

Ralph: Im pushing towards 90. I just went to my 65th reunion, reunion at the military academy. 65 years can't believe it's that old. No I went in the army at 18. I graduated my high school at 17 and a half.

Sabrina: wow

Ralph: Now ok, I was 10 out of 218 students. Pleasantville High School in Pleasantville New Jersey. Ok so I put the summer in as usual, my father was an employee at a Fisher Baking Company in New Jersey. I use to help him out on the bread truck. And uh I decided it was time to make a break, from home. And at 18 in January of 1941 I joined the army. Okay? So I, I can even recall my first day, going to Fort Shlokum, New York. I can even recall some of the details of it. I, I had to take the Jersey central which was a milk bread stop. Every station to a jersey city then taking a ferry across getting on the IRT and the BRT subways to go out to New Rochelle New York down on the trolley to to the Warf where they took you across to the bus to the fort. I can even recall that, if you stop and think about it, now that that that one of the great occasions was the Sergeant tried to run me off till I put out an order and handed it to him and he said HOLY COW their taking them out of their mother's arms. (Chuckles) I remember that. Well at that that short stay at at Fort Shlokum transferred to the army base cause I signed up to go to the territory of Hawaii out of Scoffer barracks. And the engineers and uh so uh about 30 days at Brooklyn Army Base um the army uses to transfer us by an army transport. The army had more ships then the navy. If I recall correctly, so from Brooklyn army base I went to um South Carolina. And where we picked up an onboard ship French 75 to take to the West Coast they were artillery pieces. Down through the Panamal Canal up to San Francisco.. Up to San Diego? I remembered when the San Diego Pondres where a triple A club cause I saw Volcan men in the afternoon and then out to Fort McDowell which is outside of San Francisco in the Harbor and then after for a period of time there we were transported to our unit in to my unit in, in Honolulu. And to get you up to Scofield they used a pineapple train great number of pineapple fields and I think next year is the last year they will be growing them in America. Pineapple so... There is was transported; now you go through individual training, unit training, and large unit training. And during that period its Scofield Barracks I happened to get into the West Point Prep School. And the Prep School that's to train to get into West Point. The war came at Pearl Harbor, now that is my war time experience they would say I was at Pearl Harbor but it was an attack on the island of Hawaii, December 7 even though they hit the Harbor. And the Pearl Harbor. I was not at the Harbor the day they bombing took place; I was there the next morning. Um... I went down as an Annie air craft tenor tenor because that Sunday afternoon we had to load, load the uh um. Builds for the machine gun and I was a air craft gunner using a grand bronzing machine gun thing. And you took her T bar and put her across the three quarter ton and put her on a stand. That was my experience and I walked down to the Pearl the next morning from Scofield. Now the description of the day that this attack took place was that I was up as usual very early in the morning to go to Mass, as a matter of fact, I remember it was my 38th Sunday that I had attended Mass. Coming home at about they hit and I could see the plane, the airplanes as they went across the one eye range. They hit the Harbor but they also came in from the sun side were they hit the. We Werward Field which was about 300 yards from my barracks. And then a they hit

certain quadrangles of the intery regimistry because the regiments had gas tanks under their paw fields. And they hit the dump behind the Ural field because all of the gas from the aircraft were was under the dump. Uh they had good intelligence there is no question about it. And as far as the mentality of thinking what was the instructions we had, now remember I am 18 years old. Nothing could happen to me at 18, ok. I did know that, that night they put out a security warning 5th column activity I don't know whether you had any instruction about this column during WW2.

Us: I don't think so.

