

INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET BOGART (Edited)

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Bogart: Grandmother was brilliant. She was physically lazy, which always drove Dad up the wall, because Dad was always taking care of his body. She had friends; she was a friend of Booth Tarkington. There were a lot of intellectuals in Indianapolis at that time. She was a reader for Bobbs, Merrill and knew all the authros. I think she discovered Richard Haliburton, but I'm not quite sure. He was quite a writer when I was young. I think my grandfather, (whom I don't remember; he died in Washington when I was two) was an easy-going, lovable person. My grandmother was not very lovable. He had failed (I don't know what happened) and after that he just never made any money. Grandmother had to work. I don't think she liked children. Maybe that's not right. She did love poor, little Philip as many mothers love their retarded children and Billy, the younger brother, was good-looking, I think, and a lot bigger than Dad, and a naughty boy. I guess he grew up to amount to nothing. I saw him once; when I was nine he came with one of his wives, I guess he had several, but they had no relationship whatsoever. I think that was the last time that Dad ever saw Billy....1929. But yet he would stop and see Philip. Philip was in an institution in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I remember stopping on the way across the continent to see him. And he lived to be in his 70s. We took him out to dinner.

Q. Did your Dad ever talk much about his boyhood activities, whether he had any hobbies, what his particular interests were, and what he enjoyed doing?

A. No, he didn't....not to me and Mother asked me once about his childhoods in Indianapolis when he was a little boy living with his mother. I think he told her that it was absolute hell having a mentally retarded little brother. He told her about it, that it was hell, and that was the end of it. But he was very, very happy living with the aunties. Aunt Bessie was his father, so to speak, she was bright; Aunt Louie was his mother and Aunt Sally was kind of sweet and sickly. And he had a very happy childhood there, and he told me "Don't feel sorry for me that my mother didn't take care of me; I was very, very happy". Then when he went back to Indianapolis, and went to high school, He never was in to sports: he always studied. He also told my children to work hard in school and don't waste any time and get all your homework done while you are in school. He said he always did that, and he would go home without any books. Finally the teacher called him and said, "You are not going home with books; you are not doing your homework." So after that he said he always carried a couple of books home with him; he never opened them.

Q. Why do you suppose your grandmother wanted him to go to the Naval Academy?

A. They didn't have any money. He was accepted to a technical school in New York, Stevens or something like that, and I think he rather wanted to go to that, but when he got the appointment to Annapolis, then he had to go. That's not very romantic.

Q. What do you remember him telling you about his days at Annapolis?

A. I would say that he did not like the Naval Academy at all. He hated the whole thing, he hated the hazing, he hated the way of teaching. He would never go back. He never even went back for a reunion. Mother always thought it would be lovely to have him go back to teach there because it has nice quarters and nice living. He said, "Four years was enough." And my brother felt the same way--they both hated it.

Q. Did they ever say why, other than the fact that they didn't like the hazing, they hated it or why they did not want to go back to teaching there?

A. I can't remember. I can remember more why my brother hated it, but I think they agreed on the subject. They were not particularly happy at the Naval Academy.

Q. After he graduated from the Naval Academy, he must have found that he liked the Navy. How would you describe the transition from not liking the Naval Academy to liking the Navy?

A. Oh, I think that cruise around the world in 1907. He loved that, and he talked about that for years..a cruise around the world. They graduated early to take that cruise, and I think from that moment on he loved the Navy. Then of course he went out to China and the Philippines, and got command very soon, as you probably know. Since then, well, he had the perfect career.

Q. Could you tell me how he met your Mother? I know that your Mother will probably tell me about it, but I'm interested in your version of it.

A. I think they had met before this happened, but the story that I remember (and I asked Dad recently about this) I said, "Didn't you meet Mother while you were walking down the street and Mother was playing tennis? (He had come home on leave.) Dad replied, "I fell in love then and I've never been able to get over it." That's a direct quote I'm sure. "I fell in love with her and I've never been able to get over it." Then he went right out to China. He courted a little bit and went out to China for two years. He had to keep the courtship going by mail, and he would send her a little gift and said, "Write

me and I'll send you the next one". She waited for the two years. He hadn't proposed, but there was no doubt in her mind. Then when he came back it was a very quick courtship.

Q. When were they married?

A. They were married December 1914.

Q. Your Mother will probably be reticent to talk about herself, but I think it's very important that we know something about her background--how she came to be suited to be a Navy wife. Could you tell me something about her, because she is so important?

A. Dad leaned on her a great deal. It's always amazing how much he depended on Mother. And he loved her dearly...just loved her dearly. I can remember when I was last out in Monterey, when Dad was not so well, and we were taking a walk as we always did and Mother said to Dad, "Isn't it wonderful to have Margaret here?" ~~Well, Mother was one of a big family of~~ And he put his arms around her and said, "Isn't it wonderful to have you here?" Well, Mother was one of a big family of six children with many relatives around in Indianapolis. Born and raised in one house and had absolutely, sounds like a heavenly, childhood. Horseback riding and carriages and picnics and etc. Very good-looking, beautiful, and had lots of beaux. She went to Lake Erie College and was president of the student body. Had a hard time getting through intellectually and had to go to summer school to pass her algebra. When she came back from college there must have been several years there while she kind of waited for Dad without a proposal. That story is kind of cute. She heard he was coming home and she was away; she hopped the train very fast to Indianapolis. She was the fifth of six children..girl, boy, girl, boy, girl, boy..and the girls were born on the 13th of September. Isn't that something?

Q. Could you tell me your first memories as a girl? Could you tell me when you and Edward were born, and where you were born, and then start giving me your first memories of what you remember about your family?

