

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

**Question:** The first thing that I'd like to do and then I'll sit down, is just to get your name and the correct spelling of it so I have it on tape and while you're doing that I'll set my audio level so if you go ahead.

**Answer:** I'm Francis H. McCullough, M.D.

**Question:** And the spelling of your last name?

**Answer:** M-c-C-U-L-L-O-U-G-H.

**Question:** Great, thank you very much. Now are you from Washington originally or..?

**Answer:** No, I'm not. I'm living in Washington now on eleven years.

**Question:** Whereabouts did you..?

**Answer:** I'm from everywhere.

**Question:** From everywhere..

**Answer:** I'm from, originally from the East coast.

**Question:** Oh is that right?

**Answer:** Yeah. I was born in North Carolina and I grew up on the East coast. I went to college in New York, Columbia University and then when I finished that I went to post graduate school, medical school in North Carolina at Duke University.

**Question:** Oh really, Duke?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** What, so were you studying medicine before you went in the service?

**Answer:** Yes, I was in medical school. In 1940 I started medical school. And in, I continued in the medical school and the problem was that war came along in 1941 I was in my, bottom of my sophomore year when it started and before that in 1942 I was called up from my, I grew up in New York City from age twelve until I left Columbia but I had a draft board in New York and I was one of the first people to be drafted and I got that notice while I was in medical school and there were gonna put me in the Army. I got my Father and a lawyer went to Washington D.C. and through a friend in Congress had a, and presented a bill to the Congress which would defer medical students until they had finished their schooling so that they could be doctors because I, they felt that the war was gonna be maybe a long one and the doctors were being called up that were in practice. And there wouldn't be anybody to replace them if they took the medical students out of medical school so they passed this bill. And I got off the draft and wasn't called into the Army, but went and joined the Navy Reserve at that time in 1942. And cause I was in college they gave me an Ensign's Commission in some hospital corps or something. And then, in 1943 the government took over the medical schools and they initiated a V-12 Program in which the students had a choice of either joining the Navy or the Army or staying out of either one of them. Well I had my time with the Army; I didn't like the way they

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

handled that so I resigned my commission as an Ensign in the Navy Reserve and joined the V-12 Program which made me an apprentice seaman while I was in medical school. Of course, I got the benefits of being in medical school. They paid my tuition and my books and gave me \$30 a month. So I finished medical school early. I never had a vacation after the first year. Usually you had summer vacation but I didn't have any. I finished medical school in 1943, December of '43 and went on to an internship which lasted nine months. That was in a hospital in New Jersey, Montclair and I finished the internship. The day I finished it, I was called to active duty as a Lieutenant Junior Grade Medical Corps U.S. Naval Reserve. And then I had my orders immediately. The first duty station was Sampson, New York where I was indoctrinated and was working at night on sick call for all these trainees in the Navy. It was in wintertime there and lots of pneumonia and rheumatic fever and I was busy every, practically all night every night going to the various sick bays of the big base to take care of these ill sailors that were getting ready to go overseas.

I lasted there only a short time, about six weeks; and then I was transferred to a ship, which was USS Daniel T. Griffin. At that time it was a destroyer escort and I made one trip in the Atlantic in anti-submarine duty as a doctor and the ship goes back into Staten Island, New York and was converted very quickly into what they called an attack transport, attack, APD, attack personnel transport and they had to, put on, they took off the torpedo tubes and some of the guns and put on a lot of, I mean, a lot of extra guns like 40 millimeters and machine guns and space for about maybe 200 extra people and then after my, that was done, we went on a down off of Annapolis and Chesapeake Bay, and had a shakedown And while on the shakedown they had installed four personnel carriers, these amphibious boats that would carry people on to the beach, the same boats they used for landing craft. They were called LC, LCPD's. They had two of them on each side of this upper deck and they worked by a winch. Well while we were underway on the shakedown one of the winches didn't work and somebody decided to put the crank on it to bring the boat over, was in the water being, you know, caught along, skimming along the top of the water and not deep enough to be under way or still attached to the cables. So what happened was somebody put a crank in the, hand crank and they started to, two people started to crank this boat up and somebody, I don't know who it was, pushed a button that worked the crank and it wound out very fast and threw one man overboard and broke another man's hip and broke a compound fracture of another man's forearm. And of course, that stopped the whole operation and then I took care of these people. I couldn't get the hip reduced in the sick bay on board and I had to go into Annapolis Naval Hospital and they had to give him an anesthetic to reduce the hip. The other chap had to have surgery and all. At any rate there, we lost those several people and then we went on to finish the shakedown and then we went to the Panama Canal and down to the Pacific. I spent part of 1944 and practically all of 1945 in the Pacific Ocean and was involved in a number of these island taking deals where I went to name... I'm not going to go into great detail because this is not a Hollywood thing but I went in to various places in the Central Pacific, the Marshall Islands, the Gilbert Islands, Eniwetok Atoll. I also was in Saipan, Tinian, also in the Philippines for a long time. We were there off and on the various Philippine Islands I must have visited about, oh I don't know, Palau, Leyte, Northern Luzon and a few other, down in a place called Southern Philippines almost on the equator... I'll think of the name of it in a minute. It's been a long time ago.

