

Alan & Lucille Neilson

Audio and Video Log

- 1:25 How Asheville used to be, especially Merrimon Avenue
- 2:24 They were 1/5 families that lived in Asheville
- 2:53 Pearl Harbor
- 4:06 Everyone getting married in Greenville because it was fast!
- 5:41 “Everyone wanted to go”
- 6:12 Info on the army, asked for drying-cadet.
- 6:48 trained in Mississippi “Keyserfield”
- 7:50 Trained in colleges all over the country
- 8:50 England
- 9:15 25 successful missions, then home? No, more.
- 9:40 What kind of targets? No pinpoint bombing at 25,000 ft.
- 11:07 Tight formations when flying
- 12;10 Tight formations helped tremendously, protected
- 14:33 bombing in Germany, France, mostly Germany
- 15:00 typical day: good breakfast at 4 or 5 o’clock, briefing with maps
- 17:15 U bombs, could see every morning
- 18:06 Missions were 6-10 hours
- 18:58 He was not actually ever in grave danger in terms of being shot at, by the Germans
- 19:49 [meanwhile, at home] Mail – funny story – 21 letters – very different from today
- 20:25 [Lucille says] Today people can talk on the phone.
- 20:44 Lucille: v-mail, did not like that.

21:14 Lucille: convoy w/d come through Asheville and drop their addresses. Everyone wrote to them.

23:00 Lucille in high school –no controversy- everyone was pro war.

26:20 Lucille: college at Western, no bags.

27:04 raccooning

27:28 Lucille: cleaning her families bus. Boomed , khaki uniforms

29:50 [back to the warfront] He flew 23 missions

32:27 Relationship with other men, all got along very well.

36:01 morale boosters: music, places to write letters, donuts and coffee

37:01 England: mixed in with English people, civilians laundry.

39:30 D-Day

40:47 Keeping in touch with one particular Englishman who had made tremendous effort to file all records and accounts, happenings. Incredible log.

44:45 skinny, “lean” people –especially English people, but also Americans, no obesity.

50:27 Being back in the US. No jobs, 1 year reunion.

53:22 camping in Max patch, socialized with young people.

Biographical data:

Army Air Corps, 8th Air Force, sergeant

Date of Enlistment: September 17, 1943 through November 23, 1945, England

Medals: European Ribbon, air medal three times, victory medal, good conduct medal

Born in Asheville, NC 07-19-1925

Caucasian