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Interview with
NOLAN ALBARADO
November 15, 1987

Place of Interview: Kenner, Louisiana

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello

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Approved: Nolan Albarado Sr.
(Signature)

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Oral History Collection

Nolan Albarado

Interviewer: Ronald E. Marcello Date: November 15, 1987

Place of Interview: Kenner, Louisiana

Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing Nolan Albarado for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on November 15, 1987, in Kenner, Louisiana. I am interviewing Mr. Albarado in order to get his reminiscences and experiences while he was stationed at Schofield Barracks during the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Mr. Albarado was a member of the 19th Coast Artillery and Antiaircraft.

Mr. Albarado, to begin this interview, just briefly give me a biographical sketch of yourself. In other words, tell me when you were born and where you were born.

Albarado: I was born in Assumption Parish on June 28, 1917.

Marcello: Tell me a little bit about your education.

Albarado: Not too much education. I had a sixth grade education. We didn't have no facilities there-- just a little one-room schoolhouse. After that education was given, we had to go about fifteen miles to another school--a higher grade. At that time we had very poor roads--dirt roads--and we had floods every year for about three to four months per year; and transportation couldn't come through, so I just wasn't able to afford to pay board for school at any higher grades.

Marcello: When did you go into the military service?

Albarado: On June 4, 1941, I was inducted at Camp Livingston.

Marcello: Why did you select the Army as opposed to one of the other branches of the service, or were you drafted?

Albarado: I had no choice. It was the Selective Service. I was called in for one year.

Marcello: At that time, what were you doing so far as making a living was concerned?

Albarado: I was working in the woods cutting trees--logs. I was cutting firewood and making crossties for railroad tracks.

Marcello: Once you were drafted, which is the term we use today, did you actually take any basic training in the United States, or did you go directly to the Hawaiian Islands?

Albarado: No, I took about thirteen weeks in Camp Callan, San Diego, California.

Marcello: Did that thirteen weeks of basic training consist of the usual kind of Army basic training?

Albarado: Just about, yes.

Marcello: Was there anything out of the ordinary that happened in basic training that you think we need to get as part of the record?

Albarado: Well, no exactly (chuckle). The only thing is that when we arrived over there at Camp Callan, it happened to be Friday the 13th. A newspaper came around to ask questions--just to ask about how we felt about it. I told them I was not too superstitious, but we arrived on Friday the 13th. The building was 1300, the guns we had to man were thirteen men to a gun, and we were thirteen miles from town. So the following week, I got a

little check for five dollars for my little story in the paper (chuckle). Then we worked, trained. We had a lot of training.

Marcello: Where did you go from Camp Callan?

Albarado: Right to Hawaii.

Marcello: What did you think about the idea of being stationed in the Hawaiian Islands?

Albarado: Well, I didn't have much to say. I was drafted, so I took it as it went along. I made the best of it.

Marcello: When you arrived in Honolulu, was there somebody there at the docks from Schofield Barracks to, in essence, greet the troops and escort them back up to Schofield Barracks? How did that work?

Albarado: We had trucks that took us to the barracks. They had a convoy of trucks taking us in. We lived in a tent city.

Marcello: In other words, you actually did not get to live in those barracks themselves.

Albarado: No. The only time is while I was going to school.

Marcello: Other than that, you were living in this area that was known as "Tent City."

Albarado: That's right.

Marcello: Let me ask you a very general question at this point. Up until the time of the draft, I guess most of the people that were at Schofield Barracks were volunteers, and I suspect that most of them probably had intended to make the Army their career.

Albarado: That's right, because they didn't have too many Selective Service people--draftees. They had a lot of volunteers--all Regular Army.

Marcello: How did those career men look at all you draftees coming in? In other words, were there any problems between the career men and this huge influx of draftees?

Albarado: I really don't believe so. It was pretty good; I mean, they treated us real nice. In other words, I don't believe too many of them knew that we were draftees. Quite a few thought we were Regular Army.

Marcello: When you arrived at Schofield Barracks, were you immediately assigned to the 98th Coast Artillery?

Albarado: Well, we were, like, attached to it. In other words, the 98th Coast Artillery was there, and we practiced on their guns.

Marcello: When you initially got there, what was your function? What was your responsibility within the 98th Coast Artillery? What were you doing?

Albarado: I didn't have much time to respond to nothing because I was so seasick going over there (chuckle) that for a few days I was just on light duty. I couldn't do much because I was so sick from being seasick on the ship I was on.

