

Brad: Hi I'm Brad Hoover here with Ted Hoover, we're going to talk about WW2.

Brad: When were you born?

Ted: Second, second of twenty seven.

Brad: When did you enlist in the war?

Ted: January 29, of 1945.

Brad: How old were you?

Ted: 17

Brad: How were you able to go to the war at age 17?

Ted: My dad had to sign for me.

Brad: Did you enter the Navy?

Ted: Yes.

Brad: What ship were you assigned to?

Ted: Richard B. Anderson DD786

Brad: How big was the ship?

Ted: Well it was the biggest, biggest destroyer they had at that time. I think it was 300 feet long.

Brad: How many people were on there?

Ted: Approximately 300.

Brad: What did you do on that?

Ted: I was a Sea Man aboard that ship, I stood watch and I did whatever jobs came up that I was asked to do. My general quarters was in the 5-inch gun, and I was in the magazine in the 5-inch gun, in

the madrigal round, and I put projectiles into the elevator, and behind the projectile I put a can of powder and it went up the elevator into the gun so I was below the 5-inch gun and send this up the elevator so the fellow's above could load it.

Brad: Where were you stationed at?

Ted: Well, I was stationed at the great lakes in boot camp, and I went to San Francisco awaiting ship and I went to Seattle to get aboard that ship.

Brad: Did you have any entertainment on the boat?

Ted: yeah we had movies and then when we were tied up at the base, we'd go at the base and play baseball or go swimming. Or do anything we wanted when it came to recreation. We also had liberties usually every two out of three nights. We'd go shower off that ship.

Brad: Was their inspections you had to pass for that?

Ted: Ha Ha, yeah, you had to be dressed right and had to be clean, and every Friday we had an inspection of the ship, and every Friday morning we had an inspection of the men.

Brad: What specific details do you remember about the ship?

Ted: Well, it was a nice sleek ship, it was a beautiful ship, a the guns and the torpedo tubes and of course we had twenty millimeter and forty millimeter and 5-inch guns on it. And a destroyer is made up of guns, guns all over it that's mainly what a destroyer is, that is why they them tin cans, because they have very little armor on them, they are just a gun boat is really what they are, and to protect the aircraft carriers and so on. And that's why they run them with the aircraft carriers so those plains can get off and get back on the air craft carrier deck. That's the job of the destroyer.

Brad: How long were you aboard before you could go ashore?

Ted: Well, we had usually two out of three night liberty if we were tied up at base, sometimes we'd go off for a week or two, but we didn't go on land because we were out on the water, so your entertainment was

usually movies, or write letters home, or do whatever you wanted to do, play cards.

Brad: So during the war did you communicate with friends and family a lot?

Ted: Sure, I wrote letters, got home on leave, and talked to them on the phone.

Brad: How long were you involved in the war?

Ted: A little better than eighteen months. The reason for that was I was seventeen when I went in, I signed up for the duration and the six months after, I was in for the six month, the war was over. So I spent a year cleaning up before I got discharged since I was seventeen they let me out as soon as that time came.

Brad: What was your most memorable moment?

Ted: Oh, I have a number of those, one of them I remember most is, we were in a storm south of Seattle Washington, we were on our way to San Francisco and we took a 67 degree roll with that ship, and everyone aboard seemed like they were sea sick.. We didn't know if we were going to make it through or not. It was quite scary. When we got done, our max hand said a 67 degree roll, they claimed we could take a 70 Degree roll without tipping over. But uh, I don't know when that happened, but I remember you couldn't even stand on the deck when you went to eat your lunch or dinner, you had to keep your tray in your hand or it would fall off the table. It was quite an experience, I'll never forget it.

Brad: Anymore moments you want to share with us?

Ted: Aboard the ship you mean? Oh one time a TBF came over, and a TBF is a Torpedo Bomber, Fighter plane, and we were practicing with those planes, we were the target ship, and those pilots were using us for the target. They were dropping the torpedoes and one of those torpedoes slipped and just as it started up out of the water line it hit the side of the ship, and put a hole in the side of the ship, the size of a torpedo, that wasn't so bad, I was standing over the top of it watching the torpedo come in because I thought it was going to hit the ship and it

happened to be the floor part of the ship, and that's where my general station quarter was, and I came out of my gun mount just to watch these planes come over, and I stood there and watched that thing hit the side of the ship. And it bounced when it hit, it bounced back, come to find out it hit the 5-inch powder drum, if that would have knocked a 5-inch powder can loose and hit it on the detonator, that whole part of the ship would have blown up, I didn't realize that when it was going on, it wouldn't have made any difference had I realized it or not, that's where my station was in that whole part of the ship would have blown off there because that powder can room was packed full of powder cans.

Brad: Do you keep in touch with old friends of the war?

Ted: I sure do, we have ships reunion every year now, it started about fifteen years ago, I kept in touch with them before that, with letters, telephone, or seeing them, still do.

Brad: What if any was rewarding about the war?

Ted: Oh, the GI Bill of Rights. We've got a right now the Guthiners Administration Privilege. We wouldn't have had from that, I get any prescription drugs from that at a discounted price. They come from the Vets Administration in Des Moines. Vet benefits have been a great thing for us, to begin with, I went to GI farm school, when I started farming. And that was like going to college, like somebody else went to college I went to GI farm school, the first years that I farmed, I got 100 dollars per month, to start farming.

Brad: How did the war change your life?

Ted: It gives a lot of people to visit with and a lot of new people, it's just really quite a thing to go visit with those people seeing what they did with their life, and how they raised their family, and how we raised ours.

Brad: If you could do it all over again, would you go into the war?

Ted: I sure would,

Brad: Thank you.