

Video Recording Log
Veteran Philip Dziuk

Name of Donor/Interviewer: H.F. Williamson

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Philip Dziuk

Birth Date: 03/24/1926

Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 95 **Date of recording:** 01/30/2008

Location of recording: WILL AM-FM-TV, 300 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

Recording log:

- 00:11 Introduction
- 00:53 Family and childhood—father's service in WWI
- 01:50 Senior in high school 1941—country school in MN—skipping grades—12 years old in high school—draft initiated
- 02:35 High school—15 when war started—community college—draft
- 03:18 2C—farm deferment
- 03:30 1A—eligible for draft
- 03:40 Radio training program—avoiding infantry by joining Navy—only 5% passed program
- 04:45 Inducted January 1945—R.T. training—special group in boot camp—only one month—Great Lakes, IL
- 05:45 Minnesota
- 06:00 California, Hawaii—warm weather
- 06:20 Training—90 people in company—R.T.s—3 stripes—sworn in equivalent of corporeal—incentive [sings song about regular Navy vs. R.T.s]--sworn in 1st class
- 07:40 One month at Great Lakes—primary training at Hurtle College—converted to Navy training facility—electricity, math, labs—receivers, welding
- 08:30 Incentive: learning—formula: $R.T. + F.O. = R.T./H_2O$ —after you had been there for a while, you went to sea
- 09:00 Wanted drivers for landing crafts
- 09:30 Did not lose stripe if flunked out—dangerous driving landing crafts because head sticking out of boat
- 09:45 Badges: Ruptured Duck, Honorable Discharge, Electronic Technician 3rd Class
- 10:15 Most men in school had taken engineering, math, had a master's degree in chemistry—he was overwhelmed—country boy with two years community college
- 11:27 Later on helped when he was advisor for undergraduate students—worked himself 24/7
- 12:40 44 in group—21 went on—23 went off—made the cut to stay
- 13:00 Next round—Elementary Electricity and Radio Material—went to Great Lakes for 3 month program—2 week periods: could flunk back and repeat once
- 13:38 Flunked back once and panicked—practice sessions—instructor told him he would fail but he worked harder and succeeded
- 15:15 Navy-issue slide rule

16:13 Made it okay for the rest of the program
16:38 Good at welding and building—electronic technician—maintenance, repair, technician
17:10 Sent him to places he did not choose
18:00 Only 9 of 21 made it through program—250 went in at the same time, only 9 made it all the way through the first time
18:30 Treasure Island, CA—month of learning transmitters—very large receivers—RADAR, SONAR, fire control—7 months
19:05 RADAR very secret—high fences separating his department from rest of base
19:45 Long hours, break in mornings
20:10 Insubordination incident [tells story]
21:08 I.F.F. RADAR triggers transponder—signals--gives number of plane to identify
22:20 Color-coded wires—sudden tests for color-blindness
23:00 Labs—troubleshooting--problem-solving--circuitry testing—7 months
23:48 San Francisco—Treasure Island—SONAR--acoustics--distance and ranging—listening
25:50 RADAR—range and angle—positioning
26:50 Shoran and Loran—triangulation—short range navigation—precursors to GPS
27:40 Close to top of the class
27:55 Blacks in military mostly only cooks or stewards—two black men in his company—segregation
28:40 May 1945—European war ended—no celebration in San Francisco
29:15 Treasure Island embarkation point for South Pacific—holding area for men behind barbed wire—Bay filling and emptying with ships—South Pacific losing many men—could not speak to men on other side of fence because RADAR was a secret—they would try to give you letters to their mothers or wives—had to walk by them like they did not exist—difficult because knew they were probably going to die
31:45 Friend was a beach master in South Pacific—said in one battle, 10,000 Marines and 20,000 Japanese died in 2 days—water so full of bodies could not land crafts—the next day water so full of maggots the engines got clogged
32:25 No secret many men were dying—knew the men you were ignoring were about to die
32:30 Rumors—things not going well in South Pacific—held Japanese back but not easy gaining territory
33:08 It takes about 20 men to keep one man shooting—he was one that was back there behind
34:08 August—Atomic Bombs—48 hour riot in San Francisco—chaos, but happy—windows broken—streets totally packed with soldiers--overwhelming
36:03 Back to base—S.P.'s cleared streets
36:57 Drunken sailors
37:15 Still finished school—things uncertain—graduated January 1946
37:50 Very long training process—had to know all technical things—could be assigned anywhere anytime
38:55 Graduated—leave--liberty
39:18 U.S.O.--Chicago, Milwaukee—liberty trains, parties, girls—inspection at 8 a.m.--"looking for bad women and good whiskey"
41:30 Sailors and soldiers were good targets for robberies
42:15 Shore patrol duty in San Francisco and Hawaii—protect sailors from civilians and from themselves—drunk sailors
44:35 Stayed sober during service
45:01 Marines guarded military prisons—Goat Island near Treasure Island—Marines had to serve sentence if their ward escaped—one night there was an escape, Marines with machine guns

looking for men

46:06 Camp Shoemaker—Marine Prison for military—slept in tents, awoke by baseball bats—military justice is oxymoron

