

drunks in the cars coming back add especially trying to keep them from getting between the cars where they really could get hurt.

[What do you remember of the trip through the Panama Canal?]

One thing I had to watch, I got on topside just to see what it looked like but that was about it. The rest of the time I was down below.

[They said it really scraped going through.]

Yes well you could hear it. I was down in the number two in the floor plate, it was the equivalent to about six decks below, counting the gradings and everything else and you could actually hear it.

[Scraping on the side.]

Yes scraping on the side. Of course we had fuel tanks and voids between us and actually the outer skin of the ship, but you could still hear it through all that. I think the canal, what is it a hundred and nine feet, I think, maybe a hundred and ten feet. And I think we have a beam on this thing of a hundred and eight feet and some odd inches. So you only have a foot clearance which would give you about six inches on both sides, you know on either side.

[All you had to do was move a little bit and you are bound to bump going through which you did. I'm sure they had to do some painting when they got in the Pacific. Well when you went through the canal, it was June of '42 and you went on to Pearl Harbor, right?]

No we went to Frisco first. We went to Frisco to provision ship and then went directly across.

[Were you below deck when they entered Pearl Harbor the first time?]

Yes.

[So you don't remember much about that.]

No, I did get topside. You know the guy would go up topside and I was a water tender at the time. A guy would go topside to see what it looked like