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Mr. Sam Zangari  
January 5, 1971

Place of Interview: Wrightsville, Pa.

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald Marcello

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Approved: *Samuel Zangari*

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Oral History Collection

Sam Zangari

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello

Place of Interview: Wrightsville, Pennsylvania      Date: January 5, 1971

Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing Mr. Sam Zangari for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place in Wrightsville, Pennsylvania, on January 5, 1971. Mr. Zangari was in the army on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. And at Pearl Harbor he was an eye-witness to the Japanese attack which took place there. Sam, before we start talking about what actually took place at Pearl Harbor, why don't you give us a brief biography of yourself for our record. In other words tell us where you were born, what your education is, a little bit about yourself until the time you joined the army.

Mr. Zangari: I was born in Morristown, New Jersey, in 1915. My dad got a job at Armstrong Linoleum Plant in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. So my dad moved the family to Lancaster. In proceeding years my dad and mother worked to keep the family going. I always went down to New Jersey to work on a farm to help my dad pay taxes, and they were pretty hard years. There were eight in the family. So I had to quit school at a

young age. I quit school when I was only one year in high school. So a few years later I got a job at Armstrong. And it was in 1937 and 1939 I got laid off, and I couldn't get any other job. So I decided the best thing for me to do was to join the army and see the world. My cousin and I thought the best place to see would be Hawaii. So we both enlisted, went to Harrisburg, got examined, and we both enlisted in the Corps of Engineers. At that time the Corps of Engineers was nothing but a working company. There weren't any combat engineers until after the war started. We got to Hawaii in December, 1939.

Marcello: At that time did you have any idea at all that the country would eventually be getting into war with Japan?

Zangari: No.

Marcello: None whatsoever?

Zangari: Not with Japan. At that time when my cousin and I joined, our thoughts were that we would get in the service and get a little training in case the United States would get into war with Germany. And that's one reason why my cousin and I joined the army.

Marcello: I think a lot of people around that time joined the service mainly because they couldn't get any work. Isn't this true?

Zangari: That's so. There were quite a few in the company that I was in that did the same thing under those conditions. They were out of work. Some of them got into trouble.

Some of them had to join the army or be prosecuted under the law. That's why most of them joined. Later on, after December 7th, we got mostly all draftees in the service.

Marcello: This is about what I thought. I mean, after all, the country was still in the depression even in the late 1930's.

Zangari: Yes, it was.

Marcello: And work was quite hard to find.

Zangari: We arrived in Hawaii just as the rainy seasons started at the end of December.

Marcello: Can you remember when you got to Hawaii, the exact date?

Zangari: Yes. We got to Hawaii on December 31, 1939. And by the way, we left New York on December 1st. It took us thirty-one days to get to Hawaii. We went by the way of Panama.

Marcello: In other words you went by ship?

Zangari: Yes. We went by ship. The name of the ship was the Chateau-Thierry. It was an old troopship that they used in World War I. It was quite an experience to go down to Panama and see how those locks work. I never saw anything like it before in my life. We stayed in Panama for one night, and after we had a little leave we shoved off again in the morning for Hawaii.

Marcello: Did you get seasick?

Zangari: No. I didn't get seasick; I was too busy to get seasick. I had K.P. practically all the time over: peeling potatoes, washing dishes and pots and pans. We were just raw recruits

who didn't even have any training when we were sent over to Hawaii.

Marcello: You had no training whatsoever in this country. In other words you joined the service, and they sent you directly to Hawaii.

Zangari: I joined the service, and I spent eleven days at Fort Slocum before they sent me to Hawaii. And when we got to Hawaii, that was when we received our training. We had six weeks training. And after our training, they put us out with the company, and they started giving us work details. We also had the privilege of going on what they called "Special Duty," Class A and Class B Special Duty.

Marcello: What were they?

Zangari: They were such things as sports and driving command cars or working in the motor pool--something that you would specialize in. And by doing that, you would get out of most of all the inspections.

Marcello: Where were you stationed in Hawaii? In other words where were you billeted?

Zangari: We were stationed in Schofield Barracks. We were assigned to a Corps of Engineers at the time. At that time the Corps of Engineers had three battalions under the Hawaiian Division. And in 1941 they split up the Hawaiian Department and made two divisions out of it, the Twenty-fourth and the

Twenty-fifth. I was in the Twenty-fourth. And then they split our company up, and they called them the combat engineers. We also took training for combat besides working. We had to build bridges and all kinds of construction work. At the same time we had our rifles right with us ready to defend ourselves.

After our six weeks training, we went to our companies, and we pulled company duties, K.P., every so often, and if you didn't get in Class A Special Duty, then you pulled it more often than the other fellows. They had the privilege of picking a lot of duties that you wanted. If you didn't want any duties . . . like some of the fellows, they just wanted to loaf around and spend their time. I myself took a special duty in driving a company commander around in the command car. That's how I got one rating. Well, after so many months, I got in football, baseball, track, and basketball. Our company won the basketball championship for a couple of years, and the football team was one of the best ever in the Schofield Barracks. It had some of the best college football players in the states. It had All-American players from Boston College and Fordham University and others from all over the United States. And that's one reason why our regiment had the best football team on the island.

Marcello: Now at the time you got to Hawaii, when you first got

there, was there any indication at that time at all that the Japanese might at some time or another attack the island?

Zangari: No. No indication at all. We were very friendly with the Japanese. The island of Oahu consisted of approximately fifteen to twenty different nationalities--Portuguese, Spaniards, Chinese, Japanese. You name it, and they're on the island.

Marcello: There is a substantial Japanese population on the Hawaiian Islands, isn't there?

Zangari: Yes there is. And also Chinese. And I think the Chinese and Japanese overrun the Hawaiians, the original inhabitants of the island.

The ironic part of it is that when December 7, 1941, came, my time was supposed to be up.

Marcello: Is that right?

Zangari: I had my footlocker packed and all my papers processed. My footlocker was even down on the dock in Honolulu ready for me to be shipped out on December 8. There were several of us in the company going at that time. In 1941, I don't know whether they surmised anything or not, but due to the fact that we were a construction company and knew how to use dynamite and different implements; they had us construct air shafts in what they called security headquarters and also an ammunition dump in Ala Moana Crater. That's up in Red Hill. Red Hill overlooks Pearl Harbor. You could see the



boats coming in and out; you could see them dock; and it's practically like a balcony seat of Pearl Harbor.

Marcello: A while ago you mentioned air shafts. Would you mind explaining what you mean when you were speaking of the air shafts?

