

VETERAN: Alvin Lindquist
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STEPHEN KERSTEN: So let the record reflect that we're here in Pocahontas, Iowa, Pocahontas County, Iowa, in the jury room of the Courthouse, Third Floor. And present, we have Jane Smith, who's a Certified Shorthand Reporter, court reporter. My name is Steve Kersten. I'm from Fort Dodge. And it's my privilege to interview Alvin Lindquist today, and Alvin, why don't you introduce who's sitting next to you.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: That's my daughter-in-law, from her -- husband was a surgeon, got killed in a plane crash here 30 some years ago. And he was -- he was running an ER in, yeah. He had his own plane and he got caught in a wind shear that night as I understand it.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And what's your name?

ANITA LINDQUIST: Anita Lindquist.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: I knew your husband.

ANITA LINDQUIST: Oh.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Oh, yeah. I'm a pilot and I remember talking to him and I had a case where he was -- he was.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Flying a plane, I know you guys wave.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah. So okay. So we're here today, Alvin, to discuss with you your life and your involvement as a veteran and your experiences and what we're talking about today will all be typed up in a transcript. Jane

Smith's going to certify it and type it up and it's going to be placed in the Library of Congress forever, so it will be part of the Library of Congress forever for anyone that wants to read about your story and your history, so your kids and grandkids and people can some day read that, forever and ever. Okay. So you understand what we're doing?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, I understand it, but at my age I'm not, you know, 100 percent clear on everything, I mean.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Well, that's okay. You're -- I can tell you're sharp and you're alert and ready to go, so why don't you just tell me when and where you were born.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, is that what you want now?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Okay. In Cuming County, Nebraska. December 11th, 1919.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So what is your current age?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, now it's 101.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: You're going to be 102 this December?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: December 11th.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah. All right. And what were your parents' names?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: My dad, they were -- my parents were both raised in Norrland, Sweden, but my father's name was

Oscar William and my mother's name was Alma Erlandson or something like that. I'm not that familiar with it now.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How old were they when they came from Sweden to?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: It was just -- just right during or towards the end of World War I.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. And what did your mom and dad do for employment?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: They worked for farmers in Nebraska. Where they lived there around Rosa Hill and Walnut Hill, that was some little suburbs around Cuming County. Bancroft was really the main county.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Is that where you grew up?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, as an infant. But shortly after my infancy, they moved to the Storm Lake area because my father's dad, yeah, my father's brother had come over as I understand it years earlier from Sweden, so that's how they ended in the Storm Lake area.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Do you have any brothers and sisters or did you?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, they're deceased.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How many did you have though?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, I had a brother that was four years older, but he smoked himself to death.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What was the brother's name?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oscar Sexton Lindquist. And what was --

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Any other sisters or brothers?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: And my sister, her -- hers is Elsa Marie something I think, and she passed away. Oh, do you know?

ANITA LINDQUIST: 10, 15 years ago.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: She lived in Minneapolis, both she and her husband have been gone for some time.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. So you say your brother smoked himself to death. Did you ever smoke?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Momentarily.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: But only when occasion looked like everybody else was smoking, but, no, I never -- never became a habit ever.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Good habit not to take, right?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So where did you go to school?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Primarily at the Alta High School in Buena Vista County, all of the grades rather in Alta.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you graduated from high school?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yes, in 1938.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: 1938. How many in your class?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I think they'd say 32. As I know we were, there was one classmates, oh, she's a record keeper, and I think she and I know for sure that only she and I

are the only two living members of that of the Class of '38.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So there's --

ALVIN LINDQUIST: And I don't know if she still -- haven't heard from her for a year or more.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: When's the last time you all had a high school reunion?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, they had what they call a kind of an annual reunion of all the classes.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: That makes sense.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: What was your question? More detail, when was the last reunion?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yes.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I went to the -- one of the later years I said I'm not going to bother going to another one.

(Chuckle.)

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Had enough of those?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So where do you currently live, Alvin?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: In -- in Albert City, Iowa.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Is it a house or an apartment or?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, it's a home that my father-in-law constructed in 1954. It's just two blocks east of the water tower in Albert City.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Do you live there by yourself?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I have ever since my wife passed away 14 years ago.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What was your wife's name?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Bernice Marie.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And she passed away?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Peterson was her maiden name.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, she's gone, I guess I already said that. 14 years ago, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. What year were you two married?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: 1944.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And so she passed away 14 years ago?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Will be 14 in May.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. So you were married for quite a long time before she passed?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, oh, yeah, cause she was -- she was -- my wife was 89 and I was 87, so she had two years ahead of me.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you were dating an older girl, you married an older woman?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, gosh, yeah, yeah.

(Chuckle.)

