your worry just picked up based on what was shooting. You could tell by what your own gunners were doing, how close and what. I talked to guys that were on fire duty where they could see this, and they said they felt better there than down below where they couldn't see what was happening.

D: Were you ever on fire duty during one of those?

E: Nope, never was.

D: Was this something that happened to you often? You said you went through at least a few bombing raids.

E: Yes, it's kind of interesting. I have this little booklet here that I could show you. I would say that we had probably about six times where we were bombed. Some were just alerts and they didn't get in that close, because they were shot down or for some reason they left before they got in close. We shot down two planes from our own ship, our home field. So you knew they were pretty close in there.

D: Did you ever take any damage to the ship?

E: No. We never got hit.

D: How did people around you react during these bombing raids? You talked about how the nervous feelings increased as the guns got louder.

E: You know, that's the thing. They say there are no atheists in foxholes. This was our foxhole. There were days where you just really prayed sometimes, man oh man, because you just had no idea. If a bomb come down, that would be it. That was what they were trying to do, obviously. They were trying to do; they were trying to hit us. That was their goal. Sort of an interesting thing is that, as we got toward the end of the war, they didn't have a lot of aircraft left. So they did a lot of things that would just kind of be nuisance raids.

One that I recall was, we called it "Washing Machine Charlie." It was a plane that would come over, and it sort of sounded like the engine was made from a Maytag motor. But that was enough, they would always sound the alarm. Everybody go on duty, on alert. So every night this little (*makes put put engine sound*), coming out there. Every night. You lost an hour or so of sleep. At no expense to them, but just to mess this whole thing up. The psychological part, to kind of wear you out. They didn't have much left to get in there with any power, so they tried some of these things.

One other thing. They had the *kamikaze* attack toward the end, because they had very few aircraft left. (*Sighs*) That one really worried me. Because even if your gunners hit them, they could be stuck right there and they were coming down, and nothing could stop them. Oh, I hated that *kamikaze* business. That was (*disapproving sound*). Sometimes when I think of that, I get kind of worked up now.

D: Was this something that happened close to you?

E: Yes, not too far. There were several planes that were hit; they figure they were *kamikazes*. When I got back to college afterwards, we were studying conditioned response in psychology. And I told the prof, "I got the perfect situation on this." When the alarm would ring on ship, it was a bell (*makes ringing sound*). Then boy, you'd fly, everybody to their post. So, the war is over already, in August, September, or something. I got back to college in January. That's a long big gap in there, from the end of the war to when I went back to college. My roommate had an alarm clock that had a bell on it. And I hadn't heard a bell like that when I was sleeping all that time, all those months—how many would that be? September, October, November, December, January. About five months.

Well, that first morning his alarm went off. Oh, I was out of bed and I was standing there (*voice raises with excitement*), and then I realize, I wasn't on board ship, I was in the room. I was so conditioned to that alarm. I just stood there and I was just shaking. Well, he and I had a good discussion (*laughs*) and he got a different kind of alarm, one that buzzed instead of that bell. It was amazing that five months later that same sound just triggered you, you were just so conditioned to it, conditioned response. The prof just thought that was a great example.

D: Ed, you probably thought some about what war would be like before you headed out. How was it different than what you expected?

E: (*three second pause*) There's a lot more time involved out there. If you see a war movie, it's all in a half hour the thing's practically over. And there's boredom, which they don't portray. There's a lot of boredom. You're out there and you're looking at that water. I used to say, when I got home, if my relatives wanted to know what I saw most of the time, I'd just get a pail of water and tell them to look at it. (*laughs*) You'd just get so tired of seeing just water out there.

Things like boredom and the time factor are things that your whole sense of what a war is, it was just shoot, shoot, shoot, bang, bang, bang—well no way is it that. I mean it's a lot, when it's there, it's there. It's concentrated, but out of the time period, it's just a couple percent. The rest of time you're just living, eating, working, making your bed, shining your shoes, doing all those things that people do.

D: How did the actual experience of being in those battles differ from what you expected?