Marcello: Well, once you get better, then what was your responsibility with the 98th Coast Artillery?

Albarado: Well, we had started practicing on guns, doing a lot of marching and hiking. We had a lot of little odds-and-ends to do around the place, like, put up signs. It was a new place, so we had to put up different signs, office signs, and different little signs around. In other words, we had to get everything straightened up as an Army outfit.

Marcello: What kind of weapons did the 98th Coast Artillery have?

Albarado: We had 3-inch guns, I think, but I really don't remember because I was in so many other outfits after that. From one outfit to the other one, they had all different kinds of guns. Our rifle

was an old Springfield rifle. It was issued to us.

Marcello: I'm assuming that these three-inch guns that you were talking about just a moment ago could be used for both coastal defense and for antiaircraft firing.

Albarado: That is right, yes.

Marcello: Where did your training on these guns take place? Did that take place right there at Schofield, or would you get outside the base on exercises?

Albarado: It was mostly...we were on the outskirts of Schofield because Tent City was way up by the mountain at the end of Schofield, so we took a lot of training right around there.

Marcello: Again, the fact that you were living in those tents was probably an indication that there was a large number of troops coming into Schofield Barracks at that time.

Albarado: That is right.

Marcello: Describe what it was like to live in one of those tents.

Albarado: It wasn't too bad. We had a tent that slept about six men--about twelve-by-twelve--and we had a

platform like a floor built out of plywood. It wasn't too bad.

Marcello: Did you have a cot to sleep on?

Albarado: Yes, one of those canvas cots.

Marcello: Where did you keep your clothing and so on?

Albarado: They issued us footlockers, and we put them in footlockers.

Marcello: Where did you take your chow?

Albarado: We had a regular tent mess hall. It was a big tent that we had. We didn't stay there too long. After that we went into barracks--like a building--for chow, but we still had tents.

Marcello: Did you continue to live in those tents right up until the time of the Pearl Harbor attack?

Albarado: Yes, we did.

Marcello: Tell me a little bit about the Army chow, since you mentioned off the record that at a future time you would be going to cook and baker school. What was the Army chow like there at Schofield Barracks at the time you were there before Pearl Harbor?

Albarado: It wasn't too bad, really. We didn't get no gourmet food, but we had enough to eat. It wasn't too bad.

Marcello: Let's talk a little bit about some other aspects of Army life there at Schofield Barracks. How important was sports and athletics in that Army before Pearl Harbor there at Schofield Barracks?

Albarado: I want to tell you, I never had too much time for that because I was just inducted in June. I took training all the while in the States, and then after that I went over there and still trained. We had a little boxing, maybe, and we'd play ball just around the place. But there were no big sports.

Marcello: Did any of the infantry units down in the quadrangles ever come around to try and recruit some of the best athletes that might be available among these draftees?

Albarado: Well, I don't know. I wouldn't know about that.

Marcello: How extensive was gambling there at Schofield Barracks in that period before the war?

Albarado: We had a little gambling in the tents--wherever you could keep out of sight (chuckle).

Marcello: What would be the usual games that would be played?

Albarado: Blackjack.

Marcello: How about craps?

Albarado: Also craps, oh, yes. They had craps.

Marcello: I understand that some people would get into those games almost immediately after payday, and two or three days later they would already be broke. Is that correct?

Albarado: That is true. A lot of them used to do that.

Marcello: Do you have any knowledge of the loansharking that went on there at Schofield Barracks?

Albarado: No, I wouldn't know too much about that because the little bit that I was getting, which was twenty-one dollars a month, I'd make it last. When I got paid, I'd make sure I had my razor blades, all the soap and stuff that I needed for the month; and whatever I had left, then I spent it for odds-and-ends, things that I needed around there.

Marcello: What was there to do on the base itself for entertainment or relaxation in the evenings?

Albarado: Well, of course, I never did go on the regular post. I'd play pitch-and-catch. They didn't have an area to play baseball, football, or anything. They had a little recreation around there, but not too much where I was at. It was mostly on the main post.

Marcello: When you had liberty, where did you usually go?

Albarado: Honolulu?

Marcello: What was there to do in Honolulu?

Albarado: See movies. They also had movies on the post, too. We'd just ride around and see the scenery.

Marcello: How often might you get into Honolulu, let's say, during a week--within a seven-day period?

Albarado: Not more than once, if you'd get a pass. Only on the weekends could you get a pass, and it was not every weekend you'd get it.

