

Oral History Interview of Howard Tiedeman

Military Service: Navy for Nine Years

November 21, 2002

Monmouth University Student Center

Guggenheim Oral History Project

## **Interview of Howard Tiedeman**

*I fought in a war and I left my friends behind me  
To go looking for the enemy, and it wasn't very long  
Before I would stand with another boy in front of me  
And a corpse that just fell into me, with the bullets flying  
round*

*And I reminded myself of the words you said when we  
were getting on  
And I bet you're making shells back home for a steady  
boy to wear  
Round his neck, well it won't hurt to think of you as if  
you're waiting for  
This letter to arrive because I'll be here quite a while*

*I fought in a war and I left my friends behind me  
To go looking for the enemy, and it wasn't very long  
Before I found out that the sickness there ahead of me  
Went beyond the bedsit infamy of the decade gone  
before*

*And I reminded myself of the words you said when we  
were getting on  
And I bet you're making shells back home for a steady  
man to wear  
Round his neck, well it won't hurt to think of you as if  
you're waiting for  
This letter to arrive because I'll be here quite a while*

*I fought in a war, and I didn't know where it would end  
It stretched before me infinitely, I couldn't really think  
Of the day beyond now, keep your head down pal  
There's trouble plenty in this hour, this day  
I can see hope I can see light*

*And I reminded myself of the looks you gave when we  
were getting on  
And I bet you're making shells back home for a steady  
man to wear  
Round his neck, well it won't hurt to think of you as if  
you're waiting for  
This letter to arrive because I'll be here quite a while*

**-“I fought in a War”  
Belle and Sebastian**

**Interview of Howard Tiedeman  
November 21, 2002  
For the archives of the Guggenheim  
Library & the Veteran's History Project**

Question: Where were you raised?

Answer: (pause) Well, actually in New Jersey but a little in Long Island.

Q: What was it like growing up in both New Jersey and Long Island when you did?

How is it similar or different from your experiences visiting there today?

A: There was more to do back in those days growing up than there is today. In the little leagues they tell them how to play how to play ball and we did all our own stuff and we had our own group that played. We enjoyed each other's company better instead of fighting all the time; but we did that too (laughs).

Q: What were some of the recreational activities that you liked to take part in?

A: Baseball and football.

Q: What do you remember the most fondly about baseball and football growing up?

A: Nothing really. It was just great sportsmanship and everything all the way around. We never really played to really win we just had good times.

Q: Did you play any of those sports while you were in high school?

A: I played football.

Q: What position did you play?

A: Guard.

Q: In high school was the war talked about?

A: Uh, when Pearl Harbor first came in, yeah.

Q: To what extent?

A: You just can't believe things are happening but they do, you know? Of course, the following year I got out of school and joined the Navy.

Q: Prior to Pearl Harbor did your family talk about the war?

A: No, not really. They were surprised that I wanted to go into the Navy.

Q: Before Pearl Harbor what was your knowledge of Hitler and Mussolini?

A: Before that? I guess we were gonna go in and take care of them (laughs).

Q: How interested was your family in the war?

A: It was hard to say because I was in for six years at the time, regular Navy and when I got home I was never home I was always out seeing somebody anyways so we never really talked about it.

Q: What were your feelings about Pearl Harbor?

A: Why did it happen? There's a lot of stories. I saw a lot of classified films on it as why it really happened and it shouldn't have happened really, but it did. In fact there are other things to that no one really knows about.

Q: I suppose you still can't share that?

A: No, not really.

Q: [How would you compare the attack on Pearl Harbor to the terrorist attacks last year?]

A: It was a military place that they hit really, fort Island, Isle of Pearl and there was I guess, if they were going to attack, they were going to attack the military expected but the Twin Towers, that was something else. Because at one time the plane hit the 75<sup>th</sup> floor, remember? Small plane, that's first what I thought and then after that, I'm telling you, it

was just unbelievable. We had guys go over there from our department and stuff so it was really a mess. A lot of the younger guys go over.

Q: Like the feelings you had when you heard about Pearl Harbor did you have an aggressive need to defend your country?

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Because a lot was talked about even in high school. Some stayed until they got their diploma and I left right away.

Q: [What did you feel when you watched the plane hit?]

A: I [don't know what I really felt at the time]. Of course terrorist was always over in the European camp, no one would really think about it here. We where never really attacked even in World War II outside of a submarine outside of Long Island and the state of Washington; something up there at one time.