A. Why don't I go back to Mother and Dad's marriage? Grandfather was horrified...his beloved daughter was marrying a Naval Officer. She was the first one to get married...she was the next to the youngest, and the first one to get married. It was a very tight family, and he just hated to see her go off. He was quite horrified. He was very unhappy about it and said, "What are you going to do...where are you going to live?" because they got married and they went off to live in Newport News. He went to visit them, and Mother said that after that he was happy because he found she had a nice little apartment and nice friends and everything. So they went to Portsmouth, Virginia, Yorktown,

and they went to Brooklyn where Edward was born. Dad was on a ship, convoy duty or whatever it was in World War I. When he went away, Mother went home with the baby Edward. When she went home, she was so sad of course, and her father said, "Well now Margaret, Raymond has gone away to war, but this little baby's wife will never have to go through this because this is the last war." Of course, that baby's wife did have to go through it. Then she went back to Brooklyn and met him on the steps of the library (what an insane place, how could you meet one on the steps of the library?) Then I was born.' They were here in Jamestown in the summer, and I don't know what he was doing. The ship was in I guess. And then he went to California for a ship, and Mother went home to Indianapolis where I was born. Then she proceeded across the continent to Coronado for a couple of years, and I believe that is where their friendship with the Halseys started. That was a very, very close friendship, the four of them for all those years. You got that letter from Oliver, didn't you? He sent me a copy, that's very good. So many people liked to make a rivalry between Dad and Admiral Halsey, and that is just not true. It only makes me mad, because young naval officers are either for Halsey or for Spruance, but that doesn't mean that they had any rivalry. Dad used to say, "We have different talents", and they each used their own talents. In fact, he had great respect for him...great respect for Admiral Halsey. So, then they were in Coronado, of course, I don't remember that, but it was a very happy time... A Monday through Friday Navy that lasted until World War II, Dad's job he enjoyed. Then we went to Washington and that's when I begin to become conscious. That was when everybody was rich, except the Navy. Mother tells the story of one year she had one new garment, which was a pair of gloves to go to the White House Reception. Coolidge just went like this, and it was hardly worth it. We were quite poor. We lived on an unimproved street ou in Clingle Road and I think Dad was quite upset. His friends who had resigned ~~and~~ were making a lot of money, and hee decided to that he would resign and make alot of money. And his father came to visit and Mother and Dad loved Mr. Spruance and nobody as I said, you didn't love Mrs. Spruance, you admired her. He came to visit...no, no, it was my mother's father who was a successful businessman. He said to Dad "You could never be a businessman. Don't do it. You are too honest and too straight forward, and you could never be a businessman." But he did toy with the idea of getting out because hwas so poor. But he didn't. He had duty, that he liked to talk about a great deal through the years, up in Schnectady. He felt that what he did there was one of the most valuable things he had done for the Navy. He saved the Navy a lot of money. He did something to save a lot of money, and he was always very proud of that, and he enjoyed that. Then we went to Europe for two years, to serve with those few little ships that we had over there. Two years... I was 5 and 6; my brother was 9 and 10. They put Edward in school in Switzerland one year, and then the second year he went to prep school and we atayed in Cannes, or Nice, I have

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forgotten which. It was a marvelous time, because Admiral Watson, for whom Dad worked, was a mean person that everybody hated...they couldn't get along with him. And Dad had been promised command of a destroyer over there, so he was just delighted. I think he had command; I'm not sure. But then he was made Chief of Staff to Admiral Watson and he was terribly upset, and they got along beautifully. Mother was talking about that recently and she could tell you the story of how easily he got along. We traveled with them...they had no children.. they adored me, Mother says. They used to say to me, "Ask the Admiral for such and such. Let's stop now." And the Admiral would stop. I thought he was marvelous, but he was a very difficult man. Mother can tell you all those details; they are rather amusing. They had a very gay time, because the Watsons didn't like social life, and I think they made Mother and Dad do a lot of it, and they dined with kings and queens and lords and so on. That was a wonderful two years...we moved around all the time.

Q. I noticed in your Dad's papers that he took leave quite often.. there are an awful lot of leave papers in there. And I could imply that he saw a lot of the countryside.

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A. Oh yes, we traveled all over...he always wanted to take his leave. He didn't very much like work. I got very sick...I got colitis. I didn't think I got enough to eat there or something like that. Dad's ship was in Afrida, and the doctor said to send for the child's father so he came back....I was at death's door for awhile. They had to rent a house and keep me in one spot, so we lived there on the Riviera, I think, the last year. It was a lovely life...two wonderful years. We never got back to Europe. The Halseys were over there, again. Mother told the story of how she and her sister went to an inn in France, and Dad was away on a ship. The Halsey daughter got tuberculosis, and they had to rush her to hospital and sanitarium in Switzerland. Well, for some reason Mrs. Halsey wasn't around, and Admiral Halsey came and stayed at the inn. When he left the Little French lady said, "Oh, we thought your husband was so charming." They were very, very close, dear friends. So then they came back, and we went to Newport.

Q. Let me interject here. I got the impression that he, when he came back on the ship, he had no idea he was going to Newport. He thought that he was going to go to Washington, and that he never found out he was going to Newport until the ship docked and his relief came aboard. Then in the mail that very same day were his orders to Newport. This is what I have been able to reconstruct.

A. I'm not sure about that because we, Edward, Mother and I, came back alone, and I know we were here in Newport in the house when Dad got here. I can remember distinctly; he arrived late in the evening and he had a dog. He had a schnauzer in Europe, and he arrived with the dog.

Q. Where did you live in Newport?

A. In Cloyne Court...they now are quarters..they were not quarters then. We had half of that great big house that I think is now 10 apartment.

