

**National Museum of the Pacific War
Center for Pacific Studies
Fredericksburg, Texas**

**Interview of
Bob Tizzard
Pacific Theatre
Red Cross Post War Displacement Program**

Interview with Bob Tizzard

- Eddie Graham This Eddie Graham, today is September 3rd, 2004 I'm in the Hilton Hotel in San Antonio, Texas and I am interviewing Mr. Bob Tizzard. Let's start off Bob, tell us when and where were you born?
- Bob Tizzard I was born in Rochester, New York the 30th of June, 1916. That makes me 89 years old.
- Eddie Graham You are just a youngster then! (laughter)
- Bob Tizzard I wish I were!
- Eddie Graham What was the name of your parents?
- Bob Tizzard My father was Edward Tizzard and my mother was Elizabeth Katuhn Tizzard.
- Eddie Graham Other children?
- Bob Tizzard No, no. My father was Canadian and when he was a boy, 18 years old he was at up at what we called the Thousand Islands in New York and a man had trouble with his boat and my father helped him. He took him on as a boatman and that is how my father got into the United States.
- Eddie Graham Where did you go to school?
- Bob Tizzard I went to school at University of Rochester and got my masters at NYU.
- Eddie Graham Where were you and what were you doing December 7th, 1941?
- Bob Tizzard I was already in the service as an enlisted man in the Army. I had been an auditor for General Motors and just got tired of it and joined the Army in 1940.

Eddie Graham That was going to be my next questions, how did you get into the Army, so fine...

Bob Tizzard I was lucky. I went in '40 as we used to say "red apple", regular army, and everything that came along was just up, up, up. Promoted to a corporal in about 3 months, sergeant in about 6 months, a tech sergeant within a year, and then I went into OCS and that was all the regular Army got.

Eddie Graham Let's got back and get a little bit more detail. Let's start out where did you take your basic training?

Bob Tizzard A place you've never heard of Paris, Tennessee. And what was in Paris, Tennessee? Barrage balloons. These were balloons that we put out over airfields and factories. And that was when I was an enlisted man. But when I went back and became an officer I got an ACAC in automatic weapons.

Eddie Graham And where did you take the ACAC training?

Bob Tizzard Camp Devon, Massachusetts.

Eddie Graham First you went to Tennessee, then Massachusetts, and then where?

Bob Tizzard Then I got shipped out to Camp Stoneman in California and joined the Army 7th Division.

Eddie Graham And where did you do in the 7th Division?

Bob Tizzard I was a company officer on small arms fire.

Eddie Graham Did you have a training camp for the small arms?

Bob Tizzard Yes that was up at Camp Devon up in Massachusetts

Eddie Graham What happened to you after that?

Bob Tizzard We shipped out...this is an interesting story. This outfit here that I joined had been training in the Mojave Desert. And they trained for about 6 months, this is before I got there. And they ended up in Dutch Harbor in Alaska under Stillwell and I joined them on their back, they had already been to Alaska and they were on the way to Honolulu. It was actually the 184th Regiment which became part of the 7th Division for the invasion of Kwajalein, 1941.

Eddie Graham When you got to Honolulu, what did you all do there?

Bob Tizzard Just passing, getting ready for a ship.

Eddie Graham You got a ship there and when to?

Bob Tizzard Kwajalein.

Eddie Graham Kwajalein Island?

Bob Tizzard Kwajalein, Marshall Islands

Eddie Graham So you do anything special in Kwajalein Island?

Bob Tizzard No, nothing special. When we got there most of the islands had been secured.

Eddie Graham So it was sort of a stop over?

Bob Tizzard Yes

Eddie Graham Where did you go from Kwajalein?

Bob Tizzard Talega, Manila.

Eddie Graham And what happened there?

Bob Tizzard Well came ashore and not too many major battles.

Eddie Graham Did you actually see combat there?

Bob Tizzard Yes, saw combat there and then we more or less got ready. We though we were going to Truk. Instead to go up the Truk we went up to Okinawa. There again the first 3 or 4 days everything was quiet, then everything then broke lose up there. We saw quite a bit of action up at Shuri Castle, and Yonaharu.

Eddie Graham Lets go back to when you first started seeing combat. What was your company and what were your specific assignments?

Bob Tizzard I was a company officer in charge of all the automatic weapons. I had a squadron of about 35 men. We would set up forward positions and thing like that. Set up perimeters at night and things like that.