**Question:** Yeah, it's a long time ago.

**Answer:** These... the one in the northern Luzon we had to go up there and help chase the Japanese off and when they got out we were patrolling that part of the

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

Luzon coast in a town where the people had nothing. They were using parachute silk for clothing; they used beer bottles for drinking. They took the tops off of them and made glasses and they didn't have any... This is a story that might be interesting. The ship didn't have any vegetables aboard. We were out of them and had been at sea a long time and were just eating some mutton from down Australia way and anyway they, the skipper asked me if I would go with a group of Army people that were gonna go in a truck up in the hills and maybe get some vegetables and they were buying some goats to eat. So I, he says, you, here's some money and take along a bunch of mattress covers for you to put the vegetables in and get what you can in the way of corn and anything, squash or any kind of green stuff, tomatoes or whatever. So we went with the Army people and they went up in the backcountry where the Japanese had just left a short time before. And there were some farms up there and we met this Filipino fellow who came out and one of the people in the Army could speak Spanish or Filipino. I don't know if he was speaking Tagala or not but he spoke a foreign language to me and he told him what I wanted. Well, they talked it over and in those days you all had cigarettes so I offered to buy this man in charge of this farm area a cigarette. He took the whole pack of course and then he lighted up and then we made a deal. I told him I'd give him money. I really don't want any money you know, it's no good so I said well maybe we can work out something but we need the vegetables for the crew. So he went and clapped his hands and a bunch of women came out with machetes and they went down the road and chopped the various stuff we wanted, corn and vegetables and put it at the end of the row, rows of corn in place near this truck that the Army had and which they had already bought three or four goats and they were tied in the back. And so when I brought out the mattress covers to put the food in the deal was completely off because he wanted our mattress covers; they didn't have any clothing and I said, well, okay I guess I can give you mattress covers if I can cut the USN out of them which I did, and they put the vegetables right in the side of the truck, not with the goats but not too far from them. Then I went, we went on back and (Inaudible) some fresh vegetables for the crew and on the way back why we went by a winery that the Japanese never found so I was invited to go in the winery and have some wine made out of cocoa juice. Boy was that powerful. Anyway I had a couple of drinks and then we went on back to the ship. And then the ship eventually went back to Manila and we were all back at sea. Now after the Philippines we were over off of Iwo Jima. When they were fighting in Iwo Jima we were off shore. Why don't you ask me a few questions?

**Question:** Were you a visible distance to Iwo so you could see Mt. Suribachi?

**Answer:** I saw it.

**Question:** So you could watch. What was your job then? Were you waiting off shore for them...

**Answer:** No.

**Question:** to bring wounded to you?

**Answer:** No, they didn't bring any to me. They, I was strictly for the fleet... with the fleet out there and the Marines had their own people taking care of them. My job as medical officer on board the ship had to do with the under water demolition teams. I was the doctor for them and we would go in at night; the team would go in at night. And these little rubber boats I guess the Zodiac type and plant explosives

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

under water around the impediments that the Japanese had put up to prevent a landing. Now the biggest operation there was off of Okinawa and we went in five days early and at night then the boys went out and mined all these obstacles. And then the huge fleet of ships came in on the day of the invasion and I took care of the sickness that involved the boys that were in their underwater demolition teams plus my crew aboard ship when they got sick. And I won't go into details of any specific illnesses because I don't think you're interested.

