

**Video Recording Log
Veteran Ralph Rinehart**

1. Name and address of collector of interviewer.

Name of Donor/Interviewer: Nancy Rotzoll
Address: 300 N. Goodwin
City: Urbana
State: Illinois
Zip: 61801
Telephone: 217-353-7300
Email: rotzoll@illinois.edu
Partner organization affiliation (if any): WILL AM-FM-TV

2. Name and birth date of the veteran or civilian being interviewed at is appears on the Biographical Data Form:

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Ralph Rinehart
Birth Date: 01/26/1920

3. Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

4. Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 53 minutes **Date of recording:** 02/14/2008

5. Location of recording: WILL AM-FM-TV, 300 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

6. Please log the topics discussed in the interview in sequence.

00:00 Introduction
00:25 Pearl Harbor
01:28 Draft—called almost immediately—failed first exam, needed false teeth—passed second
02:25 April 11, 1942, 22 years old—inducted at Peoria, IL
03:00 Scott Field, Belleville, IL—shots
03:25 Fort Sill, OK—Basic Training—artillery with WWI canon—US poorly armed when war broke out
04:10 Train to Oakland, CA—port of embarkation—with 4,000 other GIs on Matsonia Luxury Liner—25 days at sea
05:20 Melbourne, Australia—Camp Darley—there as casual 14 days awaiting assignment
06:14 32nd Division being formed to fight Japanese in New Guinea
06:35 Train to Sydney, Australia—stayed 4-5 months—working warehouseman—transportation of troops, ships
07:45 Went with 19 others to New Guinea to form 1st Boat Company, 620
08:20 Up New Guinea on train—Townsville—Dutch ship across Coral Sea to Port Moresby

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- 08:45 Port Moresby—there a long time—seaman on tugboat—Australian civilians took over jobs—lost tugboats
- 09:30 September—furlough—flew to Brisbane
- 10:10 March 13th—emplaned—to Lay, New Guinea—entire outfit “over the hump”—about 3 months behind major push—moved in after Japanese were ousted
- 11:15 Lay, New Guinea—LCMs—Ducks—rubberized trucks
- 12:50 Segregation in Army—blacks did heavy work—took over Ducks
- 13:35 Furlough—boat to Finschhafen—coast of New Guinea and Australia
- 14:03 Moved to Manila, Philippines—operated tugboat in harbor until War ended
- 14:50 Hauling barges from Manila out to ocean—taking barges out to ship, back to harbor—supplies on liberty ships
- 15:45 Troop transport with 4,000 men was very lost—headed for England, but went around Africa and up Philippines, at sea 13 days
- 19:00 His trip over from US to Australia
- 19:45 No one had previous experience on ships—all started fresh
- 20:05 War ended—rumors of A-bomb
- 22:00 In Manila when Japan surrendered—expecting it
- 22:50 Sent home on U.S.S. Uruguay
- 23:25 Navy—beans for breakfast
- 24:15 Came into San Pedro, CA—camp—1st access to telephone
- 25:35 Correspondence—gone 3 ½ years—never told what was going on in rest of world
- 26:06 Life on islands—working on tugboats—12-hour shifts
- 27:20 Lay, New Guinea—softball, basketball—tents, weather
- 28:40 When got off U.S.S. Uruguay—first cold weather
- 29:15 Decorations: Sergeant’s stripes, Boat Company, Division, 39 months of duty
- 30:40 Air raid at Port Moresby—shot 30-40 of 100 Japanese planes—“ack ack guns”—smoke—Japanese hit American gas line
- 30:30 Moresby, Oro Bay, Milne Bay—all hit in 3 days—Port Moresby luckiest of 3
- 34:20 Became friends with everyone in outfit—living in jungle—Japanese hid in caves—Australian Army meanest soldiers—Desert Rats sent to Italy and then to South Pacific
- 36:00 Sydney, Australia—Desert Rats came home—that night 12 Allied soldiers killed by other soldiers—fighting between Australians and Americans over Australian girls—personal experience running away from Australian soldiers at night
- 39:45 Went back to Australia in 1972—not a lot of change
- 41:15 San Pedro, CA to Fort Logan, CO—discharged November 5, 1945—train to Saint Louis, MO—train back home
- 43:15 Brother at Casablanca in African campaign—Air Force Master Sergeant
- 44:15 At home later—married girlfriend from before war 7 years after end of service—belonged to extras board to get some employment
- 45:15 Played baseball for Staley’s 1946-47
- 45:35 Brown’s Business College—1948 leave of absence from Staley’s—GI bill—correspondence courses

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- 47:10 Working for companies—Decatur, IL—Home Manufacturing Company—Accounting jobs on the side
- 48:00 War changed his life—worth it—good—those that died overseas heroes
- 48:30 Friends from service
- 51:40 [Wrap-up]