

Interviewer: My name is Sara Spencer and today is April 18th. What is your name?

Stanfield: Grace Stanfield.

Interviewer: What day were you born?

Stanfield: December 16, 1927.

Interviewer: Where did you grow up where were you born?

Stanfield: In Montgomery County all my life Clarksville Montgomery County all my life.

Interviewer: What was your father's occupation?

Stanfield: He was a salesman for a fruit and vegetable company that's gone out of business now.

Interviewer: So did you guys live in the Clarksville city limits or did you live in the county?

Stanfield: Back and forth we were out in the county and back in the city limits at different times.

Interviewer: Alright what were your recollections of the great depression was your father's job affected by it?

Stanfield: It was actually before my time. It was over with before I ever really knew what was going on so I don't really know as far as first hand anything about it. Except that I just you know heard but it never really did affect our family as much because they were farmers at that time. And my granddaddy had a grocery store so never did really hear too much about how it affected them.

Interviewer: Okay alright well what are your memories of Pearl Harbor the attack on Pearl Harbor?

Stanfield: I remember it was on a Sunday December the 7th 1945 is that right?

Interviewer: 41

Stanfield: 41 yeh right and we had been to church. I was in the eighth grade at school and we had been to church and went to my grandmother's house after church. And the radio everyone was huddled around the radio which was one of those little square box with the round top on them. And really really upset everybody was just there was a whole crowd of people there because my mother, there were 15 children in her family. And anytime they wanted to go to grandmother and granddaddy's house for Sunday they did she never knew who was coming but she always had enough to eat for everybody so. But I can remember just you know everybody being real upset of course I didn't it really didn't concern me as much as it did later on. But I know that everybody was worried about it and very upset.

Interviewer: Now how many brothers did you have? I know you had two brothers.

Stanfield: I have two and no sisters.

Interviewer: Now at the time of Pearl Harbor did it maybe worry you that maybe they would have to fight in the war did you think about that at all?

Stanfield: I didn't think about it. No not then at the time because I don't remember thinking about it. I'm sure my mother and daddy did but I don't remember thinking about it. Because my brother was only he was only a year well 22 months he was 22 months older than I am well one of them. The other one was six years older than I am so. And he went in first and then my younger brother went in later.

Interviewer: Was your brother that went in first that was older than you six years older than you was he drafted or was he enlisted did he choose to enlist?

Stanfield: I think oh I know they both enlisted because they enlisted and went into the Air Force yeh.

Interviewer: Oh okay do you know what made them choice the Air Core?

Stanfield: I'm thinking to keep from being drafted and having to go into the infantry I think. Like I said that's been so long I don't really know but I'm thinking that's probably what it was.

Interviewer: When did your brothers go in?

Stanfield: When?

Interviewer: Yeh

Stanfield: I don't know for sure. Now I know my youngest brother went in when he was a junior. He enlisted when he was 18 just barley turned 18 before he went into he was one year ahead of me in high school. And so he didn't go in until I'd say maybe four years after the war started but four or five years. Because it was before his senior year and he went in the service and then he came back and graduated in the same class I graduated in so.

Interviewer: So he took basically a year off of school to go serve. Did you feel worried or pour or how did you feel when you found out your brothers had enlisted?

Stanfield: I don't guess I don't really remember because everybody else was gone. I guess it was just thinking I was worried about them of course I said I always can remember when they would come home on leave. I would always say under my breath I hate to see you go but I'm glad you're gone because it would be such a devastating thing when they would have to leave. Everybody would be so upset but I don't really remember how I felt when they went in. But now I remember when my brother youngest brother he drove an old car to report and my mother worried about that more than anything else because she was afraid the old car wouldn't make it. But he was determined to take it when he went in but I don't even remember where he I don't even remember where he went in to the army from where he went from here. I don't remember.

Interviewer: How often would you guys hear from them when they were deployed?

Stanfield: I'd say oh regularly I don't know, neither one of my two brothers were ever in my youngest brother was in China I mean was in China was ready to go in and bomb Japan when the war ended. But the only one of the main things I remember he was in my oldest brother was in was a bombardier and he went air transport command everywhere. And my youngest brother was stationed in I think it was China I'm not sure but anyway it was overseas. And he had no earthly idea that my oldest brother was anywhere around in the country at all and he knew my oldest brother knew where he was. And so he asked them if he could slip in on them and he said it was just amazing. He was peeling potatoes he was on KP when he went in and so that was one of the things I remember more than anything else as far as Artie going in to see Emmett when they were overseas. And they had not seen each other in maybe two or three years something like that.