**Question:** Well, yeah, a little bit, we are because what type of things were you facing out at sea?

**Answer:** Well, for one thing, I had to give all the shots to everybody for one thing and if they got sick, I had to make a diagnosis. I had one, one person that was very sick with painful and, we were way out in the ocean and he had a painful abdomen. And I had to make the differential diagnosis of whether he had an appendix cause he hadn't had it removed or whether he had an obstruction or if he had a kidney stone or something like that. That's one example. I made the diagnosis from the history and examination and from a urine specimen that he had a kidney stone and he couldn't pass it. It was very painful. So I gave him a real big dose of morphine and relaxed him and then had him catch his urine so I got the stone... there were two stones. I got the stones out. I didn't have an x-ray on board to verify any of that but that's one example. Another one was when we were in combat the, one of the stewards mates had, instead of working in the galley in the dining room area was assigned to a 40 millimeter gun mount as a gun, as an ammo carrier and he was in a small stack of ammo in bunches and he was passing them up through the hole to the gunner above him and the whole stack fell on him. And he got hurt and I took care of him and fixed that up. Then we had an incident where the Kamikazes were coming in. This was in the beginning of the battle for Okinawa I was, my ship was assigned to a radar picket line in which there was a whole line of ships out there monitoring the sky and shooting at the kamikazes. Well, the ship next to us is a cruiser, not a cruiser, a destroyer that was hit by a kamikaze right near by. We had shot one down but this other guy got away and hit the destroyer in the bridge and he wiped out the CO and the executive officer and killed the medical officer and all the corps men and there was nobody on the ship to care of all these wounded people and the ship was on fire. So my ship, my skipper decided he was going to go over and give him some help and try to put the fire out. And when he came along side, he made a couple of passes and he came along side. I stood on the railing of the... my Chief Pharmacist mate there now called a corpsman was with me with whatever equipment we had on our backs and we jumped from the railing of my ship to the Griffin across about four feet of water and grabbed the railing on this burning ship to go help these people. And I took care of, oh I don't know, it was, I think there was something like 40 dead and another 46 or 7 or 8 that were badly wounded and we used up all the equipment they had on that ship to take care of them and I had to stay on that ship for three days when they put the fire out finally. The ship did not sink but it couldn't go forward so it went backwards and I stayed on board it while it went backwards to an island, not an island but a bunch of rocks off the coast of Okinawa called (inaudible) where they had all the beat-up ships that were hit by the kamikazes and there were cruisers in there and destroyers and smaller ships and all that. Anyway I finally got up and found that a ship in there that was not marked as a hospital ship at all. It was completely unmarked so that the Japs wouldn't go at it and it was a big sea hull with lots of doctors on board and an operating room and beds and everything, you know. There were all these people that were hurt that needed to be in a hospital were transferred there and other places but that was one of the places

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

where they were able to take care of them. I saw the people that I had brought back got in their hospital and then my ship was radioed and they came and got me after three days so I went back on board.

**Question:** How was the, cause here you had come from medical school where I assume you had somewhat state of the art equipment and now you're out on one of these ships...Were they good facilities or did you have to make do with minimal..?

