

Veterans Project Interview To Library of Congress

SPOHP Internal CAT NO: WWII 262 Paul Walker 2-10-2015

Checklist:

Biographical Data Form
 Release from Veteran
 Release from Interviewer
 DVD/CD of interview
 Audio Log

Submitting Institution: Samuel Proctor Oral History Program
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Additionally, please fill out this information

1. Name/Address of interviewer: Bruce Hansen
2. Interviewee Birthday: 12-22-1925
3. Recording Format: 16bit 48 khz WAV, Data file(s) submitted on an optical disc
4. Duration of Recording: 40 min
5. Place of Interview: Tavares, Florida

Audio Recording Log

Minute Mark Hour:Min:Sec 00:00:00	Topic/Theme/paraphrase of conversation
00:25	Interviewer is in Paul Walker's home on February 10, 2015. Mr. Walker stated that he was born on December 22, 1925 in Washington, Pennsylvania.
02:25	Walker talks about his childhood memory. His favorite memory was being chased out of his house by a rooster at the age of 3 years. He has three brothers. Two older and one younger brother. His father was a farmer and he taught them to be responsible. Walker's mother was a "city girl."
03:25	Walker graduated from Trinity High School in 1943. Afterwards, he attended college a couple of times. He then enrolled to the Navy D12 program. The D12 program was designed for a high school graduates who later entered a university and graduated as Navy commissioned.
04:30	A year in the D12 program did not go smoothly for Paul Walker, especially when it came to studying. He later dropped out of the program but did graduate college from Western University in 1950 with a degree in forestry.
05:00	Did not have the best relationship with his teachers, but had a decent relationship with other students. Walker was involved in recreational

	sports.
06:27	When Walker became aware of the war, he was laying on the living room floor and heard on the radio that someone bombed Pearl Harbor. His first reaction was “where in the hell is Pearl Harbor.”
06:46	Walker took an exam on February 19, 1943 for the Navy. He was accepted and had to report for a health screening. During the health screening, they noticed ibrutini in his urine sample, but Walker felt that they may have switched his urine sample. He retok the health screening after a week and was later sworn in. He was off to the V12 program. When he entered his ranked was a Seamen and when he discharge after World War II his ranked was Radar Man 3rd Class. Walker was on the enlisted side.
08:31	His older brother and two of his friends decided to join the Marine Corps because of the Pearl Harbor event. They went to the recruiting station in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Sadly, his older brother was the only one who did not get accepted because they found two spots on his lungs and they were afraid that it was related to Tb. Walker’s other brother decided to join the Airmen Corps and was flying P-38s all over Africa and Italy.
10:12	Walker went into boot camp/basic training in Samson, New York. He learned not to sass your superiors. After basic training, he went on to radar school in Virginia Beach, Virginia for a three-week course. Then he went to Melville, Rode Island for a PT boat school about a month. Later, assigned mail clerk duties while waiting on transportation to the Philippines. He was assigned to PT boat 495 squad 33 as a radar operator.
14:00	Walker talks about his new position as a gunner. He talks about his crewman Skipper, who was Lieutenant JG.
15:30	Talks about his mission on firing the Japanese. He would encounter about a dozen of his enemies on the mission. The most important survival skill to survive was teamwork. He talks about doing his job the best he can. The worst day of his life with the Navy was the first day of his service because he was waiting for his brother to take him to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but did not show up.
18:16	The best day of his life was when they dropped the second bomb on Japan. He was not bothered when Germany surrender. When he heard about Japan surrendering, Walker thought it “was a great thing.”
20:30	After the war, Walker came back to live with his parents in Washington, Pennsylvania. He thought about his future and wanted a job where he could work on his own, being outdoors. He considered forestry. He applied to Penn State University, but they can only accepted him in two years. He heard that there was a forestry program in West Virginia University and graduated in 1950. He kept in contact with three people.
22:48	Walker learned that he was unprepared for life. This happen from the PT and boat experience. He enjoyed his boat experience because he felt right at home with his crewmen.
23:50	Walker stated that he has chalk in his mouth, which was a symptom of dry mouth. Dry mouth meant “being scared.”

24:09	They had a total of 3 casualties.
25:35	After the war, while being enrolled in West Virginia, Walker was involved with the ROTC program.
27:00	During his Philippines experience, it was 1945. He was assigned as a radar operator. For food, they gave him lots of turkey. As time went on, the food service was not so great, because some of the foods were getting moldy, especially the coffee.
30:30	There was a community kitchen on the beach. Walker would pull up alongside the destroyer. He would give the cook a ride and in trade would give him whatever food he wanted.
32:10	He was preparing for Japan. His training consisted of shooting a 40 meter canon. There were treats given to Walker and his crew, which were Hershey chocolate.
34:00	After college, the Korea situation happened. Walker was active in finding a job. He was waiting for his orders. They called him and send him to Kentucky to teach people about being tankers. One day, he talked about an airplane flying over and it said US Army. They were actively recruiting people to fly airplanes. He applied multiple times and eventually got orders to go to flight school. He was receiving training on being an aviator and receive his mission to report to Korea.
36:48	Walker served in Korea for 11 months of flying airplanes. He retired for a total service of 24 years, which took him out of service on 1968. He worked as a Department of Army Civilians for 19 years.
37:25	Walker also had a small tour in Vietnam. He was a commander of Special Forces camp. Once he retired, he went to work in the Department of Army Civilians in Orlando, Florida. He retired to Orlando with his wife and two daughters.
38:40	The happiest day of his life was when they dropped the second bomb on Japan. He didn't enjoy many experiences while being in the army, but he did enjoy being a member of the Army helicopter organization.
40:20	[End of interview]