(*short pause, he sighs*)

D: Or did it? Was it different than what you thought it would be?

E: When it's actually going on, I suppose it wasn't really too different than what I'd expected. You felt so helpless. Where I was, I wasn't on any duty. I was just supposed to stay down there and... psst. You felt like, well, I'm not doing anything,

I'm not helping the situation. But that wasn't my function, I couldn't do anything. You felt really helpless.

D: Did you have leave, time off after you were shipped out?

E: I said there were three main islands [in the Marianas]: Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. I once finagled a three day pass to go from Saipan to Tinian. Why, to this day, I'll never know. I should have known, I couldn't get anyone to go with me. So I went over there alone. I was with other people that were on the little ship doing work, that was their job, but I couldn't talk anyone into going with me.

When I got over there, I figured out why. It was nothing but another bunch of GIs over there. There were tents, there were trucks, same old thing as there was over there. But I kind of enjoyed it. It was sort of interesting, I'd walk around. I'd say, "Is there anyone around here who has any empty bunk?" "Oh yes, go down here, there's one." And for food, a guy said, "Hey, I've got an extra mess kit, come on." Then I'd go eat with some other outfit, and the next day with another outfit. You just kind of lived with them; nobody cared, nobody checked.

D: So you were just kind of hanging out with the soldiers?

E: Right. There wasn't anything else to do. There weren't any towns. There wasn't anything to do.

D: You never got to go to any towns while you were over there?

E: Not while I was over in the Pacific, no. Because we all, us guys in the Pacific, we used to say, "You guys over in Europe, you go to Paris and all that stuff." And here we were stuck out there, with nothing to do, no cities really.

D: Earlier, when you had been in the United States, did you get leaves at all?

E: Yes.

D: Spent time in some of the cities, did you?

E: Yes, I think I had two furloughs, before I went overseas.

D: What did you do on those?

E: Well, just looked around for your buddies. There weren't many by that time, everybody was in the service. Once in a while you were lucky and one came home on furlough at the same time. You'd visit with your family and relatives. They were mostly older people that weren't in the service. Visit with them, that was kind of interesting, and stay home a lot. Have good home cooking, stuff like that.

D: Did you ever have liberty while you were in the States, have a chance to visit cities you hadn't seen before?

E: Oh sure, practically every weekend we'd get some time off. In Phoenix I had some time off, and in California.

D: Any memories there that stick out?

E: I remember we were on a, did some horseback riding out in Arizona, and I wrote home and said, "You realize that I picked grapefruit off from a horse's back?" I mean, first of all we didn't have any grapefruits in Minnesota, and then for me to be riding a horse, so it was things like that that was a little different. It was kind of fun.

D: With social matters, during your time in the Army Air Corps, did you ever see any different racial or ethnic groups come in contact? Did you see white guys and black guys, or was it pretty segregated?

E: Yes, we were pretty segregated. I really didn't see any black people until after the war and we were being transported from one place on the island to another. They had black people that were driving the trucks. When we went home on a troop ship, there were some. There we were mixed. That was about the first time. Otherwise, I know some places they were probably mixed, but we really didn't have any. We didn't have a single one that I can recall in our outfit. It was a small, small outfit. I think we had maybe 150 Air Corps guys, about 15 Navy gunners, and 15 Merchant Marines.

D: Did you ever come in contact with women at all that were in the service?

E: Oh, when you were stateside, but never out there in the Pacific. See, that's why those guys that were there in gay Paris, that's where the women were. We always had to give them a little rough time. They had a couple of USO shows [concerts, meet-and-greets, and other interactive events to bring American entertainment and music to overseas troops] that came up when we were in the Pacific. They'd have a couple singers that were women.

D: Do you remember those USO shows?

