

## **Video Recording Log Civilian George Boyd**

Name of Interviewer: Nancy B. Rotzoll

Name of Veteran/Civilian: George Boyd

Birth Date: 04/01/1934

**Recording format:** Mini DVD

**Estimated length of recording (in minutes):** 62 minutes    **Date of recording:** 09/15/2007

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

### **Recording log:**

00:02	Introduction
00:26	Childhood experiences, community, radio
00:38	Pearl Harbor
01:20	Family, brother-in-law a flyer
02:04	Brother-in-law wanted to join Royal Canadian Air Force
02:25	Sister and brother-in-law: divorce
02:32	Former brother-in-law killed
02:37	Ploesti Mission, August 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1943: B-24s, voluntary mission
03:24	Former brother-in-law killed returning on mission from Germany, family's response
03:40	Other sister's husband had lied about age to join National Guard in late 1930's, 106 <sup>th</sup> Cavalry
04:05	Roosevelt federalizing Reserve and National Guard units in 1940, units sent to training
04:20	106 <sup>th</sup> Cavalry sent to Fort Polk, LA; maneuvers conducted in 1941
04:35	Two half-tracks, before Jeeps, horse cavalry
04:49	War begins
04:55	Never finished high school, lied about age
05:00	Federalized, sent to Panama Canal Zone to protect against Japanese
05:30	Officer's Candidate School, Fort Knox, KY
05:46	Second Lieutenant
05:50	Ranger's School
05:57	Sister's marriage in 1943
06:04	Sent to the South, became part of Army under Patton
06:17	Taken to England
06:24	Patton's career, relationships with Eisenhower and Roosevelt, politics
06:44	Patton's character
07:09	Patton's army sent to Europe after D-Day
07:26	Hedge Rows, Patton discovered in WWI, broke through with army in short time

08:01 Patton said they would have troops home by December 1944, before Battle of the Bulge

08:21 Before Bulge, had been rolling across Europe quickly

08:30 Sent recon units to Siegfried Line, man-made obstacles, pill boxes

09:03 France's fortifications, Hitler bypassed

09:16 Siegfried line was unmanned, Patton wanted to go on

09:34 Operation Tea Garden in Norway, preference for fuel over Patton

10:34 Fuel: couldn't use Germans' diesel, line manned again

11:10 Battle of the Bulge, Patton's army moved 100 miles in a few days

11:31 Learning about war as a child, 7 in 1941

11:50 Correspondence

12:00 Wife's aunt and uncle at Pearl Harbor, uncle on ROTC commission from U of I in 1936

12:31 Wife's 7 aunts all nurses

12:52 Wife's aunt and uncle in Pearl Harbor, experiences: wife in back yard, uncle at Ford Island

13:09 Wife waved at Japanese pilots, they waved back

13:34 Learning about war, hearing other people's experiences, at the time and later in life

13:43 Two neighbors in service: one flew P-47 Thunderbolts in Europe, other in Army on foot

14:14 Brother's friends one semester from graduation at U of I in 1942, all enlisted after Pearl Harbor

14:47 Brother had enlarged heart from rheumatic fever as a child, could not enlist, cried for 2 months

15:00 Experiences as young child, family

15:18 WWII's profound effect on the whole world, all of society, many deaths, women in work force

15:57 After war met woman at Willard Airport who had been a Rosie the Riveter in Wichita, KS, B-29

16:30 Brother's best friend in Army Air Corps: became bombardier navigator, B-17s

16:55 Some of the most skillful people became bombardiers and navigators, not pilots

17:30 Brother's best friend shot down over Germany in 1943

17:55 Community activities, scrap metal donations

18:42 Brother graduated in 1942, Mechanical Engineering, worked for Elliott Corporation in PA, gun company, battle supplies, artillery

19:27 Brother moved to CA to work for Lockheed, Douglas companies

19:43 Brother worked for Hughes Aviation, flying boat, about when war ended, F-X 11 (high speed reconnaissance plane)

19:50 Didn't see brother much during war, sometimes would drive from PA to IL

20:12 Rationing in community

20:23 Victory Gardens, gardening, truck farm

20:48 Victory Garden on Durbin Street in Urbana, rented lot, canning

21:24 Amish in Arthur, canning in tin cans

21:55 Ration books

22:10 Spam

22:20 Survivors from U.S.S. Indianapolis, Spam

23:19 Rations: gasoline, tires

23:22 National speed limit: 35 mph, cars, rations

24:04 Father service manager, Hudson Garage, access to used tires

24:35 No vacations until after 1947, no new cars or tires

25:00 Time it takes to train and launch units

25:27 U.S. won war because of manufacturing capability, saved Russia, England

26:20 Playing as child

26:39 Brother taught him math and reading, no kindergarten; war began during 1<sup>st</sup> grade

