

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

Tape counter & subject	Narrative
000 Introduction	This is JoAnn Myers. Today is the 26 th of July 2005. I'm interviewing for the first time, Jack O. Arnold. This interview is taking place in the home of Jack Arnold at 242 Meadowlakes, Meadowlakes, Texas.
004	First of all, Mr. Arnold, I'd like to thank you for letting us come into your home and interview you today. I really think this is important history that we're going to collect and we're very appreciative of you taking your time to let us come in.
006	I want to start with where you were born, when you were born and the name of your parents. Just to get a little background.
007 Birth info Arnold:	Ok. I was born in El Paso, Texas on June 27 th 1923. My father's name was Lafayette N. Arnold and my mother's name was Mary Hall Arnold.
011 Myers	So you were born in El Paso? Did you live there for a long time?
Arnold:	I lived there until after the service and we moved down to Meadowlakes 13 years ago. All the previous years were in El Paso, except the service years.
014 Siblings	Did you have any siblings?
Arnold:	Yes, I had one brother, Lafayette, Jr., and a sister, Ethyl Arnold.
016 War Years	Ok, we'll go right into the war years now. Where and when did you enlist?
Training	<p>I enlisted in my second year at Texas College and Mines and Metallurgy and an Army specialized training program. Went to basic training in Camp Maxey, Texas and then went up to the University of Cincinnati for one semester and then a half semester at Eastern Kentucky State Teacher's College. When they disbanded the training program I was placed in the 14th Armored Division that was preparing to go overseas. They were pulling overseas maneuvers. I stayed there approximately 9 months and then decided that I needed to transfer and enlisted in parachute infantry. That was, let's see, that would have made it about 1944 or 45.</p> <p>The main reason that I left the armored division was the type of training that I was getting—I didn't think it was the very best went to the</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

033 Ft. Benning	paratroopers to be with younger individuals that would be a better risk as far as I was concerned.
038 New Guinea and Philippines	I went to Tech School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. This took approximately 4 weeks and from that they told us that we would go immediately overseas and we were shipped out to California and placed aboard Liberty Ships and went to New Guinea Island for a replacement depot. After about 30 days at that juncture went up to Mindoral Island in the Philippines. I was placed in the 503 Parachute Regiment of combat.
042	What year did you say you went to jump school?
Arnold:	I went to jump school in, oh, sometime between '44 and '45.
044	Ok. And you took all your other training and you were in an Army Armored Division.
Arnold:	Yes, I went through infantry basic training and then after we went – after they disbanded the college courses, we were placed in the 14 th Armored Division. That was an infantry company; I can't remember the company number, but it was an infantry battalion.
049	Was there anything in particular that influenced you to join the Army, rather than something else?
Arnold:	No, it was just there and they had a recruiting at the college and I just signed up when the recruiters were at the college.
053 Donna Palkowsky	And the college was where?
Arnold:	In El Paso. Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy.
054	Did you receive a commission after you had these college classes? Did you go in as an officer?
Arnold:	No, it was during the parachute training, I obtained the rank of a corporal. Which is a long way from the officer.
Myers	Laughing: Yeah, long way!
Arnold:	I guess, the war, the casualties and stuff, they just needed a lot of young people that were going to go over and do what they always referred to as “the grunt work.” And do the fighting, so we were just placed in the

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	armored division and I just didn't feel comfortable with their training programs that we were going through at that time. Parachutists were putting a campaign on to recruit paratroopers and that was the only way we could get out of the outfit then...we were scheduled to go overseas.
066 7 Dec 1941	Where were you on Dec. 7, 1941?
Arnold:	On Dec. 7, 1941, I was in El Paso. I was in school at that time. I started college in September of '41 and went til the spring of '42. That was when I enlisted in the Army specialized training program.
071 Reaction to Dec 7	At the time of Dec 7, when it was made known, announced on the radio, and so forth, were you with anybody, do you remember any special reaction at school...the students, the faculty? What happened when you heard about it?
Arnold:	Well, we were prime age and you, know it was just a matter of time until we knew our schooling would be interrupted and we would be going to the service. You know, they recruit from the colleges, and this is where I enlisted. You know you're going to have to go somewhere. I had thought about the Air Force, but at that time they had closed the Air Force recruiting, and so I just went ahead and went into the Army. I wasn't particularly favorable to the naval operations...not a good swimmer. So that really wasn't of too much interest to me. I guess the Army was just about the only thing. You just went where they sent you.
Myers:	But you knew when you heard that on the radio that it was going to affect your life.
Arnold:	Yeah, it was just a matter of time. You had to go and do your duty.
Myers:	But you went ahead and finished out that year.
Arnold:	I finished, I finished, no, yeah, we went to May, and then in May went into the service and had basic training during the summer months and then we went to the University of Cincinnati to start our training—engineering training.
Myers:	Oh, so you were in engineering training.
Arnold:	I wasn't really in engineering, but we had been in college, so I guess they figured we could just go ahead and go to college and come out and pass

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	the subjects and stuff.
Myers:	Yeah, that's why I thought you might have got a commission, since they sent you to the university.
Arnold:	No, we never did finish the schooling. We went, well I guess I went through the fall semester, and the spring semester we were sent down to the 14 th Armored Division to start our infantry training to go overseas.
098 Army Basic Tng	Where was your Army Basic Training?
Arnold Camp Maxey	It was at Camp Maxey, Texas. At Paris, Texas. Never fell in love with Paris, Texas. It was, of course, summertime, extremely hot, and military life, a new life, and all that stuff. You were just one of the many that were there going through all that training.
Myers	So that was quite a different life for you, I guess, to encounter Army Boot Camp. Was it difficult?
Arnold:	Oh, it was taxing as far as physical stuff, but, you know, as a young man, you can do just about anything you have to do. We did have a few operations where they, the uh, young officers on their operations, they ordered us to make 1,000 yard bayonet charges which is a little ridiculous. Because by the time you got there you couldn't swat flies. But you know, it was a different experience.
Myers:	Recently in the news there's been a lot of talk about military drill instructors and how abusive they are and the military is trying to change some of the basic training tactics. Did you ever encounter any abusive drill instructors? Physical or mental?
Arnold:	Oh, I could never say abusive. They were quite hard. They have to take you from civilian life in to a life of where, if you're told to do something, that you don't sit around and mull and whine about it. You have to do it, because, you know, it's life or death. You can't say, well, ok, I'll think about it. If they say move, you move. If they say stop, you stop. And so, I think a lot of that is actually necessary for the preservation of the individual. But it is quite a change as far as the way you conducted

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>your life, you know, in prior years, and stuff like that.</p> <p>So I can't say I was ever abused. I didn't consider it abuse. All in all, I thought it was pretty good training. When I went into the paratroopers the training got a little bit more severe. It was extremely physical training. We had to run, we had to run in the summertime, with little water and all this type stuff, to harden you and to get you ready and to prepare your legs for the shock of the jump and stuff like that.</p>
Myers:	Did you have any particular type of survival training? What to do if you were stranded from your unit and how you were going to survive?
Arnold:	No, we didn't ...I can't remember any lone survival training. I did hear that there was some going on where they took fellows up to the colder regions and gave them training in cold weather. But we weren't scheduled to go there I guess, cause we never did receive any of it. But you know, you just had to do what you were told to do and when you were told to do it and not hesitate, 'cause that could be very severe.
Myers:	So, your basic training was about how long? Six weeks, or...
Arnold:	No, we went to about 3 months of basic training. Yeah, it was just about all summer long.
Myers:	And then you went to the university to take some of those classes.
Arnold: Camp Campbell, Kentucky	To the University of Cincinnati, yes. And then, uh, well first I went to the University of Kentucky and we were there one semester and right after the first of the year. When the next semester was starting we were sent to the University of Cincinnati and we stayed there until May of that year. And then we were sent down to Camp Campbell Kentucky for the 14 th Armored Division training.
Myers:	How were you transported from one training assignment to another? Train, bus?
Arnold:	We always went on troop trains. It was all chair car operations. You stacked up bags, slept on the seats and on the floor.
158 1st Duty	What was your first duty assignment after you finally got finished with all this training, where you go to for a real first duty assignment?
Arnold:	My first duty assignment was when I graduated from parachute school. We were put on another troop train and went to San Francisco, California

