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"My Impressions of World War II" - Life Magazine 8/89 [5]

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TIME
INCORPORATED

WIREROOM

TIME & LIFE BUILDING
ROCKEFELLER CENTER
NEW YORK 10020

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TO *C. Kress Winston* FAX # *202-456-6218*

FROM *Mary Simons* DEPT. *Legal*

NUMBER OF PAGE(S) TO FOLLOW: *12*

SEPWWII V:01 HJ:Y 00343 28-JUL-89 13:09 PAGE: 1
OP:PERICH;07/28,12:46 OR:FGAN FR:LAN-LFE FMT:12p6 FG:LFE
MS: OK: RP:8 NO:e10 ID:09-01-89 PF:g ***

D 0001 LIFE SEPTEMBER WORLD WAR
L 0002 II Pps 70-78
LN0003 colt/howe/simons/bentkowski/
L 0004 goldberg/ryan
L 0005
LN0006 GHC PR
LN0007
L 0008 LAYOUTS TK
L 0009
L 0010 MY IMPRESSIONS<-->
L 0011 WORLD WAR II
L 0012
L 0013 December 7, 1941
1
L 0014 I was walking across the campus at
0
L 0015 Andover when I heard the news. I was
L 0016 17. It came as a shock<-->a jolt<-->an

0 0017 awakening. I did not fully comprehend
2 0018 world affairs. My interests were our
0 0019 undefeated soccer season just finished,
- 0020 basketball<-->baseball coming up.
2 0021 Christmas vacation only a couple of
0 0022 weeks away, graduation, then college.
5 0023 Things changed instantly. I knew
0 0024 right then that I wanted to go into the
L 0025 service.

LN0026

L 0027 December 8, 1941
1
0 0028 Our headmaster, a great historian and
0 0029 tough disciplinarian, summoned us all
1 0030 into George Washington Hall, the
0 0031 school's assembly place. There was the
1 0032 normal joking, kidding, sloppy pos-
0 0033 ture. Dr. Fuess called to order the 800
1 0034 students by saying something like
0 N0035 this: "Your country is at war. We have
0036 just played the *Star Spangled Banner*.
4 0
0037 From now on when the *Star Spangled*
4
0038 *Banner* is played you will stand at at-
0
0039 tention, hands at your sides and you
0040 will show respect." From that day on,
0041 without fail, I have stood at attention
L 0042 when the national anthem was played.

L 0043

L 0044 Early June 1942
1
0045 Secretary of War Henry Stimson, an
0
0046 alumnus of Andover, gave the com-

0047 mencement address. He encouraged
 0048 the graduating class to get some col-
 0049 lege education before serving. I was
 0050 determined not to go on to college but
 0051 to become a Navy pilot. Secretary
 0052 Stimson was a towering world figure
 L 0053 but I wondered about this call of his.

L 0054

L 0055 June 12, 1942

0056¹ On my 18th birthday I was sworn into
 0057⁰ the Navy as a Seaman 2nd Class, the

0058 first step towards becoming a Navy pi-
 0059 lot. The Navy had just changed the

0060 rules. It no longer required two years
 0061 of college before becoming a Navy pi-
 0062 lot; pilots were urgently needed. Wal-

0063 ter Levering, LT USNR, swore me in
 0064 at Boston. I went on active duty as an

0065 Aviation Cadet August 6, 1942.

L 0066

L 0067 August 6, 1942

0068¹ I climbed on a southbound train at
 0069⁰ Penn Station. My dad was a big,

0070 strong guy. He put his arm around me
 0071 and said goodbye. I'd never seen my

L 0072 dad shed a tear before.

L 0073

L 0074 June, 1943

0075¹ Having been stationed at Chapel Hill
 0076⁰ for preflight, Minneapolis for Primary

(left out:)

The Navy moved to
 accept High School
 graduates for pilot
 training.

Active duty at last,

1 0077 Training, and Corpus Christi for Ad-
 0 0078 vanced, I received my Navy wings and
 3 0079 Ensign's Commission June 4. I was
 2 0080 still 18 years old. I wanted to fly in
 1 0081 combat. All my classmates wanted to
 0 0082 as well. Our country was at war<-->unit-
 1 0083 ed. I selected Torpedo Bombers . . . I
 1 0084 fell in love early on with the 'low and
 2 0085 slow' TBF. The Grumman Avenger
 0 0086 carried a ton of bombs, the biggest sin-
 0 0087 gle engine aircraft in the fleet. It had a
 1 0088 crew of three. I went off to Fort Lau-
 1 0089 derdale to learn to fly it. Training up
 3 0090 and down the East coast, dropping
 3 0091 torpedoes off Cape Cod, bombs and
 4 0092 torpedoes in Lake Okechobee, Fla.,
 - 0093 Chincoteague, Va., Charleston,
 0 0094 Rhode Island, Miami . . . I saw 'em all.
 1 0095 I had an ensign's stripe and an admi-
 L 0096 ral's confidence. I was a Navy pilot.

L 0097

L 0098 Spring-Summer 1944

2 0099 I was assigned to Air Group 51, the
 1 0100 first to be aboard the new fast carrier
 2 0101 *San Jacinto*, CVL 30. We went on a
 3 0102 "shake down cruise" to Trinidad, put
 1 0103 *San Jac* into commission at Philadel-
 2 0104 phia, headed for the Pacific via the
 1 0105 Panama Canal, touched the USA one
 1 0106 last time at San Diego and then went

→ fly in combat.

2000 lbs.

→ air group

L 0107 West.

0 0108 Many of the Air Group and Ship's

3 0109 company had spend no time at sea.

3 0110 One roommate, subsequently killed,

2 0111 Tom Waters, had a red face, but the

0 0112 seas were so bad that his face literally

L 0113 turned green.

0 0114 We struck Wake Island on May 23,

1 0115 1944. My close friend and roommate,

1 0116 Jim Wykes went off on a search mis-

0 0117 sion, and never came back. I lay in my

2 0118 upper bunk and cried for my friend.

L 0119 No one saw me<-->that wouldn't do.

L 0120

L 0121 September 2, 1944

1

1 0122 Over Chi Chi Jima, my plane was hit

0

0 0123 by anti-aircraft fire at about 8:30 a.m.

0 0124 The submarine FINBACK picked me

0 0125 out of the water close to the Japanese

1 0126 held island of Chi Chi Jima. I learned

0 0127 later that my crewmen were killed. In

1 0128 that life raft for about 2 hours, won-

2 0129 dering if my life would be spared, I

0 0130 prayed to God, I was sick to my stom-

2 0131 ach and again I cried. I was a very

1 0132 scared kid, just 20, away from his

0133 mother and dad, paddling against the

0134 wind trying to get farther away from

L 0135 the Japanese held island.

