

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Naval Reserve Project

Personal Experience

O. H. 426

ROBERT EVANS

Interviewed

by

David Arms

on

May 20, 1975

ROBERT EVANS

Robert Evans was born in Warren, Ohio, on May 18, 1923, the son of Marie Pearl and David Weiser Evans. He attended Warren G. Harding High School in Warren and received a B.S. and B.A. from Kent State University in 1950. After working at the Ravenna Arsenal, Mr. Evans joined the Navy in 1942 and was stationed at Pensacola, Florida, California and Okinawa. The Korean War brought him back into Navy service after his first discharge in 1946 and he served in the Korean War until 1952. He has been an active member of the Naval Reserves since 1946 and helped in the organization, instruction and recruitment of the Warren Naval Reserves.

Mr. Evans has been, since 1957, employed as a staff industrial engineer at Commercial Shearing Inc. He is a member of Central Christian Church in Warren and he and his wife, Margaret Lucille, have three children: David Leslie, Diana Leigh and Dawn Marie. Besides enjoying fishing and high school football, Mr. Evans is also a member of the American Institute of Industrial Engineers, the Mahoning Valley Industrial Management Association and the Naval Reserve - PersMobDet 605.

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INTERVIEWEE: ROBERT EVANS

INTERVIEWER: David Arms

SUBJECT: Background, Navy History in Warren, Attitudes
Toward Armed Services

DATE: May 20, 1975

A: This is an interview with Robert Evans for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program by David Arms at the Naval Reserve Center, 315 East LaCleda Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, May 20, 1975, at approximately 5:50 p.m.

Mr. Evans, could I just ask you to give me some of your personal background, your education, your family background, where you were born, that type of thing?

E: I was born in Warren and attended school in Warren. After serving four years in the Navy, I attended Kent State University for four years and received a bachelor's degree in 1950. I was a member of the Naval Reserve during that time I attended college and it helped financially, plus I was interested in the reserve program. My family is pretty much centered in this area and I guess I just settled in this area because it is my home and I have always worked here. I am employed at a local manufacturing firm, Commercial Shearing Incorporated, on Logan Avenue. The company manufactures hydraulic equipment and pressed metal products. Hydraulic pumps, valves, and cylinders are major products and Commercial is the second largest in the world. We also make a complete line of underground supports and are international with plants all over the world: Australia, Canada, Europe, London, Luxembourg, and Japan. The two big items are our hydraulic and pressed metal products. All of the tunnel supports on the Pennsylvania Turnpike were made by Commercial Shearing. Commercial has more steel underground than any other company in the world. We fabricated steel for the Aswan Dam in Asia. It's a small part of Africa. We call it the Mideast. Of course, we also build underground sewer

lines, water lines, and cofferdams.

A: What was your major in college?

E: Business Administration.

A: I see and what kind of a position do you hold?

E: At the present time I'm a Staff Industrial Engineer for Commercial Shearing.

A: I see. When did you first join the Navy?

E: I first joined the Navy in September 1942. I was just out of high school. I worked a short time at the Ravenna Arsenal. Of course when things got going good in September of 1942, I enlisted in the Navy and served four years in World War II at Pensacola, Florida, California, Okinawa, and was discharged in 1946.

The summer of 1946 is when we originally started the Naval Reserve in Warren. I didn't know too much about the reserve. I was single at the time and when I was released they asked if I wanted to join the reserves and I consented. So I actually have never been out of the Navy. In the summer of 1946 an officer approached me and inquired as to whether I was interested in forming a local unit. Of course at that time, there was no training center in Warren and we met at the American Legion for a period of time and then later, as the organization grew, we moved to the high school cafeteria. That was probably the period of 1947 and 1948; I really don't know the exact year they completed the Training Center in Warren. Around 1949 we had about two hundred members in the Warren division. In fact, we had a waiting list. We were considered top for a large unit. The Korean War broke out in 1950 and just about cleaned the place out. When I graduated from college in 1950, I had my orders to go on active duty. I think the Korean War probably hurt the reserves more than anything else because many guys did get called to serve. I was called back in 1950 and served two years during the Korean War on heavy cruisers. I served on the USS Baltimore and the USS Columbus. I was released from active duty in 1952 and stayed in the reserve unit in Warren until we moved to Youngstown.