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

Lae, New Guinea	<p>and put on a liberty ship and transported to Lae, New Guinea, which was a replacement depot where they assigned you to a unit.</p> <p>Of course you had to wait for transportation to go up. I guess it was kind of scarce in those days 'cause everybody was movin', but we started up and we were in a convoy.</p>
Myers:	In New Guinea?
<p>Arnold:</p> <p>Manas Bay</p> <p>503rd Reg. Combat Team</p>	<p>Coming out of Lae, New Guinea, yeah, we were in a Naval Convoy and the ship I was on burned out a generator, so we had to go to Manas Bay and we stayed there I think it was about 2 weeks to get the generator repaired. We just slept aboard ship.</p> <p>And then we were supposedly destined to go to parachute division, but they had an operation coming and our ship that had the paratroopers on it was delayed, so the other paratroopers went to the division and when we got the ship repaired we went up and joined the 503rd and that was just a regimental combat team.</p> <p>We had an engineering division and we also had an artillery division with us. The rest of it, 3 battalions were all infantry. And so, the colonel that was over Col. Jones was of lesser rank than the general over the expedition that was going to go into Manila. And so he took the first troops and we just went to the 503rd, which I'm very thankful for because...(voice trails off, not audible)</p>
Myers	So was this in '44 or '45 time period that you were in New Guinea?
<p>Arnold:</p> <p>'44 or '45 Mindoro Island</p>	<p>Well, it was right after that. 'Course the years didn't make too much difference and it was either the fall of '44 or the spring of '45. The regimental combat team was stationed on Mindoro Island with a troop carrier, Air Force, for our transportation when we were going to jump.</p> <p>That was pretty easy duty. We were there and we would wait in the mornings and if there had been any type of invasion or any other units were in trouble in combat we would be put on alert to ...in case we had to go into a jump and give them some relief and assist them in either backing out or continuing their operations.</p> <p>We were just more or less, uh, I'd just call it troubleshooters. You know, if anyone really got in any trouble. And then...</p>
Myers:	Like backup?

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

Arnold: Corregidor	We were just backup troops to, you know, help anybody get off an island if they were being overrun too heavily or anything like that. We never did pull any of those operations. And then, I guess after we had been there about 3 or 4 months, they told us we were going to go in and retake Corregidor.
Myers:	Did you actually have to go?
Arnold:	Yes. I was on Corregidor for, oh, roughly 6 weeks. They had told us we should encounter 500 enemy troops. And uh...(voice trails off)
Myers:	It was a lot more than that, huh?
Arnold:	Uh, (a little emotion in voice). Yeah. (stops speaking)
Palkowsky:	Just take your time.
Arnold:	Sorry for the interruption.
Palkowsky:	No, that's ok. You just take your time.
Arnold:	After the 6 weeks, we left there and they had counted in excess of 5,000 dead enemy.
Myers:	Wow. That is incredible. That's very hard.
Arnold: 228 MacArthur	We had to stay there until, ...of course MacArthur had made the promise when he left Corregidor that he would return. And he did just before we left. He came back to the island and they had a big to-do up on topside. I had to stand road guard from the beach area where he landed up to where he was going for the parade.
Myers	So did you see him?
Arnold:	Yes, I did.
Myers:	You saw him come ashore?
Arnold:	Well, we were just standing alongside the road. About every 20 paces there was, they had a soldier, with, you know, weapons and things, to protect him going up.

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>He was quite an individual. I didn't hear his speech – but just the way he looked – he was the man in charge.</p> <p>Then, on my later service, when I was flying in to Tokyo during the Korean operation he was still in Tokyo and we marveled that when he left the office building the Japanese would line up on each side of the road and it was quiet as could be. He would have to, I guess, command and operate with the Oriental type people. It's quite different than what we're used to as far as our way of life.</p> <p>But they would actually line up for about a mile. I never did see it, but as far as you could see. The Japanese would be standing at attention or standing on the side of the road in silence while he left his office building and that occurred each and every day.</p>
Myers:	And that was like a sign of respect from them?
Arnold:	Yes I think it was, 'cause he never had any bones about it, you know, that he was in charge. He was the man.
Palkowsky:	His presence commanded respect.
Arnold:	<p>That's right. The general, I think it was Westmoreland, was there after he left and they had quite a few demonstrations that they said would have never happened if MacArthur was still there. He wouldn't have accepted it or put up with it in any way, shape or form.</p> <p>There was a lot of talk about he didn't do right in his operations, but I survived, so I have to believe, and I wasn't a close friend of his, so I really don't know what he did or any of this type of stuff. But as far as I'm concerned, it was successful.</p>
Myers:	As far as how the Army men felt about MacArthur, was there the same respect? The Army guys that you knew felt like he was doing what needed to be done in the Pacific or later on in Korea?
Arnold: 278	Well, when he, I think he left Tokyo before the Korean War. He was recalled. They said he was reprimanded and all this type stuff. But I really can't judge for anything I saw him do or any of his operations. They all seemed to be fine with me. Of course, I was a long way down the chain of command. Laughter.
Myers:	Laughing. And ya'll didn't talk about it, huh?

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

Arnold:	Yeah, we didn't buddy with the general.
Myers: 288 Living conditions	Well, what were your living conditions when you went to New Guinea?
Arnold: K-rations C-rations 10 in 1 rations	<p>All of the time I was in the Pacific we lived in tents, and generally with the flaps open on the side. It was hot -- it was jungle. Lots of jungle rot and athlete's foot and this type stuff.</p> <p>When we would go into an operation and battle, we'd take 3 days of K-rations. It was very unlikely that we would be resupplied any time quicker than that. But then we got to where we got C-rations, which we thought were very big betterment for food quality and then just before the war was over we started getting 10 to 1 rations which was ... they were fantastic. They were fabulous. You could cook stews and stuff like that. Had bacon in cans and stuff that you could build a fire, fry the bacon, and stuff like that.</p>
Myers:	And what was that called?
Arnold:	<p>It was called 10 in 1. You'd get a box and it was for 10 troops. Enough food for 10.</p> <p>C-rations, 'course, were small cans and we got 2 cans per deal and you had cigarettes and crackers. And then the meal in the K-rations were kind of like tuna cans; very small and really not too tasty.</p> <p>Probably one of the biggest things -- on the bottom of the can the breakfast sausage said "prepared by the Hormel Dog Food Company". (Everybody laughs)</p>
Myers:	Tasted like it, too? (Laughing)
Arnold:	<p>Yeah, it tasted just about like it. Like Hormel Dog Food!</p> <p>I never knew if I had the dog food, but it was pretty terrible tasting stuff. 'Course, it was all worked up with a lot of, I guess chemicals, to preserve it and to also give you the food values that you weren't getting.</p>
Myers:	Did you ever go hungry? Was it enough food?
Arnold:	No, no, we never went hungry. Well, you were always ready to eat, when

