

INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET BOGART

27 September 1971

Q. What can you tell me about your father's duty as Commanding Officer of the USS MISSISSIPPI from 1937 to 1938?

A. He was very determined to get command of a battleship. He never really said he deserved anything, except that he felt that he deserved having command of a battleship. There weren't many battleships available for command. Therefore, he was very happy about getting command of that ship. It was exactly what he wanted, and exactly the ship that he wanted. We drove across the continent from Newport to California and had two very happy years. Mother and Dad went across country themselves, because I was in college. Upon leaving college that June, I joined them in Bremerton, Wash. We were in Bremerton for the entire summer, and it was very beautiful there. We then drove to Long Beach, while Dad took his dog Peter south with him on the ship. Mother and I had selected a beautiful apartment with a picture window that overlooked the sea. Dad, however, did not like it, because he said he had to look at sea enough as it was. It broke my heart, but we had to move one block further in on 5th Street. Edward had graduated and was stationed aboard the INDIANAPOLIS. As a new ensign he visited us in Dad's apartment. He sat on the bed and for three hours proceeded to tell Dad what was wrong with the Navy. Mother was hoping that Dad would keep quiet, and he did. I left again for college that fall and didn't see them again until the following June. (which would have been 1939). War was brewing, and Mother seemed to be hanging on to every word coming out of the radio. I had no interest in it at that time, because I was interested only in dating and going to the beach.

Q. What was the feeling in the family knowing that he would soon be going before the selection board for Admiral?

A. He would tell us that he did not think he would be selected for Admiral. He told us that if he was not selected that he would ask for duty near Hingham, Mass., because he wanted to retire in New England. It was at this time that I first heard about his letter of reprimand. He felt also that he had never palyed politics nor was he particularly sociable. All these things seemed to count towards selection for Admiral. His friends, however, had great confidence in him and were not surprised when he was selected for Admiral.

Q. Having been selected for Admiral, his next duty was Commandant Tenth Naval District. What do you recall about that period?

A. They lived in a house on the beach in Cantarido. Roosevelt Roads was Dad's dream. He could foresee the time when we would not be able to use the bases owned by the British, and he fought very hard to have Roosevelt Roads developed as a major naval base. ~~The~~ Dad felt so strongly about that that when he visited us in Norfolk in 1963-1964 (he would always visit us in October) he ^{asked} specifically to be taken down to Roosevelt Roads. Gerry was on the AIRLANT staff, so he was able to get the IARLANT Plane to take Dad down there. It was also a great help that our closest friends, Harry Bridges, was in command of Roosevelt Roads at the time.

Q. What was atmosphere and routine in San Juan during the summertime when you visited?

A. As usual he had a very relaxed routine. He had regular working hours, and he would walk and swim with friends. On one occasion he had had a long walk with a friend of his, Dr. Dixon. As was his

custom, he poured himself a cold beer and sprinkled salt over the top of it. He felt that was necessary to get the salt back into his system that he had lost through sweating. Suddenly, sirens announced the arrival of Adm. Leahy, who was the Governor of Puerto Rico. He had come to call, and Dad had forgotten all about it. I have never seen Dad quite so surprised nor move as fast as he did to change his clothes so that he could properly meet his distinguished guest. Adm. Leahy was a very stiff and proper man.

Dad lived in a comfortable house on the beach during his first year while the quarters were under construction. The second year he moved into government quarters on Isle Grande. He and Mother and the wives of the other officers worked very hard on the interior plans for the quarters on San Geromino. He was not happy with the location of the air station. I think it was a political decision. It was on filled land, and I think he felt there was some corruption involved. I think he had a lot of problems in Puerto Rico. For instance, he had a problem with Brig. General Bailey, the senior Army officer on the island. His wife had just died, and he was a very lonesome man living in those huge quarters out at El Morro. He was a very difficult man. He made trouble all the time. His staff set up a duty rotation so that somebody was always with him every evening. If he were left alone, he would always start raising trouble, such as a general alert. Bailey was worried about Dad getting his promotion to Rear Admiral, because then Dad would outrank him. General Dailey flew to Washington and had himself promoted to Major General, so that he would remain senior to Dad on the island.

