

ever knew that, and I thought about it. There I was in a battleship in the middle of the war zone with aviation gasoline above us and turret three gun powder in the back and I would have gotten a general court martial and been shot.

[Were you on board when the ship was torpedoed?]

No sir. I came on board that's why You see I was at New Caledonia here waiting for it and it got torpedoed.. After that we were in every battle of the Pacific. We bombarded Majuro, which everybody knows was the first battleship bombardment of Jap territory, the Gilbert Islands and the Marshall Islands, Tarawa, Saipan, Peleliu, Yap, and all the way to Tokyo Bay,

[Your battleship was aft?]

Number forty millimeter, I was the gun fast.... Number forty millimeter on the fantail, on the port side, the last one.

[Do you recall anything about any of the air action?]

At one time I was passing ammunition in a little cubby hole and they told me, they said a Jap plane just barely missed us. He said if it had been just a few more inches, we would have been dead because it would have blown the whole fantail off. They said they don't know why. Whether it was a smokescreen or fall but something. He said the Jap plane came all of a sudden. They could see his face real good and he looked like he was scared and he looked down and they looked up and they didn't shoot at him. Another time on my forty millimeter we had to have general quarters every morning and every evening at sundown. One time I remember, me and another guy, he said "What kind of plane is that?" I told him "F4 stupid." He said "that ain't no F4. That ain't no F4, that's a 6..." All of a sudden the ships started opening up and it was two Jap planes coming in. They dropped two bombs on the carrier and