Eddie Graham You were going to go to Truk...

Bob Tizzard We were under General Anderson and we though we were heading for Truk and then...Let's see we started out for Truk about the 15th of January 1945 and even when we were boarding it was all changes and got all the maps out and we ended up in Okinawa on Easter Sunday in 1945.

Eddie Graham Was combat still going...

Bob Tizzard Yes. But you see the 7th Division we were coming in on the west shore but the 77th Division came on the East shore and therefore everybody that came ashore on the west shore didn't feel any combat until the fake landing of the 77th was over with.

Eddie Graham How long did you stay there?

Bob Tizzard Till about V-day, September. When the war was over we packed up and went to Korea to take the Japanese surrender. Before that we had received the maps of Hokkaido in Japan and that is where we thought we were headed for. But the war was over and so we went to Seoul to take the Japanese surrender. And is where I got enough points and got out.

Eddie Graham You say you took the Japanese surrender, you mean of the Japanese in Korea?

Bob Tizzard Yes in Korea. In Seoul. And I had enough points and the General came to me one day and said that the International Red Cross was looking for people to go to China rather than going home. And more or less take care of 15,000 White Russians in China and then the Marine Corps would be responsible for my housing and my welfare and in return for that if any of the Marines had any problems at home I would be their Western Union for them. So I went there and stayed there almost 5 years and made the mistake of learning the language over there.

Eddie Graham What part of China where you in?

Bob Tizzard Qingdao. I lived in Qingdao on Deschanlu.

Eddie Graham Did you stay there the 5 years.

Bob Tizzard The last year we moved out to what we called the air wing. For some reason the Chinese never touched Qingdao. They took Shanghai, they took Beijing or Peking as we called it. But they never bothered with Qingdao.

Eddie Graham You mean the Japanese never took...?

Bob Tizzard No, no, no. The Chinese communists, Mao. Let's not get started with that. We were so wrong over in China. We were so wrong with General Marshall and with Mao Tse Tung and Madame Sun, we were absolutely so wrong. We were on the wrong side over there and people said that. But no body listened.

Eddie Graham You said your main job over there was to help there White Russians...

Bob Tizzard Find places for them to go to. Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, the Philippines, a few of them we sent to Canada but we couldn't really get them in the United States because there was a...if someone took a Russian family in the United States and had to put up a bond saying that there were not going to be welfare people and there were not that many people that were willing to do it. Some of these Russian literally had walked...these were people who were officers in the Tsar, officials and diplomats in the Tsar and literally some of them walked from Moscow to China.

Eddie Graham Evidently they came to this place to get displaced because they couldn't do it in Russia?

Bob Tizzard No, no, because they knew that if they do it in Russia they would be killed. Most of them had some connection with the Tsar. This is right after the revolution.

Eddie Graham Okay, so the Communists were slowly taking over the country...

Bob Tizzard

The communist were really on the march and they knew that it was just a matter of time. Some of the people who were in Qingdao you couldn't trust. A very personal friend of mine was asked to come to the police station to question him, he was a White Russian. The next morning they came and told his wife that he died in jail. We finally got them up to Vancouver.

Eddie Graham

Lets get some details. You had a very interesting operation here. Give us some example of the more interesting things that appeneded while you were performing these duties. People and such...

Bob Tizzard

I learned a lot of things about the Chinese. I got very anti Marshall and anti Kai-shek and that is how I got to know some of the educated people in China and learn the language and tried to help them more. The interesting things there were times when I went out for my meals and paid 80 million dollars because the Chinese money was sometimes a million to one a million to two of American. And when it came to a time American money was illegal you couldn't carry it on you. I guess getting to know the Chinese people and knowing their language and learning to play Mahjong, knowing their food. We used to have a great time, I would put out and American dinner for them and they would put out a Chinese dinner for me. Especially over their new years and things like that.

Eddie Graham

Lets go through the steps. Let's say some Russians approached you and they wanted to be displaced somewhere, what were the procedures?

Bob Tizzard

Make out the forms and send to Geneva and find out first if they had anybody who could sponsor them and find out...you see during that time, 1946 and 1947, any Germany with money got out of Germany and went to Argentina and to Brazil. It was kind of easy for the Brazilian government to say if you get us here we send you a 100 people. There were a lot of ships...Qingdao was originally a German seaport. They were trying...the Germans in 1910 wanted to make a port in China equal to Shanghai. So they went to this town of Qingdao and the first

thing they did was to build one of the best breweries in the world. And then they build of these castles and it is a very German town. So we would say that Venezuela would take 50 people, Australia would take 20 people, and it would be up to us to find the transportation for them. Fly them out in MAG, which some MAG would do so, Military Air Wing.

