

**Ray Cardinale  
Veteran**

**Julie Rajore  
Perry Junior High  
Interviewer**

**Interviewed on  
May 1, 2009**

JR: Could you please state your full name.

RC: My name is Ray Cardinale.

JR: Today is May 1, 2009. My name is Julie Rajore and we're at Perry Junior High. What branch did you serve in?

RC: I served in the U.S. Navy. I went in when I was seventeen years of age.

JR: What was your rank?

RC: Sorry?

JR: What was your rank? What was your highest rank?

RC: Gunners Mate, Third Class.

JR: How did you join the Navy? Were you enlisted or were you drafted?

RC: No, I volunteered. In fact, I wanted to quit high school, which was in 1943. Everybody was gung-ho to quit high school and go into the Navy, but my mother said, 'You have to finish high school, and then you can join the Navy.' So I finished – years ago they used to call it \_\_\_\_\_. I finished in January instead of June. So I finished high school on January 24 and I was in the Navy on February 4. Everybody wanted to join and that's the way it was. Different than today. So I joined February 4 and they sent me into Sampson Naval Base, which was up in Sampson, New York. I don't know if I answered your question, Julie.

JR: Okay. What theatre were you in?

RC: What?

JR: What theatre were you in?

RC: Pacific Theatre.

JR: Where were you stationed? Where did you go?

RC: Well, at first we went to Sampson Naval Base, so I spent two months there. Then they sent me to Gunners Mate school which was in Newport, Rhode Island. Then I picked up my ship in June 1944 and I was aboard that ship until May 1946, which is two years. I was on there when they commissioned it and then I was on there when they decommissioned it. They took that ship out years later and just sunk it. Used it for target practice.

JR: Wow.

RC: That's it. Because it was probably too expensive to keep. Am I speaking loud enough there?

Carol [teacher]: Yes, you're great.

RC: Well, in that period of time, you saw how many miles you put on. In two years we put on 72,000 miles.

JR: Wow.

RC: That was our cruise.

Carol: Wow. That's a nice cruise.

RC: A nice cruise.

JR: What did you think when Pearl Harbor was bombed?

RC: Well, at that time, I was only fifteen years of age. We just couldn't wait to get back into the service, you know. It's a little different than today, during the Iraq War. We were attacked and everybody wanted to get even. But we were thinking it was terrible. It was terrible. We couldn't wait to get into the service.

JR: Did you ever meet anyone that really meant something to you, that you spent a lot of time with on the ship?

RC: I was only seventeen and I became very good friends with a gentleman called Vinnie Donole who was somehow twenty-two years old. He sounded young, yes, but there was a difference of five years and he kind of took me in hand. He became a very close friend of mine.

JR: What is your opinion about the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima?

RC: I think, personally, that it was a good thing and it was bad thing. It was good because it saved us going into Japan and probably lose – they anticipated we'd lose, whatever, hundreds of thousands of men just in that invasion. I don't know whether you realize it or not, but there were eleven million men under arms during World War Two and, I forgot how many, I think we lost like 400,000. So, it saved a lot of our people but it killed a lot of theirs. I forgot, I think they lost over 100,000 people. But from our point of view, I think it was the best thing to do. I think he [Harry Truman] did the right thing.

JR: Did you see anything that really moved you?

RC: In what respect, Julie?

JR: Did you ever see anything that you just made yourself say, 'Wow!' That this is amazing or horrible?

RC: I think we all saw a lot of that, Julie. I think that the one thing that stands in my mind is the floating bodies that would come up from the islands. After they're in the water, they lose their hair and they blow up. I think that's the one thing that stayed with me. It's not a very nice sight to see.

JR: Were you in any invasions?

RC: A few. I was in Leyte, the invasion of Leyte in the Philippines, the invasion of Brunei Bay in Borneo, the invasion of Legazpi, which is in the Philippines, the invasion of Lingayen Gulf, which is also up in the Philippines – most of the time I was in the Philippines.

JR: What was your job on those invasions?

RC: I was a gunner. I was gunners mate on a five-inch thirty-eight gun.

Carol: Why don't you describe all that again, like what we were talking about earlier about how big their artillery was and the magazines down below?