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I was just nuts about that girl when I met her. I just had to have her.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Tell me how you met her.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I was working at a -- at a farm around Albert City for my uncle at a farm close to Albert City, and so I -- they needed somebody for the threshing crew and that's when I come up to Albert City and I met her there. That would have been in 1937, yeah, it would be 1937.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you met her because you went up there to go threshing at some farm?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, my uncle had a farm in Albert City.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What was she doing? Was she part of the threshing crew?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: My wife?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah, the wife-to-be, when you met her.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, she -- she was living with her parents in this Albert City home --

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And so.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: -- house where her parents live, but she graduated from high school in 1935, so she was way ahead of me, but that didn't make any difference I guess.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What do you remember what you did on your first date?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I try to be nice.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: I think you were.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: On the first date.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: I mean where did you go and what did you do?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: See, I was in the Navy and the first date, I don't know, the folks let me have their car and I drove up to Albert City. I guess I think we went to a movie, they had a movie house in Albert City at that time, believe it or not.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So the first date you were already in the Navy?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah. I went in the Navy. I early enlistment in the Fall of 1937, but I was called to actual duty on July 13th, 1938.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you graduated from high school in what year?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: 1938, in May.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: But you enlisted before you graduated from high school?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right, right. I enlisted the fall before, and I was called to active duty. Well, you know, the jobs were scarce, you probably know all about that too, and so 1937, I pre-enlisted when I was in high school, the Fall of '37, but I was called to active duty in July 13th, 1938.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: After you graduated?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And when you were called to active duty, where did you go? Did you have boot camp?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, the enlistment process was held down in Des Moines, but I went to boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So did you go to Camp Dodge in Des Moines?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: That's where the -- I think that's where we met and the train took us to Great Lakes.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: When you enlisted, did you specifically enlist in the Navy?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Definitely, oh, yes.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Why did you want to enlist in the Navy?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, that was -- go clear back like I say, wanted to see the world.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you thought the Navy would get you farther than the Army maybe?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, I wasn't interested in the Army. The Navy just always, as a much younger lad, the Navy always appealed to me.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. So tell me about your training. Tell me where did you go for training?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, in Great Lakes, Illinois. Training you did a lot of marching and a little gunnery and this and that.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. And how long was the training?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: About -- about -- close to six months or maybe a little less, but primarily about six months took care of it.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And at that time, you were in what city for the training?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, Great Lake, that is wherever that training camp, is it North Park, Chicago, or --

STEPHEN KERSTEN: In that area.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: -- in that area. I know it was a large -- it was a large Naval Training Station there at Great Lakes.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And how many trainees, how many people like you were going through training?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, the average, average training group is about 100 guys.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. Do you remember -- did you become friends with any of those guys that were long-lasting?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, yeah, some of them when the training was over, you know, then you reported back to the receiving station. I'm trying to think where that receiving station was. And some of the same guys that was in the training station, they went on the same ship as I did, but, of course, I lost contact with any of those years ago.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Sure. When you went through training, did you have an option, well, I want to train as a gunner or I want to train as a cook or I want to train as a diesel mechanic or how did that work?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Good question, but I don't remember having any choice on that one. They put you on a ship, why that was it.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. And after training, what happened next? Where did you go?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, that's when I got assigned to the Tennessee.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: The USS Tennessee?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, when you reported back to the naval station, that's when you got assignments.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And your assignment was to the Tennessee?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What kind of ship was that?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: That's a battleship, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: It was a battleship with turret guns?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, yeah, the whole business, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Do you remember how big it was or?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, I know I'm sure there's figures available. I think a battleship was, I don't know, I'm trying to think of the dimensions, but they had all the

big turret guns and whatnot. In tonnage and dimension, you'd have to look that information that you can get.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Do you remember roughly how many sailors were on the Tennessee?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, had a crew of about 800, but you know, after the war started and more people got available to help, you know, because of the situation, it got up to about 1,200 men at one time when I left it.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: That's one big crew on a ship, isn't it?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, but that's -- there's -- but it was crowded, but there was room.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And what was your assignment on the Tennessee?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I was what they call the engine room, but technically in a way, there wasn't -- there wasn't really an engine. It was a large turbine that was propelled by steam that propelled, you know, for all the lights and electricity on the ship.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. So how did the -- what was the energy source for to make the steam, was it coal or?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: It was oil. I remember being responsible, that was one of the oil pumps in the engine room to make sure that they always had oil in the fire room. That was what's called the B Division then.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: The B?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: As in boy?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Second letter, B, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. So the Tennessee was powered by oil that was burned to make steam and the steam caused the turbine to turn power?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, and it was a big turbine too.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you were kind of a mechanic in that area?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, that was the title they finally give me, but you do a lot of little Mickey Mouse stuff, I guess you could call it, in the engine room. There's always some repairs to be done and they had -- they always had a chief in each, you know, each division, the section had their chief that was in charge of about 15, 20 guys, that sort of thing.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Sure.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Maintenance, you know.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you were on the Tennessee, when did you roughly first get stationed on the Tennessee battleship? What year?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, when I really got on the Tennessee?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: It was before the war started, right?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, yeah. I got on the Tennessee, well, I got that after, yeah, after the boot training. We come back, that's when I got assigned to the Tennessee.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So, okay, and where was it located?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: The Tennessee at that time was at -- was at Bremerton, Washington.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Washington State? Northwest?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. And did you go out on -- on the seas and have certain missions, if you will?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, in the engine room, like I say, it was a turbine, but the Tennessee -- well, in fact, I remember even some of the crews in -- well, it started in 1939 when I was on the Tennessee was at -- at Bremerton. We went to -- we went to the Cape Verde Islands off the West Coast of Africa and then when we come back from that cruise, we stopped, you know, the New York had the World's Fair in 1939 also, but when we come back through the canal and stopped in San Francisco, San Francisco had kind of a World's Fair too and that's when they had this, you ever heard -- this goes way back into the -- Sally Rand, ever heard of her in the history? She was supposed to be such a dancer and whatnot and she was one of the big entertainers at the World's Fair in San Francisco.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So before the war started, you -- you cruised in this USS Tennessee, Tennessee battleship from Washington State through the Panama Canal to --