Interviewer: Did your oldest brother get out when he came home or did he stay in the army?

Stanfield: No they both got out when the war was over.

Interviewer: Did you write your brothers regularly or did you have anyone you might have written who was deployed?

Stanfield: I had a friend that I wrote to regularly yes but I was in high school and he was stationed at had been stationed at Fort Campbell. And then went over seas then I lost contact with him after the years but I'm sure I wrote to my brothers but not I mean my mother wrote every day I guess just about. And but I don't know as I said I was in high school and you know at that age you don't really think about it so much.

Interviewer: What kind of correspondence did you get back from the friend you wrote? Would you get anything monthly or every other month maybe?

Stanfield: I don't really remember I mean I can't even remember if he was overseas I can't remember. The biggest thing that I remember was getting a picture from him in the mail and that was the biggest thing I remember about it. It was just a temporary thing that I was writing to him.

Interviewer: How do you remember you were in the eighth grade I think you said when Pearl Harbor was bombed how do you remember your school being affected by that? Was there a change in the way you guys did things after the war had begun?

Stanfield: The main thing I remember is the day after Pearl Harbor at school we had a radio at school and our teacher who was the principle of the school assistant principle I believe let us listen to the radio all day long. And he Oriole Eager I still remember his name but everybody was huddled around. And we heard the president make his speech of this is the day that will live in infamy and we heard that but that's the main thing I remember about it. But as far as how it affected anything afterwards I don't particularly remember that other than just the day after the war started.

Interviewer: Was your father's business or what did affected by the war at all? Did he have more demand did you see a change in that?

Stanfield: Actually I don't think so but now of course that was during the time everything was rationed and it was so hard to find so many of the, you know sugar and nylon hose and coffee, gasoline. But as far as his fruits and vegetables I don't know that it was particularly because like I said when you're that age you don't really think too much about how it's affecting anything because they just didn't worry us with it. But as far as it affecting I don't think so.

Interviewer: What do you remember about the rationing system? Do you remember the butter being short?

Stanfield: I don't remember butter as much as I do sugar and coffee of course I didn't drink coffee anyway but I heard them talk about it. But gasoline the one thing you talk about our living in different areas we had lived in an area well it was actually only about 10 miles from here but then it was a long way away from here. And had moved into Clarksville but we still drove back out to the church that we had always attended when I was growing up. And but it was with gasoline being rationed caused us to change the member our church membership to the Clarksville Cumberland Presbyterian Church. We had that's where I guess I was about a freshman in high school when we started going to church here because of gas being rationed.

Interviewer: Did you feel disappointed to have to change churches?

Stanfield: No because I really liked it because I had a lot more friends and this was a little small country church. And but I think my mother and daddy had more hesitancy than I did and so but I had a lot of friends from this church and from school cause I went to school here in Clarksville so.

Interviewer: Where did you go to school?

Stanfield: It was called Howell School. It's not here anymore in fact it was destroyed during it sat on the corner of it was across from 5th and Franklin. Okay at the time that all of this was going on do you know where Heitts Florist is on the corner of 5th and Franklin it's a florist. And this was where our church was which was the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. But later it moved out to Golf Club Lane and Madison Street in 59 I believe it was. But Howell School was directly across the street from the church that we attended. But anyway it was destroyed when they had the tornado here in 2000 yeh.

Interviewer: Was it a private school or public school?

Stanfield: No it was a public school no it was a public school.

Interviewer: Was it 7th through 12th or?

Stanfield: 1st through 8th.

Interviewer: Okay you were in high school for the later part of the war.

Stanfield: Yeh Clarksville High.

Interviewer: Did you go to Clarksville High?

Stanfield: Yeh which was down on Greenwood Avenue now yeh not the new one I mean out where it is now.

Interviewer: What do you remember of like war bond drives or

Stanfield: I remember that we everybody would bring dimes on I think on Monday and we would get stickers. We'd put in so many dimes whatever we brought and we'd get a sticker for every dime that we brought in. And then at the end when we filled it up we'd get a \$25 savings bond. I got a few but so I remember that.

