

ABSTRACT

Interviewee: Joseph Fleischer

Interviewer: Regina Fleischer

Date of interview: March, 1982

- Name and location of present home - birthplace and life in Albany Park area - Chicago
- Joined U.S. Navy in July, 1943 - training received at Farragut, Idaho - 30 day leave before entering active service - graduation - assigned to Pleasonton, Ca. - USS MORRIS - DD4 17 - seasick -300 men assigned - duties - recreation aboard ship - part of Admiral "Bull" Halsey's fleet
- Battles - Mariannas - Makin - Tawara - description of injuries resulting from battles - returned to Treasure Island (in San Francisco Bay)
- Assigned to a new destroyer and returned to Halsey's Fleet - Marianna's - Guam and Saipan - This was the largest fleet in history - describes men's assignments in a battle - team work, "bonded brotherhood" - friends within each department - officers and men on ship - description of Battle of Saipan - sea and air - awarded ribbons for eleven Pacific battles - different ways the men were killed at sea - end of war in Pacific - Japanese continued dive bombing - Admiral Halsey's directive - "Shoot them down, in a friendly manner."
- Second ship to enter Tokyo Bay - guided by a Japanese pilot (a graduate of University of California) - through the mine fields - ship remained in Tokyo Harbor until after General McArthur accepted the Japanese surrender aboard the battleship MISSOURI
- Were permitted shore leave on Japanese islands - found civilians sweet gentle people - contrasted Japanese military - souvenirs - pictures (by official ship's photographer), swords, epaulettes, buttons, pencils, razor blades - anything with Japanese writings on it - picked up at source
- Homeward bound! San Francisco Harbor - furlough - discharged April 23, 1946 - vacationed in Mexico - after almost three years in South Pacific returned to Chicago - 40 degree temperature in May - after spending most of time near turbines in 170 degree temperature
- Had been graduated from Roosevelt College - enrolled at Northwestern University night classes in graduate school in MBA program - married in April, 1949 -reenlisted Naval Reserve May, 1950 - recalled to active duty June, 1950 but deferred to January, 1951

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Abstract, cont.

Sent to Green Cove Spring, Fla. aboard decommissioned USS OSBURN - a destroyer escort (in "moth balls") to prepare it for sea duty - reported to Brooklyn Navy Yard
Operated in Atlantic out of Brooklyn Navy Yard - training reservists from Third Naval District - returned to Chicago after serving 18 months and received discharge April 23, 1954
Lived in Hyde Park, Hazelcrest, Illinois - family of four - when children reached school age family moved to Wilmette - children educated in local schools