

Interviewer: If you would state your full name and where you were born.

Tanksley: My name is Lemuel A Tanksley. I was born here in Nashville April 4, 1924.

Interviewer: Where did you go to school?

Tanksley: I went to school at Stokes Elementary School and then to Central High School and then to I graduated from Vanderbilt when I got back.

Interviewer: What did your parents do?

Tanksley: My father was a stone cutter and he had a stone business here in Nashville for years. My mother died when I was born I have a twin brother an identical twin brother. So when we were born my mother died and so my father married again later and my step mother was a house wife.

Interviewer: Did you have any other brothers and sisters?

Tanksley: Uh huh there were ten of us six boys and four girls.

Interviewer: Wow did any other your other brothers go into the service.

Tanksley: Yes two other brothers there were four of us four of us in the service three in the navy and one in the army.

Interviewer: And was it all in World War II?

Tanksley: All in World War II.

Interviewer: Alright so were you enlisted in the army or did you enlist in the army or were you drafted?

Tanksley: I enlisted in the navy.

Interviewer: The navy.

Tanksley: I enlisted in the navy in 1942 and that was just Pearl Harbor was in December of 41 and I enlisted in 42. I graduated in May and left the next day for the navy I enlisted.

Interviewer: When did your did any of your brothers go before you or?

Tanksley: My twin brother went with me. My older brother was in the National Guard and he had already gone. He'd been called into service.

Interviewer: Why did you choose the navy?

Tanksley: That's I strange question. I don't really know why I chose the navy I don't know. I had always kind of been intrigued by the sea I guess all the ships I don't know. I had never seen any ships I had never been even to Florida. So I didn't know much about the navy but we just chose the navy my brother and I.

Interviewer: Where did you go to training or where did you go first?

Tanksley: First we left Nashville and went to Great Lakes Naval Training station in Milwaukee. Between Milwaukee and Chicago we went to Great Lakes Naval Station there it's on the lake. And there was some 91,000 men there at the time there was really a bunch of us.

Interviewer: Did you enjoy it or the training or did it?

Tanksley: Well of course I didn't know what I was getting into. I'll tell you a little story about that I don't know whether you'd be interested or not.

Interviewer: Sure

Tanksley: When we went down to sign up my brother and I had been working in the summertime down in the machine shop. The navy man that enlisted us asked us what we'd liked to do in the navy. But we didn't know anything about the navy so we said we told him we had been working in the machine shop. He said well you want to be a fireman? So I thought he meant on a fire truck I know now that's not what he meant but so we enlisted as firemen. Well firemen are the men that work down in the ship firing the main engines you know that's what they do. So we enlisted as a fireman we started out.

Interviewer: Does that mean kept the engines running?

Tanksley: That means the main engines for the ship see you have a firemen are below deck people and seamen are above deck people. So all the engineer forces are below deck crew and so we were enlisted as firemen and we took our training as firemen operating main engines and auxiliary engines.

Interviewer: Did you go anywhere else from there?

Tanksley: From Great Lakes?

Interviewer: Uh huh

Tanksley: We stayed there four weeks and then we went to Boston and we picked up an old World War I destroyer. A four stacker it was originally a coal burning it had been converted to oil it was a destroyer. And we started escorting merchant ships from Boston to Murmansk Russia through the North Sea. And we'd get just out of Murmansk and we'd turn back and then bring back empties then we'd get to Boston and we'd turn back. Just escorting under a program where the United States was furnishing Russia with all kinds of military equipment. That was the first assignment we had to make.

Interviewer: What was I mean in between working with the engines what would you do?

Tanksley: Well in the navy I don't know whether you know the navy very well or much about it.

Interviewer: A little.

