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	ORAL HISTORY OF MARIE LOMBARDO
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4	April 15, 2005
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1	MR. RUSSERT: This is an
2	interview at the New York State Military Museum,
3	Saratoga Springs, New York, the 15th of March
4	excuse me, 15th of April, 2005, approximately
5	ten-thirty a.m. Interviewers are Wayne Clark and
6	Mike Russert.
7	MR. RUSSERT: Could you give me
8	your full name, date of birth and place of birth,
9	please?
10	A. Cohoes, New York is my place of
11	birth. That's just a small city nine miles north
12	of Albany. I'm sure you all know, but anyhow,
13	right on the confluence of Mohawk and Hudson
14	Rivers. We've got the beautiful Cohoes waltz like
15	A, you wouldn't believe. Right now it was spring
16	with all the rain and the snow melt. They're glory
17	so come on over. If you can't afford to go to
18	Niagara, come to Cohoes.
19	Q. Okay.
20	A. The walls are there waiting for
21	you. Well, anyhow, that's where I was born on May
22	23rd, 1924.
23	Q. What was your education prior to
24	entering military service?

1	A. Well well, I I did get a
2	bilingual education with the the Sister's of the
3	French French Canadian Sisters. They serve at
4	at St Johns House so so that was half a day
5	French and a half a day of English at the parochial
6	school of Saint Vifth (phonetic spelling) in
7	Cohoes. And then after that well, then for
8	for high school I I went to the the Catholic
9	High School in in Cohoes which was Kieve Votra
10	Academy. And that was the Irish parish of Saint
11	Bernards. Saint Jovet was a French parish. Well,
12	I got to meet some nice Irish girls, you know. And
13	so anyhow, I graduated from there and well, anyhow,
14	in my senior year that's when the Japanese bombed
15	Pearl Harbor. And I'll I'll never forget that
16	day. I was following it with my father. He had
17	the radio on, the old Atwater Kent radio. And
18	F.D.R., Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the only
19	president I ever knew growing up, interrupted the
20	program to tell us that we had been bombed in Pearl
21	Harbor.
22	It was a day I'll never forget.
23	And and this triggers, you know, like
24	patriotism, like we've never seen it since then.

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1	So many boys in high school just quit, joined the
2	services. My husband was a he he lived in
3	Troy and he he quit school and went in the
4	Marine Corps.
5	Q. Did you know him at that time?
6	A. No. No. I just knew people
7	in Cohoes.
8	Q. Uh-huh.
9	A. Never went anywhere.
10	Q. Did you know where Pearl Harbor
11	was?
12	A. I oh, yeah. Well, I was good
13	in geography. You know, I was very good in
14	geography and I loved maps. I I used to read
15	maps, you know. I had the encyclopedia there and I
16	was over there I always had my maps there. That
17	was yeah. And so I knew where Pearl Harbor was.
18	And so anyhow, boys in our class, they you know,
19	they quit school, joined the merchant marine. By
20	the time graduation came in June, you know, a
21	couple of them were already dead with German in
22	bombs killed them.
23	They were doing a real number on
24	us in the North Pacific or I mean the North

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1 Atlantic. It was my husband that was out in the 2 Pacific when he was just a kid. He went in at seventeen, you know. 3 4 O. Uh-huh. 5 They had X'd where his parents Α. 6 signature should have been. You know, they were --7 just came over from Italy and so he was just first 8 generation Italian. Of course I didn't know him 9 then. I didn't know him. 10 So anyhow, then when I heard that 11 women could go into the military service, oh my 12 God, I couldn't wait to go in. But then I found 13 out you had to be twenty-one to join for women or 14 twenty if your parents signed for you, signed a 15 release. So I couldn't wait. I had always wanted 16 to be a teacher and thought I'd go as, when things 17 were called a normal school which was New York 18 State Teachers College in Albany. I thought I 19 would go there. But I didn't want to be in college 20 for four years with the war going on. Couldn't 21 wait till I was twenty and could go. So my mother 22 said, well, you took a college entrance course, so 23 what are you going to do. So she insisted I go to 24 Bill Melleri's Secretarial School, so I did. So I

