

I wasn't in the exec office very long. I had the forward starboard under Thomas Harry and Chief Fowler.

[These were general stores?]

Yes, general stores and Chief Fowler was our main boss at that time. I advanced through the ranks and made chief in 1943, chief store keeper.

[That's fairly rapid advance to make chief that early. Were you in charge of a number of store rooms?]

I had a whole group of store rooms. I had mustered all the mess boys. I gave them all their advancement tests. I haven't seen any of them since. Really, I haven't seen any of them and I'm surprised that they haven't been back to the association. I would sure like to see them back.

[Were you, I suppose you were on board ship when they went into Pearl Harbor?]

I was on ship when she left New York and followed her all the way through the North Atlantic, all the way through the tests. I was there at Pearl Harbor. I remember the joyous welcome with those ships in the terrible mess. I remember it very well.

[Were you on board deck, I suppose you were standing quarters going into Pearl ?]

We were at quarters when we came through; you can never imagine the welcome we got. The people were just awed by the size of the ship, and the greatness of it.

[Was there any excitement when you went on liberty, the ship I mean?]

Everybody wanted to talk to you. You'd get in the yard and the yard workers wanted to talk to you and know about it, and what happened, and how it got about. I guess it was quite a secret. We had a great experience going through the canal. They had to grease her through the