**Answer:** Well they were supplied with... the ship that I was on... was supplied with just a sick bay and it had a Chief Pharmacist mate or hospital mate and two other guys with me. There were just the Chief and two, four of us to take care of this situation. And had a little overhead stretcher that they could hang down and put bodies on that and work on them. And then we, you had a, needed more room you used the officers' ward room table to do things on which was handy because although it wasn't on the same level as the sick bay, the sick bay was down below, but we used it. One example of what happened to me was interesting where they had a sick person aboard another ship that needed a doctor's attention... they didn't have a doctor aboard so the, they called my, they let me, let them know that I was aboard so they rigged up, this was at sea under way and it wasn't very calm, a little rough. They rigged up a breeches buoy situation which between the two ships it's a couple of cables with a, with a basket or, not a basket but a cloth hamper with a place for your legs. You get in that and you go over on a pulley to the other ship and you get off and do your duty and then you come back and then they disappear, go on their way. There was a sick person on there that needed special medication and I happened to take the (Inaudible) with me. Another thing that's of interest, when I was in the Philippines they didn't have any medicine for all these sick people that were hurt by the war and disease. And this is before the days of penicillin so I was in this town on the dock and a Jap came up to me, a Filipino Jap came up to me. He says, I used to work for Park Davis in New York he says and you're the doctor and we need medication... can you spare any medication. I said, what do you want? He says, well something for the illness and infection. They had sulfanilamide apparently and they used it all up. But the only thing we had was sulfa drugs, a sulfa diozene, sulfa thiazole and this is before the penicillin came in to being in actual use so I had a lot of extra sulfa diozene and I told him would you be okay, would it be okay with you if I gave you several hundred bottles, not bottles, but several hundred or a thousand pills of sulfa diozene and he said, oh I'd love to have that because we could use that for our people who are really in bad shape. So I gave that to him and he was very happy and the people in the town were very happy and we only stayed there about one or two days overnight. And then we went on to another island. This was getting near the end of the war and I had a chance to, when they secured, this is an example of how rough it was psychologically, although the medical problem was not too bad for me. The psychological problem was terrible. We're on this radar picket line and there's a whole bunch of ships you know and the, every night they're shooting, shooting, shooting in the daytime too at these kamikazes. Well, let's see... what happened here with the, oh yeah... we were number, like No. 9 or No. 10 in the line that was going around like this you know and we would change positions every night. A ship would get hit; you would have to leave the radar picket line where we were picking up these crazy planes and I think something like nine times that we changed positions on that radar picket line. We were out there for about four months. The ship that we took their place had been sunk and everybody was just really up tight you know and well finally we, they took Okinawa and I was lucky enough to go ashore and while I was ashore I was called back to the ship. I was looking for a buddy of mine who was in the Marine Corps

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

who got killed over there. He was buried on Okinawa and his brother went to medical, went to Columbia College with me and his brother was in the Marine Corps and he got killed on Okinawa and he was buried there and I had told him in correspondence that if I got to Okinawa I would visit his grave you know. Well I got off on a special leave time or liberty time or whatever you want to call it on the skipper and started up to the cemetery and while I was on my way up there a storm came, a typhoon, and I had to turn around and was called back to the ship and the ship went out to sea. Well, it went out of, the old name for Buccaneer Bay was Nakugusuka and Buccaneer Bay had a big place to park your ships you know, it was a good anchorage. So everybody in Buccaneer Bay went to sea that could because they lost a number of ships in this typhoon, it was so terrible. It lasted four or five days and I can remember when we went out to sea and we were in the typhoon that this ship that I was on, the Griffin, nearly rolled over, it rolled 42 Degrees and everything was, the hatches were all closed and everything was buttoned down but the water would come up on the deck and come up to the portholes that were usually way above water. This thing was leaning over 42 Degrees and I, (thought was it Inaudible) gonna go all the way over and that was very, very tight time and that.. okay and another experience was..

**Question:** What do you, in that situation what do you do, just go get in your hammock and hang on to..?

**Answer:** Well, if you move around, you're walking down a passageway, you find yourself walking on the bulkhead side, up on the wall and then down the end up again. What you do is you get in your bunk if you can and tie yourself in so you don't get thrown out. It's, it's pretty rough. We survived that and I don't know how, but that's one of the things that came up that was very interesting. Let's see, we went to, over to Saipan and went ashore there and had a meeting of the destroyers, cruisers Pacific and I ran into a couple of my classmates from Duke that were on other ships. They were all over there for this big meeting because they were getting for an invasion. But now concerning what happened right after Okinawa we were going to another situation and I can't remember where it was but the ship blew a boiler and it couldn't make the trip except creep so we went into Subic Bay in the Philippines. It was a Naval base there and we had to have the boiler replaced and fixed and it was while we were in Subic Bay having work done on the ship that the airplanes from Tinian or Saipan, it was one that went, Tinian, dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and then Nagasaki or whichever one was first I can't remember. But anyway then the war stopped and everybody was told they had a number that they could go home if they had so much time and it was all on points so we were all figuring out our points and I was figuring out my points with, it didn't really matter with me because I was a doctor and they needed doctors. But I couldn't get out, I mean all the ships that were going back to the states were so full of people they were lying on the decks or crammed on every place there was so I talked to the skipper. My orders read to return to the USA, Continental USA as soon as possible or something like that, you know, I forget what they were but they were orders. And I talked to the skipper, I said, how, what are we going to do, what is the ship going to do? Oh, we're going back to Norfolk, Virginia. I said, when are you going to leave? He says, as soon as we get this boiler fixed. So I said, well, why do I have to go over and get in line to go on these mini carriers or on this old beat up LST, why don't I just stay with the ship and you'll have a doctor and everything will be fine on our way home. So he says, you can stay, all you have to do is turn in your papers when you hit Norfolk, on the dock. So I did and when we got to Norfolk I reported in and everybody on ship got thirty days leave and they looked at me and said, oh