Marcello: But if you did get a pass, you could stay the entire weekend if you had the money to do so?

Albarado: Yes, we could stay over the weekend.

Marcello: In your own particular case, did you ever stay over very often?

Albarado: I never did. I don't believe I stayed one time overnight. I'd just go and come back in the same day.

Marcello: Was that mainly because of the expenses involved in staying overnight?

Albarado: I couldn't afford it. It's not that it cost so much in those days, but you wouldn't get too much of a pay. You couldn't very well afford to spend

any more than whatever was important for you to see or do.

Marcello: On a weekend--and, again, I'm talking about that period prior to December 7--what percentage of the base might be on liberty? You'd have to estimate that, of course, but if you were to guess, what percentage of people might be off the base on a weekend?

Albarado: Well, you see, we were mostly recruits--we were just training--so I don't believe that more than half of our outfit could go on pass. But you take other people, like, well, the Navy and Regular Army and all the posts, well, I guess you could say over half that could be in town over the weekend.

Marcello: Did many of the troops ever spend time over at that little town near the base--Wahiawa? Do you remember that place?

Albarado: By the base? No, I don't remember that name.

Marcello: As one gets closer and closer to December 7, 1941, and as conditions between the United States and Japan continued to get worse, could you, even in your position, detect any changes in the

training exercises or the training routine that the 98th Coast Artillery engaged in?

Albarado: Well, the only thing was right around December 7. The week before, there was an alert. In them days they had the Red Army and the Blue Army, and we'd have, like, battles and fights. We went on alert. We were supposed to go out on maneuvers before December 7. On December 7, I believe quite a few of them thought it was the maneuvers starting off. Like myself, I wasn't too excited when I saw them come down firing because I thought it was maneuvers. And I knew I wasn't going on the maneuvers because I was in school. So I was safe from going on maneuvers, but I found out it was different afterwards.

Marcello: When this alert was called during that week before December 7, what did it mean in terms of such things as liberty and passes?

Albarado: Well, I don't believe you could get liberty. Of course, where I was, I couldn't get liberty for a few weeks because that school was a different school than others. It was a school that was...I wasn't a prisoner, but it was in the stockade. That's where they were holding the school, and I

felt like I was a prisoner (chuckle) because I had to be in there. I couldn't get out, and it was hard for me to get a pass.

The day before December 7, I called up my first sergeant in my company and told him I had to get some stuff from my tent because I didn't have all my stuff with me at the school, so he sent a car to pick me up. I was about maybe five or six miles from my battery. That's when I went back. I was in there about three or four weeks--in that school--and I had never had a pass. I had to get my pass from my outfit--my company commander--and couldn't go and come like I wanted to. I was supposed to get a pass that following week. I told them I didn't want it because I wasn't prepared to go that week, which would have been December 7, so I was going to take it the following week. Instead, well, that's when we got into all that trouble.

Marcello: Was that alert called off--when--Friday, the 5th of December or Saturday the 6th? Do you recall?

Albarado: I wouldn't know. I really wouldn't know if it was called off or not.

Marcello: There's a couple things you mentioned that I want to pursue a little further. Describe for me how your assignment to the cook and baker school came about.

Albarado: Well, while in my outfit I'd go around and see about how everything was going. I always liked to fool around with food, even in civilian life. So I'd go over there, and the cooks were glad. I'd go around there, and I'd help them out. I had the privilege of getting a little something extra if I'd go ahead and give them a hand. The first sergeant noticed that I liked it. We had a Regular Army man as the cook, and he used to like to go to town. So one Sunday, a couple of the cooks was out on pass, and the other two took their own pass (chuckle) and went over and stayed over. So he got me to go and help him feed the rest of the outfit. So right then and there, he asked me if I wanted to be a cook. I told him I'd like it. Then he saw the captain. The captain said I had to go to school to be a cook, so that's when I took the school. He sent me to that school for cooking.

Marcello: Were you still in the 98th Coast Artillery even while you were at that cook and baker school?

Albarado: Oh, yes, yes. I was just there for that school. But I couldn't go back to my outfit. I had to sleep there and all.

Marcello: You mentioned that this cook and baker school was located up near or on the post stockade. I've read the book *From Here to Eternity*, and a lot of Pearl Harbor veterans say that that book is pretty accurate relative to what life was like in the Army during that time. I remember that that book gives a very negative view of that stockade. What was that stockade like?