Q. That big brick house on the right hand side?

A

A. Yes, and everybody was Navy. It was great. I don't remember much about it as I was only 7. I had to go to school. It was a big house, heating bill..didn't heat well ~~at~~ ~~a~~ very well. And the dog that Dad brought home too...he used to like to bite people.

Q. What do you remember about the routine or the activities of your Dad during that period..do you remember much about it? You probably were still awfully small.

A. I can remember the maid we had, and Mother had to fire her because she got high on "tea" and things like that. She did something dreadful when the President of the War College came to dinner. I'll have to ask mother what that was. And then the dog went under the table and bit somebody. Those are the incidents that stand out in a childhood memory.

Q. From there you went to Washington and he was in Intelligence... Something again I've got to find out from your Mother. He cultivated friendships with a lot of the Japanese officers that were living there at the time and one of the things that I really want to pin down is whether or not Yamamoto was in Washington at the time. I have to find out. Now I know that there was one, Sukanos, a personal friend, and your Dad wrote him a letter after World War II saying in effect, I hope I can see you again, trying to re-establish that old friendship. I don't think your Dad liked Washington, did he?

A. No, he hated Washington. It was hot. When we went to Japan he had me book up the Sukanos, and we had a wonderful time with the Sukanos. They were very touched, of course, that when Dad sailed in he did write to them. Dad never did hate...he always admired the Japanese. He never did hate...never hated the enemy. In Washington, we lived in a little nasty house..one of three.. and two years, I guess, there. The only incident--this wouldn't be anything that you could use, but it shows you what Dad is like--People moved in to the middle house--we were on the end-- people moved into the middle house, and he was in the State Dept. and terribly British. We children were very, very naughty in the neighborhood and when people moved in we would make them miserable by ringing doorbells and running across their lawn. And is the people would be nice to use, then we would lay off them. But this man would come out with his cane and in his British accent and shout things at us. The kids were really beastly, and one time Mother and Dad and I think Michael Davis (somebody who was visiting) were going to go to a play, and Dad said "I believe that things are brewing in this neighborhood, and very unpleasant for the gentlemen next door, and I'm going

to stay home and see that Edward, who is a little devil, stays in the house and out of trouble." So he did and made him stay in and watched him, and the children in the neighborhood were beastly. Then the man wrote Dad a terrible letter and went through channels from State Dept. to the Navy Dept., Dad went over to talk to him, and I think he almost hit him because of that..he was a great big man, but Dad was really furious. And a very disagreeable relationship. It went through official channels, and Dad could prove that his little boy was in the house at the time. The end of the story is that they broke their lease and moved away. During World War II I read about this man. His wife was committing him to an institution saying he always was insane, which was true.

Q. How would you describe the relationship within your family of four..just tell me about the child-parent relationship.

A. By this time I was 8 and Edward was 13...8 and 9 and 13 and 14. Dad was very strict and reserved, and a child doesn't really realize unless there is a demonstration. He really should have been more demonstrative with his children, I believe. I think he was when we were very little, Mother says. But he was strict, and we were afraid of him. He would come home, drive up, and take the dog for a walk every day. Edward always had to wear a coat and tie to dinner, even in the hot weather. In those days everyone did. Dad didn't wear a tie the last ten years of his life except to go out.

Q. Did he wear a coat and tie every night?

A. Yes, even in hot weather. But you did what you were told. But we had a jolly time. The Navy of those days is different than the Navy now. No matter how poor we were, which we were, (nowadays people have more money), there was always a cook in the kitchen, and the Navy was more social. Dad always said he hated parties, but he always loved to go. I think there was a lot of calling back and forth, and it was always gay and kind of exciting. People dropping in and little trips. The Hoovers lived right up the street.

Q. Your Dad had many friends then, I presume?

A. Oh yes, the Hoovers lived six houses up..that's when I developed my dislike for Adm. Hoover...stayed with me, isn't that awful? He has a lovely wife. They were very social. Mother is very social...I think Mother would actually be just as happy to sit home and read a book and Dad's the one that says you make me go to these parties. But they were on the go.

Q. How would you describe the relationship between Edward and your Dad at that time?

A. Not close. The last years they became very, very close. They were very happy those last years when Edward was up there in San Francisco. But it was very hard to get close to Dad.

Mother was close. He was reserved. I didn't realize ~~it~~ until I went away to College..I was walking down the steps here in Newport, and Dad put his arm around me and tears came and he said "I'm going to miss you." I thought, "My gosh,he really is!" Do you see what I mean? He never had expressed that. I was kind of embarrassed.

Q. Was he demonstrative with your Mother...did he hug and kiss her in front of the children?

A. Very...very. Until the day he died he was demonstrative. I can remember one time going for a walk with my brother here in Newport. I guess I was 13..well, we were walking in the evening nad we were walking back along Bibbs Avenue. This man and woman were walking down the street with their arms around each other. "Edward", I said, "Will you look at those lovers." We walked up, and it was Mother and Dad. We were so surprised, embarrassed. They were very, very affectionate. Actually, he was so sensitive and so emotional that he had to cover up. I can remember when Gerry and I and David came back from Europe (we had been away for two years) and David was one. They had never seen the baby. We met Mother and Dad and Gerry's mother met us at Westchester where we landed. Mother and Gerry's mother were so happy to see us, and they were hugging and kissing and bouncing the baby. Dad ~~st~~ stood there and said "hello" and I looked and he couldn't speak...he had tears in his eyes. He couldn't speak! He was more moved than Mother was..but this was something you hav to understand. He didn't believe in showing emotion. And he would sometimes get the giggle and see him trying not to. He head a very, very good sense of humor. Very good sense of humor, I'm sure you gathered that.

