

*National Museum of the Pacific War*

*Nimitz Education and Research Center*

*Fredericksburg, Texas*

Telephone Interview with

**Mr. Justin Laverne Bible**

Date of Interview: March 17, 2017

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## **Fredericksburg, Texas**

### **Interview with Mr. Justin Laverne Bible**

Interview in progress.

Ed Metzler: This is Ed Metzler, and today is the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017. I am interviewing Mr. Justin Bible at his residence in Arlington, Texas by telephone. I am located in the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. This interview is in support of the Nimitz Education and Research Center, archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Historical Commission, for the preservation of historical information that is related to this site.

So, I want to start, Mr. Bible, by thanking you for spending the time with me today, and why don't you give ... let's start by having you give us your full name.

Mr. Bible: Well, it's just Justin Laverne Bible.

Ed Metzler: Okay, is that L-a-v-e-r-n-e?

Mr. Bible: Yes.

Ed Metzler: Justin, where were you born?

Mr. Bible: December the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and I don't know what year but I was ... birthday ... uhm, the nineties.

Ed Metzler: So, let's see if you were ... if you're ninety-three, uh, and this is 2017, then you were born in '24.

Mr. Bible: Yes.

Ed Metzler: No, you were born in '23 because you're going to be ninety-four in December, aren't you?

Mr. Bible: That ... that's right.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so you were born in 1923. So, and so where were you born?

Mr. Bible: Oh, in a little community called Ambrose, Texas; that's about a hundred miles north of Dallas.

Ed Metzler: Okay, by golly, you're almost into Oklahoma!

Mr. Bible: Yes, its ... earlier settled by folks from Tennessee and they came in there and stayed two or three years and left, and a whole of them stayed.

Ed Metzler: So now, what did your dad do for a living?

Mr. Bible: He was a farmer.

Ed Metzler: Oh, a farmer did you say?

Mr. Bible: Farmer, yes.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh, what'd he ... what did he ... what did you guys raise on the ... on the farm?

Mr. Bible: Cotton, wheat, oats, hays, and that was about it.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible) a few cattle.

Ed Metzler: And did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Bible: Have one sister who's a couple of years younger.

Ed Metzler: And let's see, so where did you go to school?

Mr. Bible: Well, first at Ambrose and through about five years, and then to Bells and I graduated from Bells in the eleventh grade. Two years later, they had to graduate from twelve grades, but I ...

Ed Metzler: Right, right. So, let's see, if you were born in 1923, uh, that must have been about 1940 or '41 when you graduated from high school.

Mr. Bible: Uh, yes, let's see, either '40 or '41, I don't remember.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, yeah, but it was before the war started. So, when you got your deg ... your diploma from high school, what did you do?

Mr. Bible: Well, let's see, I just ... I guess that's when I ... when went off to college.

Ed Metzler: Oh, where'd you go?

Mr. Bible: Denton, uh, to college there in Denton.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, it's North Texas State now.

Mr. Bible: Texas State, yeah.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I ... I ... was that a teacher's college back then?

Mr. Bible: Yes, it was.

Ed Metzler: Ah, okay! So, I guess you were going to college when the war started, is that right?

Mr. Bible: That's correct.

Ed Metzler: Uhm! So, tell me what you remember about December the 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

Mr. Bible: Well, it ... that was a Sunday and it was ... several of us having a big Sunday dinner there because my birthday and ...

Ed Metzler: That's right!

Mr. Bible: ... two or three other people had something to remember, and we were just there eating, had a good meal. Somebody came along, I think one of us had gotten up ... something ... somebody came along and told us that the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor. And so, we went by the phone, somebody was talking over the phone and we told them that the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor.

Ed Metzler: Well, that certainly changed things, didn't it?

Mr. Bible: It sure did. Well, the next day they broadcast to us in the class; we had a meeting and then they broadcast a whole lot, told us a whole lot, and then it wasn't long, I think a lot of the senior grade ... senior students were getting a commission in the service.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: I was ... freshman year, and all I can say is I was in service. So, after a year ... well, I worked in Dennison one time there. They had a bunch of us out doing something, I can't ... think it was ... good, but we were learning how to use technical things. And then here I decided I would go to col ... go back to college; I finished the year in college.

Ed Metzler: Okay, that was freshman year?

Mr. Bible: Yes. Then after that, wasn't long until I went down to Houston to work at Hughes Tool Plant.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: And then in several months I received a letter from Dad that if I wanted to volunteer for something, I'd better hurry home. So, I went home, volunteered ... I think to take care of the clothes, but some way or another that got over into,

uh, technical service, radio. In service I was sent to California to a Radio School.

Ed Metzler: So did ... uh, did you do your boot camp, uh, basic training in California or did you do that somewhere else?

Mr. Bible: Well, this was ... type of school, it ... my understanding, it was a school of ... people could pay to go to that would take a year to go, but we just had it in three months.

Ed Metzler: Oh, my goodness!

Mr. Bible: Well I, that ... ten months, that's where the people could stop more and ... too many various things. But we were just going to a radio school.

Ed Metzler: And ... and so where ... you say this was in California, is that what you said?

Mr. Bible: Yes, that was in Los Angeles.

Ed Metzler: In LA, okay, okay.

Mr. Bible: In ... yes.

Ed Metzler: Well, had you ever been to California before?

Mr. Bible: No, no I hadn't.

Ed Metzler: So, what was it like?

Mr. Bible: Well, we went out there and everybody was glad to see us.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: They were thrilled to death that there were soldiers walking up and down the street. Fact, we didn't know what to do; didn't make them any difference, we were (chuckles) just there.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: They were scared.

Ed Metzler: So ...

Mr. Bible: And when we were there, and it might have been sometime later when we were there that they had calls on bomber was headed that way, and I think there must have been, at least at one time, because oh, we started to get up and leave the school, I mean, a movie and they said, "Be seated, air raid!" So, we sat down and waited about two hours before we could leave the building. And ... but the

people there were very interested in seeing us soldiers because they see us and they felt safer.

Ed Metzler: Right! They felt like if the Japanese invaded the west coast, there'd be somebody to protect them.

Mr. Bible: Yes.

Ed Metzler: So, do you remember approximately what year you went into the Army? Was it '42 or '43?

Mr. Bible: I think it was '43.

Ed Metzler: Oh, and so, how long were you in the Radio School?

Mr. Bible: Well, I was in, I guess, three years, either three or four years.

Ed Metzler: Okay, but how long were you in training there in Los Angeles?

Mr. Bible: Well, I was there two or three different times. At Radio School I was there three months.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so it was ... they ... they trained you a year's worth of training in three months, huh?

Mr. Bible: Yes. That was strictly radio.

Ed Metzler: So, did you enjoy learning about radios?

Mr. Bible: Well, I guess I did. It's the only thing I had to do and I wasn't sharp in that type of material to begin with. I learned something.

Ed Metzler: Well, you didn't have a choice did you (chuckle)?

Mr. Bible: No.

Ed Metzler: So, after Radio School, where did you go then?

Mr. Bible: Well, after the Radio School, we went to ... let's see, went back ... they started doing some training there at home 'cause we did a lot of training there in California.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: And of course, they had everything there, and ships, airplanes and everything else. And while I was there, I was at the Yosemite National Park for three months for code work; that is dit dah, dit dah, dit.

Ed Metzler: Oh really?! (chuckle)

Mr. Bible: And that was an old CC Camp.

Ed Metzler: Oh, I see.