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

yeah, you, you're the doctor; you only get fifteen. And I said, why? He says, well because you're going to be reassigned. So they did reassign me; they gave me fifteen days leave and they said I'd be reassigned in an area near my home, which was then... my Mom and Dad were living in, on Long Island. So I went home and sure enough I got orders to go back to duty but it wasn't in the 3rd Naval District. My orders read to go to California so I did. I went to California and that, I never went back to the East coast again except for some special training that I took after awhile. I stayed there... I went to a separation center they call them which was attached to a hospital in Southern California. After about six or seven weeks at the separation center after examining thousands of people I was getting groggy and all the doctors were unhappy because of the hordes of people that came through to be examined to find out if they had anything wrong and if they needed any treatment or you know go to the, whatever, go to the hospital or... and then they had to fill out their veteran's papers so.. But anyway I was in charge of the surgery examination. One of the surgery examination rooms when they came through we examined them surgically for hernias and things like that. And after about six or seven weeks it turned out that, we were relieved and sent to the hospital which was about a mile away, a big, 3,000 patients in this Shoemaker Naval Hospital. It's no longer there. It's now in the center of the Silicon Valley. It's all housing and big business. But I went there and got put on the orthopedic service to take care of fractures and orthopedic problems. That's where I met my wife. She was a nurse at that hospital and later on I was transferred from the Shoemaker Hospital up to (inaudible) Naval Hospital and I was on orthopedic service there but she stayed at Shoemaker. And I used to go down there every night... it was only about an hour and a half drive or an hour and then we finally got married in 19.., well, after the war we got married in 195.., 56 I got to remember, I've been married 55, 56 years.

**Question:** I'm guessing it'd be the 50's.

**Answer:** No, it was still the forties.

**Question:** Oh, it was in the forties when you got married, okay.

**Answer:** Yeah, it was 1946 I think. And the day I got married I had orders to, you'll never guess where, Bainbridge Island, Washington, as a doctor for a secret radio station they had on the island. It was breaking the Russian code and they had a little hospital situation there and I was the doctor for the, for all the Navy people there, the dependents, etc. And I was there for, until I got out of the Navy as a reservist to take a residency in North Carolina in orthopedic surgery under the Duke program. And I won't go into all that but...

**Question:** I want to back up just a little bit. When, cause I never talked to anybody about the people getting out of the service. We've always heard about everybody going in and getting inspected and shot. So was getting out just the reverse of that, you just had, they wind up and here come a bunch of naked guys through and you would check them?

**Answer:** That is exactly true. They had these special buildings in which you checked in one door and there were lockers. You put all your gear in the locker and you had a bag with a string on it and they gave you a key and you were nude and you started down the line and you got through all these different, you know, different offices or places and I would see ten or twelve guys at a time and I had helpers with me and they'd have a mark on the floor, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, up to 10 or 12. And you would

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

stand in front of that mark and you would have a paper with the same No. as the place you're standing and I had the name of the person and all and I would go down it and examine each one of them and write on a piece of paper... it was all columned. If you had any problems I would write on a paper and then he would go to the next person for the ears and the nose, chest or whatever, you know, the various things and then a psychiatrist and all that. But they did go through these rooms and these buildings were long, they'd go from special and they had these examining rooms in them and I was given corps men to help me with the examination and I would write the information down or he would write the information down and I'd have to sign it. But it did actually happen and it went on so long it, even in the very beginning of my medical career in the Navy, when I was at Sampson, New York, they had these people that were so sick and the sick bays were so filled with people they were standing in the snow outside and they had fevers and they would only seat people with a fever of 101 and over to make room inside. And they'd drive me up in a station wagon and I would go in there and have all these people standing in the sick bay the same way with Nos. on the floor and I listened to their chest and examined them and looking at throats and the famous diagnosis in the early part of the war was cat fever acute. That was a diagnosis meaning Catarrhal Fever, the sore throat, a cough, some lung congestion and a fever. And if you had pneumonia the guy I'm listening to his chest and this sailor would have pneumonia you could hear it, you'd take a red pencil and mark where you heard the pneumonia and put a big P on his back and then said to the hospital. I mean that's the way that went in the early days. The same sort of thing went on in reverse at the end and people were sent from the separation center to the hospital.