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: -- Africa and the West Coast of Africa?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, right, and from then, from that that's when we ended up at the New York at the World's Fair, the World's Fair and then back through the Canal, we went to San Francisco.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you spent a lot of time on the open seas?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah. Even after that when I got told at the tail end of my cruise when I was -- on the minesweeper operating out of the Dutch Netherlands.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: We're going to talk about that.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Okay.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So do you have any idea, Alvin, how much time you spent, how many days or months you spent on the open sea traveling to and from? Did you ever calculate that or add it up?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, I was on sea duty practically all those years except the short time before I was discharged when I was a diesel instructor at Gulfport, Mississippi.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So when you say sea duty, that means you were at sea?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, right.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And then you come to port, load up supplies and go back out to sea?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, right, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you've been to Washington State and then Pacific Ocean and down through the Panama Canal?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: To Africa, the West Coast of Africa, then back, you go through the --

ALVIN LINDQUIST: And, you know, the Panama Canal. You know, you go through that canal, you know, there's a -- that's freshwater on one side of the canal.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: I didn't know that.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, freshwater on one side and ocean on the other, and, of course, that you go through the locks at -- to get there. That's quite a process.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: It sure is. So eventually at some point, did you end up in Hawaii in Pearl Harbor?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, yeah, when -- when we got through with San Francisco in '39, that's where we went to the Hawaiian Islands and operated out of there for quite awhile, and of course, that's -- that's where we were, Pearl Harbor when we got bombed, you know.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So how long were you in Pearl Harbor or the Hawaiian Islands before the bombing?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, several weeks. They had what they call their maneuvers and that sort of thing, you know, so yeah, we was at Pearl Harbor quite awhile before the war started.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: You mean matter of months or?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, I would say months, probably a year or more.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. And during that year before the war started, while you were in Pearl Harbor, you were doing maneuvers?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, right, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Was there any talk that there was going to be any problem with Japanese or anybody else?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, that's all come as a big surprise to everybody, but, of course, after the war started, you remember the newspapers said some of the admirals should have known this and known that.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: But there's a lot of old literature on that I guess.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So that approximate year before you were living in Pearl Harbor in some barracks there at Pearl Harbor?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, we lived on the ship.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you actually lived on the ship?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, on the ship all the time.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Tell me about the living situations on the Tennessee.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, I was on the Tennessee from July 1938 to about October or November of 1942.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So where did you sleep on the Tennessee?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, well, to begin with, you know, going way back, you had to sleep in a hammock, which was really a chore, but some people then left the ship for one reason or another, if you could get a cot to sleep on, why you were considered pretty fortunate.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: At some point did you get that cot?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I did. It took about the last year or so I was on there.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Oh, boy.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, that hammock, you know, you had, oh.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So okay. You're given before the war, you're doing maneuvers, you're in Pearl Harbor sleeping on a ship. How many hours a day would you work and how many hours a day did you have free time, if any?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, generally it was divided in, you had your washers or your duties, you know, and like, at Pearl Harbor, you know, give you an example, every -- there was some divisions and whatnot and like on Pearl

Harbor, I had the 4 to 8 in the afternoon, but the next -- the next 12 hours, I had the 4 to 8 in the morning.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: So I was, you see, I was in Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 11th -- or 7th.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So December 7 of '41, you're in the 4 to 8 shift?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you're down in the engine room, if you will?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How far down was that in the ship?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, that's about -- that's about three levels. You have the main level and then there's about two lower decks before you get to, like I say, they call it the engine room, but really it was a big turbine that was there.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How many people worked in the engine room?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, generally there was three of us at a time, kind of checking the pressure and seeing that everything was running and that sort of thing. I can't name any specific things right now.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Sure. But so remember the names of any guys that were there, especially on December 7th?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, I knew a lot of them at some time, but I can't think of anybody now. I thought of that.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yep.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I had some other friends that corresponded, but you know my age, the people that I knew and had some contact, they've all passed away sometime ago. Sometimes I hear from their wives or relatives or something, but it's been years since I heard from anybody that was on the Tennessee when I was.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: I think you mentioned to me before we started this interview that I told you I'm from Fort Dodge and you said that there was somebody from Fort Dodge --