Mr. Bible: But we had it ... and studying code in that camp.

Ed Metzler: Yeah! Well, that's kind of good ... that's ... that's a good assignment to go to a national park!

Mr. Bible: Oh yes! I was nice; it was up on the hill; nobody bothering you. It was a pleasant place.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so you ...

Mr. Bible: And one of the boys there had friends in Los Angeles in the movie business, and one of the ... our officer's going down there to Los Angeles, and this boy told his dad to go by and look up so and so there at this certain place, and when the man came back, he came back with a camper and called the boy out, "I got to take your picture," I mean, his relatives gave him a big, big time down there in Los Angeles.

Ed Metzler: Hum!

Mr. Bible: Oh, when I was there in Los Angeles, too, where we was, I got a lady, two ladies, to take me out to (unintelligible) Hills theater one night. That was to eat and see a show. So, we did that and started back ... Los Angeles. She wanted me to drive. Well, I couldn't talk her out of it, but I had never driven in a town longer ... bigger than two or three thousand. But she put me on one street, and I just drove on that street till I came to the street to get off ...

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles).

Mr. Bible: ... for them, nothing happened.

Ed Metzler: Yeah (laughter), well you ... you had your first experience driving in the big city!

Mr. Bible: Yeah, that's right!

Ed Metzler: How did you meet these girls?

Mr. Bible: Give you what?

Ed Metzler: I said how did you meet these women that you ... that took you to the shows?

Mr. Bible: Well, that was place there where they had people come in and pick up people to take them to dinner that ...

Ed Metzler: Oh!

Mr. Bible: ... we got in there on Christmas Eve.

Ed Metzler: Oh yeah!

Mr. Bible: And within thirty minutes, I had an invitation to go have some supper with somebody or have dinner with somebody.

Ed Metzler: And it was almost your birthday, too!

Mr. Bible: Yes. People so happy to see us ... they'd come in and give us things. One night I met a lovely lady and talked to her; she gave me her name and I asked her for her last name, she wouldn't tell me.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: After a few weeks, a few days I was talking to her and if I can think of it now, everybody's (unintelligible), but she's ... she was Jewish, she told me she was Jewish, but she didn't want to tell me she was Jewish at the beginning. But after (unintelligible) she looked at me, she told me (unintelligible) she says, "What about it?" And I says, "I don't know." But she said she's Jewish. I think I knew two Jewish people and that was alright with her. I guess people later on made fun of them ... so forth.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, back ... back then, people ... a lot of people would make fun of the Jewish people.

Mr. Bible: Yes, they would, but she was very nice.

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Bible: She ... she just came out there ... the organization just to meet the people and to dance with them or something like that. They weren't trying to pick up anybody. Now, some of them might have been trying to pick up somebody, but ...

Ed Metzler: (Laughter). Where ... after you learned code up in Yosemite National Park, where did you go then?

Mr. Bible: Aft ... come back to California, and we did some work there on the west coast, sometimes with boats, sometimes going back up ... that's when we went up to Yosemite National Park was from there, but we had one street there in Los Angeles, one block long, and they had four buildings on each side of the street. They were built up for apartments.



Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: But the Army had all of them. Our group from Texas arrived in there, and about three-fourths of the people from ... were from Texas and the other third from New York.

Ed Metzler: Oh, my goodness! What a mixture!

Mr. Bible: Yeah, and at that time we couldn't understand each other.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), you mean they couldn't speak Texan, huh?

Mr. Bible: No.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: And I want you to know that they were nice to us, too. Now, when they got back with them ... their buddies, they were happy but when they were with Texas, they were not happy.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Bible: They probably had heard a whole lot of things that weren't true and maybe a few that were, I don't know.

Ed Metzler: But ... so, did you get along with the guys from New York or not?

Mr. Bible: Uh yes, we did. Somewhere later we was ... I was supposed ... one boy, I don't know what was wrong with him, I don't think I knew at the time, but he was the only one I was able ... I was ... been willing to have a fist fight with.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: Don't know why, but he was ... (unintelligible) same unit, and he'd told them that he was a B-25 expert, so they sent him to work on B-25s and that ended that problem.

Ed Metzler: They got rid of him, huh?

Mr. Bible: Yes.

Ed Metzler: Well now, what kind of boats did you work on when you ... after you went to Radio School? I mean, were you repairing radios or installing them or what were you doing?

Mr. Bible: Well, we were learning them by building them and ...

Ed Metzler: Got it!

Mr. Bible: ... how they worked and so forth. Let's see, after that ...

Ed Metzler: Well now, you went ... you went overseas, didn't you? You went into the Pacific.

Mr. Bible: Well, we drove to ... back to California.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: And we spent ... while we were there, that one time we had our tent ... our tents on the beach at San Diego. Now, can you think of a better place to have your tent ...

Ed Metzler: No!

Mr. Bible: ... (unintelligible)?

Ed Metzler: It's beautiful there!

Mr. Bible: Yeah. We were there, oh, I guess two- or three-months training there, training on the beach and then we would go back into the land and just do some training that we had to do there and so forth. We had our jeeps and officers. Well, officers not necessarily the ones that drove them down there, but usually they were and they'd ... ladies was on the beach there doing their beach stuff sometimes (unintelligible) person, one of the jeeps, whoever is driving the jeep, might not have noticed it and went to lunch with it and then came back ...

Ed Metzler: Hum!

Mr. Bible: ... and some of them got a little disturbed because they drove them off with their purse, but they weren't looking for their purse, they just going back. And one or two of them kind of got a little mad about it, but ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: ... didn't bother us for them to get mad.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), so what were you in ... tents down there on the beach?

Mr. Bible: Yes, we were in tents.

Ed Metzler: Where did you eat?

Mr. Bible: We were doing amphibious training.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: And ...

Ed Metzler: So, did they feed you down there, did they have a mess hall or what?

Mr. Bible: Oh, let's see, there they had a mess hall. When we first went there, I guess we were in Los Angeles though where we had the mess hall next to the Radio School.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: And what was interesting is (unintelligible) we lived at those two streets that I talked about a while ago.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: We lived at those, and we had to go down there for our meals. I don't know, seven or eight blocks, I guess. So, Sunday we ... I don't know what they did on Sunday because when Sunday ... when we turned left on the street to go to our quarters, I would keep going straight for two or three blocks and I'd take a right to downtown Los Angeles.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: I did that nearly every time, and I ...

Ed Metzler: What'd you do in downtown Los Angeles?

Mr. Bible: Just looking around, seeing ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: ... the town, might go to a movie.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: And ... just anyway to having to go back to the apartment, it was a nice apartment. We had the beds that people had used and so forth and so on, but if ... if you could do something else, it made you feel good.

Ed Metzler: Right. So, were you kind of ...

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: ... were you kind of lonely out there all, you know, missing home and your family?

Mr. Bible: Well, really no. I missed the family a little bit, but sometimes we'd get acquainted with some of the civilians. And while we were in ... there in California I had to have a surgery.

Ed Metzler: Oh!

Mr. Bible: And one of the ladies who came out there to visit her son got acquainted with me and she would write Mother and tell her how I was doing. And then when you had a surgery, you had to stay at a hospital at least three weeks. When I got out ... had surgery like I had, you might go home the first day, but then there's ... had to stay in the surgery a long time, uh, hospital a long time. And this lady made such friend with them that when the war was over, they took a tour of the United States and went by the house and stayed with Mother and Dad two or three days.

Ed Metzler: I'll be darned!