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

<p>338</p> <p>Movies</p>	<p>you were out working, and everything, but we always had rations.</p> <p>When we were back out of combat in our base camp, we'd have movies that had been flown in and they'd show the movies and then each one of the companies had their affair. Some of them had baked cookies and stuff like that. We had mostly coffee after the movies.</p>
<p>Myers:</p>	<p>So you did have some entertainment time.</p>
<p>Arnold: 348</p> <p>no electricity</p> <p>365 patrols</p>	<p>Yeah, we did have movies. We never did see any of the big road shows. We weren't in places where there were that many troops. There were in our regiment about 3,000 people and 'course to put on a big road show that we saw after we got back that Bob Hope and all went to there were thousands upon thousands of troops there. So we didn't demand it.</p> <p>We did not have any electricity. We used gas stoves. There was no refrigeration as far as food. Everything was dehydrated or canned. That was even when we were in the back.</p> <p>After I had been in combat with the ground troops, we were having to pull patrols and we did that for every 4th or 5th day we'd have to go out on patrol and that got very tiring. You'd have to walk through all this kunai grass and some of the troops had started rotating and the younger guys were trying to make sergeant and so they'd try to wear you out and keep you out. So I finally went into the kitchen and cooked to get out of patrol duty. But that didn't get you out of combat duty.</p>
<p>Myers:</p>	<p>What kind of weapon did you have as a paratrooper?</p>
<p>Arnold: 375</p> <p>M-1</p> <p>Japanese bind their bodies</p>	<p>I always carried an M-1 rifle. It's 30 caliber. Very good weapon. When we first got over there they did have some of the carbines which were supposedly for officers and sergeants. But the power of the weapon wasn't very good and so everybody disbanded those things, 'cause they would have – ah, -- they really weren't bonsai charges, but the Japanese would bind themselves to where they had no feeling in their legs or arms and bind their body and I actually saw these troops coming up to attack.</p> <p>You could hear the bullets hit them and they wouldn't even slow down. We found out that if you'd hit them with an M-1 that they would go down. There was no...</p>
<p>Myers:</p>	<p>And the binding was something like an armor?</p>
<p>Arnold:</p>	<p>It was just cloth and stuff, but their legs and arms would become numb for</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	no pain.
Myers:	Oh, I see.
Arnold: 409 no prisoners	<p>And then when the bullets hit them, it wouldn't rip them open or anything. They could still maneuver. I saw several advance on you and they'd keep walking till you knocked them down.</p> <p>When I first went into Corregidor, they told us they needed a prisoner, so they passed the word, and you were supposed to – anybody wanted to surrender, you'd take them. They next day they passed the word that “we have our prisoner. If you take one, you feed him out of your rations and you sleep with him.” So no one was taken prisoner after that.</p> <p>You know, coming out of civilian life, that's pretty tough stuff. But you know, you just had to dry that up and get with it.</p>
Myers:	Because it was war. It was your life or theirs.
Arnold:	<p>Yes, it was either them or you. It became very, very well known that they didn't mind killing you.</p> <p>But as far as actually firing of rifles, I don't guess I every fired over 20 rounds out of the rifle that I carried. So it wasn't steady combat like they show on the movies. You would advance until you were pinned down. [end of side one]</p>
Beginning of side 2, tape 1	
Arnold: 000	It was just a different life that you had to start regulating yourself to.
Myers:	Well, I see a purple heart on the wall back there. So, were you wounded at Corregidor?
Arnold: 004 wounded at Negros Island	<p>No, I was wounded after we were at Corregidor.</p> <p>We went back to our base camp and stayed there about 3 months and then they sent us to Negros Island . It's not Los Negros, just Negros Island.</p> <p>There was a division of Japanese there and we were supposed to clean up that island. That was just before the war was over.</p> <p>We were moving up and they were backing up and we got up into the</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>pretty good foothills and as we were advancing up a trail one day they started throwing nee mortars. When the mortars started coming in you'd just fall to the side and keep cover.</p> <p>I raised up once when I shoulda been duckin' and a piece of shrapnel caught me in the chin and came out about 2 inches behind. It went in about here and came out here, but there was no internal bleeding. It was just a skin wound so the sergeant that I was with there he just put a bandage on and I went back. That got me a week in the hospital. The field hospital.</p>
Myers:	You got a week off, huh?
Arnold:	Yeah, I got a week off to go back and sleep on a canvas cot and get some hot food. (laughing)
Palkowsky:	And that's great!
Arnold: 022	Which was an upgrade, but you know, it wasn't a severe wound. I saw a lot of boys hit pretty bad.
BAR	We had one BAR [Browning Automatic Rifle] man that, I guess he had 7 flesh wounds but he was still operating the last time I saw him. But they would just nick him in the shoulder or on the back. And he'd keep going. You did see some combat, but it wasn't just wave upon wave like I've seen in the movies. It was just, I guess you'd call it cat-n-mouse. You'd operate, and move up, and if they didn't back up it got a little bit close.
Bayonets	<p>When we were on Corregidor there was a commander in the Navy that had been givin' a flare light all night long so we could see the enemy. There were quite a few of them there. He came over and he told the Colonel that he wanted to see some action, so they called the sergeant up there and he came back and he says, "Ok, fellows, fix your bayonets. We're goin'."</p> <p>(long pause)</p>
Myers:	And were you in that bunch?
Arnold: 039	Yeah. It was our platoon that was there. We had a platoon of 44 people and we were supposed to take the top of this hill and they had a machine gun set up. But I guess when we all got up and started walking they couldn't believe it, so they left.

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	I don't even think there was one casualty off that operation. But that was kind of an eye-opener to think that you would have to actually go up and have bayonet fighting with the enemy. That was, I guess, was the most severe that I ever thought I was going to experience at the time.
Myers:	So that's the closest you got to hand-to-hand?
Arnold:	That's right. I guess they were 30-40 yards ahead of us. But when everybody got up and started walking up the hill there, well they turned tail and ran. So I guess we were very fortunate.
Myers:	Yes. Absolutely.
Arnold: 051 tank fires into tunnel	<p>Right after that operation, we had moved down and we were pushing the enemy to the small end of Corregidor, the tail end down there. I guess they were getting pretty crowded.</p> <p>We got down over this, I guess, it was an ammunition dump that was sitting there and they were in a cave and we were on the outside. We couldn't get in. They couldn't get out. Until finally they brought a tank in from Manila, cause they were fightin' over there at the same time.</p> <p>They brought this Sherman tank in and he rolled down in front of the tunnel and he, uh, threw his 75 around and fired into the tunnel. And, uh, ... the whole world...(voice cracks) ...exploded.</p> <p>(long pause)</p>
Palkowsky:	Just take your time.
Myers:	I know that was hard to see. That was hard to witness.
Arnold: 066 11 out of 44 survive	<p>'Course, it, you know, saved a lot of lives, and stuff like that. But when that deal went up, ...as I said before, our platoon had about 44 troops...and we were the ones right on top of this tunnel. And uh, if I remember right, 11 of us walked off. (voice cracks. An emotional moment.)</p> <p>And uh, after it knocked you down and the rocks quit fallin', well, you got up and there was just complete devastation. Parts of bodies all over the place.</p>
Myers:	And that's the sort of things that movies don't let people know. That war

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	really is like this.
Arnold: 080 funny stuff, too ammunition dump explodes	<p>It's death. And when it comes, it's fast. But you know, you don't expect to see it. Course a lot of funny stuff comes out of it.</p> <p>Later, when they had pulled us off the front line, we'd been pullin' front line duty and they pulled us off and put us in a bombed-out hospital building that was on Corregidor. About two days later, during the day, somebody had gone to the ammunition dump to get their supplies and stuff, and left a phosphorus grenade out in the sun and that sucker got hot and went off. It set off the ammunition dump.</p>
Myers:	So you had a fireworks show!
Arnold:	<p>Yeah, I'd say it was about 800 yards away from where we were stayin', and when it started goin', everybody, 'course they were all shook about the other explosion, so they were just jumpin' up and runnin' around and no place to go! And they just ran around the building. Just gut reaction. After it was all over with, everybody stood around and laughed about it, and said "That's a bunch of brave troops!" (Laughter)</p> <p>And then, along those same lines...</p> <p>Right after I got back, I was discharged on New Year's Eve. I had a date and we went to this midnight movie. And it was one of the most horrible movies I've ever seen in my life. Everybody in the theater, I think, was asleep.</p> <p>Somebody elected to throw a cherry bomb, it was one that had all the shrubbery on the side that was so popular in those days. And, uh, that cherry bomb went off and I was asleep. And when I woke up, I was laying on the floor with my hands over my head and down at everybody else's feet. And, uh, nobody ever said anything about it. 'Course I was embarrassed. I think the lady sitting next to me said, "I wonder what he's doin' down there?" (Laughter)</p> <p>That's some of the funny stuff that comes out of war, but everything that happens, you know, is just reaction, and you don't realize what you're doing, er anything like that.</p>
Palkowsky	Do you ever have nightmares about it now?
Arnold	Now, no.