Zangari: Yes. The air shafts were shafts that we dynamited up through the mountains, tunnels up through the mountains, so the air could get down into the mountains and into the different rooms that the security headquarters were housed in.

Marcello: Oh, in other words, these were more or less underground headquarters.

Zangari: They were in the mountains. They weren't under ground; the entrance was level with the ground, but they were in under the mountain.

Marcello: But they were into the mountain.

Zangari: Yes.

Marcello: I see. When did construction on these things begin?

Zangari: Construction began by another company around 1940, and we took over the process in 1941. They would send one platoon at a time to work. One week one platoon would go, and then they'd come back to the barracks. By the way, the barracks was around 25 miles away, Schofield Barracks. And then the following week they'd send another platoon. We had three platoons in the company. The funny part of it was that when we would go down to the crater to work, we never took any arms or

anything along with us. So when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, we were left flat-footed. We had no rifles, no ammunition, no nothing. We were just left flat-footed.

Marcello: Getting back to the Japanese who lived on the island, was there any suspicion, at least among the Americans, that these Japanese might perhaps act as saboteurs or spies or something like that? Say that in case that there would be a war with Japan?

Zangari: No. Not before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, but after the bombing of Pearl Harbor they caught several groups with short wave sets and several groups trying to sabotage airplanes and ammunition dumps and so forth. But before the strike of Pearl Harbor I don't believe that I ever heard of any . . . there might of been . . . but I don't believe that I ever heard of any saboteurs or any Japanese under arrest for anything like that.

Marcello: So far as you know then, there really wasn't any suspicions of the Japanese. That is so far as you yourself . . .

Zangari: So far as I know, we used to go in town, and the Japanese in town were very friendly. And, of course, they're the ones you had to watch out for, the friendly kind. We never thought of anything. We even lived in homes with the Japanese and had Japanese woman barbers. They acted very courteous and very nice to us.

Marcello: Describe what a typical day was like. Before Pearl Harbor

what was a typical day like?

Zangari: You get for reveille at probably six o'clock. After reveille you'd go in and clean up, make your bunk. Then you waited for chow call. At chow call you'd eat your breakfast, come out, and by that time the company clerk or the first sergeant would have the work details up on the bulletin board. And you would look at the bulletin board to see where you were supposed to go. They had several work details. Our work detail consisted of policing up the area around the officers' quarters and doing work in the officers' quarters--plumbing, electrical, and carpenter work. We had a regular utility shop across from our barracks that took care of all those. We had a clerk who would take the messages and so forth. And then there were also details of sports. A certain barracks or a certain place was designated where you'd join another group; and they'd go out there for football practice, exercise, track, and basketball. That was sort of continuous detail day after day except on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday and Sunday you were off. Then you'd come in for lunch.

Marcello: This brings up a very interesting point again if I may interrupt here. What better time to attack when the troops were off duty.

Zangari: That's right, that's right. It was early morning, and it was Sunday. Everybody was on pass, practically everybody.

At that time there wasn't a certain percentage that was allowed on pass; anybody who wanted to go to town could go to town.

Marcello: I'm sure that on Sunday morning there weren't too many people who were really physically ready to fight either.

Zangari: No, there weren't. I experienced that in our company, our platoon.

Marcello: We'll talk about that a little bit later. Let's get back into your typical day.

Zangari: At noon we'd come in, and we'd wash and hang around the orderly room to see if there was any news of any other details until the mess sergeant would blow his whistle. Then we'd go in and have our dinner, and after dinner we'd rest up for maybe ten or fifteen minutes. And then we'd go back to our details, whatever details we were in. Then at night we'd quit work, wash up, stand retreat, and after retreat we'd have our supper. By the way, when you went in the mess hall, you stood up. There were six to eight persons to a table, and you stood till the corporal got to the head of the table. Then the corporal would tell you to sit down. He was the first one to fill his plate. If there was any left, then you got it. At our table we had one corporal who would get the plate and make one sweep, and then the K.P. would have to come in after and give us another serving because he took it all

out on his plate (chuckle).

Marcello: Is that right? You were saying a while ago that passes were fairly easy to obtain to get into town. Was this true in the evening, let's say, after you got off duty for the day?

Zangari: Yes.

Marcello: Or did you just get week-end passes?

Zangari: No. After we finished for the day, and if we were just going outside the post to a town nearby, we didn't have to have a pass. The only time we had to have a pass was if we'd go down to Honolulu. Then we'd have to have a Class A pass. Of course, a Class A pass is a pass that an individual keeps regularly. He could use that any time at all. He keeps it in his wallet. The only thing he had to do was to report to the orderly room that he was leaving the barracks. But that pass was his pass, and he could use it whenever he wanted whenever he was off duty. If he was not off duty, that pass was no good; and if he got caught outside the post and he wasn't off duty, then they would punish him--take the pass away. Probably it all depended on what he had done. They might even court-martial him.

Marcello: How far were Schofield Barracks from Honolulu?

Zangari: Schofield Barracks was twenty-eight miles from Honolulu.

Marcello: In other words, that really wasn't a long trip to get

from Schofield into Honolulu.

Zangari: No. They used to have these limousine cars. There were about eight fellows to a limousine. You would pay a couple bucks to go there and back. The limousine wouldn't go unless it was full. Sometimes it would get more than full. They would crowd you in it if there was a crowd waiting just to get away to get down there. When we would come back we'd have to wait at the Y.M.C.A. to catch our jitney to Schofield.

Marcello: Generally speaking, would you say that so far as the army was concerned being assigned to the Hawaiian Islands was pretty plush duty?

Zangari: Yes, I would say that. I know sergeants who were on Class A duty, sports. They re-enlisted for a couple terms. They were what they called twenty year men. We had men in our company who enlisted for four terms. He was made sergeant and busted two or three times. When the war broke out he made sergeant again. He's the one they called a twenty year man. The Hawaiian Islands was the best term of duty in any United States post. We had a liberal run of the island and the post. The climate was wonderful. In the day it was up in the seventies; at night time it used to get a little cool because we were up in the mountains. The farther up the mountains you got, the cooler it became. The only thing that Schofield

Barracks lacked was a swimming pool. The reason was because it wasn't too far from there that we would go out in the ocean and go swimming. We used to call it Soldier's Beach, and it was about fifteen miles from Schofield Barracks, a beautiful beach. The sand was beautiful.

Marcello: In other words you would say that when you first arrived in the Hawaiian Islands and for several months thereafter it was more or less business as usual, and probably the thought of a Japanese attack was the farthest thing from anybody's mind. Is this a safe assumption?