Q. As a girl, did you see evidences of his ability to control himself in times of stress, and did you also see his desire for physical fitness?

A. I was always aware of that physical fitness.

Q. Did he ever talk about it, his feelings on it or did he try to get the rest of the family to join with him in some of it?

A. I don't remember it as being anything that you had to do, but Mother liked to walk. They always wlked, and he would get up early, and we grew up that way. Edward and I are physical fitness bugs. I went swimming twice yesterday. I guess I just inherited it, because I believe that you take care of your body and that it's ridiculous not to.

Q. In addition to exercise, was he also careful of himself as far as how many hours of sleep and his diet?

- A. He had kind of a trick stomach, so he had to watch his food. I don't know why. He never was sick, but if he overate or overdrank he would be sick, so he always was careful. He never smoked. I believe as far as his drinking goes (there is a story which mother knows better) of his one time in Europe they had been out, and he couldn't function the next day. He had to go ashore and meet some big person, and the doctor said you just aren't made for drinking, and he just never did. He loved to mix his rum drinks, as you probably heard, which were potent. He could drink certain things with lots of sugar in them. When we came back from Japan, it was Christmas time. He always loved Christmas time so he could drink eggnog, because it was much sugar and milk. We went out to a party, and we had just gotten back from Japan, and Dell was a baby and in diapers. We went to a cocktail party, and Dad had his eggnog and came back and said, "Well, let's do the diapers". I said, "It's Christmas Eve" He said, "I'll do them!" and Gerry said, "My, they must have given him some eggnog before the ..." He was all steamed up to wash the diapers. He didn't say you have to exercise..I think it was just an example, and you take care of yourself.
- Q. He was always known for his self-control under stress. The fact that nobody ever saw him excited--that no matter what the pressures were, he kept himself under control, and he could think clearly. Your mother wrote me that this was an enigma to her...that he was capable of doing that.
- A. Yes, we discussed it many times. How did he go through what he went through? It must be awful to have those responsibilities! I saw him one time get mad, and I've never forgotten it. He was changing a tire, and he got mad and he said, "sonofabitch". I've never heard him swear. He got impatient, but he kept control of himself the whole time, and it didn't turn into anything like ulcers, which sometimes affect people who keep control of themselves. He put it one time to me: I'm trying to remember the exact words. He said he really admired the English...He would not model himself after it but the self control of the British.
- Q. Something else you can verify or dispel for me. In a recent book called "How They Won the War in the Pacific" by Hoyt, he quoted Judge Eller as saying that the reason that your Dad did not drink was that he had only one kidney. Was that so?
- A. No. Mother can tell you the story about the time that he couldn't drink any more. It just bothered him, and Gerry would say "My gosh, your father says he doesn't drink; do you see what he puts into his rum drink?" It was a very potent thing, that rum drink.
- Q. Then he went to become the EXEC of the MISSISSIPPI. Do you remember any tension in the household because of that letter of reprimand that he got from the Secretary of the Navy?
- A. Never heard of it. In fact I don't think I ever heard of it until I was here in Newport...within 6 years.

Q. Do you remember anything about when he was EXEC of the MISSISSIPPI?

A. I did hear of it, because when he was coming up for Admiral, I said, "You'll probably make Admiral". He said, "No, I don't think so." Matter of fact, I think they had planned what duty they were going to ask for. When they were here in Newport they were going to ask for Hingham, Mass., because they had nice quarters. He said, "No, I don't think so because I have that letter of reprimand." That was the first I had ever heard of it.

Q. Then he was EXEC of the MISSISSIPPI--where did the ship operate out of?

A. Long Beach. It was great. I think we were there two years. That was after the earthquake. We had a great time. I'd say the Navy then had more fun than we do...always a maid in the kitchen. We didn't have much. Dad supported these aunts...I think Dad started sending money home to his mother from the Naval Academy. He supported these three aunts, (who never married), who raised him until the day they died and oddly, at the end, he was sending them \$600 a month. One letter in there which you will see suggested that they go to a nursing home and they said no. I can remember being incensed; all that money going out and we didn't have much. There were no two ways about it: he supported those aunties and his mother. Mother is marvelous. I never heard Mother indicate that she resented it at all. She had a little money from her father, which kept us from being too broke. Without that I think we would have really had a struggle. We always had a maid and always had a car and lots and lots of fun. Grandmother came to live with us later. In Long Beach, of course, Dad was doing what he liked most of all in the world: he was Exec of a battleship, and he was away a great deal. Monday to Friday and a couple of cruises..That was always great because then Mother devoted herself to us. You know how children enjoy that when their father is away. We had an awfully good time.

Q. Did you ever go aboard the ship for dinner?

A. Oh yes, yes. How I loved to do that...great treat. They were anchored out far, and the gig ride, and he did that alot when he was skipper of the MISSISSIPPI too. We had two busy year.

Q. The next thing that he did was come back to Naval War College as Head of the Correspondence Course. I'm interested in your recollections of what your Dad did during that period of time, and also anything which you might know of how he got the job or if he wanted to come back to the War College...everything you can remember about that period.

A. It seems to me he was offered a job as Naval Attache to Brazil, and he came in to Mother and said "Quick decision! Do you want to go to Brazil?" And Mother said "No", and by the time she thought it over and wanted to go, he had turned the job down.