E: Yes, the shows were a funny thing. You had a standard procedure where you'd grab your slicker, because it seemed like it rained every time. They never shut the projector off. You could see it working its way through the raindrops, and a crummy picture up there on the screen, and there you'd sit. You had your helmet liner on. And you'd never quit, you'd never give up, because that was a movie, you had to see it. No matter how bad it was, it didn't make a difference, because it was a movie, you had to see that because we didn't have that many. But the USO, we never had any of the real big ones, like Bob Hope or that sort of thing. But we did have some of the

smaller ones. They were funny, they could dance and tell a few jokes, do a little juggling and you thought it was all great.

D: Were there any people that you remember from that time that really made an impact on you?

E: Yes. My master sergeant was a really great guy.

D: What was his name?

E: Yes, I tell you, isn't that funny, I don't think that I can tell you. I just know that I liked him and that he seemed like such a clean cut, big, fatherly kind of guy for us younger kids.

D: He was older?

E: Yes, he was a little older. I mean, I was probably 21 or so, and he was probably close to 30. When you're 21, 30 years old is getting pretty far along. He was a nice guy and just great fun to have out. He was one, our commanding officer, our CO, he was kind of a—I don't think he impressed me a lot, he was kind of a politician. He had run for governor of Texas and was defeated. *(laughs)* We used to think, that's good for Texas, that he was defeated. But he was kind of a big back-slapping kind of guy; I don't think he knew anything about military matters. He was a colonel, so you had to respect his position, I guess.

D: Did you feel positive towards most of your officers?

E: Yes, I think so, we had pretty good officers most of the time. Very well trained, reliable, pretty good, clean cut guys.

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D: Were there any buddies from that time at all that you remember at all really?

E: For a while, but I finally am at that point where I don't really keep in touch with any now. It's so, it's 55 years ago or so. But an interesting thing: here's an outfit and there's another guy from Waseca that was with me. He was a farmer, he still lives there. And practically every summer, I'd stop by his farm to go there and talk. I think it's sort of unusual for two people from a little town, where there's only 150 [in our unit] and they're drawing from all over the country.

D: So you met him when you were out here?

E: Well, I knew of him before the war. His father and my father were relatively good friends. They were both farm kids when they were young. So I knew him before, not real close, but I knew of him before. Still see him, if he's not home, I always leave

a note signed, "Say, what are you doing these days?" I sign it Colonel McGraw and leave it there, and then he knows it would be I, because no one knows who Colonel McGraw is except me. He was our commanding officer, I write it up and I sign the note. I say, "It's Colonel McGraw, what's happened to you?" Right away, he says, "Oh, that's that Holtz again." He was in the propeller shop, that was his job, he repaired propellers.

D: You said that you did a lot of rubber repair, and stuff like that?

E: Yes, well, fuel cells. The gas tanks were lined with a fuel cell material, which if it was punctured with a bullet, there would be a chemical reaction and it would seal, to prevent fires. A lot of those had to get patched after they got back to home. Same way with tires, I'd work on some of those, and we made a lot.

For example, they had... the P-51 Mustang had a droppable wing tank, so they could get more range and they could go from Saipan up to Japan and back. Well, they had all kinds of these droppable tanks [that were mounted on the wing], and there's supposed to be this little rubber seal where it makes the connection [to the wing]. Somehow, they didn't have those. And so, they couldn't make a good connection, it would be leaking all the time. So we machined that shape out of metal, then we put raw rubber in there, and we put it in the vita cap, which is a machine which uses pressure and temperature and cures the rubber. So we made all kinds of these rings. I'm sure, in a week, they could have had some fast aircraft that would have gotten them out there, but they needed them right then, so we made them. Things like that that just came up. That's why it was such an important operation that we did. We could build things that they didn't even realize they were missing.

D: You mentioned staying in touch, things like that once before, with your family, how you'd write letters. How did that work for you during the war?

E: Well, I don't know exactly what you're coming from.

D: When you were both stateside and then when you were at sea, did you write a lot?

E: Yes, quite a bit. That was the only communication, through letter writing. So if you wrote a letter to, say, a cousin of yours, you'd get a return before too long. And my family, my mother wrote quite often. I wrote quite often, too. I'd tell them what I was doing, like riding a horse, picking grapefruit, anything that was a little bit unusual.