Q: Did you feel a sense of unity after Pearl Harbor?

A: Not really, but it looked like the country had really pulled together. I mean everybody, even Rosie the Riveter working in the navy yard and it was male female, they all got in there for the war effort

Q: [How did you guys feel about women in the war?]

A: Never gave it a thought really. The only time was when they were coming into the service, (laughs) that was hard to believe on a ship.

Q: Did you feel grateful that everyone was really pulling together and women?

A: One way or the other whether they were at the home front working at the offices to relieve somebody so they could go to duty something like that, you know. So one way or the other you've got the waves you've got the whacks, you know you had all of them.

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We knew that they were there but they never got the credit they should have gotten, a lot of them.

Q: You joined the Navy, correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Were you at all reluctant to go in to the service?

A: Nope, the only thing I was reluctant- after everybody was going home I was I had three years to go because I was in for six years.

Q: How were ~~they~~ feelings different from yours?

A: Well, it was funny, after we all went in we might have come home on liberty and seen one another and then after that like I said six years in the service by the time I got [home] they were gone here and there, married. I wasn't married (laughs) so, [I did more time].

(The following two questions were badly garbled. Mr. Tiedeman spoke about his limited correspondence with friends and family back home because of rough seas and intermittent mail services in the northern Atlantic.)

Q: Where did your naval training take place?

A: Rhode Island.

Q: [What was a typical training day like?]

A: (laughs) Up at five o'clock in the morning and getting out there with just a sweater on freezing. We had drills and stuff.

Q: What kind of drills?

A: Ah, running around the compound with a rifle over your head, putting a bayonet on a rifle, whacking each other and I was only there three weeks at that time so it wasn't that much. The only thing is they made us stand on a clothesline, clothes line watch for two

hours with no clothes on and you're out there in November freezing. In boot camp, I had light duty because I had played the drums so we would have colors in the daytime, flags, colors, you know.

Q: [Did friendships emerge quickly between the guys from all over the place?]

A: Eh, it was boot camp, it was too short. About 16 weeks of school I went to up there then I had made some friends. The destroyer escort of course was only 305 feet long; it's a smaller destroyer. Very maneuverable and twin screws and we were supposed to be selling them to the British. They made them for the British. In fact they were going to be better here, so they didn't sell them anymore. So it was small ship, it was like a family, you knew everybody on it; 200 hundred guys, you knew everyone

Q: [How did you feel about the ship itself? They say they didn't look very sturdy, like tin cans.]

A: [It could have been anything], you know when they give you an assignment you turn up there you say 'oh' but the other destroyers I was on, there were three others.

Q: What class was the D.E. you were on?

A: Buckley class.

Q: What distinguished the Buckley?

A: It depends on the guns that they had. Some had three inch, some had five inch. They were about the same tonnage, but the propulsion of them.

Q: What was a typical day like on a destroyer escort?

A: At times when we were on convoy at times we were four on watch. Four on and four off. You didn't get much sleep. You might have a midnight watch. Then 4 to 8 in the



morning, you hit the rack, you wouldn't get to sleep. You think someone is going to wake you, wake you at 3:30 in the morning. I was anyway.

(The next bit is garbled, but Mr. Tiedeman discusses his admiration of commander Boone, a man who worked through the ranks. "Looked every bit like an officer" he says. I ask him about mail again and he says that mail call was always pretty good. Then I ask him about all the places he had been. He mostly states names and very little detail. Not much is lost on the tape. He says he's been to the Canary Islands, Okinawa, Japan and Hawaii.)

Q: [What do you remember the most vividly about the places you had been, for instance the beauty of some places and the disgrace of others?]

A: There was really nothing, like Okinawa. Even the railroad station was wiped out. But I've been to Panama. That was nice. I liked Panama. Around the Amazon it was nice.

Q: [Outside of that where there any places that were particularly offsetting and unpleasant?]

A: Londonderry. Fog, rain, dampness all the time.

Q: [When you were in World War II did you see any combat?]

A: Only when we got torpedoed. I got a bunch of pictures of that.

Q: What was that experience like?

