

U. S. S. NORTH CAROLINA BATTLESHIP COLLECTION

Charlie Rosell Interview

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Interview #1

My name is Charlie H. Rosell 15 Ellen Avenue, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. I first entered the Navy when I was living in Arkansas at the time, June the 6th, 1939. I went to boot camp in San Diego and then went on one of the old four stacker destroyers the Cassin. I was on there until 1941, I guess February in '41, and of course at that time they didn't transfer people like they do in the modern Navy by name. They just send out and send me in our case one fireman second. They take the drunk on the ship and send him, you know, and I caught the old Essex. I caught and rode her back to Bremerton and got in there in March of '41 and went to New York and reported aboard the old... I reported into the Brooklyn Navy Yard on the Seattle which was a receiving ship at the time and this was in March, I imagine around March the tenth. Of course we stayed on there and they had another ship that we actually slept on, the old Camden.

[In otherwords, you slept and ate probably aboard the Camden while they were fitting out the North Carolina. What were you you were, just a seaman apprentice?]

I was a fireman-second. When I came aboard and our first load the first twenty or thirty days before we went into commission, I was assigned to number two fireroom. We went down and Chief Hughes was our chief water tender and we reported to him. I guess the first thirty days we just got familiar with the fireroom and drew out our fire inspection lines and our fuel lines.

[Well you just tested everything out I gather, didn't you?]

Well we actually lit off after awhile but the first couple of weeks we were just getting familiar and of course back in those days the basic idea was that