

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

U S Navy during World War II

Personal Experience

O H 1591

URBANO GARCIA

Interviewed

by

John Grischow

on

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## URBANO GARCIA

Urbano Garcia was born November 28, 1923 in Youngstown, Ohio to Crispulo and Flora Garcia, who had come from Spain. He attended Youngstown City Schools and graduated from Rayen High School in 1943. After working briefly for Youngstown Sheet and Tube, Mr. Garcia was drafted into the U.S. Navy. He received basic training at Great Lakes Naval Training Base near Chicago, then was assigned to U.S.S. Jeffers.

The Jeffers was a destroyer-mine sweeper. Mr. Garcia served as a fireman aboard the ship, which saw action at Normandy and assisted with the invasion of southern France. He also toured the Pacific. After the war, he continued serving the Navy on the U.S.S. Endicott.

Discharged from the Navy on April 9, 1946, Mr. Garcia returned to Sheet and Tube where he worked open hearth. He attended Youngstown College and studied business administration and economics, receiving his degree in 1950. He returned to Sheet and Tube and began working in the accounting department. After retiring when the mill closed, he worked at Mahoning National Bank until 1986.

He is enjoying his retirement in Youngstown, Ohio, where he resides with his wife Rose. Their son Christopher died of leukemia at the age of four. Mr. Garcia is a member of Christ Church Presbyterian, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9947, the National Management Association, and Tin Can Sailors. His hobbies include fishing, cooking, tending flowers, and traveling.

- G This is an interview with Urbano Garcia for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the World War II project, by John Grischow, on November 30, 1994, at 1916 West Midlothian Boulevard, at 10 00 a m  
Mr. Garcia, can you start out by giving us a little back ground about your early years?
- Ga. I was born in Youngstown, Ohio, in 1923 I lived down on Summit Avenue about two blocks from downtown Youngstown. My parents came over to this country from Spain My dad was a steel worker I spent my grade school years at Wood Street School At the present time the Choffin Vocational Center is on that property In fact, they held me back in school for two years because Spanish was the spoken language at home I went to Rayen school in 1940 I graduated in 1943
- G That was one of the best schools in the city at that time, wasn't it?
- Ga Yes, that is correct. You might want to ask me why I graduated early I took Spanish in high school For a half year, when my teacher called me into her office in June and told me I was too far advanced for the class She gave me six books to read during the summer She had already arranged it with the principal and gave me a college entrance examination in Spanish When I came back, I took the test and passed it They moved me to the last half of Spanish That is how I got out early
- G Excellent It is always good to hear that you are too advanced for the rest of the class
- Ga Anyway, I graduated in 1943 Shortly after that, on July 5, I was drafted and went to Akron with a bunch of inductees from the Youngstown area We were examined and they asked me if I had any preference to what service I would like to go join I said, "I will take the U S Navy "
- G Was that a popular choice at the time?
- Ga Well, it is hard to say There were a few of us from Youngstown that took the Navy In fact, Harry Meshel went to Youngstown College Do you know him?
- G Oh yes We have a building named after him
- Ga He was in the same group that I went with to Akron He chose the Seabees When we came back, we spent a week in Youngstown Then we went back on the bus to Akron and then to Cleveland We separated in Cleveland He went to the Seabees and I went to the Great Lakes
- G You chose the Navy What made the Navy appeal to you more than the other branches?
- Ga Number one, my brother was in the Navy I figured it would be better traveling You would be able to see more in the Navy There still were the hazards and dangers It was just one of the choices In fact, I have a younger brother that went in the Navy, too He never went overseas
- G He was stateside?

Ga He was stationed down in Key West, Florida

G That is not bad, is it?

Ga No I spent my training in Chicago I think it was eight weeks Upon the completion of boot training I came home in the early part of September for nine days of boot leave, then went back to the Great Lakes

G So you had nine days of leave after boot camp What was that like for you? You had been drafted, being forced to serve in the military, and you were up in Chicago away from your family with a bunch of fellows you did not know You were in a new life How did you react to that?