Albarado: Bad, real bad. While I was in there cooking, we had guards. We couldn't even get out because we had those trustees--they used to call them trustees, but they were pretty bad guys--who were in there working, like, cleaning everything and all. They had some real bad characters in there at that time.

Marcello: That post stockade was a "no nonsense" place, wasn't it?

Albarado: Bad, I tell you (chuckle). That's all I can tell you about it. It was nothing to brag about, I mean, to be there.

Marcello: Is it not true that most of the people that went there were put on hard labor?

Albarado: Yes, very hard labor. And they were strict on them, too.

Marcello: I understand there could be a lot of physical punishment that would be dealt out to them. In other words, it was perfectly...I'm not sure if it was legal, but it was acceptable, at least, to hit those prisoners and so on.

Albarado: Well, I never seen them hit them, but I know that they were rough on them. They was real strict on them.

Marcello: Did those prisoners have a distinctive uniform?

Albarado: I really don't remember too well about their uniform. I believe it was just those regular blue denims that they had at that time.

Marcello: Okay, this brings us into that weekend of December 7, 1941. You've told me just a little bit about what went on, but let's go into it in some more detail. You mentioned that you did not

have liberty that weekend. Do you recall what you did that Saturday, December 6?

Albarado: That's what I was telling you. I went to my outfit, because it was hard for me to send any mail out. I had a buddy of mine to get me a card for my wife (intended to be)--a Christmas card. He had it, so I went over there, and I wrote whatever I wanted to in the card, and I gave it to him to mail it. He had to wait until Monday, but on Monday, with all the excitement, he kept the card. I met him afterwards, oh, maybe three for four weeks afterwards, and he gave me back my card. He hadn't had a chance to mail it because you couldn't send too many things through the mail. It was too late to send Christmas cards--it was one of those great, big Christmas cards--so he gave it back to me, and I put it in my duffel bag. When I came back home, I brought it to my wife (chuckle). I came back in 1943, and I brought it home.

Marcello: So at the time of the attack, you were either engaged, or at least you were intending to marry very shortly.

Albarado: Yes. Well, we were thinking about that, but we didn't know when it was going to be. Of course, I knew before that it was just for a year. I was counting the months that I had left to go before I got out.

Marcello: That's right. I forgot that you had been drafted for one year.

Albarado: One year, yes.

Marcello: Okay, what did you do that Saturday evening?

Albarado: On Saturday evening I was over at my tent until maybe about 5:00 in the afternoon.

Marcello: Then what did you do?

Albarado: Then I came back to that cook and baker school.

Marcello: And what did you do that evening?

Albarado: Well, we didn't have much to do. We just sat around, joked around. Whoever had something to read would read. And you had a bed check at that time, too. You couldn't go out. Lights had to be out around nine or ten o'clock. Lights had to be out, and then there was a bed check. Then Sunday morning I had the duty there--learn everything about cooking and baking--so we had to go to the post baker shop. We had to change an oven. We had to learn how to build ovens and everything, so

that's when I left. I was going to that field--
that open field--to go to the baker shop.

Marcello: And what time of the day was this? What time of
the morning was this?

Albarado: Well, I left the barracks at that cook and bake
school about 7:30, maybe 7:45.

Marcello: Normally, on a Sunday is it not true that a
person could sleep in if they didn't have the
duty.

Albarado: That's right, yes. Quite a few of them were
sleeping at that time.

Marcello: Okay, it's about 7:30, and you're crossing this
field from the cook and baker school.

Albarado: While I was crossing...I was going through that
field...well, they were supposed to have had that
attack at 7:55. That's when they came over, and
they was coming down on my buddy and I. The
Japanese planes were coming down and firing
machine guns at us.

Marcello: Okay, describe what happened. So you and your
buddy were crossing this field.

Albarado: That's right. At that time, like I told you about
the maneuvers, we thought it was the Red Army. We
saw the red discs--the Japanese insignias under

the planes--so we thought it was the Red Army. We thought it was blanks, that they were shooting blanks. They came down with machine guns firing, but they missed. And we just didn't look at them. The second time they came back, and they came a little bit closer. We had a fellow working in the motor pool, and they got him. We saw that he was gone--that they had gotten him--so we started running to take cover. At the same time they dropped a small bomb where they were building...they were putting up a foundation for a new building, and it was just mud and water. They dropped a small bomb there, and the mud got us. We didn't get hit, but that's when we started leaving out--started going for cover.