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

Palkowsky	But did you for years?
Arnold	<p>Oh, I'd say, possibly 6-8 months after I got back I still had recurrences of it, and stuff like that.</p> <p>But you come back, and I guess, just like everybody, heavy on the source of the beer and stuff like that, and I woke up screaming one night. (long pause)</p>
Myers	So it did bother you for a while?
Arnold	<p>Yes, it did. And my mother was sittin' there. And so that kind of rattled your cage, so we got off the beer pretty quick. 'Cause, you know, it's just one of those things that happened, I guess.</p> <p>I heard about the DTs and stuff. I don't think I ever had any DTs or anything; I wasn't drinkin' that heavy. But you know, the guys would go out and we'd have beers and stuff like that.</p>
Myers	During that time you were in New Guinea and on Corregidor and afterwards, did you have close friends that you were best buddies with?
Arnold	Oh, yeah. There was a lot of them.
Myers	Who were you close to? Do you remember any names?
Arnold	<p>Oh, gosh. That's been a long time. You really, I never did really get real, real close with anybody, because, you know, they'd be there for a while and then they'd be gone.</p> <p>But I remember a kid that was from Oklahoma. He was quite a bit younger than everybody else. He was pretty close. 'Course, he was in the tent with us, and stuff like that. They were the ones, you know, the ones you were bunkin' with that, and you didn't have anywhere to go. They were there 24 hours a day and you got to know them.</p> <p>Our sergeants and stuff that were stalkin' Japanese and stuff like that while we were back livin' in the tents and stuff like that. So it affected everybody. It was ever on your mind. You couldn't get away from it. But you know, when you wake up just about every mornin' there for a while when the stakes were really movin' and a lot of invasions and stuff like that, just about every mornin' we'd go out and they'd put us on alert and, uh, they'd say, "Well, ok, by 10-11 o'clock this morning whether or not we're gonna have to go or not."</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>So you'd go back and you'd start packin' stuff up and they'd tell you everything's fine, so you'd unpack, and stuff like that. But when you were goin', they'd tell you that it's haircut time and everybody'd get a buzz cut. And this one guy had the shears and everything. You'd pay him a buck and he took you down to your skin. (Laughter)</p>
Myers	You didn't have to worry about hair for a while, huh?
Arnold	No baths, or anything like that.
Myers	Did you ever get any clean clothes? Did you have extra uniforms?
Arnold	<p>When we went into combat, we did not. When we were on Negros Island, when we got up to a point where we couldn't advance. I guess we sat there for an excess of 30 days. And we couldn't go, and they weren't about to come back and get us. And, uh, we started another one of these operations where you'd, uh, every 4th morning you'd have to go on patrol. And, uh, you would, uh, we had to go until we drew fire. And so it got to the point where we'd tie rags on sticks and we'd wave them, and they'd fire, and we'd turn around and go back. (Laughter)</p> <p>On that deal, we had 11 in our squad and we got down to 4. And we couldn't see any sense in losing any more. What was the point? One guy was stepping off this three foot ledge, and as soon as he did, they nailed him and you had to reach over and grab him and pull him back. And finally the Sergeant said "We'll see if we can't do somethin' else." And that's when we started waving flags. But, uh, you know, it's survival of the fittest.</p> <p>We had guys that would come up and join us, and uh, we'd been up there on the front section for 72 days. Halfway through we got some replacements to fill the troops out. These young guys, they put one, a new man with every two "Old" guys and this guy was laying there and he says, "You know, I don't know really want to complain, but you guys stink!" So we said, "Well, just wait a couple of weeks, and you won't notice it!" (Laughter)</p> <p>We did go 72 days and I never took my shoes off or anything.</p>
Myers and Palkowsky	Wow! 72 days!
Arnold	No shaving. We were catching water off of trees to drink. It took all day to, for Philipinos to bring our food to us and stuff like that, so there was no shaving, no washing, and of course, you'd stand out in the rain and get

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	a little bit off of you.
Palkowsky	Lucky to have water to drink, weren't you?
Arnold	I guess it was lucky, but uh,
Palkowsky	You prayed for rain.
Myers	Was it tropical conditions there? Did it rain a lot?
Arnold	Yeah, it rained every day. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon it always rained. But when we got back off of that, we collected so much water, and we did use halazone tablets, but everybody got amoebic dysentery. We'd go to breakfast and you'd have to swallow 72 sulfa pills and a canteen of water. Before breakfast. And the doctor would sit there and watch you do it to kill the amoebas that had got in the water.
Myers	I guess there was malaria there too?
Arnold	Well, we were halazone tablets, not halazone, but quinine tablets, and everybody was yellow, 'cause it'd show up in your skin. And of course, you wouldn't sunburn, either. You'd tan real quick.
Myers	Well, do you remember anything in particular about your superiors, your immediate superiors, your commanders or any stories you can tell about your CO?
Arnold	<p>No, the enlisted men, the person we dealt with mostly was, you know, the sergeant that was over us. And he dealt with the officers. He got the orders, and he'd be the one to bring back what we were supposed to do, and stuff like that. So, as far as their names, I joined this outfit in _____ Parachute Infantry, and they had already been down to Australia and they had three operations before we joined. So they were old hands and they had even started rotating some of them right after we got there. They got to go back home, I think they gave them 30 days at home and then they'd bring 'em back. We saw a few of 'em come back. A few of 'em went other outfits, and stuff like that. And so it was just a rotating basis.</p> <p>But then, after we left Negros, the younger people who didn't have the points, they had the point system. I forget the number of points you had to have to go back home. But I had enough points so that, I think you got a point for every month you were, uh, had been overseas. Oh, I can't remember all the criteria they had, but, anyway, I went home. And then went back. And they brought in an anti-aircraft outfit that was quite a big</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>outfit. And they're the ones we came back to the states with. And so during that time, I never really did have for any great length of time, any place where I just stayed and stayed and stayed. You know you hear all those guys talk about all their buddies and stuff like that, you were just there and it was just the day-to-day operations.</p>
Myers	<p>Well, did you have time to write letters back home?</p>
Arnold	<p>Oh, yeah. We never did pull too much duty during the day. We'd do just about everthing we wanted to. They did have while we were on Negros, they did have what they called a bath formation every day at 3 o'clock and we'd walk down to the river and take a bath in the river, and dry off and come back. But outside of that and making your meals, that was all we did. We didn't have to do any special training. Everybody was well versed on what they were there for.</p>
Myers	<p>So you had time to write?</p>
Arnold	<p>Oh, yeah.</p>
Myers	<p>Did you write to your family?</p>
Arnold	<p>Yeah, I wrote to my mom and dad.</p>
Myers	<p>Your sister?</p>
Arnold	<p>Well, they were all living together, so I wrote one that went. I didn't have any particular gal that I wrote to all the time very consistently.</p>
Myers	<p>So did they write letters back to you?</p>
Arnold	<p>Oh, yeah.</p>
Myers	<p>How long did it take to get letters from home?</p>
Arnold	<p>Well, you know, it all depends. While we were sittin' in back, it wasn't too bad. I guess the stuff would be about 3 weeks old when we'd get it, and I think they said it was about the same time 'cause when we'd write, then, 'course the officers would have to sit and read all the letters and ...if you'd say where you were or anything, they'd cut all that stuff out. But we did not, we weren't big enough or have any generators to where we could have radios or anything.</p>
Invasion of	<p>So, uh, it was quite some time after they dropped the A-bomb that we</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