Mr. Bible: It helped me during the war. So, that was great.

Ed Metzler: Well, did you ... was your surgery serious surgery or what was it?

Mr. Bible: Oh, a hernia.

Ed Metzler: Oh okay.

Mr. Bible: When I had the hernia, I walked down, no, I didn't walk down, I rode down ... but they knocked me out, they gave me a shot. They didn't even put me to sleep, they just gave me a shot where it wouldn't hurt, did surgery that way.

Ed Metzler: Oh!

Mr. Bible: And so, and I was going to the emergency ... to the operating room, and I see people on there and I'd wave bye.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckle).

Mr. Bible: And then when we came out of the hospital, that was the same way, I'd wave hello to them, make these boys that was pushing me ... make them mad. They'd hush me up. And there were doctors there at this place, and if you had surgery, you planned on being there two or three weeks.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: And there was one fellow there that when we went in that he was laying over in a corner, he didn't move for a week or two. I don't know how long he was there before, but week or two while we were there, he didn't even move.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: Finally the day that he was supposed to move, they took his material out related to him and says, "Today is when you move," and finally he did move a little bit, but it was still three or four days before he got up.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: But after I got up and walked around there (unintelligible) we had doctors that would come in there, go through that area and maybe another area, and they'd pick one of us up to go with them to these other places. And that was interesting.

Ed Metzler: Yeah!

Mr. Bible: And we had nice nurses. Had something that wasn't, forget what it was that put me in the hospital, and they put me in a private building, a private room for about a week. And finally, I got over that and it was lonesome being there in that private room; you couldn't see anybody else.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: A room that you would normally (unintelligible) ten or twelve people in there.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: And it had a ... you could have a lot of fun in there. One weekend they brought some fellow in, and I mean, oh man, his face was swollen up, he looked miserable, and we were anxious for him to tell us about the fight he had. And when he got able to talk, he said he had a toothache, and that toothache ... all the teeth came out.

Ed Metzler: Oh, my word!

Mr. Bible: And he was only twenty-one or twenty-two maybe.

Ed Metzler: Oh, my word!

Mr. Bible: But he was ... he was miserable, and he ... was under pain medicine when he came in, and into pain medicine until he went to the hospital I went to the surgery. And then I was ... there you could write a letter and send it ... sign your name, had your name up there for a stamp they'd get it sometime.

Ed Metzler: Well, let's talk about when you went overseas because you were ... you were in Leyte and Luzon and Okinawa you were telling me yesterday.

Mr. Bible: Yes. We're doing our basic training there in California and some in Hawaii.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Bible: That we were just run ashore and boat dropped a thing down and we'd run out. And I was ... guess I was the one that closed that door down. And we had three different groups, and I guess I was in the third group because the other two groups did it before I did. Yeah, the ... we had thirty-nine enlisted men and thirteen Navy officers and we all had the same training together at the same time for our work. And that was interesting, too. And it turned out real well. We were just ... went in and learned how to set up a jeep or whatever it was to ... was going to use, and so we did that ... California. We were getting ready to go overseas, and the other two groups had ... had their final furlough. Well, ours was next and it was debatable whether we would get it or not.

Ed Metzler: Oh dear!

Mr. Bible: So, we were out on our training, came back into ... beach. Had a Lieutenant from our company came out there and was talking to the people at the ship. Well, he came down, we went over to him, he says, "I don't know whether you're going to get a furlough or not." So anyway, when we got to our barracks, we had a furlough that was dated two days earlier than when we got it. And then we ... some of us took off. Oh, I guess, nearly everybody took off for a vacation. One boy from Maine pulled into ... and we got in the orders to report back at a certain time, earlier than what it was ... said, so this boy from Maine rode this train in there to Wickfields (sp?), Maine, that's as far north as you can go, and his dad had his girlfriend there and met them at the (unintelligible). His dad says, "You've got thirty minutes to catch ... train back to California."

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), oh no! That was a short (unintelligible).

Mr. Bible: And he said, "Dad, I'm not going to do that; I'm going to stay here a day or two." And after a couple of days, his dad says, "I've seen what they did with people that was AWOL, so if you don't go back, I'm going to tell them where you are." So, he went back.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: Some of them got back in time; I didn't. I got to Bells, Texas, I had three or four telegrams ... from one telegram got there ... so they sent out many telegrams for me ...

Ed Metzler: Hum!

Mr. Bible: ... to see. So, I got back in time. And I just walked across the hall. First thing that I ... about it ... and he says, "(unintelligible), I'm going into Los Angeles now," and ... or maybe San Francisco, "I guess I'm going to San Francisco now." So, I took off and went to San Francisco for the weekend, got back in time, so we got on the ship. And some people had not gotten back, they did not know, but ... to get back early. And one boy I talked to said he got back too late, they laid ... they put him in a ... they gave him two officers and they told the officers that gave them jeep, said, "Now, you take him to ... certain place." So, that was in southern California around San Diego they were. So, they carried him in San Diego. Now, when we went first down to San Diego, we were ... pulled in about noon and we were supposed to catch a train, but some boys didn't get back from their duty that day in time, so they put up two or three trucks and they drove us from north of Los Angeles to San Diego on those trucks. Next morning we had to go into a building there and our officers, many of them flew in from Florida the day before or that night, they were as bad off as we were. And so the officers came in there and I happened to be sitting on the line, but I was one of ... only one that was in front of the group in the (unintelligible), so I became Sergeant because ... of the group because I was in front, and that was nice.

Ed Metzler: Yeah!

Mr. Bible: I was good; I ... I was not one of those that would drink, so I never did go to town with them. So, everybody could get a weekend pass, and so the officers would assign passes for everybody and give them to me. So, the people knew I had [a] pass. If they wanted a pass, they'd come to me to get it. All they had to do to fill out for where they were going and when they were going to come back. That made it ... that made it very interesting.

Ed Metzler: Yeah! Yeah, you were a popular guy!

Mr. Bible: (Chuckle), and had one Sergeant that went to Los Angeles, and he ... he was picked up about two or three o'clock one morning on street. They wanted to see his pass, and he was drinking, and they talked to him a minute. And directly he pulled out three or four passes and started to fill out one. So, he filled it out and they told him to go ahead, so he'd be able to fill that pass out and go and ... if he got caught, I mean, our ... our people would have backed us up because first thing they did in there, they did something ... made the ... the Navy officers (unintelligible), and from then on we did what we wanted to do.

Ed Metzler: So, what kind of ... what kind of ...

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: ... what kind of ship did you ... did you travel on to go out to Hawaii? Was it a troop ship or a ... or what was it?

Mr. Bible: Oh, let's see, no it wasn't a ... it was a transport ship.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Bible: It ... it was not a naval vessel. I guess it was a Navy vessel, but it wasn't one that went into combat.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. Now, what ... what outfit were you assigned to when you went to ... out into the Pacific? I mean, did you have a certain Signal Corps group that you were in or what?

Mr. Bible: 593<sup>rd</sup> Jasco Company, Joint Assault Signal Company.

Ed Metzler: I'm sorry, 593<sup>rd</sup> what?

Mr. Bible: Joint Assault Signal Company. There were several signal companies, but we were the 593<sup>rd</sup>, and that's only one I know anything about.

Ed Metzler: And so, how long were you in Hawaii? Was that just a brief stop or did you do a fair amount of training there?

Mr. Bible: At Los Angeles? I mean, in San Diego?

Ed Metzler: No, Hawaii.