Zangari: Yes, it is. I would think so. Actually, we never heard of anything except probably right before the attack. We used to read in the papers about the Japanese ambassador in Washington talking to President Roosevelt about some kind of pact they was trying to make up or trying to pull. And outside of that we never had any indication that there would be an attack on Pearl Harbor.

Marcello: You received no hints or any indications whatsoever from any of your superior officers either?

Zangari: No. We had alerts near that time, but those alerts and maneuvers meant nothing to us because we used to have them continuously. If the alert at that time, on December 7, pertained to this Japanese sneak attack, we wouldn't know it, because we always had alerts and so forth.

Marcello: In other words, they were more or less routine. Is that correct?

Zangari: That's right. They were all routine.

Marcello: What form did the alert take? What would you do when there was an alert?

Zangari: If there was an alert, they'd blow the bugle. If you were in your sleeping quarters, you'd jump out of your sleeping quarters, put on your field clothes--leggings and your fatigues--pack you a full field pack, take up your rifle, and run as fast as you could out in the quadrangle, which was a big area where all the companies formed at retreat. And then you'd get to your squad and wait 'til your squad leader came, and then the first sergeant would get at the head of the company and ask for the report. Each squad on down the line reported to its platoon sergeant, and then each platoon sergeant reported to the first sergeant and he reported to the company commander. Then we'd have truck drivers who were detailed to a truck all the time, and when this alert would occur the truck driver would get his gear, and he'd run and get his truck and bring his truck over to the quadrangle. And then after our report the company commander would dismiss us, and we would all get in our trucks. We had a certain truck that each squad would go to.

Marcello: Uh-huh.

Zangari: We had a machine gun squad. At first we had a BAR squad, but



they took it away from us. They gave us submachine guns and .30 caliber machine guns. After this alert, if it was night time, we'd drive miles and miles without any lights through cane fields. Probably we'd get as far as a pineapple field or cane field, and then we'd have to march through these cane fields. None of us knew where we were going. I don't believe even the company commander knew where he was going-- but just marched, that's all--marched. And then when daylight came, you'd turn around and come back.

Marcello: In other words, you didn't go to the same place every time one of these alerts came, did you?

Zangari: No. No. No. We never did. It was always a different place.

Marcello: And you didn't do anything when you got to a particular place . . .

Zangari: No. No. Not unless we went on maneuvers. Now maneuvers and alerts are two different things.

Marcello: Right.

Zangari: On maneuvers you would fight the enemy, blue and red, or blue and white, and you'd try to maneuver around the enemy by going a certain . . . you know where the enemy's headquarters were and you were trying to maneuver around them to capture 'em. There were no guns or anything. There were umpires with you all the time.

Marcello: Uh-huh.

Zangari: If the umpire thought that your squad would capture another squad, he'd tag that squad. And that squad would be out of commission; it couldn't do anything, and it had to return back to its company. That would be maneuvers. Now your alert was a lot different than the maneuvers. Now your alert could run into a maneuver, so to speak. They've had alerts for maneuvers, see, but mostly they'd let you know when you were going to have your maneuvers. And they'd go through plans. They'd have maps, and they planned this maneuver-- what squad would go where, and what field, what sugar cane field, what pineapple field. You know, island of Oahu was nothing but sugar cane and pineapple fields. I don't know if you've ever seen a sugar cane harvest or not, but they burn it. They get matches and burn it, and burn all the dry fodder off of it and the green stuff is the only thing that's left. So then they cut that and put it in little dinky railroad cars, and then they forward it to a mill. And then they push it through the mill with the crane. The crane grabs it, puts it in the mill, and it goes through the mill where it is pulverized to squeeze the juice out of it.

Marcello: Uh-huh.

Zangari: It goes through a third process which I can't explain to you. I never went through it that much to realize that it would have been this important to me now.

Marcello: Uh-huh.

Zangari: In going through these pineapple fields, we were warned that if we got caught cutting pineapples off, we would be court-martialed, or if the owner had caught you, it would be a \$25.00 fine. Some of the fellows did get fined.

Marcello: A couple of questions come to mind at this point. First of all, you said that when you were on these alerts, you really didn't go to any specified place.

Zangari: That's right.

Marcello: And apparently, there was really no particular purpose in you going wherever you did go?

Zangari: No. It was just an exercise to keep you on the move and, what I say, alert. That's what they called it--alert. They kept you on alert, so you knew what to do in case anything would happen.

Marcello: Getting back to the maneuver, was there any specific objective in mind when you went on maneuvers?

Zangari: Yes there was. There was a certain place that we had to capture--the red team.

Marcello: I see.

Zangari: And the blue team, there was a certain place that they had to capture. And we went for miles and miles through different towns so we could capture that certain point. And when we got there either someone had already captured it, or it was dissolved, you know, the maneuvers were over, and you did all that work for nothing.

Marcello: Did any of these maneuvers ever have in mind the possibility of an invasion by some enemy? Let's say an amphibious invasion by a theoretical enemy, such as Japan.

Zangari: No. We never had anything like that, but some of those maneuvers included amphibious landings. We practiced amphibious landings all the time. We had a certain spot in the island where the squad would go. Then we were taken out in the ocean, and we came back in and got on LSTs and pretended that it was an invasion. My thought behind all of this was mostly to keep you in fit condition and to toughen you. I never had in my mind that there would be an invasion of the island, or that I would have to go invade some other islands to take them away from the Japanese.

Marcello: This is one of the points that I wanted to bring out. In other words, do you think it would be safe to say that probably nobody else really thought that the islands would be invaded?

Zangari: That's right. No one would have thought that, because we would have been prepared for this invasion, this bombing.

Marcello: Well, then I guess just from the standpoint of location, I mean, there's a lot of ocean between Japan and the Hawaiian Islands.

Zangari: Yes there is. Yes there is.

Marcello: I think probably most people would have thought that the likelihood of a Japanese invasion, let alone an air attack,

would have been out of the question.

Zangari: The bombing of Pearl Harbor, I think, was the most stupid thing the Japanese could have done. If they would have been smart, they could have lessened the war maybe several years, four or five years, maybe longer; the war could have still been going on. If the Japanese would have had a landing force, they could have easily taken in my saying, the island of Oahu.

Marcello: Uh-huh.

Zangari: Due to the fact that where we were stationed, we didn't even have our arms with us. So many men were on pass, so many of 'em were still sleeping on pass away from their camps. What would happen if an invasion of Japanese would have come in, and they had ammunition, arms, and everything? It would've been simple, simple.

Marcello: Well, moving on, then, as December 7 approached, or as the time grew nearer to December 7, did the alerts and the maneuvers increase? Was your daily routine changed in any way?