46:43 Stood guard at Briggs—on ship—full rations every 3 days, bread and water every day

47:25 Inspection on Saturdays—had to behave—some of these men did not care if they got shot—top-down system

48:30 Shore Patrol—protecting men—enlisted man, been in service year and a half, ranked—got all kinds of duties

49:30 Petty officer of watch on ship—U.S.S. Ajax AR6 repair ship

50:00 Ran without lights even though the war was over for protection

50:43 Petty officer duty to keep watch men awake

50:55 RADAR watch duty

51:00 U.S.S. Ajax after graduation—ship had been by Ulithe—damaged by kamikaze plane—part of first group on ship after it was repaired

51:50 Sick the first 3 days on U.S.S. Ajax

52:25 Treasure Island mess hall—fed 15,000 meals a day—feeding the returned sickly men

54:15 Only time he was ill during service

54:25 While at Great Lakes, IL, other men got pneumonia who were not used to cold weather

54:50 U.S.S. Ajax went to Hawaii—in Pearl Harbor, saw U.S.S. Arizona and Japanese submarine that had been beached during Pearl Harbor attack

55:30 Armed Forces Institute—more knowledgeable than instructor, skipped out on classes

57:00 U.S.S. Ajax went to Bikini Atol to test how the atomic bomb would effect ships-describes Bikini Atol—installed electronic equipment on ships to see how it would respond to bomb—animals were on board ship to test animal response

59:00 Lucky—was not harmed at all during service

59:23 Sent back to Hawaii just before bomb was tested on Bikini Atol—men who were on U.S.S. Ajax were exposed to radiation from atomic bomb

59:50 Back to Hawaii on troop transport

60:40 [Tape transfer]

60:45 Troop transport bunks—sea sick soldiers

61:00 Assigned to transmitter station at Lualualei, Hawaii—on other side of island from receiver—dozens of transmitters—AM, very powerful, 7 600-foot towers—concerns over health risks from radio and RADAR signals

63:25 RADAR—precursor to microwave

63:50 Transmitter—maintaining, rotating shifts

64:30 Swimming on beach—waves, tide, current—almost drowned once

66:40 Lualualei—station near pineapple farms

67:30 Transmitters—keying in signals—sent out a lot of V's

68:10 Discharge procedures—back to Treasure Island, train to MN

68:45 Some men discharged, others reassigned—beginnings of Korean War—had 11 months invested in these men, ¼ discharged, others reassigned

69:27 Readjusting to civilian life, girls

70:00 Home to MN

70:28 Never called home, wrote often

70:55 Re-read letters sent to his parents 50 years later—tone was reassuring

72:12 Day after he got back was working on family farm again

72:40 Lived in England, Germany—American military cemeteries in Cambridge, Arnhem,

- [indiscernible, “Mostrik (Mogrotten)”], Oahu—people should visit military cemeteries
- 74:40 Visiting American military cemetery—inn keeper let them stay free of charge—said citizens would maintain cemetery forever, free of charge
- 76:30 Anti-German sentiment in Yugoslavia, France
- 76:50 Pro-American sentiment in Holland, Denmark
- 77:00 Lived in Germany during Iron Curtain—were 250,000 American occupiers
- 78:05 Response to criticism of bombing of Hiroshima and Iwo Jima—Japan was not going to stop otherwise—would have been one of the men sent to invade Japan
- 79:15 Only saw one Japanese prisoner of war
- 79:25 German prisoners of war marched perfectly—would criticize American soldiers for being sloppy
- 81:00 In Germany, met German who said he had been “a guest of Roosevelt”—POW in America
- 82:00 Truck gardening in MN—German and Italian POWs working—had good impression of America after war
- 82:40 Story of Cambridge University acquaintances’ POW stories and adventures during WWII
- 84:50 Friend from CT captured Nazi soldier—Nazi had been trained when he was 14-15 to become occupier of American soldier’s hometown in CT
- 85:30 Germany—German military cemeteries—German cemeteries in Ireland—Irish hated English so much that they allowed German planes to land in Ireland—in one German cemetery the age of the dead were either 13-16 or 50+, one of the last towns to be captured
- 87:10 Continuation of story of Cambridge University acquaintances’ POW stories and adventures during WWII—POWs on different sides of the battle, fighting for different sides (88:40 “shit”)
- 92:08 Wrap-up
- 92:32 Sort clips of him in uniform, dog tag with medals, sailor hat, uniform and supplies