L 0136

shed a tear.

further

L 0137 September 1944

0 0138 The ^(Caps)Finback stayed on its war patrol in
 0 4 0
 2 0139 Japanese waters, and I along with 2
 3 0140 other rescued pilots and 2 crewmen
 0 0141 spent the next 30 days standing watch
 3 0142 and counting my blessings. We got
 0 0143 depth charged by Japanese ships. The
 0 0144 submariners in ^(Caps)Finback didn't seem too
 4 0
 1 0145 concerned about that, but Jim Back=
 1 0146 man, Tom Keene and I, the 3 rescued
 1 0147 pilots, didn't like that a bit. ^(Caps)Finback's
 4 0
 2 0148 skipper won a silver star for sinking
 L 0149 Japanese ships.

Looking Forward

Aboard the FINBACK in Japanese waters. Submarine

L 0150
L 0151 October 1944

1 0152 Back in Pearl Harbor for a week at a
 0
 2 0153 "rest home" <--> then hitch hiked back
 0 0154 to the fleet <--> Task Force 38 under Ad-
 0 0155 miral Bull Halsey off the Philippines. I
 1 0156 wondered at the tremendous naval
 0 0157 power in and around Pearl Harbor and
 0158 at ^{spelling?}Ulithi Atoll. You could feel things
 0159 moving our way. We were shown the
 0 0160 pictures of Japanese atrocities. It was
 0 0161 Hirohito's fault. Hitler was beginning
 0 0162 to get kicked hard in Europe but for us
 0 0163 there was one unifying symbol <--> Hiro-
 0 0164 hito and the evil he represented. I
 0 0165 wanted badly to rejoin my squadron <-->
 L 0166 to fly more, to do my part.

Polio. Nicholas - 20 days 73R

some flying,

I saw

0167

0168 November 1944

0169 I flew my final combat mission (the tk

0170 tk) over Luzon Bay, November 19.

0171 Puffs of antiaircraft fire, black and

0172 menacing, but nothing like the concen-

0173 trated fire over Chi Chi Jima. Still you

0174 wonder. There was a sense of exhilara-

0175 tion in our ready room. We were going

0176 home. We'd probably make it for

0177 Christmas. Several of our VT 51

0178 squadron mates had been killed, but

0179 that was accepted. In a sense, the fe-

0180 rocidity of the battle helped heal the

0181 hurt for our fallen comrades. It was

0182 our duty, our honor. We were fighting

0183 for the USA against tyranny. The

0184 country was united. We, on a carrier,

0185 were a part of something great and

0186 good. At times we were scared, but

0187 there were never any doubts.

0188

0189 Christmas Eve 1944

0190 I arrive home. I stop at the Rye (N.Y.)

0191 Station on the the way to Greenwich.

0192 There my fiancée, Barbara, climbs on

0193 the train. We go the 10 minutes to

0194 Greenwich. My mother and dad meet

0195 us. I was glad to be home for Christ-

0196 mas. I was glad to be surrounded by

*Luzon Bay
Manilla Bay
area
Nov. in Philippines
island*

in time

*The war had us
together on one
track.*

SEPWWII

V:01 PAGE: 0008

1 0197 love. At church the next day, Christ-
0 0198 mas, I thanked God I was home<-->and
2 0199 In the quiet of our church I thought
2 0200 about Jim Wykes, Dick Houle, Ted
1 0201 White, John Delaney, and the others
5 0202 who would never come home for
L 0203 Christmas.
1 0204 I asked "Why," but there was not
4 0205 any agony about the cause. There
1 0206 were no divisions about the war. We
1 0207 were right. God was on our side. We
2 0208 had suffered a surprise attack and ,
0 0209 now three years later we were winning;
0 0210 and I, a 20 year old Lt. (j.g.) was part of
5 0211 the greatest fighting force in the
2 0212 world. I had grown up. I had flown
1 0213 with the best off a great carrier that
1 0214 flew the Texas flag into battle. I was
1 0215 part of a team. We cared about each
0 0216 other in our squadron. We understood
1 0217 each other's fears and loves. We
1 0218 played together, sang together, flew
1 0219 together. We bitched about our
1 0220 Squadron Commander<-->too tough,
0 0221 too demanding, too serious. But we
0 0222 loved to fly on his wing<-->we respected
L 0223 Don Melvin.
0 0224 If we hot dogged it or risked the
0 0225 lives of the ship's crew by some care-
0 0226 less maneuver, Captain Beauty Mar-

*I counted my
blessings.*

think I

1 0227 tin would kick some serious butt, but
 0 0228 we bragged about him. He didn't know
 4 0229 me from Adam's off Ox. But why
 3 0230 should he<-->I had one stripe, finally
 0 0231 1<1/2>, and he had 4. We gave him a lot of
 L 0232 room, a lot of respect.

1 0233 We were the best pilots. When we
 3 0234 ground-looped on land, it was that
 0 0235 damned gust of wind, or it was low hy-
 2 0236 draulics in the left brake. When we
 1 0237 missed the proper wire landing on the
 1 0238 carrier, it was that crazy landing sig-
 0 0239 nal officer . . . ``Damn fool, had me too
 1 0240 high all the way in, or too fast, or too
 0 0241 slow``; but we never told him. He held
 0 0242 our lives in his hands. And besides, the
 L 0243 skipper always thought he was right.

1 0244 We were the best . . . cocky devils,
 0 0245 sure of our ability, sure of our mission.

2 0246 We knew exactly what had to ^{be} done.

L 0247 We knew we would win.

L 0248

L 0249 Winter - Spring 1945

1 0250 Barbara and I were married January

2 0251 6th. We had time for a honeymoon,

1 0252 then off we went to carrier re-qualifi-

0 0253 cation in the Great Lakes. We bought

0 0254 our first car<-->a 1941 Plymouth<-->price

1 0255 \$350 and drove across Canada to join

1 0256 our squadron in Lewiston, Maine. Up

20 years old, and we knew exactly what had to be done.

We knew we were right and

0 0257 and down the East Coast in VT 153, a
5 0258 - new torpedo squadron manned by
0 0259 some of my pals from VT 51. I checked
0 0260 out in the F4U, the hot-shot gull wing
0 0261 Corsair fighter . . . and for a moment I
1 0262 wondered if ``low and slow`` was good
3 0263 enough for me anymore. A fleeting
1 0264 thought only, since by now the feel of
1 0265 the TBF was a part of my very exis-
2 0266 tence. The TBF was a forgiving air-
4 0267 plane<-->and though I was a pretty
1 0268 good pilot, I'd still make some pilot's
L 0269 errors that needed forgiveness.

