

on board I went to the North Carolina, worked on there and got into the third division. I was in the third division the day of the commissioning. Our boatswain mate was a man by the name of Johnson. I was with the third division as deck hand for some time. The commissioning was a great day of excitement as I recall, all these dignitaries around, all these high ranking admirals. Every sailor had to be on his toes and everything was ship shape the best way it could be on board. We were all dressed in blues for photos and the commissioning. It was a great day.

[Were you there for the various trials that took place?]

I was in, I was assigned to number three turret down in the magazine room. I was in there for some time and I went into the pit, of the center gun, number three turret. From there, having talked to my boatswain mate about advancement in the service and so forth, he advised me that I should look into another field. He was a great man with a lot of confidence in me for some reason. A great man was this Johnson. I respected him.

[Was he Old Navy?]

He was an old Navy man. Quite a bit older than I was. I was eighteen at the time. I went into the executive office and worked there for some time. But I was sort of a lonesome fellow with all my shipmates that I worked with below who were being assigned to different divisions especially the "S" division which is slide division. Such fellows as Donald Day, Wendy Gum and I were three indispensable fellows the way we figured it. Unseparable, I should say. So, we stayed together and have been friends all these years ever since the ship was commissioned. We all went through training together, one good thing about it. Later I left the executive branch and got into "S" division.