

SUMMARY OF TAPE N104 INTERVIEW WITH DAN NORTON

May 12, 1991

Interviewer: Tara Fitzpatrick

This student interviewer is organized and prepared for the interview. The subject is primarily Dan Norton's experiences and memories of World War II. Dan was a student at Antioch College, which was then a five-year coop school. While there, he analyzed uranium on a project that was part of the Manhattan Project.

Following graduation Dan and Rachael were married. Dan was immediately drafted, sent through basic training, and sent to Princeton to continue working on the Manhattan Project. He had studied the German language, but tells of his negative feelings about the language and the people, as well as the Japanese during the war years.

His clear recollections of college years at Antioch, war rationing, national opinions of FDR, D-Day and the Atomic bomb drops on Hiroshima and Nagasaki make listening to this tape feel close to the events of the time. He talks of women's roles and some of the heroes during the war. He contrasts the welcome reaction given to returning servicemen by the population at large to the negative reaction accorded the Vietnam veterans.

Dan spent some time on Bikini Atoll in 1946 while still in the Army. It was an interesting time to be an observer of atomic testing, and obviously was a memorable experience for Dan.

After discharge from the military, Dan went back to Princeton to achieve a doctorate in Chemistry. Princeton at the time had as professors and lecturers such famous historical figures as Einstein, the Smythe brothers and Oppenheimer.