RC: My gun station was a five-inch thirty-eight turret. They used to store the five-inch thirty-eights, which weighed about probably fifty-three pounds, down in a handling room at the bottom of the ship. They'd have two guys handling the projectile and bringing them up, there's a guy picking them up on the deck. He would hand it to another guy who's in the turret and there'd be one guy aiming, one guy loading, and after they fired a projectile there'd be a guy catching the hot projectile. He had to wear asbestos gloves like this because they're hot. They turn red. He'd throw them over the side and get them off the ship. I forget how many we did for a minute but – I can't remember just exactly how many. But it was a continuous thing. You can picture it: one guy loading, one guy shifting, because everything's moving fast. They're trying to get off as many projectiles as possible.

Carol: How far did those go then?

RC: Those would fire probably eight to ten miles.

Carol: Wow! Okay.

RC: Imagine that. What will happen then, Julie, is when they go into an invasion – I don't know whether you're interested or not – but they'd land on the smaller ships first. They'd have like landing craft and LCIs and they'd have ships like ours – destroyer escorts – and then they'd have cruisers and battleships, and each one is firing. The battleships could fire almost seventeen miles, but when their projectiles go over your head, they were two-thousand pounds. Each projectile was two-thousand pounds, and that's like if you can picture a Volkswagen going through the air right past you, and each one of us would hear what's going over our heads. I don't know if that makes any sense, but the battleships and cruisers, they would all stay in line and each one would be firing over the other.

JR: What was your best memory?

RC: My best memory?

JR: Yes.

RC: Well, when I look back, forgetting all the bad parts of it, but I got a great education, I got to see the world. You saw some of the places we went to. I would never have seen any of that, or even part of it. So, it was really a great experience for all of us. It really was.

JR: Where were you on VJ Day?

RC: VJ Day, we were in the Philippine Islands. I think I was in Subic Bay, which is just outside of Subic City. I don't know if you're familiar with that, but they have Manila, then they have Corregidor, they have Bataan, then they would have Subic Bay. We were in Subic Bay because we would go into Manila Bay. You see, we were the first warship to go into Manila Bay from the time the Japanese took it. That was one of the few islands we had. I told you we went in with the minesweepers.

Carol: Yes.

RC: They [the Japanese] mined all of Manila Bay, so we would go in and we would be the warship and the minesweepers would be right behind us, cutting the mines with paravanes. They used to have paravanes. And then we'd go in and we'd blow up the mines. That's the way they cleared the bay. We used to see Japanese floating out on pieces of wood, whaleboats and what have you. In fact, there's one item there, I'll let you read it, where there was twenty-four nurses and Japanese in this little whaleboat and we went to pick them up as prisoners. What they did is they threw hand grenades up on the deck and killed quite a few sailors [long pause] and then we just killed them all.

Carol: These were all Japanese-invaded islands?

RC: Yes.

Carol: That you were going through?

RC: Right.

Carol: Okay. So they were islands that, after Pearl Harbor, they [the Japanese] had inhabited?

RC: They had inhabited.

Carol: Okay.

RC: That's correct.

Carol: Alright.

RC: In fact, that's what they called, "island hopping".

Carol: Right.

RC: Where they went from Guadalcanal, I forgot the Saipan, then they ended up in New Guinea, and then from New Guinea – if you look at that map you'd see just the way they went across all the islands. The Carolinas, the Solomons, and then they start going up to the Halmahera Islands and then up to Leyte – they started with Leyte, that's where General MacArthur returned, where he said he'd return.

Carol: Oh yes.

RC: That was one of the invasions we were in. Then from Leyte they hitch hopped to Lingayen, then Brunei Bay, and all around like that. But they took the islands one by one. Negro – I can't remember all the islands. In the Philippines there's a great number of islands.

Carol: Oh there's tons of islands that you'd had to have hit, each different one. So you just did the shelling from the ships and then the Marines sent –

RC: The Marines, right.

Carol: On foot.

RC: They'd have the battlewagon roll in and they would soften up the island, so to speak. Our biggest job was to escort these squadrons. If we escorted a ship, our ship was only 260 guys. We'd escort ships like the battlewagons, like Alice Rosalie was on. We'd be on the side of them and if they got in a sub attack, we'd have to go around and around the ship and if there was a torpedo, we'd have to take the torpedo.

Carol: Wow. Okay, so –

RC: And you can understand that.

Carol: Yes.

RC: Because we'd lose two-hundred men, they would lose five-thousand.

Carol: So after you took over an island, then what would happen? The Marines would set up camp there?

RC: The Marines would take over the island that they [the Japanese] had inhabited then. One by one, they'd get rid of whatever, the snipers and what have you, that they had.

Carol: And then you as the Navy, the ships, would move on to the next island?

RC: To the other islands, right.