<p>Japan</p> <p>Diversionsary action at Nagasaki</p>	<p>heard about it and that the war was over. I think it took about a week before we really found out that Armistice, you know had been signed and that we wouldn't have to go.</p> <p>But we were already scheduled for the invasion of Japan. Which I'm very glad they dropped the bomb. Everybody says well it was pretty cruel and stuff like that, but we'd already been briefed and worked on aerial, that is, shown aerial photos of Nagasaki Naval Base that we had been assigned to jump and take.</p> <p>They told us right off the bat that it was a diversionary action and there would be absolutely no survivors.</p>
<p>Myers and Palkowsky</p>	<p>OH! Wow! I bet that was hard to take! That was your duty, but it was still hard to take.</p>
<p>Arnold</p>	<p>Well, it didn't happen. You just knew it was coming. We felt very fortunate.</p> <p>But we had actually seen – they had plaster-of-paris mock-ups and stuff like that, and pictures of all the buildings and stuff like that, and we would have been on a regular naval base, on top warehouses, and in the streets and stuff like that.</p> <p>And so they told us, there was probably not going to be any reassemble after you got on the ground. You'd have to fight and pick up whoever you could to, uh, you know, to see how long you could last.</p> <p>So, we were gettin' ready to uh,</p>
<p>Myers</p>	<p>So you believe the atom bomb saved your life and a whole bunch of people's lives.</p>
<p>Arnold</p>	<p>That's right.</p>
<p>Myers</p>	<p>Well, you said you didn't have a radio. Did your commander or your sergeant tell you the war was over? How did you hear about it?</p>
<p>Arnold</p>	<p>Well, yeah. Every morning when we'd fall out, they'd give us the poop for the day. The commander just said, "Well, ok, the war's over, guys!"</p>
<p>Myers</p>	<p>And you're going home! Or at least some of you are going home!</p>
<p>Arnold</p>	<p>Well, it took about 3 months (laughter) for us to get off. I think they</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	dropped the bomb in August some time, and I was home and discharged on December 31, 1945.
Myers	It did take a while! Was your family expecting you? Did they know you were coming home? Or did you surprise them?
Arnold	<p>Oh, I told ‘em, that, you know, we were gettin’ ready to come back to the states. I can’t remember the dates that we got on the ship, but anyway, the Captain of the ship says, “OK, I expect to be in San Pedro” – we lived in San Pedro, California – and he says, “I expect to be there for Christmas.”</p> <p>And so we said, “OK, we’ll buy that!”</p> <p>It was, you know, just an old liberty ship, and stuff like that. We’d have to stand – they’d put us on the rails, and said “Look for mines!”</p> <p>I said, “What does a mine look like?” You know, we didn’t know what we were looking for, and we had a little duty on the ship. I did a lot of painting and stuff like that.</p>
Myers	But it was happy!
Arnold	<p>One night we were up real late at night and I was lookin’ out to the east over there and this Navy guy was standin’ there and I said, “I think I see lights over there.”</p> <p>And he said, “Oh, yeah, you do.” He says, “That’s the West Coast!”</p> <p>And I says, “How long we been a doin’ this?”</p> <p>And he said, “Oh, about the last four or five days!”</p> <p>(Laughter)</p> <p>But, you know, we stayed far enough out that there was no chance that we’d be an idiot and jumpin’ overboard.</p>
Myers	Laughing. But you wanted to!
Arnold	<p>We would have wanted to swim in!</p> <p>But we pulled into San Pedro. The old man, I guess he had a pretty good deal, cause he pulled up to the dock in one day and he had a jeep he picked up from our outfit when he picked us up. Had it repainted to Navy</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	colors and put serial numbers on it! (laughter) They set it over the side, and he got in it and drove off!
Myers	Oh, my gosh! (Laughing) He was going home, wasn't he!
Arnold	Of course, his family was there, and they had quite a gathering. They had all the movie stars and everything. They'd be on the ships and you, greet us, and all that stuff, which was pretty good. But we had a bunch of contrary devils and when we pulled up, we'd holler, "We want to get off!"
Myers	Laughing. You didn't want to stay there for a ceremony!
Arnold	Then the next day, they had newspaper people there and they named our ship and everything, and they said, "Well, they weren't very courteous. They didn't accept us too well. All they could say was 'We want to get off!'"
Docked at San Pedro	
Off ship at Air Force Base	And then we went into – they took us into some air force base. I used to know the name of it, but I can't remember it now, but we were just uh, when we got there they told us we had the run of the place and that we could do whatever we wanted to. We got, I think beer was 10 cents. We could get chocolate shakes and that was a dime. We could eat anytime we wanted to – we didn't have any duties to pull or anything like that. It was pretty plush, so we got to eat pretty good. They really did give us – everything was top core!
Myers	How long did you stay there before you could get back to Texas?
Arnold	I think I was there at that air base about 5 days. Then they put us on a troop train and we rode the Southern Pacific back down to El Paso.
Myers	Were you still – you weren't discharged or anything...
Arnold	We were still in the service. We went to Ft. Bliss, Texas. Of course, that was right there at El Paso.
Tape Two	
Myers	So you went back to Ft. Bliss. And were you discharged there? Or did you stay in?
Arnold	Yeah, I was discharged there. And went back and finished my college education.
Myers	So you went back to school.
Arnold	Yeah. And then when I graduated from college, I got the wild hair that I wanted to get back in the service and I went to pilot's school.

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

Myers	So, you liked that military life ok?
Arnold	<p>Yeah, it was a pretty good life. I about ready to get out of El Paso. It was a good place to be from. So I got back into the service and went to Randolph AFB. Had a terrible time passing my instrument flying. I had pretty good vertigo and stuff like that, but finally – I was considerably older than the rest of them. When I graduated, I was 26. In three days I was going to be 27 and I think as a 2nd Lieutenant, after you were 28, you were what they called “over age in grade” and they would be dropping you pretty quick.</p> <p>So I was just a year from being “over age in grade.” But I enjoyed my Air Force time. It was a good life and when I left El Paso, Betty came down and we got engaged while I was in cadets and we got married just before I graduated. We were supposed to graduate the 1st of June, and in those days they didn’t appropriate the money for the Air Force, and therefore the Air Force couldn’t pay us. So they said, “Well you don’t graduate until July!”</p> <p>That raised havoc with Betty trying to get the wedding done, but they let me off to get back to El Paso. I flew back; we got married and I was still actually a cadet when we got back down to Barksdale. I went to multi-engine school from Randolph which was single engine. We flew T6s there and that was the first time I had ever flown an airplane and it was a lot of airplane to handle. It had a lot of power to it and you could do acrobatics with it. I wasn’t too good at acrobatics, ‘cause I had that vertigo, but they got me past my instrument check. So they put me in multi-engine school, which was B-25s down at Barksdale.</p> <p>I had a good time down there. It was a lot of fun. That B-25’s a good airplane. The only thing, it had the glide angle of a rock! We’d have to make power-off landings – you’d actually fly to the runway until the runway disappeared under the nose of the aircraft and then the instructor would cut both throttles on the engines. It was almost a vertical dive! To go down you’d have to start roundin’ out about 500 feet to get it to pull up to where you could get the gear down to the ground. That was a pretty good little experience!</p>
Myers	I guess that WAS an experience! How long were you in the Air Force, then?
Arnold Honolulu	I graduated in what they call 49B, which is supposedly the second class of the year 1949. I think they graduated every three months. But we didn’t graduate until the first of July. And then I got three days leave and this

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

tach officer that I got to know fairly well, he was I guess, the closest that I ever got to anybody that was famous, -- but he was married to Omar Bradley's daughter. He sent me a wire and asked me if I wanted to go to Honolulu, and I said "Yeah! I'll go there!"

They had a drawing. I think there were twenty-two or twenty eight of us that left flight school and went over there. Those were the fellows that I was real close to while I was in the Air Force. But we had just about a 3-year honeymoon in Honolulu before we came back.