When Dad was about to be promoted, the Tenth Naval District was

going to throw a party in his honor. The invitations to the party were sent to the printer. The Spanish printers made a mistake on the invitations. Instead of saying "In Honor of 'Rear Admiral Spruance'" , they said "In Honor of 'Real Admiral Spruance'". Everyone roared, and they had to be reprinted.

He also had problems with his chief of staff, Capt. Griffin. Capt. Griffin was a very difficult man to work with. Despite the problems, the social life was splendid. They made very close friends among the civilian community in San Juan. Mother told me they had made 10 close friends, which did not mean much to me until years later when I realized the significance of making that many lifelong friends in a period of a little bit more than one year. Going back however, I feel that he had many retreads on his staff which made life difficult.

- Q. Can you tell me now about moving from Puerto Rico to Hawaii when he got orders as COMCRUDIV FIVE?
- A. When we left Puerto Rico we had to go through Washington. As we drove across country from Washington, D.C. he was constantly checking along the way to see if there were messages for him. Yet when we went to Yellowstone Park I reminded him that he should perhaps check for messages. To my surprise he said, "No, he wasn't going to do it." By the time we got to San Francisco he kept insisting that we would not be able to accompany him to Pearl Harbor because war was imminent. We had a two-day wait in San Francisco before the Lurline got underway. He ran into a friend of his on the streets of San Francisco, who was very surprised to see him. He told Dad that Ernie King was looking for him as Chief of Staff, and that he thought sure that Dad would be in Washington. Dad of course wanted nothing to do with Ernie King or Washington, and we

quickly got aboard the ship and got underway. Once we got underway from San Francisco I told Dad it looked like a sure thing that Mother and I were going to make it to Hawaii. However, he persisted that the President might stop dependents from going out there, and that Mother and I might get off-loaded when we stopped in Log Angeles. He said, "If I were President, that's what I would do." When we got to Hawaii, Edward and Josephine met us. Edward was serving on the Tambor. The very first day Edward and Josephine took us for a tour of the island. They took us to the top of a mountain where we could see the ships anchored at Pearl Harbor. I said to Dad, "What's to stop the Japanese from bombing our ships in Pearl Harbor?" Dad responded, "They are not supposed to do it that way." The theory at the time was that the submarine was the greatest danger to the fleet. Dad was very depressed. He was so worried. He lost all his spark and didn't smile. He was worried about the war that was coming, about the country, and about the Navy. That day was just before my birthday, about the 19th or 20th of September. He was convinced there was going to be a war.

Q. Was he more worried about the country or the readiness of the fleet?

A. He was worried about the security of the fleet in Pearl Harbor.

I can still remember the bitter, sarcastic tone of his voice when he said, "They are not supposed to do it that way."

About Thanksgiving time Ambassador Kurusu came to Hawaii on the way to the United States to join the Japanese negotiating team. On his way through Pearl Harbor he was escorted by Capt. Zacharius, a Japanese intelligence and language expert who had command of one of Dad's cruisers. After Kurusu left, Zacharius came to call on Dad.

He said to Dad that he understood the Japanese language and therefore understood the Japanese mind. After talking to Kurusu he was sure that there would not be a war. After Zacharius left, Mother asked Dad if he agreed with Zacharius. Dad replied to the effect that just because Zacharius understood the Japanese language, he ~~was~~ ^{did} not necessarily understand the Japanese intentions. He said that he disagreed with Zacharius. So I think that Dad expected war to start at almost any time. He was very, very glum, although he did not change his normal daily routine of walking, swimming, and exercising.

I was working at Sears Roebuck at the time. Dad was at sea with Halsey's group, and he had told Mother that he expected to be back on the afternoon of Saturday, 6 December. Edward was at sea at the time, so Dad told Mother and Josephine to have dinner aboard the NORTHHAMPTON When the ship got in, and then they would go home. They went down to fleet landing and waited and waited, but the ships did not come in. Mother saw Adm. Kimmel and asked him where Dad was. Kimmel told Mother, "They won't be in today." That night there was to be a big party at one of the large local hotels. Of course the party never came off, because the fleet didn't come in. Dad wasn't there, and my date didn't show either. That was one of the few Saturday nights that I went to bed early. Our house was in Kahala, which was around the corner from Diamond Head. Therefore we could not see the attack on Pearl Harbor when it occurred. My reaction to the raid was one of disbelief. We had a Japanese maid, and Mother looked at her and said, "Go home, go home!" The maid, I don't believe, wanted to go home. That night we had a black out. We had quite a housefull that first night. In addition to Mother and me, we had Josephine plus two of my close friends, Navy wives who were made widows that day.