A: (laughs) That wasn't good. When the ship got hit it felt like somebody just picked us up and dropped us. I was down below the water level on watch because the only things they had open was the round hatch. Just looking up to see if the water was coming down. My relief came after the repair so that's when I got to see what was really happening. I

was running up, the guys were coming down that were sacked in running with their underwear and skivvies on and guys just running every which way, you know. And out on deck you had to plug in the cables to try to get the steering going. One guy I knew, I was seeing if he was alright. This is where the watertight doors come in handy. They had all the watertight doors, they had them secured. They had some guy, they had one of the mates doing the welding, welding it shut. 60 something [degrees] up in the air. We were out there for three days

Q: You took care of each other?

A: Oh yeah, they had the convoy. They were worried about the convoy. [They came to get us] but they needed to keep some guys on the ship but nobody wanted to leave. I was one of the ones that got transferred at sea.

Q: How do they do that?

A: In a whaleboat. You got to time it just right. When the whaleboat comes up, you got to jump before it gets there otherwise it's going back down again. A guy once went between it. They fished him out. You got to time it when it's coming up because if it's coming up, you got a long jump.

[Much is lost on the tape here, but this is towards the end of the war. When Mr. Tiedeman is transferred, his next assignment is to Okinawa.]

Q: [What was your reaction to the dropping of the bomb?]

A: We were 3, 3 and a half days off Okinawa, that's when I became a mine man because I had gone to mine school before that, anyways it was about a day and a half two days before we hit Okinawa and the war was declared over because of the A-bomb. We killed a lot of innocent people [but we saved a lot of lives.] (The next bit is garbled but he

makes references to mine school). When I came back from the European theatre I was a convalescent, I was in the hospital for a while and then I went to this school in Chicago which was interior communications and stuff and then you have to learn- it's not electronics like today but it's all electrical stuff. Putting mines together and then you have tests. I only did a few aircraft mines. Most of mine that I did was on the ships. Then they shipped me to Hawaii. I worked in several mines for about a month. And then they asked for volunteers to go to Okinawa, of course. They had a group that they got together that they called "Mine Assembly Six", "M-A 6." They took our navy clothes and give us all marine clothes. . . mine men and different rates. We went to a camp. We had 6 by 6's and 6 by 8's and you get down there in line to get the food, and of course if you get in line you fall asleep in the truck and they go right around you. You stay there. One good thing about being in the navy, because I had marine clothes on- I had become friends with a chief, a commissary guy at the depot- we became friends. Over the course of time over the three months I was there I became a really conjure artist, you know what that is?

Q: No.

A: You get stuff from here, you get stuff from there, you do this. You do whatever you can to survive. Of course, I was always great for chow. This guy and I became friends and I got an ice cream machine and the bucket you used to crank and he supplied me with fruit cocktail and peaches, you name it. I used to make ice cream. And I had one of these batching machines that they used to get out there for the wheat and stuff. . .and I put a belt through the tin and I made a regular belt. I even had the officers crankin'. They used to say 'what's goin' on up there?', the guys says 'that's Tiedeman'. Here they come, so I

said to them, "Bring your own bowl" I thought I was going to get (pause) phew! "Bring your own bowl!" I said, "You've got to work for it!" No problem, I had the officers back there crankin' on the thing, you know? As soon as I got it nice and thick, I had strawberry, I had chocolate, vanilla. I think I put the peach in it. I put in the fruit cocktail. (The tape is garbled from here but Mr. Tiedeman concludes his story about making ice cream for his mates. The next question I ask must pertain to his travels from there on. The question was not one that I planned to ask so I could not consult my index cards for the question verbatim.)

A: Then from there, when I was going home I went up to Japan on another ship (the next bit is garbled but I have asked what Japan was like after the war). Yeah, there was nothing really. I caught something over there, I guess, I don't know what it was. I lost 27 pounds. (The next bit is garbled but I have asked if that was the only injury, sickness or wound he suffered from). I did bang my shin but I don't turn nothin' in. So, I caught another ship up in Saskwa Japan, of course I had greens on. I was out of uniform. I finally went aboard the Missouri. I was a minelayer. I get back on there and we decommission the ship. I caught another minelayer. I went on goodwill. Alabama, Mardi Gras. That was nice. The ship was open for visitors and the following week we went to New Orleans for Mardi Gras and of course that's when we went down to South America. (The rest of Mr. Tiedeman's response, though garbled includes a small list of places he went below the equator including South America and the African Congo. My next question addresses President Roosevelt).

A: Eh, as good as any other president. I'll tell you one thing about the guy, you know, the guy was in a wheelchair all these years, didn't hold him back, didn't hold him back.

Q: [How did you feel about Truman as a replacement?]

A: Somebody had to replace him

Q: [What do you remember the most vividly about World War II?]