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: -- on the Tennessee with you?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, Leo Loots.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And his name was Leo Loots? L-0-0-T-S, two 0s.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: L-0-0-T-S. I remember.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah. And were you buddies with him?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, oh, yeah, we went to shore different times. I was well-acquainted with him, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What did his dad do?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: He was the beer distributor out of Fort Dodge.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And do you ever get any beers because of

your friendship with Mr. Leo Loots?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah. But I'm not a beer drinker then and still isn't and never was.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Never smoked and never drank much, other than for political reasons or whatever you want to call it.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What did you do for fun in Pearl Harbor before the war started?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, at Pearl Harbor there was a lot to do in the Hawaiian Islands. You could take trips and there's a lot to be seen in the, you know, I think that O'ahu was the name of the main island where Pearl Harbor is.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Now I forget, Alvin, are you married at this point when you were in Pearl Harbor?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, no, I didn't get married until 1944.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. So we'll get to that too. So here we are, you've been in the Hawaiian Islands, Pearl Harbor for about a year and the Tennessee doing maneuvers?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yep.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And working hard on a ship that had like 800 people on it, sailors?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And December 7th, 1941, rolls around, and when did you first learn that there was an attack going on?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Okay. I had the duty that morning, 4 to 8. Maybe I already mentioned that.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: 4:00 to 8:00 a.m.?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: So 4 in the afternoon, so I got relieved and it was a few minutes before 8 and my relief come on that would be taking 8 to 12 during the day. And so I -- he came on and it was -- well, they got, they weren't sure what time it was really, but I wasn't aware of it, but I had just gotten up to the main deck and I was waiting for my breakfast and I heard what I thought was bombs. By gosh, how can that be? So and it really got prevalent, so I got up and looked out of the porthole before my breakfast come and I saw this Japanese going across with a big red star on it and I saw the bombs dropping on Hickam Field. Now there must have definitely been more than one aircraft flying around, because, you know, they hit practically every ship in the Harbor and, you know, on there was an Army barracks and something on that island too and they did the bombing or whatnot there too, but I wasn't aware of it at that time, but I heard afterwards that they strafed the Army barracks that was on the island

also.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you actually saw a Japanese airplane with its red?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, with that big red dot on the fuselage, and boy, they was low. I would say I was talking about it at different times, they was really low dropping these bombs. I'd say the altitude, I'm not a pilot, it must have been as low as 800 feet would be my guess, maybe even 1,000, I don't know, but I don't think they'd be flying as low as 500 I don't think, but as prevalent as you could see them. My guess is that it was well within 1,000 feet, it was just above the bombs.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So how many -- how long did you watch this through the porthole?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, I'd say within a minute or two. Then the ship sounded what they call a general alarm and then you went to your battle station and in my case, that was the engine room, so I returned to the engine room just a few seconds after seeing this plane fly over.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And what was your job in the engine room then during battle stations?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, to kind of the pressure that was in the turbine, you know, depending on the need for power, you know. See the turbines, they furnished the power for all the lighting on the ships.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And the engine and the propellers?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah. Good thing because we had to keep the propellers going because the Harbor is so full of flames, you know, we kept our propellers going to keep the water moving around the ships.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Oh. So did your ship actually move or did you stay in one spot?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, we stayed there for about ten days or more.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So during this attack, during the bombing, the Tennessee didn't leave the port?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, no, no, nobody did for several days as far as I know.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: We didn't believe, oh, ten days, maybe close to two weeks, and then we went far up North about to the Arctic, cause see a lot of people, in the scuttlebutt or whatever you want to call it, they thought Japan was going to attack, that they would attack North America from the north end. When you get quite a ways north, you're not very far from Japan, you know.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: But then nobody showed up there and then that's when we, the ship -- the ship returned to, where did I say, to Bremerton, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Bremerton.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, it returned to Bremerton to be remodeled and whatnot and then I went to some receiving stations in New York and I finally, I got an assignment to Norfolk, a squadron, I got assignment to Norfolk, Virginia, and I waited at different in stations to wait there and that's when I put in a commission, a minesweeper that did minesweeping duties off the Dutch Netherlands.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: You know that's in that colony, you know, the Dutch Netherlands.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Sure. Back in Pearl Harbor day --