27:00 Sister's marriage, became pregnant before husband went overseas

27:25 Brother working in design and manufacturing, CA

27:49 War: terrible, waste, does not accomplish everything, always had them in society, WWII among worst

28:12 Wife's uncle killed in Iwo Jima, Marine Corps, 7,500 killed in 30-day battle; people today could not withstand that many casualties

28:49 U.S. lucky: no direct effects of war, no invasion or raids; produced equipment that won war

29:08 Minor attacks on U.S.: restaurant in CA shelled by Japanese submarine, balloons with explosives sent across Pacific to WA

29:48 Interned Japanese, incarcerated in low-class prisons in CA

30:13 Many Japanese wanted to volunteer for War

30:55 Movies as child, Princess Theatre, Urbana; westerns

31:40 Radio programs: Tom Mix, Ralston Straight Shooters, Captain Midnight, Sky King, Jack Armstrong

32:00 Wife's aunt and uncle at Pearl Harbor: wife went to harbor to volunteer as medic, 2 weeks passed before they knew each other was alive

32:42 Left 3-year-old daughter with Hawaiian housekeeper; later when Sky King was on radio, wife would dive under table when sounds of fighter planes came on the radio

33:56 Korean War, 1950's: personal experiences, army

34:05 German-American friend went with German mother to Germany to visit family, WWII started, could not return to America; father in 8<sup>th</sup> Air Corps bombing Germany; difficulties surviving in Germany

35:25 Rationing in U.S., couldn't travel; newspaper and ice cream on Sundays at Wilson's; radio; visiting with friends and neighbors, sharing news, community

37:24 Brother's best friend shot down over Germany, strafed, right arm shot off, German prison camp

38:15 Solidarity, flags in windows: blue for family in service, gold if you had someone killed

38:35 Brother-in-law's mother had 4 sons in service: 3 in Europe, 1 in Pacific, all came back

39:00 Brother-in-law close to being seriously injured: 88mm shell hit his tank, killed driver near him

- 40:57 War Bond Drives, intersection of Neil, Church and Main, flatiron buildings  
Urbana, Champaign
- 42:28 2-man Japanese submarine captured at Pearl Harbor, toured around U.S. for War  
Bond Drives
- 43:43 Children's' involvement in Bond Drives
- 44:04 War Bond Drive: showing German Messerschmitt that had been shot down, took  
piece of control cable; people would take small pieces as souvenirs of War
- 45:00 Children traded soldiers' patches
- 45:25 Flying Tigers in South Pacific, went to China to fight Japan
- 45:45 Aviation enthusiasts, magazines
- 46:10 Cereal companies: Kellogg, send away box tops for paper airplanes
- 47:09 His son in 1960's also sent away for paper airplanes
- 47:25 Brother taught him how to build paper airplanes
- 47:37 Identifying planes: children's books, manuals
- 48:37 Civil defense drills, spies
- 48:50 Mother went to junior high school to help roll bandages for Red Cross
- 49:45 Father at Hudson's Garage: goal to keep people's cars running, used tires
- 50:00 Rations, lucky to live in area with farming: meat, eggs, grain, gardens
- 51:00 Community efforts: books, drives, rations, thrift
- 51:35 Margarine, packaging, regulation
- 53:08 Ball-point pens developed for navigators and bombardiers
- 54:15 Chanute Field, IL: lots of activity, saw cousin takes off in B-18
- 54:55 Wife had 3 or 4 uncles in service; he had 4-5 uncles in WWI
- 55:20 Age determined part you played in War
- 55:29 Playing as child in parking lot, playing war
- 55:57 Roosevelt's death; throwing rocks at cardboard fort; Courier Paper sold extras  
about Roosevelt
- 57:23 Effect war had on him and community: really upset by things: people killed,  
seriously wounded
- 58:19 Parade Ground: area West of Stadium, Armory; WPGU started as radio station for  
Parade Ground; small Masonite and wood structures in which married students  
could live
- 00:59:48 Brother's best friend became lawyer, federal judge; could not use Engineering  
background after arm was shot off
- 01:00:05 Hearing stories from many veterans over course of lifetime, airplanes, Jeeps
- 01:00:34 Things we take for granted: Jeeps; other companies copying Jeep; technology  
affected by War
- 01:01:00 Soldiers traveling away from home for first time to go to War, saw many things  
they would have not seen otherwise, many did not come home; world changed  
dramatically