

you knew your fireroom so well if you had a blackout, you could still find your boiler and do your job. You knew where the valves were and this type of thing. Then later we went in commission and went on our machinery shake down first down off of Gitmo and we came back and went off of Portland for our gunnery shake down.

[Can you tell me anything about either shake down?]

Only about the gunnery shake down. Of course this is just scuttlebutt. Of course we heard the scuttlebutt down below. By this time Captain Badger had relieved Captain Hustvedt. The Gras Spee was working out of the Norwegian Coast at the time. It was a pocket battleship and we got the scuttlebutt down there that Captain Badger was making flights down to Washington trying to get permission to go out and encounter. Of course now it seems funny, but at the time it didn't sound so damn funny to go out and get that thing.

[Do you remember how hot it was out in the Gitmo?]

We use to go up to they called it the tin roof. It was up on a hill I guess about a mile from the pier. We use to go up and drink that hot tooie beer; and there was that one eyed Indian, and when he was looking at you with two eyes, it was time to go back to the ship. We sat there and I think that stuff was about eighteen percent about like a good wine. We sat there and drank it and as long as you were sitting in the shade and that cool sea breeze coming through it was fine. You drink about four or five of them and start that long walk back down to the ship in that hot sun, and then it would hit you. That's about all I really remember about it. And of course we use to get to go to Gitmo City and is it Cantemaro and get that train over there, use to take the boat across the bay over to the Red Barn. There was a place called the Red Barn, and from there you would take the train into Gitmo City. One of the roughest jobs on there was we had to furnish shore patrol for the train. Of course these were the old open coaches, and it wasn't too bad going to Gitmo City, but trying to keep those