We were very nervous that night because the Japanese community lived right behind us, and we didn't know how they were going to react. However, the local men were patrolling the streets, and it was somewhat reassuring. At about 0400 on the morning of the 8th we heard a pounding on the door. It was Mrs. Bouman, the wife of the commanding officer of the naval station, and a sailor. Mrs. Bouman was a great friend of Mother's. She told Mother that her husband was convinced there was going to be another attack, because the base was so vulnerable. Therefore he sent his wife out to us where she could be safe. I can remember she was escorted by a sailor who was heavily armed; it was all very dramatic.

I immediately did Red Cross volunteer work out at the base. I had noticed that people seemed to be standing around in a dazed, uncomprehending manner. When Dad came home I asked him why were people acting that way. He replied, "They all feel as if they have just been hit over the head with a hammer." They just can't react." And they remained in a state of shock until Adm. Nimitz arrived and brought everything to life."

Q. What was your Father's reaction to the attack on Pearl Harbor?

A. He came home and had lunch with us. We sat at the table with him. He was very emotional, had tears in his eyes, and forced himself to talk about what he had seen and what he felt. I had never seen Dad like that. I get shook even now when I think about it. He was determined to finish his story. He was trying to talk about it, but he just couldn't. Apparently they had no idea of the extent of the damage, and when they first saw it it was a terrible shock.

Q. Could he have hated the Japanese at that particular time?

A. No. He never hated them; he admired them. I think that's why he

fought them so well. He tried to think as they would think, and he tried to understand them. He never called them Japs or Nips. He always called them Japanese. It was embarrassing to me, because we were full of hate while he was rational and reasonable. I didn't understand it.

Q. When he arrived home shortly after the attack, did he talk about what you and your Mother would do?

A. We did ^{not} want to leave, and I think that we could have stayed there for quite some time if we had wanted to, especially if we had gotten a job that was essential to the war effort. However, Dad would never pull any wires for us, so we returned to the States shortly thereafter. Edward was on an extended patrol off Wake Island and we were very worried because Wake was then under attack by the Japanese. When it was time for him to come home, Mother was relieved and said to Dad, "He is safe now." Dad replied, "No he's not." The reason ~~he said that is~~ ^{was} because all the recognition codes had been changed, and Tabor was very ~~li~~ ^{li}able to come under attack from ~~friendly~~ ^{friendly} forces, which in fact it was. In fact, he was so badly damaged that the ship had to go back to San Francisco for repairs, and Josephine went back with us and then went up to San Francisco to be with him. That was a tense time until Edward got safely home. Before we left, Dad came home quite often, and he needed it. I resumed casual ^{dating} and that sort of thing; life did go on, you know.

Q. What was his frame of mind after the attack?

A. One of relief. He seemed relieved now that the war had started; he could almost laugh and smile. Now he could get on with the business of war. The strain that he had been under before the war had gone.

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Q. What was the atmosphere of Pearl Harbor ~~like~~ before Nimitz came and after Nimitz came?

A. Everything changed when Nimitz came aboard. He filled everybody with a sense of confidence. Dad never had any doubt that we were going to win the war, although some other officers said that it was possible that Japan might win. When we left we really didn't want to go, but we had no choice. One thing was for sure; it was going to be a long war, and we didn't know when we would see Dad Again. I was rather annoyed that he did not postpone our departure, because as an Admiral he could have an influence. But he wouldn't do anything to keep us there.

Q. What happened when you returned to the States?

A. Mother and I landed in San Diego and went up to San Francisco because Josephine had taken the car up there to see Edward. So we went up there to see Edward. Josephine and Edward got to spend quite a bit of time together in San Francisco. When he returned to the war, she went to her mother's home in Detroit. We then returned to Coronado. BY that time I was very sick with tuberculosis. I had caught it in Puerto Rico, and the doctors had seen a spot on my lungs on my x-rays at that time. However, they said that ~~it was~~ ^{I was} so healthy that it must be an old spot. But by the time I returned to Coronado I had a very serious case. I was in a sanitarium for a year. I was in a navy hospital in San Diego, and then I moved to a private sanitarium in Monrovia. Mother moved to Monrovia to be with me. We were there several years, and it was a long hard pull.