L 0270

L 0271 August 1945

1 0272 I'm just 21 now. We are based in Vir-
0 0273 ginia. Barbara and I are having more
2 0274 time together. As our new squadron,
1 0275 with orders in hand to go back to the
1 0276 Pacific, starts our final training, the
1 0277 war ends. I'll never forget the scream-
0278 ing and the cheering and the dancing
1 0279 in the street and the praying. Bar and
0280 I went to church and we said thanks.
0281 The war's end meant we would not
0282 have to be separated, and that I would
0283 not have to cover any more landings of
0284 marines on beaches<-->seeing them get
0285 slaughtered as the Japanese dug in to
L 0286 defend their homeland.

L 0287

L 0288 September 18, 1945

3 0289 I am discharged from the Navy on
 1 0290 "points" and now I go to college. The
 0 0291 togetherness of it all is gone. We re-fo-
 0 0292 cus. It's soccer, baseball<-->it's our first
 1 0293 baby, and economics classes. Barbara
 1 0294 and I know family joy, and the happi-
 0 0295 ness of being at school and looking for-
 0 0296 ward shortly thereafter to a new life in
 0 0297 our west. We have lots of new friends.
 2 0298 The letters from the shipmates slow
 0 0299 down. They are finding their new way,
 L 0300 too.

L 0301

L 0302 June, 1948

0 0303 A brand new college grad, my first job
 1 0304 ahead, I drive to Odessa, Texas. The
 2 0305 war seems, far behind<-->ahead lies a
 L 0306 whole new exciting life.

L 0307

L 0308 January 20, 1989

0 0309 I am sworn in as President of the Unit-
 0 0310 ed States. A TBF on a float goes by in
 1 0311 our Inaugural parade. On it are some
 0 0312 squadron mates from VT 51 and a cou-
 5 0313 ple of old submariners who were
 2 0314 aboard ^{Caps} *Finback* when she picked me
 3 0315 out of the drink off Chi Chi Jima.
 1 0316 They are smiling and waving. No one

disperses

long ago,

L 0317 knows who they are. But I know.
L 0318
L 0319 February, 1989
1
0320 I am in Japan for the funeral of Em-
0
0321 peror Hirohito. It is an icy cold day
0322 and the long ceremony is beautifully
0323 done. Sitting there in the cold, sur-
0324 rounded by World leaders, I had time
0325 to think. Yes, I thought about the
0326 burst of anti-aircraft fire from Chi Chi
0327 Jima that killed my friends, but that
0328 thought did not dominate. I thought
0329 about Hirohito going to call on Mac-
0330 Arthur, about Japan's remarkable re-
0331 covery and about her democracy. I
0332 thought about the quiet little man and
0333 his love of nature and how that con-
0334 trasted with the horrible pictures we
0335 saw 45 years ago . . . I thought of Ja-
0336 pan. And I thought of forgiveness. Our
0337 alliance is strong, our friendship is
0338 genuine. They are now a democracy.
0339 How remarkable that is. Maybe Ted
0340 White, Jack Delaney, and Jim Wykes
0341 did not die in vain. It was right that I
0342 went back to Japan to the Emperor's
L 0343 funeral.

{END}

Please FAX to

AUG 1 6 01 PM '89

Christine Gear
202-456-6218

from MARY SIMONS
212 522 0908 (FAX)

SEPWWII V:07 HJ:Y 00323 01-AUG-89 17:49 PAGE: 1
OP:PERICH;08/01,17:40 OR:FGAN FR:PERICH-LFE FMT:26 FG:LFE
MS: OK: RP:8 NO:e8 ID:09-01-89 PF:g ***

L 0001 LIFE SEPTEMBER WORLD WAR II Pps 70-78

L 0002 Bush/simons/bentkowski/

L 0003 goldberg/kinney/Geeslin

L 0004 GHC PR NOT CG

L 0005

L 0006 Caps 3, 4, 5 (DEPT SLUG)

L 0007

L 0008 ANNIVERSARY

L 0009

L 0010 Cap 7 (ART)

L 0011

LN0012 A BOY

LN0013 GOES TO

LN0014 WAR

L 0015

«
5

0015

(unfiled)

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0002

0015

(cp22,,20p)

«

L 0016 Cap 2

L 0017

LN0018 by GEORGE BUSH

L 0019

« « «

0019 (cp28,30,16p6)(xh)(rr)

0

L 0020 Cap 8

5

L 0021

LN0022 THE PRESIDENT RECALLS

LN0023 HIS THREE-YEAR TOUR

LN0024 OF DUTY AS A

LN0025 NAVY PILOT IN THE

LN0026 PACIFIC

L 0027

L 0028

«

0028

(st)

0

L 0029

4

L 0030 Cap 1 PRECEDE TK

L 0031

L 0032

(cbp71,c1,151)

0

PAGE 71 COLUMN 1 51 LINES DEFINED

(cbp72,c1,129,c2,129)

(cbp74,c1,134,c2,134)

(cbp75,c1,134,c2,134)

(cbp76,c1,124)

L 0033 « « December 7, 1941

0033

(ir581,6p,171,10p,331,

1

0 0034 I was walking across the campus at Andover when I

0033

6p,11,7p9,31,6p,251,

0

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0003

0033 10p,43l,6p,25l,10p,39l,

heard the
 1 0035 news. I was 17. It came as a shock<-->a jolt<-->
 an awakening. I
 0 0036 did not fully comprehend world affairs. My
 interests were our
 1 0037 undefeated soccer season just finished,
 basketball<-->baseball
 0 0038 coming up. Christmas vacation only a couple of
 weeks away,
 1 0039 graduation, then college. Things changed
 instantly. I knew
 L 0040 right then that I wanted to go into the service.
 L 0041
 L 0042 December 8, 1941
 1 0043 Our headmaster, a great historian and tough
 0 disciplinarian,
 1 0044 summoned us all into George Washington Hall, the
 school's
 0 0045 assembly place. There was the normal joking,
 kidding, sloppy
 0 0046 posture. Dr. Claude M. Fuess called to order the
 800 students
 1 0047 by saying something like this: "Your country is
 at war. We
 0 0048 have just played the *Star-Spangled Banner*. From
 now on when
 0 0049 the *Star-Spangled Banner* is played you will stand
 at attention,
 0 0050 hands at your sides and you will show respect."
 From that day

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0004

- 0 0051 on, without fail, I have stood at attention when
the national
- L 0052 anthem was played.
- L 0053
- L 0054 Early June 1942
- 2 0055 ¹ Secretary of War Henry Stimson, an alumnus of
₀ Andover,
- 1 0056 gave the commencement address. He encouraged the
gradu-
- 0 0057 ating class to get some college education before
serving. I was
- 0 0058 determined not to go on to college but to become
a Navy pilot.
- 2 0059 Secretary Stimson was a towering world figure but
I won-
- L 0060 dered about this call of his.
- L 0061
- L 0062 June 12, 1942
- 0 0063 ¹ On my 18th birthday I was sworn into the Navy as
₀ a Seaman
- 1 0064 Second Class in Brooklyn, the first step towards 0064 (co CHK brooklyn)
becoming a
- 1 0065 Navy pilot. I was a scared nervous kid. The Navy
had just
- 1 0066 changed the rules. It no longer required two
years of college
- 1 0067 before becoming a Navy pilot; pilots were
urgently needed.
- 0 0068 Walter Levering, Lt. USNR, swore me in at Boston.
I went on
-

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0005

L 0069 active duty as an aviation cadet August 6, 1942.