Mr. Bible: Hawaii.

Ed Metzler: 'Cause I think you mentioned you went ... you went ...

Mr. Bible: Uh, we stayed there a while; we did a little training there.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.



Mr. Bible: And I don't know ... had already trained so much, but we didn't go into Los Angeles two or three times just visiting it, and ...

Ed Metzler: So, did you get into Honolulu at all?

Mr. Bible: Sir?

Ed Metzler: Did you get into Honolulu when you were in Hawaii?

Mr. Bible: Oh yeah, we were there at Honolulu and we had a, well they took us into a building that had been used ... Army had used it for years and I think it hadn't been used for some time when we were there and settled in it. While we were there, there was two planes up flying around, and they ran together over the base. It seemed like one was killed and the other one wasn't; I don't remember on that. We would hitchhike into town, and when the people went back to town ... back to base, even the Generals were required to stop and pick up somebody, a GI, if he was ... if they had room in their car to take them back.

Ed Metzler: Hum. So, after Hawaii, where did you go? Was Leyte the next place where you went?

Mr. Bible: No, they ... I don't know exactly what it was. Now, we didn't do a whole lot of training there, maybe more looking and getting ready. They would change where we were going. At one time, they told us we were going to Yap Island.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: And Yap was ... we was looking forward to it; said the women wore ... just wore ... they did not wear any top clothes.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible), they had no ... did not wear clothes.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: Well, we'd ... kept something else so we bypassed that island.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), you went right by it, huh (laughter)?

Mr. Bible: Right. But later on, I was aboard and airplane, I believe it was a passenger plane then, but the pilot had flown people into the ... that island.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: And he said, “When we got near that island, all the women stood up and started undressing to the waist; I didn’t look. They were happy. They ... they were glad to be ... place that they could half undress.”

Ed Metzler: Yeah, so that was the normal thing to do then. So ...

Mr. Bible: We did training and we fixed up our jeeps where they’re supposed to be waterproof that we could go ashore in a little water, things along like that. I believe one ... we learned to climb those ladders, go up them. One afternoon we was taking some kind of training and he says, “Now, you see those nets on the ship?” Says, “Tomorrow you’re going to climb them.” We, I guess, I don’t know, I guess we worried about it, we knew we was going to have to and it looked easy doings, so we went out there the next day and climbed them. And sometimes they would go to an island for ... one day they took us to an island. Those that drank beer went to one island, those that didn’t drink beer went to another island, and ...

Ed Metzler: So, you’re practicing landings I take it.

Mr. Bible: Yeah, but I ... I was one of those that didn’t drink, so the next day they brought ... oh, that day they brought them in, next day had one of my people that I knew (unintelligible) a Corporal and a Sergeant ... they had gone, and when they came in the next day they says, “When we came in last night did we climb the ladder to get back in or did they lower a ... one of those bags for us to get in to get back up?” Well, one of them they had to lower, Sergeant, they had to lower the bag for him to get in so they’d raise him back up. They didn’t think that he could climb the ladder, that he was so full of beer.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), so drunk, huh?!

Mr. Bible: Yeah. And one boy out there on that island free from beer, he ... I forget now what it was, but he tried to stop a fight about something or another, and he fell and broke his arm and so he was laid up for a month or two.

Ed Metzler: Oh my!

Mr. Bible: Even though he wasn’t one of those that was drinking beer, he got involved in a fight.

Ed Metzler: So, tell me what happened at Leyte.

Mr. Bible: At ... at where?

Ed Metzler: I say tell me what happened when you landed in Leyte.

Mr. Bible: Okay. We would just go in and stand there a while or maybe listen to something and go back out and climb aboard our ships and go back to our ships. We had to learn to climb those nets in the ship to go up two or three times to ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: ... be acquainted with it, and it ... after the first one, it was alright. We could go ahead and do it in about three days. While we ... before we even got there, we were told one day that we would be going in, and that was two or three weeks before we landed on Luzon.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: But when that time came, we'd climb the ship and trust everything and unloaded it like we were supposed to. That was successful. One night there on Hawaii, I didn't know him, but this ... in my unit there was a Sergeant and a Lieutenant got in a fist fight. The next morning, they had been sent to different places, and I don't think it was in Hawaii they were sent to. I don't know what places they were sent to, but they were ...

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: ... sent to different places.

Ed Metzler: Well, they ... they separated them for good.

Mr. Bible: They separated them for good!

Ed Metzler: (Laughter). So, did you run into any enemy Japanese resistance when you were on the island of Leyte?

Mr. Bible: Well, I ... I didn't, I saw it later on Leyte. First island, the first unit went in there, I went in the second unit, the second time, and I was on one of those boats and I was the one that let ... dig down to crawl out, and when I did that, I stayed down to crawl out, I had fifty yards of water in front me.

Ed Metzler: Oh my!

Mr. Bible: I waded that fifty yards and looked for fifteen minutes, finally found a Filipino that told me the Japs left three days before we got there.

Ed Metzler: Oh! Well, that's good, that made it a safe assault anyhow.

Mr. Bible: Right. And then the next time, we landed, the third group landed, and ... that morning. I don't ... they didn't have too much problem. I think we only had one person that was killed out of about four hundred people.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: And two of them were wounded.

Ed Metzler: Now, this was still at Leyte or is this at Luzon?

Mr. Bible: Yeah, there's some is ... little island that we landed on.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Bible: Uh, it was Luzon that I waded ashore and it was dried up. When we got back to our place, we did a few little things there that were ... I thought was funny, but the one in charge of the group really didn't think it was funny, but he didn't try to straighten us out. And when we left ... before we left, he was ... our Captain went around to him and says, "Now, I know that you don't know anything about ... much about what our company could do because we didn't make a landing, but do you have any ideas what we could do?" He says, "Not about that, but I could tell you a whole lot of ideas about other things."

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Bible: He says, "Well, I really don't want to hear them."

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: He was the one ... we had a ... friend that joined our unit; he'd been fighting in Alaska (unintelligible), the next morning, they called our unit to come out for P.E. He got up and started, I says, "Where you going?! He says, "PE (?)" I says, "We're not going to PE either!" We'd been there for ... stressed out other groups. We had Navy officers guide us, and so directly I said, "Let's go," and we had to slow down ten miles an hour to leave that jay ... uh, that base. So, I told him that I wanted to go see the Captain, and I wanted to take the jeep out. So, we walked down the street; they'd changed position. The unit was out there doing calisthenics watching us. A Lieutenant had his back to the street giving them the motions for ... teaching them the calisthenics, got down there at the room where the Captain was and I says we wanted to take the jeep out. He says, "That's fine, but I need to see Lieutenant so and so first, do you know where he

is?” And I said, “Yeah, he’s down there giving the boys calisthenics.” He says, “Go ahead.” So, we went and got our jeep, drove off the base. This was California, if I remember correctly, and we came back, but we didn’t have ... because they’d made them mad, the Navy mad, to begin with. We didn’t have to do much that they wanted us to do, that is our unit wanted us to do. We didn’t break any major things, but we were there just in case there at that place. And he’d put the flag up, I mean, to retreat ... he’d have them blow the whistle at ... retreat, and then our ... told later, he wouldn’t let the people even whisper in their foxholes because their noises give them away. That thing that they were blowing there, he didn’t think it would give them away, but I guess some of them heard it. We got off to quick to find out what they did there.

Ed Metzler: Now, when I was talking to you yesterday, did you tell me that your landing on Luzon was ... was very easy because the Japanese weren’t there?

