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
Telephone: 217-333-7300
Email: billw@illinois.edu
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
04:20  Went to Guadalcanal in November
04:30  New Caledonia—worried about Japanese bombing—new guns 6 months later
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
Veteran Albert Helregel

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 soot 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 Americall 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
Video Recording Log
Veteran Albert Helregel

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]