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1	would take the bus every day from Cohoes and go to
2	Albany and so I went to Bill Melleri's, got my
3	typing speed up, got my shorthand, Gregg Shorthand,
4	you know, came in handy. Well, anyhow, so I
5	then I got a job at Bear Manning. Now Bear Manning
6	was a sandpaper place. They made all kind of
7	papers of sandpaper and what a relief. But
8	during the war, you know, every factory had to be
9	involved in the war effort and so they had what
10	they called a navigation division. So I went and
11	applied for a job there. I got I got a job and
12	in the navigation division in the office and so I
13	was working in the navigation division on it was
14	the it was called a harness. It was a kind
15	of a horseshoe with all wiring that went around the
16	Corsair fighter plane.
17	Q. Uh-huh.
18	A. That was a fighter plane for the
19	Navy. So that's what we did there in the
20	navigation division of Bear Manning.
21	Q. Now did you do soldering and
22	other things?
23	A. No, I was in the office. I was
24	in the office.
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	1030
1	Q. Well, I was referring to
2	A. I believe I I had my, you
3	know, office training, Bill Merelli's (phonetic
4	spelling) Secretarial School, so I was in the
5	office. Yes. I was in the office there. It was a
6	very nice place to work.
7	Well, anyhow, of course when I
8	graduated from high school I was eighteen. When I
9	finished I was nineteen, so after one year at Bear
10	Manning I was twenty. Hurrah. Twenty. Old enough
11	to go in the service.
12	So anyhow, I met recruiting
13	the recruiting posters, oh yeah, for the Navy. And
14	I always looked good in navy blue, you know, and
15	but then I was down at Montgomery Wards in Menands,
16	the big store, shopping, and there was a girl from
17	the Coast Guard on recruiting there. To tell you
18	the truth I had you know, didn't know too much
19	about the Coast Guard, but I'll tell you, she was
20	so nice right then and there I decided that would
21	be the service I would go into.
22	So I went home and I asked my
23	mother if she would be willing to sign for me
24	because I was just twenty and she said yes. She
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1 knew how bad I wanted to go in. So -- so I got 2 sworn in --3 0. Now --. 4 Α. -- down -- down in Albany. 5 Q. Now were they upset at Bear 6 Manning that you were leaving to go into the Coast 7 Guard? 8 Well, I -- I -- they -- they Α. 9 weren't upset, no. 10 No? Ο. 11 I mean they didn't give me a Α. No. 12 party or anything and I wasn't there quite a year. 13 It was like maybe a month before the year was up. 14 Ο. Yeah. 15 Α. If I had stayed on an extra month 16 they would have given me a going away present of 17 like -- I think they gave a hundred dollars --18 Ο. Oh. 19 Α. -- to anybody who had worked 20 there a year and was going into the service. 21 Uh-huh. 0. 22 Α. So they were very patriotic 23 It was really a very nice place to work. there. 24 But I didn't know about that, but -- so -- but I

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1	was anxious to go in the service. So I forfeited
2	my hundred dollar departing gift.
3	Q. So when did you enter
4	A. Enlisted.
5	Q when did you enter the Coast
6	Guard?
7	A. So
8	Q. Do you remember?
9	A. So let's see. So the date I went
10	down to Albany right on well, what used to be
11	the post office there across the street, that's
12	that's Broadway in Albany. It was right on the
13	corner of that beautiful building there right on
14	on the corner of of Broadway and State Street
15	there.
16	Q. Uh-huh.
17	A. And on the second floor, I'll
18	never forget, I went up there and I swore myself in
19	to the Coast Guard. I took the oath. And before I
20	left the house my sister, Frances, who was nine
21	years older than me, she took out the camera and
22	she took a picture of me with my long hair because
23	I always wore long hair, you know. And so I got
24	sworn in and I took the bus back home and when I

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1	got home she was waiting for me with a pair of
2	scissors. And she gave me my short haircut and
3	then she took my picture again with the short
4	haircut. It was the first time that I had my long
5	curls cut off, you know. I had long hair then.
6	Well, anyhow, so
7	Q. Excuse me. Do you remember what
8	month and year that was?
9	A. Oh yeah, that was September
10	September 14th okay, September 14th, 1944.
11	Yeah, I had graduated from high school in '42. So
12	this was '44. Yes. And you know, so I was in the
13	service for two years, so I got out in '46. And
14	well, anyhow, so then I had to wait for my orders
15	to start out. They came and I was thrilled to
16	pieces. My mother and my girlfriend, Helen, took
17	the bus with me, they all rode the bus, down to
18	Albany to the railroad station in Albany, that
19	beautiful Union Station which is a bank today. And
20	they saw me off on the train and off I went and got
21	off at Grand Central Station. And from there I
22	worked my way on down to to Broad Street and met
23	the rest of the gang of the girls that would be the
24	girls that I started into the service with in boot

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1 camp.