I think he wanted to come to Newport...I never wanted to come back to Newport...never at any time did I want to come back to Newport. Next time we came back to Newport, Dad had orders to Yorktown first. It was going to be marvelous, but he came back here. We lived on Hunter Avenue in a big old house, 4 Hunter Avenue, which we took sight unseen and it was an ugly thing. I was always terribly embarrassed to live in such an ugly house. The "Yellow Peril" we called it. We were there for two years, and those two years Dad spent in the basement fixing up old furniture. I think that was the year he said to Mother "You go to the cocktail party; I will stay home and fix up furniture." Dad was not good with his hands at all, not like Gerry, not good at all, but he went to antique auctions and bought a lot of furniture, and he stayed in the basement and worked on furniture. He did make a beautiful set of...he bought liek 20 chairs and got 12 beautiful dining room chairs out of it. He loved working in the basement. He always sawm. And he worked in the basement, and I think Mother went to cocktail parties alone. In those days there was a great deal of callingghin the Navy. Everybody called on everybody...I remember that with great hoøror, because dinner would be ready, and the doorbell would rink, and in would come somebody. So he must have had to do that, but he did skip the parties.

Q. How could your Mother go by herself?

A. I just remember them saying that, but I think he must have gone.. no, she did go by herself!

Q. Those were prohibition days...how was booze handled in the Navy?

A. In Long Beach we had a keg in the closet, because I can rremember it exploded once. We had a local bootlegger who came. Dad never broke a law in his life...that was one law he broke. That was amazing, when I think of how strict and upright he was about things, but he would have a bootlegger, but I guess everybody did.

Q. What about your Dad's reading habits?

A. I can't remember.

Q. Well, let's jump ahead a little bit; what doyou rememeber about his reading habits in later years? What seemed to be the type of books he liked to read?

A. Nothing for relaxation. No amusement reading, always heavy. Maybe I mentioned that last book he read when he was here? Typical of Dad. Mother and I are great readers, and I always went to the Redwood Library and he said, "When you go to the Redwood Library get me out Charles Darwin's Origin of the Species. I've never read it and I've always wanted to." He had had a cataract operation, and his eyes weren't too goo. He plowed through that, and he would stand there and say "Listen to that",

"Listen to this.." and he would read. I bet that book hadn't been checked out for 50 years. But that's the kind of thing he did. And at the War College Dad had a theory that wars were based on economic reasons. And the wars of religion were over. At the end of World War II, which was the first truly world war, nobody, and I'm quoting him almost verbatim on this, I can remember this conversation, "Nobody in their right mind wants a war and this has been the first truly world war..nobody wants a war. The only rival would be Russia and the United States, and there is no economic rivalry between the two countries. Therefore, there is no threat of war." This was right after the end of World War II and matter of fact, he gave his first press conference (you know he didn't give press conferences during the war, you know how he felt about that) in which he said, that he thought that the military should be cut way back; the Navy should be small as possible. He was reprimanded from Washington for saying that; I guess that was his last press conference. But he said it because this is the way he thought--that wars of religion were over, and there was no contest between the United States and Russian--therefore no wars. Then he came back and he started reading Karl Marx and Lenin and Stalin and all the books on that subject...I think that's ~~when~~ when all he read. He would come down to breakfast early, and sit there, and plow through these books, and talk about it. Then he decided that wars of religion are possible as Communism is an active religion. And there was the possibility of war. But it was long slow reading. He was not a fast reader, I don't believe, and those books are kind of hard to read, but he went to the original source material. He never had time to read Marx before, and Lenin and Stalin, and he learned a great deal, and it changed his whole thinking at that age.

Q. Then he saw the Communist menace that rose in the late 40s?

A. Yes, and then he went out to that talk that he gave in Long Beach, in Los Angeles on Navy Day of 1947 when he bought the house. He gave a speech which was quoted in the newspapers, and it was the time when Russia was our real good friend, and he gave a speech and said we had to be careful about that. That was picked up by Russia, and shortly thereafter there was a quote from Pravda or something that was printed in the New York Times, that Russia said that certain people should be tried for war crimes or something, and one of them was Dad. I don't know where you could find that, but it was true. It listed a certain number of people, and they had gotten that speech that he gave in Los Angeles on Navy Day.'

Q. Were you aware of your Dad's procedure in his later years of writing letters out in pencil first? Did I guess right that when he was writing an important letter and he wanted to keep a copy of what he had said, should any controversy arise, that he wanted to work it out and be sure precisely what he was saying to people who might publish? Was this a good supposition on my part?

- A. I would not have said so. I don't think so. I think it was just that he was that careful about everything...it was part of his nature. I always thought it was a waste of time. "For heaven's sakes Dad, don't take so much time doing it!" And it did take a lot of time and all the speeches he wrote, he labored over them, and he hated every minute of it. I can remember one time he had to give a speech, told to give a speech, and he said, "All right he would (when he was President of the War College) but they would have to send the speech to him." So I remember. Sam Barnard came in and said, "Here's the speech, Admiral," in the War College in the living room. Standing there reading he said, "I can't give that" and walked upstairs taking out his pencil, re-writing the speech. And he labored. Mother says they were very good..you'll have to go read them.
- A. I've read many of them. I knew he wrote them because in our archives at the War College we have his pencil drafts, and then we have the final product, and I can see his reasoning, how he erased, and it showed a lot of his thinking. Well, let's jump back now and he was here at the Correspondence School and as you say, he spent a lot of time working on the furniture. I wonder how he got interested in furniture? That's a major project to embark upon.
- A. I guess just like now people go antiquing. That's one of the things they do here in Newport. And it was better antiquing then. And they would wander around in all the little shops and after all, they didn't have much money. We didn't have much furniture because the Navy didn't ship furniture around in those ~~days~~ days, so they had to buy things.
- Q. How did you get your household furnishings from one place to another.?
- A. I think they kept it stored on the east coast always, and when they went to west coast, that's right...west coast houses at that time for the Navy were furnished, and Uncle Sam didn't pay for this gigantic shipment. And I think the furniture stayed here in Newport. It did...it stayed at Manuel's where now the Raytheon Company is. Didn't have much...probably the economy was one of the reasons. Dad was very thrifty. That was a strong trait in him, and an overdone one, and it came from having to ship money off every month for all these years. At the end when he retired on full pay, he still couldn't spend money. He could write a check for \$2,000 and give it to me. He couldn't go out and buy himself a shirt...he couldn't spend money. He was terribly thrifty. A kind of person who would tear a Kleenex in half to save the other half, that thrifty... very annoying..very annoying thing, terribly annoying thing, at the time.
- Q. Did he have insurance policies or investments or anything of that sort?