Q. What would happen when your Father came to visit you during the war/

A. I recall one time we were ~~sitting~~ about talking about the war and

suddenly he said, "Let's drop it. Stop it, I don't want to talk about the war any more." So we stopped talking about the war. He just wanted to forget the war, so he got a little bit of extra gasoline, and we drove about, and he walked. By that time I was out of the sanitarium. During the early part of 1945 he had been asked to give a talk in Monrovia, because the people in Monrovia had been very kind to us. After his speech he was asked how he felt about letting the Japanese-Americans return to their homes after the war. In California at that time people had bumper stickers that said "Don't let the Japanese come back". There was a great deal of hostility towards them. Dad let go with a blast. He~~x~~ pointed out that the Japanese-Americans ~~and~~ⁱⁿ Hawaii had not done any disloyal act. He was very unhappy with the fact that the Japanese-Americans on the mainland had been deprived of their rights and had been deported into concentration camps. That reply was not what they were expecting. It caused a great deal of headlines. I was rather shocked at him, because in those days one simply did not come out in favor of anything for the Japanese or the Japanese-Americans. Of course, however, he was right.

- Q. Had your Father changed at all when he came home having been at war?
- A. No, he did not change. The only time I even heard him upset was when he said that he did not want to talk about the war while he was at home. He didn't seem disturbed, concerned, or tired. That is what⁺ is so amazing.
- Q. What other activities did you do when he was home on leave?
- A. He walked, and he talked, and he relaxed. He was only with us a very few days at a time.
- Q. As the war came to a close, when did you become aware that he wanted

to go to the War College?

A. I think he and Mother always wanted to go to the War College, and Adm. Nimitz told him that he could have anything that he wanted.

Q. Why did he want the War College?

A. Outside the War College itself, it had nice quarters, he liked Newport, and he had many friends there. It was a nice place to have your last tour of duty. No place else crossed their minds.

At the end of the war Dad relieved Nimitz as CINCPAC. In the January of 1946 Dad returned to Calif. He and Mother drove across country to Newport, but I stayed in California even though I was recovered. They did not want me to be exposed to the New England winter having just recovered from tuberculosis. I stayed with a friend of the family in La Jolla, who drove across country with me in June. When I got to Newport, Mother and Dad were all settled in. The dog came too.

Q. Now please tell me about your two years at the Naval War College.

A. It was two great years. Going back to the war, I recall when he visited us after the invasion of Okinawa that he told us that he was unhappy with the thought of invading Japan. He thought at the time that we should be invading China. I guess I was rather surprised at his telling us that, because it was in a way a military secret. I do remember how he said he'd much rather go into China. So he must have admitted that the next action was going to be in Japan. I can remember another time he said "I'm going to tell you one thing; this is how I feel about such and such." It was about the proposal to use the British fleet in the war in the Pacific, and Dad was very much against it because of all the difficulties. Shortly after he told us this, we also heard ~~through~~ Drew Pearson

talking about it on the radio.

Going back now to the War College, Dad and Mother entertained every lecturer at lunch at home. So there was a luncheon almost every day all year long. Because of the economies of Louis Johnson, there was not much money. The meals therefore were very simple, usually soup, salad, and dessert. The students and the staff came also, and every student got to eat a luncheon at the house at least once during the year. The staff got to eat there several times. They made some very close friends that way, for instance Walter Lippmann. Having visited us once, Mother would always invite them back the next year. For instance, Mother told Mr. Lippmann to stop by on his way to Maine the next year with Mrs. Lippmann, and they did, that way we had many overnight guests from within people who had initially come to the War College as lecturers. They made some wonderful friends that way. It was very exciting. I was working out at St. Georges, and I would scoot home every day to see who the guests would be. It might be George Kennan, or it might be Hanson Baldwin. I kept notes on all of them but threw them away later, I don't know why. I think the subsequent Presidents ^{have} ~~had~~ missed a great deal by not continuing this practice. You don't have to have cocktails and a four course dinner. ~~People~~ People were very happy to come and just have a simple lunch.