Carol: Okay.

RC: Or wherever there was another invasion. Or wherever there was another convoy going. Our biggest job was to escort the convoys.

Carol: Okay.

RC: If you can picture what a convoy is, you'd have a – well you've seen them on the movies. They'd have battlewagons, cruisers and what have you and they would have ships like ours, destroyer escorts and destroyers, on the side of them going up and down trying to pick up subs, because they were worried about submarines.

Carol: Okay.

RC: And if they got a sub attack then we'd set up a smokescreen and go around the ships and if they saw a torpedo or something, then it would be the job of our ship to take the torpedo.

Carol: Okay. Well, a lot of work.

RC: In fact, it's funny. They called us "The Lucky Day". The reason for that is some guy was sitting on one of these little stanchions where they tied the rope – you've seen them – and he saw three torpedoes go right under our ship. So talk about the 'luck of the Irish'. It just went right under our ship.

Carol: Wow.

RC: Three in a row.

Carol: Wow.

RC: And we've had dive-bombers come at us, and you've heard of kamikazes. We were just lucky. We've had a kamikaze dive at us and miss.

Carol: So your ship never got hit?

RC: Never got hit.

Carol: Wow.

RC: And we'd have bombs dropped near us, torpedoes dropped under us, and dive-bombers come at us, and we were just lucky.

Carol: Wow. Wow. Okay go ahead, hunny.

JR: How did you keep in touch with those at home?

RC: How did we? They used to have what they called – I'm thinking of e-mail [laughs]. There were special letters that you had to write. They would reduce them to the size of – oh yeah, you don't have one. And what would happen is they'd have to go through screening areas. They'd have to read all the letters for some things. You couldn't send any information out. I forgot what they called it. You couldn't send letters directly home. Each one of the letters was read by somebody because they never wanted anybody to know where we were. Not only we – where any of the ships were. In fact, we used to send out this here [shows a piece of paper], "All in a Day". Every once in a while, this would come out. It would give a little recap of – in fact, you read it right up here. It says this will give you an idea of what we've been doing in the last year. They'd give us this and we'd send this out. It gives a little brief description of what we did in the few months we were there.

Carol: We'll have to take a copy of that.

RC: It's called, "All in a Day". Because the name of our ship was "The Day", you see.

Carol: Oh okay. Neat!

RC: Julie, I don't know whether you were interested but these are some pictures they took of the ships when they're out to sea and the guy gives you an idea of how the water is. The waves that – here you go, Julie – you can't even see the ships.

Carol: So this is when a torpedo or submarine or –

RC: No, this is just when you're caught in a storm.

Carol: Wow. How high did the waves get?

RC: They would come over the mast and the mast is at least thirty feet high. There's an article, you should read it here. It's in the typhoon we were in. I happen to see this article in the paper, one of the destroyer escort papers, so I cut it out and I wrote on there, "I was there." That's

where one of our ships, the *Pittsburgh*, which is a cruiser, lost ninety-two feet of its bow. The bow broke right off. Broke right off.

Carol: During a storm?

RC: Typhoon. During the typhoon. I forgot how many ships that rolled over and this cruiser, which is huge, lost ninety-two feet of its staff. I forgot how many, hundreds of men died from that.

Carol: Wow!

RC: One other thing you might be interested in: they sent us this [shows another piece of paper], I'll give you it to look at it. That's the ships that were lost in the war.

Carol: Wow. That's a lot.

RC: Thousands of them.

Carol: Yes. My goodness.

RC: They braced it down by battleships and cruisers and what were torpedoed and sunk and how many people – that was a navy.

Carol: And all starting with *Arizona*.

RC: Yes.

Carol: Wow. Wow. Well we'll take pictures of this stuff.

RC: I didn't know what to bring.

Carol: No, this is awesome!

RC: I thought it might be interesting.

Carol: Yes. This is great! What we'll do is we can either film it or take pictures or something.

JR: What was the first thing you did when you got home?

RC: The first thing I did – we came back through Hawaii. We stayed two weeks in Hawaii. It was Christmas '45 and New Years' '46. Then we came into San Francisco. We crossed underneath the San Francisco Bridge. The first thing we did is when we got off the ship, we kissed the ground.

Carol: How long had you been at sea at that point?

RC: I had been at sea for eighteen months.

Carol: Wow.

RC: But we came in and the first thing we did was bounced down and kissed the ground.

JR: Do you have anything else you'd like to say on your role of such an important event in American history?

RC: About what, Julie?