I don't know exactly when we moved to Youngstown, probably about 1968 or 1969. We drilled one night a week in Warren and when we moved to Youngstown we continued to drill weekly. I think we were kind of considered outcasts, and rightly so. When they closed the training center in Warren . . . Warren had one division and here they had CB's [Construction Battalions], Marines, and a couple of Navy units. We felt we were being discriminated against because we were outsiders. I don't

know if we were or not but we drilled weekly for several years. It was in the last two years that we went to weekend drills.

A: Why did you join the Navy in the first place back in World War II?

E: That's an interesting story. I was working at the Ravenna Arsenal at the time. I was young and working three turns and when we got done one morning at seven o'clock, my friend suggested we go to Cleveland and join the Marines. We went directly from work to Cleveland and we went to the Marine Recruiting Office in the old post office building. We informed the Marine Recruiter that we wanted to join the Marine Corps. He informed me that they were looking for men. I was about five feet tall and weighed about one hundred and twenty pounds. They wouldn't enlist me because I was too small. So we both joined the Navy that day instead and went to the Great Lakes and, of course, went through the same training. We didn't stay together very long. But I always consider that an interesting story because the Marines really didn't want me; I was too small, but the Navy took me. I guess I just met the qualifications for the Navy at the time.

A: You went to Great Lakes for boot camp?

E: Went to Great Lakes, yes, and went through boot training at Camp Perry, and then to Gulfport, Mississippi. Gulfport was a new camp. I think it was an armed guard school at the time. It was new and they had just finished the barracks and they put us to work cleaning paint off the windows. I guess we were there for about two months and then they transferred us to Pensacola, Florida. I stayed there about two years. While I was in Pensacola, I was with the Cadet Training Program and it was called the Flight Brigade. At the time, we actually kept records on the cadets that were going through flight training. That was, I think, an intermediate school for pilot training. From Pensacola, they went to their final training either at Corpus Christi or Jacksonville. They did get their commissions when they left Pensacola. From Pensacola I got orders to Fort Ord, California, in 1944, then to Treasure Island. From Treasure Island, we went to Okinawa. We arrived at Okinawa two weeks after invasion day. We were at Pearl Harbor on Easter Sunday so that would put us at Okinawa two weeks after the invasion.

I was in a Military Government Outfit and the main purpose was to get the civilians out of the way of the advancing troops. The main purpose was to try to get them a place to sleep, something to eat, and move them back so the

Marines and the Army could go in and engage the enemy. I was on Okinawa about eighteen months. In fact, I was there when the war ended, when they dropped the atomic bomb in Japan.

I didn't get in on any of the celebrations, being in Okinawa, but I stayed there, I don't know, probably six months after the war ended. Being single, not having too many points, I stayed over there probably longer than most. Then I went from there to the Brooklyn Navy Yard where I was processed for discharge, and enlisted in the reserves in 1946. I came home that summer, helped get the reserve organized, and then started Kent State University in the fall of that year.

A: Why did you join up with the reserves?

E: Well, at that time I was single and didn't have any ties. I guess the main reason is because I liked the Navy. The Navy always treated me well. Let's see, I think I advanced to First Class Yeoman when I was on Okinawa so I had a decent pay grade. At that time we were getting some pay and I think they told us that we would, if we got in a unit, get paid. At that time I didn't know we were going to have an organized unit in Warren.

A: On advancement and things then, when you first joined the Navy during World War II, how did you advance? Did you have to take a test?

E: Oh yes, we took tests. In fact, I remember taking two tests down at Pensacola. I made Third Class and Second Class and on Okinawa . . . it was like the Army. If you had time in and your CO liked you, they did have the authority then to advance you, I think, one advancement and that's when I was advanced to First Class. Then I made CPO shortly after I came out of the Korean War probably about 1950. It's probably my own fault that I haven't advanced to E-8 or E-9 in that I didn't apply myself.

A: Speaking of that also, you say you graduated from college in 1950. Did you ever think of applying for a commission or anything like that at the time?

E: Yes, but by the time I got my degree and completed my tour of duty in the Korean War, I had gone over the age limit. I think it was twenty-six or twenty-seven at the time and if you were over that age limit you couldn't apply for a commission. Otherwise, I probably would have applied for a commission.

A: Now you're a yeoman. Can you remember why you originally

decided to be an administrative type or clerical individual?

