

Video Recording Log
Veteran Lloyd Lain

Name of Interviewer: Harriet Williamson

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Ralph Rinehart

Birth Date: 12/20/1923

Recording format: Mini DVD

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 62 minutes **Date of recording:** 03/07/2008

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

Recording log:

00:00 Introduction
00:50 Background—mother’s death at 10 months old
02:00 Broke leg, November, 1930—in hospital 6 months, broke leg 5 times
02:50 Moved to Fisher, IL—stepmother—being poor
03:45 Wanted to be Navy pilot—passed pilots tests—underweight—ate a lot
04:30 Enlisted November 3rd to V-6 program—U.S. Naval Reserves
05:45 V-6 program—had enough points to leave service when returned to U.S.—could have stayed but did not want career in Navy
06:15 Business College—Assistant Crew Chief on B-29s on air field for 6 months—furlough—selling insurance
07:15 “Over here” 1951—guided missile program—physics—postal service—operation maintenance
07:50 Price of utilities at University of Illinois over time
09:00 Boot Camp—friends from home—15-year-old friend changed birth certificate—Navy Pier aviation school, December 1942 to June, 1943—everything about airplanes—parts, maintenance
10:20 Engine prop backfired—man hit on head and knocked out
10:45 Aero-gunner
11:37 Alameda, Lake Sheba, Robert Stack—school—shooting practice with 50 caliber gun
12:20 Assigned to squadron 57
13:05 California--U.S.S. Tebenna—troop ship—German-made—put in tubs—20 mm guns
13:55 Periscope sited—Japanese had placed periscope on square raft in ocean
14:30 Zigzagging from Cook Islands to New Hebrides
15:00 Japanese scouting plane flew over—counted 20 lights in plane
15:30 Transport ship—bathrooms were troughs—drinkable water on 30 minutes a day
16:20 New Hebrides— islands, trees
16:55 Admiral Calhoun’s living quarters—fully-furnished hut—assigned to pick up coconuts—Palmolive owned island’s coconut trees—U.S. paid them \$25 per tree cut down—

- Admiral Calhoun was commander of Pacific Fleet Air—Richard Nixon on New Caledonia
- 19:50 U.S. Tibenna up North—torpedoed by Japanese
- 20:45 Crossed equator twice
- 21:30 Bottom plate of ship knocked off
- 22:12 Ship carrying trucks full of candy—stealing candy, food—not fed much
- 22:58 From New Caledonia to Espartos
- 24:35 Captain found out he could set tables—assigned to set tables for chiefs—swimming with natives on islands—natives would come to the theatre for movie nights
- 26:38 Every 7 days, one day off—given command car and case of beer—visit native village—90-year-old chief told them story about when his tribe was cannibalistic, ate white people—trip to Theo Pass
- 30:30 Theo Pass—mined Nickel—Vichy French
- 31:25 Animals on islands
- 32:40 All 4 Admirals together at New Caledonia—Admiral Hallstead’s plane
- 35:20 Flying—looking for submarines—up in planes for about 4 ½ hours at a time at about 2,000 feet—Dauntless Dive Bombers—manning twin 30 guns behind pilot
- 37:50 Didn’t want Japanese to come back around Australia—they were there to watch—while there sunk Japanese submarine—captured 20 Japanese men
- 38:45 First had twin-wing plane with platoons on—could land on water and land—then changed to Dauntless Dive Bombers
- 39:12 Flying from New Caledonia—November, 1943—while plane Captain, flew 4 hours a month—2nd Class Petty Officer
- 39:58 [Reads plane log]
- 40:50 Plane Captain—worrying about his planes while they were out on missions—developed a spastic colon
- 42:00 Planes traveled on different sectors
- 42:30 Plane trouble—plane coughed, was going down—pilot jumped, boy didn’t—pilot’s parachute saved him, boy’s didn’t because he waited too long to open it—died, buried there—pilot rescued on Destroyer—got back 3 days later
- 44:15 Got Flying Duck in case of future rescues—never used
- 44:38 A lot of pressure—boys he worked with—thieves, card cheaters
- 46:02 Recreation—baseball, softball, basketball
- 46:25 Each man got 2 bottles of beer a night—he sold them for 10 cents apiece—drank until married later—fast heart, spastic colon—took Fenalbar for his heart
- 48:02 Came back to U.S. after 20-some months—took medical survey—30-day-leave—drank moderately
- 49:39 Correspondence—writing 10 ladies, brother in Army, stepbrother in Marines
- 50:25 Father died in September, 1944
- 51:37 Stepmother remarried in October or November
- 52:35 15-year-old friend dated 25-35-year-old women in Chicago
- 53:35 Arrived in U.S. with just work clothes—given tailored uniforms—cartons of cigarettes
- 56:30 Happy to serve—lucky—friends in service
- 57:50 Influenced life—taught to work with people, respect people
- 58:20 Too much pressure

59:10 85 semester hours in 1950-1951 at Commercial College—higher accounting, business
01:00:45 Labor Relations School
01:01:27 [Wrap-up—cuts out]