Flying over there – I really did like it. It was – they were very particular about their military airlines. They had regulations upon regulations about what you had to do and everything, but they really made a pilot out of you. Oh, when I got out I had about 2200 flying hours and I had over 200 of actual weather going into Tokyo. So that was good. I flew just about all the islands that were between Honolulu and Tokyo. Went down to Johnson Island, Quadsland, Guam, Enewetak, Okinawa. And flew into Narita there in Tokyo. It was just real good flying. No mountains that you had to worry about until you got into Tokyo.

The Korean deal started up while I was over there. When you go down to Okinawa from Tokyo you still had to fly your patterns to identify yourself when you go in there. It was close enough to Korea that there could have been some combat. You'd be challenged when you were a hundred miles out and all this type stuff. You knew about the war and of course, we hauled air-evac back, which was the wounded infantry and stuff like that. There were an awful lot of burn patients. They used a lot of napalm and stuff like that and that was really tough. The ones that really had it tough on that were the flight nurses, cause they'd have to --. Well, when we were coming back from Tokyo it was about 12-13 hours to Midway, and it was another 4 hours down to Hickam and they'd take the patients off and put them in the hospital to let them recoup. Then it was another 13 hours just about – we were flying DC4s – C54s to bring the patients back and then they'd take them into Travis AFB and put them in the hospital.

After I left the Pacific, I went down to Kelly [AFB] and was with MATS again – Military Transport Service. Then I was sent back up to Biggs to be air-evac liaison officer. I just kinda revolved back around to El Paso and then I was discharged. You had to sign what they called an indefinite statement that at the military's discretion they could get rid of you at any time. But I was a reserve officer and you had nothing to fall back on. All you could do was to get 90 days leave that you could stack up and then if they discharged you, you got a little severance pay, but not enough to really do any good with.

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>And being a visiting officer, I was actually stationed at Kelly AFB, and was up at Biggs, which was a SAC [Strategic Air Command] base and I had quarters across from the Air Force general there, which was really no big deal, but the guy that lived next door to me was the SAC navigator for three consecutive years. He would go to these competitions with all the SAC navigators and he had won for three years. Well, at that time, the Air Force was getting rid of all the navigators. So that poor sucker – we used to talk out in the yard cutting the grass and stuff – and he said, “Well, tomorrow’s Friday and I’ve got to go back to the base. When I go I’m gonna get my RIF letter.”</p> <p>He was another reason I got out. I started talking to Betty and said, “If I end up like that sucker – by the time these children – “ by that time we had two and third on the way. “By the time they’re ready to go to college, they’ll bust me out of here!” I was over age and grade to start with! So that’s when I decided to get out. I tried to make regular three times – had their interviews, and all that stuff. And they didn’t want me, which was a mistake!</p> <p>Right after I got out, the guys that stayed in that went through class, they said that the next year, if you want regular all you have to do is apply for it! But I didn’t know that was comin! So I went ahead and got out.</p>
Myers	That’s right! So what year was it that you got out?
Arnold	I got out in ’52.
Myers	Was the Korean war over then?
Arnold	<p>Yeah, the war was just about over, and there was still a little bit of action. The guy I replaced when I went up there to that air-evac squadron was on his way to Korea. He was all pushed out of shape ‘cause – well, I never did wear my ribbons or anything when I was on regular duty – there wasn’t any reason to – I wasn’t trying to impress anybody. But he made the statement that I hadn’t seen any combat and that he’d been in the Air Force combat. (Laughing)</p> <p>And so just before I left, I had all my ribbons on and I walked over in the operations area – there were two enlisted men and myself, a sergeant, a corporal and the 2nd Lt. I walked in and had all those ribbons on and he said, “Why didn’t you tell me you had seen that much action?”</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>I said, “Well, there’s not much sense in it.”</p> <p>And he said, “I do apologize for all the statements I made!”</p> <p>But he had a family, I think he had three children, and he didn’t want to go back over there. He had seen quite a bit of combat in the Air Force.</p> <p>I said, “Well, there’s no sense in us getting in a shouting contest. It doesn’t prove anything. It’s not going to go anywhere.”</p> <p>That’s just about all my military. We got out and I went to work for the El Paso Metro Gas Company and was there 31 years.</p>
Myers	Wow. So you went back to El Paso.
Arnold	Well, I knew quite a few people there. I had relatives that worked for the gas company. They call it the gas company. It was the only one in town at the time. I had a cousin that was a superintendent of the pipeline division up in San Juan and they’d had a fire there. My other cousin, her husband had been in the basement and he got burned quite severely due to a fire. A guy struck a match – so – it was a good life, a good company.
Palkowsky	What about your children? What’s their names?
Arnold	First child was Jack Jr. Three years – Thomas Davis came along. Then, three years, Sarah Ann, our first girl. She lives now in San Antone. Then six years later, Kathryn Elizabeth, was the last one.
Palkowsky	What year did they begin?
Arnold	Well, let’s see. Jack was born in 1950. Right after we got to Honolulu – all the wives that went over there – we came back three years later – some of them had two, we had one – couple more had one. So everybody started their families over there.
Myers	I’ll bet that was a good time to be in Hawaii, wasn’t it?
Arnold	Well, it was. We all had a good time there. I’m still in communication with some of the guys. This one, a guy named Ken Hales, we e-mail all the time. He lives out in San Diego California. They were all real good. One lives over in Hawaii. We’re still in touch with him every once in a while. They have a reunion once a year, but we’ve just about quit going. The crowd is getting thinner and thinner. It’s a little bit harder to travel. But we still know them.

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

Palkowsky	And you can still communicate. That's all that matters.
Arnold	Yeah. A few e-mails go back and forth. 'Course that's been pretty good. And right here, we've met all these guys that were in the service. You know, the sea stories fly.
Palkowsky	There's a lot of retired military right here in Meadowlakes.
Arnold	Yeah. There's a real good bunch of them.
Myers	Well, are there any other special recollections or things you'd like to tell before we wrap up?
Arnold	<p>Well, as far as my flying years, there's only two things that happened that, you know, weren't just routine.</p> <p>We were in Tokyo when a typhoon had hit – started up towards Japan up there and we sat there for two weeks and they wouldn't let anybody go 'cause they didn't have all the tracking they needed for the typhoons. We were the first crew out. As you went in they would put you on the board and you would take your turn when you'd go out whatever flight you caught when you went back to Okinawa or back to Midway.</p> <p>Midway was a real good duty station. I enjoyed that. It was nice and cool. For a while we staged there, but then we quit that they changed navigators there and we'd just fly on in. Had three pilots aboard. But going on in to Midway, we never did fly with the same navigator. We were coming out of Tokyo and we were just about to the point of no return which is closer fuel wise to continue to your destination than going back to your point of origin.</p> <p>Just before we got there, he said, "We're coming up on the point of no return, here and I don't really like those clouds up there."</p> <p>I says, "Well, they wouldn't send us out here if that typhoon was still active."</p> <p>So we drove off and we passed the point of no return. About 45 minutes later I was sitting in the co-pilot's seat and we were just sittin' there talkin'. We hit a downdraft so bad that all the coffee in the cup went up in the air. It went right back down in.</p> <p>I said, "Good Lord!"</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>That navigator steps up and he said, “Well, I want you to say HI to the typhoon!”</p> <p>I said, “What are you talkin’ about?”</p> <p>He said, “Yeah, when I told you I didn’t like it, I thought that was the typhoon sittin out there.”</p> <p>I said, “Well, why didn’t you tell me?”</p> <p>He said, “Well, everybody ought to go through one of them!”</p> <p>Laughter from everyone.</p> <p>That is the most severe flying that I have ever seen. Our altimeter was going from anywhere – we normally cruised from 95 hundred to 9,000 – 10,000 feet. And that altimeter, I saw it go down to 45 hundred and I saw it go up to 13,000. The wing tips were oscillating with up-down drafts – they were oscillating the best I can remember, and of course, it probably gets more every year – but...(laughter from everyone)</p>
Myers	They were flappin’, huh?
Arnold	Yeah, they were just about flappin’. There’s 4 foot from top to bottom and when...
Myers	It’s a wonder those wings stayed on!
Arnold	Well, the aircraft was what they called wet-winged. The fuel tanks were inside the wings. And they had neoprene washers, you know, liners on the inside and they had inspection plates where they could inspect the deals and work on the gages that were in the tanks that tell you how many gallons were there. And when we got to Midway we looked around the aircraft, and all the inspection plates were leaking gas.
Myers	Oh my gosh! That was a close call!
Arnold	And so the maintenance guy walked around and he said, “Well, as soon as you get back to Hickam, they’re going to have to send this sucker back to overhaul. They’ve got to replace all the neoprene in the tanks. They’ve all busted loose in there.”