Marcello: So you were caught out in the middle of this field?

Albarado: In the middle of the field, yes.

Marcello: And these planes were actually diving on you specifically--you and your buddy?

Albarado: That's right; that's right.

Marcello: And it was firing its machine guns at you.

Albarado: Machine guns, yes.

Marcello: How close were these bullets hitting?

Albarado: Well, they was hitting pretty close.

Marcello: Within ten feet?

Albarado: Oh, I'd say so, yes.

Marcello: Within five feet?

Albarado: They was close (chuckle).

Marcello: How many planes were coming down at you?

Albarado: At that time, they had only two of them that came after us--two that dropped off after us. Some more dropped down farther. Right at the end of Schofield Barracks--up at the end--that's where Wheeler Field was at, which wasn't too far from us. We could see they were bombing Wheeler Field, and that's why they wouldn't do too much around us. They was getting Wheeler Field. We could see it going into flames.

Marcello: Okay, I have a couple of questions at this point. So when those planes initially strafed you, you really didn't panic or run because you thought it was a part of these maneuvers?

Albarado: At first, yes. But when we saw that they was hitting...and we could hear it when the bullets were going through the vehicles. On the ground, you couldn't very well hear the noise of the bullets, but when they started hitting the

vehicles and dropped that bomb in the back of it, well, we figured that that wasn't our plane.

Marcello: How far away was that motor pool where you said that person got killed and those vehicles were being hit?

Albarado: Well, that must have been maybe a hundred yards from us.

Marcello: Did any of those vehicles catch fire or anything?

Albarado: No, not that I know of. Of course, I didn't stay long enough to see if they'd catch fire because I wasn't armed or nothing. I didn't have no gun with me or nothing.

Marcello: Okay, so they make the pass, and then you see them drop the bomb and you see the bullets hitting the vehicles. And at that point, you run. Where do you go?

Albarado: We went to the baker shop--the regular baker shop.

Marcello: And how far away was it?

Albarado: It must have been about...just about the distance of three blocks or something like that.

Marcello: You're still fairly far from the actual barracks themselves. Is that correct? From Schofield Barracks itself?

Albarado: No, the barracks was all around; I mean, this was just an open field. Beyond it--farther--they had the motor pool--all the trucks and all. Where I was at at the time of the school, they had barracks all around there.

Marcello: But the stockade and that cook and baker school were not actually near the quadrangles and so on, though, were they?

Albarado: No, they were across that field.

Marcello: Like you say, that was about five or six miles away?

Albarado: No, no, it must have been just about, maybe, three-quarters of a mile from the main post. It was on the post, but, I mean, it was that far from the main building.

Marcello: Okay, so what happens then when you get to the baker shop?

Albarado: Well, we went in, and everybody was wondering what was going on. We didn't know. We stood there looking around, and it was a little bit past 8:00. I was supposed to go to work at 8:00. The officer in charge said, "We don't know what it is, but whatever it is, that don't stop the Army from going to work." He said, "We'll have to go

to work and go about our business." So we started working on them ovens. Later in the day, they came around and told us it was the Japanese that had attacked.

Marcello: So by that time, that is, by the time you get over to the baker shop, has most of the activity there at Schofield Barracks come to an end?

Albarado: Well, in the morning there wasn't too much activity. Our work continued on that day.

Marcello: But I guess what I'm saying is, did the Japanese come back and direct very many of their activities at Schofield Barracks itself?

Albarado: Well, I couldn't tell you. I had to go to work, and I was in that building. We could hear a lot of firing and all, you know, but I was inside that building. We're lucky they didn't hit the building (chuckle).

Marcello: How were you able to concentrate on what you were doing there in that bake shop with all this action outside?

Albarado: Well, we was inside, and we just went to work; I mean, we had to go about our job whether it would have been war or not. You had to go about your business and do what you had to do. Of course, we

just worked on that oven, and somebody else took over. Then a couple of days after that, we had gone to put some field ovens up. That was during the week after December 7. We began then to build some field ovens in case they came back. In case they would come back and attack and bomb the baker shop, we'd then have a place to cook--to make the bread and all.

Marcello: How long did you remain there at that bake shop that day?

Albarado: That's only one day. I just did that duty for that day, and that was all.

Marcello: When did you knock off on December 7?

Albarado: We knocked off...it was Sunday, so they gave us off a little early. About 4:00, it must have been.

Marcello: And then what did you do?