- E: Yes, I can remember. In school I took half academic, half business courses. I learned to type in high school. I took a couple of courses in typing and I think that was about the first thing they asked me when I got to Pensacola, "Can anyone type?" There were two or three of us that typed and so naturally if you could type you ended up in an office. I've never been sorry because I think clerical type rates in the Navy have a lot of benefits. I've always been treated well and I guess that's why I decided to be a yeoman, mainly because I could type and that's what they needed at the time.
- A: I see. Now when you got out, you were released from active duty after World War II and discharged, how did you go about joining the reserves? In other words, did you have to take a test, or you say an officer found you? Do you happen to remember the officer's name?
- E: I can't remember his name. All I remember was he was a food salesman. I remember he came around to my house and wanted to know if I would be interested in organizing a unit and I said, "Yes, I would help." I've seen the reserve program go through so many different phases of organization and reorganization. Of course, this last one has been a humdinger.
- A: Yes, that's right.
- E: When we first got orgainzed, we did all the clerical work. There were two hundred of us and maybe we had twenty yeomen or clerical type people who maintained all the service records, made all the entries, the whole works. We were probably more qualified at the time being just released and being on top of everything. I think the longer you stay away from clerical type functions in the Navy, the more you lose the hold of it because there are so many changes and if you're not abreast of them, you lose it. I think more so in the yeoman type rate because you're expected to know and expected to keep abreast of all the changes. I haven't done it, I'll admit. Of course, I don't see how you could. If called back in, it would probably take a period of six months before you really got a hold of things again.
- A: Now, how did you actually go about setting up that unit? Did you meet with any active duty people or was this done by correspondence? How do you go about setting up a Naval Reserve Center?
- E: Let's see, how did we do that? Our first CO in Warren was McHenry. I think the first thing we did was send for the service records. I guess that would be the first thing you would do, get the records together. Then we grew so

fast there, from the first two years, that I'm sure there was a lot of confusion. I know we always had an active duty yeoman. I'm sure that there was always a person considered a station keeper and I'm sure that right after they got organized they got a CO of the division too. A year and a half later they got the training center started. That was a long time ago. I'm not too good at remembering the organizational plans.

A: Do you remember when the center up there was built? Did the people do it themselves?

E: The property in Warren was leased from the Trumbull County Fair Board because it was on Fair Board property. I think they paid a dollar a year. I don't remember who built the Quonset huts. It was subcontracted by the Navy for somebody to come in and set the Quonset huts up, but I really wasn't on top of it at the time. When things reverted back, it was controlled by the Trumbull County Commissioners. The Navy gave it up because it was on Trumbull County land. Then I think the commissioners sold the building to the United Steel Workers Union. As far as I know, they own it today and probably rent or lease some office space.

A: Could you describe the center to us? Was it Quonset huts with a front building or how was it?

E: It was basically the same as the one here in Youngstown. It had three Quonset huts. Let's see, I think it's identical to the one here in Youngstown. I'm not real sure; the Quonsets might be a little bit bigger, but that would be the only difference because it was three Quonset huts with the structure in front. Of course, with the parking lot in the rear, I would think that they were all built basically the same, but I'm not sure.

A: I see. Now those first meetings before you moved to the training center there in Warren, could you just kind of give me an idea what you did at those meetings? You said you met at the American Legion. What went on? Was there any classroom training going on or did everybody sit around and drink coffee?

E: I can't remember at the American Legion just what we did. I think we just kind of used that as a getting together place when we were getting organized, and as we got additional people we outgrew that because the building isn't that big in Warren. I remember we used to go to the cafeteria in the high school and I'll be quite frank with you, I can't remember doing anything at the high school. The first time I can really remember having any trouble was after the training center was built. It wasn't too long after that, like I said before, that the guys started getting called

back or started getting their orders for the Korean conflict. It was like a period of a year and a half maybe, or two years, in there; I can't really remember. I can't say that there was a lot of formal training going on after the Korean War which would be from 1952 through maybe 1965 or 1968 until we moved here. Like I said, during that period was when we did our own recruiting and training at the center, but I really can't remember having too much formal training in the first few years of the organization.