2	And so then after they fed us
3	supper we went to Pennsylvania Station, boarded a
4	train and choo-chooed on down to West Palm Beach,
5	got off the train. It took twenty-five hours then.
6	I still remember it was twenty-five hours from
7	Pennsylvania Station, New York to Palm Beach
8	Station and we got off this is my first trip to
9	Florida. And so then we got on a bus and over
10	the over plain Quarters to get into Palm Beach.
11	I'm in Palm Beach. Whoa, beautiful.
12	Of course the Breakers were
13	there, but we weren't stationed in the Breakers.
14	We had the Biltmore. It was another hotel that had
15	been taken over for the Spar Training Station.
16	And and so we six weeks of boot camp, yeah,
17	it was great. I loved it. Hey, I I learned to
18	climb a cargo deck and all that other stuff, crawl
19	around on your belly. It was regular boot camp.
20	Oh yeah. And and then we would go to the
21	younger beach for swimming, you know, go
22	wooly-wooly G.I. bathing suits, navy blue of
23	course. And anyhow, it was my first taste of the
24	Atlantic Ocean and I tasted the salt of it and it

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1 didn't taste good.

2	And well, anyhow, we were only
3	there two weeks and there was a a hurricane
4	warning. A hurricane? How well, so we had to
5	batten down the hatches and oh, I said, nothing's
6	going to happen. Oh my God, we had to secure the
7	place like you wouldn't believe. Well, anyhow,
8	that was my first taste of a hurricane and the
9	warning, I'll tell you, every palm tree around had
10	lost its top. They were just sticks left. It was
11	really a hurricane. So those were things that I
12	have never seen in Cohoes. Hurricanes, Atlantic
13	Ocean, it was so. And it it was it was
14	great. I was on K.P. duty, the whole bit, you
15	know.
16	Q. So did you have to pull guard
17	duty at all?
18	A. No guard, no, but we had you
19	know, we had to learn to march and do all that
20	stuff.
21	Q. Uh-huh.
22	A. You know, and I always thought I
23	was tall. In Cohoes I always thought I was a tall
24	girl, but down there I I was the last one in the
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1 back because they were all taller than me, you 2 know? 3 Uh-huh. Q. 4 And for rest parade, every Α. 5 Saturday morning it was Dress parade and oh, I 6 loved that. But I was -- I was always bringing up 7 the rear. So, anyhow, they give you all an 8 aptitude test and decided I would be a good 9 storekeeper. So I started the storekeeper school. 10 So that took six weeks of training at the 11 storekeeper school and it was right there in Palm 12 Beach. So then I graduated from storekeeper school 13 and --. Now -- now what was that like, 14 0. the storekeeper school? What did you learn there? 15 16 A. Well, I learned that -- to make out order forms and everything, you know, I mean 17 18 this was for Coast Guard, you know? 19 Q. Uh-huh. 20 Α. Yeah. 21 Q. You had to do requisitions and 22 order --? 23 Α. Yeah, all that stuff. You know, 24 it -- and of course I -- I already had typing and

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1 shorthand, but that was more in the other line, so I really didn't have to use my shorthand, but I did 2 3 use the typing. 4 O. Uh-huh. 5 A. You know, I did use the typing, 6 so that was good. And yeah, so then after 7 storekeeper school permanent duty station, Boston, Massachusetts. So Constitution Wharf, it's still a 8 9 Coast Guard station. So whenever I go to Boston I 10 go past it for old times sake and it's still a 11 Coast Guard station. Yeah. And you know, so that 12 was my active duty, you know. 13 Now what was life like for you in Ο. 14 What was your work routine like? Boston? 15 Yeah, okay. Well, it was -- we Α. 16 were billeted in Brookline at 1501 Beacon Street 17 Brookline. It used to be an apartment building 18 that they took over for, you know, Coast Guard, for 19 the SPAR's and so you know, you had perfume, you 20 had to be in every night at nine o'clock. I would 21 be in bed every night at nine. And the funny part 22 of it is another girl from Cohoes was on -- on the 23 desk there in the Coast Guard, you know. 24 And you knew her before you went Ο.

