

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Bill Goodwin

Current home town: Mansfield, Ohio

Age: 85

Bill Goodwin served in the Navy in the engine room of the *Enterprise* aircraft carrier for over a year and a half. He went to Hawaii and then through the Panama Canal on her. They traveled up the east coast and Bill remembers the thrill of seeing Lady Liberty in New York Harbor while standing on deck. They then traveled up to Boston to convert the *Enterprise* to bring troops home. He completed two trips to South Hampton, England to bring back soldiers, and then two trips to the Azores to bring back WACS and WAVES.

The *Enterprise* was then decommissioned to be used for tours, and Bill was one of the handful of men assigned to stay and work through the process. All the steam lines were to have been drained and then opened. He recalls a chief petty officer opening a steam line that had been overlooked, and the steam “rolled his skin off like the bark off a tree.”

Bill returned to Ohio, married, had twin boys and a girl, and worked 44 years at Ohio Brass. Bill was born in 1927. He tells us of going to school in a one room school house, and how he really didn’t care for school. Music was his passion, and he plays the violin, guitar, and upright bass. He has a killer smile, too!

Story recorded by Cecelia K. Whittenberger.