- A. He didn't have insurance policies because he thought he was going to take a gamble on living a long time, and he invested, and he invested very well. Something happened in 1929; Mother had money coming in and Dad had it going out. Whether she lost it and then he took over and started investing...I don't know. I'm poor on all that, but money...I think he finally said "I'm not going to invest your money." And I think, now I might be wrong, he invested her money and lost it, in 1929. After that he said, "I'm not going to invest your money" so she didn't know what to do, so with what little income she had, she (not being smart) just invested in IBM and Dupont, and then she got Corning Ware I think. So her stock went up, and Dad somehow must have saved something from the money he sent out for his aunties from his pay and invested. Up to a million dollars now, to tell you the truth. I went and looked over the investment (Dad was beginning not to be able to take care of it), and I was amazed. A good lesson to any young men, because he was investing \$100 and now it could be worth a thousand, five thousand, it was fantastic because it was very little bit of of money!
- Q. It's interesting. He must have read the financial pages and done a lot of research than on that sort of thing.
- A. I don't know. As I looked at all these things, and Dad kept perfect records, I looked, and there was only one lemon. Mother said, "I bought that". That was one she took a little fire on.
- Q. I intimated that he must have had some stocks. It's interesting how the researcher sees things and then tries to draw conclusions. The papers that your Mother gave to the War College contained amny of his penciled drafts on the back of notices he got from stock companies. Information from Texaco and General Foods. I can't remember what they were, but it was that sort of thing.
- A. Well, that's why he could save money, because he was so thrifty. He did very, very well.
- Q. That's interesting that he built up that kind of investment, but apparently he had a modest house there in Pebble Beach, and he drove a modest car.
- A. He couldn't spend it on himself. If you gave him a new shirt, he couldn't wear it. It was a hang-up. He didn't like new things; he liked old things. When he died, the day he died, the day of his funeral, my son came, David, and went into Dad's closet and there were all these beautiful clothes hanging and David tried them on, and they all fit and I said, "Dad, you would be delighted, because they are not going to go to waste". And David took them all; I think he wore one of his suits to the funeral.

- Q. One other look into your Dad's personality; how did he feel about religion? Was that ever a part of his life? What were his thoughts on it?
- A. No at all. Yes, he spoke about it. He was an agnostic. He went to church as a little boy. His aunties (whom I visited, I can remember once I always resented the fact that Mother and Dad took a trip from Washington when he was in ONI and dropped me with the aunties while they went to Canada)...I can remember playing cards on the porch on Sunday, and the aunties coming in horrified. "What are you doing? It's Sunday!" I said, "So what...it's Sunday." But he was raised in that atmosphere, and I don't think he ever went to church again except to weddings and things like that. He did not believe in God because you couldn't prove it. He believed in heredity. He believed in his children and his grandchildren and what was part of him was going to live on in his children and his grandchildren. And the last time I was out there, before the time he died (while he was slipping and he knew he was slipping) he said, "Margaret come here, I want to show you something." He took me on the sunporch, and there was a picture of Bishop Ames, and he said,, "If there is any good blood in us, thats where it comes from." They were very generous, they had educated all their grandchildren, and Dad said, "I want to give the grandchildren the best education they are capable of." In other words if they are dumb (Dad never had any prejudice against not being smart, he was very good about that), he would say, "Well, they can't help it." It was the people who were lazy that he didn't like.
- Q. What did he and his friends talk about? Did he make friends because they had something in common? What did he talk about with friends...did he talk shop?
- A. Politics. I don't think he talked shop much. Going back to War College days, just chatted. He wasn't much of a talker.. He sat silently a great deal of the time while people were talking. If they would sit down and listen to him, he would talk at great length but not small talk. That's why he hated cocktail parties. First place he didnt drink, second place he didn't like small talk. But some smart person would get him off in a corner and they would have a very good time. Very good sense of humor, but a very quiet sense of humor. You would have to listen. If I may wander again, these two last jokes I heard him say, this was the kind of humor he had, kind of sad. The time I was out there when he was beginning to slip, at the same time we went to tea at the Balseys. He was very slow because his hand was shaking. We all sat around the dining room table and had finished our tea. And the young Balsey granddaughter said, "Now Admiral, let's move into the living room." ~~Another~~ And the grandmother said, "Take your tea into the living room." He said, "I will, but not in a cup."

And the other joke (it shows you what kind of a mind he had) was tragic because this was the day of my brother's funeral. It was terrible, and I think Dad became more and more confused. It finished him off. We were having dinner after the funeral at Josephine's house, and Josephine's mother was there. She had two strokes and lived in Detroit and had been in the hospital on death's door, Edward had said "Get your mother and bring her here to live with us." She's a mean, nasty woman, and they didn't really enjoy it, but that's what worked out to be. So they brought her at great trouble, and she objected all the way. After the funeral, she said "Well, I don't know why Josephine made me leave Detroit...I was perfectly happy there." And Dad said, "You've had a stroke haven't you?" And she said, "I've had three strokes". He said, "Three strokes and you're out!" That's the kind of humor he had..he said it very quietly...three strokes and you're out.