Tanksley: In the navy you have they operate three shifts you work four hours then you're off eight every day. Okay like I would work from four in the morning until eight in the morning and then I'd come back to work at four in the afternoon and work till eight at night. Now you do that for a week then they back

the watch up one so that next week I'd be doing the eight till twelve. In other words I'd go to work at eight and work until midnight and I'd also go to work at eight in the morning and work until noon. So you work four and off eight. There's three crews on the ship all the time.

Interviewer: What would you do in your spare time?

Tanksley: Well you had to wash your clothes of course and you had to do your cleaning of your compartment and write a letter now and then and read books. We didn't have a lot of movies we used to have movies on Fridays sometimes. Mainly we didn't you had to get out of your sack though because they had to clean the quarters so we would mostly reading playing cards played a lot of cards blackjack all kind of games.

Interviewer: Did you get to stay with you brother was your brother in the same area?

Tanksley: Uh huh my twin brother.

Interviewer: Did that help a lot?

Tanksley: Yeah I guess so of course we were not on the same watch. He was on the four to eight I'd be on the eight to twelve. We were on separate watches so I would pass him or see him when we were changing shifts. Other than that of course I'd see him during the day sometimes we'd pass each other. Of course everybody on there you have a certain times when the ships under way if a submarine appears or something of course you go to general quarters means that everybody has a job during general quarters. Everybody works you have special assignments during those quarters so there were several drills for that we'd have regularly. It would get kind of monotonous there.

Interviewer: What kind of special assignments?

Tanksley: I beg your pardon.

Interviewer: What special assignments like?

Tanksley: Well one of the assignments I had was damage control. There were about 15 men assigned to damage control so that if a submarine should fire a torpedo into the ship or a shell would hit the ship and blow a hole in it or something we would repair the damage temporarily until we could get into port you know stop the leaks. Repair whatever damage was done from enemy fire that's damage control. And that could be a little bit of everything that could be electric wiring or plumbing or whatever that might get damaged during an enemy attack.

Interviewer: Did you ever have an enemy attack when you were?

Tanksley: Not in Murmansk not from boats in Murmansk. Now we did during an invasion that's something else.

Interviewer: So where did you go after you were in Boston?

Tanksley: After we left well we were assigned to the what was a new unit in the navy called the Amphibious Force U.S. Naval Amphibious Force. And the signal that you wore was an alligator with tanks

coming out of his mouth. And it was an invasion force put together by the navy to land troops on beaches. Now you understand during the war we were in the Atlantic at that time. And you have the Atlantic fleet and the Pacific fleet and the at that time they had the China Burma India Theater so there were troops assigned everywhere. But we were in the Atlantic and they were preparing for the invasion of Europe. Now you couldn't land troops in France because you couldn't get into ports the Germans had all the ports blocked. So the only solution to land troops and tanks and equipment and food all the ammunition everything that had to go up on beaches. Well the navy was to furnish the transportation to take the army into the beach that's how we was going to operate. So we started training at Little Creek Virginia it was a new Naval Amphibious training base at Little Creek and they had these called LSTs they are landing ship tanks. And we carried 30 tanks Sherman 30 ton tanks army tanks and the equipment the men and the equipment for those tanks. And we practiced all day landing on the beaches of Virginia right out of Norfolk now Norfolk is the operating base for the Atlantic fleet. Norfolk Virginia and so this was just a short way from there and that's what we did all day is land these troops land the tank _____ the tanks you know the bow doors open up and the ramps go down and the tanks drive out. We did that for I guess 30, 35 days maybe and then we took off for North Africa it must have been let's see 48 landing LSTs and I guess maybe 10 or 12 destroyers and a couple of cruisers. We were going to North Africa and what the program was that we were to train in North Africa in Bizerte and Tunis which were French bases in North Africa in Algeria North Africa. We landed there and we did do a lot of practice work there and then came the invasion. And we left North Africa and went to France for the invasion along with all the other ships that were coming from England and everywhere else.

Interviewer: Now were you still.

Tanksley: That's at Omaha that's at Omaha Beach.