Ga It so happens we were kept so busy that you did not have time to be thinking of back home As long as you were occupied and learning something you do not get worried about what is happening back at home

G It was probably no accident that you were kept so busy

Ga Not only that, we were in a war and my feelings were this we were in there to do something, get it over with, and come back There were four or five fellows from Youngstown who were in that same group I was In fact, there was one that lost his life on the U S S Indianapolis That is the ship that carried the atomic bomb to Guam We were close friends You probably saw in a movie on television about the Indianapolis where the captain was court marshaled They even had the captain of the Japanese submarine to testify at that hearing

G I have not seen that.

Ga You never saw that?

G No.

Ga If you want to pick up the book it is the U.S.S. Indianapolis

G So it was back to the Great Lakes?

Ga Yes, back to the Great Lakes Previous to that before we came on boot leave where we had the opportunity to go see the Great Lakes football team play Purdue That is when Paul Brown was the coach of the U.S Navy team

G He was the coach of the U S Navy team?

Ga Yes

G That is news to me I did not know that

Ga I will always remember that They told us our company was going to the game Dress was optional You could go in dress blues, undressed blues, dungarees, or whites if you wanted I

chose to go in dress blues. One sailor looked at me and said, "You are going that way?" I said, "Certainly I am going this way." He said, "Why are you going that way?" I said, "When you are going somewhere special you always look your best." Do you know what happened after the game? Everybody who dressed in dungarees were kept after to clean the stadium.

G Beautiful

Ga Did I get razzed when I got back! After that I came home on boot leave. I just enjoyed coming home when my leave was up. We went back to the Great Lakes. We went to the outgoing unit, which meant you were going to be transferred somewhere. While we were in the outgoing unit, they were producing the movie "The Navy Way." They asked for volunteers to be in the movie. I rejected that because I did not want to bother. This was a deal in which they put guys to work as stage hands. They transferred me from the Great Lakes to New York. There was another fellow from Youngstown by the name of Alvin Goldberg. He was transferred with me at the same time. We went to the outgoing unit on pier 92 in New York. I think I spent a week there. It was the weirdest place. I would never want to go back there again. No sooner you got there they cut your hair again. They clipped you very short so the wife of the captain of the naval station would know which sailors were under her husband's command. I spent a week there in New York. Then I got transferred to the U S S Jeffers in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

G Had you been trained in any sort of specialty your second go around the Great Lakes?

Ga No. I designated going into the engineering part of the Navy. I automatically came out of there as a fireman, third class. I progressed as I went along.

G I see. So it was the U S S Jeffers?

Ga: Yes

G I see the denotation DMS after that, sir. What does that mean?

Ga That means the ship was converted into a destroyer mine sweeper by removing the number four gun mount and removing our torpedo tubes.

G So you were a destroyer initially during your service in the Atlantic?

Ga Yes

G A mine sweeper during your service in the Pacific? What was your impression of the U S S Jeffers? I see some photographs here, and it is a huge ship.

Ga It is not as big as you think it is. We had a compliment of maybe three hundred men. The thing about a destroyer is you have more freedom than you do on a bigger ship.

G How so?

Ga You have more regulation on a larger ship. You have higher ranking officers on the larger ships,

which means you might have an admiral or vice admiral.

G So things were kept a little bit tighter?

Ga Yes, and you have to go according to regulations I enjoyed it

G: I see another denotation by the U S S Jeffers is DD

Ga That means destroyer. That stands for the destroyer

G So it was the U S S Jeffers for you?

Ga Yes

G What was your first experience on board there? Where were you sent first?

Ga The first thing was standing on watch in the Brooklyn Navy Yard I was on the midnight watch down in the number one engine room I received word from the quarter deck that they were going to close the hatches because they had a problem aboard ship. One of the ship mates just came back from Liberty drunk and he was parading the deck with a submachine gun

G I would say that was a problem

Ga He was threatening people He locked himself in one of the gun mounts and committed suicide He turned the gun on himself That was my first experience aboard ship

G That must have been a horrible thing to see?