D: Were you able to say much when you were out at sea, or was it censored?

E: You always had to be a little careful about saying where you were, or where you were going to go, or when you were going to go. They had censors that would read some of that and check it. So they told you, "Don't do this or don't do that."

D: They told you what you could and couldn't write?

E: Yes, basically what you shouldn't write about.

D: What kind of information did you get out there, did you have *Stars and Stripes* [military newspaper] or any radio programs to listen to?

E: Oh yes, well we had *Stars and Stripes*, that was that publication that came out all the time. We'd always look forward to that, because they'd have reports or stories on what the progress was. I think we had some other magazine, too, I think *Time* magazine. I used to read that a lot, because I was so interested in seeing how the European War was coming along. I mean, this was our [the US's] primary focus, during the war. They had three times as much material went in there as Japan.

(Gets up to get drink of water)

Just like the first day of teaching. I didn't talk that much during the summer when I was working around, suddenly the first day of school you talk all day.

End of Side A. Side B begins at counter 000.

E: That [*Stars and Stripes*] was the big one, always anxious to watch that, because they would tell about different outfits that were in the area, and a lot of things happening over in Europe.

D: Do you have any specific memories of *Stars and Stripes*? Was there a story that shocked you, or surprised you, or do you just have a funny story?

E: *(pause three seconds)* There was this little kind of banter between the guys that were connected with Europe and the Pacific. They called us the "Mosquito Swatting Joes," so they'd say, "Oh, you Mosquito Swatting Joe." We'd say, "You guys are always running around Paris." But, I don't know if I can remember any particular type of thing.

D: Ed, did you keep in contact with some people after the war at all?

E: Yes, a little bit. My sergeant that I worked with immediately, was right from around La Crosse [Wisconsin]. In fact, we were discharged together, took the train from Camp McCoy in Wisconsin, that's where we were discharged, to his place, which is La Crosse. I remember I stayed a night with him, the first night at his home, then I went on from there to Waseca. He died, here five or six years ago. We communicated a little bit, I really didn't get down there, I always wanted to, but we'd write. He was a nice guy.

D: Have you ever been to any reunions for your unit?

E: Yes, they started about seven or eight years ago. I went to one in Dayton, Ohio. There's another one that's coming up now, but I'm not going, I don't care to alone. When I went to the other one, my wife was living, and she went along and we went there. That was one reunion that I went to that was good, but I don't feel that I need to go back all the time for these reunions. They have them every year, and I keep saying, "Why don't you guys do them every other year, it's a lot of work to get it all lined up." But they want to do it, so it's all right.

D: What made you want to go to the reunion at first?

E: Well, just to hear about different people. Because I haven't really known what. For example, the old commanding officer from Texas, he died, he was pretty old already, I think he was in his sixties when he went into the service, so I think he died in about the mid-fifties, but I didn't know that. So I got that information at the reunion. Then they wrote up, some guys kept a running account, like a diary, which I was under the impression we weren't supposed be keeping; I don't think we were. Because you know, if the enemy gets that, they'd have quite a record. Anyway, this guy had this great diary, so now he published it for us to read it. You know, air raid such-and-such a time, on this date. I didn't have any of this down. It's kind of interesting to read it and see about some of those things. When we left Saipan, and when we arrived at Iwo Jima, stuff like that.

D: We're near the end of the war now. Were you at Iwo Jima until the end of the war [in August 1945]?

E: Yes.

D: Do you remember the death of President Franklin Roosevelt, in April 1945?

E: Oh sure.

D: What was significant about it for you?

E: One of things I remember was, all of a sudden, who's vice president? We didn't even know who the vice president was. The first thing I said was, "Who's the vice president, who will be president now?" I mean there were people who knew, but a bunch of us dummies didn't have any idea that Harry Truman was the vice president.

D: So you didn't have much a feeling towards Truman, because you had hardly any idea who he was.

E: I guess so. I figured, well, we'd take care of it out there, they'd have to take care of it over here.

D: Do you remember V-E Day, in May 1945?