Eddie Graham Lets get into this controversy that you said didn't want to get started on about anti-Marshall... we evidently made some decisions that were...What was the most significant one?

Bob Tizzard I think deserting...first of all they deserted these White Russians absolutely and they used...to win this war they were putting refugees out on the road the and the American Red Cross...

Eddie Graham Who was doing this?

Bob Tizzard Mao. The American Red Cross had set up a program to try to feed some of them but when they started to feed them they would have to clear off 20 dead people first in line before they could feed what people were there. And it just seemed...there were so many stories about money that we sent out for China relief that never got there. As far as I know. Have you ever heard of Robert Service?

Eddie Graham No.

Bob Tizzard The sourdough boy who wrote the face in a barroom floor in the midnight ides in Sam Macgee. He was a poet from England who settled in Alaska. His son got in the State Department and his son tried to tell the State Department the were so wrong and he got kicked out of China. State Department wouldn't have him. Again that is history.

Eddie Graham You stayed there 5 years and mainly tried to place this people. And when did this end?

Bob Tizzard About December of 46. I had to fly to Guam because I had so much Marine equipment that I had signed for that I wanted to be off the books so I flew to Canmar in Guam and got the accountability, what money, Jeep and things like that. And I got to the states bought a new car and went touring the country. Went up to Yellowstone, the Tautens and up to Canada. I hadn't called my mother in about a month so I called her and she said General Craig wants you to call him at Camp Pendleton. I had met Eddie Craig. So I went down there and Eddie Craig said that they were getting ready to send some Marines to Korea and since I had been there would I go back with them. He said "I would give you a rank" So I said yes and shipped out the 15th of July on the Bay field...

Eddie Graham What year?

Bob Tizzard 1950 with the 1st Marine Brigade which was half made of old Chinese Marines that I had known and as a matter of fact 3 or 4 I still keep in touch today. So we landed in Pusan about the 22nd of July. This is one phase that we hear about what the Division did in Pusan landing but there is not much ever said about what we called the Pusan perimeter.

Eddie Graham We are talking about the beginning of the Korean War?

Bob Tizzard Yes. And the perimeter I know for a fact there was a 1,000 Aussie marines that had almost a 99% casualty at this Pusan perimeter. I would say the first Marine Brigade had 20% casualties at the Pusan Perimeter. This is before Macarthur made his famous landing in Inch' on. At this time the 1st Marine that was a brigade became the 5th Marine Regiment so I stayed on with them and went on to Hamhung and Hungnam up to Chinyong Yee and got called up at the reservoir

Eddie Graham What where your official duties at this time?

Bob Tizzard At first I was supposed to do prisoner of war work but then I started moral work for the Marines. And to be honest with you I ended up in grave registration,, You see in the Marine Corp, I guess in all the crops, if you don't have your dog tags on they cant call you, it can be your be brother, but they can't call him dead. So I did that and came back down and stayed there with the 5th Marines in Pusan until 1953 when I came back to the States and got into the hotel business.

Eddie Graham What year did you leave Korea?

Bob Tizzard 1953

Eddie Graham So they were in peace negotiations?

Bob Tizzard Yes up in the border Yongdungpo there were still battles going on and the battles but they were below the 38th parallel you see. The Korean government has a program that anybody that was in Korea if you go back they pay all your expenses. But you have to get there. Any Marine or Army that fought in Korea from 1950-53 you fly to Korea and the Korean government will wine you and dine you for 2 weeks because they are scared stiff that if Northern Korea comes down again nobody is going to do a thing about it.

Eddie Graham All these riots that are going on now say that they want the United States out of there or what?

Bob Tizzard They are communists. If the North Koreans come down again I wouldn't be too much in favor of sending people back there.

Eddie Graham In other words let them have it...

Bob Tizzard Yes let them have it.

Eddie Graham You covered a lot. I am trying to think of where to go you staying in China for 5 years. Your five years in China you did significant work there with displaced people. You had very unusual contact with very important people.