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: -- you're down in the engine room during the attack?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yes. We didn't -- we wasn't allowed up topside as I remember until about 6 or 7:00 in the afternoon and, boy, I just couldn't believe the devastation and, of course, all along, everybody was -- there was other ships in the Harbor too, but already the Arizona was already sunk, you know, they was the tail end.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you're in the third deck down in the engine room from 8 in the morning until about 6 or so at night?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: For 10 hours?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And 10 hours, did you know what was going on up above?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, we had phone communications, but not to the extent they realized it was that, you know, that massive destruction, of course.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And then you finally came up at 6 or so at night?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And what did you see?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: We saw all the ships that was burning and the mess that we were in, that's for sure.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Oh, boy. So what -- tell me about what you did in the few days following that. Did you have involvement in helping recover things or?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, yeah, we just trying to get more supplies on the ship and whatnot, because that's -- when we didn't know that we were going to go up north and so it was just, you know, routine duties of ship maintenance.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And did you know anybody that was injured or killed in this attack, any friends?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Not on my ship, not on the Tennessee. I wasn't aware that anybody was killed on it. See, we were lucky, I always thought, but I heard different that the

West Virginia was moored on our left side, you know, on the portside. So we were all protected. We were on the Islands and we were on the land side, you know, by Hickam Field, but so we were well-protected as far as. Now the West Virginia or whoever, I don't think they were hit too bad either, but I don't remember, but the Tennessee wasn't struck.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How far away from the Arizona was your ship, the Tennessee?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, the sea was a battleship row, how far, oh, kind of stretched out, probably a quarter mile at the most I imagine.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Tell me you said this battleship row, what's the battleship row?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, all the battleships that were due for, you know, for just for, they were two-by-twos. They were there all a thing of six of them, you know, there was the Pennsylvania, the Idaho. I can't think of some of the names now, but the Pennsylvania -- they were all -- they were all moored there to the Island too.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So in hindsight, that was kind of a bad plan to have all these battleships stuck together; is that right?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, very definitely, you know, that's articles that come out in the paper later, the admirals or

wise admirals or whoever trying to blame each other, why that ever happened that those ships were all in port at the same time, you know, so you know, there was always. I was able to read, of course, I've been practically blind for several years now, but I was able to read all that stuff. It was kind of interesting to see who they thought was to blame.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Did you ever make any conclusions if anybody was to blame or it was just a bad circumstance?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I think probably the entire command of the Navy was completely unaware of what could even happen, I guess would be my thought.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yep.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Otherwise, they could have been diversified, but I don't think they was aware of any, no more than we were. People -- there's people I think, like I said, there was articles, somebody should have known, but apparently nobody did.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Was the Tennessee hit by any fire or any gunfire or anything on that day?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, only the strafing because they did drop the bombs, they were strafing with machine guns at the same time too.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: All right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: So the Tennessee was strafed a little,

but as I recall, nobody -- nobody was killed on the Tennessee that I was aware of.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How long were you still stationed in Pearl Harbor after this attack on December 7th of '41?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, until November, November of 1942, and that's when the ship went up north and then when it come back, they did some convoy duty to get some people and stuff back to the United States and the Tennessee ended up in Bremerton to be remodeled with different guns and et cetera and whatnot.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you were, Alvin, in Pearl Harbor for about ten months or so after Pearl Harbor attack?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yes, that would get you quite close, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What did you do during that time when you were there, get the things?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Just maintenance, I mean, nothing particular, you know, we were helping other ships do cleanup work and whatnot, you know. See all the ships, other than the Tennessee, most of them were on fire either from the oil or from being attacked, I don't know which now.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you had a role in repairing and/or salvaging and/or cleaning up this terrible mess?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, yeah, we did that until the fall

of '42, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And then -- then your ship was commissioned or sent to up way north?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, way north, yeah. And when that ship come back, when the ship come back, it came to Bremerton except for our remodeling process and I was transferred to a receiving station in New York, New York area. There was several receiving stations and whatnot, one camp and another, and finally then I was -- I was assigned to Norfolk, Virginia, I put in a commission, this minesweeper and that's when I went to the minesweeper went to the Dutch -- Dutch Netherlands, you know.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So the minesweeper was a different ship?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yes, it was a new, they commissioned that, that was a new vessel, but they sent -- minesweeper I think sends, they had two big diesel engines on them, but I think a minesweeper, I don't know, 60, 80 feet long, they had some size to them.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And did this minesweeper ship have a name?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, No. 401.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: 401?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, sometimes I think it's odd that my street number where I live in Albert City now is 401, but that never dawned on me until a few years ago.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Well, that's a coincidence, isn't it?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, just crazy to think.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And so this was in New York Harbor that you were put on this No. 401 minesweeper?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right. But it was quite a delay there then because they hadn't finished building this minesweeper yet. I had to go finally after the receiving station, that's when I went to Norfolk, Virginia, and when the minesweeper was commissioned, you know, we were a new crew and the whole bit, and then that minesweeper went to the Dutch Netherlands and I stayed there for, you know, several months. I liked that minesweeper. I got transferred to -- to a base in the Netherlands and that was pretty good duty. That was pretty safe.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yep. Well, tell me, so you're on this minesweeper traveling from New York over to the Netherlands, your job was to sweep for mines, right, to look for mines?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, you see when -- that minesweeper was quite modern and it had, it was equipped with sonic equipment and what we would do is sometimes at sea, you shut everything down and just everything, and this sonic can -- would be so if they could pick up if there was any sound or motion in the water and then if you thought you had, what you call depth charges kind of a barrel-type and