E: Oh, victory over in Europe. Yes. Of course, we were very, very happy. Because, like I say, then we felt we'd be getting more material, more stuff coming out there. Which we would have, but...

Yes, I remember that, our victory out there in the Pacific. Some of us just did laundry that day. We got a little free time here now, we'll do some laundry. I mean there was no whoopla, hollering, I remember that. I think on the night that it came out, a lot of the gunners started shooting up in the sky. These 20 mm [guns], but then it wasn't long and there were some orders, "Oh, cut that out, somebody will get shot." But, there just wasn't a street where you could march on, or something like that. I was on the ship, so, none of that stuff at all. We just said, "Hot dog, it's over." That was about as minimal as it possibly could be. You see pictures of the all the guys that were stateside, in New York, or other places. My gosh, we got gypped on that deal.

By the time we got back, people asked, "What war were you in?" (*laughs*) I didn't get back to the States until Christmas [1945]. That's another interesting thing—coming back on the troop ship, we hit the International Date Line on Christmas, so we got up one morning and had first Christmas, got up the next day, second Christmas. So that was kind of interesting. So, I've had one more Christmas than I'm years old. To balance that, I'd have to go back to the international date and miss one, and I'm not going to do that. Kind of interesting that we happened to hit that on Christmas.

D: Makes that day stick out. Do you remember the atomic bombs being dropped at all? Do you remember the news you heard about that, Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

E: Oh, sure. Sure, sure.

D: What kind of news came out to you at first? How much did you know much about it?

E: Oh, well, we didn't know a lot. You heard, "Wow, it's powerful." Well, we thought, okay it's powerful, but we didn't really know what the scope was. From our standpoint, it was a complete secret. They took off from Tinian, right there where I went on that wonderful three day leave (*laughs*), and flew out to Japan. But we certainly didn't know anything about it. After we started reading about it, we thought, wow, we're up there kind of near Japan. We were only about 700 miles away when we were at Iwo Jima. We thought maybe we could be getting fallout, but we didn't.

D: What do you think about those bombings?

E: All these things are a real tough thing. It's a war, so the whole thing's so stupid, so it's sort of discussing how stupid is something in the realm of stupidity. I guess it was justified. First of all, it was war, and they knew it. So does that mean, someone shouldn't use a bomb that's just a little bigger than someone else is using? I mean, this is a big jump, I'll grant you that, but, I mean, I don't like it, I surely don't. And I

kind of question maybe the second one, we could have given them a few more days. We gave them, what was it, three days between Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

D: Yes, three days, from the 6th to the 9th of August.

E: And that's so fast, for them to, sort of think, "Man, we lost the war, we've got to give up." They did right after Nagasaki, but I think if we could have given them another week, they probably would have said, let's quit, and then we wouldn't have had to drop that [second] one. But it's hard to say. I know that all of us guys out there, if we would have had to go to Japan, it would have been really tough. You hear that said all the time, that they would have lost more, we would have lost more. So, from a standpoint of how many were lost, you probably saved some lives in the end. But that's one argument. Like I say, it's an argument of stupidity. It's hard to create an argument. I'm not criticizing our government for what they did, but I sure hope they don't ever have to make those decisions again.

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D: Ed, you talked about how when you first headed out, you didn't have much of an opinion on the Japanese. You said that maybe changed some as you were going through the war.

E: Yes, I think, especially the Japanese. You were in contact with them, and so forth like that. *(pauses three seconds)* I mean, we called the natives and the Japanese, gooks we called them. A very derogatory term. *(pauses three seconds)* But, when we had some prisoners of war working around us, they were already beat, that's why they're prisoners of war. So they're kind of down. And so you think, "Golly, these guys aren't very energetic." Or something like that. And you probably would be if you were a prisoner of war. But I don't know that I ever really had a hate for them, but I didn't have a like for them.

D: You had some POWs on the ship then?

E: No, but on the island.

D: What island was this?