Q. What were your Father's objectives while he was President of the War College?

A. That's a difficult question for me to answer. I know there were many changes that he wanted to make. However, I don't recall what those changes were.

Q. Were you there for his retirement?

A. No I wasn't because Gerry and I got married on the 22nd of May and left.

Q. Can you tell me about your courtship?

A. Gerry first came here to attend the Line School. I met him on a blind date. He was a Commander then. He was the hardest man in the world to catch. It was a long slow courtship of two years. It didn't catch fire quickly. He and his friend Henry Bridges had put in for the War College, so they stayed there a total of two years. Gerry didn't propose until the bitter end. He didn't propose until the end of April, and graduation was the middle of May. So the marriage ceremony was arranged very quickly. Mother and Dad were thrilled and delighted when they knew I would marry Gerry. But they weren't very happy about our going off to Poland. But they were crazy about Gerry, and it was a very happy occasion.

The house was a lovely place for a wedding. For instance, Hester Laning had been married there, as well as several other President's daughters. I had done quite a bit of dating with other officers as well. It was the end of the war, and there were many unmarried officers and unmarried girls. It was a very happy, exciting social life as a consequence. All my friends ended up getting married save one. There were picnics, sailing, dancing, and many other activities.

While he was President I am not aware that he had any difficulties with the people in Washington concerning his relief or an extension of duty. He got many requests to give public speeches, which he accepted although he disliked doing that sort of thing. He would work very hard preparing those speeches. I think he felt those speeches were his duty and a good thing to do for the Navy.

Going ahead now to Dad's getting assigned as Ambassador to the Philippines, I have always held a personal opinion that John Carter Vincent may have had a hand in it. Vincent was Admiral Hoke Smith's brother-in-law, and he knew Dad very well. He was an Assistant Secretary of State, and I have always personally felt that he had some influence on getting Dad the job as Ambassador. Dad never was clear in his own mind why he was chosen for that job. Vincent was later destroyed by McCarthy because he was of a liberal persuasion. But he and Dad were very close friends and would talk about problems in the Orient at great length. Although Dad was an admirer of Chiang Kaishek, he also recognized his weaknesses.

We had just returned to Newport from Poland when Dad had gotten the word to go to Washington. After consultations in Washington he came to Newport to see us, so he gave the news to us before he gave it to Mother. He was delighted at having received the job as Ambassador. He was ~~v~~aring to go. Those few years of retirement had been enough. He loved the Orient and the Oriental people, and now he had a ~~h~~ance to go back and do something. I did not get to see them at any time while they were in the Philippines, although Gerry did see them once himself. Dad had promised Mother that he would take that job for only two years, among other reasons because of the excessive heat. Dad returned to Washington when the Eisenhower Administration took office and left Mother behind in the Philippines. Eisenhower asked Dad to stay on another year. On his way back to the Philippines Dad stopped to see us in Coronado. He told us that Eisenhower had asked him to stay on another year, and of course he had no choice but to obey the President's wishes. But he was certainly worried about how Mother was going to take this. But there was no question in his mind that if Eisenhower wanted him for another year, he would stay. I can remember his words, "I promised your Mother that I wouldn't. I wonder how she's going to take this." I think he was happy to stay on another year. The reason Mother did not come with him on that trip was that the first SEATO conference would soon be held with Secretary of State Dulles, and Mother had to remain behind to prepare for it. Dad was going to fly from San Diego to the Philippines. As he was so used to having Mother or aides take care of details for him that ~~when~~ he didn't know what to do when he was told at the San Diego airport that his reservations were not good. He told the people at the ticket