L 0070

L 0071 August 6, 1942

0 0072 1 I climbed on a southbound train at Penn Station.
0

My dad was

0 0073 a big, strong guy. He put his arm around me and
said goodbye.

0 0074 I'd never seen my dad shed a tear before. We
arrived in Chapel

0 0075 Hill, N.C. and I met my great friend "The
Splendid Splinter"

1 0076 Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox. We all stood
in awe of

L 0077 the famous hitter who was in the same program.

L 0078

L 0079 June, 1943

1 0080 1 Having been stationed at Chapel Hill for
0

preflight, Minne-

0 0081 apolis for primary training, and Corpus Christi
for Advanced,

0 0082 I received my Navy wings and Ensign's commission
June 4. I

0 0083 was still 18 years old. I wanted to fly in
combat. All my class-

June 9 - Don Rhodes

END OF BLOCK PAGE 71 COLUMN 1

PAGE 72 COLUMN 1 29 LINES DEFINED

1 N0084 mates wanted to as well. I fell in love early on
 with the 'low
 1 N0085 and slow' torpedo bombers. The Grumman Avenger
 carried
 1 0086 2,000 pounds of bombs, the biggest single-engine
 aircraft in
 0 0087 the fleet. It had a crew of three. I went off to
 Fort Lauderdale
 0 0088 to learn to fly it. Training up and down the East
 coast, drop-
 0 0089 ping torpedoes off Cape Cod, dummy bombs and
 torpedoes in
 4 0090 Lake Okeechobee, Fla., Chincoteague, Va.,
 Charlestown,
 1 0091 Rhode Island, Miami . . . I saw 'em all. I had an
 0 0092 ensign's stripe and an admiral's confidence. I was
 L 0093 a Navy pilot.
 L 0094
 L 0095 Spring-Summer 1944
 1
 2 0096 I was assigned to Air Group 51, the first to be
 0
 0 0097 aboard the new fast carrier *San Jacinto*, CVL 30.
 4 0
 0 0098 We went on a shakedown cruise to Trinidad, put
 0 0099 *San Jac* into commission at Philadelphia, headed
 4 0
 2 0100 for the Pacific via the Panama Canal, touched
 0 N0101 the U.S. one last time at San Diego and then went
 L 0102 West.
 2 0103 Many of the air group and ship's company
 1 0104 had spend no time at sea. One roommate, subse-
 1 0105 quently killed, Tom Waters had a red face, but
 0 0106 the seas were so bad that his face literally

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0007

turned

L 0107 green.

0 0108 We struck Wake Island on May 23, 1944. My
close friend

0 0109 and roommate, Jim Wykes went off on a search
mission, and

1 0110 never came back. I lay in my upper bunk and cried
for my

L 0111 friend. No one saw me<-->that wouldn't do.

L 0112

END OF BLOCK PAGE 72 COLUMN 1

PAGE 72 COLUMN 2 29 LINES DEFINED

L 0113 September 2, 1944 *addition*

1
0 0114 On this day at 07:15, a division of VT-51,
composed of Com-

2 0115 mander Don Melvin, Doug West, Milt Moore and
myself,

1 0116 took off from the San Jacinto (my 50th combat
mission) fly-

2 N0117 ing about 70 miles to destroy two radio stations
at Chichi

1 N0118 Jima in the Bonin Islands. At reaching the target
area, the

1 0119 sky was thick with black clouds of exploding
enemy antiair-

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0008

1 0120 craft fire. Don Melvin led the attack on the tar-
L 0121 get, followed by Doug West and then me.

2 0122 At about 08:30, and moments after pushing
0 0123 over into my dive at 8,000 feet, I felt a jolt
as if a
0 0124 giant fist had rammed into the belly of the
plane.

0 0125 My plane had been hit in the engine area. Smoke
1 0126 poured into the cockpit and flames were spread-
0 0127 ing aft toward the fuel tanks in the wings. Navy
0 0128 training had taught us to complete the mission. I
1 0129 instinctively continued in the dive, homed in on
0 0130 the target, unloaded our four 500 hundred pound
0 0131 bombs, pulled away heading East toward the sea.
1 0132 A few miles from shore, I told my crewmen, Ted
0 N0133 White and John Delaney, to bail out. As I bailed
0 N0134 out, my head struck the tail of the plane momen-
1 N0135 tarily knocking me out. I was landing in the wa-
1 N0136 ter when the Japanese sent two boats out after
1 0137 me. Melvin, West and Moore along with our Hellcat
fighter
L 0138 escorts drove the boats away.

0 0139 I was in the life raft about two hours,
wondering if my life
1 N0140 would be spared. I prayed to God, I was sick to
my stomach
0 N0141 and again I cried. I was a very scared kid, just
20, away

PAGE 74 COLUMN 1 34 LINES DEFINED

0 0142 from his mother and dad, paddling against the
 wind trying to
 0 N0143 get farther away from the Japanese held island. I
 later learned
 1 N0144 that my crewmen had been killed. Observers said
 that two
 2 0145 persons were seen leaving the plane. The para-
 0 N0146 chute of the other person never opened, but mine
 0 0147 did. God had spared me from that fate for what-
 1 0148 ever reason. Hellcat fighter pilots flew over my
 0 0149 raft until I was rescued by the American subma-
 L 0150 rine U.S.S. *Finback* around noon.
 4 0
 L 0151
 L 0152 September 1944
 1
 0 0153 The *Finback* stayed on its war patrol in Japanese
 0 N0154 0 4 0 waters, and I along with two other rescued pilots
 0 N0155 and two crewmen spent the next 30 days standing
 1 0156 watch and counting my blessings. We got depth
 1 0157 charged by Japanese ships. The submariners in
 2 0158 *Finback* didn't seem too concerned about that,
 1 N0159 4 0 but Jim Backman, Tom Keene and I, the three
 2 0160 rescued pilots, didn't like that a bit. *Finback's*
 2 0161 skipper won a Silver Star for sinking Japanese
 4 0
 L 0162 ships.
 L 0163