JR: Do you have anything else you'd like to mention about your role in American history?

RC: Our role in American history?

JR: Yes.

RC: It was a privilege. It really was. I thank God for us being here. We were lucky. You could see from the ships what's happened. I apologize for being so emotional.

Carol: No! It's an emotional time! I don't know if everybody realizes how fortunate we are to have had people like you fight for what we have here. I think that's the emotional part, you know? I wanted to know, going back, how you went into the Navy. Why Navy?

RC: That's interesting because I was good friends with – three of us, three guys: me, Sam Sabar, and Paul Marfone – so the three of us finish school and we decide to go join the Marines. My mother really signed for me to join the U.S. Marines. We went down to the post office to take our physical and my two friends both got into the Marines. I got rejected because of my eyes, because I didn't have 20/20 vision. So I just walked right across the aisle and I joined the Navy. They ask you what was your right to go into it and I had chosen 'Aviation Machinist' because I had taken Auto Mechanics in high school. They rejected me in the Marines for my eyes and they send me to Gunners Mate school [laughs]. That just tells what the Navy does. So I became a gunner.

Carol: That's interesting.

RC: But that wasn't my choice.

Carol: Yes.

RC: They just send you wherever they want you to go and that was it.

Carol: Now, when you weren't involved in an invasion, and you're out at sea, what were your daily duties then? What were you responsible for?

RC: We were escorting – remember, I told you we would escort convoys.

Carol: Right.

RC: My duties were to keep my guns clean all the time.

Carol: Okay.

RC: I had the chief guns mate come along and, at that time, I had a forty millimeter. He'd come along and go like this to the top of your gun and toss some dust on it and he said, I'll never forget, he said to me, 'If I come by again and I find that on that gun, I'll let you clean the whole thing with a toothbrush.' So I kept it clean.

Carol: And they probably would have let you clean it with a toothbrush, right?

RC: Yes. Well, we were privileged. You see, being a gunners mate, it's kind of one of the select, you know. If you were in the old division, the ones we were in – either bosun mate, gunners mate, or torpedo man – it's a lot different. You never get the deck duties and the mess duties and everything else, because their concern was keeping our guns clean.

Carol: Okay.

RC: So, I don't want to call us the "privileged few", but we were fortunate to be in this. I never had mess duty, I never had to clean decks.

Carol: Okay.

RC: I had to clean guns.

Carol: So that was primarily what you did then?

RC: That was my primary duty, yes.

Carol: And you did this as you were escorting ships?

RC: Sure.

Carol: Okay. And then my other thing too is just like about daily life. Was there a time that they – I don't know if it's revelry I want to say – that you had to be up at –

RC: Oh yes.

Carol: And then lights out a certain time. That type of deal?

RC: That's right. They had a bosun whistle and he would get on the speaker system and he would pipe 'revelry', and then they would pipe 'chow', and then they would pipe 'all lights out' at night, you know. I can't remember what they called it. They had a special tune with each one. They could blow that bosun whistle and then whatever he would blow would tell you just exactly what you were going to do.

Carol: So you had to learn those signals?

RC: So you learn those signals, yes. But then our mess hall, I tell you, when we were in rough water I used to get sick all the time. Our mess hall was in the bow, and if you could picture two-hundred guys in a long, hot corridor because there was no air conditioning and, I don't know whether you know it or not, the temperatures down in the South Pacific got up to 115 and 118. So we used to sleep – in fact, I brought some pictures of what our bunks looked like. That's what we slept in.

Carol: Oh my goodness! [to Julie] Turn it like that there.

JR: Oh okay.

RC: You see that?

Carol: So three –

RC: All it was was a canvas with chains. I had the top one. I used to have to grab a pipe. They had a pipe. I was young. You'd step up and then swing in. The floor would be right about here like this, so I'd slide in there. That's where I stayed for the two years I was on that ship.

Carol: Wow. So how many men were on your ship then?

RC: 260.

Carol: Okay.

RC: About 260, and the ship was probably 320 feet. What else can I show you, Julie?

Carol: Well, I was just thinking about VJ Day. So after the surrender papers were signed on the *Missouri*, that we learned with Alice Rosalie, you guys still continued to patrol?

RC: We were still there, absolutely. In fact, there were still destroyers out there. Japanese destroyers. In one of the conditions of the armistice, they had to weld all their breechblocks on their guns.

Carol: To seal them off?

RC: So they couldn't fire them.

Carol: Oh okay.