	-
1	in?
2	A. Oh yeah.
3	Q. Uh-huh.
4	A. Hey, and I didn't even tell you
5	when I was on K.P. duty down in in see, every
6	three weeks there was a new recruit team coming in,
7	a new seven recruits and so I went in, I was there
8	three weeks. So I was on K.P., dishing out the
9	grub, down the chow line and who comes I go
10	to and I look and I said oh, it's Monique
11	Monique. Monique Monica to you. Monique, I
12	mean her father was my dentist. I still got some
13	old fillings he put in here, you know, seven, eight
14	years ago. Well, anyhow, so she was just three
15	weeks behind me in Florida, so and then just
16	coincidence, she also got stationed in Boston and
17	so yeah, so I used to see her every day. When
18	I'd come in and check in at night she was at the
19	desk there making sure I got in. Oh yeah.
20	And yeah, so then in in in
21	the morning, you know, you'd have reveille, you'd
22	get up out of bed and you'd get dressed and we
23	would go outside and and take the T, the Boston
24	T. That's the transportation and it was and I'd
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	raye
1	get off at Saint Marcus Square and walk the whole
2	length of Hanover Street which was very, very long,
3	you know, it's like Little Italy there, Hanover
4	Street, all the way down to Constitution Wharf. I
5	would climb up the stairs to the second floor.
6	That was the supply office and that's where I
7	worked. I had a desk, I had a typewriter, I would
8	get requisition forms from from the Coast Guard
9	cutters or or the light houses or whoever wanted
10	something and I would type them up. And so so
11	we were you know, there were quite a few SPAR's
12	that worked there in that in that office at
13	that was the First Naval District there and but
14	there are also some civilian girls. Most of them
15	were Irish girls from South Boston. So I got to
16	know some Irish girls from South Boston.
17	And after the war was over and I
18	was home I got invitations to a couple of their
19	weddings and I did go back to Boston to attend
20	their weddings in South Boston.
21	Q. Now did you work with men also or
22	was it strictly women?
23	A. Well, it was all women in that
24	office at the desk.

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1	Q. Uh-huh.
2	A. But we had a male officer, you
3	know, the officer, the head guy there from the
4	supply office was a male, you know.
5	Q. Uh-huh.
6	A. So
7	Q. Now were there enlisted men
8	working there also or?
9	A. Well, it it was really you
10	know, I would just go to the second floor because
11	that was my supply office.
12	Q. Uh-huh.
13	A. But the pay office was on the
14	first floor. Okay? So hey, there were a few movie
15	stars who were in the Coast Guard.
16	Q. Really?
17	A. And so when it was payday, when
18	the ship came in and and we knew, hey, we would
19	look for some excuse to have to go down to the
20	first floor.
21	Q. Uh-huh.
22	A. So I saw a few of them. Oh yeah.
23	There were a few. I don't want to mention any
24	names. Caesar Romero was one of them. Anyhow,
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1	that that was a little, you know, extra that
2	I I get to see. That would happen, but hey, it
3	was fun.
4	Q. Now did you get to see any U.S.O.
5	shows at all?
6	A. No, I didn't see any U.S.O.
7	shows. But I I did get down to the U.S.O. down
8	on the watering place of the cows. That's how
9	Boston's streets were done, you know, they paved
10	behind the cows. And so it was right down in in
11	the of course there was a public park is here
12	here and then there was the Boston Commons and that
13	was where the water hole for the cows were when you
14	know and they paved behind the cow paths, so
15	that's how that's why the streets of Boston were
16	all kind of wavy and curly and kind of funny and
17	very narrow. But anyhow, they they put up a
18	temporary building there that was the U.S.O. Okay.
19	So I used to go down and jitterbug at night. And
20	hey, that's how you got your exercise in those
21	days. Nothing like jitterbugging. Oh dear, today
22	everybody gets gymnasiums or their garage or the
23	basement or you know, or they go to a gym, you
24	know. I'll tell you the jitterbugging kept me in

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shape. And then walking. I -- I used to walk all 1 2 over in Boston -- walk all over the city. Just 3 used to walk. Loved to walk. 4 Q. Now could you wear civilian 5 clothes --6 No. Α. 7 -- or did you always have to wear Ο. 8 a uniform? 9 No. During the war -- where Α. 10 there's war on, and I imagine it's the same today, 11 I'm not sure, but back then World War II, every 12 person who was in the military, whether it was the 13 Army, the Navy, the Coast Guard or whatever, Marine 14 Corps, had to be in -- in full uniform. And the 15 only -- you know, whether they were just out in 16 leisure or going to work or whatever. You had to 17 be in full uniform, except when you were in your 18 own barracks. I suppose you could run around in 19 your -- your tee shirt, but I didn't even have any civilian clothes with me because there was no need 20 21 for it. 22 Q. Okay. 23 So I -- I left all my clothes in Α. 24 my closet back home. Well, anyhow, while I was in

