

Sam Bowser

Interviewer: What is your full name?

Mr. Bower: Sam Bowser full name Samuel C Bowser.

Interviewer: Where were you born?

Mr. Bower: I was born in Duncansville, Pennsylvania in 1924.

Interviewer: And to whom were you born, your parent's names.

Mr. Bower: Earl and Alta Bowser.

Interviewer: What were their occupations your parents occupations?

Mr. Bowser: My father was a railroad engineer and in those days when I was home I had 7 brothers at home and 2 sisters and we had one bicycle. Whoever got up early in the morning got the bicycle you know those days. But you know even though my father didn't make much money in those days we were never hungry and we had good discipline in my home but there was a fallacy in my home that I didn't realize until later on in years. Though my father and mother were kind to me and I'm sure they loved me in my whole life I have never knelt down and prayed with my mother and father and never sat in a church with my mother and father and we lived less than we lived about 20 yards from a church. But they just weren't church going people so consequently church never meant much to me because I had no inspirational aspect of I don't know who God was until about 10 or 12 years ago. I knew who he was but I didn't have a personal relationship with him until I become a Pentecostal christen and was baptized in Jesus name then the full meaning of what my obligation to God came out. When I first joined the military service and was going through training in Paris Island, South Carolina it was almost a sin to go to church. I told my drill instructor that I would like to go to church and his words were "are you sure you want to do this." And I said yes I think I would like to go to church. Well they thought you were goofing off in those days so I went to church and as soon as I come back from church I went on mess duty in the mess hall. Anyhow that's how the military looked at it. I'm glad today that the military is not like that. In the military today God is placing people in stringent places so he can do the work he wants them to do.

Interviewer: What about when you were living at home what kind of job did you work?

Mr. Bowser: I went to school most of the time but there weren't many jobs. We were permitted to go down in the mines in Pennsylvania on the first level and in those days when they'd bring the coal out of the mines they had dumpster carts and dunkies would pull the carts and if some of the coals fell off and we were allowed to go down that first level and throw the lumps of coal back on the cart so the dunkies could pull them out. And for that we got 25 cents a day, big money. Saturday night you could go to the movie get a coke and popcorn for 25 cents solid movie. It was a big deal.

Interviewer: What was the last grade you completed before going into WWII?

Mr. Bowser: What?

Interviewer: What was the last grade in school?

Mr. Bowser: Ninth grade, yeh ninth grade. Sixteen years old and I just a guy told me a guy that was retired from the Navy at that time said don't you know your countries at war what kind of a guy are you you know. And I thought well maybe I better be out there so off I go sixteen years old.

Interviewer: So you enlisted?

Mr. Bowser: Yeh I enlisted.

Interviewer: Sixteen wow that's one of the younger you were one of the youngest to be in at that time weren't you?

Mr. Bowser: Yeh it didn't matter too much they didn't look a lot in those days they were looking for bodies cause they knew what was going on we were heavy in war with Germany in those days. And they was trying to build up the forces.

Interviewer: No before you went in did you I guess knowing that you wanted to go in you had quite a bit of knowledge about the war and the.

Mr. Bowser: No I knew there was a war but it didn't mean much to me because I couldn't see it I couldn't feel it and even after I got in the service until Pearl Harbor came along we didn't really care much about the war because it wasn't affecting us in our geological location in the United States. And then when WII broke out I was already on a ship headed toward Iceland.

Interviewer: I was going to ask you about the news on the radio and the newspapers that were published that broadcasted during the time. Before the war I mean FDR made sure that people were aware of the war.

Mr. Bowser: We were aware of it and eager to be part of it you know. I wanted to go to the South Pacific I wanted to go to the Pacific where most of my friends went the highly decorated Johnny Basalone who was decorated on Guadalcanal was a good friend of mine and I wanted to be with him and that kind of stuff. You know you just got to go where they send you to go.

Interviewer: Yeh you don't get to choose exactly. Did you get to choose your I guess your occupation or what you wanted to do.

