

Mr. Doran

WWII

When did you join the military?

“What year?”

Yes

“1943 June 4th”

How old were you

“17”

How long were you in the military?

“2 yrs 8mo 8 days”

What boot camp did you go to?

“Great Lakes”

How long was boot camp?

“7 weeks”

Did you attend a second boot camp?

“Nope they gave me a few days leave and then they shipped us out to the west coast”

Did you join the military voluntarily?

“Yes I did, I joined voluntarily.”

What made you join the military?

“I was probably watching to many war movies”

What branch did you serve in?

“The Navy”

Did you get to choose because you joined voluntarily?

“Yes”

Is there any reason you joined that particular branch?

“I always had nautical vent; coming from Ireland when I was very young on steam ships over the water was one of the reasons I guess. I came over when I was a young child maybe four years old.”

What ship where you on?

“The U.S.S Richmond”

Were you on the ship the entire time?

“Yes”

What equipment did you use on a daily basis?

“A mop”

Is that because you got in trouble?

“I went aboard ship as a young recruit seaman second and they assigned me to the third division. Part of my job was the three inch gun ... for the shells.... They took that into consideration.”

What rank did you achieve?

“I finally got up into the radio shack and I finally got out in 46 as a radioman third class.”

Were you ever wounded in the military?

“No... well, I had a can of 40 mm shells dropped on my foot. We were unloading shells the kid I was working with let go and I had to hold on. I had a bent up toe for a little bit that was about it.”

Were you in any famous campaigns or battles?

“Yes, we were in northern pacific bombarding the Japanese northern islands northern islands that was our main target up there.”

Do you remember any of the names of the Islands?

“Ominato, its northern Japan.”

Did you receive any awards or medals for your service?

“Asiatic pacific ribbon and so on after the war I went into the reserves and I stayed in until I was sixty years old. I retired as cw04 during that time I was in cryptology spying on the Russians and that kind of stuff.”

How long were you doing that field of work?

“33 years”

While in the service what would a normal or average day consist of?

“It consisted of getting out of rack at 630 in the morning, chow down, top of the deck start mopping always had to mop the decks, silly ass things kept ups busy.”

How long would that take?

“Half day, or quarter of the day. Then after that they put you through exercises just to make sure you new what the hell you were doing.”

What was the most common routine while in battle?

“I guess the only thing you had to worry about was getting the right commands.....I was a phone talker as I said. I had to make sure I had the right information when I had to pass it on to the gun crew; settings of the three inch gun.”

How would you verify you had the right information?

“It was all telephoned up to bridge, the bridge agreed to what it was and that was it. The captain was up there so there were a lot of junior officers around him so everybody knew exactly what everyone was doing.”

What type of firearms would you use?

“We had 45’s for just soldiering purposes. I was on a 3 inch guns. The ship also had six inch guns, and Anti aircraft guns, we carried some depth charges too. It was an obsolete ship actually built in 1923. It was a 4 piper cruiser the only thing going for us was that we could do 34 knots and make a fast exit from any area that we had to. We could outrun tin cans after a while we had so much aboard”

Did you ever have to outrun anybody?

“Whenever we bombarded the Japs, we used to haul ass pretty fast to get out at night; and to get further away so they wouldn’t attack us.”

While at war what helped you pass the time?

“Playing cards gambling dice ha-ha what else? That’s all there could be.”

Did you ever receive care packages?

“Oh yeah”

What was your favorite care package while you were at war?

“I have sweet tooth so anything with sweets in it was my favorite: not the best thing for your teeth but what the hell.”

What helped you get through the hard times?

“I guess the camaraderie of people around you. We would tell each other tall tales and things like that talk about where you came from....then there’s always somebody that would get into trouble so it’s a funny thing, but we were all very close.”

Are you still close or in contact with any of your friends from the military?

“Yes I am with a few. We had an active reunion group until about three years and then everyone got to old. I’m 85 and I’m the youngest guy. We are passing on as it was”

After you came home from the war did your perspective on anything change?

“Well I knew I wanted to be better educated that’s for sure. When I went in the Navy I only had two and one half years of high school so in turn had to make up a year and a half of high school. I then went off to college for four years.”

What did windup doing after the military; after the schooling?

“After the schooling I went into corporate life. I worked for AAA for about fifteen years as an office manager. Then I went to J.C. Penny then lastly I ended up with Thomas J Lipton Tea Company. I spent 23 yrs with them I was in charge of travel, corporate travel manager.”

Would you say that being in the military helped your career?

“Oh yes definitely; sure because most companies were very partial to veterans we were all pretty disciplined people.”

Did you carry anything from the military with you after the war?

“The only thing was the attitude of do the best you could.”

Before you mentioned that you were spying on the Russians. How would you go about doing that exactly?

“What you do is I went out to the Mediterranean a few times. The Russians were always on horizon trying to spy on us it was like both of us trying to spy on each other. We used to use electronics to pick up their transmissions and so on. We had a lot of linguists on board from the navy ships. This is my reserve career when I was chief warrant officer. We were trying to spy on them. This is my reserve career”

What time period was this; or what year rather?

“That would have been back in the 60’s part of the seventies during the cold war.”

Is there anything I missed that you would like to talk about?

“No I think we covered my WWII service, young and dumb; then later on in the reserves as a Chief Warrant Officer. I did well; I even get a nice pension now so it’s not so bad.”

You probably earned it with your hard work and service!

Thank you for your time and service.