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# St. Johns High School

Home of the Redwings!

## Laurence Peterson

Interviewed by Rachel Coffman

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I interviewed Laurence Peterson. He went into the war in December of 1941 when he was 23 years old. He was one of the men that was chosen to fight in combat. He went into the service because the President sent him a letter saying that he was going to be drafted, (he was not able to choose whether or not to join the war.)

His brother also went into battle before he did in October 1941; he was 20 years old when he did this. He was a prisoner in Germany from October 1944 to April 1945. When he came out of the prison he was just fine. Before he was sent to the prison he was injured, though. Mr. Peterson got injured as well. The only relatives that did die were his distant relatives.

Mr. Peterson thinks the best thing about going into the war was the experience he had and the sights that he got to see. For example, in the Philippine Islands he would see two-wheel buggies where the horses could barely reach the ground to pull it along, because people would put so much stuff in back of the buggies.

Mr. Peterson mostly was at battle during Mid-February to Mid-August (1945) against the Japanese. He feels that he did have some impact on the war. He was a private and then promoted to a PFC. He really did not want to be a Sergeant or anything like that because he did not like the idea of giving orders. Mr. Peterson did not think that he was in any famous battles, but he did say that the US was always ahead in all the battles he was in and that the people he fought against were shrewd.

At war you would either, have a good day or a bad day, and hope that you would stay alive. Also, if there was free time, which was not very often, most people would sleep. The people in the war did not always have the greatest food or water. At one point Mr. Peterson ran out of water and had to drink green water.