

U. S. S. NORTH CAROLINA BATTLESHIP COLLECTION

Paul C. Wenck Interview

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I am Paul C. Wenck of 98 River Street, Coney Island, New York. I enlisted in the United States Navy in 1940 out of Albany, New York. I had my initial training in Newport, Rhode Island. At that time I was honor man in Company 43 while training. I stayed back in training at the training center and played Navy basketball for the training station on the Eastern Seaboard League. I went into the central room and stenciled clothes for recruits for awhile. I heard about the new ship being built, the North Carolina, in New York City. I then asked for a transfer. I was sent to the Navy yard at New York and was sent aboard the U.S.S. Seattle, which was tied up and used as a recruit ship. From there they transferred me over to the U.S.S. Camden which was used for personnel being transferred throughout the Navy Yard. At that time I was assigned to the U.S.S. North Carolina.

[Was it 1940 or 1941 when you went on board?]

Probably more like '41.

[Could it have been winter time, do you remember anything about the the weather?]

I believe we were wearing blues so it was probably winter, early '41 just before commissioning actually.

[Well she was commissioned April 9, 1941, it could have been anywhere from January to March.]

Working parties were sent on board the North Carolina. We did odd jobs, putting in storage bins and any miscellaneous work that we could help to assist the ship being prepared. Meanwhile I had to go back aboard and do a little mess duty for the chief's mess on board the Camden. Back