

What's your name?

Don Shields-

When did you join the navy?

I joined the navy when I was 17, the minority group 17-21. I was on four ships, when we were in New Guinea this here soldier thought that we had peaches in one of our holes but what we really had was 100 octane but he thought it was peaches. He went down this Jacobs ladder and he blew a hole in our ship about as big as this room and we were there for a year. It was the first time they fixed a ship like that. They beached it and pushed it on land and put a huge plate on it and that took a whole year. I was the first loader on the three inch fifty that was my job. On all four ships that was my job. I put the shell in and there were four guys on this gun, a trainer, pointer, a loader and a shooter and that's what they did. There were 75 ships and it took 30 days to get across and we made it all right. We didn't see nothing. All the time spent on the navy and we didn't see nothing.

How long were you supposed to be in New Guinea?

Just to unload. And that was it and we ended up there for a whole year.

What made it so bad?

It was hot and it rained all the time that's about it.

Was it a casual atmosphere or did you make it a normal army base?

We got along good cause there was a baseball team and we had a darn good team for only 27 guys and we played all the army guys which took up a lot of our time and we watched a lot of movies to....in the rain.