

**Video Recording Log  
Veteran Ralph Langenheim**

**1. Name and address of collector of interviewer.**

Name of Donor/Interviewer: Nancy Rotzoll  
Address: 300 N. Goodwin Ave.  
City: Urbana  
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Partner organization affiliation (if any): WILL AM-FM-TV

**2. Name and birth date of the veteran or civilian being interviewed at is appears on the Biographical Data Form:**

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Ralph L. Langenheim  
Birth Date: 05/26/1922

**3. Recording format**

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

**4. Estimated length of recording (in minutes):** 112 minutes (two parts: 60, 52)

**Date of recording:** 08/30/2007, 08/31/2007

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

**6. Please log the topics discussed in the interview in sequence.**

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Day 1 of 2**

00:00 [Introduction]

00:28 Background—college—studied Geology at University of Tulsa, 1939

01:25 Navy V7 program—officer procurement program—midshipmen’s school—classified Engineering program—went to Annapolis 3-4 months

03:00 Midshipmen’s School—gained affection for Navy—served as reserves man after War

04:25 Applied for Sub Chaser School—went to Miami, FL—first drink of alcohol from Captain

05:50 Had coffee for first time in Navy—raised strictly

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06:28 Sub Chaser School—if failed, sent to amphibious division

07:00 Got sent to Amphibious training after graduation—very disappointed—  
amphibious considered lowest part of the Navy

07:45 Solomon, Maryland—assigned to Choptank River, Chesapeake Bay base to train  
for LCIs—took train from Oklahoma to Washington—Officer's Club

09:00 Dreary transition

09:20 Nucleus crew for new ship—training in Chesapeake Bay

10:10 Went to New York to meet ship at Perth Amboy, NJ—sent down to ship

10:37 Describing ship: 132 feet long, 32 feet wide, double-bottom—enough fuel to go  
over Atlantic ocean twice—carried 200 men, 21 crew, 4 officers—12 knots  
speed—8 bus engines—1 screw

12:27 Training, NY—buying outfit—buying everything in catalog

13:30 Got to England—anchor would not drop because rusted

14:00 Chesapeake Bay training—near collision with night boat—sister ship got stuck on  
beach in VA—stood watch all night watching cable

16:00 Attached to convoy going from VA capes to Gibraltar—over 100 ships—LCIs on  
either side—high winds, seasick—bridge watch

18:15 Split off convoy to Azores—over 2 weeks, stormy all the way—4<sup>th</sup> Officer  
Thomas O'Brien—had case of active T.B.

18:55 Pharmacist caught on to case of T.B.—would fall asleep on duty

19:40 Memories of Harte

21:06 Cornwall, England--with Destroyer of British Navy—to Falmouth—anchored

22:00 Convoy up Channel to Dartmouth—hit fog, rain into convoy of merchant ships—  
got lost, had to get directions—very embarrassing

24:00 Disintegrating convoy

24:15 Dartmouth—buoy—beacon sitting on jagged rock—accidentally beached on mud flat—Free French not friendly

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25:20 Flag ship tied up to dock—lines broke overnight

25:40 LCIs had 5 20-mm guns—fired like machine guns—armament on beach—had anti-aircraft training—never hit drone—never used guns

26:25 Never used guns

26:40 Anchored off of beach on D-Day—instructed not to use fire unless fired upon

27:00 LCVPs—Higgins Boats—men firing machine guns--“Muster in the Mess Hall”—had not ordered men to fire but they were firing anyway

27:45 All they ever saw of German Air Force—only bomb

28:00 Never fired a gun—Normandy, South France

28:30 Dartmouth—LSTs sunk by E-Boats—didn't hear what was going on—sound-powered phone—unreliable—didn't hear right—set brake on winch and laid down on deck

32:15 Stove caught on fire

33:30 Trouble anchoring

35:15 Training exercises

35:30 Landing in Normandy on rising tide—Germans firing blind at LCI—88?—never got hit

37:00 Preparing for D-Day—Dartmouth Harbor—loaded 4<sup>th</sup>—anchored off coast with lots of ships

37:45 200 onboard—support troops—to beach at 5:30 p.m.—no trouble beaching

38:40 Voyage over to D-Day—constant noise—full watch—low murmur from troops—crap game going on—rowdy enough to list ship

40:00 Cloud of planes—101<sup>st</sup> Airborne—seeing flashes, though still far out—noise: distant sound of guns—like thunder—could smell powder—still way out—dawn broke—Destroyer sunk from hitting land mine

40:50 Stayed off beach

41:05 Directed to anchor, wait—saw LSTs going by with cows, German and French peasants, prisoners

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41:40 Got antsy, thought had been forgotten—radioed to ask for orders—as a consequence, got asked to escort LCTs up to British beaches and back again

41:50 D-Day + 1—2 or 3 miles off-shore—voyage of inspection—tons of ships, battleships firing—no planes—Omaha active

42:45 Sat around for a few days—Omaha not yet settled—keeping them there to take Americans off shore if necessary—did not happen

43:00 Went to Poole—bus trips hauling people

43:45 Men took unauthorized trip to London, got back in time to leave

44:00 Dartmouth Marine Railway

44:15 Did not carry cargo—designed for short runs to coast of Europe and back

45:00 Sent to Gibraltar, Bizerte, Potcol—story of convoy incident: steaming out with 3 columns LSTs, LCIs, ammunition escort—string of lights to communicate, signal misinterpreted as “I’ve been torpedoed,” convoy broke

50:35 Trained in Bizerte Lake—French Naval Base

51:05 Salerno, Puteoli, Italy—like Yellowstone—ship acquired cases of Venereal Disease

53:10 Invasion of S. France—Corsica, San Tropez—landed people, turned around and left

54:10 Puteoli, Italy to Leghorn bus service—transported soldiers

54:48 Marseille—delivered, picked up load of escaped POWs of Palestinian Brigade, Australians—groups did not mix well—crew in the middle of knife fight

55:50 Transporting load of Senegalese prostitutes—supplied by French Army for troops

57:00 November to December—at Bizerte dry dock to serve Bay of Tunis yacht

57:15 Short officers—had to become executive officer—doing both deck and engineering

58:14 Orders to go home—went through Iran—Christmas—sent out in convoy of LSTs, LCIs—5 knot convoy, 21 days to South Carolina—man died of meningitis on flag ship—burial at sea

59:20 Arrived in Charlestown, SC—half men sent on 30-day leave, other half sent to South Pacific

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59:54 [Tape transfer]