

Anthony Rodriguez
Period 4

Jim Scribner
U.S Navy
12 years of service
Interviewed 2016

Jim Scribner

Jim Scribner is a native of Connerville, Indiana; raised in Exeter California, born on September 18th 1937, and is a veteran of the United States Navy. Scribner had a twelve year career in the military, which included three years of active duty and nine years of the Navy Reserves. He basically traveled the world. San Diego and Japan were a few of the places he was stationed. Life after high school was a drastic change from what he was used to. Raised on a farm with plenty of freedom and attending private school was a whole new world than the way of life in the military. The classes back then especially in the kind of school Scribner attended barely had more than fifteen to twenty students. Extracurricular activities were also a way of life for him in high school. He ran the quarter mile and the half mile in track. An interesting fact about the sports teams back then was that there were no women allowed on the sports teams like there is in today's society.

Scribner had always thought about joining the military, so right after his senior year of college he applied, and was accepted, then headed off for training at the Navy Officer School in Newport, Rhode Island. Being at sea, would take three months just to get a letter in the mail. In college, the University of Redlands he chose to major in Economics.

As for the experiences in training he said it was tough! Training lasted four months. They handed out old used uniforms for training. "You didn't get to keep your stuff, you were

given stuff.” He had said. Not everyone passed training, people were actually cut. You were required to march to every class. The first quarter of training was the hardest; it was to see who the strong were. Who was going to make it or not. Scribner mentioned Robert Kennedy did not make it. A man with a Master’s degree did not make it. Scribner was a Communications Officer on a ship stationed in San Diego. In June 1960 his home port of San Diego was changed to Yokosuka, Japan for the next two and half years. He spoke about his ships. It was used in the Vietnam War. In the 1930s the Navy men already knew their next war would be with Japan. Scribner was on a ship that carried supplies to the other countries. After a while he said you get used to the ocean, the waves and the sea sickness. Eventually the sea sickness went away.

It was on June 3rd that he married his longtime girlfriend, all while constantly training to stay ready. On June 13th his ship had changed home port to Japan. Scribner explained that you had to qualify to be a watchperson on the ship which he had succeeded in doing. While out to sea they went through a storm, and the ship only went 10 miles per hour so it took a long time to travel.

In September 1960 his ship and another like his sailed to the Congo with a battalion of Malayan troops as part of a United Nation. The Congolese had overthrown the Belgians out of the country. They stopped off in the Philippines, Singapore, and half way around the world carrying supplies. Scribner spoke of seeing a lot of water and on the way to Madagascar ran into a Typhoon. The other ship lost radar with them, so they could not be tracked. Scribner was excited to go to South Africa knowing he would have a good time there. His ship traveled up the Congo River and had to unload all of the ships. They were there for days. Scribner and the others were in port for four days. They had to convince the native men to help them, but it was hard because they only spoke French. There was a guy on the ship that spoke a little bit of

French so they were able to get the help they needed. They stopped in Cave town, and Africa. Then headed exploring in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong they had amazing food, and he was able to make it home for Christmas.

Till this day Scribner still keeps in touch with his old Navy buddies, and has a lot of souvenirs and artifacts from his time in the Navy. Stopping off and shopping, he said things were really cheap. He collected things from Bangkok, and Singapore. He never saw any combat, but did transport Malayan troops to the Republic of Congo on a peacekeeping mission in 1960 for the United Nations, and received that medal because he served over the northern and southern pacific oceans. Scribner said he is blessed to have his wife of all of these years. They have three children, and seven grandchildren, with the youngest grandchild being twenty five years old. For entertainment he watches television and movies, and plays a card game called Bridge.