these depth charges, they was about barrel size and you could shoot them -- they was quite big and they supposedly could see we were on the top surface, but supposedly they could damage a submarine to the extent that it could come to the surface or be lost.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Did you actually utilize those depth charges, your ship, on occasion to and from the Netherlands or around the Netherlands?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: What was the question?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Did you -- did the 401 actually use these depth charges?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, a few times, you know, and the skipper, he was trying to I think, he was kind of college guy I guess, but anyway, he claimed at one time that he had reported that we had, but I myself, nobody on that crew, we never saw any evidence that we had sunk, you know, sunk a submarine, but...

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you say the commander of the ship, the college guy?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: He reported that you guys had sunk or damaged a sub and you didn't see any evidence?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, that looked good on his records, you know, but I never saw any.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Did you have in either the Tennessee,

all the travels on the Tennessee and the 401, did you ever have any attacks or first encounters with the enemy during, you know, I mean you were at Pearl Harbor so you had a whole bunch of exposure to the enemy there, but in the other travels, did you have any firsthand experience with the enemy attacks?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, you know, engagement when I was on the minesweeper.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And then on the Tennessee?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: See, that minesweeper it went pretty clear to the coast of South America, but then we come back to the Netherlands, but we never engaged anybody that I was aware of.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you, you traveled from New York on this minesweeper 401 to the Netherlands to?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, it started from Norfolk, Virginia, really.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. And then you from the Netherlands went all the way to South America?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And then I read somewhere.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Then we come back to our port in the Netherlands.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: At some point I read that you were in Aruba. Were you in Aruba?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, that's the time, Aruba, want to call it the capitol, I'm glad you brought that up. I couldn't think of it, yeah, Aruba was the base that we stayed in in the Dutch Netherlands.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: You know, two, three years ago, there was some college kids down in Aruba, it turned out to be kind of a resort area and, you know, one girl they got lost and never found her.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Do you remember that?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: I do.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: And that was in Aruba.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: That's where you were stationed for some point?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, I was a civilian then, what we're talking about now, this girl that was missing in Aruba, that's in recent years.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Right, but I mean.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: But I was familiar with the island, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: But when you were in the service, in the Navy, your 401 docked there or?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right at Aruba.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: And then we went on our patrols or whatever, and we always come back to Aruba, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What was the sleeping situation on the 401, did you get a hammock or a cot?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: They had -- they had bunks, you know, secure to the wall.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: That was better yet.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, yeah, that was first class.
(Chuckle.)

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you were still, you were working in the turbine engine room?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, yeah, still, yeah. Uh-huh. Up until '42, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. So you're in the active duty from '38 until when?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Until October of 1945, until the war ended.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So for a good seven years. Two plus, yeah.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: '38 to '45.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Until the war ended?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, right.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And where were you actually when the war ended?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: When the war ended?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: We bombed, you know, Hiroshima and the atomic bomb, where were you at when that all happened?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I'm trying to piece that together now. What was the question again?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Where were you when the war ended with Japan?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, okay. Yeah, when the war ended with Japan, yeah, I was on a teaching assignment for diesel engines at the Naval Station in Gulfport, Mississippi.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you were a teacher then to Navy, you know, up-and-coming mechanics?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: You were teaching them what to do?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah. Yeah. And I went to -- I went to Flint, Michigan, at one time at the receiving stations to get more information before I went to the teaching in Gulfport, Mississippi.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you kind of became an expert with diesel engines?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, you know, when you're 50 miles from home, you're an expert, you know.

(Chuckle.)

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, I understood, but, of course, you had to have earplugs. Diesels they were two big engines, I know they were 828s, they were big ones. We started them with air pressure.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What's an 828?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: That was -- that was what they call those two, that was the number, the two Caterpillar engines that was on the ship that were 828, I guess 828 cubic inches each as I understood it.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: That's a big engine.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yes, it is.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How long did you teach?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I beg your pardon?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How long were you a teacher of diesel mechanics?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, at school in Flint, Michigan?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, that was just a couple months.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Maybe a little bit longer.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: When did you actually discharge from the Navy?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, be about October 19- -- October, yeah, I think it was October of 1945 when the war ended.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And then?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I was at the Gulfport at that time see when the war ended.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you were not married yet?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, no, wasn't married. I got married -- so I get this right now if somebody reads this. (Chuckle.)

