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Home of the Redwings!

Robert Allen

Interviewed by Ashley Kuripla

Robert Allen began by telling me that he was 21 or 22 years old when he went into war. In other words it was 1941-1945, when he entered and left the war. At the time his family was living in Lansing, Michigan on Rosemary Street. He was married to his wife Julie, and they had 3 children.

Bob entered the war thinking it was his duty to go because his father had been in World War I. He voluntarily joined the army. He was stationed in the Pacific and was in the 4th division. He didn't have very many close friends only the ones who he worked with for the time being. Some of his family says that if he didn't have such good hearing he probably would have been killed.

Since Bob was a high school dropout and didn't have that good of an education he was put with people of similar educational background. The people that did have a higher education went to a different place and were more recognized. So he was given a job at the message center and was a tell-a-typer, and also drove a Jeep to send and deliver messages to different people and places. He didn't get any medals for the fact the he didn't want to gain rank because he didn't want to take all the responsibility that came with being promoted. He also said that he didn't want to live the rest of his life thinking that everyone must go to war. It wasn't that big of a deal, at least that's how his attitude was then. The biggest battle for him was Iwo Jima. He was in training while Pearl Harbor was attacked and said he was moved by it. Later he went over to see the damage that was done.

He said that a normal day was taking messages back and fourth and than go souvenir hunting. On one special delivery he found a knife that was like a trench knife called a German mouser, which he never got to use.

After the war he returned home to his family and worked at Oldsmobile. If you were to ask him if he thinks he was a hero he would probably tell you no because he went there to do his job and return home safely He never regretted going to war. He said his best memory was when he walked up on deck to see a jet that was all crippled come to land and it didn't land very safely it took out several Mustang jets on its way an and left a big mess.

Another thing that he told me that I found very comical, is that he managed to get himself into trouble and had to do clean up duty which he found was

the best thing he ever did during the time he was there. The last and important question I asked him was what did your family think of you going off to war? He said "they respected that I was going to do a deed that was left for me to do." He went with no problem.

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