

**Joseph Globerson
Veteran**

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Interviewers**

**Interviewed on March 5, 2007, 11:00 AM
Schenectady, New York**

Q: Could you give me your full name, date of birth, and place of birth, please?

JG: Joseph Globerson. In Saratoga, it is a well-known name.

Q: That's where you were born?

JG: No. I had cousins there.

Q: Okay, where were you born and when?

JG: I was born in Schenectady, 10/22/17.

Q: What was your educational background prior to entering the service?

JG: High school, then half a dozen different colleges. I never graduated, but I went to half a dozen different colleges around the world, in this area and around the world.

Q: Do you remember where when you heard about pearl harbor?

JG: We were on maneuvers? (1:35) down in North Carolina. About noon time, that's when it happened, that's when we heard about it. We were on maneuvers, I was in the army about a year before the war. So we were on maneuvers at that time, and that was it.

Q: So where were the maneuvers?

JG: In North Carolina.

Q: Do you remember your reaction, the reaction of the men around you when you heard?

JG: Well we were almost, we were in this for a year at that time. We only had about a few more days to go. We knew when the war was declared, it would be the extended time.

Q: Okay, when did you go into the service?

JG: January 9th, '41.

Q: And did you enlist or were you drafted?

JG: I was drafted. (Too much background sound to hear)(2:49) I wanted to be home for New Years. So yeah, I was home for New Years, and I was drafted shortly thereafter.

Q: Now you ended up in the Army Air Corps?

JG: Well, first I was in the infantry.

Q: Yes, how did you get into the Air Corps from the infantry?

JG: Transferred first from the single? (3:03) Corps. to the Air Corps. I was infantry, single? (3:08) Corps., and then the Air Force.

Q: Why did you decide to make that change?

JG: I just wanted to get out of the Army.

Q: Alright, when did you go into the Air Corps then?

JG: Uh, I can't give you any day.

Q: After Pearl Harbor, then you did?

JG: Oh, after that, yeah.

Q: Where did you go for basic, well, where did you go for your training in the Air Corps.?

JG: I went to navigation school in... Basic training was...

Q: Well that's okay. A lot of them went to Florida for basic for the Air Corps.

JG: Well I ended up there, yeah. Not basic.

Q: Your navigation school was in Florida?

JG: Well, navigation school was in Monroe, Louisiana. And then I went to Florida for, University of Miami. Took Advanced Navigation there. And I was a cadet at that time, I graduated from cadet school and became an officer. Then I started flying.

Q: What kind of planes did you fly?

JG: All planes except bombers. Well, we flew bombers too. I went into the air transport command. We just delivered airplanes all around the world. The ferry came in and delivered airplanes all around the world. England, Africa, Australia.

Q: Were they mostly B17's and B24's?

JG: Never flew a B17. C47's, cargo planes. I flew one C47 to India. Used to call India Diego (5:24) 2 weeks at the time, it took us 42 days. It was a bad airplane. And every time we stopped, they had to rebuild the engines, and I was gone for 42 days instead of 4 days, 5 days. 42 days. I was in there for like two years. Then I transferred to San Francisco to fly airlines from San Francisco across the west, specifically up to Japan. I was flying into Japan to bring food and soldiers and bring back (unintelligible, 6:08), and that was it. I ended up flying over the ocean about 25, 30 times. And that was it. Nothing interesting, just flying.

Q: Did you ever have any close calls, I mean getting lost or anything?

JG: Never got lost, I was a pretty good navigator. The only close call I had was flying up from Africa to England. They told the flight engineer, "Make sure you get all the gas out of the tanks." And they let it go too long, and it caused an airlock. And all this was at night. I used to fly, to take off early in the morning, at dark, and of a sudden, all the engines went whoosh. The plane was just dropping down, and we were lucky to start the

engines. It was twice from Africa up to England. We landed up in England, that was fine. Crossing the Sahara Desert, of course, Africa, India, Australia.

Q: What would you say was your most interesting place you visited?

JG: Well, unfortunately, we never spent much time anywhere.

Q: Just stop and go?

JG: Yeah, stop, land, hit the sack as soon as you could or go swimming in the pacific. In fact, we couldn't do nothing, nothing. Unfortunately, we didn't spend enough time in these places. Just stayed overnight. We have a lot of Guyanese people here, and I was in Guyana a couple of times. And there the guy told you in the morning, "Make sure you shake your shoes off, because scorpions can get in your shoes." And that's the only thing that we had? (7:59) Of course, sometimes in Africa we slept in just canvas cots. In the middle of the night, you could hear the animals, the screeching there. And in the middle of the night, when I was sleeping in the canvas cot, I felt something crawling up underneath me and touch my back. It was pitch black, you know. I had a fixed knife, but I couldn't get to it. Finally I got to it, it was a cat. Underneath my cot, just rubbing itself back and forth. And that was all.

Q: When were you discharged?

JG: Around December, the first part of December '45.

Q: Did you make use of the GI bill at all?

JG: The GI bill?

Q: Yes.

JG: No, I think I just collected some money.

Q: The 52-20 club?

JG: Yeah I did, I collected some of it. It wasn't enough for a family? (8:58) My wife had a baby, and I had to go to work.

Q: Did you join any veteran organizations at all?

JG: I applied to the Jewish War Veterans, in Albany. I lived in Schenectady. I was born in Schenectady, but moved to Albany when I was a young kid, and I lived there for most my life. Brought to? (9:20) the Jewish War Veterans there. They had the four chaplains there every February, and I could go there a couple times a year? (9:30) I had a car, the wife took the car, they told me to stop driving, she had the car. I couldn't get the car, so we had to go places. Don Hershern, do you know Don Hershern? He's a post commander of 105. He makes razor blades and takes them to veterans.

Q: How do you think your time in the service changed or had an effect on your life?

JG: How? I learned an awful lot, for one thing. I graduated from high school and spent a few months in different colleges all over the world. When I was stationed places, I had nothing to do I used to go to college. I never got, never graduated, never got a degree. I just got the information.