A: The only thing I can think of and even talk about it now . . .[I could] be on the fan tail of the ship, pipe chow and be the first guy on the chow line and when I went over the side of the ship, when we left the ship I had small cans of fruit cocktail in each jacket pocket.

(Laughs) I wasn't going to stop. [A guy says], "You go in the water you're gonna drown!" I got to ride the Clydesdales in Scotland. We jumped over the fence. We were gonna ride them and they started coming, back over the fence we went!. . .Biggest horses I ever seen! You see them in the wintertime, you know, I enjoy that.

Q: [You were the first one there for the mischief and the food.]

A: I was there for everything. Every ship I was on my father always said "If you don't do anything, make friends with the mess cooks"; they call them in the army, mess cooks.

[My father was in] World War I.

Q: You were in the Korean War, how was that experience different and similar to World War II?

A: I never seen any action in the Korean War (Mr. Tiedeman says there weren't too many differences for him because after such a long time it all seemed commonplace to him. He has brought his wife, Ginny, to the interview. She sits quietly and he indicates that around this time he has met her). And of course that's when she come into the picture. I stationed out there [in Hawaii] and we were engaged so she come out there to Hawaii and we got married in Hawaii. A Hawaiian bride (they both laugh). I started up a school. I wanted to get a mine school going. I got most of the stuff together and everything and

then they sent a couple of the chiefs back to the mainland to go to marine school. They took over, they come back.

Q: Whatever became of that mine school down there?

A: I have no idea. They don't say nothing. They don't know what they were going to do with it. When I went back in, there was thirty mine men, all down in San Diego at the air station and they were going to ship us all over the place but evidently I don't know what happened [But they got some guys, they ship them out there and then they come back again]. They didn't know what to do with us.

Q: What was the date of your discharge and where?

A: World War II was October of 48'. And November of '51 was the Korean War.

Q: What did you do after the war?

A: I had no money. I joined what they call the "52-20". For 52 weeks you get twenty dollars (laughs). So I went to school. In New York.

Q: [For what?]

A: Refrigeration, commercial refrigeration. Did 24 years on that.

(The rest is garbled but Mr. Tiedeman talks about being a member of the fire department as well. He talks about how it was nice but different from the good times in the war).

Q: [What were some of the good times you remember?]

A: Always clownin' around and playin' jokes on people.

Q: Oh, really?

A: Oh, yeah.

Q: What'd you do?

A: I was in the engine room and we used to wear, well, we used to have these big vest they put on, they used to call em' the Mae West. We don't have those in the engine room only the deckhands had those. We used to have the other ones, goes right around (indicates his midriff) about this wide around your waist strapped in here (indicates his side). And they had CO2 cartridges on the side and if you had to go into the water you just squeezem' and they inflate. Sometimes you get close to a guy who was going up the later and you'd reach up and you'd squeezem' and he can't get through the hatch (laughs). You know, you could have some fun once in a while.

Q: Was there anything else you did like that?

A: Well, I used to cook down in the engine room, and one of the officers said to me, because they always called you by your last names, "Tiedeman, you have any eggs left? Can you make me an egg sandwich?" I'm watchin' him eat the egg sandwich. We used to have, down in the bilges; they'd these like elbows and stuff with caps on them. We used to have spare parts there and stuff. Well, I used to store my eggs down in there. WE had spare parts because down below the water deck it was nice and cold so I could refrigerate them. Come to food, I did alright. We were loadin' up comin' back to New York I used to crash the line where they keep the stores, and they and the guy says, "You wanna go, G'head and go!" When it was time for the pies to come in I knew about when the pies [were coming]. [The guy] would bring a stack of pies. When he would step through the hatch and I'd take a couple of pies off the top [and bring them] to the battery lock cause I was an electrician. And I put them in the battery lock and so we had pies. Always a way to get something.

(The next bit is garbled but I tease Mr. Tiedeman about being a prankster and about being the first and last in the chow line. He's says those were the best times).

Q: [Did you have any career goals before the war?]

A: Before the war I was gonna- I intended to be a state policeman. That's what I intended to be. When I come out of World War II I was going to try to be a policeman in town. (The next bit is garbled but Mr. Tiedeman talks about uniforms which leads me to ask my next question).

Q: What were the uniforms like?]