- Q. Did his friends seem to fall into any kind of category...were there any particular type of person that he would seem to be close friends with, or was it unpredictable whom he might end up having as a close friend?
- A. Of course, they were all Navy. I think the Navy was more closed than it is now. We have lots of friends who are not in the Navy, but all their friends were in the Navy. It was a hectic social life. A lot of that cocktail parties business, as it is now, only more so. His close friends, for instance in Newport, when we were back in Newport on Hunter Avenue when he was on the staff there the first time, were Penn Carroll. All of his friends were terribly smart, like Penn Carroll whom he got to the War College--he would take all these people later if they'd do the work..Navy..they liked ships. And usually it was a couple business...the wives were good friends like the Moores, and the Hoovers...all one great, big happy family.
- Q. And that's why they knew each other so well in World War II. I've read so many of his letters, and they all talk to each other on a first name basis and nicknames, and they had that closeness.
- A. Very close friends. And the Navy being smaller in those days, you were more likely to have the various duties with people. In other words, you would all be in Newport and Long Beach or Coronado, so you saw the same people through many years.
- Q. He has finished the Correspondence School, and then he went to the staff of the Commander Scouting Forces. I presume you must have gone back to Coronado.
- A. We left Newport...this was an interesting family thing because my brother during our last year in Newport went to Severn School, Prep School to get a presidential appointment. Again, no money. No...that's not true!
- Q. Let's pause right there. Edward going to the Naval Academy.

Was it his choice, your Dád's choice, mutually agreed upon? This comes up all the time, as you probably know, between Navy fathers and Navy Juniors.

- A. All right, it's quite a long story. Edward's memories are one thing, mine are another, Mother's are another. My brother was very smart in completely different ways than Dad. He couldn't do math; he couldn't do anything technical. He didnt like it. In history, literature, langauges, he was a whiz. I can remember when I came back here, and I went to Rogers High School (after Edward had been at Rogers) I could remember Mrs. Higby's History Class, and she was filling out names, and she said, "Margaret Spruance, Margaret Spruance....Spruance, was Edward your brother?" And I said, "Yes"she said, "Ah! A smart one in my class." Well, I wasn't. They ~~w~~ill remembered, because he was smart. My memory is, and this is the true memory because Mother and I have discussed this, Mother was pushing Princeton. I always remember Mother saying, Princeton...she wanted him to go to Princeton. And he could major in literature, and you can become a lawyer (Oh, Edward was a beautiful talker, gift of gab). Somewhere along the line he had the idea he was expected to go to the Naval Academy, which is not true, because this came up later not many years ago and she (Josephine) said that he thought that he had to go to the Naval Academy. I think he thought that he needed a free education, because we didn't have much money. They would have scraped around and gotten it, but you see all this money came later when the investments came after World War II. It was absolutely wrong. They didn't really want him to go to the Naval Academy, and Dad never liked it. He never liked the Naval Academy. So Edward went to Severn and took the presidential, so he got a free education. We had to leave in May, and the presidential list didn't come out yet, it hadn't come out yet. We left Edward the house...we had the house. The furniture had been packed, and we left a cot in the house for Edward to sleep on to wait and see whether he was accepted to the Naval Academy. He was to go right away in June. I remember Mother's tears as we drove away and Edward standing there forlorn! We stopped at the library all the way across the continent to get the Army-Navy Register. Finally in Salt Lake City we went to the library, and there it was, he had made it. But Adm. Halsey said at the time (he was still in Newport) to Mother and Dad, "Don't worry, if Edward doesn't make it I'll go to Washington and beat on doors: I'll get him an appointment...don't worry, I'll take care of it." But he did make it, so then we left, and went to Coronado, which was marvelous. Wonderful two years. He was on the staff, Adm. Watson's staff. They had a close relationship. Dad always got along with people that other people didn't get along with. I guess he had integrity, and you could just feel it, and he just did what he thought was right, and he always got along with these people. The only people he didn't like was...the only two people I have ever heard him hate, one is Adm. John Towers and the other is Quierno, the President of the Philippines before Maysaysay. Hated them, but everybody else got along with: To go back to Newport...

grandmother came to live with us then. Mr. Spruance had died in 1922 and Grandmother kept working and lived in Indianapolis. As she got older she had cataract operations, I don't know, maybe she didn't, she had a breast removed, and came time to come and live with us..which was a horrible thing. I hated it, and I think Mother hated it because she was a difficult old woman. It was a chore. She lived with us, two years in Long Beach and two years here, Coronado, Newport...two, four, five, six, seven years I guess. And then when they went to Puerto Rico, they sent her back with her sister. She hated her sister, and she was miserable, and she finally died. I'm saying this facetiously. As you can imagine, it wasn't very pleasant. But she was a remarkable woman, and she loved young people. All my friends adored her, because she was so smart and so interested in them. She used to say, "I envy you all because you have opportunities for education. When I wanted to go to college, no lady went to college." And she was a liberal thinker, and she was amusing, and she loved all Dad's friends. They would say, "Where's Mrs. Spruance?" But it was hard for the home life. She loved her nip. She was a political animal. She just loved politics. That was one of the things I hated, because you had to listen to every pX/ political speech. She was a remarkable woman to know socially, but to live with it was a little bit difficult.

Q. Well, then you came back to Newport. Is there anything else about Coronado that comes to mind?

A. That's when Mother had her only rival...the only other woman Dad ever looked at was Rita Hayworth. She danced at Aqua Caliente..she was Rita Causino and all the men fell in love with little Rita. Dad liked to go down and look at little Rita. He preferred to "my little Rita" to the day he died. They had a very gay time. Aqua Caliente, trips, and they went to Death Valley with the Hoovers one time. They had lots of fun... didn't seem to work very hard. The Monday to Friday Navy.