Ga I did not see the guy I did not even know who he was Another thing that stuck me, I did not have a good feeling about this The following day they transferred all his clothes and used my sea bag to put his clothes in It had my name on it We had a captain who was a full commander He spoke to us after that He gave us a lot of liberty. Like I say, those things happen From there we went up to Portland, Maine, for gunnery practice Every time you came into port somebody would get transferred New personnel would come on, so it was a training cycle

G You had four, five inch guns on the Jeffers?

Ga Yes We had 40mm guns and 20mm guns

G Heavily armed ship?

Ga Oh yes

G So you picked up some new fellows in Portland?

Ga No Every time we would come in port they would transfer some on Some would go to school

or whatever

G So there was always a change?

Ga They were always changing. You get new personnel and train them. You have to have everyone 'A1' when you are going out. Of course, I never got sea sick. This is a rough riding ship.

G Because it was smaller?

Ga Yes. You had to be careful. You walked the decks in the North Atlantic you had to grab the lifeline or wear your life jacket.

G Pretty rough.

Ga Like I said, we made five complete crossings.

G Five complete crossings of the Atlantic. You were sent to the Atlantic initially for what reason?

Ga At that time they were producing a lot of destroyers. We were going to the areas where the ships need personnel. That is why. Some could have gone to the west coast or wherever. Our ship was built in federal ship yards in Kearney, New Jersey. It was commissioned in 1942 and decommissioned in 1955.

G Do you know how long it took to build the ship?

Ga I got the figures in there somewhere. I cannot recall. They fabricated them together fast. The other ship that I told you about that got cut in two was towed back into port and had another bow put on it.

G They had a little catching up to do after the losses at Pearl Harbor.

Ga Oh yes. Like I say, at the time I went in the Navy they needed personnel to man the ships. I got all my formal training aboard the ship. In fact, I changed rank every six months. I would pass the test and come out a machinist mate, second class by the end of the war. They were talking to me about shipping over, but I had no desire to stay.

G About shipping over you say?

Ga Going into the regular Navy.

G Oh, making a career. I see.

Ga At that time I did not feel like it.

G You had enough of the Navy after World War II?

Ga The part that got me is really after we signed the peace treaty over in Tokyo Bay, and we did

some mine sweeping around Japan. In November of 1945 our ship got the orders to come back to the states because at that time they were discharging the older veterans. Naturally, they had to go into our groups and put them on different ships to run them. They needed engineers to run the ships, so they put me on another ship, the U S S Endicott, DMS 35. Ours was DMS 27. I stayed aboard the Endicott from November of 1945, and I helped bring the Endicott back to San Francisco. That is where I left the Endicott in April of 1946.

G So you were in the Navy for quite awhile after the war ended?

Ga About six months. I was telling the wife, you see all these different movies about the celebration, but that is where I left the ship. We had to report back every day. I spent seven days over there. My brother was in the Naval hospital in Oakland. I went over to visit him several times. In fact, we got together quite a bit.

G I know that on one of your crossings of the Atlantic you ended up at the Normandy invasion.

Ga. We had convoyed trips from New York to Belfast, Ireland. The ship actually made it back home six trips. I made five of them. When we went over on the fifth trip, we did not realize our purpose. It ended up being the invasion of Normandy. We ended up in Belfast, Ireland, and our ship got the word to sail to Greenwich, Scotland. We were assigned to go up there to pick up the details for the invasion of Normandy. Of course, we did not know what we were going to get. Everything was sealed. We came back and they distributed them to the other ships in our squadron. Then when we sailed out of Belfast, they started having the meetings describing where we were going, what we were going to do, and what our duties were.

G What was your reaction to that? You said earlier you felt that you had a job to do and you wanted to get on with it. Now you are very close to France, just about ready to get started on that job. Did you feel the same way?

Ga Yes. We proceeded, and all of a sudden we got orders to turn back twelve hours and postpone the invasion for 24 hours because of weather conditions. We did that and we came back. We sailed right in close to the beaches that night. Of course, we were at general quarters. We were all at our battle stations. I was a hoist man on the number four gun mount. In other words, I was supplying the five inch shells up into the gun mount.