RC: I had a picture of a destroyer. We had to board this destroyer. It was a Japanese destroyer, and they had to let us go aboard the ship to check their guns to make sure just they had welded all the guns. But there were a lot of ships out there yet. While we stayed out there – I forgot when the armistice was. It was in August of Forty –

Carol: Forty-five.

RC: Forty-five. We didn't come back until December '45. We left Subic Bay and I come through San Francisco on January 9, '46. I remember the day exactly.

Carol: So almost a whole year you were out there.

RC: Well, it was five months.

Carol: Yes.

RC: From August, September, October, November, to December.

Carol: Okay.

RC: Five months on the Pacific, and then when we came over here, we came back into San Francisco and Mare Island and they decided to put our ship into mothballs, if you've read about that. They had to spread cocoons over all the guns and everything else. So we did that and that was part of doing that.

Carol: And what did that entail? How did that work?

RC: Well, first they sent us home on a rehabilitation leave. We got thirty-eight days of rehab leave after being overseas. Then they send me all the way back to San Diego and we had to put all the guns in cocoons. They had special cocoons and heavy grease on all the guns and everybody else knew they were going to store them. But the ship only stayed out in Mare Island for two, three or four years and then they decided to take them out and use them for gunnery practice and they sunk them.

Carol: Oh, okay. So for training?

RC: They did their job. Imagine that, those ships lasted two years, took them out and sunk them.

Carol: Wow.

RC: It was commissioned in June '44, it was decommissioned in May '46 – two years. Then they stayed in mothballs for a few years and then they decide to take them out and just sink them.

Carol: Wow. I know that some of mine have read about, they used them as manmade reefs.

RC: Yes, like for the big ships.

Carol: Yes.

RC: Through the aircraft –

Carol: Aircraft carriers.

RC: Aircraft carriers, yes.

Carol: So you were in a cruiser?

RC: I was on a destroyer escort.

Carol: Okay, destroyer escort. Okay.

RC: That's a small ship.

Carol: Okay.

RC: They would go up from LCI, to a destroyer escort, to a destroyer, to light cruiser, to a heavy cruiser, to a battleship.

Carol: That's a lot of ships.

RC: A lot of ships. Well, just look through that list and see.

Carol: Oh yes. I want to take a peek at that.

RC: It's really disturbing when you read that.

Carol: Well, when you see the loss of life.

RC: The loss of life, yes.

Carol: Well, before we start looking at any of the photographs, is there anything else that you – any particular invasion that stands out more than something else or any funny story that happened? That was amusing?

RC: I can't think of anything that was really amusing.

Carol: Nothing? Like no practical jokes that anybody did or anything?

RC: No.

Carol: What about your crossing from Pollywog to Shellbacks?

RC: You had to go through this – they called it “King of Neptune”. He was dressed with a crown on his head and they put diapers on him, believe it or not. He had – what do you call it? It's like a fork, a metal fork, but it's electrified. They would hose us down with the salt water and then somebody'd come along and start jabbing you and you had to do some nasty things for these guys. But that was it. We went through that, and then we came from Pollywog to Shellbacks.

Carol: And then received your certificate.

RC: And then we received our certificate, yes.

Carol: Nice.

RC: And that was crossing Bookie, right around the International Dateline.

Carol: Oh, okay.

RC: We did it twice.

Carol: And was anybody exempt from that or did everyone on the ship have to go through it.

RC: There were a lot of guys who had already been through it.

Carol: Oh, okay. So once you've gone through it, you don't have to do it again?

RC: No. They were the guys who really imposed all the punishment on us. The young kids, you know.

Carol: Right.

RC: And, you know, you got to picture – [to Julie] how old are you, hunny?

JR: Fourteen.

RC: Fourteen, okay.

Carol: Fraternities.

RC: You got kids in here that are sixteen, seventeen – you see how young they are? Imagine them going to war. Hard to imagine.

Carol: Oh, it's very hard to imagine.

RC: Hard to imagine.

Carol: Yes. But you guys were all gung-ho.

RC: Everybody was gung-ho. If you look at the lines, there were lines and lines and lines of guys volunteering. They just wanted to get back at the Japs.

Carol: And that was right after Pearl Harbor that everybody did that.

RC: Right after Pearl Harbor. That's not happening today.

Carol: No.

RC: No. Because we had a cause. We had a reasonable purpose.

Carol: Right. So, you didn't see that sort of gung-ho-ness before Pearl Harbor? People were thinking about there was war in Europe and –

RC: But they weren't volunteering then, Carol, because I think they anticipated that war, you know. There was already war going on with Great Britain and Germany and everybody else, right?