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1	the service stationed in Boston my mother and
2	father bought another house up on the hill in
3	Cohoes and so the house where I was born and grew
4	up they moved out of there and they were renting it
5	out. So she had to empty out all the closets. She
6	got rid of all my clothes, everything. So I didn't
7	even have any civilian clothes to come home to.
8	She had cleaned everything out when moving day
9	came, you know, before moving day. I had cousins
10	who lived next door. She gave it all to them, you
11	know, because they were we were all thin then.
12	Q. Uh-huh.
13	A. Nobody was obese then like they
13 14	A. Nobody was obese then like they are today. Oh my God, all of us couch potatoes.
	-
14	are today. Oh my God, all of us couch potatoes.
14 15	are today. Oh my God, all of us couch potatoes. Well, anyhow, yeah, so all my civvies were gone
14 15 16	are today. Oh my God, all of us couch potatoes. Well, anyhow, yeah, so all my civvies were gone and and we didn't know how long the war would
14 15 16 17	are today. Oh my God, all of us couch potatoes. Well, anyhow, yeah, so all my civvies were gone and and we didn't know how long the war would last. And when when you signed up and there's a
14 15 16 17 18	are today. Oh my God, all of us couch potatoes. Well, anyhow, yeah, so all my civvies were gone and and we didn't know how long the war would last. And when when you signed up and there's a war on, if you volunteered, you volunteered for the
14 15 16 17 18 19	are today. Oh my God, all of us couch potatoes. Well, anyhow, yeah, so all my civvies were gone and and we didn't know how long the war would last. And when when you signed up and there's a war on, if you volunteered, you volunteered for the duration of the war. And you know, nobody knew how
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	are today. Oh my God, all of us couch potatoes. Well, anyhow, yeah, so all my civvies were gone and and we didn't know how long the war would last. And when when you signed up and there's a war on, if you volunteered, you volunteered for the duration of the war. And you know, nobody knew how long the war would last. It could have lasted ten,
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	are today. Oh my God, all of us couch potatoes. Well, anyhow, yeah, so all my civvies were gone and and we didn't know how long the war would last. And when when you signed up and there's a war on, if you volunteered, you volunteered for the duration of the war. And you know, nobody knew how long the war would last. It could have lasted ten, twelve years. Who knows? So anyhow, you know, we

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1	A. Oh my God, Boston you know,
2	the the newspaper photo people really took
3	pictures all over the place, you know, New York
4	City, Boston, all the big cities. Oh my I mean
5	people were celebrating in the streets and you
6	know, so anyhow, yeah, so that's how it was.
7	Q. Do you remember where you were
8	and how you remember? You said that President
9	Roosevelt was the only president you remembered.
10	A. Oh yeah.
11	Q. Well, how did you feel when he
12	died?
13	A. Oh God, you know, I know what
13 14	A. Oh God, you know, I know what he he he was such a good president and you
14	he he he was such a good president and you
14 15	he he he was such a good president and you know, we didn't we didn't even know about him
14 15 16	he he he was such a good president and you know, we didn't we didn't even know about him till later that he had had, you know, polio and
14 15 16 17	he he he was such a good president and you know, we didn't we didn't even know about him till later that he had had, you know, polio and and you know and and then when he died, I
14 15 16 17 18	he he he was such a good president and you know, we didn't we didn't even know about him till later that he had had, you know, polio and and you know and and then when he died, I mean my God, you know, it it was, you know,
14 15 16 17 18 19	he he he was such a good president and you know, we didn't we didn't even know about him till later that he had had, you know, polio and and you know and and then when he died, I mean my God, you know, it it was, you know, Winston Churchill and I mean God, they all these
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	he he he was such a good president and you know, we didn't we didn't even know about him till later that he had had, you know, polio and and you know and and then when he died, I mean my God, you know, it it was, you know, Winston Churchill and I mean God, they all these get togethers they had and everything. And you
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	he he he was such a good president and you know, we didn't we didn't even know about him till later that he had had, you know, polio and and you know and and then when he died, I mean my God, you know, it it was, you know, Winston Churchill and I mean God, they all these get togethers they had and everything. And you know, finally the Axis's, the Nazi's, you know,

of it, you know. And we probably will never be
 anything like that again.