Q. Do you know if Adm. Kalbfus had anything to do with bringing him back to Newport?

A. I don't know. Coronado...we went to Norfolk for awhile. We were in Norfolk for a couple of months. That's not important, except for my childhood memories, and your children will have to go through it too. I get confused as to the time. One time we went to Norfolk because I went around the canal. The first time we went from Long Beach to Norfolk, and we left in April, and I had to transfer school from Long Beach, Calif. to Norfolk, Va. in April, I can still remember that with horror, and then came up to Newport. It is awfully hard to move in the middle of the year. I think you should: I think it's hard, but I think you should. I think the family togetherness is the most important. I think that's the most important thing, and though my stomach twirled, the feeling you are all together is more important than anything else. The Moores had three children, and the last one was Sumner. They lived near us in Newport.

Carl Moore got orders to California in the middle of the year so Anna Louise said she was going to stay there and finish the school year, with the 3 children. So off Carl went, and Johnsie went into a decline. He got silent, and Anna Louise was worried about him...didn't know what was wrong with him, and he was sick, as this or that..And finally Mrs. Spruance, I say didn't like children, little ones, said "Does Johnsie know he's going to see his father again?" And she said, "Of course, he knows and everybody knows he's gone out to California to get a ship." And grandmother said, "Why not?" Well, he had thought that his father was dead. And I mentioned this to Anna Louise quite a few years back, and she said not only that, but it took him years to pull out of that. Isn't that something? I myself learned that with the children Dell says, "But you never told me such and such." You forget! This was a terrible blow to that little boy. Back to Adm. Kalbfus...I have no idea.

Q. Back to Newport again, and you are unhappy because you have to come back to Newport.

A. I never thought I'd end up here. We lived in a big house on Champlin Street...very nice. Edward was at the Naval Academy, so he would come home on leave. That's where I remember Dad and Adm. Kalbfus--how he tangled with Adm. Kalbfus. The only time I remember (I think I mentioned it in the letter) him bringing his problems home. He was mad. "Thinks like a German and writes like a German and his English language is terrible." He couldn't make ~~change~~ him change it, and he tried to rewrite it. I just remembered it...tensions when he came home of being unhappy about something. Usually he was perfectly happy. They had a driving pool, Carl Moore, Dad, I've forgotten all the men around at that time. When I wanted the car I'd have to drive them because I got my oicense then. They always drove down Prairie Avenue, because at the end of Prairie right down there at Kay Street, lived the O'Brien girls. There were 6 beautiful girls. And they drove by and looked at the girls. The O'Brien girls got so they would stand out there and wave to the old geezers. Dad looked at the girls 'til the day he died...he was a great admirer of the female. I remember one of the last things he said during the visit where he was slipping. We were driving through the gates to Pebble Beach, and he said "Margaret, the last time I drove down here, there was a young girl walking right there in a white bathing suits, and she was a vision of loveliness. I'll never forget that beautiful girl." I thought, "You old goat!" So they would admire the O'Brien girls who were beautiful Irish beauties. As I said, I really mean this, I picked him up at 4:30, or whatever it is, in front of the War College, the bell would ring and the door would open and there would be Dad. I used to say, "Dad, can't you not be the first person out the door...you embarrass me!" He would come bouncing out..he must have been waiting at the door. Never brought any homework home, expect that Kalbfus business. He went swimming, Wednesday and Saturdays. That was the year

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when everybody called on everybody else. They would always jump into their cars and circulate around two dropping cards. The next year they decided not to call. So they had a perfectly great time, but all the new people that came never got to meet anybody. Since then they have had the President's Reception to take the place of all the calling. But it would get so that he couldn't even go swimming on Saturdays or Wednesdays.

Q. I was told that Kalbfus was behind that calling on everybody. Then Carl Moore mentioned that at a reception line the first one through would stand alongside the President, and the second one through would stand alongside him, and pretty soon you have a reception line a mile long. That was one way you got to meet people. Well, we have already talked about his working hours, and his hobbies. Did he keep after the furniture then?

A.. Yes, I think so. It's funny that the garden business. You know how he loved the garden in his last years. Before he retired he wouldn't do any gardening. Mother had a little garden, and I did the weeding. He would say that he was going to do that when he retired. And he was going to read "Gone with the Wind" and "War and Peace". I don't think he ever got around to those books. His reading that was a joke because everybody was reading "Gone with the Wind". Everybody read it but Dad..he said he didn't have time for that, and he would read it later.

Q. You were a teenager then...you were beginning to be more and more perceptive of things about you, I'm sure. Looking at things from a more mature standpoint, did the thought ever come to your mind at that time that maybe someday there would be a war and my Dad maybe is going to have to be in it.? Did you ever think about what he was ultimately trained for?

A. No, because it was just obvious. I don't remember ever analyzing it, no.

Q. Wondering how he would do if he did have to go to war? I suppose that was the sort of thing one just didn't ponder about.

A. No, didn't think about it then. I guess we wondered whether he would make Admiral when that time came. I don't think that concerned me. As I said, he was strict as we were growing up, but at this age, there were no rules, no rules at all. I was the only one who didn't have an hour that I had to come in. They were marvelous teenage parents. They never criticized my friends. I remember one time Dad said "That's the only young man that you go out with that I don't like" and he didn't say "Don't go out with him." That killed that young man for me too. Because I felt Dad was right about that. I suppose that if you are strict when the children are young, you can ~~fixe~~ ~~it~~ relax a little bit as they get older.