ANITA LINDQUIST: You were married --

ALVIN LINDQUIST: 1944 wasn't it?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you got married before you left the service?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yes. Yeah. Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. So I want to clear that up. You married your sweetheart in 1944?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you discharged in '45?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right, yeah. And we were at Gulfport, Mississippi, yeah, for some time. I even remembered the name of the pastor, I can't think of it now, but that don't make any difference.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Where were you married?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Gulfport, Mississippi. See, that's where I was teaching diesel.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So your sweetheart, your fiancée, came there to get married with you?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right. Yep.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And then you two lived there together for awhile until you were discharged?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, until the war, until the war ended, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Sure. Did your wife work outside the home?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, not when we were down there, no, otherwise she always, she was kind of a farm girl, you know. You see she was out on the West Coast for awhile, you know, that was, you know, the late '30s, but her parents needed help on the farm so she -- she came home. She was -- she worked at a newspaper in, I can't think of the name in California, she worked at a newspaper, but her parents wanted her home, you know, everybody was scared of the war business and so that's when she came home and to her parents, they were in the during the early part of the war there.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: But you had met her before at some threshing deal?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right, I met her, yeah, in 19 -- 1937. I was working on threshing, she was four years -- she was three years ahead of me in school, but you know the old

joke is I just had to have that woman, you know.

(Chuckle.)

ALVIN LINDQUIST: But it did turn out that way.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What was her first name?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Bernice, Bernice Marie Peterson.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Did you have a nickname for Bernice or did you call her Bernice or what?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, I think I called her Bernice as I remember.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And I understand you had a nickname?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, Stub.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah. Stub? And what's the story behind that?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, when I was a little kid, it started in grade school down there in Alta, see my folks are born and raised in Sweden, but I wasn't born in Sweden, but when I started school down there in Alta, of course, I was just a little twerp and I had -- I didn't talk English cause that's all I knew at home and so the kids started calling me Stub, that was short for stubborn. They thought I was too stubborn so they just called me Stub for short and, you know, that name stayed with me to this day.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Did you like that nickname or not?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, I lived with it.

(Chuckle.)

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Not particularly.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So you spoke what language when you started school?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Swedish.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Swedish.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: See my folks come over from Sweden in about 1914, right in there, my father was drafted to go to World War I, but the war ended before he got called.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. So he was from Sweden, but he got drafted to go to World War I, but it ended and he didn't have to go?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So do you still speak Swedish, can you still speak Swedish?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: You mean me?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yes.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: (Speaking in Swedish language.) That's Humpty Dumpty. I can't tell you any more. Oh, I knew some bad language, you know.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: We don't have to put that in.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No, no, no, I never practiced it and I still don't.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: All right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: But I got to tell you a little funny, you got time for a funny?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah, I got time.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: See, what was I going to tell you now.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: You've got time for a funny.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah. My good daughter-in-law here, you see, in Swedish, S-H-I-T, in Swedish, that's W-H-E-A-T. And when we -- when our father, you don't say wheat, she -- she thought it was wheat, but it wasn't.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Well, wheat meaning W-H-E-A-T?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Is shit.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: S-H-I-T in English.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay.

(Chuckle.)

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Well, that's a funny. That comes in handy?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, really.

(Chuckle.)

ALVIN LINDQUIST: I use it a lot.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So tell me, how do you think your seven years in the Navy affected your future life? What impact did it have on Alvin Lindquist as you moved forward?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, you know, when I was in the Navy and I had a chance to discharge, you know, during the

Navy, you get a little cocky, and I cancelled my life insurance and when I was discharged, I had a chance to keep my life insurance that would pay off in, was it, 20 years or something, and, of course, I was cocky and thought I knew everything, so I never took that life insurance and, boy, I sure should have.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: But I didn't.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What I understand -- did you learn any life lessons from being in the Navy? Anything that you can share that you learned that other people should know?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Any lessons you say?

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah, life lessons, that, hey, that you'd like to share with, you know, your kids or grandkids or anybody that might read your story.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, I suppose, just in the event, the abilities you might have, either mechanical or educational, I think you should share them.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Share your talents?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you've done that, haven't you?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, to some degree. Sometimes probably not as much as I should have, you know.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Well, so tell me, during the -- after you got out of the service in 1945, October.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What was your employment or job for your work life?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Okay, when I got out of there, then I went up to Spencer and I got a job in the -- in the power plant.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: You --

ANITA LINDQUIST: You mean Algona.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: In Algona. So I worked at this power plant in Algona for a few months and then my father-in-law, due to his generosity in more ways than one, he purchased, helped me purchase a farm in Pocahontas County.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Which we still have today.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So Bernice's dad?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Helped you buy a farm in Pocahontas County?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And you still have it today?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yep.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How many acres?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: It's a quarter. Well, there was a school house on the corner, you know, if you're familiar,

you know, there was about a school house every two miles.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Every township had one, right?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Right. And there was a township on our farm and that township, I inherited that through the -- through the contract or whatever, the farmers, that building went to me and we donated it to the school down in Cedar Falls and then that old school house that sat there on that farm is in Cedar Falls. And they take students and kids there and show how, you know, had the old desks and some of the desks were even double-seated, you know, and that sort of thing.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Sure. So did you -- you farmed crops, did you have livestock too?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Oh, yeah, in those days, everybody had livestock, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Everybody had everything, right?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Everybody had everything, we did, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: All right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: But see it wasn't a big operation, the most cattle I ever had was 60, but my brother-in-law, they kidded me that was just a 4-H project.

