

Video Recording Log
Veteran Albert Helregel

1. Name and address of collector of interviewer.

Name of Donor/Interviewer: H. F. Williamson
Address: 300 N. Goodwin Ave.
City: Urbana
State: IL
Zip: 61801
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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: Albert Charles Helregel
Birth Date: 09/28/1919

3. Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

4. Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 46 Date of recording: 10/30/2007

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.

00:00 Introduction
00:30 Before the War—in Sandwich, IL—1941 went to Sycamore, then Fort Sheridan, IL—then to Camp Grant, IL—then to Fort Bragg, NC
01:08 Nosebleeds—hospital—2-3 months at Fort Bragg, then went to Camp Forrest, TN—training
01:53 War broke out, went to New York—ship
02:00 Training with 155 Howitzers—maneuvers in Arkansas and Louisiana with WWI artillery guns
02:37 2 weeks after Pearl Harbor—32 ships in convoy to Panama Canal—no aircraft carriers or battle ships—troop ships, 5,000 men per ship—storms at sea
03:18 Zigzagged to Australia—had to wait for tide to go in—some men went out of port holes and were never seen again—girls would come out in boats at night to see the American soldiers
03:50 In Australia 1-2 weeks—lived in homes—went to New Caledonia—waited there 6 months
4:20 Went to Guadalcanal in November
04:30 New Caledonia—worried about Japanese bombing—new guns 6 months later

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- 04:46 Hardly any training on new guns—went into action right away
- 05:13 Invasion—1st Marine Division—dead Japanese—3,200 men moved in from New Caledonia
- 05:24 Americal Division—33rd Division—Camp Forrest, TN—Australians would scout for Japanese—3 rounds in 6 seconds
- 06:55 Battalion of 12 guns—2nd gun—his fired first
- 07:13 Fought month—supporting infantry—always right behind infantry
- 07:40 Never hand-to-hand fighting—had to stand guard at night
- 07:55 At Guadalcanal that Fall—got a hernia—went to New Hebrides for 4-5 months
- 08:15 Hernia—with Navy for 21 days—New Hebrides—received operation—taken to New Zealand—there for 6 weeks—taken to New Caledonia
- 08:50 Back to same outfit
- 09:00 Malaria in New Zealand
- 09:40 Same gun crew
- 09:55 Bougainville—hepatitis—hernia
- 10:00 Malaria—hepatitis—hernia—went back to United States
- 10:07 Other men did not like him leaving—thought he was getting off easy—went home at about same time as D-Day—on Liberty ship—stopped at Guadalcanal to pick up other men to bring home—Panama Canal—standing guard
- 11:00 Picked up 6,000 men at Panama Canal—went up Mississippi River to New Orleans—end of tour of duty
- 11:18 San Antonio, TX—Camp Gruber, OK—Fort Sill, OK—200 mm Howitzer—set on fire by gun—wrong powder charge was used—clothes and skin burned
- 12:15 Men were going to occupy Italy—someone told him to drink beer and whiskey to come down with Malaria again—got Malaria again
- 12:28 Went to Monticello, AR—8th Service Command—Italian and German prisoners—bread—soap—pulp wood
- 13:45 There 2-3 months—youngest man there—almost 1945
- 14:05 End of war, had 85 points—got out in June, 1945—in service 4 years 2 months—went in at \$21/mo, promoted to Private First Class, retired at \$65/mo
- 14:53 Enlisted before Pearl Harbor—order number—draft number—21 years old in September
- 15:10 Working on farm
- 15:15 Draft number—draft in effect
- 15:40 Camp Grant, IL—after Fort Sheridan, IL—Sycamore—County Seat of DeKalb County—worked there 4 years before went in
- 16:05 Fort Bragg, NC—train
- 16:21 Australia, New Zealand—sleeping on ground—living in town of Melbourne—32,000 troops came in all at once, no barracks—training
- 17:25 Marines landed on Guadalcanal—Japanese stopped bombing area—ran out of food, supplies, planes—battles all night
- 17:48 Training—ended up in artillery—random placement—other men with venereal disease

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- 18:25 Training—Camp Forrest, TN—wood barracks—rain and mud at Fort Bragg
- 18:55 Nosebleeds
- 19:20 Time with Navy—Army nurses in New Zealand—permanent hospital—Auckland—there 6 weeks
- 19:50 Man with ruptured appendix—died of gangrene
- 20:15 Exercising, stretching
- 20:35 Mosquito bar—had to lay in center of cot—younger men would get Malaria easier—replacements—giant mosquitoes—no Malaria on New Caledonia—fresh fruits—centipedes inside of shells—describing shells—would shoot 7 miles
- 23:40 Artillery units—power charges—once elevation was too low, hit infantry
- 24:30 16 guys, 2 crews—slept under guns—earthquakes and volcanoes—2 degrees off of equator—white sand—International Date Line
- 25:28 Crew members—work—loaders, corporeal, sergeant, men numbers 1 through 8
- 26:30 One man fired gun at night on accident—automatic weapon—confiscated
- 26:45 Japanese tried to get you when you “went to chow”—would tie themselves in trees and shoot at Americans
- 27:22 Japanese had a big gun on tracks—tried to shoot ships when they came in—American plane flew over and dropped torpedo on gun and destroyed it
- 28:10 “Wash Machine Charlie”—plane that would come over when troops going to bed—40-50 mm gun—always dropping bombs on airport--night fighter shot him down
- 30:00 Waited 5-6 months for guns and rifles—built carbines, 30 mm shells—Japanese had 25 mm guns—would explode when they hit you—many casualties
- 30:35 Officers carried 45 mm guns
- 30:40 Infantry—Browning automatics, M-1s—then new more automatic rifles—before they had old Springfield rifles
- 31:14 B-17 plane landed by radio operator, both pilot and co-pilot dead, landed on one motor—on Guadalcanal
- 31:45 B-24s, B-17s
- 31:58 Planes leaving Guadalcanal on raids every day—fighters would follow bombers to keep zeros away
- 32:40 Wrap-up
- 32:50 Eating well with Navy—hospital ship
- 33:05 Riding in B-47
- 33:15 Navy Base—a lot of help—CBs
- 33:55 Took care of generator on Fiji Island—lights out at 10pm—air horns on Christmas
- 34:20 Americal Division went to Philippines—over half the men in unit were killed—Japanese wanted to hold the mountains
- 34:50 Wrap-up
- 35:05 Liberty Ship—Panama Canal—took 2 weeks

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- 35:30 Ship with 5,000 troops—storm—drew 30-40 feet of water—canvas bunks 5
high—2 meals a day—dehydrated food—water was foul—hepatitis—lost 20
pounds on the way over because sea sick
- 38:30 Recovering in Australia
- 39:05 Camp Forrest, TN—loaded troops in cattle cars on the way to New York—only
room to stand—took about a day
- 40:00 Wrap-up—others in crew who have passed away since War
- 40:35 Wrap-up
- 40:40 Malaria, Hepatitis—could not get out of bed because of Hepatitis—family
received telegram about his illnesses—yellow jaundice
- 42:05 Nurse would take him to church—sing in choir
- 42:30 Grandfather sent him rosary at Guadalcanal—said rosary every day—went to
Catholic service on Sundays in tent—shrapnel going through tent
- 44:25 Wrap-up
- 44:30 [Talking in background]