Mr. Bowser: Yeh when I first went in the service I was a machine gunner later on in years a guy told me said you better get out of that occupation your going to get yourself killed. So I jumped over into the logistics field lumbar case logistic but I couldn't understand why I was going to Iceland until later on the whole picture came into focus and as I mentioned before if we had not controlled Iceland I think we would have lost the war to Europe. Because the convoys used to leave the United States and other parts of the world and form up in Iceland to make the voyage from Iceland up into Morass, Russia and the story of those brave merchant seaman needs to be read about and talked about because and example

maybe a convoy of 30 ships would leave Iceland and maybe 15 of them would arrive in Morass because the German controlled the North Atlantic with the submarine fleet. We had nothing to fight them with. All we had to fight them with was German I mean the British corvettes which was a light cruiser it was swift and fast and the only other things we had was a the flying PVYs that would few in the sky and would stop the submarine where they were and they would drop depth chargers all over them. In fact I was the admirals orderly for a while and one night early in the morning he had closed the officers club because he thought too much drinking was going on and they weren't doing their job and so a message come in and he so passing by me he said maybe you'd like to read this marine. So I read it and the top said sank sub open club. So that king of thing so everybody had a job to do. The mobilization of our country at that time was fantastic. Everybody forgot about themselves and did what was right to defend our country.

Interviewer: And that was here in the U.S. as well.

Mr. Bowser: Yeh it was fantastic what happened and in the service the service instead of being the Navy and the Air Force and the Marine Core it was we were one fighting unit. We had to somebody obtained knowledge about what each others job was and this made for a better fighting force.

Interviewer: I'm sure it did now before I go any farther what unit were you in and what part of the service what branch?

Mr. Bowser: Well when we first went to Iceland we were the first Marine division brigade we called it. Those were the early days in Iceland and Iceland was full of Germans and full of spies. Anyhow I finally finished that tour and went back to the states and went to Camp Patton, California and later on shipped out to on a transport to Guam and the invasion of Guam was already had taken place and we were I was with an artillery outfit 9th antiaircraft artillery battalion. And our job was to was mopping up you know going into the jungles and so on and so forth and trying to get the Japanese out of the jungle and so forth. We didn't know what we were doing we just went out there and looked for them like you'd go hunting for rabbits you know what I mean. They were there they had been there a long time. I look at it this way today imagine if a fighting force invaded your hometown it would take them a long time to root you out because you would know where to hide and what to do and so forth. It was that kind of war. I remember one time on Guam I was sergeant and this lieutenant tried to patrol on a cave and the war was winding down a little bit and he told me to go up there and throw a hand grenade in there and I said well why don't we just throw a smoke grenade in there and I said that will bring them out instead of killing anymore people. But he didn't want to so I had to jump up in the mouth of that cave and I carried a sub machine gun with me and I had to spray it out in that cave. We went in there and there wasn't anyone in there but you don't know that. And we would bring prisoners back and I hate to say that I don't think that sometime they got the best treatment because we had a mesa sergeant who had had his brother killed on Saipan the Battle of Saipan so I don't what he was doing to the Japanese food but I know he was doing something.

Interviewer: No they wouldn't die he just he was just that kind of a guy you know. Then while I was on Guam the Battle of Okinawa was taking place and I came from Okinawa on a LST and we was working