When we were on general quarters there was no cooking or anything. They gave us k-rations. That night is all we could hear was the bombing on the beaches. We would go up top side and see. It was just massive fireworks the way they were pounding the beaches. Then the following morning is when our action really started. First thing we knew is one of our ships got hit by a mine. We went in to help that ship. It got hit to a point where it could not fire its guns. We did a lot of shore bombardment. We tangled with a German Shore Battery, and we had about four to seven casualties who got hit with shrapnel. We had a shipmate with ear phones connected to the bridge. He got hit with a little piece of shrapnel that came right through the ship. When you say a tin can, you are talking about the thickness of the steel of that ship. He ended up getting a purple heart.

The day we got there, we were in so close that the squad commander's ship was sunk. They had to abandon it, and it moved the flag over to our ship. We spent about 29 days over there at Normandy Beach. We were operated at Utah Beach. That was one of the landings. We



made a couple trips up to Ireland to get ammunition. Of course, the U.S.S. Meredith was sunk. It got hit over there. We tried to rescue that ship. In fact, we went aboard it and tried to take as much weight off of it as possible. Anything we could use we took, like ammunition and so forth. Of course, they wanted to get the secret documents of the invasion off of it, too. We tried to prevent it from sinking. Finally, they tried to tow it, and it split in two and sunk. There was a lot of carnage on that ship. You had steam generators, steam turbines. We burned oil. A lot of times you wonder, you see the steam lines and expansion joints, and you often wonder, this could be us. That scared me more than anything.

G The danger of those steam engines exploding?

Ga No, steam lines. You have high pressure steam. Our ships top speed could go as high as 39 knots, and that is really traveling.

G That sounds pretty fast. So you tangled with a shore battery?

Ga We were firing shots at St. Meriglis. If you saw the movie "The Longest Day," you saw the paratroopers going in there. One parachute got caught in the spire of a church. Our distance was about five miles. It was a rough invasion. Fortunately, we lucked out. Finally, when we left there after about 29 days between making trips to England and Ireland to get supplies or fuel, or ammunition, we finally got the word that we were going to the Mediterranean. We spent another few months down there for the invasion of Southern France. Of course, we lucked out on that invasion.

Our assignment there was the same assignments as before with the exception that we were escorting aircraft carriers. We would sail toward France in the daylight hours, then turn around and come back the other way. We went into the Mediterranean and went to Oran, North Africa. We went in around Italy, over through the Messina Straits. I think that is the most beautiful part of the Mediterranean, going between Sicily and Italy, the boot. It was beautiful! We ended up in Naples. I got ashore in Naples, Italy. Of course, the Isle of Capri was not that far away. I got ashore in Malta. That is British. We operated out of Ajaccio, Corsica, for the invasion of Southern France.

After we completed that invasion, we got word to come back to the states. I remember the night just before we got into the Navy yard. We had to unload all the ammunition we had, and we did not know the reason for it. Anyway, we got word they were going to convert our ship to a destroyer mine sweeper for the push on Japan. We actually spent two months in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. We got two five day leaves while we were there. We got to go home. Mostly in the Navy yard they kept a skeleton crew aboard the ships. They had us living in apartments in Brooklyn, but hardly anybody ever stayed there. They go there to get dressed and go their own way.

G Sure. You must have appreciated those five day leaves?

Ga Right after Christmas we left there. This was 1944. So it was December of 1944 that we left for Norfolk, Virginia. We went to Norfolk to train down there on our way with our new mine sweeping equipment. I think it was the third of January 1945. That is when we proceeded to go down to the Panama Canal. On the way to the Panama Canal, I figured we would like to go to shore being fluent in the Spanish language. We ran into a problem. We were distilling our

capacity of water. We were condensing the water, taking the salt out of the saltwater and make it pure so we could use it in our boilers and for drinking and so forth. We were losing water. What a job that was trying to track that down! We spent a couple days on that task. Finally we discovered where the problem was. There was a leak where you cleaned the trays and the cups for the kitchen. While we were going into Panama, we anchored and they gave everybody else the liberty except the engineers. They restricted us to the ship.

