

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

91 “*Just keep your mouth shut!*”

I entered the Army Air Corps in 1943 at age 18, but it took so much time to train I only flew three missions against Japan, one of which happened to be the last mission of the war.

Now it was 70 years later and I was in my eighties, living in a Senior Center. One morning four of us, who happened to be veterans, were having breakfast together. The man sitting on my left was a friend of many years. The other two I had only known since moving to the Center.

The man across the table turned and asked me, “You were in the Air Force, weren’t you?” I had heard he was, too, so I answered, “Yes. You were too, weren’t you?” When he agreed, I asked what he had done. Without much emotion he replied, “I flew a B26 in Europe,” and casually added a startlingly high (about 65 as I remember) number of missions.

The fellow next to him then spoke up, “I wanted to be in the Air Force, but I couldn’t pass the physical.” When we asked what happened, he told us, “Oh! They sent me over to an island in the Pacific.” Then he described how he was blown out of a foxhole and sent home!

My friend, who had also been in the service but seen limited action like me, turned to me and whispered quietly:

*“When you’re with guys like these—**Just keep your mouth shut!**”*

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2018 Marvin J. Martin