Mr. Bible: That was Luzon.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: That was ... that was when we made the invasion of Luzon.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh. So ...

Mr. Bible: And they were not there at the beach. That was when (unintelligible) thing down and walk ... walked through water fifty yards.

Ed Metzler: Okay, that was ... that was Luzon you were describing. I thought that was Leyte. Okay, I understand.

Mr. Bible: Yeah, Leyte (unintelligible) got to fighting in the back but we weren’t there when they were fighting in the back.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: Luzon we were in the fighting. There on Luzon one day they ... one of the Lieutenants ... so, we sent a ... enlisted man, I believe, to the front to tell us that we would be ... we would know the way to handle ourselves and that we would be ready to go. He says, “You go tell that Lieutenant that he’s to come up here.” He was supposed ... he’s supposed to have brought his thing up here a while ago. We’re going to take off at daylight in the morning, so he had to go get his Lieutenant, bring the people up in the dark of ... right place, so they’d

take off the next morning about daylight, and that was one of the things I don't think they (unintelligible) or the Lieutenant for being ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm, yeah! Now, you were at Okinawa as well, right?

Mr. Bible: Yes, we were in Luzon and we (unintelligible) in a few shots ahead of us. The tank ... one of the ... it was a ... shell, I mean, a bullet hit the ... front of the buttons on our radio that ... in the jeep that I had just left the jeep.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: Got away from it down the hill and here came a bullet (unintelligible) the jeep, it didn't really hurt it, but had to do a little strength to bend it back ... all that night. I pulled something stupid, I don't know why, I decided I didn't want to stay in the barn with the people at night, so I dug my foxhole out there under a tree and there wasn't any other foxholes around there. So, that afternoon I kept hearing, "Dig another foxhole, another foxhole." You know how God can send it over space, so I dug me another foxhole about four feet from there, and just over. That night about nine o'clock they fired ... and they were not bombarding that place, but over our heads. That night they fired a shell that hit in the foxhole, first foxhole I dug four feet away from me, and I was in that (unintelligible) far foxhole when it exploded three or four feet from me and I didn't not get a scratch.

Ed Metzler: I'll be darned! Well, you were a lucky man!

Mr. Bible: And I ... tell you something else greater than that. Let's see, it was after that that I was put somewhere and (unintelligible) that foxhole and I was told to do something. 'Cause let's see, what was it? Anyway, so maybe it was this foxhole that I went to. Anyway, they told me ... told me to do something, and in foolishness, I was ... I was standing up, let me see, I don't know, but it might have been at that foxhole, don't think it was, but I was, oh, the ... telling me ... voice telling me to dig another foxhole. Well, I did, and that order from ... come fox ... to do that; he was in headquarters somewhere down there, a top General (cough), I guess, was directing that because he told me to dig that new foxhole which I did and it saved me.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: So, it was a General that saved my life and I wasn't a Christian at that time.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: So, the General saved my life because ...

Ed Metzler: That was close call!

Mr. Bible: Yes, that was my closest call.

Ed Metzler: Uhm! Now, did ... did you ... you received some sort of a medal or a decoration, didn't you, from when you were in the Pacific?

Mr. Bible: I ... well yes, when that bullet hit the ... front of my radio, they gave me a Bronze Star for that 'cause if I'd of been a couple of minutes later, I'd of got the Corporal's (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Yeah!

Mr. Bible: I never did think that I earned that star because I didn't do a whole lot. There's a whole of people did a whole lot more things than I did and didn't an award, but ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: ... the Lieutenant was happy to give that to me, and I didn't tell him no.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, I understand. And that happened on Luzon?

Mr. Bible: Yes.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: And ...

Ed Metzler: So, how'd you end up in Okinawa?

Mr. Bible: Well, we landed at Okinawa.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: And that's (chimes ringing) somebody's else's leading me there in Okinawa. I mean, we had three groups that was, I guess, first group leading it again, the second group went in on Luzon, third group went in on Okinawa. I wasn't ... I went in later, but went in later ... beaches was not defended. It had a big garden out there and we ... boats took us up to the base. There wasn't a beach, we had to climb out of the boats to get on land to see the garden over there, and one day, one time that we were somewhere there and the people ... all the units had to leave except my unit and where they were going jeeps couldn't go. There's

another jeep there that couldn't go, so it was too rough (unintelligible) for the jeeps to go.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: So, we stayed there with it, and it just six of us there, six, seven of us there, and we didn't know whether the Japanese were going to make a rattling that spot or not, so ... so we kind of watched for it but nothing happened but we survived. And the next day, the third or fourth day we finally got to a place that we could go in the water about six inches deep or something like that, catch up with our unit.

Ed Metzler: So, did you have any close calls when you were on Okinawa?

Mr. Bible: No, I ... I didn't. Only one person was killed; I don't know where he was but sev ... several of them were wounded.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: That was ... hit.

Ed Metzler: Well, Okinawa lasted for a long time; it took them what ... uh, six or seven weeks to ... to finally take the whole island. So ...

Mr. Bible: Yeah, it ... I was at the front of it. Well, I wasn't at the front, but I was up there with it for a while.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, you were there for a while 'cause you were on Okinawa when the war was over, right?

Mr. Bible: Right. And I did something to make somebody mad.

Ed Metzler: Oh, you did?!

Mr. Bible: I don't know what it was. Well, let's see, one thing I know I ... people that gave me that Bronze Star ... I tried to talk him to up into ... front of the night ... wanted to just see what it was, and he didn't like that. So, he might have been the one that sent me back. If he was, I was glad that I talked to him.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: And ... but it was, uh, rough there and I have learned since then that (unintelligible) there on Okinawa they ... some enlisted men are down in the islands fighting, their wives (?) were down there with them fighting in the trenches. I don't know about that but that's what I've read.



Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Bible: And ...

Ed Metzler: So, how did you hear that the war was over?

Mr. Bible: Well, I was ... checked in my radio one morning, and I got a clear call and called Washington where the, I guess, called Pearl and a minute or two or three minutes somebody came up and told me that the war was over, and I don't know whether he heard it from the Japanese or heard it himself. But sometimes talked with the States, but shortly after he told me, well, I picked it up from the States. I ... I had just checked in, so I couldn't check out immediately. I waited a few minutes and checked out, checked in (unintelligible), they had, oh, done that. And when the President died, we listened to the ... Tokyo's radio.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, Tokyo Rose?

Mr. Bible: I almost think that they was sorry that he died. And we heard ... we'd hear from Australia, England, New Zealand, United States, we could hear from ... about all of them.

Ed Metzler: Hum! Well ...

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible) the orders from the States or ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: ... of where it's local people that did it.

Ed Metzler: Well, was there a big party when you heard the war was over?

Mr. Bible: Uh yes.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles).

Mr. Bible: It was fine, and then we were sent to ... sent back to the Philippines.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh.

Mr. Bible: And going back to the Philippines, we got down there and we were assigned to another unit, enlisted men and officers. So, we'd been together ... they were over us there, but when ... then we were all sent to Japan.

Ed Metzler: Oh!