Interviewer: Right were you still did you ever change from working in the

Tanksley: In the engine rooms?

Interviewer: Right

Tanksley: No once you stay there well see they had sent us to special schools to operate engines and we knew all that.

Interviewer: So what was it like being down in the engine? How did you know what was going on up

Tanksley: Well that's always you don't really know what's happening above because you can hear the guns firing and you know you can hear occasionally the battleship out behind us which were further back out would fire the big guns you know. And you could hear those shells come over kindly yawing you know woo woo woo and during that invasion of course we had to stay in the engine rooms and we couldn't tell exactly what was happening there was a lot of noise a lot of firing. But you did discharge the tanks went back started bringing in provisions food ambulances medical teams all that kind whatever it takes to sustain the army. You know we'd go out to the freighters and they'd load us the freight ships that couldn't get into shallow waters we'd go out load off of them onto us and we'd take it into the beach.

Interviewer: Right

Tanksley: We stayed there maybe 30 days after the invasion and then we went from there to the Suisse Canal and through the Suisse the port side in Egypt and from there through the ____ through the Red Sea into Bombay India we landed at Bombay. Then we were transferred to the British Navy because there was no U.S. Navy there. We were supplied by the British Navy and then we left Bombay and went around India and up around by Sirlan well its Sri Lanka now but it was Sirlan at the time. Up by Sirlan and into Calcutta and then from Calcutta we went to ____ and we hauled gasoline up the river up the Chittagong River to planes that were flying over the hump from India to China U.S. planes. And we fueled those planes by carrying drums of gasoline up the river because the big tankers couldn't get in up there to take gasoline to them that's for the air force.

Interviewer: Did they ever let you leave the ship or?

Tanksley: Did they ever let me leave the ship on leave you mean?

Interviewer: Well did you get to.

Tanksley: Go out in the public?

Interviewer: Right

Tanksley: Yeah oh yeah sure we got to go ashore quite a bit in Bombay and Calcutta then Egypt. I've got lots of pictures that we took of riding camels in Egypt. We rode out to the pyramids on camels we were really living it up.

Interviewer: Had you ever left home before I mean?

Tanksley: No I had never been anywhere. I was just awestruck by all of this well I was only 18.

Interviewer: Uh huh

Tanksley: But there were thousands of us you know back then during the war people were enlisting you know. Just thousands and thousands well like I said at the Great Lakes there was 90,000. And that's just one navy training station.

Interviewer: How many would they have on a ship at a time?

Tanksley: On a ship on a LST?

Interviewer: Uh huh

Tanksley: One hundred and sixty one.

Interviewer: Really?

Tanksley: Uh huh now I don't how we do any are we doing alright?

Interviewer: Yes that's fine. Did anybody let me think did you ever did anybody on your ship ever get seriously injured or?

Tanksley: No well you had injuries along the way do you mean from enemy fire or something like that? No now we did have of course people would get sick occasionally and people would get hurt you know when you've got that many men together somebody gets hurt by something. I had malaria one time in India and I went to the army hospital there the navy didn't have a hospital there. But we had a sick bay what we called a sick bay on the ship and we had a first class medic now he wasn't a doctor but he was a young man and we had two others. Now back at that time the females wasn't in the navy aboard ship they were in the navy. They had waves girls they called waves but they were not aboard ship back at that time they are now of course.

Interviewer: How was the food prevision?

Tanksley: How was the food?

Interviewer: Uh huh

Tanksley: The food was always good in the navy. Now there were sometimes you liked it and sometimes you didn't particularly like it. Now I didn't like beans for breakfast you had them every Wednesday back beans I wasn't real big on that. That was the navy menu but we always had good food except for the times that we were in storms where the cooks couldn't cook. In other words couldn't keep the pots on the stove the ship was rolling and rocking so. Then we would eat sandwiches they'd make up cheese sandwiches, bologna, and cold cuts all kind of. We had refrigeration on there we had good food. The powdered milk wasn't all that good but you'd run out of fresh milk the first two or three days out then you'd have to use powered milk but it was okay I mean. That's the first time I ever saw little boxes of cereal you know little individual boxes. I didn't know they made it back in those days when I was young they didn't. You had your individual boxes of cereal I just thought that was pretty neat because you had a pretty good selection I didn't have a selection at home we only had one kind. But the navy ate good we always ate good when I say good I mean substantial not like mess kits or sea rations or k rations we didn't have to eat that.