Interviewer: Do you remember any kinds of drives for like aluminum or rubber? Did you ever have maybe a car or a bike you had to put up because you took the wheels off of it?

Stanfield: No not anything like that.

Interviewer: Alright did you ever entertainment offered at a war bond rally? Were there any war bond rallies around here?

Stanfield: It may have been but I don't recall any. I remember one of the things we did was going to the USO and it was down on 5th not 5th but Commerce no that's not the name of the street College Street and Second Street was there you know where the Mr. Tuxedo place? Yeh that's where it was and a bunch of us from school and church would go to USO club. And some from Fort Campbell so we didn't go out with them but.

Interviewer: What did you dance?

Stanfield: Yeh and just to be there play the pianos and things just be there and talk to them cause it was a group that went all the time.

Interviewer: Did you ever meet any men that had returned from war while you were there?

Stanfield: I don't recall I think most of these were just coming in to Fort Campbell you know were very young and hadn't gone overseas or anything.

Interviewer: Did you ever work during the war at all?

Stanfield: Yeh I'm sure I did because I worked during high school at

Interviewer: What did you do?

Stanfield: At a ladies clothing store downtown down on Franklin Street on Saturdays.

Interviewer: What made you choose that job was it just an after school fun job?

Stanfield: Well it's rather strange we had always traded there and during at school we were selling quilts chances on a quilt of course you can't do that now I don't think. But and I kept going to this man that owned the store and he kept telling me what a good salesman I was and I said well when are you going

to let me come to work for you and he said when your 16. So when I was 16 I turned 16 on the 16th of December and I went in and I said I'm 16 today. And he said okay you can go to work so I did.

Interviewer: Did you work as like a saleslady did you sell dresses?

Stanfield: Yeh

Interviewer: That's interesting. Do you recall any of the blue star and gold star mothers that might have displayed the stars in their window for?

Stanfield: I don't really remember knowing any of them but I have heard of them but I don't remember actually knowing somebody that did or seeing them. I don't remember that.

Interviewer: Did you know anyone that was wounded in combat or might have lost or anyone here that had lost somebody in combat?

Stanfield: Let me think a minute. I know a person that was killed yes. He had what I remember most about this was that he he was engaged to a person in the family and ended up that this he was killed and she dies within I'd say a year or so afterwards. And the doctor said she died of a broken heart so I don't really know what was wrong with her but I just remember that. And of course that I had so many of my uncles you know my mothers brothers and her sisters husbands everybody in our family was actually there was not you know I told you my mother there was 15 in the family. And at the time during the war all the way through the two she had actually four brothers two were in the was one was older and he was not but then two were. Then the youngest brother who's still living he was not actually in well yes he was he was in the war he was a Chaplin. And but he retired and is the Methodist Minister he's retired from that now too. But then my Christine, Crick as we call her, she's one of the sisters and her husband and well let's see Aunt Jen, Dot, Aunt Vera but her husband was not in service. But Dot, Aunt Crick, Jen and Camilla, Betty there were four sisters who had their husbands were gone and I think that's right. And then of course I had the two at one time my grandmother I would say at least between her two sons and her four son-in-laws and I would say at least seven or eight grandsons that were in the war that were gone.

Interviewer: So as a family during the war did you find like holidays to be different not having the men around or did you feel could you feel the lack of a male presence in the family at all or?

Stanfield: I don't really know I mean everybody realized they were gone. But at Christmas you know we still got together and of course there was still quite a few around. And then there were some that were coming that would be on leave or something. But I don't really remember that there was I mean I'm sure it was very sad to the ones that had those missing but it wasn't we still had our get togethers is what I'm saying.

Interviewer: Christmas is still Christmas. Now did you guys have a telephone service or a radio?

Stanfield: We had a radio yes we had a telephone.

Interviewer: Was that how you got your news through the radio?

Stanfield: I'm sure so I'm sure so. Newspaper and radio and of course we got telephone calls.

Interviewer: Did you ever remember fearing a telephone call that might say that they had been hurt or something had gone wrong?

Stanfield: I don't remember but I'm sure my mother did I'm sure she did yeh.

Interviewer: Now how did your family feel about how FRD handled the war? Do you feel like you were pretty much united behind what he was doing?

Stanfield: How what?