Zangari: No. Our daily routine wasn't changed. However, I have a brother who was in the air corps, and he used to tell me that they were always fighting, bombing. They would take planes out, and they would make dives with bags of flour, and they'd see if they hit their target with these bags of flour. At that time, before Pearl Harbor, it was the Army Air Corps and

the Navy that were bombing each other, and that's what they thought was happening with all these planes coming over.

The Army thought it was the Navy, and down at Navy headquarters at Pearl Harbor, they thought it was the Army.

Marcello: This was when the actual attack took place.

Zangari: Yeah, that's when the actual attack . . . that's why a lot of 'em weren't too excited until they started seeing the fur flying, the barracks burning, soldiers getting wounded, and so forth. Then they knew it was the real thing.

Marcello: Getting up to December 7, that was that daily routine which you just described a while ago more or less stayed the same . . .

Zangari: It stood the same 'til December 7. It even stood the same 'til after we got our trunks packed to go home. We were supposed to go home on December 8, and the routine was still the same. We were still stationed at the same place, although we weren't pulling those actual work duties due to the fact that we had already turned our tools in, and the company, or platoon, was going back to the company at Schofield Barracks. But actually, on up to the attack, everything was going along as normal as can be, just as though nothing was going to happen.

Marcello: Well, when did you start constructing those air shafts and so on at the crater? Was it Ala Moana Crater?

Zangari: Ala Moana Crater, yes. Well, like I said, they started in

'40, and we took over in '41, the middle of '41. For some reason the company that was constructing them moved out, and they moved our company in. We had some excellent demolition men in our company who knew a lot about blasting. Our company was noted for doing a good job wherever it went. Probably they picked on our company for that reason. And at the same time, in the middle of '41, there was another corps of engineers that came in. They were the Thirty-fourth Engineers, and our men were cadres that taught those Thirty-fourth Engineers, taught the men how to use tools, how to use dynamite, how to . . . well, whatever an engineer does. Our company taught this other company for the simple reason that that company went into the other division, the Twenty-fifth Division when they split the Hawaiian Department into two divisions. There was a Twenty-fourth and a Twenty-fifth. The Twenty-fifth Division was the first division that moved out of Hawaii after Pearl Harbor. They were the first ones that hit all the islands before we did. And this Red Hill where Ala Moana Crater is located was nothing but red dirt, and that's why they call it Red Hill. It was nothing but red clay and bushes and so forth.

Marcello: It seems to me—and maybe I'm wrong here—but if they were undertaking this construction at this mountain or at this crater, obviously somebody must of thought that there was a possibility that an air attack could take place.

Zangari: No. Now I will tell you something here. At Schofield Barracks there's a pass called Kole Kole Pass, an impregnable entrance to Schofield Barracks. The pass winds down along the mountains back and forth, back and forth. They had outposts of guards. They had dynamite planted where they could get a whole division of troops half way up there and set off the ammunition or the dynamite and that whole division of troops would be destroyed. Now down below that pass was an ammunition dump manned by the Marines. Even though we were army that was a short cut for us to Waianae Beach which was our amphibious training post. Even though we were army and the Corps of Engineers, we had to have a pass from the commanding general to get through there. And when we were through there, we were searched for matches and so forth. Now my thoughts were that they were going to move that ammunition from there up to Ala Moana Crater. Now that may be so, and then again it may not. That was a bad spot because it was practically all flat country except for mounds of dirt which were camouflaged by weeds and so forth. The mountain would have been a safer place for the ammunition.

Marcello: So you think that perhaps that was the whole purpose of the work that was being done at the crater.

Zangari: It could be. Yes, I think it could have been. Of course, who can read a general's mind or what he intends to do? We were



only soldiers, and we were doing the work. So that's about the gist of the thing. We were just obeying orders doing what we were told. We had ideas but the ideas didn't pertain to anything that . . . like what it was.

Marcello: Well, again I keep coming back to this one point--and I still want to keep it in the records--and it is that up until the time of the attack your daily routine didn't differ very much.

Zangari: No, it didn't differ . . . no.

Marcello: As it got closer to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, did anybody talk more and more about the threat of a possible Japanese attack?

Zangari: No, not one thing whatsoever.

Marcello: Did the suspicion of the Japanese civilians on the island increase any as December 7 approached?

Zangari: No.

Marcello: In other words at the time of December 7, 1941, to your knowledge there was no suspicion or no expectation whatsoever of any attack?

Zangari: Let me put it this way. At the time of December 7, 1941, to my way of looking at it, it was exactly the same way as the time that I first went to Hawaii. There was nothing changed; it was exactly the same routine. There was nothing changed. In fact they had soldiers going to rest camp before that and coming back, taking turns going to rest camp. So if they'd

even had a hint of a Japanese attack, they wouldn't have let us down there without our arms or ammunition regardless if we were just a couple of soldiers. And they wouldn't have sent these men to rest camps on other islands if they had ever thought that anything like that would happen, because they would have wanted them as close to their company as possible.

Marcello: And this sort of thing took place right up . . .

Zangari: Right up to the date. I know men that were at rest camp for weeks after Japanese attack, because they couldn't get back to their companies due to the fact that they thought the water would be infested with subs or so forth. They were there for weeks after the Japanese attack. And while they were there, they never had any arms to defend themselves. That's the reason why I said I believe the Japanese made a great mistake by not taking the Hawaiian Islands.

Marcello: By not invading the Hawaiian Islands?

Zangari: That's right--by not invading the Hawaiian Islands.

Marcello: And as you said earlier--again just to get this in the record--as you said earlier, passes were easy to obtain. You could get one . . .

Zangari: Right.

Marcello: . . . you could get an overnight . . .

Zangari: That's right, that's right.

Marcello: . . . pass easily, and you could get a week-end pass easily.

Zangari: Overnight and week-end passes. You could even get ten-day furloughs. In the middle of '41 two of us pitched a tent along the beach. We stayed there for ten days and just rested and went to town and had our fun. It was just a rest for us, that's all.

Marcello: Along these same lines, you said that a pass was easy to get. What was a typical week-end like in Honolulu. Without getting too specific, what were the typical week-ends like?