- A: So when you came back from Korea, basically what you were interested in at that time was training, is that it? Did you still work in records and maintain your own records?
- E: I always worked in the office after we came back. The yeomen made all the entries in the service record of the division and did the clerical work that is now being done by the station keepers. I can't remember how the quota for station keepers changed but I would think that maybe today they might have more station keepers than we had at the time. Maybe we had one yeoman at that time and I thought that was good because we were responsible. He was more or less like the manager to make sure things got done. Of course then, later, I was an instructor and we did instruct recruits in the basic recruit training, seaman recruit, seaman apprentice up to the seaman and that training along with what they got at basic training. They were able to advance during that period. I can't remember any formal training in the first couple years of the reserve.
- A: Now, when you say you used to train the recruits just coming in, how about the cadre personnel at the time? Did you train them at all or were they the trainers also?
- E: A lot of the cadre people were instructors. I can remember going through a phase where every training center was assigned certain ratings to train. The training center in Warren was assigned to train hospital men, machinery repairmen and commissary men. I think at that time maybe each training center was assigned like three or four different rates which sometimes was hard to do because first of all, you had to assume that you had qualified people to do the instructing and that lasted for awhile.
- At that time, if you wanted to join the reserves, you either had to fit into one of these rating categories or be striking for one or there wasn't any billet for you. I think the way it was set up then they thought if we need ten machinery repairmen we can just go to Warren and we know we can put our hands on ten machinery repairmen or ten hospital men or whatever was needed.
- A: What kind of activities did you become involved in at the

time? Did you just come in on your own one night and then go home or did it become more and more time consuming? What I'm trying to say is, did you become involved in any outside activities in regard to the Naval Reserve Center or did your school take up most of your time? Of course, you were graduated then, after the Korean conflict.

E: I guess at that time probably I spent more time, my own time, over at the training center than I had in previous years. I guess because of necessity more than anything else. We had so much work to do and we did go over and spend our own time. We always had a CPO Club in Warren like we have now. I think that helped to hold our division together. There are a lot of chiefs that have been together for twenty or twenty-five years like Chief Jones and myself. Yes, I think that we've spent more time at night over at the training center--not everybody, certain individuals--in getting the work done. I guess to answer your question, I think that we spent more time at the training center on our own than the people spend today.

A: Did you have a center bowling team?

E: Oh yes, at one time we had a baseball team and also a bowling team. We really played hard at baseball and never really were too successful. I think for two or three years we did belong to the slow pitch league in Warren. We had a bowling league and I would guess maybe the bowling league was for two or three years too. Never set the world on fire in either one, but I think an organization like this needs something besides just the time they spend drilling.

A: Did you have any social club parties or did you celebrate the Navy's birth every year?

E: Oh yes, we always had an annual dance which we held at a local restaurant. For years we had a dance which was a buffet-type deal where we would hire a band, have a dance, and then have a buffet lunch; it used to be pretty well attended. In fact, I would guess that probably, maybe fifty or seventy-five percent of our personnel would attend. Through the years it faded out like a lot of other things. I think they have tried to revive it here in Youngstown and they've had some successful division dances and other successful functions as well. But yes, we had some real good outside activities in Warren.

A: Can you recall any activities where you did the community project any good? Did you ever go out and pick up trash beside the highway and things of that nature?

E: Really, the one that sticks in my mind is when we had a hurricane on the outskirts of Warren. I'm not sure what

year it was but a hurricane hit the area outside of Warren and at that time they called the reserves out to help feed the people whose homes had been destroyed. I can't remember exactly all of the other functions that we performed, other than detouring some of the traffic and getting the people into liveable houses or in with relatives or whatever . . . That's pretty far back for me to remember but that was one community effort I know that we took part in. It was on a weekend and went into the following week. That was strictly a voluntary thing. I can't remember other than that really doing too many community activities in Warren.

A: You wouldn't say you were necessarily community-oriented on those type of things, more on call than volunteer?

E: Yes, I would say so. I don't think we actually did too much for the community. Maybe we could have done a lot more. I know the CB's now do a lot for the community. They go out to the scout camp which I think is great that they can do that. One of the CB's works down where I do and I keep in touch with what they do by talking to him. He tells me where they go and some of the projects that they do and I feel that the CB's are really fulfilling a good need.

A: Did you do anything with any other centers or training or any evolutions with Youngstown or was Youngstown just another one down the street?

E: Through the years there has always been Patrol Craft or some type of Navy ship at Cleveland that we used to train on. In the summertime at least, probably one weekend, one or two weekends every summer, we would go to Cleveland as a unit and take the ship out. We would generally go to Canada or Erie or Lorain; I guess that's basically where we would go. I felt that was good training that we did take the ship out, the unit, under the direction of the station keepers on the ship. We went through the different evolutions of man overboard, fire drill, et cetera. It was more realistic, I think, aboard ship than it was at the training center. This was weekend training where we took the ships out of Cleveland. We never did too much with other training centers that I can remember.

