

to the third deck, and all the time hearing this fellow say "stand clear of the starboard side." I sat down against the bulkhead, and it was between compartments, and I said to the fellow next to me, I said "Jesus Christ, a guy could get killed around here." That was the first time I really woke up. Really, I was a stupid kid but that's the way it was.

[Do you recall when the ship went through the Panama Canal?]

Yes.

[Where were you?]

Well like I said originally, I came aboard in the deck force. I had gone to a trade school, so I wanted down in the black gang which I wound up doing later, but I think I was in the deck force at the time. I don't remember too much except going through it.

[You mentioned the day after the torpedo. Where were you when the ship was torpedoed?]

I was working in the machine shop on a big eighteen inch gap lathe. She runs from port to starboard and I don't remember what I was doing. But I do remember all the tools that I had on the carriage jumping up and everybody just took off for their battlestations. I remember what went through my mind, I never thought of a torpedo. I thought of another ship in the distance laying one into us, you know. I remember running around the shop shutting machines off and then taking off for my battlestation which was in that area. I had gotten through that door. It was closed off already. So that's the last door they kept sealed off because forward of that compartment they had, if I can remember right, they had cracks in the bulkheads and they had to shore it up. So our station was moved aft a little. My first impression was that there was a sea battery that had hit us. The ship went into an immediate list and seemed that she came out of it as fast as she went into it.

[Did anyone announce that the ship was torpedoed over the