Ralph: 5th column was basically speaking um... Enemy activity that night, spying. And ah. They lined up all there airplanes to secure them. And ah the next morning that was an easy target. Now the question about the attack... they got the Arizona, they got most all of the battleships that were in the harbor. They did not get the aircraft carriers because they were at sea that morning. Now whether this makes interesting enough for you or not I don't know. But, the, there was enough activity submarine wise they had lost the devil swanes, lost the Japanese where was it, It was underneath a cloud. And it was underneath the big storm, but their was hints of something going to happen I think the Japanese in the sea were talking to Franklin Roosevelt. And ah. Just to cover up as far as I'm concerned. They got a submarine outside of the harbor early that morning, they had a fellow from Pennsylvania here who was on the New Radar, reported the aircraft coming in. And somebody at the headquarters just just decided that it must be B-17's coming in from the mainland. Which was very untrue. So he caught us with our pants down, that's about what it turned out to that day. Now what happened after that was about 3 or 4 days every morning I had to be at the harbor with my group, with the aircraft incase they decided to come back. And from then on it was defense the island. Then I went back to school and after that I'm trying to get my appointment to West Point. So one of the major decisions of a young man, 18 years old, was they handed me Sergeant Strips and said to me "You're going to the Philippines in July of 1941." And I turned it down because I wanted to get into West Point. And the story of why I wanted to get into West Point, my mother was a native New Yorker and she worked in the Garment District. So I got the story of West Point from her. She had 5 boys and 1 of them had to go to West Point that was the innaction. So it's very important for kids when there 7th and 8th grade they get a nudge, where what do you like to do because that stayed with me all my life. Two years junior high school and high school. Now I went to two different high school's Millville High school, Millville New Jersey, I don't know if you're familiar with that. That was a big class at that time and then Pleasantville High School outside of Atlantic City. So ah. The actual massinations I went through as a youngster that morning. Were you scared? Yes. Ah what were you doing? I was coming home from church to go to breakfast. What you do? I ran. Then that next day was ah that whole day and evening was a interesting exercise from a stand point of a chambray. We even had a gas alert if you smell traninum that's like oil and gases they were using at that time, but its raining so it's just staying on the ground so you didn't have to worry about it. These are the kind of thoughts that developed over years of what they do actually do. Were you scared? Yes. Did your knees rock? Sure. But then too I had been trained individually, in small unit, and large unit training so I knew what I had to do. As a 18 or 19 year old. So, in May of 1942 I got

word that I got into West Point. Three days from that time I got the word, my unit left to go to Lea, New Guinea. And of course I studied what happened to that unit because all the guys I knew in there. Following that I was sent back to the states, and then to West Point. I spent three years in West Point in a 4 year course, I was commissioned to 1945. So I have a history of World War 2 in the manuals they were the... umm write ups that gave us just a history as was going on. So I have that all upstairs, good source their if you need it. Following the war we were retrained at Port Benning for small unit tactics. About 200 of us went aboard ship and went to the tropics; I spent some time in the Philippines in 1945. Christmas Day of 1945 I was flown to Japan for occupation duty. And I went to the Pitch Fork to visit the 94th division. And on Christmas day at the Commander's Christmas Dinner I was called out and sent to General Headquarters, General Macarthur's Headquarters to participate in counterintelligence in Japan. So I spent 38 months there and came home got married and brought my wife back to Japan. She has been along with me now for 64 years. That's how long we have been married. I came home to get married and that that 1945- 1948. Coming back from Japan I then went to the 7th Regimental Team in fort Devon's Massachusetts. I trained units there; I had my own unit. Then we got word to go to Korea. Uh Ah there is an interesting story about the unit I was assigned to at fort Devon. It was called a 7th regimental combat team cockbarrels. I have all there publications and the prize pictures in those publications were Willy and Joe. I don't know whether they were G.I. Joe cartoons of World War 2. And awe all I could say was it was interesting thing that my war. Hey Colby this...

Colby: Hi does anyone want anything?

Ralph: this is my Caregiver..

Colby: Hi!

Ralph: She's a graduate from Emburg University. She is an Artist.

Colby & Ralph share laughs....

Ralph: Ok

Colby: Does anybody want anything to drink or...

All of us: No thanks

Colby: Ralph do you want your coffee?

Ralph: No, not right now. Let's see where were we. We're at the.

Kayla: Cartoons

Ralph: The cartoons Willie and Joe there interesting, and I. You can see in that room there that I'm cleaning out things. This house has to be emptied. Uhh should something

happen to me. And I my wife is cared for and everything as far as money goes and I have three children that all have Masters Degree's. I have a son whose master's in business education, spent 20 years with Intel Corporations, Computer Chip Company. And I have a daughter who is a bilingual educator down in Maryland. And I have a son who's a graduated from West Point in 1977 and he works for a big oil firm out in Welimpore Alton. 24hours flying time to get home. So that's my family, if you want a picture of where I come from. A Jersey truck driver from back home. I have two master degrees during the time I got out of the Korean War I got hurt in the war, south of the Yalu River, in the Chowson Reservoir. One morning a sniper got me, a piece of artillery shell got my arm, I was transported. So I got out of that, because we had to pull out in China Hangnan and go back down to South Korea. Finally got a 50 parallel separation they never did end that war. So my war experience combat, not hand to hand but seeing Chinese Troops holding them off our positions that I been that. Umm what else would you like to know?