Bob Tizzard I used to do a lot of entertaining. Of course booze there was hard to get but the officers used to send a plane to Hong Kong once a week and I would give them my \$50 to get me some booze and the General would say "Tizzard what the hell are you doing with all that booze", "I'm entertaining!" The General wasn't too happy, General Thomas who was in charge of the Marines there, I don't think he was too happy having me there because he really didn't have any control over me. I had an international passport I also had what they called and assimilated rank. This is in case I was ever captured had to treat me as a light Colonel and I don't think he was too happy with that. When you are in the Marines the Red Cross doesn't have too much to do with the morale of the troops but I got a boy that his mother and father had been killed in an accident and I got the wire took it to the adjutant and said "they want this boy" and the general turned it down. So I went up and said "General did you read that telegram" and he said "Tizzard I'm running this outfit don't you forget it!" (laughter) Some places you were accepted some you weren't. But there again with my position over there I could eat in any mess hall, any officers club or I could go downtown and eat in the Navy Club. But I had good friends, the boy who was my driver is up in Bellingham and I see him. I had 2 people from United Nations, I had a boy who was more or less my legal secretary his mother had been Chinese and his father was had been the French ambassador to China. This was more or less my personal secretary. The Marines...I had power to all their communications. I could send any message to Washington I wanted to, I could get money through the Marine Corps bank if I needed...I really wasn't fish nor fowl.

Eddie Graham You know you covered quite a bit. Of all the experiences you had in China,

Korea wherever what particular experienced do you still think about now more than anything else?

Bob Tizzard

I think it is education. When I was in China I met a professor of one of the colleges that used to have for lunch everyday and he gave me history and...you see the language in China if you lived in Shanghai you spoke one language, if you went to Canton you spoke another one and they couldn't understand but Chang Kai-shek was trying to start Mandarin. All the schools could teach their own dialect but everybody had to lean Mandarin.

Eddie Graham

Are they all Chinese with different dialects....

Bob Tizzard

I would say in China there are probably 20 different dialects.

Eddie Graham

All of them Chinese?

Bob Tizzard

Yes. People from Shanghai couldn't talk to people from Beijing. People from Peking couldn't to people form Canton. People form Shanghai couldn't talk to any of them.

Eddie Graham

Did they sometimes...

Bob Tizzard

They don't travel that much for starters.

Eddie Graham

What else would you like to tell us from your experiences?

Bob Tizzard

Well, I always say I never cried when I left home but I cried like a baby when I left China. It was educational and I got to know a lot of people, Marine Corps people, Chinese people, White Russians. In fact 2 or 3 of the White Russian families, one especially they one I sent to Canada I still hear from them.

Eddie Graham Do you think the reason you felt so bad about leaving is that you knew that you had done a lot to help people there?

Bob Tizzard I kind of think is my way of life over there. This is kind of funny I had a different kind of life over there you had to use your brain once in a while. And I always had a good brain for math and money and things like that and the thing about it is that the people appreciated what we were doing. Even though 3 or 4 had been killed and I got their families out of there right away. I think they appreciated what you were doing and they trusted you.

Eddie Graham Did this make you feel pretty good?

Bob Tizzard I think it was happening so fast that it never really hit me. I know I missed it I know I've been fortunate. I was about 25 when I went in the service. I was always "pop" here and "pop" there you know. They enlisted me in the Marine Corps they knew that I was just as friendly with the enlisted men as I was with the officers I didn't have any rank to pull or anything like that. They knew I had no one over me I could go to the General any time I wanted to.

Eddie Graham I don't know what else to add. You have given us a good story. Any thing you want to add?

Bob Tizzard No, just a sea story. One of the stories that happened during the war. I know the Red Cross doesn't get credit. You see that trouble with the Red Cross is if a Man represents the Red Cross represents the Red Cross he is a great man, but if he does a piss poor job is the Red Cross. Over in England the British Red Cross said to Eisenhower "we have to charge for coffee and doughnuts". So Eisenhower went along with it and it is the worse mistake they ever made. In the Pacific if anyone was selling doughnuts and coffee they were crooked because there wasn't one authorization to sell anything in the Pacific. In England there was. If the guy

was a bad guy as a lousy Red Cross but if it was a good man and did good things it was a good man, they didn't get credit for that.

The individual got more credit.

Eddie Graham This is all very interesting. You have given us a very profound insight into what a lot of people don't know.

Bob Tizzard Is like I say is the old story during the flood there was a couple on the roof and this guy comes by and said I'm from the Red Cross we gave him the off

Eddie Graham On behalf of the Nimitz we want to thank you. We appreciated it.

Transcribed by:
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