Zangari: A typical week-end was to go down to Honolulu and hit some of the cafes, beer places, drink there, and make passes at girls, and then we'd leave that place and we'd go to another place. Those who didn't go to the cafes and didn't drink, their typical pass was to go down to Honolulu and go along Waikiki Beach and take a swim and just lay on the beach. In the afternoons or evenings they would take in a movie, and after a movie in the evenings they would go to their rooms either in the YMCA or at a private home where they would rent a room. And there wasn't much doing Sunday morning except walk around and take in the sights, and that's what they did mostly on Sunday. I think some of the fellows used to wait until Sunday to go down to Waikiki Beach because there

was nothing open on Sunday's. There were no hotels open or anything. They'd take in the sights in Waikiki Beach. There were always a lot of sights to see in Honolulu in the daytime. There was a place where you could look through a telescope and see Doris Duke's mansion, a big mansion Doris Duke had there. There were a lot of celebrities on Waikiki Beach that people used to point out, and we'd talk about them. And the more we'd talk about them in camp, the more fellows would want to go down and see if they were there. Waikiki Beach was the most popular beach on the island of Oahu.

Marcello: Did most of the fellows usually stay in Honolulu for the week-end, or did they go in on a Friday, come back Friday night, go in again on Saturday, or did you usually stay in for the whole week-end?

Zangari: No, we usually stayed in Honolulu for the week-end. I would say that 50 per cent of the fellows that went in had girl friends in Honolulu--Chinese girl friends or girls that they struck acquaintance with while they were on pass one day, maybe either in the barber shop or in the cafes and so forth. And they'd spend a week-end with them, you know, either sight-seeing or so forth. And they'd stay at the parents' home or rent a room some place and stay there.

Marcello: What percentage of the soldiers usually got week-end

passes? In other words, were they available to every . . . did the barracks more or less clear out for the week-end or . . .

Zangari: No, a certain percentage had to stay in the barracks to man the charge of quarters and so forth, to do some of the work in the details. I just don't know offhand what percentage it was, but . . .

Marcello: . . . but do you think more went into town than stayed back at the barracks?

Zangari: Definitely. Now, I wouldn't say more went into town. More left the companies than stayed in the barracks. Of course, there were a lot of places on the post where you could go, a lot of sports. We had a big sports arena there where they had boxing and so forth. Bowling, we had a lot of bowling, and also there was a lot of gambling in the barracks--Schofield Barracks. A lot of servicemen went to them and they used to stay there over night, all night gambling.

Marcello: About how big was Schofield Barracks? I mean so far as the number of people there?

Zangari: Well, Schofield Barracks included two divisions, military police, artillery companies, and chemical companies. I would say approximately 75 to 100,000 men were housed there.

Marcello: So it was a fairly big place, then.

Zangari: It was. The Schofield Barracks had a very big hospital which was very up-to-date. At the time of Pearl Harbor in 1941, Schofield Barracks was really building up. Our barracks looked like a shambles compared to some of the new barracks that they built. The new barracks were tremendous. They were out of this world, some of the new barracks which they built.

Marcello: Were there any defenses which were built around Schofield Barracks, let's say, during the days or the months before Pearl Harbor to protect it against a possible air attack? In other words, were there any antiaircraft batteries set up or anything like that?

Zangari: We had antiaircraft batteries. We had artillery, but to my knowledge there were never any set up for any sneak attack or any other attack.

Marcello: Again, you would say at Schofield Barracks that it was business as usual, and an air attack . . .

Zangari: Definitely. Definitely . . .

Marcello: . . . was the farthest thing from everybody's mind.

Zangari: To my knowledge everybody at Schofield Barracks was either asleep that morning or out on pass.

Marcello: Or had a hangover (chuckle).

Zangari: Definitely a hangover (chuckle).

Marcello: Changing the subject here very briefly. Did you ever get to see Pearl Harbor at all during the time you were

there? Did you get down close, let's say, to the dock to observe the ships and so on?

Zangari: Yes, I did.

Marcello: Could you describe what Pearl Harbor was like? The Harbor itself, the ships, anything about Pearl Harbor.

Zangari: Pearl Harbor adjoined Hickam Field, and I used to go down to Hickam Field to visit my brother, and my brother was also in the service. He also was in the Air Corps, and from there we used to walk along Hickam Field, and we observed the traffic going into Pearl Harbor. It was just like a bee's nest. Men, sailors coming up past, going on past, jumping off the ship. What took my eye at that time and what amazed me were the submarines that they had there. I had never seen a submarine, and I was sort of fascinated by submarines. There were no maneuvering of ships over the weekend. The ships were all docked. Everybody was going on pass. During the week, the ships were always moving in and out, just like a bee's nest. I very seldom was at Pearl Harbor, or lived at Pearl Harbor, while ships were on the maneuvers or leaving the Harbor.

Marcello: It was usually on the week-ends when you were . . .

Zangari: Yeah. Yeah, that's right.

Marcello: . . . able to observe it.

Zangari: During the week-ends. Even at the time when the Japs struck Pearl Harbor there were no ships moving in or out

of the Harbor. They were all tied to the docks, and also the men, most of 'em, were all on pass.

Marcello: I might be asking you a question which you probably aren't in a position to answer, but apparently the Navy felt quite certain that those ships were pretty safe at Pearl Harbor.

Zangari: Yes, they did. Not only the Navy. I think the high-ranking naval officials thought the same thing. The Army had radar set up that were warned an hour or so beforehand, and they paid no attention to them. One thing that they might have gotten mixed up was that on the same morning there were airplanes supposedly coming from the West Coast.

Marcello: Let's talk about this a minute. Pardon me for interrupting you. It is a fact, of course, the Army did establish radar stations at various points on the island. Did you ever have a chance to see any of those radar stations or observe any of them?

Zangari: No, I didn't.

Marcello: Were you ever acquainted with anybody who worked in or with these radar stations in any way?

Zangari: We have an organization in Pennsylvania Survivors of the Pearl Harbor Attack that consists of all the survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack. And also it only consists of residents of Pennsylvania or persons who were residents of Pennsylvania and who were at Pearl Harbor. And in this



organization there are several fellows who were at the radar station who told the story of what happened in these radar stations. Yes, they saw the pattern of planes approaching, and they warned their superiors about it. The superiors never paid any attention to it, and when they insisted on it, they found out that there were planes coming from the West Coast. They thought these were the planes.

Marcello: These were the B-17s.

Zangari: That's right . . .

Marcello: . . . the Flying Fortress.

Zangari: The Flying Fortresses as you called them weren't fortresses. They were stripped. They had no ammunition, no arms whatsoever. They were stripped, and they got in the thick of it. When they landed, I don't know what percentage were intact, but very few of the planes were left after they got through the thick of it.

Marcello: At this point we are about ready to describe the events that took place on December 7th, that is, unless you have anything else that you would like to add with regard to what happened before then.

Zangari: Well, I just can't remember anything more that happened before. The only thing I can remember is that I was due to go home on December 8th, and I never got home until 1944. (Chuckle)

Marcello: I see. How did you spend your week-end of December the 7th? I'm assuming now that you had got a pass on that Friday. That would have been December the 5th?