Interviewer: Did you ever have was it hard getting used to the motion sickness?

Tanksley: No in the navy you cannot be seasick that's a cardinal sin in the navy. As a matter of fact that will get you discharged real quick. If you're seasick I remember a couple of boys got sick and they sent them straight back discharged then. No I never did get seasick maybe queasy a time or two you get to where you roll with the ship pretty well. I was worried a little about storms you know because ships there's nothing you can do to combat a storm you just have to ride that out. Hopefully you don't get capsized or anything like that. There's nothing you can do about a storm much.

Interviewer: Was it scary I mean it had to be.

Tanksley: Oh yeah it sure was and of course down in the engine room they had a big like a dial like a clock and it had a hand on it and as the ship would roll the hand stayed straight. The ship would roll out from under it I've seen that thing roll 30 degrees from one side to the other you had to really hold on. But they didn't last forever storms you generally got in and out of them two or three days maybe.

Interviewer: This might be an add question. My great grandfather was in the navy and apparently he came home all tattooed and his ear pierced and he said you had to do it. Was he telling the truth?

Tanksley: That's not a bad question. It for some reason navy men thought that was the way navy men had to have a tattoo. That was to prove I suppose you were some sort of man. I never got one the reason I didn't mainly is because I knew a couple of guys that did get them and they really one of them got infected his arm got infected you know. And it was done by kind of a shyster guy and he really had a hard time with that and I decided I don't believe I wanted to do that. But that was quite a big thing to get tattooed oh yeah that was that was the thing.

Interviewer: I always wondered about that he had a

Tanksley: Was he in World War I?

Interviewer: Two

Tanksley: Two?

Interviewer: Yeah

Tanksley: How old is your grandfather?

Interviewer: My great grandfather.

Tanksley: Your great grandfather

Interviewer: He passed away in 2000 well it was News Year's Eve 1999 so apparently he well all I know is that he did laundry and peeled potatoes and things like.

Tanksley: Oh yeah well you had to do your own laundry. And of course you would get KP duty oh engineers didn't generally get KP mostly seamen got that. And of course what was good in the engine rooms the midnight shift see the bakers always baked bread at night because the guys were busy cooking meals during the daytime see so they would bake the bread at night. And we'd go up there and get fresh bread, cakes and all from the galley take down in the engine room put it up on the engine to keep it warm. And we got to work with the bakers a lot that way see got good fresh stuff. Good

Interviewer: How was the living area living quarters I guess?

Tanksley: Very small we slept in hammocks and they were only about 18 inches apart up five high.

Interviewer: How many in a room?

Tanksley: Oh 30 maybe hammocks five high six bays of us.

Interviewer: Is it hard to stay in a hammock when it's storming?

Tanksley: You better stay in it. If you rolled out and rolled out on the guy under you he gets pretty mad about that. Of course the hammock stays pretty straight see the ship rolls underneath the hammock. And the hammock being suspended on a rope pretty much stays level see you don't do this the ship does that and you stay pretty straight normally. Was your grandfather at sea?

Interviewer: He was

Tanksley: That's okay.

Interviewer: I haven't I'm going to talk to my great grandmother I'm going to interview her so.

Tanksley: Oh okay

Interviewer: So I plan on getting more details.

Tanksley: You never did get it from him?

Interviewer: No by the time he died I was too I wasn't quite interested yet.

Tanksley: I understand.