**Question:** What type of things when they were being separated, what type of things were you seeing that they would be sent to a hospital for?

**Answer:** Well, they'd have a hernia or they'd have the results of burns or scars or they'd, they'd have problems with their feet, jungle rot and stuff like that, they called it. And some of them had weird diseases that missed when they came in. I found some with some bone tumors on their bones that had developed while they were in, things like that. And some of them were just psychologically pretty bad, you know, they needed help. So they went, and the ones that got through the examination of all the various people examining them they went back out that same room they came in and got their clothes on and then they went over to be processed to get out. But the ones that didn't get out had to stay in longer and I couldn't get out as a doctor I stayed in there a long time. In fact I was moved up here in Washington to this secret radio station which I never got in cause I had to have top secret clearance but later on, I got out of there and went back to North Carolina and then went to Georgia for special orthopedic training and then I had a call from a friend of mine in the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. My son and his son were born the same day in the Brooklyn Naval Hospital so he got to be friendly. He was senior to me; he was a commander. But anyway, at that time, anyway to make it short story, he said, well we need people back in the service that have been in service and, would you like to come back in and continue your residency training in the Navy? I said, sure because I was a little unhappy with what was going on in North Carolina; there was a polio epidemic that I had been sent off to be the only doctor and I took care of polio patients for four or five months. And I did 500 spinal taps myself during this time to decide whether they had polio or not; and they built a hospital around me for that. And people, the town donated the money and the bricks and the lumber and actually built this hospital for these polio victims because they were in an abandoned... My first acquaintance with it was I was sent over to take care of them by the Infantile



## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

Paralysis, the National Foundation. They were in an old, abandoned newspaper building in Greensboro, North Carolina and it was terrible. So they decided to get them out of there because they had no facilities that could handle it. There were a bunch of people in iron lungs. In fact I delivered a woman of her baby in an iron lung one night and she had bulbar polio... and she had to have the iron lung or she couldn't breathe. The baby was fine, never did get polio, which was an interesting thing. Well, to get back to the situation, I went back in the Navy in 1948, the winter of '48. I was a Lieutenant then and I became a regular Navy officer. I was no longer associated with the reserves. So I went to Philadelphia and I was there until, on the orthopedic service and as a resident doing surgery every day and seeing patients, big hospital, huge place. It's not there anymore I don't believe and in south Philadelphia, near the Navy yard. Anyway, make it short as possible... I've been talking a long time.

