

This interview is being conducted on Friday, March 26, 2010. My name is Fran Prokop and I am speaking with Edward J. McCartan. Edward is a veteran who not only served in the Navy in World War II, also in the Marine Corps in World War II and he was again drafted into the Korean War. He has quite a history to tell. Mr. McCartan learned of this project through a mutual friend and he has kindly consented to participate in the National Archives Veterans History Project.

Here is his story:

When and where were you born?

I was born in Brooklyn, New York – 8-16-1925.

Some family details – what were your parents' occupations?

My father was a stonecutter – granite cutter and my mother was a housewife.

How many sisters and brothers did you have?

I'll say six.

You're not sure?

Three brothers, three sisters, plus me = seven.

What did you do before entering the service?

I was a student.

How old were you when you entered the service?

Seventeen.

And you enlisted?

Enlisted, right.

And what were the circumstances – did you go alone to enlist -- where did you enlist?

I went alone because I was looking to get into the Navy to get better schooling – V-12 college program – officers training while being paid to go to college. And actually at that point in time there was no other jobs to do – and –

You can elaborate but in looking at Mr. McCartan's history we've gone through his preliminaries and he enlisted July 15, 1943 and served through November 4, 1946. So, it seems that he has a pretty varied history.

Were any other family members serving in the military?