(Chuckle.)

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: But to me it was big. I wasn't fixing to handle anybody, but they liked to tease me. We got a

farmer out, a couple around, one that has -- west of Albert City, they had about 2,000 head at times I guess.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Tell me, Alvin, did you, you had some children, right?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: How many kids did you have?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: We just had the two boys. They both turned out to be medical doctors. I might -- I like to talk about their -- I like that question, because they both graduated from the Medical School at Iowa and the older son, he went to Harvard for all his surgery training. Then he got killed in a plane crash. Then the younger lad, he went to Yale, and he was there eight years to get his -- had his M.D., but he went there eight years to get his Master's and his Ph.D. and then he interned three years in Yale.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yale?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What was your oldest son's name?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Clyde Alvin.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And your younger son's name?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Craig Allen.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: So the oldest went to Harvard?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yes.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Youngest went to Yale?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And both became medical doctors and experts in their field?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And where's the younger one now?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: He's -- he's with Stanford University in -- in health work, you know, that's not a public, Stanford is --

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Private?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: -- is a private school, and maybe you might have that information, Stanford, they own 80,000 acres, but it's not all tillable, so they're a rich outfit.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Do you have any grandchildren? Five? I'm not going to ask you all the birth dates, because I don't know mine either.

(Chuckle.)

ALVIN LINDQUIST: She, my good lady here, she knows the names.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Yeah, why don't you tell us.

ANITA LINDQUIST: Clyde and I have one daughter, Britta, and she and her husband have a seven-year-old and the youngest is seven months old.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Oh, my.

ANITA LINDQUIST: Four boys and one girl.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Wonderful.

ANITA LINDQUIST: So.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: See I like the youngest one the best, cause he laid in his basket all afternoon, he never said or did anything, I like him best.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And then your brother-in-law, does he have kids?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: No.

ANITA LINDQUIST: No, he does not. I did want to add though that my husband, Clyde, he graduated from Ames from Iowa State in his medical, did his Medical School in Iowa, and then he did his residency out in Boston area.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Harvard?

ANITA LINDQUIST: Harvard Teaching Hospital, so.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Boy, all right.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah, he was real busy. I know we went up to see him one time, and boy, you know, you know, he had sometimes seven hours of surgery during the day, you know.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: And he was a surgeon?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yep.

ANITA LINDQUIST: Yes, his residency was in general surgery.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. When he was in Fort Dodge, he was?

ANITA LINDQUIST: He was in the emergency room, yes, he wanted to come back.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: He got caught in that wind shear, isn't that what they said took him down?

ANITA LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: What was that?

ANITA LINDQUIST: The accident he was in, it was like only like a mile or so, a wind shear is what he mentioned.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Wind shear. Is that near Fort Dodge?

ANITA LINDQUIST: No, it was in Benton County, I can't think of the name of the town. Small town. He was flying from Iowa City back to Fort Dodge.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay.

ANITA LINDQUIST: At the time.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: See wind shear affect large aircraft too.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Sure, absolutely.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Okay. Well, Alvin, is there anything else you want to share with me or your -- your descendents or the world about your life as a veteran? Do you have positive feelings about your service and being a veteran?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, I would say I'm proud of what I did at the time that I was in the service, you know. Nowadays there's drugs and everything else affecting the

service, but, you know, all the years that, I never even heard of anybody on drugs or never even heard of anything like that, you know.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Sure. Yeah, so you have a lot to be proud of and I want to thank you for your service.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Thank you.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: It's been a privilege and an honor to visit with you here today.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Well, I like meeting you (referring to Stephen Kersten) and you (referring to court reporter).
(Chuckle.)

STEPHEN KERSTEN: All right. Well, I think we're ready to close the record. Thank you so much. And thank you for being here too.

ANITA LINDQUIST: Oh, you're certainly welcome. I learned a lot.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: Do you have anything you want to add?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: It's no secret I'm proud of my boys. There's not many that had a family like that.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: That's right. All right. That's a good way to end it. You're proud of your boys?

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Yeah.

STEPHEN KERSTEN: All right. Thank you.

ALVIN LINDQUIST: Thank you. That's for sure.

(Interview concluded at 11:59 a.m., July 15, 2021.)