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 1st, 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, 106th Cavalry  
04:05 Roosevelt federalizing Reserve and National Guard units in 1940, units sent to training  
04:20 106th 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
Spam

Survivors from U.S.S. Indianapolis, Spam

Rations: gasoline, tires

National speed limit: 35 mph, cars, rations

Father service manager, Hudson Garage, access to used tires

No vacations until after 1947, no new cars or tires

Time it takes to train and launch units

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

Playing as child

Brother taught him math and reading, no kindergarten; war began during 1st grade

Sister’s marriage, became pregnant before husband went overseas

Brother working in design and manufacturing, CA

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

 Wife’s uncle killed in Iwo Jima, Marine Corps, 7,500 killed in 30-day battle; people today could not withstand that many causalities

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

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

Interned Japanese, incarcerated in low-class prisons in CA

Many Japanese wanted to volunteer for War

Movies as child, Princess Theatre, Urbana; westerns

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

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

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

Korean War, 1950’s: personal experiences, army

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

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

Brother’s best friend shot down over Germany, strafed, right arm shot off, German prison camp

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

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

Brother-in-law close to being seriously injured: 88mm shell hit his tank, killed driver near him
War Bond Drives, intersection of Neil, Church and Main, flatiron buildings
Urbana, Champaign
2-man Japanese submarine captured at Pearl Harbor, toured around U.S. for War
Bond Drives
Children’s’ involvement in Bond Drives
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
Children traded soldiers’ patches
Flying Tigers in South Pacific, went to China to fight Japan
Aviation enthusiasts, magazines
Cereal companies: Kellogg, send away box tops for paper airplanes
His son in 1960’s also sent away for paper airplanes
Brother taught him how to build paper airplanes
Identifying planes: children’s books, manuals
Civil defense drills, spies
Mother went to junior high school to help roll bandages for Red Cross
Father at Hudson’s Garage: goal to keep people’s cars running, used tires
Rations, lucky to live in area with farming: meat, eggs, grain, gardens
Community efforts: books, drives, rations, thrift
Margarine, packaging, regulation
Ball-point pens developed for navigators and bombardiers
Chanute Field, IL: lots of activity, saw cousin takes off in B-18
Wife had 3 or 4 uncles in service; he had 4-5 uncles in WWI
Age determined part you played in War
Playing as child in parking lot, playing war
Roosevelt’s death; throwing rocks at cardboard fort; Courier Paper sold extras
about Roosevelt
Effect war had on him and community: really upset by things: people killed,
seriously wounded
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
Brother’s best friend became lawyer, federal judge; could not use Engineering
background after arm was shot off
Hearing stories from many veterans over course of lifetime, airplanes, Jeeps
Things we take for granted: Jeeps; other companies copying Jeep; technology
affected by War
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