Zangari: Well . . .

Marcello: Do you remember how you spent that week-end?

Zangari: Your assumption is right, but my spending the week-end was very mild because I was due to go back on the 8th. So I wanted to stay as close to my quarters as possible. I really didn't go any place that week-end. I stayed at the quarters. On Sunday morning I got . . .

Marcello: Where were you Saturday night?

Zangari: Saturday night? I just stayed in the quarters and rested and thought about going home. That's all I was thinking about. After two years I wanted to go home.

Marcello: I see.

Zangari: I hadn't seen my family, and I did not realize that it would be another two and a half years before I finally did get home. But I stayed in the quarters until about seven o'clock Sunday morning. I got up for breakfast, washed myself, and about seven-thirty or so I sat myself down for breakfast. And close to eight o'clock I heard this noise, and planes flying overhead and shooting and so forth. I was wondering what was going on.

Marcello: You were still at Schofields Barracks?

Zangari: No, I was at Ala Moana Crater.

Marcello: Oh, you were at Ala Moana Crater.

Zangari: Red Hill, looking out over Pearl Harbor.

Marcello: In other words, you weren't back in the barracks at this time.

Zangari: No, no, we were still in Ala Moana Crater.

Marcello: You were staying up there.

Zangari: Yes, we were still staying there. So, on Sunday morning, as I said, we heard this noise, bombing and so forth and shooting. And we went outside the crater to see what was going on; we saw planes flying overhead. And just a little farther out you could look out over the mountains, and we saw planes coming in and ships exploding. And it just looked like their ammunition holds caught fire and exploded, never knowing that there were bombs that the Japs were dropping. This to me was a horrible sight. I just couldn't believe anything like that. Word got out that it was a Japanese attack. Somehow or another it came down through headquarters that we should be on alert because it was a Japanese attack. Everybody was running around like a chicken with his head cut off.

Marcello: I assume there was mass confusion.

Zangari: Definitely. There was terrific mass confusion. And I'll tell you how bad the confusion was. We had no arms and they didn't know where to get arms. And so when they finally got arms for us, half of the fellows didn't know

how to use them. The only time we used arms was when we went out on the firing range. So this went on all morning and all afternoon. The smoke was coming up from Pearl Harbor, and even the clouds were black.

Marcello: You were still at the crater.

Zangari: I was still at Ala Moana Crater.

Marcello: What sort of arms did they give you? Obviously they couldn't give you anything there which could be used against planes.

Zangari: No, no, there wasn't. At the time we had no arms. We were helpless, but later on after everything was over they got arms from Fort Shafter. Fort Shafter was just a little ways down there. We got our arms from Fort Shafter, and we were still there that night, the night of December 7. We didn't get back up to the company until December 8.

Marcello: What thoughts were going through your mind when you saw all this taking place below you. Obviously you were up kind of high and were looking down on what was taking place at the base itself.

Zangari: Well, my first thoughts was my trip home. I had lost that, and I didn't know what was going to happen. I didn't know if there was a Japanese invasion by troop, or if it was just the attack by planes. At that time my mind wasn't functioning. I think that from the buck privates to the officers they were all confused, and they

all didn't know what to do. None of them knew what to do.

Marcello: Were you thinking very much about your brother's welfare?

Zangari: Well, yes, I was. I heard on the radio . . . we had radios on at the time, and I heard on the radio that Japanese planes were bombing Hickam and Wheeler Fields. Wheeler Field adjoined Schofield Barracks, and there's where my brother was stationed--at Wheeler Field. I heard how many fellows got wounded at Wheeler Field, and I heard how many fellows got wounded at Hickam Field, I heard how many fellows got killed and wounded at Pearl Harbor. They were only giving an estimate; they didn't know for sure because it was too early to tell.

On that afternoon, like I mentioned earlier, everything was in mass confusion. We finally got our wits together, and we stood guard that night, and our orders were to shoot and then ask questions. No one was supposed to move that night, no one. And even a little breeze in the trees the soldiers would shoot at. They were so trigger happy it wasn't even funny.

Marcello: I was going to ask you what were the reactions of some of your friends and so on as to the attack that had taken place? What did they do? Were they in about the same situation as you were? What were they thinking?

Zangari: I couldn't read their . . .

Marcello: Sure.

Zangari: . . . thoughts or minds, but I sure could tell their reaction by what they did and how they carried on. They were more or less . . . they were all more or less the same way. They were running around cussing and they wanted to get their arms to go down to the docks and shoot it out with the Japs. They wanted to form some kind of reinforcements. And there were only a handful of us, but we all felt alike. We were all going to defend our country. So until we got a little organized everything just didn't fit in right.

Marcello: Uh-huh.

Zangari: After we got organized and we had an officer there . . . you must understand that most of us were all buck privates. There was only one noncom in the whole bunch of us. There were no officers there. We had an officer from another detachment that took over. In other words we were a lost company, a lost platoon.

Marcello: Did the Japanese ever attack or bomb the crater?

Zangari: They flew over the crater; they didn't know what was in the crater. They flew over and let their bombs go after they flew over, so that they would hit the ships down in Pearl Harbor.

Marcello: Sam, how far away were you from Pearl Harbor?

Zangari: I'd say about ten or fifteen miles, about ten miles. You could see it very clearly from the mountains. About ten

miles.

Marcello: What did the attack look like? What did it look like ten or fifteen miles away?

Zangari: You saw fire works close by. It was just a big, giant fire works. In other words a giant fire works wouldn't have compared to this. If you saw this atomic bomb explode out in the desert, well, that is just . . . the atomic bomb may of gone higher than the ships, but I don't think there is anything ever to compare with what happened down at Pearl Harbor in regard to fires and explosions and so forth. We read in the paper about blocks of explosions in certain cities; it can't compare to what you saw at Pearl Harbor.

Marcello: How close were you to Schofield Barracks?

Zangari: Schofield Barracks was probably twenty miles away from Pearl Harbor.

Marcello: I assume that you really couldn't see what was going on at Schofield Barracks.

Zangari: No, there were too many mountains from Honolulu to Schofield Barracks. You have to travel through mountains. It doesn't look like many mountains, but there's . . . well, the island is built on a mountain, and every place you go you come across mountains. And towns are built in valleys of mountains. So from one mountain to another you can hardly see anything.

Marcello: What did you do that night then? You said it was mass confusion and that finally you got organized or at least got around to getting some semblance of organization, and you stood guard duty, and you were definitely on the alert. What happened then?