Interviewer: I regret it but.

Tanksley: Now that was in Europe.

Interviewer: Right

Tanksley: And then we went to India and we stayed in India six months I guess it was hauling gas up and down the river and doing patrol work around _____. And then we were dispatched to the Pacific and we went from Calcutta to Hobart Tasmania that's in Australia and from there we went out to Pearl Harbor and we ended up at Saipan getting ready for the invasion of Japan. Then they dropped the bomb and we didn't have to go in we were getting ready for Japan.

Interviewer: Just in case you had to go into Japan?

Tanksley: That's why we were all out there see Europe was ended all that was ended. Then they were moving all this equipment to the Pacific everybody was going.

Interviewer: Right

Tanksley: And we were getting ready there at Saipan I guess it was 60 LSTs there all the tanks getting ready to go into Japan. Now I've condensed this somewhat all of this lasted from 1942 to 1946 four years.

Interviewer: How long were you supposed to be in that long or did they give you any time line because I've heard some people say they only had three years or?

Tanksley: Well you enlisted for the duration and that's however long the war lasted. But if you were married you got extra points and you could get out and go home. If you were not married of course you stayed in longer than the others which was fair enough I guess. You didn't have a term you just enlisted for the duration of the war and that was up to the government how long the duration is whenever they declared it over. When they declared it over I was in Saipan and then we brought that ship back to

Treasure Island in San Francisco. Then from there around through Panama and into _____ Florida and put it dry dock down there. It's still there I guess surely not know but it was.

Interviewer: Then did you go home? From there you were finished?

Tanksley: Yeah can I show you something before I forget it?

Interviewer: Sure

Tanksley: Because I'm real proud of this. This is a personal letter from the Secretary of the Navy and that's his personal seal down there.

Interviewer: Wow what's the story behind this?

Tanksley: Well after I came back from the Navy and was working here in Nashville and I was invited by the Secretary of the Navy along with about 35 other people in the military. To go to Pensacola Florida to see some new navy planes taking off on carriers these were new fighter planes. And we were invited to go down there and spent three days on the carrier and watch these planes go on and off you know just showing the civilians about it. And when I came back the Secretary of the Navy gave me a little emblem it said Guest of the Navy Guest of the Secretary of the Navy. It sat right there on that table for a long time until about two years ago or a year ago. Some guys broke in my house and they stole that thing. And why they would want that thing I don't know it had no meaning to anybody but me and I was telling these young girls about it down there at the Frisk Center. I work down there on Mondays as a volunteer and this girl wrote the Secretary of the Navy and told him that I lost my thing and that she wanted me to have another one. And I didn't know she did all of this see and so he sent me that.

Interviewer: That's neat.

Tanksley: That's his personal emblem but anyway but I'm real proud of that I'm glad to have it.

Interviewer: Yeah I would be too.

Tanksley: And of course you've seen all the decorations that the Navy offers.

Interviewer: Right

Tanksley: So I won't bore you with that because I know they are boring. But I was in the American Theater I was in the European Theater I was in the North Africa Theater I was in the China Burma Theater and the Pacific Theater. I was in five different theaters of war.

Interviewer: So you pretty much saw it.

Tanksley: That's just the way it turned out. I didn't mean to be.

Interviewer: What about your brothers?

Tanksley: He stayed with me until when we left Calcutta he had enough points in to come home and so he got to fly back from Calcutta to North Africa. Then he boarded ship there and came back home. I stayed in of course I wasn't married he was and so he got home earlier than I did.

Interviewer: And you had another brother in did you say the National Guard?

Tanksley: Yeah my older brother was in the National Guard yeah and he was out in the Pacific with a calvary the 109th calvary. We all made it through we all made it through.

Interviewer: Did you sisters go?

Tanksley: In the service?

Interviewer: Well work anywhere just?