**Question:** That's fine.

**Answer:** I didn't know what the FMF meant. One day I went to go to the mail room and I saw my name on a list of doctors available to the FMF. I said, what's that? Well that's the Fleet Marine Force in the Marine Corps overseas section, the ones that go overseas. They said, oh don't worry; you'll never get called for that. Well, some Sunday night I was in my apartment with my wife; we just had a second baby. This was in 1950. The second child was just, was born in Philadelphia Naval Hospital. Well they said, don't bother to go back to the hospital in the morning. Just put on your uniform, get your gear packed and go down to the airport and pick your orders. I said, where am I going? You're going to California. I said, again? Oh yeah, you're going to Camp Pendleton this time so I did. And I went back to Camp Pendleton, but it was interesting how I got there if you want to hear it. I went over to the airport and I had what they called a Go Show ticket; that meant that if someone didn't show up to go on the plane that you were supposed to go on or go to where you were going you go in place of them as a Go Show. So I'm standing around for an hour or so waiting for, to get out of there with my orders and in my uniform and I get my name called and I go up to the desk and they say, you're a Go Show. I say, yep. Okay, you get to go on the return maiden flight of the TWA non-stop to Burbank and what's the name, the guy who owned TWA and the pilot that flew the plane, a movie star, I can't think of his name right now but anyway it'll come to me maybe. But anyway I said, how come I'm going? He says, well Linda Darnell who was supposed to go back with this group of movie stars that were in New York decided to stay and you're in her place. Well, it was really an interesting, interesting ride all the way back they were having a party all the time... drinking and eating little canapés and stuff. And I landed in Burbank and then I got transportation out of there and I went down to Oceanside, California to Camp Pendleton. And then I was put into a Marine outfit but I got there too early. I got there a little early... they told me I was gonna go with a surgical team but I didn't because they assigned me to the surgical team that evening I checked in and went to the BOQ and the next morning I came back to go to the surgical team and they said, oh, your name has been changed. You're going out to the Infantry Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 1<sup>st</sup> Marines. I said, how come? Well, the Captain came in and decided who he wanted on his surgical team and he didn't know you so. That's the way it goes. I went out to, I went out there to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion as, they take two doctors, and I was the senior doctor on that battalion and I made, they made me a Marine pretty quick. I was crawling under barb wire with live ammo over my head and all that stuff and then I got all outfitted with Marine gear and went to San Diego on a bus, got aboard a ship, the Noble, the name of it, USS Noble. And I went over to Japan and then we trained again in Japan; then I got

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

back on the ship and made it the initial landing on the first wave at Inchon Korea. And I spent some time in Korea and during the time when I was with the Marines they had a number of casualties. I had a whole bunch of people on the first night that were really shot up bad, beat up... I'm not going to go into that but after while the Colonel in charge of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment, which it was, was a guy named Chesty Puller. You've probably heard of him. He's a famous, he's dead now, he had a son who was in the Vietnam War. He, Chesty was a Senior Colonel and he called me up to his headquarters when we were outside of Seoul, we were on our way north and said, hay you got a new job. I said, what is it? He says, we lost our Regimental Surgeon. We don't have one and you're the most senior officer in this group, medical officer, so you're now the Regimental Surgeon. So I became the Regimental Surgeon of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. And then when the Chinese came in after all that fight up north I got pneumonia and frostbite. I was evacuated to Japan to Kyoto, Japan. They had an Army, they had an on a Lakeview they had their first provisional Casual Company Fleet Marine Force Pacific was the name of it where all the casuals that could walk went because the hospital at Yokuska was so full of people my first stop on my way to Yokuska was the hospital ship Constellation. But then I only stayed there a few days to get over the problem but there was a buddy on this ship that I had worked with at Oakland and I had known for years and I'm in, I come in covered with mud, dirty clothes, I hadn't slept in a bed in months and months. You just sleep in foxholes and all that. They put me in the BOQ sick bay and I was lying there comfortably feeling great you know in pajamas and sheets and everything. He comes in and he says, Mac, he says, get out of that bunk and come down to surgery, we need you. We need an extra man to go around the clock and you're it. You're an orthopedic surgeon, come on down. So I stayed there until I got ordered out of there and over to Japan. And when I was in Japan the same sort of thing happened. I couldn't get back to Korea to get home because the Colonel there in charge of this division knew I, this camp, (inaudible) it was called. He found, he found out through his wife who used to be a girlfriend of mine back in medical school that I was a surgeon and this is really interesting because when I got to the camp with the 3,000 other people, the camp was set up and somebody in Washington had sent over a doctor to be the head of the medical department there. And he was a Lieutenant and nice guy but he was a pediatrician and he didn't know beans, see. So the Colonel decided, you take over the camp situation and you can square things away and get these people back to Korea or back to the hospital down in Yokuska which was an overnight ride if they needed more treatment. Well I started going through them with my help and I was a casual myself. See I wasn't supposed to do anything but be, you know. Well anyway, so I said, it's got to be a hospital around this town somewhere. He says, yeah, there's the 35<sup>th</sup> Army Hospital in Kyoto which is about 12 miles away. I went down there to check, check on this hospital to see what the Colonel in the Army ran it and they had a lot of people coming over from Korea that had casts on and they were wounded and they were all going in to the hospital on the orthopedic ward. And I had some people down at the Marine base where I was stationed that needed some surgery rather than chasing them all over the country I could do it. So what happened was I went in and talked to the doctor in charge of the orthopedic ward in this 35<sup>th</sup> Army Hospital and I says, I'm an arthropod and I'd like to know what's going on. He says, oh you are... my gosh, he says, I'm a Rear Admiral... I hardly do rectal work and they got me working here in this bloody ward and I hate it. Let's go down and talk to the Colonel. So I says, why? Well we'll go down and work out something. So he took me down to the Colonel and I met him and the Colonel called my Colonel and before I knew it I had a job down there at the Army Hospital and a job over at the Marine base and a Japanese driver and a jeep and I was going back and forth and I wasn't getting any