A: Basically they're not like they are today, the guys wear. Back in those days [they weren't fitted]. Today everything's like tailor made for the policemen you know. They look sharp today. Back in those days a lot different. They were uniforms they just didn't have all that stuff on em' that guys got today, you know? The towns were smaller you know. Today, look what the guys gotta put up with today now.

Q: [What was your Navy uniform like?]

A: You have the thirteen buttons (pause). It was rough. You try to button and then after a while you got so [used to it] you could button with two hands, button like this (indicates buttoning buttons on both sides with one hand on each side and very quickly). [I was a big guy then about 205] Look at me now, about 185 (laughs)

Q: Do you still have your uniform?

A: [As a tin can sailor member we do a lot of parading]. We haven't done much parading lately but I have a dungaree uniform which we wore on the ships which was dungarees all the time with white hats. Of course today the guys wear the wool caps and all that.



Q: What was your personal life like after the war?

A: Well, we were married then. Well right after that, well, I should say World War II when I come out of there. When I come out of there cause I joined the fire department, the volunteer fire department. I got 53 years in the fire department now. I joined he fire department, that's about it. And I got little ones to bring up too (laughs).

Q: So you had two [children]?

A: Yeah, I got a daughter and my son.

Q: And do they have little ones?

A: Well, my daughter she doesn't have any and my son's got two.

Q: [As far as sharing your war time experiences with your wife, your family, your friends, son and daughter, how long did it take you to talk about your experiences?]

A: I really didn't. They always tell me. My daughter says, "Dad, you got to write up what you did." The only time I really talk about it was at the ships reunion. Some of the guys they come. We have one guy, he was only 17 at the time and he got hit. He got blown over the mast. He went right over the top of the mast and landed in the ocean and he managed to grab a hold of the mattress cover that was out there and they started turning' the guns. They thought he was a periscope. [They turned around] and picked him up and he made the reunion this year. He doesn't really talk about it but once in a while someone will say something, some new guy'll say, [he'll say] "Here's the guy that went over the mast."

Q: [How do you feel about movies portraying World War II or war in general?]

A: I'm a great guy. I like to watch these things but sometimes I think they carry it too far. (The next bit is garbled. Mr. Tiedeman says he hasn't seen *Saving Private Ryan* yet

but some of the guys at the V.F.W. say that it's pretty accurate). We buried the guys at sea. There were about thirty guys. Every June 20<sup>th</sup> t [the Destroyer Escort Service Association] have a Garden State Chapter goes down to Leonardo. What they have, they have a big wreath there and it's all styled with the solar that exploded in I think it was 46', out there by the gate. So, they got a regular monument there and they also have a big plaque there; bronze plaque with the ships that were torpedoed and lost guys and stuff like that.

**The first side of the tape ends here**

Q: Picking up where we left off talking about Mr. Tiedeman's role in the Destroyer Escort Service (Association).

A: [The memorial service on June 20<sup>th</sup>] lasts for about an hour. They have a color guard and they have a tent there and they have a wreath up there and there's about ten ships. And anybody that's there they participate, they come up, they call the ships name. They say what happened to the ship and how many they lost and everything else. Then they come up and they give you a rose and you stick it in here (indicates his pocket). And what happens is, the next ship that goes out, they put it on that ship and they throw it [in the ocean] (Mr. Tiedeman then talks about the fact that many people come to watch including the Coast Guard).

Q: [Did you go on the trip in September with us?]

A: Up to the Slater. I was down in Mobile, Alabama.

Q: What were you doing down in Mobile?

A: Ship's Reunion. And fightin' the hurricane. We were there. They grounded the planes and everything else, but we managed to get out. We took a chance.

Q: How do feel right about the talk going on about us going to war with Iraq?

A: Who knows what's going on? I still think we should wait it out. They go to meetings every month, you know, cause they get paid for these meetings, because they live at home. They're being deployed out because a lot of them feel sorry for these people. Gee, they gotta leave their family. The mother has to go. She leaves kids and a husband. I guess I'm as hard as nails. I don't feel sorry for them. They knew what they were into. They could be in 6-10 years and go once a month. They get that little income comin'. Nice. So you know when the time comes you're going to have to go if they call ya. So that way I don't feel sorry for anybody. I don't like to see what's goin' on over there but we are all over the place. Unreal. We never will get out of some of these countries. We don't know what's happening. We don't know what they'll do next. You don't know who your neighbors are. Those people over there they been dealing' with this [their whole lives]. It's all new to us. We still take it light, I'll tell you that. Some of these people still think this is a game. It's unreal. I'm tellin' you. But I'm glad they're back in there again. Find out what's going on. This guy [Osama Bin Laden] is probably so far underground you couldn't touch him anyway, so there. I said back at the beginning, "They're not going to get this guy. He's got plans. He's in these caves." In the beginning we thought, oh we're gonna go and take these guys out in a month or two months like they thought in Korea. It didn't work. They just said with the tapes and stuff they think it's his voice. I said right along this guy's too smart. It's the same thing that happened with Korea. Harry wouldn't let McArthur keep going. Go. Same thing happened here in Kuwait [With] Schwarzenager, or, Schwarzkopf. He wanted to go. Go in, go. Now here we are, back in it again. Same thing with all these guys coming back