Tanksley: My sisters they were all working here. One was working for the Oak Ridge where they were developing the nuclear bomb. And one was working for the Tennessee Valley Authority. One was working for a doctor and one was working for lawyer here in Nashville my four sisters.

Interviewer: Did where did you did you after you got home what did you do?

Tanksley: Well I'll tell you a story about that. When I was in the Navy right towards the last in particular, these young men would come onboard ship with they'd have a commission as an inson. Now an inson is the lowest commissioned officer in the Navy with one gold strip. And I would see these guys and these guys had been to like Harvard or Yale or somewhere and got a degree. And I thought you know now I'm just a chief I was a chief machinist man and I thought if I had a degree I'd get me a commission as an inson. So what I've got to do is get me one of those degrees that's what I need. That seems to get everybody a jump up. So I decided to go to school and the government was offering the GI Bill at that time. In other words they'd pay all your expenses to the college of your choice well not your personal expenses but they'd pay all of the college bills the tuition, book, fees, everything so I decided to go to school. Well this one young man came onboard the ship as an engineering officer and he had just graduated from MIT. So I decided well you know he got a degree from MIT I'll just go to MIT. I didn't know anything about it I didn't even know what that was. Well I decided he got one so I did and I went to MIT in Boston well in Cambridge which is part of Boston of course. You know MIT and Harvard back up to each other right there. You been there?

Interviewer: I haven't.

Tanksley: You haven't been to Boston?

Interviewer: No not yet.

Tanksley: Oh it's worth a trip.

Interviewer: Planning on it. So I went to MIT and I went for a year and I lived down at West Summerville which is a little town oh maybe ten miles out of Boston. I lived with this lady I boarded with her and her husband was a letter carrier and she was a she was a house wife but she didn't have any children. So she boarded she gave me a room for \$12 a week and my breakfast so I was making at the time I was making

\$75 a month from the government. They paid all our tuition and \$75 a month. So that would be \$12 a week see that's \$50 a month there that only left me \$25. Well I had to get into school and back every day so I went a year up at MIT and then my sister bought a house over on 20th Avenue she and her husband. And I was home on I don't remember what I was doing home it was Christmas time or something. And she said if you want to come back to Nashville you can build you a room upstairs they had an attic up there. And so I said well you know I might just do that and she said it won't cost you anything. So I thought well I'll do that and go to Vanderbilt so I transferred back to Vanderbilt and finished up at Vanderbilt.

Interviewer: Then what did you do?

Tanksley: What did I do then?

Interviewer: Uh huh

Tanksley: I went to work for a tool and die company designing tools and dies machine tools and dies. And then I went to work for I worked there about five years then I went to work for H.G. Hill stores worked all my life as an engineer and ended up as Vice-President of H.G. Hills.

Interviewer: Wow

Tanksley: You've heard of H.G. Hills?

Interviewer: Uh huh yes

Tanksley: We used to have a lot of stores.

Interviewer: There's one in Madison so. When did you and your wife meet?

Tanksley: We met when I was at Vanderbilt. She was working for the telephone company she had a good job. As a matter of fact she was supervisor of the engineering department at the telephone company. And she had I think 18 girls that all they did was draw on linen with Indian ink they drew every pole and every line in Tennessee. They kept them on drawings whenever they'd change a pole or whatever and she was in charge of the engineering department. And this friend of mine got me he was dating a girl at the telephone company and he got me a blind date with her and so we went out.

Interviewer: How long have you been married?

Tanksley: How long have we been married?

Interviewer: Uh huh

Tanksley: Since we've been married 56 years.

Interviewer: How many children?

Tanksley: Two, two girls. Yeah one of them has twin boys and one of them has two girls. One of those just graduated from Eastland School of Music she got her graduate degree there. And the other one is at the University of Louisville. Yeah she's a freshman there. The two boys are in high school.

Interviewer: Well is there anything else you'd like add about your?