E: I think that was probably Saipan. They had them working different places. But not a lot. I'll tell you, they had a lot more German prisoners of war over here [in the US]. When we came back to the States, we hit in Los Angeles. It was a standard thing, you got a steak, I think it was a baked potato, and ice cream. Those were things we used to dream about! And guys are coming in by the tens of thousands. I used to think, a lot of the people working there were German prisoners of war, and I used to think, they must think, "This country has so many steaks. No wonder we couldn't beat them!" *(laughs)* That's all they did, all day long, every day, week after week after week. These guys coming in from the Pacific. Ice cream and steak.

Funny deal, but for us, it was a real treat. It was so rare. From their standpoint, that's all they saw. I'm sure they must have thought, what the heck is this? So there you saw a lot of German prisoners of war working, but there weren't a lot of prisoners of war that were Japanese.

D: Did you ever meet any Japanese citizens in Saipan, or anywhere?

E: No.

D: Ed, when were you discharged actually? Or when did you start heading back home?

E: Like I said, I hit the International Date Line on December 25th. We probably left for home, maybe the 10th of December, something like that.

D: So what had you been doing after the war, the period?

E: Oh, that's kind of interesting. They had you doing anything to keep you busy, that sort of thing. We had some clever things going. One was that we'd build little washing machines that were run by wind power. You'd take a barrel and then in the barrel—the barrel was the container that would rotate—and where you'd put the clothes and soap in. Then we'd have a big wind mill that would be turning, and there was a belt that would run the sink. It was always, one outfit was trying to make a better wind washing machine than another outfit. You'd walk around and see what the other guys over there had.

But in the daytime you'd look and see all these windmills turning, all these things. Sometimes they'd have too much soap in them, and the soap suds would be coming out, but it occupied our time. There's all kinds of ways to get material, some legal and some illegal, but you'd get that stuff, and everyone was building washing machines that were wind powered. You'd have duty that you'd go to, then you'd get it all loaded and then let it wash all day long. Boy, your clothes were clean! *(laughs)* They'd probably be rags!

I remember another thing that I never really did like. We had some flight suits, leather, never had been worn. They said it would wreck the economy if they took them back, so we packaged them up, perfectly. We had an invoice and everything for them. Then we took them to the bay and threw them in, just dumped them. You know how the military is, you don't just take it and dump it. You have to record it, you've got to package it, everything. It just bothered me to throw some of this stuff in there. They said it's going to cost us more to send it back, it would be tough on the economy. Blah, blah, blah. So you did your job. You packaged all this nice stuff up and threw it in the bay. They used to say, "Don't any of you guys get the idea that you're going to put some of this stuff in your barracks bag and go back home with it." So you didn't even try it; you just dumped it overboard. But that was such a waste.

D: You guys were still out at Iwo Jima then after V-J Day, or did you move around?

E: No. We just stayed there on Iwo Jima.

D: You said probably somewhere around 10 December you started heading back?

E: No, I got on a troop ship. Our [repair] ship left a little earlier, so that's why we got into this windmill business. After the ship left we were stationed on land and lived in a tent, not on a ship. Because our ship was going back earlier, it had served its function. They had a point system, and if you were married you got so many points, if you had been in a combat zone, for every month you got a point. If you were, you know, you just added it up. Everyone was watching their totals, to see –

D: – if they'd won?

E: Yes, kind of sort of. I remember, I was discharged January 9th [1946], and the war was over in August, so it took that long, but that was still pretty good, I think. They had so many people they had to muster out, and they had to keep up a certain number of things out there, so it wasn't bedlam.

D: So your troop ship headed back to Los Angeles, is that right?

E: Yes.

D: That's where you got on land first and had your steak, potato, ice cream and stuff like that.

E: Yes. From there we came right back to Camp McCoy, and that's where we were discharged.

D: Where's Camp McCoy?

