

Interviewer: What is your full name and when and where were you born?

Gibson: My name is Tyler W Gibson and I was born in Petersburg Ohio the 13th of February 1924.

Interviewer: What branch of the service did you serve in?

Gibson: The army air borne parachutes.

Interviewer: And what was the primary unit you served in?

Gibson: The 11th air borne division 457 parachute field artillery battalion.

Interviewer: Wow and where did you go?

Gibson: In the Pacific.

Interviewer: Now to I guess I'll ask you a few questions about your history. What were your parents' names and their occupations?

Gibson: My father's name was Roy Gibson he was plumber, roofer, you name it he did it. My mother's name was Anna Virginia Gibson.

Interviewer: Did you have do you have brothers and sisters?

Gibson: I have eight brothers and sisters. Eight brothers and sisters together.

Interviewer: Yeah two brothers

Gibson: Two brothers and six sisters.

Interviewer: And you went to school what was the last grade that you completed in school?

Gibson: The 11th

Interviewer: Eleventh grade and I guess you grew up in the great depression so do you have any memories and recollections of the life in the great depression during the great depression?

Gibson: Yeah we lived on a farm so we managed quite well. We didn't have any money bit we ate.

Interviewer: Yeah survived. How did it affect your family and what kind of situations how did you cope with the hardships of the great depression?

Gibson: Well everybody was the same so we didn't know any difference.

Interviewer: How about like did you have a job before you went into the service?

Gibson: Yes

Interviewer: What sort of job and how much did it pay.

Gibson: Well it would be just before I came into the service I was working in the steel mill I was making good money but I don't remember what the hourly rates or anything were. But I know I was making good money.

Interviewer: Now you said the last grade that you completed was the 11th grade. Did you join the service right after?

Gibson: No I worked for almost two years after that. I came in the army February 1943.

Interviewer: Oh okay were you did you sign up or were you

Gibson: Well I had registered for the draft I volunteered because all of my buddies came in at the same time.

Interviewer: How about when the war first started I guess you weren't enlisted yet so what do you remember the history about Roosevelt's speeches and what was going on there with the political situation and the war do you remember anything?

Gibson: Oh not too much all I can remember is the fact that we had to go through rationing with sugar and butter and meat and things like that. Everybody was gathering rags and iron and turning it into scrap for the war effort.

Interviewer: What about your view about Roosevelt at that time. I know he made a lot of changes and brought a lot of changes to the presidency. What was your view did you agree with what he was doing?

Gibson: Oh yes

Interviewer: You supported him?

Gibson: Supported him full heartedly it was a great shock to us when we learned that he died. Yeah he made a lot of changes in the country mostly all for the better.

Interviewer: Do you remember hearing his Fire Side speeches?

Gibson: No not really. All you had back in those days was radio and you didn't have a whole lot of that.

Interviewer: How about did you recall where you were when Pearl Harbor happened at the time when Pearl Harbor took place?

Gibson: Yeah I was in Palmyra Pennsylvania working in the shoe factory.

Interviewer: What were your feelings you know what was the situation what did you feel like when that happened?

Gibson: Young kids at that time we didn't think a whole lot about it I don't' guess.

Interviewer: But you I mean there was some recollection of the war did it scare you that we were going to join the war then?

Gibson: Well at that time we I don't know we had heard so much about Hitler and nobody had given any thought to the Japanese at that particular time. And to find out that they had bombed Pearl Harbor all of a sudden everybody became awful patriotic all of a sudden. Yeah I remember gas rationed we only got so much gas to drive back and forth to work you had gas stamps to buy your gas with.

Interviewer: Wow did you read newspapers or anything to keep up with current events during the time?

Gibson: No that was the farthest thing from our mind at that age.

Interviewer: Were you married before you went in the war?

Gibson: No

Interviewer: When you enlisted did you go into the branch of service and military test that you wanted to? Was that your choice or did you just or did they chose for you?

Gibson: No pretty much I chose the army then I chose the air borne. The air borne was all volunteer at that particular time so we I went into the service in Camp Perry Ohio. And I think there was seven of us went in at the same time from my hometown boys that I'd gone to school with. And we heard about the 11th air borne division being formed so we all got the bright idea if we volunteered for that we'd stick together. That's it and I'm the only one that went.

Interviewer: Oh no

Gibson: So the others went in other different directions.

Interviewer: Oh you can start you can just tell me where you drafted and then what happened from there?

Gibson: Well we went into the service in Camp Perry Ohio. From Camp Perry I moved to Camp Tacowa Georgia where everybody that was assigned to the 11th air borne division went through an individual screening they had a selection process. And we stayed at Camp Tacowa Georgia from there we moved up to Camp McCall, those of us that were selected, moved up to Camp McCall North Carolina. And there we spent 12 weeks of basic training from Camp McCall North Carolina we went to Fort Benning Georgia in May and Jun of 1943.

Interviewer: I'm going to stop this real fast I think my tape has run out.

Tape ended