G So your luck runs out in Panama?

Ga Yes. They restricted the engineers. Finally after a few days we proceeded through the locks. That is an experience. You know how that works?

G Would you tell about it?

Ga You go in a lock and they either fill it or empty it, depending on which direction you are going. They bring you up to the next level, then sail to the next lock. It is the same thing or vice versa, depending which direction you come from.

G It takes a bit of time?

Ga It takes time. They put us through at about four destroyers at a time. There was a fresh water lake in the middle. When we got over to the Pacific side, we sailed over to San Diego. We made some practice runs around there. When we were moving we were always practicing something, whether it was gunnery practice, or using our new mine sweeping equipment. You know how paravanes work? You let them out. If you ran into a mine, it is on a cable. You guide it into these cables that would cut the cable and that pops the mine. We would detonate it by firing at it. We got a lot of good training there.

From San Diego we sailed to Pearl Harbor. I forget how long we were at Pearl Harbor. We had more training down there. When we got out I think we stopped at Eniwetok, an island in the Pacific, and ended up over in Ulithie. That was a staging area for the invasion of Okinawa. There were ships all over. They had tankers, destroyers, mine sweepers, aircraft carriers, you name it, it was there. You knew something big was going to happen. Of course, we started sweeping the mines around Okinawa, and nothing really happened. The Japanese had planes up there. When we finally did make the first invasion that is when we got into the kamikaze's. They were throwing everything they could at us. We had a lot of ships. You could tell by this ship if you look at it that we took a beating there.

G Did you have trouble with the kamikaze's personally on your ship? Was the Jeffers ever struck?

Ga Yes, we were struck. We were struck by a kamikaze plane while on picket duty, but they had ships like ours out there guarding where we had already invaded. They would come in and try to hit us with their kamikaze planes.

G Terrible. Someone who is that intent on causing harm.

Ga The way I look at it, they were desperate.

G It was a desperate time for the Japanese

Ga They knew we were getting close because their Navy was practically almost wiped out anyway. The day we got hit, April 12, 1945, we were on our way to help out the U S S Abele. That is when we saw this silver streak coming out of the sky. They did not know what it was. Nobody had ever seen one. Here, it was a baka bomb with a human being on it.

G A baka bomb, a Japanese bomb piloted by humans?

Ga Yes, a human being. Our gunners splashed it, I would say about a hundred yards away, maybe less. It hit into our ship's office near the water line. Of course, we did not have any casualties, but during the other attack with the twelve planes we lost two guys overboard. They were picked up later. We proceeded to pick up a bunch of survivors from the Abele. The ship had been sunk. I think 65 men were wounded. I think we had five that apparently were killed.

Then we proceeded to Kerama Retto to get rid of the survivors. I was just coming off watch. As you open up the door to go in the lights automatically go out. As soon as I stepped in, I thought I was stepping on something. I was stepping on a dead body. One of the officers was there with a few others and said, "Well, we got word that we have to bury these five at sea." Naturally, they asked for help, so I helped them. They were given the Naval burial. We put them in a mattress cover and tied a five-inch shell to their legs. Then you dropped them in the ocean. We had one of the shipmates do a religious ceremony. It was dark.

We went down into quarters with the crew that we had aboard. We proceeded to do extra jobs. Our ship needed repairs, so we got word to go to Guam. That is where they repaired our damage. We had done a temporary patch job on our ship. We went to Guam and spent two months there. Finally, when we left Guam to go back we began sweeping mines in the China Sea, close to Japan. I think about that time if I am not mistaken when we got word that President Roosevelt passed away. Shortly after that I think is when they dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Then a short time later they dropped a second bomb. Shortly after that is when the signal went up that the Japanese were giving up.

We went out for more sweeping of mines around the entrance of Tokyo Bay. I remember when one of the mines got stuck. They could not release it, so they had to let the cable out. One of the Boatswain mates that was in charge of the mine sweeping back there cut the cables. He got an award for it. That is about the only danger that I saw while we were sweeping mines. They are weird looking if you see them in the water.

G I am sure you would be scared to come across them.