the beaches here at the time. And I was detached from my unit on Guam to come to Okinawa then after Okinawa 1945 August 45 just before that I returned to Guam and our unit with all its guns and everything went back to the states. But I do say this we had discipline unequivocal discipline. And I think that was the backbone of getting the job done as far as I was concerned. There was no question about when you when you had told somebody to do something you know who said so or something like that and you know then I went to Korea and Korea was different story different war altogether. I was on the Hon River Patrol in Korea where you would have been familiar with the news at that time we were fired on but we weren't allowed to fire back and that kind of stuff. Korea I was never worried about getting killed I was worried about freezing to death most of all. Then I come back from Korea and decided to retire from the Marine core and I retired. And I came back to live on Okinawa get married and live on Okinawa. Then I'd been retired almost eight years when Vietnam come along and I got a letter from the government inviting me to come back on active duty because I had a critical MOS and so I got foolish one day and signed the papers and went back from Okinawa went back on active duty. And prior to that I had been in Vietnam before as a civilian I went back and making big bucks and so here I am back in Vietnam again making half the money I was when I was down there a civilian. Vietnam I think everybody that ever was in Vietnam could be considered a hero to some extent. There was no safe place in Vietnam there just was no safe place in Vietnam. I was out in the boondocks and I never felt safe there was just too much possibility. But I'll tell you a fantastic story true. I went up to Dong Ha which is up by the 38th parallel there and I went up to visit a friend of mine. So he said come on we're going to go out and eat a steak dinner tonight well off we go and we come into this compound up at Dong Ha and I forget the name of it now but here is what the idea of what this Dong Ha was. We went in this building and we get inside and there was white linen on the table and we had white napkins and we had wine and everything you could think of and you were just removed from the war temporarily. And I couldn't imagine what this was but the purpose behind that organization it was controlled by the army at the time I think and there was high ranking officers' in there. And their job was to lure the North Vietnamese over to our side so we could get information out of them as to what the situation was down on their side. So naturally you want to bring them in and show them how nice we live and that was the whole ideal behind it. But you talk about being king for a day that was fantastic. But here we were up on the front line four or five miles away and that actually happened there. Then I went down to Dong Ha for R & R the famous the China beach been there many times and a little boys walking down the street there walking along and he reminded me of so many little boys in our country. And I said how would you like to have a coke and he said yeh I like coke GI so I said com eon I'll buy you all a coke that you can drink. And while we were walking along he took his hand and he took my watch so swiftly off my wrist and he wasn't interested in a coke he was interested in that watch. Because those children were taught that because down there it was the survival of the fittest and probably what he sold that watch for would feed his family for a week or maybe even a month. Then on e night I was a guard on a truck that was bringing stuff back from the beach in Dong Ha back to the supply area. Had a Vietnamese driver on the truck and I'm a guard along with one other guy. So we suddenly come up over this little rise and there were stones on the road you couldn't move so naturally my first inclination was to go out there and blow them guys away. But the Vietnamese guy took me by the arm and he says don't get out you'll be dead if you get out. So we sat there this is true we sat there and they brought people and unloaded that truck while we sat there and there was nothing we could do about it. Then they rolled

the rocks out of the way and we went back empty and then he had to make a report of this and this was a frequent occasion. They would just pick a spot in the road where there was nobody to bother you and they would stop that truck and unload it and there wasn't much you could do about it. That was some of the situations. Then on the beach one night we were told we could get a beer and naturally everybody wants a beer. So we went over to the beach and here's this Vietnamese woman and she had a small bar set up there and I would say no less than 200 cases of U.S. beer stacked all around her so we was curious about this so I talked to a Navy Chief on the beach. I said boy this is something else he said you would think it was pretty bad wouldn't you and I said yeh from looking at its pretty bad he said you've got to look at it from another point of view. He says if we don't do this they guys are gonna break the beer open the cases open and get the bear anyhow you can't control everything. He says here we watch it we monitor it we let them come up here and drink a couple of beers and then go back to work. But that was just some of the things that happen in war. And it was a good cause at the time it didn't look good but there was plenty of beer so what's the difference. And so that Vietnamese woman had a baby she had a baby probably 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning 11 o'clock she was back and had her bar open again. But I in relating all my experiences I thought we had a good service all of the services worked together for the same cause to make sure our country was free. I have my own reservations about somebody that went go to war and fight for their country then you look around and see the different jobs in the military where people was never in a combat zone because they were needed someplace else. In Vietnam what they used to do with those kind of guys that didn't want to carry a weapon the first sergeant would ask him said you're not refusing to fight are you and he said no said I just don't want to carry a weapon. He said well fine he said then he said here's your choice your going on outpost tonight the furtherist distance to the enemy you can get he says you don't have to take your rifle if you don't want to. Well no human being in his right sense would go on out post with some kind of a weapon so that kind of solved that problem.

Interviewer: What about WWII what kind of combat experiences did you

Mr. Bowser: Well my combat experiences was on Gum mostly and Okinawa you had your own security your own area which you were responsible for so your area wouldn't get run over and so forth. Just remember everyone was a rifleman even a cook my brother died maybe five years ago from wounds sustained on Ewagema he was almost a vegetable when he come off of Ewagema and my other brother suffered severe wounds from Vietnam also. So our family was well represented in the war. I look at it this was I was just like I said I was an obedient Marine I went anywhere they wanted me to I did anything they wanted me to do and I stayed as long as they wanted to and that's what made out forces such a powerful organization.

Interviewer: During WWII did you have a lot of contact with civilians?

Mr. Bowser: With what?

Interviewer: With the civilians?

Mr. Bowser: Civilians no I not really.

Interviewer: What about prisoners of war?

Mr. Bowser: Well we had our own prisoners of war that we took and we would keep in our area until a high unit would come down and take them and put them into a stockade thing like that. But we weren't allowed to touch them or anything we just guarded them and then would go on and so forth.

Interviewer: Except the mess sergeant.