A: In Warren itself, were the reserves readily accepted? Was the Navy readily accepted that you can remember?

E: Yes, I can think that Warren was receptive to the Navy back in the 1950's, probably more so than it would be now. I think the day of the military man being accepted has almost disappeared in this country. I think shamefully, he has almost been delegated to an inferior person, and almost made a mockery, which has to be sad for this

country. Naval Reservists won't wear their uniforms today because they're afraid that somebody is going to make fun of them or they're going to make a mockery of them or they're going to make remarks. I can remember and I'm sure you can too, when if you wore a uniform, you could be proud of it and everybody else was proud of you. I think, in my own mind, that probably the war in Vietnam has probably been more responsible for this than anything else, the country as a whole, losing a certain amount of respect for the military. I can remember that we used to go to the Navy and we were proud to wear the Navy uniform. I guess it has been only since the Vietnam War, since our participation . . . do you feel this way? I don't know how you feel about it.

- A: Well, personally, in Youngstown I haven't noticed that. In other words, I'm well received in the city of Youngstown. There isn't a place I wouldn't wear my uniform, even at the university campus.
- E: I feel the same way, but don't you agree with what I say about this?
- A: Yes, definitely, but I understand that there are parts of the country that are worse than here.
- E: I would think so, yes.
- A: Up in New England, for example. I know this commanding officer up there who would not wear his uniform outside the center for fear of being stoned. Now here I have no fear at all. I go up to the university with my uniform on all of the time and I have no fear.
- E: I still have a sense of pride in my uniform and I'm not ashamed of it. I don't think it holds the same respect it used to. I think it's sad that this happened. I guess maybe the military is partly responsible for it too. Of course, I can remember when I was in the Navy, you wore your uniform all of the time. You didn't have any civilian clothes. So when you left the ship, when you left the Navy yard, at that time, everybody wore a uniform. Now they've permitted everybody to wear civilian clothing when you leave the ship.
- A: How about the relationship of the officer and the enlisted in the reserves?
- E: I think there has always been a real good relationship between the officers and the enlisted men or if I haven't felt that there wasn't, maybe some people did. I guess it's because maybe I always felt that I could communicate with the officers and never really had that many problems. I think there is a good relationship in most cases with the

officers and enlisted.

A: Do you think it has possibly changed over the years?

E: Yes, I think that at one time the commissioned officer was held in high esteem. I think commissioned officers are closer to the enlisted men today than he used to be. You didn't communicate with an officer hardly, unless you had a need.

A: Do you think this does away with that senior enlisted man, interferes with his relationship?

E: I would think that it could, yes. I think that if there was the right communication between the enlisted and his-- in the reserve--CO or even the CO of the training center: yes, you could possibly get along without the senior enlisted man. Maybe I'm off base on that, I don't know. Maybe some people would feel closer talking to a senior enlisted man than they would an officer, I don't know.

A: Now, Chief, in the last years of being up in Warren, do you remember the closing down of the center up there or anything like that? What did happen? How did they go about it? Did they let you know like, hey, at the end of the fiscal year we are not going to have a center here, or what went on in that account?

E: Yes, I think as well as I can remember, that was the period when they were closing some of the training centers and rightly so; I think it was a good move. It was a good move to save money because having a training center in Warren and one in Youngstown which was roughly fifteen miles apart . . . maintaining that building alone plus the personnel, the upkeep, the heating, the lighting, and so forth just had to be an enormous outlay of money. I think when they did close some of the training centers, especially Warren where we had one unit, and moved them to Youngstown was just a good move on somebody's part. It probably should have been done long before it was.

They told us we were moving to Youngstown. I can't remember how soon an advance of the move they told us. Of course, after being in Warren all these years, we probably weren't too happy about it but I think everyone felt that it was a good move to save money. Like I said before, I'm sure some of them felt that maybe we weren't just treated rightly when we moved to Youngstown. I never felt that way. I think there's always going to be a little bit of that when you move. These guys have been down here for a long time and we were like outsiders to them too and I felt that we were pretty well accepted.