## Francis C. McCullough

Tape 1 of 1

sleep. So anyway I tried to get out of there and they kept me over there a year longer than I should have been and this guy, whose the wife, the husband was his wife that knew me, he played dirty pool in my book. He wanted to keep me there cause he couldn't get anybody else to take my job you know. And finally I had to write to Washington and that snake, I shouldn't say this. I won't give you any names or anything. He hadn't even promoted me. I had been promoted to Lieutenant Commander by then. And he hadn't even told me about it. So I wrote to Washington over his head and they said, you'll catch it but I didn't. They sent me another set of orders because when I was in Camp (inaudible) a doctor came through going to Korea and he says, Mac, they think you're dead. I said, why? Because your outfit has your orders lying in a basket covered with dirt in the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division and they don't know where you are. I says, well I'm here. He says, well you'd better do something about it. I says, well I tried but it's gonna work out all right now. I'm sending a letter to Washington. So they did send me a letter to go back to my residency in Philadelphia at the Naval Hospital and I finished it. And then I went for a Children's Tour, a civilian but I never wore a uniform. I was a civilian in the Navy working in a Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children to get my training in child work. And then from there I went to on my way to the hospital, Great Lakes Naval Hospital, and stayed there for oh three, four years. And then went to Camp Pendleton, stayed there about nine years. I went there as Assistant Chief of Orthopedics and then became Chief of Orthopedics and made Captain in the Navy and then they sent me to Twenty-nine Palms, California if you know where that is. It's the biggest Marine base this country has. I don't know how many thousand Marines. I was there as the CO of the Naval Hospital. I was there as the head of all the medical departments on the base at various places and as a Fleet Marine Force Troops with an office in Hawaii and also one in Twenty-nine Palms. And during the time I was there the Vietnam War broke out and I had to send doc, I was doing the orthopedic surgery in my hospital that was built while I was there. And I had a picture of it, cutting the ribbon the Admiral was there and I did the surgery and they started calling up my doctors. I had a whole bunch of doctors there and they were getting orders to Vietnam. And this one doctor, this is a good story, he didn't tell me, I'm his boss. He's a Lieutenant, Jr. Grade I guess. Anyway he was working in the hospital and going out to the various dispensaries and he decided he didn't want to go to Vietnam. This is before, we just got started, the war just started and I had sent over 400 Corps men and some doctors before him. Well he gets assigned and puts on a sign with a stick. He's against the war and he won't go to Vietnam and he gets down in the center of the activity at the front of the movie theater one night. And I didn't know that he was gonna do this and the next thing I knew the General was on the phone and he says, hay one of your doctors is parading in front of the movie theater denouncing the war and he says, you know I've got about 30,000 troops I'm gonna send over there and it's not good morale for these boys. I said, well, that's true sir. I'll see what I can do. So I got hold of this clown and he was a good doctor but he's like these protestors today. Anyway I told him, I said, if you're gonna come to me and talk to me before you pull this little act, maybe we could have gotten you out of it because I have several doctors here that don't have orders that want to go. And I said, but now that the General is in on it, and everybody on the base knows about it, you're going. And he went. So then I retired from the Navy in the fall, November 1965, right at the beginning of the Vietnam War. It was on for awhile but not very long. And went into private practice, opened my own office, had my own hospitals to go to and did my thing in five or six different hospitals in southern California, more than that, seven actually. And then I retired from that in 1987 completely. I quit my office in '85 and in '86 and part of '87 I was doing consultations, that's all, seeing people and writing up letters for insurance

## **Francis C. McCullough**

Tape 1 of 1

companies, etc. And then I decided I'd had enough of it from 1940 to 1987 was long enough for me.

**Question:** Well, thank you.