sick, from the oil or whatever it was out there. Might have been chemical. Who knows? And then the government says "Nah, there's nothing wrong with these people." When a guy comes back and he lives in California, another one in Washington, another one down south here, another one over here [with] the same symptoms they had to get it. Orange. Agent Orange. It's the same thing with this.

Q: What's [Agent Orange]?

A: Agent Orange was what they got out in the Pacific. Some of these guys they died. They couldn't cure them. Took em' a long time to own up to it.

Q: Now what sort of ailment was that?

A: I don't know what it did to em' but they had another thing about as year two years ago. If you have any indication go to the veteran's and they'd take care of you but so many years went by, you know? There's like a chemical warfare out there. It was bad. Hey, it's the same thing with carbon monoxide. You don't know. You're in bed, you breathe it, you're dead. You don't know. That's why I try to tell everybody spend the forty fifty dollars and put [a detector] in your house. Plug it into the outlet; it's good for five years. If you break it down its pennies; pennies a day and it can save your life. Cause we come home shoppin' one morning and I hear this awful noise coming from the hallway. My alarm was going off. Couldn't smell nothin'. Went around, went all over. I got a hold of the chief. I says "Bring the meter up here and check this out" and he said "Yeah." The police came and finally the public service came and checked it all to the counter top stove. The pilot on the counter top stove. That's where it was coming from. So, like I said [if it wasn't] for that I would have went to bed that night, who knows.

Q: Scary stuff.

A: Oh yeah. It's worth the money

Q: Now this is the last of the questions I have prepared and then we're going to look at the material that you brought. Think about this one. What do you feel people should learn not from just your experience [but from war in general] how would you communicate the feelings you got out of it?

A: You know with what we've got going on in this world today, we're gonna get it. We're all gonna get it. After World War II they started with the bomb shelters. A couple out them in. here's a good idea. It got phased out right? Today they scare you half to death with a lot of stuff. They have- everybody should get a mask. They show these things, you know, they're gonna save you. It's not going to save you one way or the other. It might right away for a little while but if they dropped anything in New York here, the end. Where you gonna go? Go under water and stay under water for while maybe, I don't know. But whatever, we're going to get it. I saw Nagasaki. You couldn't get no where's near it but you could see. It's unreal.

Q: Where's you see it from.

A: When I was in Japan. You couldn't go over. I went on shore a few times The Japanese facemasks on and everything else. It was cleared at the time, I guess. Guys like myself, in the service and everything else. You think they'd let me in a classified place? No, but some big general from over there they would show him all our stuff. They tell you what they're gonna do. Unreal. Read the papers. These terrorists all know what's going on. They're way ahead of you probably anyway. It's gonna be bad news. Way back in Bushes [administration] we were sending stuff over there. Of course it's good for the trade agreement but some of this stuff is used from making bombs. We think we're

the smartest country in the world but we picked up a lot from the Japanese especially all the electronics. And they used to talk about the Germans with their cameras. And with the radar and stuff we had on our first ship. It was the first stuff we had on there. But we had sound gear, that's it. It wasn't like things are today. Some of these destroyers today, forget it. You got ten guys on the ship. Everything is 'push-button' up to here. Not like it was before. I was invited over to the Intrepid when the ship come in. [Computers], my daughters got one. My son's got one. My granddaughter is on the computer. Everything at school is computer. They got the calculators. We have come a long way. I don't think this guy is really done with us. When you think of the Trade Center they had a national ally in there. From all over the world people were working in there. He didn't care who he killed. We have ships. We got all that fuel at sea. (The rest is but Mr. Tiedeman concludes by saying that the contemporary war machine is worlds further than it was when he was in the war)

#### **Conclusion of Interview**