E: Southern Wisconsin. It's interesting, a bunch of us guys were talking as we were on this troop train, and we said, "Well, we won the war, but if somebody's going to defeat us, this has to be overseas," meaning right here in the United States. And now, we sort of see this is what happened [reference to the terror attacks of 11 September 2001, which took place 12 days before this interview]. Of course, this wasn't entirely true, we've had some wars since then, and it wasn't over here, but nothing probably the magnitude of World War II. So if you get into a real big one. We knew that our industrial might was so powerful, that was what helped us win the war. We had so much material, they could sink supply ships and we'd just build some more, and send more. It was just almost impossible, we had such an industrial giant here. The only way someone could really beat us was to make this be overseas.

D: There was a realization of that, you think?

E: Yes. If somebody's going to beat us, we won't be going overseas anymore, we'll be doing the battle right here. I was always kind of scared to think of that. Before that, we had been able to stay clear, for 55 years I guess. Now we had what just happened over on our land here [on 11 September 2001].

D: Ed, what do you remember about the time when you first got discharged? Do you remember the day when you first walked out and were a civilian again?

E: Yes. See, I had the old army clothes on until I got home. I remember it was January 9th. In fact, the first ten years, I always did something. When I got married, I always took my wife out for dinner on that January 9th. I did that for quite a few years. Kind of, well, that date was important, that really was important. Sort of amazing, but right there it was.

D: What did you first when you got out?

E: Like I said, we got on a train and went to this sergeant's house in La Crosse. I stayed a night with him, and then I went home the next day. I got into some civilian clothes, checked with the college and found out the new semester was starting toward the end of January. Well, here I was discharged the ninth, and I thought, oh, how lucky can I be, because if I'd been discharged in February, I would have missed the start and have to wait way until fall. So everything just went click, click, click, and in a couple of weeks, I was back in college taking classes. I remember taking classes. Here we were, I remember in one of the classes, the average age of the guys in there was 25, the average age. Here were these little 18 year old girls, scared already because they're in college. I suppose I'm being a sexist when I talk this way, but really, man, they had tough sledding. We were real competition, because we were more mature, and we weren't afraid to ask. We wanted to know what was what. Those poor girls really had to work. I'm sure they did all right, but that was some tough competition.

D: Do you remember seeing your parents right away?

E: Yes.

D: How did they react?

E: Yes. I remember I thought, "Jeepers, they've really aged." Because I hadn't seen them for a little over a year, but that's quite a while when they're in their sixties. I could tell they'd aged. My dad was always very athletic, able to do a lot of things, so he was pretty good. I say, I was only home a couple of weeks, then I went off to college. I was so lucky the way that fit out. Then I was able to finish in a year and a half, I got my first half a year in, then one more year and then I was done. Then I went out on the job in the fall of '47, and I met my first high school class.

D: Did you feel weird readjusting to civilian life?

E: Yes, it was amazing. You wouldn't think so. First of all, the language in the military is rough, terrible. You used to worry, too many adjectives are used, that's the only way I can describe it! We used to say, when we were still in the military, "Be careful when you go home that you don't pull a stupid blunder." It's almost a shame to say that, but you heard those things so often, it became a part of you. That was always kind of a worry.

And you were so used to being regimented, this business, and suddenly, I'm on my own. I can eat when I want to, I can go to bed when I want to, I can get up when I want to, wow. It took some doing. You'd think it would be wonderful, it was wonderful, but it was kind of scary. You got so you almost depended on someone to tell you what to do. That gets to be kind of easy, too, you don't need to think. *(laughs)* When I got back into college, then it was pretty good. I was so lucky to be able to get back, because then I got busy, with schoolwork.

D: So you finished up college then, and you started teaching right away.

E: Yes, I started in Montgomery, New Prague, in that area. I started in the fall of '47. I graduated in spring and started in the fall.

D: Do you ever remember any victory celebrations or anything when you got home, or was that kind of stuff over by the time you got back?

E: Yes, there wasn't really much of that. The thing that I remember was, at first, your students were people that knew the war, they weren't too far removed. You know, your seniors, next year they could have been going in the service. But after I taught about ten years I thought, "Wow, these kids weren't born when Pearl Harbor happened." You started to realize that, boy, this gap is coming in there, and of course then it got bigger and bigger all the time. Right now, it's there. At first, though, it was such a critical thing to you, you thought everybody has to be aware of that. Well, pretty soon there were a few years in there that, no, they don't know anything really about that, except what they read.