counter that he was Ambassador to the Philippines but that didn't make much difference. Dad just didn't know what to do. Luckily I was there and I prevailed upon him to call the Admiral out at North Island to arrange the necessary transportation to get him off to his connection flight to the Philippines. The way Dad was told this was the ticket agent said, "You forgot to confirm your reservation and the plane is full. You don't have a seat on the plane." It was lucky I was there, because Dad had told me to drive on home. However the kids said that they wanted to see the planes take off, so I returned to the air terminal to find Dad in this predicament. Dad kept saying, "I am the Ambassador to the Philippines, and I simply have to get to the Philippines for a conference." The girl behind the ticket counter kept saying, "That is impossible, the plane is full, there is no way for you to get to Los Angeles." Dad was like a little lost boy and said, "What am I going to do?" I told him to call Admiral Martin over at North Island and have him fly him up. Dad said, "I have to get there before Dulles does!" I said, "Dad Here's the number, here's the phone, here's a dime, you put it in, you dial the number, and you get Admiral Martin." Admiral Martin said that there was a plane leaving and hurry up and get over. So I took Dad over, and he caught the plane. I don't know what he would have done if I wasn't there. It was completely more than he could cope with. He was simply ag~~hast~~ast. I had to show him how to use that dial telephone. Isn't that ridiculous? Yet he never had anybody shine his shoes or take care of his clothes at home. He always took care of that.

Q. Finally it came time for him to go into permanent retirement.

Being such an active man, how did he adjust to retirement?

A. He loved Monterey, and every day he would say to Mother how privileged they were to live there. He gardened, and they had many friends. They should have gone into the real estate business, because many of their friends who came to visit them stayed there to buy a permanent home. The exact words about how he felt about Monterey were, "Aren't we privileged to live here?" When they first went there, I think their only Navy friends were the Turners. There were many retired Army people, but they had not much in common. But as the years went on, more and more of their Navy friends retired in that area, which made him happy.

Q. Can you tell me about Kelly Turner?

A. Whenever I think about Kelly Turner, I always have a warm glow. He was always so sweet to me. Whenever he came to the house he would say "Where's Margaret? Have her come to me." He was always interested and would ask questions...what are you doing, what are you doing in school, what are you thinking, what are your activities? He was one person who I knew was really interested in what I was doing. I think he had a tragedy in his life that he had no children. I think all of the kids felt a great deal of affection for Kelly Turner. He was genuinely interested in us. He was warm, gentle, and kind. These are not words that you would generally find being used to describe him. Mother and I saw him in La Jolla shortly after the war, and he looked just great. We had a nice talk together, and I had no idea that he was having his problems such as alcoholism. Dad was devoted to him. Dad admired his brains; he was probably a lot smarter than

Dad. Dad always thought that Kelly was smarter than he. ~~He~~ Dad told us the story about how he had to sober up Kelly Turner for the dinner with Admiral Nimitz. I sometimes think that Turners did not have any children because his wife did not want any children. I always feel sad when I hear people tell me what a tough person he was, because he was really very sweet. While Dad was in the Philippines I had occasion to stay at Dad's house in Monterey. Kelly Turner and his wife took very good care of us and took care of our every need during my stay there. After Kelly Turner's wife died of cancer, Dad ~~was~~ feared that Kelly would get so drunk that perhaps the house would burn down or some other tragedy would fall him. Therefore, Dad made an arrangement that he and Kelly would talk with each other on the phone every morning so that he could look after him (Note: Adm. Dyer gives Adm. Spraucne credit for rescuing the Turner papers when Turner died.)

Q. What did your father talk about during his retirement years?

A. Dad would visit us every year. The visits would last 3 weeks. He had total recall of his younger years such as duty on the AARON WARD AND World War I. He seemed to have a better ability to recall these things than most older people. During World War II Dad was invited to come to a large ~~luncheon~~ luncheon at the Long Beach Naval Base which was under the command of Commodore Hine. Dad was always very poor with names. At the luncheon, Dad was the center of all attention. As we got up to leave a black steward leaned over Dad's shoulder and said, "Admiral Spruance." Dad responded, "Why Jones!" It seems that Jones was one of Dad's stewards on the AARON WARD. Dad was so happy

to see him, and they talked and talked while the other people stood around shuffling back and forth from one foot to the other while the two of them talked.

But he would talk about World War II and occasionally when the time was right he would talk about the Battle of Midway. I often wished that we had tape recorded his description of that battle. Often Gerry would tell him about the problems the Navy was having and would ask Dad his feelings on it. Dad would reply, "It's not my problem now. There's nothing I can do about it, I've done my share." He would always say, I've done my share, it's up to you.

