

Paul La Touche

WWII



When did you enter the military?

"June seventeenth, 1943."

How old were you when you entered

"Seventeen and a half."

What boot camp did you go to?

"New port."

How long was the boot camp?

"Uh, possibly eleven weeks."

Did you go to a second Boot camp? If so then why?

"No."

Did you join the military voluntarily?

“Yes.”

What Branch of the military did you join?

“The Navy”

What made you choose that particular branch of military?

“I preferred the Navy, I liked the Navy.”

What equipment did you use on a daily basis?

“Well, on the ship, I had four twenty millimeter anti-aircraft and one 40 millimeter anti-aircraft gun”

What rank you did you achieve?

“Gunners rank, second class, gm2c.”

Were you wounded while you were in the military? If you were in what way were you wounded?

“No.”

Were you in any famous campaigns or battles?

“Well, there was the liberation of the Philippines, and I was on quite a few of the landings and we were on landing-craft and we would bring tanks into the beach to support the infantry.”

Did you receive any awards or medals for your service?

“I had, actually, five or six campaign metals and a lot of campaign ribbons. About ten.”

What a “normal or average Day” while you were in the military?

“Well, making sure the guns were kept clean and in good operating condition because we were preparing for the next landing every day.”

What was your normal or most common routine while you were at war or battle?

“Well sort of teaching the other fellas how to operate the guns. I would try to exercise and keep our minds busy.”

What type of firearm(s) did you use?

“Forty-five pistol.”

Did you use any heavy weapon Artillery?

“No.”

While at war, what helped you pass the time?

“Thinking about getting back home again”

While at war, what helped you get through hard times?

“Thinking of home, definitely, that and my family”

After you came home from war, did your perspective on anything change?

“Yes. I was tired of being home, and uh, three months later I tried to re-enlist but they were gonna drop me too anyways because it was over the limit they had for re-enlisting and I changed my mind.”

Did you carry anything from the military with you after the war?

“No.”

I see you brought your hat. Could you Tell us about it?

“The hat is for different awards and campaigns. That’s for pacific, those are battle stars, and this is for the victory metal, and this is for the occupation, navy combat, NATO, that’s New York service

nomination, and then this is the good conduct medal, and, uh, Philippines. There's ten in all, that's what I got."

Is there anything you would like to add or say that I missed or is there anything that you would like to talk about?

"No, like I told you before, the experience I had while being in the navy, well I went to three different areas, south America, the pacific, and then I spent six months in Italy on the occupation, uh, navy occupation. That was it, I the same awful life, and I was thankful for that."