I think the most problems we had at the timewere with station keepers at the training center. It wasn't with the other divisions. It was the station keepers that probably caused most of the friction, but I have found that over the period of years most of the station keepers are pretty decent individuals. You are always going to find the one or two officers over a period of years that you are going to have a problem with and I'm sure that we have had that situation here. We've had a couple of enlisted men who maybe really didn't get along with some of the division members but that is to be expected.

A: Now when you moved down to Youngstown, when did you meet? How was that set up?

E: They told us that when we moved down to Youngstown, they wanted to incorporate us right in with the division down here. I don't know how it was worked out but headquarters let us stay intact as Division 4-113 and we met as a separate division. I don't know whether that was good; maybe it was good in that it did keep the division together and I'm sure that over the period of years meeting weekly was part of everybody's lifestyle. Weekend divisions do have their drawbacks, especially in the summertime. You figure you give up one weekend out of the month to the Navy. In fact, from me talking to reservists--I have two of them working for me at the present time in the Marine Corps--this is one of their big gripes, the weekends that they have to give up. I'm sure that when we came down here we had certain feelings about becoming a weekend division and being incorporated into . . . losing our identity, losing our identity as a division. They did take us down here and they let us stay together and for years--before you came I'm sure--we met one night a week, Mondays or Tuesdays, for years until finally, the Navy came along and said we were going to meet on weekends. That was when we went in with 115. It was about a year ago. That's when we became part of 115 and lost out identity as 113.

A: Having been in a unit that has changed to a new reserve, do you think the Navy has lost its personality, its personal relationship with one another in this big change?

E: That's ironical that you would mention that, because I think that last Saturday at the noon meal I was telling Chief Jones, Chief Snyder, and Chief Cross that I don't feel as close to these guys as I used to. We used to get together one night a week and you would keep in touch by meeting. When you see them one weekend out of the month, and of course me now drilling one day out of the month, I don't think you feel that close to them. It's like you almost lose the personal thing. I personally like meeting one day out of the month after all these years because it permits me to still keep

The military doesn't have the same attraction for the young people that it used to have. Let's go back. When there was a draft, you didn't have any trouble with recruiting because people would come in the Navy to get out of the Army. I'm sure this was happening so I don't think during that period of time you had a problem with recruiting, but now that you don't have an active draft, I think that you might have a problem again. I'm not sure; I'm just trying to outguess. I think that over the years there have been periods where we didn't have any trouble recruiting and then there were periods where I'm sure recruiting was a problem. I was talking to the chief here today and he said he was having trouble recruiting again.

A: On the subject of your training duties and things like that, how do you take these training duties, the two week periods?

E: I live for the two weeks really because that's the highlight of my year when I can get away from my work. Not that I don't love my family, but I think it's good for everybody to get away from their family for a period of time. It might be good for them and the family. However I know other families where this has been the stumbling block. Well, here again, over thirty years, it has become part of my life. I know I'm going somewhere for two weeks every year and my wife and family have grown up with it.

A: Have you ever had any problems with the family?

E: No, my wife used to be in the Waves and during the war she was stationed in Washington in the Pentagon. For a time she felt when the kids were smaller, "Oh yes, you get away for two weeks and you stick me with the kids here at home." I said, "Well, you don't have any problem spending the money that the reserves give me, do you?" I will say that my wife has been extremely considerate and like I say, my family, from the time they were small, just knew that dad was going for two weeks that's all. I don't have any remorse. I've had some great training duties. I've learned a hell of a lot. I've been to Washington. I've been to the Pentagon. I've been to where they make up the curriculum at the training division one year. I've been at the staff legal office. I've gone on every type of ship you can think of: aircraft carriers, destroyers. I've been to Tom's River, New Jersey. I've been through the St. Lawrence Seaway.

A: What did you do at Tom's River, New Jersey?

E: I helped set up a division they were organizing out there.

I put in for training duty one year. I never liked destroyers because they were so small and I always got seasick. I got orders to go on a destroyer one summer, so I did everything in my power to get the orders cancelled, but wasn't successful. It turned out it was probably the best training duty I ever had. I got on the destroyer at Norfolk, went up the St. Lawrence River and down through three of the Great Lakes, had a weekend in Montreal and ended up in Chicago; they flew me home from Chicago. Now that was a good training duty.

A: Oh, I bet you that was really interesting.