Mr. Bible: We got up there and I was assigned to ... help the people get back to the States. I was ... they had to pass me before they could get to the next one. I only had one problem (unintelligible), some man came up, he was going back, his brother

was with him who had come from another island and didn't have anything. I says, "Well, I can send you without anything, they may stop you at the next time," but he says, "That'll be alright, that's what I'm prepared to do." We stayed there a week or two, maybe longer than that, and all ... most people coming back to the States had to go through there, many of them did. We had many people going back to the States.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: One day the Colonel in charge of those people sent out some ... some notice of (unintelligible). Well, he ... oh, let's see what it was, a group of people was coming in at ten o'clock that night and they would get dinner there at that place. Well, they got there at ten o'clock, but there's no dinner for them, and so they had to fix up a ... (unintelligible) to give to them in tin foil or whatever it was. So, the next morning you can imagine how much tin foil was all over our place where those people from the infantry had not gotten their dinner. And the Colonel was running around there; he's ... now what was wrong with him, I don't know. He should have known better, but he did not try to get anybody 'cause he had three or four thousand people he could put on cleaning up the yard with that tin foil, but he didn't do anything about it. Sometime pretty soon there was a ... Chief came up ... I don't remember whether it was General in the jeep or not, but there [were] Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels and one, at least one Lieutenant Colonel. They got in (unintelligible) talking to that General that didn't clean up the place. Now when they got through talking to him, he went down the line, he got enough people out there to clean up the place.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: That was completely his fault because he had three or four thousand GIs there that was doing nothing. It got cleaned up. Then one day when I was coming back to the States, I went through myself (chuckles); I had to go through that and another Lieutenant. So, I was standing there talking and another Lieutenant came up to me and started talking to me. I says, "Well, that's not me," I says, "processed you yesterday." He says, "Oh, that's right, I remembered seeing you and I ... putting you some other place." So, wasn't long I got on a train, went

(unintelligible) and caught a ship back to the States. And I was disgusted when I got back to the States because I ... they were no longer coming to the beach to meet the people when they come off the ship.

Ed Metzler: Oh!

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible), I was two or three blocks from the main street and had to walk that far, so ...

Ed Metzler: That ... that's too ...

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible) me, I ... since I told them where to go. I got ready and walked ashore. I walked ashore, but not in honor. But they couldn't have done everybody like they were doing, I guess; it's too long after weeks and ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, what ... did ... was that 1946 when you came back?

Mr. Bible: Uh, no, that was in the fall of the year.

Ed Metzler: Okay, so it was ...

Mr. Bible: '45, I guess.

Ed Metzler: ... okay, so towards the end of '45 then, yeah.

Mr. Bible: Yes, uh huh.

Ed Metzler: Did you ... did you write letters home to your parents when you were overseas?

Mr. Bible: No, I don't believe I did.

Ed Metzler: Did you get letters from home?

Mr. Bible: Oh yeah, I received letters from home and actually sent letters all the time from ... my home to Mother.

Ed Metzler: Oh okay!

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible) people, yeah, but I received the letters from home. Sometimes I'd receive a box with cake in it and ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: ... something or other along that line.

Ed Metzler: So, what did you miss the most when you were in the Army overseas?

Mr. Bible: I started to say good bed, but if you can find a smooth place to lay down, that was a good bed.

Ed Metzler: Yeah (laughter). Foxhole wasn't all that comfortable.

Mr. Bible: Yeah well, let's see, one night I was supposed to stay at a place and there was three inches of water on the ... on the land, so you had to ... you didn't want water, you had to pile up a thatch to take care of that. So, I rode a jeep back two or three miles, stopped there, and we started digging on a ... some work that was already there. But we started to work there'd be a machine gun somewhere or another start and we'd quit, it would quit. We started again, it would start, so where the bullets were going, I have no idea, but we didn't hear the bullets, but we heard the machine gun.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: So we finally just quit. And I had a foxhole that night about half long and about three inches deep.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: But they didn't shoot that night.

Ed Metzler: I'll bet you didn't! Uhm!

Mr. Bible: No, but ...

Ed Metzler: So, what was it like when you actually got home to see your parents again?

Mr. Bible: Not a great deal because I kept in contact with them.

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: And with other people. And I got home ... well, I got on a plane ... and on a train in California and headed ... Dallas, Texas. And one of us was put on with me was a small Mexican.

Ed Metzler: Really?

Mr. Bible: Uh, I got the biggest seat, and when we got ... after one night we had to change seats, so we rode on that big C ... one day and one night, the next night, this little Mexican says, "I can't ride in that big seat, blah, blah, blah, you take it." I wondered how I was going to sleep on the floor in that train, but he was small enough that he could just sleep anywhere.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: So, he slept, and I had the good sleeping. And then we got back to Dallas, went to Dallas, I guess on the (unintelligible), had ... oh, let's see, I don't know who came aft ... to the train after me, was somebody took me up to Ambrose on a car

or bus or something (unintelligible), and so I got out there alright. Everything looked like it did when I left.

Ed Metzler: Yeah (laughter).

Mr. Bible: And ... and so ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah, but ... you ...

Mr. Bible: I (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: ... but you were different, right? You'd been at war for several years, so you ... you had changed a lot, don't you think?

Mr. Bible: Yeah, I was ... I was gone about three years.

Ed Metzler: I know, that's a ...

Mr. Bible: I was in service about three years.

Ed Metzler: Right!

Mr. Bible: I spent more time in California than I did on the battlefield.

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Bible: And ...

Ed Metzler: But do you think you kind of grew up to be a man when you were overseas or how do you feel about that?

Mr. Bible: Well, I don't as I thought much about it. I was ... doing everything right that I was supposed to do.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: Some things I was doing wrong, I wasn't supposed to do, but it was right (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), yeah.

Mr. Bible: To me.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. How do you feel about the Japanese? I mean, I'm sure you ... they were the enemy then and you didn't have any love for them, but how do you feel now?

Mr. Bible: Oh, they're not bothering me. I was over there just a short time. I had a Japanese man's army uniform and somewhere one day I hung it out there on the line to air out, and I heard something jabbering. I'd turned around, about fifty

yards down there's four or five Japanese out there standing talking to each other about those ... that suit I had hanging out there.

Ed Metzler: Oh really?! (laughter)

Mr. Bible: Somebody gave it to me, I didn't take it off a Japanese, but somebody gave it to me. When we got ... coming ashore, we got on the train and went to the base where we'd catch a ship, so we got off there, and there's two or three Japanese walking around there, and so we started walking down the highway, I mean, down a railroad. There was a Japanese boy came running up to us, oh, let's see, "Put her in a can, put her in the can," he was saying that in broken Japanese. Enough people had been over there, but gave him butter in a tin can; he was wanting some more of it.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Bible: And while I was ... well, when I mentioned when I hung up the suit, a family of adults pointed it out, and I didn't have anything ... anymore against them, I guess that I do now, oh, they surrendered so easily shall we say. You know, if we'd of had to fought them, I think I was one of those first groups to make the landing, but since I didn't have to do that, I thought it was a ... good war. And I rode the train from the base to the ... where the ship dock was, and ...

Ed Metzler: So, what ... what kind of a ship did you get back to the States on? Was it a ... a big ship or a transport or what?

Mr. Bible: Well, it was a big transport, I think, a big, oh, let's see, it'd be a big transport. I don't remember the name of it, but ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: ... no problem, they ...

Ed Metzler: Did you ... did you take a straight shot to the west coast or did you go through Hawaii or what?

Mr. Bible: No, we didn't go to Hawaii, we went up into Canada, went by Canada, I believe.

Ed Metzler: Oh!

Mr. Bible: All the way back.

Ed Metzler: Okay.

Mr. Bible: And I don't believe we, I think we came down from Canada ... down Canada ...