L 0164 October 1944

3 0165 1 Back in Pearl Harbor for a week at a rest
 0 home<-->then after some essential refresher fly-
 2 N0166 ing, I hitchhiked back to the fleet<-->Task Force
 1 N0167 38 under Admiral William "Bull" Halsey off the
 1 0168 Philippines. I wondered at the tremendous Naval
 0 N0169 power in and around Pearl Harbor and at Ulithi
 1 0170 Atoll. You
 0 N0171 could feel things moving our way. We were shown
 0 0172 pictures of
 0 0173 Japanese atrocities. It was Hirohito's fault.
 0 0174 Hitler was begin-
 0 0175 ning to get kicked hard in Europe but for us
 0 0176 there was one uni-
 0 0177 fying symbol<-->Hirohito and the evil he
 0 0178 represented. I wanted
 L 0179 badly to rejoin my squadron<-->to fly more, to do
 my part.

0169 (co William(?))

END OF BLOCK PAGE 74 COLUMN 1

PAGE 74 COLUMN 2 34 LINES DEFINED

L 0176

L 0177 November 1944

0 N0178 1 I flew my final combat mission, the 58th, over
 0 Luzon Bay, No-
 2 0179 vember 19. Puffs of antiaircraft fire, black and

November 29 - Don Rhodes

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0011

0 N0180 menacing were nothing like the concentrated fire
1 0181 over Chichi Jima. Still you wonder. There was a
0 0182 sense of exhilaration in our ready room. We were
1 0183 going home. We'd probably make it for Christ-
1 0184 mas. Several of our VT 51 squadron mates had
0 0185 been killed, but that was accepted. In a sense,

the

0 0186 ferocity of the battle helped heal the hurt for
our

1 0187 fallen comrades. It was our duty, our honor. We
1 0188 were fighting for the USA against tyranny. The
0 0189 country was united. We, on a carrier, were a

part

1 0190 of something great and good. At times we were
L 0191 scared, but there were never any doubts.

L 0192

L 0193 Christmas Eve 1944

0 0194 I arrive home. I stop at the Rye [N.Y.] Station
0

on

0 0195 the the way to Greenwich. There my fiancée, Bar-
0 0196 bara, climbs on the train. We go the 10 minutes

to

1 0197 Greenwich. My mother and dad meet us. I was
0 0198 glad to be home for Christmas Day, I counted my
0 0199 blessings. I was glad to be surrounded by love.

At

0 0200 church the next day, Christmas, I thanked God I
3 N0201 was home<-->and in the quiet of our church I
3 0202 thought about Jim Wykes, Dick Houle, Tom
0 N0203 Waters, Ted White, John Delaney and the others

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0012

L 0204 who would never come home for Christmas.

1 N0205 I asked "Why?" but there was not any agony
about the

0 0206 cause. There were no divisions about the war. We
were right.

1 N0207 God was on our side. We had suffered a surprise
attack and

1 N0208 now, three years later, we were winning; and I, a
20 year old

0 0209 Lt. (j.g.) was part of the greatest fighting
force in the world. I

was he in the photos

END OF BLOCK PAGE 74 COLUMN 2

PAGE 75 COLUMN 1 34 LINES DEFINED

1 0210 had grown up. I had flown with the best off a
great carrier

0 0211 that flew the Texas flag into battle. I was part
of a team. We

0 0212 cared about each other in our squadron. We
understood each

0 0213 other's fears and loves. We played together, sang

2 0214 together, flew together. We bitched about our

1 0215 Squadron Commander<-->too tough, too demand-

0 0216 ing, too serious. But we loved to fly on his wing<

-->

L 0217 we respected Don Melvin.

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0013

1 0218 If we hot dogged it or risked the lives of the
 1 0219 ship's crew by some careless maneuver, Captain
 0 0220 Harold M. "Beauty" Martin would kick some se-
 1 0221 rious butt, but we bragged about him. He didn't
 2 0222 know me from Adam's off Ox. But why should
 1 N0223 he?<-->I had one stripe, finally 1<1/2>, and he
 had 4.

L 0224 We gave him a lot of room, a lot of respect.

2 0225 We were the best pilots. When we ground-
 0 0226 looped on land, it was that damned gust of wind,
 1 0227 or it was low hydraulics in the left brake. When
 0 0228 we missed the proper wire landing on the carrier,
 0 0229 it was that crazy landing signal officer . . .

"Damn

0 0230 fool, had me too high all the way in, or too
 fast, or

2 0231 too slow"; but we never told him. He held our
 2 0232 lives in his hands. And besides, the skipper al-
 L 0233 ways thought he was right.

0 0234 We were the best . . . cocky devils, sure of
 our

3 0235 ability, sure of our mission. We knew exactly
 L 0236 what had to done. We knew we would win.

L 0237

L 0238 Winter - Spring 1945

0 0239 1 Having been engaged since the Fall of 1943 while
 0 I was train-

0 N0240 ing up and down the East Coast, on January 6,
 1945, Barbara

2 0241 Pierce and I exchanged wedding vows at the

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0014

Presbyterian

1 0242 Church in Rye, N.Y. I was probably wearing my
Navy uni-
1 N0243 form. My VT-51 squadron mates, Richard B.
Playstead and

END OF BLOCK PAGE 75 COLUMN 1

PAGE 75 COLUMN 2 34 LINES DEFINED

0 N0244 Milton Moore were in attendance. Barbara and I
had time for
L 0245 a honeymoon at Sea Isle, Georgia.
1 0246 Then off we went to carrier re-qualification in
the Great
2 0247 Lakes. We bought our first car<-->a 1941 Plym-
0 0248 outh<-->price \$350 and drove across Canada to
join
1 0249 our squadron in Lewiston, Maine. Up and down
1 0250 the East Coast in VT 153, a new torpedo squad-
1 0251 ron manned by some of my pals from VT 51. I
1 0252 checked out in the F4U, the hot-shot gull wing
0 0253 Corsair fighter . . . and for a moment I
wondered if
0 0254 "low and slow" was good enough for me
anymore.
1 0255 A fleeting thought only, since by now the feel of
1 0256 the TBF was a part of my very existence. The

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0015

0 0257 TBF was a forgiving airplane<-->and though I
was

0 0258 a pretty good pilot, I'd still make some pilot's
er-

L 0259 rors that needed forgiveness.