Kayla: Umm

Sabrina: Did you have plenty of supplies when you were there?

Ralph: Ohh heck yeah, ahh a matter of fact in Scofield barracks the regular carison set up..... Yea plenty of resources no problem..... They had a little kit with canned food and fruit and uh chewing gum, cigarettes, napkins, and hand wipe towel in a little package. Gregartions they were called. So now we were fed regular gregartions in in... Scofield barracks, it was a regular setup as far as company goes, and Mess hall. So as an in listed man now I put in about 18 months then I got the West Point boy cadet. I don't know if it sounds jumbled up to you but in my mind it makes sense what I think. But the combat end of it was being at the harbor as far as I am concerned. Then I went, until such time the battle of midway I remember was a sailors told us B17 that means they couldn't get out we lost the York Talihan down at Pearl Harbor to Midway. So I..... is it a result of the activity I did or is it a result of the studies I went through, but I know what happened we were not of age and our intelligence did poorly, it was did poorly in 9-11 and were going to get it again because the denses in Washington as far as I'm concerned are not doing what there suppose to be doing. Now go ahead question.

Kayla: Umm once you got married and went back, how did you stay in touch with family back here?

Ralph: Um let's put it this way, I married in 1947 I came home to be married. And then my wife was shipped to Japan in 1946. And we stayed a little longer than I was supposing too. She had skills, she was a Executive Secretary in Japan and in the occupation duty she was prime target for work. She worked for military government so we we did well. They had by then built housing *MUMBLES* we were able to bring my wife over cause we had a no fratnization policy in Japan. Japanese girls were often amusing. So I don't know if she understands that or not, but it is a problem. But I came back and I went to my unit following Korea and came back through the hospital chain. Following Korea I went to

Fort Benning and I was the instructor at Fort Benning for about 3 years advanced the training school in 1951. 52, 53, 54 I was sent, I never been in Germany, I was sent to Germany. Was assigned the Fifth Intofery. I spent most of my time in the field because the Russians were always threatening and they allowed my wife and family to move. So I lived in Oxford till my third son was born and we had to do the drill, to make sure he was clear of being German to be a citizen to be born over there. Those are little interesting side points. Now what other questions do you have?

Sabrina: How do you think the service affected your life?

Ralph: Ah service academy raised my standard of living; there is no question about it. The promotions, the increase in pay, the social life. I guess you could say I am in the upper crest. I am now in the upper crest, you look at this house, ah. I'm able to do what I'm able to do because of my perks, my retirement and everything keeps me a lot better off than some people. I am very thankful but in the service I stayed with my family through... I was Roman Catholic and as a member of a catholic family you never forget your family. And every time you went to mass on a Sunday or mass on a holy day. An obligation you know your family was right there with you. I guess you would call it improved life style compared to being a blue-collared worker. I went from Private E1 to.

Colby: Can I show them these pictures of you in collar and stuff?

Ralph: Alright, 06.

Colby: This is him in his uniform back in the day.

Ralph: I graduated in in first class and that's second lieutenant in charge and that is private first chair. And that is at Kuwait in 1941 that was my combat gear you're looking at. So I consider myself fortunate. So I spent about 26 years around here. This recruited was here, a lot of my kids graduated. My proudest one is a girl who went to West Point in 1970, ah 1977. She is now married and has five children, retired army colonel, and married a guy up there from Lancaster and she has her doctorate in mathematics. Cathy Gerald, her father was assigned to the coast and she has three and a half of her children at Pittsburgh, West Point. If you stop and think about it. Now that's a little background. Now to combat training and anything like that do you have any questions?

Kayla: Um, did you make any close friendships that you still talk to today?

Ralph: If we go back to my enlisted period, no. I happened to run into people in the socialization at the officers club, and one gentleman I remember particularly was the 1st Sergeant by the name of Paul Pullicanton from Scranton, the Pullicanton family was big in Scranton, so I was able to acquire with him but he was killed along with his brother. One of the nicest men I ever met. I mean 18 years old he could be my father when you consider those gentlemen that were, those men that were assigned to the engineer. I'm talking about my enlisting time. Ah yes I've run in to them, I remember them, and a those kinds of friendships are made in that time where your life is depended on each other. You