Ed Metzler: So ...

Mr. Bible: ... from Canada to some base.

Ed Metzler: So, where ... where did you go ashore in the U.S, San Francisco or San Diego?

Mr. Bible: Oh, they took us up on ... on the discharge, they took us up to the dock, I think, rather than climbing down the ladder.

Ed Metzler: Uhm. Was that in the ... was that in the Bay area?

Mr. Bible: Yeah. That would be ... everybody else was about normal at that time.

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Bible: 'Cause ... and we got out and went to an air base or to a base, and slept in a cot, not in a cot, but in a bed that night. Next ... two or three days before we got the train coming home.

Ed Metzler: Uhm. Well, it was good to be back in the good ole US of A, I'll bet!

Mr. Bible: It sure was! They were nice to us. Probably not as nice as it was when we went there because they ... you would protect them then.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: Now, we might take something away from (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), yeah. So, what was ... what was your grade when you ... when you left the military? Were you Sergeant or what?

Mr. Bible: Staff Sergeant.

Ed Metzler: Staff Sergeant, well, that's a ... that was ... you got quite a few bumps in there.

Mr. Bible: Yeah, well, I was ... as soon as I made Corporal, they wanted us going to the Radio School; somebody made everybody a Corporal. Then sometime later we were in the States, I forget now which place we were stationed, but I'd gotten a uniform and it had a Sergeant's stripe on it. But they'd made we Staff Sergeant and they didn't have a Staff Sergeant's stripe to sell, but they had ... stripe ... uh, Staff Sergeant's stripes to sell at the PX, and I didn't want to pay a high price for it.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles).

Mr. Bible: But one day I went to the fair and I bought one of those Staff Sergeant's stripes. That night my wife and I went to church, uh, went to church, got back I had her

sewing those stripes on my jacket. The next morning, I went out to duty and I told the First Sergeant, I says, "I had my wife sew those stripes on last night." When I went in later in the day, he says, "You better be thankful your wife sewed those stripes on last night," because I made Staff Sergeant that night.

Ed Metzler: Hum.

Mr. Bible: If I ... I was already a Staff Sergeant, but I hadn't put the stripes on.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: And if I hadn't put the stripes on, no telling what I would have come up with.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles), yeah. So, when you came back to the States after the war, did you bring back any souvenirs from the war that ... that you've kept?

Mr. Bible: Well, I brought back a rifle, but I've turned it into a museum some way or another.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: And some clothes. I don't have any of them now. I, wait a minute, I might have some little something.

Ed Metzler: Yeah. You still have your Bronze Star?

Mr. Bible: That's ... I think I have it. For a while, wife and I both were in the hospital, had a lot of people ... well at least not ... maybe a lot, a few people went through things while we were both in the hospital ...

Ed Metzler: Right.

Mr. Bible: ... had missed a few things.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: Nothing major, but ...

Ed Metzler: When did you get married?

Mr. Bible: When did I get back?

Ed Metzler: When did you get married?

Mr. Bible: Uh, October or Dec ... well, it was November or December.

Ed Metzler: After you got back?

Mr. Bible: Uh huh.

Ed Metzler: Uh huh. But did you know who ... your wife before you went overseas? I mean, did you have a girlfriend?



Mr. Bible: I guess we had ... we were married, oh, back earlier, seems like we were married ... it was after the war started. She ... she waited for me.

Ed Metzler: Yeah, that's good.

Mr. Bible: Later on, I don't remember what it was, one morning she woke me up at six o'clock and she says, "Call the ambulance." So, I called the ambulance and they came out and took her to the hospital. We went over there, we called her, uh, when was ... she had any relatives or not, maybe one or two, well let's see, and that night we sat with her there in the emergency room all day, and that night about six o'clock they says, "Just take her to the ... one of the emergency rooms up there and be more comfortable." Went up there and there's a (unintelligible) bed I could lay down on, I laid down. They'd come in and check every once in a while. She died about four o'clock that morning.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: I hate to say it, but I'm glad she did because she had what her mother had who lived for three years for (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: And that would have been rough for three years.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: And then later on, I found another woman I married. We were ... we were together about ten years. I didn't think she would last longer than three years after we married, but she had something wrong with her; I don't know what, she just in pain all the time, I never did ask her. But she was under doctor's care all the time. After about three months, I put her in a wheelchair and take her to the doctor. She'd been a nurse. People that saw her that knew her as a nurse would look at her, "She still alive?!" And one of them he told me that after visiting there she'd look in the newspaper for a ... after two or three weeks to see if her picture was in the paper ...

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Bible: ... had she died.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Bible: But she lived about ten years. Now, she was sick most of that time.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: But we did manage to make three cruises or five cruises. It was ... it was very nice that she was ... you better be right when you talk to her.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles).

Mr. Bible: We were at the same church eating at the same table when we started going together.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Bible: And one night I ... time I began to develop something on my eye and it'd been turning, so I can look at something a long ways off and I can see two of them, one with the right eye and one with the left eye. I see better with my right eye, so one day we was out in the yard working, she hollered and asked me a question. So, I stuck my head around the corner of the house and turned my left eye and looking at her with my right eye, "Why are you closing your left eye to talk to me?!" She meant what she said, but I finally explained to her why.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: But she was very nice, very good and wonderful, but you better be right when you talk to her.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter). Well okay, uhm, are ... are there any other World War II events that you would like to discuss while I've got you on the phone?

Mr. Bible: Let me see, yes, I think ... so, let's see. When we were in Hawaii, we went into Hawaii a couple of times.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: Seemed like I made, oh, when I was in the States before I went to service (unintelligible), I was working in Houston at a Howard Hughes plant and you probably know Howard Hughes.

Ed Metzler: I sure have.

Mr. Bible: And I was working with his plants and we were cleaning threads in oil well pumps for the Russians.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Bible: I worked in Dennison, I mentioned that one ... one summer we were doing things to get on the things doing utility. Oh, I graduated in the eleventh grade, year later or two years later, they're graduating from the twelfth ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah. I'm having a hard time hearing you right now, Justin.

Mr. Bible: ... better down there when I was in Houston that I wanted to volunteer that I better come in, so I ...

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: ... told you I was on the beach in San Diego, that was interesting (rustling through documents), and ...

Ed Metzler: Well, it sounds like we've covered a lot of territory. You and I've been talking for an hour and thirty minutes.

Mr. Bible: So, I mentioned about ... the doctor changed it when we were in the States ... service. (Unintelligible) one state ... one city ...

Ed Metzler: Justin, I can't hear you right now, could you speak louder?

Mr. Bible: ... buy me a big piece of pie and then go back, I didn't go where they were going. Let's see when we ... Los Angeles I was getting ready to go to Florida, we all ... back down there one day he says, "Some of you are going ... some of you are going a long ways," so we got on the ... they said you were ... have a Pullman. So, we got on the train, but we had a Pullman and we went to Florida on the Pullman. Oh, we didn't stop there, but we'd stop at places and we'd have to stop at places for supper and I don't remember about breakfast. But we ate on the ship, I mean, the train for lunch.

Ed Metzler: So now, when were you in Florida. This is the first time I've heard about Florida.

Mr. Bible: Well, we left our basic training ... we ... we left California where we had our basic training.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: And we went from there to Florida, uh, directly. We stayed in a hotel, the North (?) down there at the hotel.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: And we drilled on the golf course.

Ed Metzler: Hum!

Mr. Bible: At Miami Beach.

Ed Metzler: My word!