Interviewer: How did your family feel about FRD's decisions in running the war? Did you feel like he was doing a good job were you united behind him?

Stanfield: The president is that what you're saying?

Interviewer: Yeh

Stanfield: FDR okay I didn't catch what you were saying. Oh yes definitely definitely we've never felt the same since about a war strongly.

Interviewer: Really

Stanfield: I don't mean I mean I mean our nation our nation has never felt the same about a war. That was definitely a very very united effort and it's never been the same since about a war.

Interviewer: Do you remember your family listening to his talks on the radio at all?

Stanfield: Yeh yeh

Interviewer: Was it something to kind of you know like a TV show now like you've got to catch this at 7:30 or?

Stanfield: Oh yeh yeh I'm sure the fireside he had fireside chats.

Interviewer: Yeh what do you remember do you remember the dropping of the atomic bombs?

Stanfield: Oh yes I remember it. That was when I was working at the store that I was talking about at Bergman's and hearing the news that the war had ended. And how did I feel about it? It was we were glad that the war was ending but it was thinking about all of those people that were gone you know. And they were good people too and it's kind of hard to say that you are glad it happened so that those people were killed. But we were glad the war was going to end.

Interviewer: Now what about did you notice a different in the community of Clarksville with the influx of Fort Campbell? I know Fort Campbell kind of started right around WWII. Did you mean obviously having soldiers around was probably a new thing how was the community in Clarksville different?

Stanfield: Well of course it began to grow and then people welcomed Fort Campbell because of the war the soldiers we had I can remember several times we had people come young men come home I started to call them children but they weren't then. They would come home from church we had people we had a lot of them in our church and they would come in. In fact people would go to Fort Campbell and get you know car loads or and that was the day they picked them up on the highway you know if they were trying to hitch hike in and they would mother would fix Sunday dinner for them. And we had several that were there you know for different times everybody did that.

Interviewer: What about I had a question, oh what about the base being there. Did you guys ever go out to look at it were you allowed to go?

Stanfield: Oh yeh yeh I went from youth group from church in fact I went on Christmas morning one time. And sang at the choir sang at something I can't remember what it was and oh yeh we went several times for different things and you could go on post. But I'm sure there were restrictions but I don't remember ever being kept from going if we were trying to go for something but.

Interviewer: What did you think about the post? Did you think it was neat or did you was it just like any other thing?

Stanfield: I don't remember thinking really particular about it, it was just as I said it was about the time it was starting and it actually started before I was even old enough to think about what was like without it. So I don't really remember what it was before but as I said then it was a lot smaller than it is now but still it was nice to be in Clarksville I mean to have a base. The main thing I remember about it was because and I still don't like it is because it is Fort Campbell Kentucky and more of it is in Tennessee. But the headquarters was in Kentucky and that's why it's Fort Campbell Kentucky so.

Interviewer: Now do you remember a change in the population here as the men began to come home after the war after the you know after things were over in Japan?

Stanfield: If it grew?

Interviewer: Yeh do you remember it growing after that time?

Stanfield: I don't really remember I remember my mother and daddy, I can't remember if that was when I was no that was later I believe, they had a small apartment in their house but this was after I married and of course after the war was over. They rented to a Fort Campbell soldier and his wife I mean several different ones. But that was not during the war.

Interviewer: But after the war you could see a growing demand

Stanfield: Oh I know what I remember as much as anything was how there was no housing for Fort Campbell soldiers. And even my can I tell now I'm not going to tell the story we talked about but one that I do remember that kind of was funny we had this young my mother and daddy had this little girl, young lady, that her husband was overseas I mean not overseas but was at Fort Campbell. And she came to visit from New York and they let her come to their house and stay you know had a room there and my mother was out they only had one bathroom and she was taking a bath and my dad was supposed to be working. And you had to know him to know he was a very very private sensitive person that would never look at anybody out of you know. But my mother was outside hanging out clothes and he came home unexpectedly and opened the bathroom door and in fact I don't think she even had it closed because she didn't know anybody was there but my mother. But my mother said he came outside and said I didn't see a thing I didn't see a thing. I promise she had her back turned I didn't see a thing. And she said she told my mother said you don't ever have to worry about him because if you could have seen the color of his face. But anyway I just said I do remember they had this couple that stayed there and then I remember another couple they were from Georgia had an apartment there. But people did open up their homes. That's what I started to say because there was just not enough housing for people that they did open up their homes and let them come and stay.