3 And of course I had uncles and my 4 God, you know, they all went over -- off to World 5 War I and it wasn't even called World War I because 6 they never thought there would be a World War II. 7 It was just called the Great War -- the Great War, 8 the war to end all wars. Oh, and I mean they went 9 over the hill and in the trenches and everything in 10 France and it's -- it's like a miracle that they 11 returned. But they returned and so you know, my 12 Uncle lived right next to me, my Uncle Paul, 13 they -- and their children, they all grew up right 14 next to me. We all lived -- you know, everybody 15 had a house here on Lake Street, Cohoes, we all 16 had, you know, like grandpa to care of us and he 17 built a brick house, my father, they all sweated 18 and then for Uncle Sharrif and then Uncle Paul, you 19 know, all on the same street, and a big garage. 20 That big garage now was -- they made, oh, I don't 21 know, six or eight apartments out of it now, you 22 know. Yeah.

So it's -- it's -- but anyhow,
 when -- when World II was declared and -- you know,

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1 and that's what they called the Great War got 2 renamed World War I. So that's how it went, you 3 know. Was there any person or persons 4 0. 5 that you remember that left an impression on you 6 or -- or close friends while you were in the service? 7 8 Oh God yes. I -- I made such Α. 9 good friends. You know, two Italian girls from 10 Brooklyn, they were great friends. And I had gone 11 to their wedding and they came up -- they came to 12 my house in Cohoes for their honeymoon. I -- I 13 gave them my bedroom for their honeymoon. Yeah. Ι 14 mean, you know, it's not like honeymoons today. 15 Oh, and then they came up to my wedding and -- and 16 then -- and they drove up. They had a car. Now me 17 and my new husband, we didn't have a car. We were 18 married in -- in 1948 and we didn't have a car. 19 And so they came up -- they drove up from Brooklyn 20 and believe it or not, we went to New York City. 21 We got in the car with them and got a free ride down to New York for our honeymoon. So we were two 22 23 days in a hotel in New York City. That was, you 24 know --

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1	Q. Uh-huh.
2	A hey, after the war. Oh, it
3	was hard to find a place to live, it was hard to
4	find furniture. You know, that's after the war.
5	That's post-war era. Yeah. And you know, like in
6	Troy they they built temporary housing for
7	returning veterans, you know, all over the place.
8	Temporary housing went up in Troy.
9	Q. Did you ever did you ever
10	perform any unusual duties or services while you
11	were?
12	A. Well, believe it or not, when I
13	was in Boston in the supply office if they needed a
14	supply that could have been purchased right
15	there right there on Atlantic Avenue in Boston,
16	hey, I I was the one that would always volunteer
17	to go fetch it. That was part of my walking and I
18	would be out the door and and I would go I
19	mean it's not like Boston today. I mean this was
20	Atlantic Avenue with all the you know, the old
21	wharfs and everything, rat infested and then all
22	these little, you know, marine stores, one after
23	the other all along Atlantic Avenue. Fun.
24	If there was something that could

1	be picked up and brought in, you know, to hasten,
2	hey, I I would always volunteer to go. I love
3	to walk. Oh, I used to run all over.
4	Q. How were you treated by the
5	civilian population?
6	A. Well, very good. You know, like
7	I said, we had some civilian girls working in our
8	office that I became very friendly with. And like
9	I I said, when the war was over I went back to
10	Boston to attend their weddings in South South
11	Boston, you know. And so we became good friends.
12	And then I became good friends with girls that I
13	worked with, you know. And and and girls
14	that I was in boot camp with I'll never forget, you
15	know. Oh yeah.
15 16	
	know. Oh yeah.
16	know. Oh yeah. Q. So have you stayed in contact
16 17	<pre>know. Oh yeah. Q. So have you stayed in contact with a lot of them over the years?</pre>
16 17 18	<pre>know. Oh yeah. Q. So have you stayed in contact with a lot of them over the years? A. Oh yeah. Yeah. Nita from the</pre>
16 17 18 19	<pre>know. Oh yeah. Q. So have you stayed in contact with a lot of them over the years? A. Oh yeah. Yeah. Nita from the Bronx, you know, I went to her house in the Bronx</pre>
16 17 18 19 20	<pre>know. Oh yeah. Q. So have you stayed in contact with a lot of them over the years? A. Oh yeah. Yeah. Nita from the Bronx, you know, I went to her house in the Bronx and had a you know, a beautiful Jewish meal.</pre>
16 17 18 19 20 21	<pre>know. Oh yeah. Q. So have you stayed in contact with a lot of them over the years? A. Oh yeah. Yeah. Nita from the Bronx, you know, I went to her house in the Bronx and had a you know, a beautiful Jewish meal. Her mother cooked me gefilte fish I'd never had,</pre>

