



## **Lemual Lee Haynes**

Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Special Services, United States Army  
World War II  
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I wanted to follow my brother into service, but I could not become an officer because of my vision. I volunteered. I spent time in Texas and at Ft. Bliss, Washington. After boot training, I spent a few days in San Francisco en route to my assignment in the Philippine Islands.

We were unloaded and left just in the woods for about six weeks and had very little problem with the enemy. Then we were moved to another Island for six weeks and on up to the capital city where we waited six or eight months for the Japanese to surrender. We were happy to hear that the atomic bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima because the Japanese had to quit. We went by ship to where the Japanese were to surrender aboard the U. S .S. Missouri. We arrived at Japan and took cars into a town that we had blown up. We camped out in an old school building that had been hit by bullets. At least we had a place to stay at night. We were two or three miles from the Missouri. In two weeks we were reassigned.

My job was interviewing and telling people what we had set up there. We finally had an office in a two-story building that had been hit by bombs. We didn't work all the time. We often walked in the woods. I did not have a unit. I was a rover for any job that was needed -- interviewing and investigating people. When I had put in my six months, an officer, a fellow who had gone to A & M when I did, offered me top money to stay six months more. I just couldn't so I got to go home.

When our ship docked in San Francisco, they put us on (not happily) trucks, train, and automobile. Finally I got home. I worked for a while and then went back to get my bachelor's degree using the GI bill which was a great help. I got out in less than two

years and started working for the Texas Prison System in Huntsville, interviewing incoming inmates. I met Winona and we married in 1949.

I got a Master's Degree in Psychology, as an Army benefit, and worked for Texaco, Inc. in Port Neches, Texas. I took a promotion with Texaco in Louisiana for 8 years then sent back to Houston. I retired after 25 years with Texaco.

We came to Tyler and GABC in 1979. We were glad to see Paul Powell who had been a youth leader at First Baptist Church in Port Arthur. Yes, God has blessed my life. When I was six months old, two doctors came to house to say I would not make it through the night. I am almost 80 now. I became a Christian when I was 12 years old.

Japan was a nice place. Its torn-down buildings looked bad, but it had been a decent place to live. When I came home, a Japanese family gave me a china tea set which is still in our family. The Japanese were very nice, and they didn't want war any more than we did.

Everywhere I went, I saw someone I knew. In Japan, I saw many people I knew, once I recognized someone who had been in high school with me in Lindale, Texas.