develop just now, I don't want to ostersize for certain years. Those guys their children are coming, those children children's are coming through the work house. I remember when I was a structure twice here at Colne's. Till I retired in July 1975 then I went to teach in high school that's when I have sympathy for you. You got quite a project that you going with. Yeah I, I, I unless you want me to come up with detailed research on who I remembered. Following the work Colne's I was sent to South America instead of Vietnam because I had a language capability. In 1971- 74 I was assigned to the I was called the commander US Mil group in Bolivia, the man lock country. Were the communes where trying to get a foot hold, so that was one of the most interesting, my wife we were down there with my family on a passport rather than a military visa. So I had immunity when I was down there. I had to unit train army and navy and air force of the Belligerents and I have a whole story on that so I'm trying to write a book when you stop to think I know the sequence because I got notes all over this place when I get out of these boxes I'll then probably sit down and dictate a book of some sort telling you the experience. What jersey truck farmer picking tomato bugs, I'll tell you I was very blessed in physical science I even recall when I was sent to kindergarten I could read write, read write and do arithmetic, I was put into second grade. So I graduated early. When you get a background of who you're talking to its socialization maximum at the military. I don't know what the army is like now other than I got out in 75 and I use to see the army kids all the time in the high school teaching other electrical occupations I imagine. I have a master's degree in electrical engineering. I mean when you want to see how did it affect my life. Next question.

Sabrina: Um, How did you guys entertain yourselves when you're around?

Ralph: Well in the enlisted status they provided, in 1941 it was training by the time you got done training during the day you had your supper and cleaned yourself up. Then fall asleep I mean go to the movies at night and we didn't have movies at blackout time. Scofield Barracks had a boxing arena, theater, they had little theaters in every infantry, each in every quarter but for me I was studying to get into West Point so in the enlisted status I had one idea I wanted to go to West Point and I worked on it. I had two ways I could get in, a congressional appointment, or a army appointment. But I missed the army appointment by one tenth of a point that makes me a congress man due to my stepmother who knew the congressman in first district in or in the district we were filing in New Jersey. I don't know if you every heard of Weehinx Chicks, chickens, from Elmer Wee he was a congressman and he helped my mother get a hold of congressman Charles Burlington from Purinstan, Campden. I got an alterson when West Point expanded fourteen hundred fourteen cadets. About 872 graduated in 845. 872 out of 1400. Ok next. Entertaining in the army does well for you. When you become an officer you pretty much do the entertaining on your own. We had dinners, we had shows, but most of the time if you are an instructors they say you work on it. You can't get uneducated people involved. So I did a number of studies as a colonel as I was reassigned in the work college I ran a big study on called Low Intensity Conflict in 1985 this was done in 1968- 1971 I did about 7 countries Iran was one of them. I still have the papers hidden away. Now there not aloud to be published but I could see what was going to happen in Iran. This is all now way out of the war zone, now the combat zone in 1954 Iraq had arrived in an infibish

land on one side of North Korea in 1951 October I got hurt in December of 1941. Combat wise as I said I was below the fourth reservoir 17 miles south of the Ana Lobe River. First Baton 7th, Second Baton in a line and the answer was to stand till you die. Now there is the 7th Infantry in Division and the Marines were trapped in the reservoir and they were trapped in this big pontoon bridge or this big steel bridge that came along the crevice. Then we got them out but in the meantime some of us got hurt. The morning of when I got hurt the Chinese I knew there division was 7th or 5th division. We had caught them coming across the Olive in the night intruder balloons in the E20's in the formation of the E20's. In the E20's balloon single tab not the B25's but because of it; it blocked the top of the column and the back of the column. They didn't have maybe in that division they had 5,000 troops and a few weapons. So one of the things we had to teach the kids was to take the triggers out of our weapons after we were done so they couldn't take our weapons if they over ran us. That morning I got up and got hit with a sniper, but I had 5 times of control looking down at the Chinese in the valley I warned them up a little bit with white phosphorus. You know what then I got hurt and I took out some wounded with me. And all I had was a car beamer. North Korea got a little shy and ran like hell. Those are my individual thoughts that now here's a young man 19, 20, 19 years old and he was left with a combat wound going down to the hospital because you're in pain but from there they discovered it was a bone injury, you go home. We traveled from the air force Base to what was it, Valley Forge and the hospital was there. Whether or not this can be put back together I don't know but you're getting it? What it took to be a 06, I commanded in Patalon, Korea in 1960's. I spent a lot of time on the border of North Korea training troops to go back in the North Korea time. Spent a lot of time in the field, then I commanded an armor an econized infantry pc's so that's a very interesting story. You see.