Interviewer: Now how long after the war did you meet your husband because your husband fought in WWII correct?

Stanfield: Yeh we met in 46 so he just had come back from the war.

Interviewer: Did he stay in the army afterwards?

Stanfield: No

Interviewer: He got right out?

Stanfield: He got out and we met in 46 and married in 49.

Interviewer: Did you meet him in Clarksville? Had he been stationed here?

Stanfield: Yeh

Interviewer: How did you meet him?

Stanfield: I was working, I was right out of high school then, and I was working at a lawyer's office downtown and he was working at a clothing store right across the street and we just started seeing each other.

Interviewer: Was he from Clarksville or had he come here as a result of?

Stanfield: No he is Patsy's mother's, they were all from here, Patsy's mother's brother so.

Interviewer: Oh okay

Stanfield: Yeh so I've been knowing Patsy since she was six years old.

Interviewer: Would he talk about his experience at all to you or did he later on.

Stanfield: He didn't I started to say not particularly when we first met and started dating. But his company the 181st field artillery unit that he was in and they every year had an army reunion and we always went to the army reunion. And that's when they talked when the men got together of their experiences so.

Interviewer: Where ha d he been where was he at in the war?

Stanfield: He never he was ready to go overseas so he never did actually go overseas. He was stationed the war ended before he ever went overseas and he was stationed at Camp Pendleton California and actually he was in the National Guard and they went in as the whole unit went in together so.

Interviewer: Okay do you remember now I know you were in school during the war and towards the end of the war you were in high school probably like your junior year sophomore or junior year.

Stanfield: When it ended you mean?

Interviewer: Yeh

Stanfield: I would say so I actually cannot remember.

Interviewer: It ended in 45 so.

Stanfield: Yeh I graduated in 46 I said I met him in 46 I guess it was 47 because I graduated in 46.

Interviewer: Do you remember discussing the war at all in your later years of high school at school? Do you remember as you were getting older also maybe the men that were there you know going to school with you maybe being worrying about when they graduate having to go in?

Stanfield: We had quite a few out of the class that were in service but I really don't remember you know at that age you're not as concerned about things as you are later on. But I don't really remember really talking and worrying about them or anything like that. But we had several that married even when they were in school because they were going to be leaving and I do remember that.

Interviewer: Did any of your friends experience that?

Stanfield: One in particular yeh.

Interviewer: Would she get correspondence from him often or how was it being newly married and

Stanfield: I don't really remember that much about it except that she just I just remember they got married. She wasn't a real close friend but someone that I did or was a friend but not a real close one.

Interviewer: Okay many report a feeling of psychic well being because everyone during the war because everyone had a job and there was just a feeling of being united. And I know you mentioned that earlier do you recall feeling like that? Do you recall feeling extremely together with fellow Americans?

Stanfield: The one thing I do remember now I don't know that this has anything to do with your question but I had forgotten about this. My mother had never worked out of the home and she went to work at M.A. what now is Vulcan was B.F. Goodrich and they made parachutes and she worked there a time worked the second shift. What I remember more about that was I did the night shift because I would get home from school and she'd be working and I'd fix supper at night.

Interviewer: What drew her into the work force? Was it the need or was it the opportunity?

Stanfield: I think well I mean of course I'm sure they could use the money like everyone else but I think it was the fact that she felt needed and it was something that she could do. And she also, and I did that too, worked I don't know I can't even remember what it was with Red Cross volunteering doing first kits bandages or something with kits.

Interviewer: Rolling them

Stanfield: Yeh right rolling bandages or something for the Red Cross I remember doing that and she did too.

Interviewer: Did she leave her job once the war was over or did she continue to work?

Stanfield: Yeh she didn't work but just two or three years or something if that long I don't remember.

Interviewer: Alright many American's look back on the war years as the best years of their lives despite the sacrifices that were made. How do you look at the war years now? How do you view them in perspective?

Stanfield: Well I don't know that I would ever say that they were the best years of my life but I don't really remember being devastated by it you know as far as because like I said I was younger and didn't really I mean I experienced my brothers being gone. But it wasn't like a husband or you know something like that but I do remember you know being regretting when they left. But as far as being devastated I don't remember that.

Interviewer: Alright well thank you very much.