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# Club 67 was a popular place in Arkadelphia during WWII

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# Club 67 was a popular place in Arkadelphia during WWII

By Wendy Richter  
For the Siftings

December 7 marked the 75th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, and the United States' entrance into World War II.

Several years ago, the Clark County Historical Association published "We Were There: Clark Countians in World War II," to "honor those who served, both on the home front and in uniform." Indeed, the book commemorates the efforts and sacrifices of local citizens, highlighting the fact that during the war men and women from Clark County participated in all types of activities in places all around the world. Many veterans contributed to the book's preparation, and numerous people were interviewed. One story is particularly timely: the McAnulty family was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the following account of their experiences appeared in "We Were There."

"First Sergeant Hawley D. McAnulty was an Army career man with Battery A, 8th Field Artillery, stationed at Schofield Barracks adjoining Wheeler Field and near other airfields on Oahu Island. Their home was located next to the street



Image courtesy of the Clark County Historical Association, from the book, "We Were There: Clark Countians in World War II"

that ran between Schofield and Wheeler fields. Sergeant McAnulty, his wife Evelyn, and their two sons, Donal and David, had lived there four and one-half years prior to the disastrous events that took place on Sunday, December 7, 1941.

"About seven o'clock that morning, Mrs. McAnulty was getting the children ready for Sunday School. Donal, age thirteen and the oldest son, went outside to get the Sunday newspaper. He suddenly heard loud explosions and saw planes overhead. The planes were flying in through the Kolekole Pass behind Schofield. Donal knew his airplanes and was soon shouting,

"Those are not our planes, they're Japanese!" Everything seemed unreal, like a dream. Donal's dad tried three times before he succeeded in getting him back into the house.

"As the Japanese were making low-level strafing runs on the military installations, the spent machine gun shells were falling all over the place and on hitting the leaves of trees, the concrete streets, drives, and roof tops. They sounded like large hail. Later the boys picked up some of the casings. For some time afterwards, following a big rain, casings and shrapnel would wash into the ditches and gutters. Mrs. McAnulty saved a large

piece of that shrapnel.

"Sergeant McAnulty had to leave his family and report to his duty station. As Mrs. McAnulty and a friend walked down the street toward the gate at Wheeler Field to see what damage had been done, they could see the smoke high in the air from the burning ships at Pearl Harbor.

"Mrs. McAnulty and her friend were stopped by a guard and told to return to their homes and wait for orders. When the orders came they were instructed to pack only bare necessities (a change of clothes) and that night the women and children were put on a convoy of trucks. It was pitch dark, only the lead vehicle allowed to run with lights. They were taken to a big school in Honolulu as it was believed only the military installations would be attacked. After a week they were allowed to return to their homes. The windows had been painted black on the inside of the houses so no light would provide a target should the Japanese return, and ditches were dug in the yards for protection against machine guns and flying shrapnel. The children's school was used for barracks.

"The McAnulty family stayed at Schofield until April 6 when

they came home on a stripped-down ship, the 'Lurline.' Most of their possessions had to be left behind. Sergeant McAnulty remained at Schofield until his unit was moved out to Guadalcanal; when he finally came home he was a very sick man. Malaria and dengue fever had taken their toll and he spent many months in hospitals.

"After twenty-three years of service Sergeant McAnulty retired with a medical discharge. His sons also had military careers: Donal retired from the Air Force and David retired from the Navy, each with thirty years of service. Sergeant McAnulty died in 1976 in Arkadelphia." Evelyn McAnulty died in 1995.

The hard-cover book, "We Were There," edited by the late H. B. Arnold, Jr., the late Norma S. Arnold, and Wendy Richter, is available for purchase from the Clark County Historical Association and makes an excellent Christmas gift. To get your copy or for additional information about Clark County history, visit or contact the Clark County Historical Museum ([www.clark-countyhistory.org](http://www.clark-countyhistory.org) or 230.1360) or the Clark County Historical Association's Archives at the Ouachita Baptist University Library ([www.obu.edu/archives](http://www.obu.edu/archives) or 245.5332).