

What's your name?

Howard Weis

I was raised out in Earlville and I will start my story about when the war first started. I was a farmer in Earlville Illinois and I was driving a tractor. I saw these three bombers coming real low as low as tree top level. I have never really seen a military plane out there and they were going over each other like they were playing leap frog you know. I got home and I asked my folks what happened and they said well the Japanese just attacked us. They were mobilizing the military and in that afternoon the president spoke and we all went over to the radio and listened to him speak it was Franklin D. Roosevelt and the time. So, I worked around the farm and right away I was drafted and then I got my notice and they sent me to Sheridan where I believe we had to report in. Anyway, I went to Great Lakes, took my boot training in Great Lakes. Then they sent me to California and assigned me to a ship out there. Remington Washington really. When I first got the look of that ship I was sick. It had a hole in the side bigger than the average bedroom in it. It had been hit by a kamikaze Japanese plane and I was assigned to it and that was thing they gave me and I wasn't to pleased. We worked on the thing for three months but we finally got it repaired. They would take it to the shakedown crew to see if it needed any more repairs and to see if it was sea worthy.