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible) stayed in a hotel on Miami Beach, and drilled on their golf course. Uh, oh, first night, first afternoon we were there that we knew where we was going, we were in a hotel, so couple of us decided we'd go to a movie. So, we'd (unintelligible) find down there a movie, so we went down there, walked down the street to the movies, we went in the movie and saw the movie. When we came out it was dark, the light was out, I mean, it was *dark!* We were in a new town, we knew what street we were to be on, but you couldn't see the street sign.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: But we did manage to go back up to the street, walked up the street and find the street we were on and turn left to ... found our hotel.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles).

Mr. Bible: And like I say, some of our training when we were training ...

Ed Metzler: So, what kind of training were you doing in Florida?

Mr. Bible: Uh, well basic training, we had next, oh we had ... they had the firing squad, uh firing squad; we did a little firing.

Ed Metzler: Uh hum.

Mr. Bible: Had ... learning ... just ... teaching us some learning information on ... they had about all of ... hotels in the ... Miami Beach and of course, it was only about thirty-nine of us, worked with the (unintelligible), and then finally, they gave us ... took us out and gave us a big picture. And then when we finally got on the train to go back to California, they took us down to the ... well, the railroad station, said, "Some of you are going a long way," and we knew we were because we had bags on the way back to California, and it took us about a week to get back.

Ed Metzler: Uhm!

Mr. Bible: And we had to stop maybe for two meals a day, I don't remember. I know for a lunch and maybe for supper, yeah, for supper ... for we ... were somewhere in

New Mexico and stopped for supper. We went out to get back on the train and there was a young Indian lady standing down there by the post. We walked down there and sang ... sang some song to her then we went and got on the train. Don't know whether she appreciated it or not; we didn't ask her, but we didn't bother her other than singing. And when we got to Los Angeles, I went ... went over to ... immediately to (unintelligible) where the people came in to pick up people.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: We went over there and a lady says, "Would you like to have dinner tonight, Christmas dinner, tonight?" 'Cause it was Christmas Eve and I said, "Yes!" She says, "Well, so and so, so and so at ...," I says, "I've been in Los Angeles for thirty minutes."

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: She says, "I'll call them." So, she called them; they came and picked me up, just me. We went up to their house; they fixed us supper, it was a nice supper. They had a boy about three or four years old, that was the meanest boy I ever saw.

Ed Metzler: Really?!

Mr. Bible: He was all over everything, and I don't think I would remember the place if it hadn't been that mean boy there.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: But after had supper, and a good time, we went back to our place. And let's see, (unintelligible), went to, oh, I would go downtown on Sunday, got called (unintelligible) one night. Well, I don't know (unintelligible) in our building one night. Why I was on the ... upstairs of the bed ... was a couple beds and I was on the top one. Why I was down there in that bed, I don't know, but somebody on the bottom floor ... doing something, and I'd just lay up there just as quiet as I could be, somebody came by and they were going farther on. You could hear people talking farther on, so after a while, I decided to go down there. Well, this man down there he got up to go to bed and he had been short sheeted.

Ed Metzler: (Chuckles).

Mr. Bible: Well, he left to go down there to chew them out. While he was gone, and I had made him a very good place ... way I was laying in the ... in the bed where my foot was, I got down and short sheeted his bed again. I climbed back up there and got back in bed exactly like I was before. He ... he came in and started to go to bed that is short sheeted and he just let out some word, and then (unintelligible) got in bed and went to sleep, and why I was down there, I don't know, but I was on the same floor as my room. Let's see, oh, let me see ... oh, we were in a ship in Florida, not Florida; its ... its ... no, let's see, yeah, (unintelligible) but we ... place and they put a ... they moved us up to a place ... supposed to leave there for a ... place ... sorry, but the things had changed. If it rained in the Philippines and we couldn't make the landing there, so they just held us there and we were in a ... what's the unit that we ... there, let's see, had ... this is Florida, and we stayed there. And we had a jeep that was loaded down on the ... in the middle ... it had a candy, case of candy in the floorboard. On top of it was case of Australian candy; on top of that was (unintelligible) and it was on deck for about ten days, I guess. That (unintelligible) went in about thirty minutes. That box of Australia ... Australian candy was there two weeks later.

Ed Metzler: Uhm.

Mr. Bible: It was a whole lot like our hard candy.

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: Clear hard candy, but it was whole lot harder.

Ed Metzler: A lot harder than hard (chuckles).

Mr. Bible: Yeah, and those people had been in that area for twenty-eight, thirty months; they knew what it was. So, I'd told the Captain that we had a case of Australian candy. Well, we took one or two boxes ashore and left the rest of them on the ship. When we got ashore, he says, "Let me have some of that Australian candy." And I reached in there and opened up the box, handed it to him. I said, "We brought one of these ... or two of these boxes along." He took it, smelled of it, looked at it, bit down on it, pitched it to a dog. The dog smelled of it, turned around and walked off.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter). The dog didn't want it either (laughter).

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible) leave it all aboard (chuckles).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter), well, so much for Australian candy (chuckles).

Mr. Bible: Yeah, it was Australian candy.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: I mean, that was one that looks like our Christmas candy that we had (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: Yeah.

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: (Laughter).

Mr. Bible: And it was hard. Nobody would eat it.

Ed Metzler: Nobody'd have anything to do with it!

Mr. Bible: (Unintelligible) or not.

Ed Metzler: (Laughter). Well, I tell you what, Justin, I'm going to end it on that story because that's a good story.

Mr. Bible: Yes.

Ed Metzler: And I ... I want to thank you for spending the time with me today to describe your World War II experiences, and we are going to ... what we will do is we'll make a rec ... a copy of this interview on a compact disk and we're going to send it to your daughter. And then you can listen to what all the things you've said to me and she can listen also.

Mr. Bible: Yeah. But could you send two or ... can those be made ...

Ed Metzler: Well, I ... it'll be ...

Mr. Bible: ... (unintelligible).

Ed Metzler: ... I tell you what, I'm going to send one and its ... they're very easy to make copies of ...

Mr. Bible: Yeah.

Ed Metzler: ... so you guys can make as many copies as the family wants; they're very easy to make copies of.

Mr. Bible: Okay.

Ed Metzler: And that way, everybody can have one.

Mr. Bible:        Alright, that'll be fine.

Ed Metzler:       (Laughter).

Mr. Bible:        And this was two hours and forty-five minutes, our interview.

Ed Metzler:       Well, I got an hour and forty-five minutes here.

Mr. Bible:        Well, it's a quarter till four!

Ed Metzler:       Uh, yeah, but we started at two o'clock.

Mr. Bible:        Yeah, that's right, two o'clock. Its ...

Ed Metzler:       (Laughter), so ...

Mr. Bible:        ... two hours and forty-five minutes.

Ed Metzler:       Yeah, that's a long time. Listen, this is one of ... one of my longer interviews, so I appreciate you remembering all this stuff 'cause it happened a long time ago.

Mr. Bible:        It did! I remember it.

Ed Metzler:       I know you do!

Mr. Bible:        Thank you, sir, appreciate it.

Ed Metzler:       Well, look, thank you so much! And ... and you take care of yourself, okay?

Mr. Bible:        Okay, thank you.

Ed Metzler:       Uh huh, bye bye.

Mr. Bible:        Bye.

(end of interview)

**FINAL** copy

CD – #OH04702 – Mr. Justin Laverne Bible

Transcribed by: K. Matras

Houston, TX

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