L 0260

L 0261 August 14, 1945

0 0262 1 I'm just 21 now. We are based in Virginia. Barba-
0

1 0263 ra and I are having more time together. As our

0 0264 new squadron, with orders in hand to go back to

3 0265 the Pacific, starts our final training, the war

3 0266 ends. I'll never forget the screaming and the

2 0267 cheering and the dancing in the street and the

1 0268 praying. Bar and I went to church and we said

0 0269 thanks. The war's end meant we would not have

0 0270 to be separated, and that I would not have to
cov-

0 0271 er any more landings of marines on beaches<-->
see-

1 0272 ing them get slaughtered as the Japanese dug in
to defend

L 0273 their homeland.

L 0274

L 0275 September 18, 1945

1 0276 1 I am discharged from the Navy on "points" and
0

now I go to

1 0277 college. The togetherness of it all is gone. We
re-focus.

PAGE 76 COLUMN 1 24 LINES DEFINED

1 0278 It's soccer, baseball<-->it's our first baby, and
economics classes. Barbara and I
0 0279 know family joy, and the happiness of being at
school and looking forward short-
1 0280 ly thereafter to a new life in our west. We have
lots of new friends. The letters
L 0281 from the shipmates slow down. They are finding
their new way, too.

L 0282

L 0283 June 1948

0 0284 1 A brand new college grad, my first job ahead, I
0 drive to Odessa, Texas. The war
L 0285 seems, far behind<-->ahead lies a whole new
exciting life.

L 0286

L 0287 January 20, 1989

0 0288 1 I am sworn in as President of the United States.
0 A TBF on a float goes by in our
0 0289 Inaugural parade. On it are some squadron mates
from VT 51. They are smiling
L 0290 and waving. No one knows who they are. But I
know.

L 0291

L 0292 February, 1989

0 0293 1 I am in Japan for the funeral of Emperor
0

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0017

Hirohito. It is an icy cold day and the

0 0294 long ceremony is beautifully done. Sitting there
in the cold, surrounded by world
0 0295 leaders, I had time to think. Yes, I thought
about the burst of anti-aircraft fire
1 0296 from Chichi Jima that killed my friends, but that
thought did not dominate. I
0 0297 thought about Hirohito going to call on
MacArthur, about Japan's remarkable
0 0298 recovery and about her democracy. I thought about
the quiet little man and his
1 0299 love of nature and how that contrasted with the
horrible pictures we saw 45
1 0300 years ago . . . I thought of Japan. And I thought
of forgiveness. Our alliance is
1 0301 strong, our friendship is genuine. They are now a
democracy. How remarkable

END OF BLOCK PAGE 76 COLUMN 1

WARNING: NO MORE BLOCKS DEFINED

0 0302 that is. Maybe Ted White, Jack Delaney, Jim
Wykes, Dick Houle and Tom Wa-
0 0303 ters did not die in vain. It was right that I
went back to Japan to the Emperor's
L 0304 funeral. <|ā
1

0304

(ufbox)

(END)

Please FAX to

Aug 1 6 01 PM '89

Cristine Gear
202-456-6218

from MARY SIMONS
212 522 0908 (FAX)

SEPWWII V:07 HJ:Y 00323 01-AUG-89 17:49 PAGE: 1
OP:PERICH;08/01,17:40 OR:FGAN FR:PERICH-LFE FMT:26 FG:LFE
MS: OK: RP:8 NO:e8 ID:09-01-89 PF:g ***

- L 0001 LIFE SEPTEMBER WORLD WAR II Pps 70-78
- L 0002 Bush/simons/bentkowski/
- L 0003 goldberg/kinney/Geeslin
- L 0004 GHC PR NOT CG
- L 0005
- L 0006 Caps 3, 4, 5 (DEPT SLUG)
- L 0007
- L 0008 ANNIVERSARY
- L 0009
- L 0010 Cap 7 (ART)
- L 0011
- LN0012 A BOY
- LN0013 GOES TO
- LN0014 WAR
- L 0015

Italics = CAPS

«
5

0015

(unfiled)

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0002
0015 (cp22,,20p)

L 0016 Cap 2

L 0017

LN0018 by GEORGE BUSH

L 0019

« « «

0019 (cp28,30,16p6)(xh)(rr)

0

L 0020 Cap 8

5

L 0021

LN0022 THE PRESIDENT RECALLS

LN0023 HIS THREE-YEAR TOUR

LN0024 OF DUTY AS A

LN0025 NAVY PILOT IN THE

LN0026 PACIFIC

L 0027

L 0028

«

0028

(st)

0

L 0029

4

L 0030 Cap 1 PRECEDE TK

L 0031

L 0032

(cbp71,c1,l51)

0

PAGE 71 COLUMN 1 51 LINES DEFINED

(cbp72,c1,l29,c2,l29)

(cbp74,c1,l34,c2,l34)

(cbp75,c1,l34,c2,l34)

(cbp76,c1,l24)

L 0033 « « December 7, 1941

0033

(lr58l,6p,17l,10p,33l,

0 0034 I was walking across the campus at Andover when I

0033

6p,1l,7p9,3l,6p,25l,

0

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0003

0033 10p,43l,6p,25l,10p,39l,

heard the

1 0035 news. I was 17. It came as a shock<-->a jolt<-->

0033 6p,1l,7p9)(il87l,0,17l,

an awakening. I

0033 4p,42l,0,25l,4p,43l,0,

0 0036 did not fully comprehend world affairs. My

0033 25l,4p)

interests were our

1 0037 undefeated soccer season just finished,

basketball<-->baseball

0 0038 coming up. Christmas vacation only a couple of

weeks away,

1 0039 graduation, then college. Things changed

instantly. I knew

L 0040 right then that I wanted to go into the service.

L 0041

L 0042 December 8, 1941

1 0043 Our headmaster, a great historian and tough

0

disciplinarian,

1 0044 summoned us all into George Washington Hall, the

school's

0 0045 assembly place. There was the normal joking,

kidding, sloppy

0 0046 posture. Dr. Claude M. Fuess called to order the

800 students

1 0047 by saying something like this: "Your country is

at war. We

0 0048 have just played the *Star-Spangled Banner*. From

now on when

0 0049 the *Star-Spangled Banner* is played you will stand

at attention,

0 0050 hands at your sides and you will show respect."

From that day

0 0051 on, without fail, I have stood at attention when
the national

L 0052 anthem was played.

L 0053

L 0054 ~~Early June 1942~~ *> June 12, 1942*

2 0055 Secretary of War Henry Stimson, an alumnus of
0 Andover,

1 0056 *spoke at our* ~~gave the commencement address.~~ He encouraged the
gradu-

0 0057 ating class to get some college education before
serving. I was

0 0058 determined not to go on to college but to become
a Navy pilot.

2 0059 Secretary Stimson was a towering world figure but
I won-

L 0060 dered about this call of his.