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

<p>Gooney Birds</p>	<p>There wasn't really any danger. Course, when you went into Midway, we had the gooney birds. Which is a real big, I guess you'd call them seagulls. Those suckers weighed about 15 pounds apiece. They're like a small goose. They had so many of them there, that when you were going in, they could go into the intake of an engine and cause engine failure. If they hit a windshield, they could come through and hit you. So we always had both pilots on the deal and flying down the runway, we'd say "OK, you've got it!" And the other guy would take over and fly and say, "You got it!" And just keep swapping off!</p> <p>They were real comical bird. They had a regular routine – they would line up exactly east and west and north and south. They'd go through this bill clacking and head bobbing and stuff like that and they would do that hour after hour. Just stand there. And also, if you caught them out on the runway, you'd could start runnin' 'em and if you run 'em downwind, they could never get off the ground! They had to run into the wind to get airborne! So that was a big pastime when you didn't have anything else to do! (laughter by all) You'd go out and watch gooney birds and watch them tumble – and they would! They'd just pull up their feet and they'd just go head over heels. That was a big sport.</p>
<p>More close calls – bad engine</p>	<p>And then the only real bad thing I had was when I was going into Johnson Island. It was another time we'd been out way too long and I was sittin' on Wake Island waitin' for an aircraft and this dude came in and I asked him "How's everything?"</p> <p>And he said, "Well, it's doin' pretty good. Number two cuts out at altitude. But if you take it back up to rich for a little while it generally smoothes out and it's ok."</p> <p>And so I talked to the flight engineer and he said, "Nah. It's no problem. If it smoothes out, we'll be ok."</p> <p>And so once again, we got past the point of no return, and we had a bed in the C54 that we could go back and rest. I was scheduled to make the landing at Johnson, so I went back to take a little nap before I have to make my landing. I got back there, laid down and was just about asleep and number two over-spod. You have no control of your propeller. From pulling you through the air it just becomes a flat sheet of steel and it kills your air speed. Our air speed went from 180 indicated to about 130. The old aircraft would payoff about when going for a landing it normally would stall out at 80 something miles per hour. About 85-86-87, depending on wind conditions.</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

Figuring out the problem	<p>I said, “Well, that’s not too good.” We had a B29 engine that they had taken out of Okinawa to go back for overhaul. They told us when we started hauling those that if you have to ditch when one of them was there, that the floor wouldn’t hold it. It would pull itself out. If you figured you were going to have to ditch, you’d just have to keep the minimum crew aboard, everybody that was forward in the cockpit would just be flat wiped out. Cause that engine would come flying through there.</p> <p>So sure enough, we had one and we had 11 passengers, some of them pilots that flew B29s, which were pretty famous for catching fire and exploding. We had been chugging along there and sure enough that engine over-spiced and we went up and said, “Well, what are we going to do about this?” And we tried to keep it going as fast as we could so we could hurry up and get to Johnson and sure enough, we were down to about 2000 feet from 9,000.</p> <p>And I said, “Well, it’s getting’ a little drastic here and we’re goin’ to have to do somethin’.</p> <p>The flight engineer said, “Well, I talked to this guy that froze an engine.” They had the same thing happen.</p> <p>I said, “What do you do to freeze it?”</p> <p>They have what they call the firewall shutoff valve – it cuts off all your hydraulics and oil and fuel to the engine. And he said, “Well, they pull the firewall shutoff valve, and watch your cylinder head temperatures, and as it starts going up, they’d throw it back in and give it a little oil, then pull it out again. They were successful in freezing the engine.”</p> <p>And I said, “What if the prop snaps?”</p> <p>And he said, “Well, three things. If it goes up, and goes right straight back, it will hit our horizontal stabilizer.”</p> <p>I said, “Well, that’s all right.” Cause if the stabilizer stays on we can control our up and down with our power.</p> <p>And he said, “Well, the other one is that if it comes off and goes down, we’re safe. And then if it comes off and goes up and comes through the top of the fuselage, all those people back there are going to think it’s time to meet their great maker!”</p> <p>And I said, “Well, we still getting’ lower, so let’s start freezing it.”</p>
--------------------------	---

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

<p>Landing Gear failed</p> <p>On Fire</p>	<p>So he pulled the firewall shutoff valve and when your propeller is over-speeding it increases the pump on your oil pressure. The engineer and myself had both seen this and we didn't even think about it, but the oil pressure was greater than the featherin' pressure and it works against the cylinder. Well the engine oil pressure was pushing out to keep it flat and to feather it you have to push it in to turn the props vertical to the air flow.</p> <p>Well as soon as that happened the engine feathered. And it became awful quiet, and I said, "My God! What happened?" You know, it was quite a loud whine and all the passengers were all shook up. But the engine did feather and then when we were startin' down our final and everything, we dropped the gear and the right main gear didn't indicate down and locked.</p> <p>I said, "Well, let's pump it down." I had an auxiliary pump that you could it down. But that didn't work. So the red light stayed on. I said, "Let's free-fall it see if it will plop in by itself."</p> <p>We dropped the gear down and it never did indicate locked. I said, "The only thing we can do is buzz the tower and have the tower look at it with binoculars and see if they can see it swinging." Which was all standard procedure – they had it on our checklists.</p> <p>So we went through all this and the guy says, "It looks down and locked to me!" I said, "OK, we're going around."</p> <p>About that time he says, "Oh my God! You're on fire!"</p>
<p>Myers</p>	<p>OH NO! What else can happen to that plane?</p>
<p>Arnold</p> <p>Landed Safely</p>	<p>What happened then, we have rocker boxes that control your valves that's on each cylinder. This rod had busted and went through the cover and it shot oil out on the exhaust which hit the exhaust and laid down this black smoke screen. And that's why he thought we were on fire.</p> <p>He screamed that, and I said, "OK, get the fire trucks out – we're comin' in!"</p> <p>We pulled a 360. Pretty fortunate. Judgment was pretty good. We did land and everything. You could always land on one gear. If your speed dropped off, you would fall to the other gear. So we landed on the left gear and I says, "OK, we're goin' to let it drop down on that right gear and if it collapses, we're goin' out into the water."</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	So everybody buckled in real tight, and all. When it fell down and hit, the green light came on. It was what they call a dirty micro switch. When you drop your gear, this little plunger goes down and when the gear straightens up it pushes it up and turns the green light on. Well, coral and sand had got up in there and fouled that little switch up.
Side B, tape 2 Arnold Showing war memento	(Showing war memento.) I'm just going by what the old troops told me. This is what they referred to as a parabelt that the Japanese troops carried. For every stitch, that someone had said a prayer for them.
Myers	And this is like a tiger, isn't it?
Arnold	Yeah. This was a tiger. I don't know the meaning of the tiger, or anything.
Palkowsky	I think that was something they honor when they pray.
Arnold	I think it was just something they carry with them, kind of a protection, you know, something to hang onto.
Myers	What's this, a map?
Arnold	A picture of Corregidor.
Myers	Could you sit down for just a minute and I'll get a picture of you.
Arnold	Well, if you've got some way to reproduce it...
Myers	Yeah, we've got a copier at the library we could copy this on.
Palkowsky	Edna and I could bring it back to you. Would that be ok?
Arnold	Yeah, ok. I really don't know how I ended up with that.
Myers	Do any of these blue marks mean anything to you?
Arnold Going over Map of Corregidor	Well, I was just trying to look at those things. 'Course, it's been a long time. This was, I think, when this started out this is 3D Bn, Third Battalion, so this was probably what they were...Here's an E for E Company. And, I guess this is places where they started. They jumped -- when we went into Corregidor -- they jumped -- they took turns by the