- Q. How did he adjust to the infirmities of old age, in view of the fact he would have always been so conscientious about his health and physical well being.?
- A. He didn't talk about it. When he was scheduled to have a hernia operation, Mother was very apprehensive because operations can sometimes be very dangerous with old people. He had never been in a hospital before, so his attitude was, "I've never been there before it should be an interesting experience." Both Mother and Dad had had extremely good health. In 1959 Mother caught a cold and finally went to the doctor. She wrote me and said, "I have finally gone to the doctor, and I guess at our age it's a good thing to have a doctor." That was the first time in her life either of them had ever been to a doctor. (I might note that Spruance had Dr. Willicutts looking out for him during the War.) He was sad to see when he began to be bothered by his cataracts. I can recall that when we were living in Virginia Beach we had gone to Williamsburg for lunch. When we were about to leave he

said that he had to go to the men's room. I just didn't feel right about leaving him there, so I pointed it out to him and asked him if I should wait for him. He said that I should go back to the car, and he would rejoin us. He was in there for some time and when he finally came out he said, "I know that I'm having problems, I had a very difficult time finding my way around in there." This was the cause of his poor vision caused by his cataracts. His words were, "I realized I can't do much traveling any more. I had a hard time finding my way out." His spirits and morale improved considerably when he had the cataracts removed. It was sad to see him lose his mental faculties as he grew older. He realized that his memory was slipping. When he visited us he Newport, Mother would say "Oh, that's where so and so lived or that's where so and so lived." He would reply, "I just can't remember that." During his last visit to Newport we took him over to Little Compton to see a dear old friend of his named Carlson. On the way over he kept saying, "I just don't remember him." Mother would say, "Oh I am sure you will remember him once you see him." We had a very fine time over there. We walked and saw their grounds and had a wonderful time. But when we got home he sat down and was very dejected. Mother asked him what was the matter. He replied, "I still don't remember them." In those last few years I would make trips to see them in Monterey, and he would get very worried about my coming. He would say, "Margaret is going to see a terrible change in me." But he would never say that he was deteriorating. Rather he would say that he couldn't remember things. But he would never talk about his condition

with me. It was very sad. He went downhill very fast, thank goodness.

Q. How did Edward's accident affect your father?

A. Edward's accident had been at 11 o'clock at night. Josephine called me at six o'clock the next morning. She told me Edward had been in a terrible accident. She loves my parents, and she didn't know how to break the news to them. Dad had already started downhill. Edward had been going down every other week-end and taking care of their affairs. He had convinced Dad to set up a trust, because Dad was just at the point where he could not take care of his own affairs. So Edward had gotten everything on the track. I called Swede Overesch and asked them to break the news to Mother and Dad, and that I was on my way out there. Although Dad was badly deteriorated, this was the final blow. He would not talk about Edward; he could not bear to. This hurt Mother, because she felt he might feel better if only he would talk. However, he did say to Francis Underwood, a dear friend of theirs, "I've got to carry on; I can't let myself go." He was confused at the funeral; he didn't seem to know what was happening. Edward died in June, and Dad died in December. It was awfully hard on Mother. I made many trips out there between Edward's death and Dad's death. Mother and I made the decision not to put Dad in a hospital. We got him a hospital bed in the house and nurses 24 hours a day. Mother just couldn't take care of him alone. It was a great relief when he died. He had a beautiful funeral. Adm. Nimitz had asked that he be buried by him. Dad could not have cared less. I don't think Dad would have wanted to go the way he did. I'm sure he would have preferred a quick death long before he began to deteriorate to the point

where he was when he actually died.

He was helpless. I've seen other people who were suffering from arteriosclerosis have their natures change as the disease got more serious. Dad's nature did not change at any time. He remained sweet and considerate to the end. For instance, he was determined that he get up and go to the bathroom by himself, so he would be helped to do that. Afterwards, when he was returned to the bed he would always say, "Thank you." He was so shriviled. He could not have weighed more than 110 pounds. Almost like a baby, he would lift his face to be kissed. I can remember his last full sentence, He said, "I want to say goodnight to my wife." But he was sweet and polite, and the nurses adored him. He was so feeble. He just got more and more feeble and could not eat and could hardly talk.