L 0061

L 0062 ~~June 12, 1942~~

0 0063 *the same day*
0 On my 18th birthday, I was sworn into the Navy as
a Seaman

1 0064 Second Class in Brooklyn, the first step towards 0064
becoming a

delete
(co CHK brooklyn) *x*

1 0065 Navy pilot. I was a scared nervous kid. The Navy
had just

1 0066 changed the rules. It no longer required two
years of college

1 0067 before becoming a Navy pilot; pilots were
urgently needed.

0 0068 Walter Levering, Lt. USNR, swore me in at Boston.
I went on

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0005

L 0069 active duty as an aviation cadet August 6, 1942.

L 0070

L 0071 August 6, 1942

0 0072 I climbed on a southbound train at Penn Station.

0 My dad was

0 0073 a big, strong guy. He put his arm around me and
said goodbye.

0 0074 I'd never seen my dad shed a tear before. We
arrived in Chapel

0 0075 Hill, N.C. and I met my great friend "The
Splendid Splinter"

1 0076 Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox. We all stood
in awe of

L 0077 the famous hitter who was in the same program.

L 0078

L 0079 June, 1943

1 0080 Having been stationed at Chapel Hill for
preflight, Minne-

0 0081 apolis for primary training, and Corpus Christi
for Advanced,

0 0082 I received my Navy wings and Ensign's commission
June 4. I

0 0083 was still 18 years old. I wanted to fly in
combat. All my class-

June 9 - Don Rhodes X

END OF BLOCK PAGE 71 COLUMN 1

PAGE 72 COLUMN 1 29 LINES DEFINED

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0006

1 N0084 mates wanted to as well. I fell in love early on
with the 'low
1 N0085 and slow' torpedo bombers. The Grumman Avenger
carried
1 0086 2,000 pounds of bombs, the biggest single-engine
aircraft in
0 0087 the fleet. It had a crew of three. I went off to
Fort Lauderdale
0 0088 to learn to fly it. Training up and down the East
coast, drop-
0 0089 ping torpedoes off Cape Cod, dummy bombs and
torpedoes in
4 0090 Lake Okeechobee, Fla., Chincoteague, Va.,
Charlestown,
1 0091 Rhode Island, Miami . . . I saw 'em all. I had an
0 0092 ensign's stripe and an admiral's confidence. I was
L 0093 a Navy pilot.
L 0094
L 0095 Spring-Summer 1944
1
2 0096 I was assigned to Air Group 51, the first to be
0
0 0097 aboard the new fast carrier *San Jacinto*, CVL 30.
4 0
0 0098 We went on a shakedown cruise to Trinidad, put
0 0099 *San Jac* into commission at Philadelphia, headed
4 0
0 0100 for the Pacific via the Panama Canal, touched
0 N0101 the U.S. one last time at San Diego and then went
L 0102 West.
0 0103 Many of the air group and ship's company
0104 had spent ^t no time at sea. One roommate, subse-
0105 quently killed, Tom Waters had a red face, but
0106 the seas were so bad that his face literally

X

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0007

turned

L 0107 green.

0 0108 We struck Wake Island on May 23, 1944. My
close friend

0 0109 and roommate, Jim Wykes went off on a search
mission, and

1 0110 never came back. I lay in my upper bunk and cried
for my

L 0111 friend. No one saw me<-->that wouldn't do.

L 0112

END OF BLOCK PAGE 72 COLUMN 1

PAGE 72 COLUMN 2 29 LINES DEFINED

L 0113 September 2, 1944 *addition*

1 0114 On this day at 07:15, a division of VT-51, *delete* : *X*
0
composed of Com-

2 0115 mander Don Melvin, Doug West, Milt Moore and
myself,

1 0116 took off from the San Jacinto (my 50th combat
mission) fly-

2 N0117 ing about 70 miles to destroy two radio stations
at Chichi

1 N0118 Jima in the Bonin Islands. At reaching the target
area, the

1 0119 sky was thick with black clouds of exploding
enemy antiair-

SEPWWII

1 0120 craft fire. Don Melvin led the attack on the tar-
L 0121 get, followed by Doug West and then me.
2 0122 At about 08:30, and moments after pushing
0 0123 over into my dive at 8,000 feet, I felt a jolt
as if a
0 0124 giant fist had rammed into the belly of the
plane.
0 0125 My plane had been hit in the engine area. Smoke
1 0126 poured into the cockpit and flames were spread-
0 0127 ing aft toward the fuel tanks in the wings. Navy
0 0128 training had taught us to complete the mission. I
1 0129 instinctively continued in the dive, homed in on
0 0130 the target, unloaded our four 500 hundred pound
0 0131 bombs, pulled away heading East toward the sea.
1 0132 A few miles from shore, I told my crewmen, Ted
0 N0133 White and John Delaney, to bail out. As I bailed
0 N0134 out, my head struck the tail of the plane momen-
1 N0135 tarily knocking me out. I was landing in the wa-
1 N0136 ter when the Japanese sent two boats out after
1 0137 me. Melvin, West and Moore along with our Hellcat
fighter
L 0138 escorts drove the boats away.
0 0139 I was in the life raft about two hours,
wondering if my life
1 N0140 would be spared. I prayed to God, I was sick to
my stomach
0 N0141 and again I cried. I was a very scared kid, just
20, away

X delete:

X typo

END OF BLOCK PAGE 72 COLUMN 2

PAGE 74 COLUMN 1 34 LINES DEFINED

0 0142 from his mother and dad, paddling against the
wind trying to

0 N0143 get farther away from the Japanese held island. I
later learned

1 N0144 that my crewmen had been killed. Observers said
that two

2 0145 persons were seen leaving the plane. The para-
0 N0146 chute of the other person never opened, but mine
0 0147 did. God had spared me from that fate for what-
1 0148 ever reason. Hellcat fighter pilots flew over my
0 0149 raft until I was rescued by the American subma-
L 0150 rine U.S.S. *Finback* around noon.
4 0

L 0151

L 0152 September 1944

0 0153 1 The *Finback* stayed on its war patrol in Japanese
0 4 0 waters, and I along with two other rescued pilots

0 N0154 and two crewmen spent the next 30 days standing
0 N0155 watch and counting my blessings. We got depth
1 0156 charged by Japanese ships. The submariners in
1 0157 *Finback* didn't seem too concerned about that,
2 0158 4 0 but Jim Beckman, Tom Keene and I, the three
1 N0159 rescued pilots, didn't like that a bit. *Finback's*
2 0160 4 0 skipper won a Silver Star for sinking Japanese
2 0161 ships.
L 0162
L 0163

X Beckman

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0010

L 0164 October 1944
 3 0165 1 Back in Pearl Harbor for a week at a rest
 2 N0166 0 home-->then after some essential refresher fly-
 1 N0167 ing, I hitchhiked back to the fleet-->Task Force
 1 0168 38 under Admiral William "Bull" Halsey off the
 0 N0169 Philippines. I wondered at the tremendous Naval 0169 (co William(?))
 1 0170 power in and around Pearl Harbor and at Ulithi
 Atoll. You
 0 N0171 could feel things moving our way. We were shown
 pictures of
 0 0172 Japanese atrocities. It was Hirohito's fault.
 Hitler was begin-
 0 0173 ning to get kicked hard in Europe but for us
 there was one uni-
 0 0174 fying symbol-->Hirohito and the evil he
 represented. I wanted
 L 0175 badly to rejoin my squadron-->to fly more, to do
 my part.

