

INTERVIEW WITH GRANDPA CUBALO
By Joel VanderLinde

My Grandpa Cubalo was 12 years old when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He lived in Lincoln, Michigan, which was near Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda. When he heard about the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he was scared the Japanese would bomb the Air Force Base because they trained pilots there. My grandpa was frightened because that was his first war.

Because of the war, there were many changes in my grandpa's life. Several of my grandpa's friends who were a few years older got drafted into the military service. Some of these friends he never saw again and others came back with missing limbs or other scars. Also, food and gasoline were rationed. Everyone had to focus on war time life because the news, the movies, and all discussion revolved around the way the war was affecting our country.

None of my grandpa's close relatives had to go into the armed services, but his brother-in-law to be (my Uncle Harold) was in the Pacific area and spent most of his time in Okinawa and Leyte. Uncle Harold was not wounded but spent nearly four years in that combat zone. Uncle Harold was in the army communications section. Their job was to set up telephone lines from the command post to front line headquarters.

Grandpa did not have happy holidays during the war. He was not happy to have his friends fighting the enemies of his country so far away from home. A few years after this war, Grandpa spent two years in Korea at holiday times and he was not very happy.

I asked my grandpa if he thought we learned anything from the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He said probably our government will always be prepared to defend our country.

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