

## Please Help Us by Participating in Our New Project to Record Childhood Memories of WWII

The Museum has a new project to record the memories of people who were children during WWII. Summer intern Lesley Schutts has been assisting by putting these recollections into handouts for young people who visit the Museum so they can see the impact of the war on children their own age and learn that the sacrifices and home front activities extended even down to the very young.

If you would like to send us your WWII childhood memories, they would be most welcome. Please send them to the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, 328 E. Main St., Fredericksburg, TX 78624 or you may use the Oral History form on our website at: [www.nimitz-museum.org](http://www.nimitz-museum.org). Any photos from that era would also enhance the project.

Following is the example of one contribution, which has already been used in a handout, as well as one of the photos we received depicting children of the era.

## The War Through the Eyes of an 8 year old in Washington State:

*The following are excerpts from wartime recollections from Richard Earl Johnson who lived about 50 miles from Olympia, Washington:*

I was only five when the war began and do not remember being aware of it until I was about eight. I was old enough to hear about fears of the Japanese bombing the West Coast, and I remember seeing spotlights as Olympia is about 50 miles inland. Being so close to Fort Lewis, there was a big military presence in the area, and when there was a parade or any kind of celebration, the military was always involved. I imagine it gave them a break from the routine, as well as an opportunity to entertain the civilians. It certainly made an impression on me.

Both of my parents worked in plywood mills, which were considered essential to the war effort. My father's brother, Bob, served in the Army and was stationed in Alaska. He was issued summer tropical gear for awhile, and it was very difficult. My mom's brother was in the Navy and was stationed mainly on "baby" carriers.

I was ten when the war ended, and since Fort Lewis was close, there was a plethora of war surplus. We got helmets and liners, belts, canteens, leggings and other items we used to play "war." I remember we had wooden "Tommy Guns" and also BB guns. It is a wonder we did not put out some eyes. The helmet liners probably saved a friend and me some serious head injury, as we were riding a bike down a steep hill, wearing the helmet liners, and we crashed when the wheel turned to a pretzel on a tight turn. We landed on our heads, and the precursor to bike helmets was born, even though we did not know it.

## Oceanic Expeditions Program on Exploration in Borgen Bay



*(Photo Courtesy of Scott "Gutsy Tuason)*

On 7 December, John Holder, the founder of Oceanic Expeditions (OE), will present a program regarding the efforts of his teams to find historically significant aviation and naval wreckage lost in combat within the waters of Borgen Bay, West New Britain. This area was a focal point of combat for over two years, and hundreds of aircraft and numerous naval vessels are known to have been lost in these waters. Among the more historically significant are the IJN destroyers, *Ariake* and *Mikazuki*, and the USAAF B-25-D-1, *Crabb 2nd*. Part of OE's mission is to revolutionize marine exploration by employing advanced technology and using small teams to explore, document, and conserve what they find. This fascinating program will take place from 2:00 to 3:30 in the Nimitz Ballroom. The program is free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary, first come, first seated.

## A Photo from WWII:



**The Joy Brothers  
Falmouth, ME**