

barely missed it.

[You thought it was an American plane?]

That's right. And another time there, we had sunk this freighter. It was in a harbor, I can't remember which it was. They said there is a ship in the harbor, so they were firing at ease and we were watching them bombard. I can remember you could see the flashes and you could see the three or six shells of ours go real slow like orange going further and further. Then I noticed three balls getting bigger and bigger in the same spot, getting bigger and bigger; and then there was another three balls coming getting bigger and bigger. Then all of a sudden, it came over the speaker, "take cover, take cover. They are firing, they are firing back." And I saw some splashes way off. They couldn't reach us. But man they opened up with everything. It was sunk in, to me it looked like thirty minutes flat. They sunk it and they also sunk a sanpan which is a little smaller than a shrimp boat. We all laughed about it because we wanted credit for two ships.

[And were you in the forty millimeter at that time?]

That is right. One thing I could always remember, we were way down below and the sound effects to us were a little different because I could always tell when the Jap planes were coming. First of all you heard the five inch go boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. After awhile you hear the forty millimeter cut in boom-boom, boom-boom, beside the boom, boom, boom. Then you hear the trill, trill, trill and then they are going to be right overhead and all of sudden it is quiet.. Then about ten or fifteen minutes later all of it will start again, boom, boom, boom; then you got that boom-boom, boom-boom; trill, trill, trill all of a sudden it is quiet again. That is the way the battle went.

[That's how it sounded below deck?]