Zangari: We changed guards every two hours--on two and off four. That's how we stood guard duty all night. The following day then we had trucks which took us back to our barracks. When we got back to our barracks, the first thing I wanted to do was to find out what happened to my brother. It took me weeks to find where my brother was. The War Department notified my mother that my brother was wounded, but they didn't tell her how serious or where he was at or anything. So my mother wrote to me and asked me if I could find out where my brother was, and it took me weeks to find where he was. And he was laying in General Hospital in the Schofield Barracks, just ah . . . I'd say about seven or eight blocks away from our company.

Marcello: Why did it take you so long to find out exactly what happened to your brother?

Zangari: Well, there were no communications. You couldn't get any communication from Schofield Barracks to Wheeler Field. You couldn't go down in Wheeler Field. Everything was on alert. No one could walk at nighttime; in the daytime you had to carry masks and rifles. You couldn't go walking



around in any places at daytime. You had to be in groups. You had to stand guard most of the time. The soldiers that were walking around were either training or on some kind of problem that they had to do.

Marcello: I assume that there was martial law all over the island.

Zangari: Yes, there was. There were blackouts for over six months after the attack took place. No lights in the evenings, and when we pulled guard in some of the quarters around Schofield, we were given orders to shoot any lights that we saw in any of the homes, and that's what we did. They figured that planes could spot a light just as easy as can be from up in the air, and they would probably think it was some installation and would bomb it if they could come back. That's why we were given those orders.

Marcello: What sort of damage did Schofield Barracks sustain? Was there any damage that was done there?

Zangari: Yes, there was. As I said, Wheeler Field is adjoining Schofield Barracks. At that time Wheeler Field was part of the Army. They were called the Army Air Corps. Wheeler Field was totally destroyed. There was hardly a fit plane left on the field. The only plane left around Schofield Barracks was a little beyond it on what they called Soldier's Beach. There was an air strip in back of Soldier's Beach, and a couple of planes took off from there and went after some of the Japanese planes. But Wheeler Field was bombed

that much that men lost their lives at Wheeler Field.

My brother told me the story of when he was hit by shrapnel. They took him in the mess hall down there, and he sat in the mess hall with blood ankle deep. And they wanted to help him, and he refused any help because he was helping others. He wanted them to help the more seriously wounded personnel rather than him. The thing that was really . . . I didn't see it, but this story my brother told me was really terrific, unbelievable--the conditions that existed down at Wheeler Field at the time they were bombing. No planes could get up; they were just helpless. The soldiers didn't know what to do. I'd say they were more helpless than we were down at Red Hill.

Marcello: Did you see Wheeler Field personally?

Zangari: After the attack . . .

Marcello: Yes, after the attack.

Zangari: Yes, after the attack, I saw Wheeler Field.

Marcello: What exactly did it look like? Could you describe the twisted wreckage, the planes and all.

Zangari: Yes, they looked a shamble. They had bunkers up in Wheeler Field along the runways. They never had a plane in those bunkers. The planes were all out on the runway lined up like a parade, and the bombs wrecked all of the planes. Some of them were laying on the bunkers; some were out in the middle of the field; some were upside down; and they were

totally destroyed either one or the other. Either all of them were blown apart, or maybe their wings had been blown off. The hangers had big holes in them. The barracks were burning. Some of these barracks they had at Wheeler Field were nothing but one story wooden barracks. They caught fire, and they were burning. They had fire trucks out trying to put out the fire. They also had calls for help from the hospital which was nearby. First aid men were there, doctors.

It was just a mass of confusion, too. The men down at Wheeler Field were just like children. They were crying; their buddies got killed. Some of the soldiers were holding the remains of some of their buddies' things that they had on. The sight was bad enough when the thing happened, but afterwards . . . the after effects, I think, were a little worse than the real attack.

Marcello: Did you ever have a chance to observe Hickam Field, which was the other airfield, is that correct?

Zangari: No, I didn't observe. It's the other airfield. Hickam Field, like I mentioned before, was about twenty miles away from Schofield Barracks. The only time we got down near there was when we went on pass and we didn't have time to look at Hickam Field. In fact, no one was allowed in Hickam Field except the men that housed themselves there. And Hickam Field, when I saw it, was a year later, and they were just

building themselves up from the destruction of the Japanese attack.

Marcello: Well, I'd think that would give some indications as to the extent of the damage there, if they were still constructing it or reconstructing it a year later.

Zangari: That's right. That's right. I knew how it was the year before, and when I went down there a year later it wasn't the same. Definitely wasn't the same.

Marcello: How about Pearl? Did you ever see Pearl Harbor? The wreckage and so on there?

Zangari: No, I haven't. I didn't go down to see Pearl Harbor after the attack. The next morning when we left Red Hill . . .

Marcello: This would have been on December 8?

Zangari: Yes, we were too busy to view any destruction at all at Pearl Harbor. After we left the one part of the crater, you couldn't see Pearl Harbor. You got away from it, and you got into the mountains, and that was it. You couldn't see it. I never got back down to Pearl Harbor to see the damages.

Marcello: What sort of work did you then do after you got back to Schofield Barracks? Was it just a matter of cleaning up the wreckage and so on, or what exactly were you doing?

Zangari: No. That was the hardest work I did in my life. We did all the construction and fortification of the pillboxes. Our company was assigned to a certain area of the island

of Oahu, and along that beach we built pillboxes upon pillboxes--all camouflaged. And back into the mountains and hills we built pillboxes, and also observation posts for the artillery. Back in the mountains, miles back in the mountains, we built gun placements, twenty-four inch gun placements.

Marcello: This is coast artillery?

Zangari: Coast artillery and field artillery combined. It's mostly field artillery. We had a gun with a diameter of that gun placement . . . must have been about twenty feet, and we poured tons and tons of cement. We built tracks on that cement. It had to be perfectly level, and when the gun would rotate around that track, the least little bit of a fraction of an inch off, the gun would jam, that is, the carriage would jam, and those guns, well, I just can't tell you how long they were, but I can tell you what damage they could do. Our camp was down below them, and when they'd set one of them guns off, . . . the first time they set one of them guns off, they never notified us, they busted every dish in camp, busted every window in camp, knocked men off of their bunks, and it really wrecked the camp. After that they realized that they should notify everybody around when they were going to have target practice. And that was about twenty miles in from shore, and they would pull the target, I'd say, just about twenty miles outside of the shore. So that's how far

those guns could shoot. I had a detail of men who built an observation post right above the Mormon Temple in Laie in the island of Oahu. And that job took us three weeks. We had to carry all of our mortar, all of our water, and all of our sand--carry it by our backs. And the observation post was right at the edge of a mountain, and that's where I misfooted and fell over a mountain and busted my ankles and hurt my other leg. A lot of people thought maybe we were putting the observation post up to protect the temple. This temple was beautiful; it was out of this world. If you ever get over there, you should see it, the Mormon Temple, it's beautiful. We had alerts every once in a while, and you never knew whether it was the real thing then or not, and everybody used to really go to town and get ready. We used to travel through these cane fields and pineapple fields in the dark in trucks, and at the same time they'd be irrigating these pineapple fields, and some of the drivers went off the road into the irrigating ditch. They upset and hurt some of the fellows. That's what we had to put up with after the attack. Everything was black out.

