

[You didn't want to do that?]

No, I didn't want to do that. I caught a BE to St. Pedro.

We changed captains ever so often. I can't remember all the names but one captain and I believe it was Captain Dunlop. I remember they had general quarters and I was laying on my bunk way down in the cat-a-combs down in the third deck. I remember they said, "set condition one on the A battery, set condition one on the A batteries." And then he said "expedite setting condition one on the A battery." I had never heard of that word, neither had a whole bunch of guys. We got confused and I remember some of them went back to the bunks. We didn't know what expedite meant. Suddenly we heard that boom, boom, boom. Then it came over the speaker, "Hurry, hurry, put in condition one A battery, hurry." I always remember what that word "expedite" means.

[He was a new captain right?]

He had just come on. I'll always remember that, "expedite." We never did hear that word anymore.

I spent some time on after steering. That's another thing at the time, I guess we were all the same way. We were young and the Navy was real short of men and they just made them as brave as quick as they could. I remember when they told me I was going to be in after steering and they also had that for a watch. They said "look, you have a red button and a bush and after steering in case you get disabled up forward you can steer the ship from aft you got one starboard and one port. If you are disabled from up forward and they get a hit on that side then you can steer from this side, so what you do then is you open this valve and close this valve and open the other up and push this button." They told me twice and I started asking. They said "are you a machinist?" I said "Yes", and they just told me that I should know that. I was