Mr. Bowser: Yeh they were treated real good in comparison in how some of our prisoners were treated. I would do it all over again I guess is I had to. I'm glad it's all behind me.

Interviewer: We appreciate your service. You saved our country.

Mr. Bowser: I feel very fortunate I fell very fortunate to have come out of Vietnam without a scratch because as I reiterate again there was no safe place on Vietnam. You had to constantly look where you lived around your hut and where you walked because the thread was always there forever and ever.

Interviewer: Was it like that during WWII as well?

Mr. Bowser: No because you kind of knew you knew where the action was you knew where the enemy was. He didn't have much of a chance to come in and do that kind of thing. He was too busy taking care of his own territory and making sure diminished our troops as much as he could.

Interviewer: What were the living conditions like during WWII?

Mr. Bowser: Well normal for a normal for a soldier you lived in a pup tent and toward the end of the war we had larger tents strong back tents later on. Aside from that you just lived day to day out of your pack.

Interviewer: Did you have a mess hall set up or did you eat rations?

Mr. Bowser: No we ate rations we ate rations until things subsided a little bit then they had tents made into mess halls. That didn't make the food any better but I was a lucky guy. Spam was a great thing you know spam they call Hawaiian steak. And I always liked spam and I knew there would always be plenty of it so.

Interviewer: What about you're training for WWII where did you train for WWII beside Paris Island?

Mr. Bowser: Well when you got to the unit like Camp Pendleton you was always training up and down up and down hills all of the time in those days you were always training wherever you were you was always ready to go.

Interviewer: Do you feel it was adequate for what

Mr. Bowser: Yeh I thought it was adequate because we were in outstanding physical condition and we knew our weapons and we knew a little bit about the enemy. I don't think on our level at the time know I'm talking about I was a buck sergeant at the time 19 years old I was a buck sergeant and I don't think

we got as much information about the situation as we should have known but then I look back and I said maybe they didn't know as much about the situation as we thought they did. Because it's the case of five miles down the road you're going to face the enemy and if we knew where the enemy was we could have the artillery on them and blow them away but we don't know where they are they were here yesterday but we don't know where they are today that type of thing. One comment I have about Korea I think we could have learned a great lesson from the Chinese Communist that we captured. Because we were always burdened down with heavy pack a heavy load on our back which kept us from moving as fast as we could and the Chinese Communist that we captured had a rice bowl underneath their arms to keep it warm and the rest to carry ammunition they didn't have a big pack of canned rice and stuff like that they carried rice bowls underneath their arm. And that so they would have something to eat they were there to fight not to enjoy themselves or have comfort. Of course our soldiers and marines in Vietnam they didn't have any comfort either but they were burdened down with some equipment that wasn't I didn't think they needed that much at all.

Interviewer: What about your opinion or your concept of the enemy soldier. Do you think their training was

Mr. Bowser: Well trained well trained but no incentive to fight except death. See there incentive was even if I die I'm martyred. Our incentive was try to keep from getting killed so we can go to another island another time another place. And there leadership was not like our leadership. Our leadership funneled down from the general down to a private. How many instances in our service do you know of young marines getting battlefield commission you know? The company commander is killed the platoon sergeant is killed that leaves a sergeant squad leader or a corporal fire team leader becoming commander that's where your battle field commenced so we had it all together. I think I'm not a historian but I think that had a lot to do with Germany losing the war is they didn't have that kind of chain of command. If the company commander gets killed they just run around and hey you take over you know that kind of thing that's the way I saw it. Of course the big thing about Hitler losing the war was he lost the war before it started because it wasn't in God's plan for one man to control the world so he was eventually he had to lose. But at what an immense cost. I think our country is in spite of being the melting pot of the world whenever we face conflict like that we can be able to mobilize and come together for a common cause.

Interviewer: And that's good we do have quite a bit of nationalism and in that time there was such a rise in the nationalism of the U.S. What about what's your concept or your opinion of the leadership of our country during those times?

Mr. Bowser: Outstanding I don't see how I don't even see how it could have been approved upon. It was there it was definitely precise everybody knew exactly what was expected of them. There was no question about I don't know whether I should do this or not. You were told what to do the leadership was there and you felt very confident of and don't forget we had another thing going for us in most cases we're an infantry unit an infantry platoons and so forth you had a chance to know your troops in advance. Who you could trust how far he could go what his physical capabilities were so on and so forth.

