

[Do you remember anything unusual about the various battles or engagements you were involved in, about planes getting too close?]

Oh, they came in close. As I recall, they flew over; we had quite a few planes attack us at different times. Yes, they flew over and I believe part of one exploded and fell somewhere on or about the ship. In fact I have a piece of that made of a fabric.

[Where were you when the ship was torpedoed?]

I had just gone up starboard forward ladder by number two turret and I was looking out and I saw the carrier as it had been torpedoed. I saw a destroyer cut in front of us and I looked over in between the turrets and saw these fellows getting ready for muster. Next thing I knew there was a bunch of hats and water and the torpedo struck.

[Did it knock you down?]

I was flung to the side and I fell near the hatch right by number two turret. I picked myself up and got out. That's where my battle station was. I was heading up on the bow from muster. Just about eight o'clock right through there in the morning; we had just finished breakfast. That was quite an experience.

[Well, torpedoing usually is. You don't have warning particularly]
No warning whatever.

[You weren't even at battlestations at the time.]

No, they had passed word for general quarters, because I was headed up there at least at that particular time every morning they had quarters.

[Do you recall the first bombardment when you bombed what was it Nauru Island or the North Carolina was to suppose to have bombed a Japanese Island for the first time?]

I recall those. I was not on the big guns at the time.

[You were back in the stores?]