D: I'd like to finish with a few questions that allow you to look back and try to evaluate the war years. What did the war mean personally for you, at that time?

E: *(sighs, and pauses five seconds)* Well, there was a lot of spirit, a lot of nationalism, which I guess was good, it was needed. You really felt it. I feel sorry for some of the people that were in some of the wars, like the Vietnam War, where you even didn't know whether you should be there. I mean, we knew we should be there, we were convinced. We had a job to do and so we went towards that. Of course when I was over, it was such a relief. That's another thing, when the war's going on you have no, there's no... It's not like in college, where I do this, boom, boom, boom, boom, then I graduate and I'm done here. This and this and this. You didn't know when the war was going to be over, and if we'd had to go into Japan, it probably would have gone another year, something like that, maybe more. But when you don't really know when it's going to end, that bothers you, because you're tired of it already. And

you're tired of some people who were pessimistic, saying, "Oh, we'll be out here another five years." It gets kind of depressing when you get into some of those conversations like that.

D: When you think back on it now, have your thoughts changed at all?

E: No, I don't think so. I think for that particular war, we had a job to do and we did it. That was alright, that was okay.

D: How do you think the war changed you?

E: (*pauses three seconds*) I guess it gave me a different scope of geography. If the war hadn't come, I suppose I would have seen mountains by now, (*laughs*) but you know, you just realize there are people living out there in places that are so different from yours. Their whole style of living is completely different. It's just kind of an awakening.

D: Ed, that's the final question I have. Do you have a favorite story of World War II, or anything else you want to add?

E: I thought of a couple of interesting things, and I may have already mentioned them. Like that period after the war, where they just tried to keep us busy, and we then started doing things. Oh, and we had a lot of equipment, man, we could do everything. We made knives, we made a little casting of Iwo Jima, that shape, and all kinds of little knick knack sorts of things, just to occupy time. We made some good things, because we had all those facilities to do it. So that was interesting.

Then I thought hitting the International Date Line at Christmas was interesting. I thought those German POWs handing out steaks all the time, in the thousands, that really struck me, too. Must have been a mind boggling thing for them. Also, I don't know, the scariness of the bombing attacks. Then once you'd been in a few of those, even if you're not in one, you got that feeling, boy, you don't know when the next one is coming. You might be relaxed right now, but maybe all of sudden the bell rings. Then that conditioned response thing. I think I still have the paper I wrote on that one, A+.

Then being on troop trains, many, many of them. And on board a troop ship, I think they had the bunks, it was something like eight high, it went way up there. You had to be a pretty good climber to get up there, to one of those top bunks. You hoped you wouldn't fall out. They just wanted to get as many guys home as fast as they could. And the waste that you'd see, oh my gosh, the waste. That's what war is, just one massive waste. The buildup we had, like on Saipan—trucks, guns, you could drive down like we're driving on main street, on each side it was piled up way up high. All this equipment, and it just went on and on for miles. And ships. Everything was so exaggerated, and so much, that it almost took your breath away.

I was talking earlier about these droppable wing tanks on the P-51. One time, the pilot didn't do it very well and he dropped one of them on our ship. And of course, the old general alarm rang, and the fire crew came out there, because there

were gas fumes and they were very explosive. We put it out, there was never any fire. I'm sure they got the word they had to be a little better on their timing when they dropped that. Lots of little things. I remember I played in a band on board ship, I played the drums. I used to play in the high school band. That was kind of fun, we had a little jazzy band, and we'd play once in a while to entertain the troops. It was lousy I'm sure, but they just cheered. You get so hungry for some entertainment, no matter what it was. So that was kind of fun. The guy that was the medical doctor, captain, he was our director of our little band, played the flute. Little things like that.

D: Thanks for those additions, and for the interview; I really appreciate it. Thank you very much for your time.

E: Sure.

END OF INTERVIEW