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

<p>Jumps Casualties: 1st Btn 8% 2nd Btn 12%</p>	<p>battalions on their – who went in first, second, and third.</p> <p>Generally the first is just about the best and the safest, because they don't know you're coming. And then the second – they're more or less looking for you, cause they know there's gonna be more of 'em. And then the third is the deal.</p> <p>Well, we were the third battalion to go in and so by the time the first battalion – I think they said when they jumped they had about 8 % casualty from broken legs and deaths and stuff like that. And then the second battalion, they dropped in and the loss was about 12 %. And so when we went in, they said we can't keep this up 'cause at that rate we'd be about 15-20%. And so we went in by barge from this south dock area – sound and safe point down in here. And we received no fire going in. But just as soon as we got through unloading, they didn't crossfire us with machine guns.</p>
<p>Malinta tunnel</p>	<p>This is that Malinta tunnel that you hear so much about that was MacArthur's headquarters was. When we got there, we took up the lead. We cleaned up all this Southside of the island. I think we went just about over here, all these big deals here were big gun emplacements that were to keep the navies out.</p>
<p>Tank fired into tunnel</p>	<p>That deal where we that tank fire was, was just about down here at this 10 point. This is the revetment that went behind that tank when he fired in there, well this is the hill that blew up. I saw pieces of concrete that were as big as this table that had gone up in the air and come down. And of course, that killed a lot of our troops. And then they had these air vents. They had one here. They always tell everybody to take gas masks in. Well, we took 'em in. But we didn't take 'em into combat. We'd take the rubber hose and cut 'em and put 'em around our dog tags to keep them from clickin' if we had to move at night.</p>
<p>Yellow smoke</p>	<p>So here come all this yellow smoke out and the first thing you think about when you see yellow smoke is phosgene gas. And everybody says, "OH God! We don't have any gas masks!" And this sergeant said he would get a little closer to it and see if we can smell what it was. What it ended up was it must have been sulphur in the tunnel. 'Cause that was just sulphur smoke that was yellow coming out. He said, "Oh, don't worry about it! It's just sulphur."</p> <p>We didn't have any big gas deal, but we'd never heard about any gas on it. But the whole island of Corregidor, there were tunnels everywhere. And all the culverts and these black lines are roads. All these roads had</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>drains where the water would run down under the road. Everywhere you would look there were explosives – TNT, dynamite, and stuff like that. So the whole island was a fortress. And when that dude fired in there – it was a 75 canon – and it all went up at one time. ‘Course it eliminated all the Japanese that were in there. They estimated all but 10 or 15 of the enemy were in this tunnel. So you might say that was in the operation.</p>
500 ft elevation	<p>And when they went in and jumped, they jumped the parade ground up here, which is up in this part. You can see this is a 500-foot elevation from here to here, if that’s 500 foot, your drop zone wasn’t very big! We had pulled practice jumps, which I got to make because I was a new man in the outfit. We actually parachuted at 300 feet! Which was – I never did talk to any of the people – but everything you see about the drops that were over in Europe, it looked like they were dropping in the neighborhood of 1000 – 1500 and maybe some of them higher than that. But at 300 feet, your chute would open, you’d oscillate one time and then hit the ground. Your time of hanging in the air where you have no defense is a lot less. And that’s why they said the outfit I was in always jumped at 300 feet. That was just standard combat.</p>
Rifle fire into jump plane	<p>Well, when we went across the island, we were supposed to jump, and then they told us when we were 15 minutes out there wasn’t going to be any jumps and we could just kick our bundles. See, we always jumped C47 aircraft, which had that one door, that low wing jobber. Well, we actually got rifle fire. The aircraft I was in – when the bullet hit the aircraft, it hit an oxygen bottle – it exploded. Shrapnel hit the co-pilot. And there were two slugs that came through the fuselage. You could hear them hit.</p>
Landing craft	<p>Then they took us over to Bataan and landed and we got on these destroyer escorts. That’s when they brought us back over here and we got off the destroyer escorts in the landing craft and went into the beach action. We didn’t receive any fire going in. It was pretty easy right after we hit there. They did crossfire us. This one guy – you always get a buddy to go in with – and this guys name was Louie DeMarco. He was an Italian kid out of Chicago. We were layin’ there next to some concrete that was a footing or something. He said, “Oh my God! I’ve been hit!”</p>
DeMarco injured	<p>I said, “If you have, you’re gonna die, ‘cause I’m not gonna get up and save you!” (Laughter)</p> <p>We joked about that. He said, “Well, it’s not hurtin’ too bad.” So finally, he said it had quit bleedin’.</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

	<p>I said, “Well, you’re the luckiest man I know.” You know, you have to have something to break your train of thoughts. We could see the entrance to Millani Tunnel, which was right here, the big headquarters. I’ve read stories about what’s inside.</p>
<p>Traveled the island</p>	<p>We traveled all these roads around here. I think this is the entrance to the tunnel and it came out back over here. All these buildings are on the top side are barracks. They had all been bombed out. I think that was due to the American operations. There were no buildings standing. There were some of the sidewalls, but no roofs. All the jump area was bomb-cratered. So you didn’t have any real level place to land when you jumped in. But we cleaned out the island, down to this corner, when the tank blew the tunnel up. That wiped us out and we went back up – I think this may have been the old hospital where they put us up to stay until the Corregidor deal was over with. After that deal went off there wasn’t any fighting left. We had snipered a lot of troops going out there.</p>
<p>Japs lived in tunnels</p>	<p>I did have somebody tell me that they read my book and said that three years after the deal was over with that they captured the last guy the Japanese guy that was still out there livin’ in the tunnels. There’s guys that say from the kitchens and stuff like that late at night they would infiltrate and go up and steal food, but I never did see any of them. Of course, we were just all layin’ out in the dirt.</p>
	<p>It was pretty basic living. You don’t – we slept in the bunkers that had -- these tunnels that had these holes in them and we had to sleep in the bunkers to keep the Japanese from coming up from down below, ‘cause they all had staircases that they could climb back up. It was just a fortress is what it was.</p>
<p>Caballo Island</p>	<p>While we were there, this island here, this Caballo, it’s a lot like Spanish language there. They had this big explosion over there and you could see it from over here. And Manila was sittin’ right across the bay, but this is the entrance...Manila Bay and Manila was right over here. When we were making our practice jumps at 300 feet, there couldn’t be more than 3 people leave the aircraft at one time. Because if you tried to send the fourth, the first guys were either here or the last guy was over here. Well, these were pretty good cliffs. You can see it was quite steep. If you got over in the jungle, the Japs were all around. And they were sittin’ there pickin’ everybody off as they came down.</p>
<p>Myers</p>	<p>Well, we’ll take this map to the library and copy it, and put it in the file for you, and then we’ll have that map of Corregidor.</p>

Interview with
Jack Arnold, World War II Veteran
26 July 2005

Arnold	You've probably got access to the stuff they've got over there – during one of their deals over there at the Nimitz – the outfit did go over all the guys that were old hands that had all the history. They do have records and there's a plaque over there with the 503 rd patch and identification.
Myers	Yeah, but this will stay in our library, too. So we'll have it for your file in our library.
Myers	Well, I really thank you a lot. I really enjoyed listening to every bit of this. It was a wonderful story and we really appreciate all the time you've spent with us.
Arnold	Well, you know, after it's all over with, it's a lot different.
Myers	And thank you for your service to our country.