Interviewer: Did you make a lot of friends during the war?

Mr. Bowser: Yeh I had a lot of real close friends and it was good it wad good.

Interviewer: Do you still keep in contact with them. Yeh we get letter from headquarters marine headquarter of what we should now and things.

Mr. Bowser: Yeh so I'm a happy guy to be alive.

Interviewer: Did you ever have any close encounters? Were you wounded in action? Were you wounded in action during WWII?

Mr. Bowser: Not anything I call serious I think I out ran a machine gun one night. He was firing at me and I know he was looking at me. We had an air drop we were supposed to be getting food and they knew that air drop they were there before we could get to it and stuff. I will reiterate again there was nobody safe there was nobody safe anywhere. I was not worried about a bullet that had my name on it I was worried about a bullet that said to whom it may concern that was my big concern.

Interviewer: What about metal did you receive metals

Mr. Bowser: I had the normal combat stars that anybody else did.

Interviewer: When you came back to the states you went right to Korea I guess.

Mr. Bowser: When I got back to the states I got out of the military for a while. Then I guess I was set up for military life and then the Korean War came along and I went back on active duty and stayed in until I retired.

Interviewer: During WWII and prior to WWII do you feel that you were well informed as far as the big picture in the news.

Mr. Bowser: I thought sometimes you got more form the news media than you did from the military. But you could assuredly tell what was going on and where you might fit into that picture someday.

Interviewer: Were you able to read newspapers?

Mr. Bowser: Oh yeh we got news papers now and then we got mail once in awhile when possible.

Interviewer: Did you get a chance to write letters?

Mr. Bowser: I remember writing letters at night outside the moon was so bright. Other than that we kept ourselves busy wondering where we could get a beer you know stuff like that.

Interviewer: Did you guys play cards?

Mr. Bowser: Yeh we did all that kind of stuff and told war stories to each other and physical competitions so on and so forth. USO shows I was a guard in Korea for the tent that Marilyn Monroe slept in. You know the tent was about as big as this room and they had about 20 guards around that

thing. When she came to our unit I was the only guard there. Yeh it was great. I guess everyone had a poster of her that was the girl in those days there wasn't anybody else. It was a moral builder I think it was a moral builder. USO shows were great and I think they helped a lot. We were treated good as good as possible. I say we got what we deserved when they had it to give to we used to go from Camp Pendleton we used to go to this hotel in Las Angeles I can't think of it this very popular hotel all of the marines would come up there and we'd be sitting in a bar and we'd run out of money and we had this guy named Bruno and Bruno was the type of guy that would do anything you told him to. So we'd send Bruno out on the streets with his barracks cap off and listen to this he would say would you care to make a donation to the widow of the Unknown Soldier. And he would come back in the Hayward Hotel very popular and he would come back in and he would have a hat full of money tens and twenties no one dollar bills five tens and twenties sometimes a hundred. Yeh we did that. That was just some of the things we did. The secret to moral in those days was keeping busy. When I was a young trooper in Okinawa we didn't have the serious problems they have today. But in those days we could march along the highway we could march in the village we could do anything we wanted to that was before reversion. All these stringent rules and all came in to play after reversion when you couldn't march along the highways you couldn't march in the village they didn't want to see you carrying a weapon. And I can relate to that a little bit. I don't think you necessarily need to have your weapon here with you unless the threat of war is prevalent. Because you must respect the code of this country the code of this country is an issue now that you guard your gates and stuff. Again about two maybe four or five years ago we had an issue on the gates down on the gate at Cooperstock High School where someone snuck up on the guard hit him over the head and took his pistol from him. So I think you have to respect this country's law and if they don't want you to have weapons of course the weapons are locked up in storerooms but of course they are still here and that bothers the people.

Interviewer: But I mean you can't be here without weapons.

Mr. Bowser: No

Interviewer: That's impossible.

Mr. Browser: You know when I come out of boot camp when I was a young marine now you listen to this please. When we left Paris Island when we finished training my first station was Quantico, Virginia and in those days you carried your weapon your weapon was issued to you and you kept that for the four years that you were in the service can you imagine getting on a bus with your riffle today in this world. That would be far out wouldn't it?

Interviewer: It's crazy how the world changed but back then that was a threat.

Mr. Bowser: Yeh but we had good training adequate training. Really good training.

Interviewer: Do you have any more memorable experiences from WWII?