END OF BLOCK PAGE 74 COLUMN 1

PAGE 74 COLUMN 2 34 LINES DEFINED

L 0176
 L 0177 November 1944
 1
 0 N0178 1 I flew my final combat mission, the 58th, over
 0 the ^{Area} Luzon Bay, No-
 0179 vember 29. Puffs of antiaircraft fire, black and

X
 X
 November 29 - Don
 Rhodes

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0011

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 1 0181 over Chichi Jima. Still you wonder. There was a
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 0 0185 been killed, but that was accepted. In a sense,
 the
 0 0186 ferocity of the battle helped heal the hurt for
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 1 0187 fallen comrades. It was our duty, our honor. We
 1 0188 were fighting for the USA against tyranny. The
 0 0189 country was united. We, on a carrier, were a
 part
 1 0190 of something great and good. At times we were
 L 0191 scared, but there were never any doubts.

L 0192

L 0193 Christmas Eve 1944

1

0 0194 I arrive home. I stop at the Rye, [N.Y.] Station
 0 on

X delete []

0 0195 the the way to Greenwich. There my fiancée, Bar-
 0 0196 bara, climbs on the train. We go the 10 minutes
 to
 1 0197 Greenwich. My mother and dad meet us. I was
 0 0198 glad to be home for Christmas Day, I counted my
 0 0199 blessings. I was glad to be surrounded by love.

At

0 0200 church the next day, Christmas, I thanked God I
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SEPWWII

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attack and
1 N0208 now, three years later, we were winning; and I, a
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END OF BLOCK PAGE 74 COLUMN 2

PAGE 75 COLUMN 1 34 LINES DEFINED

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0 0211 that flew the Texas flag into battle. I was part
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0 0213 other's fears and loves. We played together, sang
2 0214 together, flew together. We bitched about our
1 0215 Squadron Commander<-->too tough, too demand-
0 0216 ing, too serious. But we loved to fly on his wing<
-->
L 0217 we respected Don Melvin.

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0013

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1 0221 rious butt, but we bragged about him. He didn't
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X insert

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0014

Presbyterian

1 0242 Church in Rye, N.Y. I was ~~probably~~ wearing my X Navy uni-

delete word

1 N0243 form. My VT-51 squadron mates, Richard B. Playstead and

END OF BLOCK PAGE 75 COLUMN 1

PAGE 75 COLUMN 2 34 LINES DEFINED

0 N0244 Milton Moore were in attendance. Barbara and I had time for

L 0245 a honeymoon at Sea Isle, Georgia.

1 0246 Then off we went to carrier re-qualification in the Great

2 0247 Lakes. We bought our first car<-->a 1941 Plym-

0 0248 outh<-->price \$350 and drove across Canada to join

1 0249 our squadron in Lewiston, Maine. Up and down

1 0250 the East Coast in VT 153, a new torpedo squad-

1 0251 ron manned by some of my pals from VT 51. I

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V:07 PAGE: 0015

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L 0259 rors that needed forgiveness.

L 0260

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3 0265 the Pacific, starts our final training, the war

3 0266 ends. I'll never forget the screaming and the

2 0267 cheering and the dancing in the street and the

1 0268 praying. Bar and I went to church and we said

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0 0270 to be separated, and that I would not have to
cov-

0 0271 er any more landings of marines on beaches<-->
see-

1 0272 ing them get slaughtered as the Japanese dug in
to defend

L 0273 their homeland.

L 0274

L 0275 September 18, 1945

1 0276 I am discharged from the Navy on "points" and
0

1 0277 college. The togetherness of it all is gone. We
re-focus.

END OF BLOCK PAGE 75 COLUMN 2

PAGE 76 COLUMN 1 24 LINES DEFINED

1 0278 It's soccer, baseball<-->it's our first baby, and
 economics classes. Barbara and I
 0 0279 know family joy, and the happiness of being at
 school and looking forward short-
 1 0280 ly thereafter to a new life in our west. We have
 lots of new friends. The letters
 L 0281 from the shipmates slow down. They are finding
 their new way, too.

L 0282

L 0283 June 1948

0 0284 1 A brand new college grad, my first job ahead, I
 0 drive to Odessa, Texas. The war
 L 0285 seems, far behind<-->ahead lies a whole new
 exciting life.

L 0286

L 0287 January 20, 1989

0 0288 1 I am sworn in as President of the United States.
 0 A TBF on a float goes by in our
 0 0289 Inaugural parade. On it are some squadron mates
 from VT 51. They are smiling
 L 0290 and waving. No one knows who they are. But I
 know.

L 0291

L 0292 February, 1989

0 0293 1 I am in Japan for the funeral of Emperor
 0

X capitalize W

SEPWWII

V:07 PAGE: 0017

Hirohito. It is an icy cold day and the
 0 0294 long ceremony is beautifully done. Sitting there
 in the cold, surrounded by world
 0 0295 leaders, I had time to think. Yes, I thought
 about the burst of anti-aircraft fire
 1 0296 from Chichi Jima that killed my friends, but that
 thought did not dominate. I
 0 0297 thought about Hirohito going to call on
 MacArthur, about Japan's remarkable
 0 0298 recovery and about her democracy. I thought about
 the quiet little man and his
 1 0299 love of nature and how that contrasted with the
 horrible pictures we saw (45) ✓
 1 0300 years ago . . . I thought of Japan. And I thought
 of forgiveness. Our alliance is
 1 0301 strong, our friendship is genuine. They are now a
 democracy. How remarkable

x one word

END OF BLOCK PAGE 76 COLUMN 1

WARNING: NO MORE BLOCKS DEFINED

0 0302 that is. Maybe Ted White, Jack Delaney, Jim
 Wykes, Dick Houle and Tom Wa-
 0 0303 ters did not die in vain. It was right that I
 went back to Japan to the Emperor's
 L 0304 funeral. <|ā
 1

0304

(ufbox)

(END)