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1 .	grandfather was at the table with the Skull cap on
2	and and you know, and presided at the table, you
3	know. Oh yeah, so and then in in Brooklyn I
4	went to with my Italian girlfriends. You know,
5	like I said, Millie Millie Bonarico, you know,
6	oh yeah, and you know, and like I say, she came to
7	my house for her honeymoon, brought her husband,
8	Tiny, Tiny Capello. I still remember all the
9	names. And then I went to reunions. I went to a
10	couple of reunions, you know, Washington D.C. at
11	that big hotel there, the biggest hotel, but I
12	can't oh, but it was great, you know, and so
13	this was a SPAR reunion
14	Q. Uh-huh.
15	A in Washington D.C. And then I
16	went to another SPAR reunion at the Commodore Hotel
17	in New York City and at that one I brought my
18	husband with me. I mean he has been discharged
19	from the Marine Corps and he was also in the Marine
20	Corps Reserves and he almost went to Korean War in
21	1950. Oh, he had to go down to Albany. We were
22	married two years. We were married in 1948 and
23	then in 1950, you know, the Korean War is on.
24	There's another war. And he was in the Marine

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1	Corps Reserves. Hey, they were calling out the
2	reserves for that war. He was in it. So he got
3	his papers to go down to Albany for the physical.
4	And the same day that I mean I labored all day
5	Labor Day and this was the next day on a Tuesday
6	and my daughter was born that morning at
7	seven-thirty at the old Veterans Hospital in North
8	Troy. They used to call it Lansingburg. Well,
9	anyhow, and he had to be down to Albany for his
10	physical at eight o'clock.
. 11	So here he comes up, oh,
12	Antionette, we have a beautiful daughter. We'll
13	name her Stella after my mother. I have to be in
14	Albany by eight o'clock for my physical for the
15	Marine Corps Reserves, I'll see you as soon as I
16	get out of there and I'll come back. Off he went.
17	That that was it. Off he went. Oh, and it took
18	him all day all day, believe it or not, to get
19	rejected on his physical because he had had a knee
20	operation in the spring. Now, when he had that
21	knee operation for a split cartilage, oh, I thought
22	it was terrible. Here I am pregnant for our first
23	child and I didn't know how to drive. We didn't
24	even have a car. And I used to go visit him every

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day at the Samaritan Hospital. You know, in those
days they kept you in like two, three weeks for
Pete's sakes, you know. It's not like today, zoom,
zoom. Most everything is -- is not even in the
hospital. It's out -- out -- out in the doctor's
office.

7 Well, anyhow, but it -- it turned 8 out to be a blessing in disguise as far as I was 9 concerned because that knee operation was the only 10 thing that rejected him on the -- on the physical to go away in the Korean War. Now there's another 11 12 war, you know, and that was -- you know, the 13 Vietnam War and the Gulf War and O my god you know? 14 I don't know if the wars will ever end. When --15 when is mankind going to learn that nobody wins the 16 war? We're all losers. It's terrible. Oh God. 17 How I pray.

Q. How do you think your time in the Coast Guard changed or had effect on your life? A. Well, I -- I certainly learned to get along so well with so many different ethnic groups and I got to learn my prayers in English. I didn't even know them in English. When I went to confession down in Florida at the Catholic church

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1 there and I told the priest, I said, you know, I 2 don't know my Act of Contrition in English. He 3 said oh, that's all right, just say it in whatever 4 language you learned it in. So I said my Act of 5 Contrition in French. And I got out some emotion. 6 Yes. So -- so I -- I did get to 7 learn about so many wonderful people, you know, and 8 of course just the traveling, you know, I mean Palm 9 Beach. Oh, when I go back to Palm Beach and I do 10 go back just to look it over, you know, and I -- I 11 go looking at the old S.S. Biltmore. That's what 12 we called it, you know, the SPAR training ship, 13 Biltmore. Well, they've made apartments out of it 14 and it's high class. Oh my God, you know, yeah, so 15 it's still there. And a Sun and Surf Club where we 16 used to go swimming, I mean it's -- you know, I 17 mean Palm Beach is Palm Beach. It's high class 18 living down there I'll tell you. 19 And -- and then Boston. Well, 20 out of my ten children, one of my daughters is 21 there in Boston. So I go quite often to visit her. 22 And I -- and I care that she has seven sons now. 23 Uh-huh. Q. 24 She married one of those nice Α.