Mr. Bowser: There are so many things that come into your mind. One experience on the ship going to Korea from Sasco, Japan you know there's an old Navy saying about going down to the sand locker. And years ago they used to have sand lockers on the ship because they used to holy stone the ship with sand and special scrub brushes. Anyhow they had a sand locker on the ship. So I being a wise guy we're laying there reading books and stuff and I call this marine over and I said marine I want you to go down to the sand locker first I want you to go to the mess hall and get some number ten cans and fill them up with sand and bring them back here so we can use them for cigarette butts cigarette cans. So it wasn't too long before this guy comes back with these cans filled with sand. And the others said ha ha gunny what are you going to do now. And I said where did you get that sand did you get it out of the sand locker, no sir. Now this man went down and we had some heavy equipment on the ship tanks and bulldozers and stuff and he chipped the sand off the tracks of that equipment and pulverized it and brought it up there. That's the kind of people we had in those days you know I'm gonna get the job done somehow or another. And it made me look very foolish and I told that guy there I said I don't know if when we get over to Korea if you are going to be in my unit or not but if you are you will never stand on night duty as long as I'm in charge. I said I never seen a guy like that before. That's amazing that's discipline that's getting the job done. He knew he knew he had to do something and it beheld him to find a way to do it but he wasn't coming back empty handed.

Interviewer: That's awesome.

Mr. Bowser: Yeh we had some beautiful people beautiful people. Wonder people outstanding.

Interviewer: I just wonder what happened to them after the war you know.

Mr. Bowser: Aw you don't know. And then we had one talk about things that happened within the camp we had a warren officer in Korea that he was just difficult to get along with and outside his tent he had it figured there were so many steps outside to the urination tube at night. So we saw through that and we moved it and he fell over a small cliff it wasn't very high not enough to kill him. But he put up this guy put up a reward if anybody knew who moved that tube. Yeh these are some of the things that happened within the camp you know to keep yourself happy or whatever.

Interviewer: All were young boys practically.

Mr. Bowser: Yeh it was amazing some of the things but that but those were contributing factors to moral those were contributing factors to moral.

Interviewer: Yes sir and during combat I'm sure that still you worked together.

Mr. Bowser: Yeh that knits you together. That knits you together those kind of things. That proves that hey you might be a tuff company gunnery sergeant but you have a humanistic side to you also. And in Korea we had a problem with guys going over the fence and going out into he village to find a girl. My company commander says I want you to stop that and he says I don't care how you do it stop it. That's a pretty big order we didn't have enough guards. And if we did have enough guards the guards the guards were a friend of the guards you know. So I started a company laundry and we hired girls from the

village to work in the laundry. Enough said. But he said take care of it. And another thing my buddy in Korea he solved a problem another way. The first troopers went out in the village and the coronel called him in Coronel Crow and he was tuff guy and he says I want this fraternization stopped and I want it stopped now. So he said it will be taken care of believe me. You know what he did? He went out and burned the village down.

Interviewer: No way.

Mr. Bowser: Yeh he did. He went out and started a fire on all of the huts and burned the village down yeh he did.

Interviewer: That's terrible.

Mr. Bowser: That's what kind of guy he was. The coronel told him to do it and that's what kind of guy he was and he did it. He burnt the area down where the guys like a small bar was.

Interviewer: Did it hurt people?

Mr. Bowser: I don't know if it hurt anyone or not I doubt it but he the point is this the point is this he got the job done he got the job done.

Interviewer: That's a marine for you though.

Mr. Bowser: Yep

Interviewer: My brothers a marine he was a marine. A very close friend of mine is in Quantico, Virginia as well.

Mr. Bowser: Then I had an opportunity a couple of weeks ago to hear a sailor a young sailor someone asked him what is your job. He said I'm just a then he named his job. I went over to him and I said you should never say that. I said I want to tell you about a just a. During the landing on Guam when we was going from the transport area on landing craft that went on the beach there was a unrated seaman botcher mate seaman not rated and he's the guy that drove the boat the landing craft. And he suddenly whenever he got those 60 to 90 people on that landing craft he suddenly became responsible for all those lives because he was the captain of that landing craft. It befell him to get those people into the beach and get them landed. That's an awesome responsibility so he was just a seaman that's all he was he was just a seaman but he suddenly became the skipper and became responsible for 90 lives. So don't say just a because without you Mr. Just a this wheel isn't going to turn. So I had a chance to tell him that.

Interviewer: We're running out of tape.