Ga Oh yes. We then got word and went into Tokyo Bay. I forget how many days we were there. I think we went in on August 29. This peace treaty was signed with the Japanese on the U S S Missouri. We were not that far away from it. After that you know what happened.

G It is the end of the war and you were discharged up to a few months after the end? You ended up at Hiroshima, didn't you?

Ga No. Our ship had orders to come back to the states with all of the older Navy personnel that they were discharging. They needed personnel to run the ships that were still going to be there, so I was transferred to another destroyer/minesweeper. I went aboard in November. We brought that

ship back in April of 1946 That is when I was sent to the Great Lakes to be discharged About six months was spent mine sweeping, trying to clear up the water

G The minesweepers still had work to do?

Ga We still had work to do I was a little disturbed that I did not come back with my ship, but by the same token I got to spend time in Hong Kong and Shanghai

G So you got to see a little bit of the world?

Ga I had time to spend in Hong Kong and Shanghai Not only that, I got to see Sasebo, Japan, plus the fact that I got to go to Hiroshima All in all, when I got back to the states in 1946, I did not hear a band playing or anything The only thing I could remember was I got discharged in the Great Lakes I came home on the B & O Railroad, and to the old B & O Station I had my sea bag I put the sea bag on my shoulder and walked from the B & O Station to Summit Avenue where I lived because it was not that far I opened the door and said, "Mom, I am home "

G What a great day that must have been for you, at last? What would you do after that?

Ga Previously I had worked part time at Sheet and Tube before I went into the service, part-time In fact, I was working in the summertime at the Open Hearth. I went back and worked that summer As I said, I was going to go to college I enrolled at Youngstown College I majored in business administration with a minor in economics I graduated in 1950 After I graduated, I was looking around for work I finally ended up going back to Sheet and Tube Instead of going to New York, I went into the accounting department Being that I was working in the accounting department, I had beginning accounting and intermediate accounting I did not have cost accounting, so I took that I enrolled part-time in that I took a couple other courses in accounting which were helpful I worked various jobs in accounting, such as time keeping and cost accounting I was a special cost clerk Then I ended up being division head of special cost accounting When Lykes Corporation took us over, they started changing things around and putting people out the door They put me in inventory control When they closed the Campbell Plant, I retired

G Since 1977?

Ga Yes I retired and was off six months Then I went to work for Mahoning Bank in management I worked with them for about eight years I have been retired since 1986

G What have you been doing with your retirement?

Ga I do a lot around here I work out in the yard As you get older, you run into different things My wife is not doing too well

G When did you meet your wife?

Ga I met her in 1952 We have been married for 42 years?

G What is her name?

Ga Rosemarie

G: So you have been married to her for 42 years There is not too much of that going around

Ga We had one child Our little boy was born in 1958 He has down syndrome We only had him for four and a half years when he passed away with Leukemia It is hard to take, especially for a woman She is always talking about that Of course, I was active with the Mahoning County for retarded children I belong to the Spanish Club I am a member of the V F W

G South Avenue post?

Ga No, out here in Cornersburg They meet once a month. It is a small post I am a life member Of course when I was working, I was in the National Management Association I belonged to a church

G Which church?

Ga Christ Presbyterian over here on Canfield Road I was active in that church I was a deacon I was the institutional representative of the Boy Scouts

G So you have been keeping busy

Ga Right now I do mostly everything here

G Very good Can you think of anything else you would like to mention before we conclude about your experience during the war, or any life experience?

Ga We have ship reunions every year

G Every year?

Ga We have had nine so far The first one was in the Poconos'

G That is not a bad place for a reunion

Ga It was a real reunion because you got to see guys you have not seen in over 40 years The first reunion they gave you a sheet with a little history of what you had done when you left the ship, such as married, what you have done, where were you, where you came from, everything like that That took up a big portion of time You meet some of the guys and the engineering officer came up It made me feel good in a way He said, "I had to commend you I left the ship after Normandy I knew they would never get rid of you You got your training on the Jeffers You were going to be there " I said, "That is the way I was brought up. If you have a job to do, you are going to do it " It is not that way anymore

G What do you see now?

