

**Austin Carleton Chase
Veteran**

**Mike Russert
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Interviewers**

**Interviewed on February 9, 2007 at 2:45 PM
Niskayuna New York**

Q: Can you give me your full name, date of birth, and place of birth please?

AC: Austin Carleton Chase. Birth place: Syracuse, New York. July 24, 1911

Q: What was your educational background prior to going into the service?

AC: I went through grade school, secondary school, and I went to college for a Bachelor Arts degree. And I have taken some post graduate courses mostly in the banking field. Of course, I had a good education in the Navy in electronics.

Q: Do you remember where you were when you heard about pearl harbor?

AC: I can't remember exactly where I was but I was living in Little Falls New York at that time.

Q: Did you enlist or were you drafted?

AC: I tried to enlist, I tried to get them to commission me but I couldn't get it and I was drafted. My order number was 15 so it didn't take long until they would draft me since they began with drafting fathers.

Q: So you were married at the time?

AC: Yes, we had one child and one on the way.

Q: And you were 33 years old then when you were drafted?

AC: I was pretty close to it. I was 32 and a half years old.

Q: So you must have been one of the oldest guys in your unit then when you were in basic training?

AC: I suppose I was.

Q: Where did you go for your basic?

AC: I went to Senator Herschel Junior/Senior high school in Chicago for my primary. There are three but I forget what the last one was.

Q: So that's where you received your basic training then was out in Illinois?

AC: No, I received my basic training in Sampson.

Q: So you went to Sampson first?

AC: Yes

Q: How long were you at Sampson?

AC: About the usual, 5 weeks.

Q: And then you went out to Chicago?

AC: Then I went to Chicago, Senator Herschel Junior/Senior high school for primary training. Then they sent me to Cove city college in Pennsylvania, then back to Chicago to Navy pier.

Q: What kind of specialized training did you receive?

AC: General electronics training and I was finally put to work working on some kind of fuses in detonated mines. They were disarming them.

Q: So you were being trained to put the detonators in mines or to be able to defuse them?

AC: All kinds of electronics. Anything to do with that. They used to call it radio technician or electronics technician for our unit. And you were trained from the simplest things to, you couldn't say radar loud in those days but radar was the wind up. But I never got all the way through in those schools

Q: You mentioned you were in a test lab, what did you do in that?

AC: It was a warfare test station. It was held in Maryland. I wish I had gone there about 30 years earlier. I was working on something but I'm sorry to say I can't remember exactly what I was working on.

Q: So you were there when the war ended?

AC: Yes

Q: How did you hear and how did you remember how you felt when they said the war was over?

AC: Well I felt really good of course. I had new babies and I had hardly seen yet and my wife.

Q: Was there a lot of celebration out in the streets and on your base?

AC: I don't remember too much other than what I read in the news papers.

Q: Do you remember when president Roosevelt died?

AC: Yes

Q: Did you have any reaction to the atomic bombs being dropped?

AC: I don't remember any violent reaction.

Q: Probably just that the war was going to be over?

AC: Yes

Q: How long did you stay in the service after the war ended?

AC: I got out in December of 1945 and it ended in August.

Q: Where were you discharged?

AC: Washington Naval yard or Solomons, Maryland. I can't quite remember, but I did most of my after service in Solomons, Maryland at a naval modern warfare test station. I was working on something that had to do with exploding mines or trying to disarm it. It was so long ago that its kind of dim in my mind.

Q: Once you were discharged, what did you do after that?

AC: Went back to being a banker.

Q: Did you ever make use of the GI bill?

AC: I didn't need to. I went to college in 1933.

Q: Did you ever use the GI bill to purchase a home or anything?

AC: No

Q: Did you ever join any of the veteran's organization or anything?

AC: I belong to The American Legion.

Q: Did you ever stay in contact with anyone that was in the service with you?

AC: To some extent. I made some good friends in the service. I hate to answer questions like that because I don't really know if I'm answering right or not. I don't really remember.

Q: Do you remember any little incidents or any stories that you would like to tell us?

AC: I know that the education that I got was very difficult for me because it wasn't really in my field. But I'm afraid that's not a very good subject either because I don't really remember.

Q: How do you think your time in the service had an affect on your life?

AC: Well it had a good affect on my life, its probably one of the best things that ever happened to me. It put me back in good physical condition and I am proud to have been in the service. I don't think I am any kind of a hero but my father was a lieutenant corneal in World war one. He worked especially with vehicles, tanks and tractors and things like that because he was in that kind of business before. And my grandfather was also a lieutenant corneal in the 19th century. So I didn't distinguish myself.

Q: Was your grandfather in the civil war?

AC: I don't think so. He was a little too late for that. He was born in 1834, so he would've been in his 30's in the civil war. But he was a lieutenant corneal in the state guard but I don't know much about his history to tell you accurately.

Q: That was the New York state guard?

AC: I presume it was.

Q: So there are no other things that you recall that you want to mention then? You said you were in a choir right?

AC: Yes, I was, I was in a choir because I have a musical background. I was a violinist and I did a lot of choral singing in college.

Q: So your son missed Vietnam right, since he was a little too old to be drafted?

AC: Yes, that's right.