

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Robert W. Ernsting

Current home town: Aurora, IN

Age: 84

I lived near Cincinnati, Ohio, and was 13 when Pearl Harbor was bombed. We heard it on the radio about 3 p.m. and did not know where Pearl Harbor was or how Japan could convoy that far and not be detected. I found a job in poultry processing at age 15. I was granted a driver license and could deliver products. Dad worked at G.E. My older brother joined the Air Force. My sister was employed making 50 caliber shell casings. At home, we all had ration books: gasoline, tires, meat, sugar etc.

In 1946 at age 18, I enlisted in the Marine Corps. I served on Guam and Saipan in the Pacific for two years in Supply Company. The focus then was the United States sending supplies to Gen. Chiang Kai-shek in China to fighting the communist takeover. That effort failed and Taiwan became the nationalist Chinese country. We loaded all types of military equipment on ships being sent there.