

**Maynard Lonis
Veteran**

**Interviewed at
Senator Patty Richie's Office
on November 11, 2013
Oswego County legislative Office Building
Oswego, New York**

Q: Where did you go overseas?

ML: It's quite a long story, we went around the world for one thing. I was on what they call a coffin corner down in Hampton Roads and took a ship that went from Hampton Roads, Virginia to all across Europe. We went through the Suez Canal when we had a little bit of a problem. We accidentally veered too far where the linkage, the steerage they call it, is there and that kept us in the canal for a while. We had to report that and of course I kept us in [unclear] for seven days to get that repaired and reported to the authorities but that was just a part of it. From there I went onto Australia and India and the rest of the way around the world.

Q: You were off the Ireland coast on D-day?

ML: Not on D-day but the next trip over I went to Ireland and there we discharged a lot of fuel for the war effort. In fact, it was only about thirty days before D-day so it could have been used in the war effort. That was a tiger so called the next ship was on the Hampton Rose and that was across the Atlantic again to Europe. We were taking more supplies, we were called heavy poison and what the effects they had on our war influence. I have a picture of the Rhodes, and that's the convoy and that's about the size. They had a Navy ship alongside patrol to keep the Germans away.

Q: Sometimes you had submarines with you?

ML: We had submarines along her yeah. We had about five submarines by the time we got out of the New York City harbor and it kept it busy with the guns. We got over to England and on the first trip we discharged gasoline and the second trip [unclear] of war supplies going across to Europe.

Q: You landed in the area near Normandy, right? You went ashore there, right?

ML: The Taker of course was the first ship and that went across to Ireland. The second ship was a so-called Liberty Ship and was anchored with our supplies for about five weeks at Omaha Beach. We discharged our cargo there. We came back and then made several trips across to France. I was there till the ex-took Paris and then I was repatriated here in the states and I went on sailing in the Mediterranean and other places throughout the world for quite some time.

Q: Now you went ashore in Europe?

ML: Yeah in France I went ashore, I was able to get ashore by a rope on the side of the Liberty. Hand over hand we down the side of the ship and every day the liberty ship would go out to our bigger anchored ship. One night I didn't make it back to the ship in time and I had to see the American officer there. He put me up for the night and had chow on the next day over across the [unclear] I enjoyed being there with friends. The second ship was the Liberty and Omaha Beach

August 1944, I kind of forgot that's quite a few years back now. Then after that I took a ship to Calcutta India and then we went around the world for about 9 months.

Q: During the war where were you when FDR passed away?

ML: I was on the Island of New Guinea and that was a long way from home. After that I took a victory ship to France, to bring home a large home of GI who had stayed in the area. One of them died when our ship crashed into another. The ship had come out of the fog and hit us, I was awful sorry about that, he was almost home he had come under the Golden Gate Bridge three times but never quite made it home. Here's a picture of me in my uniform [unclear]. On my first trip, I actually had to go out to the middle of the Hudson River all alone except for the [unclear] was carrying us. There they put aboard that ship from a launch when I arrived. That was my first experience at sea.

Q: What happened five miles out of the Hudson?

ML: Oh yes, the Germans fired at us as we were in there. This is a picture of the space over [unclear]. This shows the three war zones that I served in, the Atlantic the battle of Maple East, and the Pacific war where I have [unclear] in color from those places we sailed. My second ship was the Liberty ship to Europe. We stayed the five-week anchored at the place on Normandy Beach.

Q: You were queued up during the invasion, right?

ML: We just stayed there anchored waiting for D-day. They wanted our supplies, so we stayed longer. After that we went to Barcelona France to get some GI's. Another ship was the Queen of the Seas and we sailed for New York to the Panama Canal and all the way down to Chile [unclear]. [Shows sketch of places he has been.] This is a general sketch of places I've been and of course before this I was just a farm boy. I never really left the farm.

Q: Where was your boot camp and your training?

ML: My boot camp and training would be down in St. Petersburg Florida we went there for about three months or so. I got to train at [unclear] beachhead there.

Q: You taught aircraft mechanics before radio school?

ML: Oh yes out in Northern part of New York. Aircraft jet engines is what I taught at Chinook Field. I taught the firing patterns. I spent about six weeks in Huntington, Long Island and I had to walk a post with my rifle at night.

Q: That was the mansion?

ML: The banker Otto Khan owned it but it has recently been sold to the public.

Q: After that you went to Gallops?

ML: We went to Gallops Island's then up to Boston. We took a ferry boat out to the place where we were trained and that's where we graduated.

Q: That's not too far from the JFK library is?

ML: Yes, I've been there afterwards and seen that. That was one of my trips to seamanship.