

**Video Recording Log
Veteran Ralph Langenheim**

1. Name and address of collector of interviewer.

Name of Donor/Interviewer: Nancy Rotzoll
Address: 300 N. Goodwin Ave.
City: Urbana
State: IL
Zip: 61801
Telephone: 217-333-7300
Email: rotzoll@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: Ralph L. Langenheim
Birth Date: 05/26/1922

3. Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

4. Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 112 minutes (two parts: 60, 52)

Date of recording: 08/30/2007, 08/31/2007

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.

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Day 2 of 2**

00:00 [Intro tape 2]

00:38 LCIs to Charlestown, SC for refitting—Italy, North Africa

01:00 Carried troops from Naples to Leghorn, Italy in LCIs—batches of 200 men—
Brazilian Expeditionary Force—Labor Battalions in Italian Army—96th Division,
African American Division

02:00 Pulled 45th, 36th Divisions out of lines, replaced with Brazilian and 96th—
“different”—grew up in segregated Oklahoma

02:35 Troop officer edgy and aggressive

- 03:05 Took ship out and anchored—some men jumped ship and swam ashore
- 03:35 Brazilians—dictator trying to make Brazil major power—had never been around Latin Americans—troop officer gave him his watch—did not have anything to give back
- 04:18 One load of troops: medical officer said might have to be quarantined—one man had “la cachumba”—Mumps—resolved, men went ashore
- 05:10 Parziali—4th Officer played practical joke on Captain—hired prostitute to come to the ship and say she was looking for the Captain—Captain was a Mormon Bishop
- 06:10 4th Officer was taken off duty in Naples—pharmacist had been trying to get him to a Naval Hospital for tuberculosis—ended up hitchhiking to Naples to get X-rayed
- 06:49 Bizerte—shores leave—went to marketplace even though off-limits—leave—French-colonial people cooked traditional meal in-home—simple meal, stucco house
- 07:55 Charleston, SC—gutted, rebuilt ship—took away half of crew—training
- 08:15 Went to Pacific Coast—Atlantic Ocean was secure—lights on ships and lighthouses—pleasant cruise South to Key West, FL
- 08:50 LCI convoy—Navigated by LCI officers—quarrel because of navigation error
- 09:40 Voyage to the Caribbean—weather calm and warm—flying fish and dolphins—up coast

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- 10:15 Escort, Japanese in Pacific Ocean—could have been attacked
- 10:28 Marine upwelling, water currents—ocean life, fishermen—some ships shot at sea life—forbidden on his ship and others
- 12:00 San Diego, CA—training mode—took Venereal Disease cases to hospital—Panama Canal shore leave
- 12:48 Alan Hamilton—new officer—training—replaced 4th officer—took photographs on trip up to Alaska
- 13:20 Practice landing on Channel islands—tangled anchor on screw

- 13:55 Getting ready to go to Asia—worried
- 14:05 Orders to go up to Alaska—ships to be lend-leased to Soviet Navy right before end of war, 1946
- 15:00 Went up to Seattle—painted French flags on ship—shore leave in Seattle, WA
- 15:40 Up to Alaska through Inside Passage—arrived in Vancouver Island—next day, started traveling in daytime only—Narrow channels covered in trees—glow of Prince Rupert—Ketchikan shore leave
- 16:38 Engineering Officer a “Mustang”—ex-enlisted man
- 17:10 Gulf of Alaska—radio man had been listening to Tokyo Rose, welcomed them to the islands—knew number of ships in convoy—disconcerting because had no escort
- 17:35 Kodiak Island—shore leave
- 17:50 Past Pavlov volcano—puffing out smoke
- 18:10 Coal Bay, Fort Randall—huts on tundra, no trees—bleak, cold
- 18:30 Transferring ship to Russian command
- 20:25 Rumors about ship—ultimately returned to U.S.—stricken from list
- 21:00 LCIs
- 23:30 Flew up to Kodiak—transport with LCI officers on the way back
- 23:50 30 days leave—train to Minneapolis, Des Moines, Kansas City, Tulsa

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- 24:08 Posted to command ship in Pacific Fleet—LCI G397 gun boat—ordered to report to Okinawa to pick up ship
- 24:24 Train to San Francisco Naval District—Black Cat Flotilla—officer was interesting WWII character that no one has written about and should
- 27:20 Crew impressed he had been to Normandy—mutual respect and fear—took command, brought back across ocean—traveling in convoy to San Diego, CA
- 28:15 Orders to report to New Orleans—someone dropped wrench in engine to sabotage trip

- 29:15 Down coast—flag ship—given orders to take command of ship while officer was sick with diarrhea on toilet—describes friendship with Edward Lewis Yates
- 30:55 Search Radar—P.P.I.s—messenger came and said they were on collision course—Gulf of Nokoya—lighthouse ahead—headed for shore with gang of ships—changed course
- 32:25 Panama Canal—told to wait to cross—there until mid-afternoon—told to proceed without pilot—challenge, fun—describes locks, near collision
- 34:20 Orders changed—no shore leave—set out at dawn for Galveston, TX—crew’s resentment
- 35:05 Ship sailed alone to Galveston, TX—navigated alone
- 35:20 Arrived at Old Providence Island—Columbian islan North of Panama—decided to stop because men needed shore leave—handmade British maps—Afro-Columbians—sent to seat of power on island—they were only U.S. vessel that landed on the island throughout war
- 37:25 Made B-line for Galveston, TX—across Coral-Strewn Sea—poorly charted, foolish—missed landfalls—sailed across Gulf without seeing anything—somehow made it
- 38:55 Arrived at Galveston—told to wait—went in anyway
- 39:30 Sent up Houston Ship Canal to be decommissioned—ceremony, dress whites—end of sea duty
- 40:00 Went to New Orleans—street vendors, raw oysters
- 40:45 Decommissioned—train to Tulsa, OK—served 3 years, 5 days active duty
- 41:00 4 years of G.I. Bill—got PhD
- 41:20 [Wrap up]

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- 41:35 Passing ship to Russians—not sad—plank owners—attached to people more, maintained friendship with crew mates, helped write book
- 43:00 Writing book—editing—ship log—non-corroborative stories

45:30 Memories—recollections—documents—primary and secondary sources—
memories—oral histories—internet

48:30 People working in policy in government should read more history

48:50 [Wrap up]