Ga Being in banking I know what I have to do If you are using plastic you go ahead and use it, but pay it off

G There is nothing like nineteen percent interest?

Ga My dad did not even have a high school education or anything like that When I first started working at Sheet and Tube he said to me, "I have to talk to you on the second payday" He sat down and said, "Well son, what did you learn?" I said, "I know one thing, the day after payday these guys are all broke" He said, "That is what I want to hear You know what you do, don't you son?" I said, "Yes What?" He said, "Pay yourself first, give your mother some money, then have a good time with the rest" That is good advice, isn't it?

I have two nephews One works at the energy department in Washington D C He works under Hazel O'Leary He is an expert in nuclear waste Of course, his first job in the government was as an aide He was the senator of South Dakota The last eight or nine years he has been working with the group of senators that John Glen heads up on nuclear waste Just recently, the first of the year he got the job at the energy department He just got back from Korea He was over there with the inspectors I have not talked to him since he got back He is writing a book He is from Youngstown I believe he spent three years at Y S U I think he received his degree somewhere else. Another one just retired from the CIA after 30 years He was in the marines

G: The CIA, that is some business?

Ga Like I say, I never got into the subject

G I do not think they are allowed to get into the subject

Ga No The only time he ever discussed anything with me was when I was with the bank He called me and said he was coming to town at such and such a time He said, "I am going to take Rose, yourself, my mother, and my brother out for dinner When I get into town I will tell you what I am doing." He got here and proceeded to tell me that the head of the agency at that time was Colby He called him in and another black employee They were assigned to go around to different universities recruiting for the C I A He came to Youngstown That is about the only time I knew what he was doing Shortly after that he had done all that and got transferred out to Austin, Texas as a southwest representative I do not have to know

G That endangers you if you know anything?

Ga He just retired at 54 years old Like I say, I had another brother who was a Navy man in Florida He died in Key West, Florida He was 50 years old My oldest brother is still here That is the one that had the two ships sunk

G Yes, he was torpedoed twice in the Mediterranean

Ga Yes, over in North Africa

- G He had some bad luck?
- Ga Like I say, I worked for the bank and enjoyed it In the bank as a manager you do all the jobs, personnel, the whole bit Of course you have your limitations that you could loan out
- G You called some shots
- Ga Like I say, they hired me and I went to work as a trainee at the money room I was down in the money room for four or five months
- G That does not sound like a bad place to be, or does it get dull after a while?
- Ga It is just like anything else You get a job and forget about it I decided to go into management and they sent me over here to the west side I was there a couple months Then they assigned me down to the Fifth Street Bank in Struthers I went down there and knew a lot of people down there It was a good experience
- G So you had the pleasure of serving your country during the second world war You got a university education, worked a number of years at Sheet and Tube, and you are happily married You had a job you liked after your retirement from Sheet and Tube. It has been pretty good?
- Ga Yes, my health has been good In fact, when I told them I was retiring they said, "Why don't you stay longer?" I said, "No, I have made up my mind At 62 I do not want to work "
- G That is right Take some time and enjoy it
- Ga There are things that I want to enjoy now that I cannot. I would like to go over to Spain. I am the only one in the family that has never gone to Spain
- G Still fluent in the language?
- Ga Yes, I would not have any problem Once you get into the foreign languages and you had the background, you could pick it up in a hurry I do not speak Spanish to my wife, but she will understand some of it Like I say, it is not like living in the community Then things will start
- G When you hear it around you?
- Ga That is the way to learn the language
- G Absolutely
- Ga Go in and mix with the people You pick it up fast Like I say, I go to all the reunions She has not gone to the last four or five I am hoping to get her to go down to Florida
- G I hope so, sir Thank you very much for the interview It has been most helpful It is appreciated

Ga For that university I do what I can In fact, I helped raise money for the stadium when I was with Sheet and Tube I was not too happy about what they built

G Some people are not

Ga I thought it was a monstrosity, but now I think they are going to complete the other end

G I think so, so they could get those championship games here in Youngstown That will be great!

End Of Interview