Carol: Right.

RC: And everybody knew that we would eventually be involved. But then we got involved the wrong way, you know. They [the Japanese] were over here negotiating and all the while they were planning to bomb us.

Carol: So Pearl Harbor just was kind of the icing on the cake for everybody to start jumping in.

RC: Right.

Carol: And how about women? Did you see women volunteering for all sorts of duties right after that?

RC: Absolutely. Every place you went they had 'WAVES', which were in the Navy, and 'WACs', which were in the Army. They did the job and there were a lot of them overseas too. They did the job in the offices, they would let the men go out into battle. There were a lot of them.

Carol: They were called 'WAVES' for the Navy?

RC: WAVES.

Carol: Okay. Alright. That's good to know.

RC: Yes. Did you know that?

Carol: No, I did not know that. I knew about the WACs, but I didn't know about the WAVES. Wow. Neat. Well, that's great.

RC: They had all the places where the guys would go – now I forgot. I'm losing my memory. You know, where you would go for Liberty and what have you? What's the word I'm trying to think of?

Carol [laughs]: I can't think of it either.

RC: I want to say CIO but that's not it.

Carol [laughs]: Right. And I keep thinking AWOL and that's definitely not it.

RC [laughs]: That's not it. We're both on the wrong track.

Carol: I'll have to think about that for a second.

RC: Imagine that?

Carol: I know. It's when you had furlough for a few days.

RC: I had furlough for a few days.

Carol: And I can't think of what it is for. Alright, so let's talk about that for a second. What did you do when you had a few days off? Because they would come into port, wouldn't they? At some places?

RC: They'd give you 'Liberty'. They called it Liberty.

Carol: Okay. So what did you do then?

RC: It wouldn't be a few days. You'd get off in the morning – not morning. You'd have one day or something.

Carol: Okay.

RC: And then you'd come back on the ship at night. You didn't get furloughs in the Navy.

Carol: Okay.

RC: You got Liberty, and you were in port maybe one or two days, and they'd have half the group – they'd have port and starboard. All port would go out and all starboard would go out. What would you do with that? Hate to tell you.

Carol [laughs]: Go to the bars.

RC: Go to the bars. You'd go out and drink and look for women.

Carol [laughs]: So it was obviously just a time to relax. Were you ever in pretty populated areas, the places that you would have Liberty?

RC: When you were overseas, I'll tell you what they did: we pulled into Subic Bay, right. They give each guy three cans of beer, they used to call it 3.0 beer. They put you in a whaleboat and put us on the island. You'll see some pictures in here of us being on the island. You do nothing. You take pictures, you sit, drink beer and talk, or you play softball. And then you stay there three or four hours and a whaleboat would come up, pick you up, and bring you back on ship.

Carol: So just some time to do a little 'R and R'?

RC: The only thing with Liberty is we did it in a big city, and that was like when we went to Manila or Subic City. But that was not very often.

Carol: Right.

RC: Most of our Liberties were when the ship was in the bay, they'd have movies at night, right on the fantail, or they'd put us on a whaleboat during the afternoon and bring us on the island, there was three cans of beer, pick us up around six o'clock, and that was it. That was Liberty.

Carol: Did that happen very often? Would you say like once every two weeks? Once a month?

RC: Well, it depends. If we were in a bay for a week or something, you'd probably do it once or twice they put us on Liberty.

Carol: Oh. That was nice.

RC: Yes. But that's just putting us on the island when we came here.

Carol: Right, right.

RC: Then if you pulled into a port like, I don't know, I'll show you when we pulled into Manila. How all the guys went out in their whites and how they all came back lying on the bottom of the ship drunk, sick and beat up.

Carol: Not feeling good.

RC: Not feeling good, no.

Carol: No, no. Well those are some fun stories. Do you have anything else that you wanted to add?

RC: There were bad times and there were good times, and we had a lot of great times aboard ship. The closeness you feel with all the guys, it's unbelievable. You live together, you fight together, you go through so much turmoil together, you had Liberty together, and you become very, very close to everybody. In fact, they have a reunion once a year and I've been to a few of them, but they spread them all over the country.

Carol: For your ship?

RC: For our ship, yes.

Carol: Nice.

RC: Right now, there's very few people to attend because most of them are gone.

Carol: Right. But that's nice that they do that.

RC: Yes. You'll see we got some reunions in here.

Carol: Well good. Well great. Well thank you.