Tanksley: No I think the thing that back then I think and probably it came from the size of the war was such that you hardly ever questioned anything. I mean not like youngsters now. Now I'm not saying it's wrong to question I'm only saying we didn't I guess we didn't know enough about world affairs like people like you do you know. I didn't even know where India was hardly I mean you know now when I mention Calcutta you know exactly where Calcutta is Bombay and all those places. Back at that time we were all just young high school kids and had this sense of patriotism I suppose and I guess kids still have it. But the world is a different things now than it used to be its altogether different. We I think maybe more so we had a purpose American had been attacked by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor that's what ____ that we were going to we addressed that war. Now a days wars are not it's not that clear what the point of the thing is what you know why we are in Iraq. I'm not sure we all know why we're in Iraq. Iraq didn't attack us so it was a little different situation back with us then. And there were so many of us we wanted to get the war over with we were ready to do a job on people we did.

Interviewer: How much before you enlisted how much did you know the magnitude of what was going on? Or how aware were you of

Tanksley: Of the war?

Interviewer: Uh huh

Tanksley: Not very aware of it. See the war hadn't even started we was in Germany. Germany had already started of course and the U.S. was supplying Brittan with planes and all ammunition guns everything you know was going there. But we was staying out of it pretty much and then of course when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor that was our that was a naval base at Pearl Harbor that is a Pacific Naval Base. And that took on a new light then that we were going to defend our country. I think probably had not really knowledgeable we didn't know much about the Pacific except that we had a base at Pearl Harbor the U.S. Navy base was at Pearl Harbor. Not much of a base really at that time because the U.S. didn't have much of a navy at that time. It wound up to be a real naval power.

Interviewer: How soon after did you say you went to Pearl Harbor?

Tanksley: I beg your pardon?

Interviewer: How many years after was it that you?

Tanksley; Oh it was good while after this was 1946 45, 46 and Pearl Harbor was in 1941 you see.

Interviewer: Right

Tanksley: Yeah it was all over and we just stopped off for fuel and to take on supplies. We were just that was just a base going out.

Interviewer: Right well I think that might cover it.

Tanksley: You think it will work?

Interviewer: Oh sure is there anything else?

Tanksley: No I don't know of anything else. One of the greatest things that has happened in this country I think was the GI Bill. A lot of us never would have been able to go to college. I wouldn't have had the money to go to college. And of course my father didn't have any money with all of us children so that my brothers went to college. We would not have been able to do that I think it is probably one of the best deals America did too because they got that money back. I mean all of us got good jobs pretty good jobs we paid good taxes we probably paid back all the money that was loaned us you know to go to school. Probably one of the finest things that's ever happened in this country. If you think for a moment back at the time there were 15 million people in the service and all of us coming back from the war and no jobs you see what are we going to do? All the factories were shutting down the war work. So it was pretty clever thing to do to get us in school and also a good thing for this country I think. In the long run it's been one of the best things. I think now probably the government ought to be more lenient in the fact that they would loan or not loan that they would actually pay the bill for young people to go to school full four years books, tuition the whole deal if they'll spend a term in service. I think you ought to do that and they'll get it back. They'll get it back because if you knew that you had your whole bill paid you see now maybe I don't know what your circumstances are but I know my granddaughters they had to take out some loans.

Interviewer: Me too

Tanksley: I guess everybody does. But if that was paid off and you had to give two years of service. Now I'm not talking about actual fighting but two years of service it probably would be a good swap. You'd have a good start now I don't know that I don't know if young people would even be interested in that anymore. But I think it probably did more for this country than any other thing that we've done in term first of all rewarding people who fought the war and benefiting the country for employment for people and occupations and all.

Interviewer: Okay

Tanksley: That's just my thinking.

Interviewer: Right

Tanksley: Okay I wonder if I have is that everything you need?

Interviewer: I think

Tanksley: Was it enough?

Interviewer: Oh sure more than enough.

Tanksley: Well you should have shut me up.