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1	Italian boys that used to live on Hanover Street,
2	you know, where I used to walk down every morning
3	on my way to Constitution Wharf. And I'm sure he
4	must have been in a baby carriage and I must have
5	rubbed his head and marked him for my daughter when
6	we end of my walk.
7	And so she married him. She
8	went she went to Boston to study architecture.
9	Well, when she met Paul the architecture went out
10	the window. She got married and they raised seven
11	boys. She has restaurants in Troy in Troy in
12	Boston and The Daily Catch, there's a free
13	commercial, and and she lives in in across
14	the river, Charles. I got to call it the River
15	Charles, not plain old Charles River, it's the
16	River Charles. And and I used to see the boys
17	from Harvard and shells you know, it's a new wing
18	down and all that stuff. And it was very nice. I
19	got to see all that, you know, and so where my
20	mother my mother my daughter, Maria, lives
21	and she lives in the Cambridge, across the River
22	Charles in Cambridge right between M.I.T. and
23	Harvard. And so when I go visit her I take in all
24	the museums all the museums. There's museums

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1	galore in Boston. And believe it or not, during
2	the war they were all locked up and moth balled
3	just like the Old S.S. Constitution, Old Ironsides.
4	It was it was right there pulled in at
5	Constitution Wharf and I used to see it every day
6	before I'd go up to the second floor to the supply
7	office. It was there and I could never go into it
8	because it was everything was moth balled during
9	the war. That's how it was during the war.
10	Everything was locked up. So okay. Now we're
11	in a different kind of war.
12	Q. Okay. And could you show us a
13	little?
14	A. The bombing.
15	Q. Could you tell us when and where
16	they are at? Could you hold it up?
17	A. This this this was taken
18	in in Boston. See, I've got my chevron shirt.
19	I'm storekeeper first third class here. I was
20	third third class storekeeper. And and
21	believe it or not, I took all the correspondence
22	courses and I did get to storekeeper second class
23	and so that's you know, storekeepers were cross
24	chains and not to be confused with the cross quills

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1	which is a yeoman and and second class you get
2	two chevrons. And anyhow, I took another
3	correspondence course and of course then the war
4	was over, so I never even bothered to sew on my
5	third chevron.
6	Q. Okay. Thank you. You had some
7	others where you were they were taken at the
8	Coast Guard Academy?
9	A. Oh yes.
10	Q. You want to hold those up?
11	A. My God, I had never been to the
12	Coast Guard Academy because, you know, I'm I was
13	never an officer, but anyhow, my daughter, Cecelia,
14	who's my second oldest daughter, she took me there
15	and we went down and so here's here's pictures
16	from there's the poster that got me in the Coast
17	Guard and there's me eighty years old seeing in
18	the museum at the Coast Guard Academy, the new one
19	in Connecticut. And it was beautiful. If you get
20	a chance go on down to New London and you can visit
21	the museum. It's beautiful. And I did bring back
22	all kind of memories for me, yes, and so the Coast
23	Guard SPAR's and that SPAR's, S-P-A-R, of course it
24	was a nautical term because you know, you were on a

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1	ship, but it stands for Semper Paratus, Always
2	Ready. Did you know that? Semper Paratus like
3	Semper Fidelis is for the Marine Corps. That was
4	my husband's outfit.
5	Okay. So too bad we still have
6	wars. That's how I feel. And anyhow, my husband
7	passed away and so here here's where he's buried
8	up at Saratoga and that's my spot right next to
9	him. And it's there waiting for me. I thought
10	sure I would go before him. I'm still hanging
11	around. He's gone two years already. He died the
12	day after Valentine's Day two years ago. So we
13	never know when we're going to die. So when you
14	got to go there's my spot ready and waiting for me.
15	See, this is my jacket I put over him.
15 16	See, this is my jacket I put over him. MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Well, thank
16	MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Well, thank
16 17	MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Well, thank you very much.
16 17 18	MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Well, thank you very much.
16 17 18 19	MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Well, thank you very much.
16 17 18 19 20	MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Well, thank you very much.
16 17 18 19 20 21	MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Well, thank you very much.

This is a transcription of the audio provided to us. It is completed to the best of our skill and ability. The transcript consists of pages 1 through 33 inclusive. Judith Spriggs Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 

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