E: It was just great; the scenery, the weather was great. I've been on probably six different aircraft carriers, helicopter carriers, amphibious type ships, three or four different amphibious type ships. I feel that through the years I have been on just about every type of ship the Navy has and of course, the training has been good and bad depending on what you make it yourself. If you want to go aboard a ship for two weeks and do nothing, I'm sure you can do that and I know of individuals that do that. In most cases, I try to get myself settled in some office and do what I can, either to learn or help them out which makes the time go fast. I feel that if I learn anything, I've helped myself and helped the Navy. But, I am sure that you could go aboard almost any ship and get lost for two weeks and it might even make them happy. In most cases, I'll say that the two weeks has been a great experience for me.

A: What do you get out of the two weeks? I mean what do you look forward to most? The people or . . .

E: Yes, I like to meet new people, plus I like to travel. Every year I go . . . last year I went to Spain. I had never been to Spain before. Of course, the twelve days on a destroyer in the Atlantic wasn't the greatest thing in the world, but here again, it was another experience for me and I found that I like new experiences and I think it keeps me young. I work with guys who are a lot younger than myself and it makes me feel good in that I think the way those guys do and I think this is part of it. Many of my co-workers never do anything other than the old work-a-day routine. I think that getting away from the routine is great for anybody when you go from a civilian occupation where you're doing a job day in and day out, and then you go over and it's an entirely different type of life for two weeks, I think it's good. I just think it's a good change for the individual.

A: Have you ever run into any animosity amongst the people

you go on active duty with? In other words, do they look down at you for being a reservist or are you readily accepted in the fold? Have you ever been shafted?

E: I think in most cases in my rate, that I've been accepted. I'm sure that maybe there have been individuals that were on a ship where they haven't been. I think this has improved in the last few years though. I think since they tried to make the reserves an intrinsic part of the Navy by saying, "Okay, the reserves are part of the Navy," it has helped. I think the crews on the ships accept the reservists better than they used to. In my certain field, I haven't found any problems.

A: Have you ever gone on a cruise that involved, let's say, group cruises or something, where the whole Youngstown or Warren went?

E: Yes, I went on several. I'm sure you are aware of the Caribbean cruise two years ago on amphibious type ships. I think group cruising is good. In fact, I think it can probably be more beneficial than maybe cruising alone. You have a sense that you know the guy that you're with and maybe also, the sense that, there's somebody watching me, so maybe I'm going to really apply myself. If you go by yourself you can kind of get lost in the fold and nobody really cares. I think the two that are clearest in my mind are the two Caribbean cruises. I felt that the guys really got some good training in most cases.

A: How has the name Youngstown stood out, pretty well? Did they perform?

E: I think the men really performed well. I've been on several different sizes of group cruises. I think the engineering group and wherever the men were assigned really functioned good and I think they learned a lot. Here again, I'm sure there were some individuals that didn't, but I think as a group it was successful group type training.

A: Chief, is there anything I've neglected to ask that you've been thinking about that is running through your mind?

E: Not really. What can you say that's real thrilling about thirty years in the Navy; a lot of it is routine. I just feel that the Navy in most cases has treated me extremely well and if I never live to retire I would feel that I hadn't been deprived of anything because I feel that I have been well paid for what I've done and that I've advanced in comparison with the effort that I put forth. When I ever get out of the Navy, I'm going to miss it. I probably will get out within the next two years because I've got thirty-three years of service. Like Chief Jones said last Saturday,

- A: That's right. That was a tragic occurrence.
- E: I have a lot of other sea stories, really personal things that I don't really like to relate but I've had a lot of good experiences in the Navy, I'll say that. My eighteen months in Okinawa were just full of experiences. Do you remember the typhoon over there which practically wiped out that whole island?
- A: No, that's before my time.
- E: That was probably about 1945, something like that.
- A: I was all but three years old then.
- E: Is that right? I'm certain someone has told you about the typhoon on Okinawa during the war.
- A: No, no one ever has.
- E: It would just take Quonsets and pick them up. It rained for just a week; it just poured and the wind would blow. It destroyed. You couldn't do anything, just try to save your soul, that's all.
- A: Now you were on board ship or you were on the shore?
- E: No, I was on the shore then. But it just took the ships and bashed them against the island and the planes that were there were all destroyed. It was long ago, 1945, twenty some years ago.
- A: I want to thank you for your time.
- E: I was glad to help you.

END OF INTERVIEW