Marcello: I assume that by this time everybody started to take the alert seriously.

Zangari: Yes, they did. They always thought maybe there was going to be some action, or it was the real thing. Every time they blew the bugle for an alert everybody was on the ball.

Marcello: Now a little bit earlier you said that martial law had been employed on the island. What happened to the Japanese nationals who were living on the island?

Zangari: Most of them were there. They arrested a few, and a few of them committed suicide for some reason or another. They were afraid that probably they'd be arrested or blamed for this attack. We raided a point in the pineapple fields where there was a short wave set manned by a Japanese.

Marcello: You did. Would you care to talk about that?

Zangari: Well, we were on patrol, and we saw a little light which was their mistake. And as usual we went to it according to our training. We asked who was there and asked them to identify themselves. We threw the light on them, and there we saw the short wave set and two Japanese. They tried to get away, but before they got away we shot them. So that was one incident, but there were many more incidents like that.

Marcello: When did this particular incident take place?

Zangari: This took place weeks after the attack. Evidently they were trying to get contact with the Japanese forces and give them some information. But they found other places where Japanese were using short wave sets. We don't know if it was planned that way, if they planned it that way, or if they took it on their own to try to get information to them, or if they sympathized with the Japanese force, or what. But we were

going for security, so we had to take it seriously. The Japanese that we took alive, that the military personnel took alive, they were brought to military headquarters and interrogated, and most of them were let go because they thought they were doing this in an act of confusion. Others they put in the stockade. But some months later, I'd say six months or so, everything was in blackout--no passes.

Marcello: Those good week-ends were a thing of the past, I suppose.

Zangari: That's for sure. You never saw any of those now. When we used to get passes, we used to get them from seven o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock in the evening. For the ones who went down to Honolulu, the cafes never opened until two o'clock in the afternoon due to the martial law. They used to close at six o'clock in the evening; so, if you wanted to do any drinking, you had to do it within them four hours. All you used to see come out of those cafes were drunken soldiers. And they either were too drunk to stand up, and someone had to carry them along. And the ones who were too drunk to stand up and who didn't have any one to carry them along, either the Japanese or Chinese would roll them and take their money away from them. In other words, in four or five hours time you had to make up what you used to do in two or three days' time.

Marcello: I think we may have talked about this earlier, but I guess you would probably say that the Japanese couldn't have picked a



more opportune time to attack than Sunday morning. Given the passes and so on and the obvious condition perhaps of the men when they came back off these passes. Obviously they weren't in fighting trim . . .

Zangari: No, they weren't.

Marcello: . . . let's say, on Sunday morning.

Zangari: No, they weren't. That Sunday morning was no different than any other Sunday morning. I remember on Saturday night you'd get a pass and go down to Honolulu. You didn't have to pick a place to sleep; you'd stay out all night, probably sit on a bench, or lay along the beach, or find a club and stay up all night. And the next day you try to find some place. You were still under the weather, and you tried to find a jitney to take you back to your camp, or if you were with a buddy and he knew someone in Hickam Field or someone who had a barracks near by, you would go and lay in that barracks until you sobered up and then went to your own barracks. Most of the fellows knew other soldiers in other bases. There's where they would stay overnight, most of them. They'd stay in these other bases.

Marcello: Some base that was close to . . .

Zangari: That's right.

Marcello: . . . Honolulu

Zangari: Yes.

Marcello: Some place that was closer than Schofield Barracks.

Zangari: That's right. Even though they would probably bunk up with a blanket on the floor or something in that order, they had no feeling at that time. They always found their way back to camp on Sunday afternoons, because they had to be at reveille on Monday morning.

Marcello: After the attack, did you observe or were you able to observe any shake-up which occurred among the top brass? Obviously scapegoats were going to have to be found for what took place.

Zangari: Where we were in our company we heard rumors, but we were too busy doing our job to pay attention to what was going on. We were kept so busy. And another thing, we were kept away from any papers that we could get, because we were too far into the mountains. You'd only used to come into the barracks probably once every couple weeks to take a good shower. When we'd come in to take a good shower, the water was cold. We hardly observed any of the shake-up. The only thing we knew . . . the first thing we knew we had a new commanding general or new commander of the battalion. Now we used to have that before, and we just took in stride, never occurring to us maybe that it had something to do with the Japanese attack, but they were getting a little stricter on a lot of the regulations, and a lot of the men in the companies were defying some of the regulations. And that's why they were getting a little stricter on the regulation.

They were breaking NCO's and making new ones and so forth until they finally got a good outfit together.

Marcello: Another question that came to my mind at this time, and this one I think I can ask you personally, did you yourself ever believe that anybody would attack Peral Harbor?

Zangari: No, I didn't. I thought Pearl Harbor was impossible to be attacked due to the fact that there was so much water around and so many mountains around the island. It was unbelievable to me that anybody would attack Pearl Harbor.

Marcello: As you look back on everything that took place, upon whom would you place the blame?

Zangari: I'd place the blame on the commanding officer at Honolulu where the radar men told him that there were unidentified planes coming. They knew within an hour before or more, and they could of been well prepared within that hour. They could of had antiaircraft guns. Within the hour the ships could of moved out of the docks. Now they say that they can't until they pick up steam, but I've read articles of one ship that within the half-hour they had hole patched in the ship and had steam up and pulled out of the harbor within the half-hour's time. They could of done that with all ships. I won't name any persons, but I could say that the commanding officers of the installation were all at fault at that time. They had the information that unidentified craft were coming, and if they had just had faith in the men that were running

those radar stations and had gone by what they said instead of asking them what brand of liquor they were drinking, that they should cut down on their liquor and so forth, things might have been different. That in my view, was very, very neglectful.

Marcello: I believe as I recall there was either a first or a second lieutenant who was in charge of . . . well, I guess you would say who was the duty officer in that particular day-- the man whom those men that the radar station had contacted.

Zangari: That's right, it was a lieutenant. I don't know if it was a second or first lieutenant. They begged him that there were unidentified aircraft coming in.