Albarado: I went back to the building where we lived. Well, we had our supper there and were just wondering what was going on.

Marcello: What did you talk about?

Albarado: Oh, we were just talking about what happened--the bombing and all.

Marcello: How close were you to the activity that took place over at Wheeler Field?

Albarado: Oh, that must have been just about a mile-and-a-half, I'd say.

Marcello: In other words, what you saw happening over at Wheeler Field was seen from a pretty good distance?

Albarado: Yes, it must have been around a mile-and-a-half.

Marcello: When you did look over there and see what was going on, I assume it was during that period when you were caught out there in that field.

Albarado: That's right.

Marcello: What did you see happening over there at Wheeler?

Albarado: Well, you could see that they was bombing it, and you could see fire. At a distance like that, you could see the fire because it was pretty clear through there.

Marcello: Once the action was over and you got off this job there at the bake shop, did you go back to your tent, or did you go back up to the cook and baker school?

Albarado: To the cook and baker school. I stayed there for about a week afterwards.

Marcello: Where was your weapon?

Albarado: We had a rifle.

Marcello: You did get your weapon?

Albarado: Well, we didn't have no ammunition.

Marcello: What did you do that evening, that is, after darkness fell?

Albarado: After dark, around 9:00 that night, they had an alert when some U.S. planes came in. They got their signals mixed, so they called an alert. During that afternoon, while I was at that cook and bake shop, they came to that field and dug trenches with one of those trench diggers. So that night, when the alarm sounded, everybody ran and jumped in them trenches. Then they sounded the "all clear," and at the same time they said that they could smell...they thought it was poison gas, so they started opening up the gas masks. The gas masks were in a container--a metal container--and they didn't have nothing to open it with, and they was using bayonets and hatchets and all kinds of things to open the cans. They ruined more gas masks than they could use, and they issued out gas masks.

Then we went back, and nobody was sleeping. Everyone was just waiting. Everything was in the

dark. Everybody was talking about...there was a rumor going around that they had dropped paratroopers. One guy said they had landed in the graveyard. I didn't know where the graveyard was at, so I laid down with my boots on and my full field pack on and everything. I laid down across my bunk. At 11:00 there was another alert, so everybody ran off. And I noticed that I was by myself in them trenches. That alert didn't last too long. When they sounded "all clear," I came back to the tent. They still were talking about the paratroopers in the graveyard. I said, "By the way, where is that graveyard at?" They said, "Over on the side over there, where they dug them trenches. That's where they're going to bury the dead." I said, "What!" I said, "Forget about the paratroopers!" So that's where I was for the last alarm we had.

Marcello: Could you hear firing going on all night?

Albarado: No, no, we didn't hear no more firing.

Marcello: Not even an occasional rifle shot or anything like that?

Albarado: Well, they had a few guys that got shot. Some people claimed that some guys were firing at night, but I never heard it where I was at.

Marcello: How safe was it to walk around?

Albarado: Well, I don't know. We didn't do too much walking around at night. I was pretty scared whenever I had to go out because it was dark and you couldn't see hardly nothing.

Marcello: How much sleep did you get that night?

Albarado: Not much, if I got any--maybe I dozed off--because I never took my shoes off and I had that field pack. I was laying down on my stomach (chuckle). I wasn't going to lay down on my back because I kept that pack on in case we'd have to get out.

Marcello: What did you do the next day?

Albarado: The next day is when we went to build them field ovens.

Marcello: And where did you go to build those field ovens?

Albarado: It was on the side of the post--some wooded area there, like, hills around there. It wasn't exactly mountains, but it was at the side of the mountain. I don't know exactly what mountain it was.

Marcello: In other words, by this time, almost everybody that had been on Schofield had now taken positions in the area around Schofield--many of the units?

Albarado: From what I heard, yes.

Marcello: And you were building field ovens for these units that were bivouacked out there in the field?

Albarado: No, no, it was in case that the main baker shop would be bombed and so they had to move in for an emergency.

Marcello: I see. And how long were you working on that?

Albarado: I just did that just a couple of days, and then they called me back to my outfit. Then from there we went on machine guns. We wouldn't do no cooking. We got it catered there by truck. Some other outfit was cooking for us. We loaded machine guns. At first we was out in the pineapple fields. We had a tent. We just did about a week in there, and from there they took us...we had a good spot after that. We were in Honolulu on top the building, and we stayed there for a good while.

Marcello: That must have been pretty good duty to be in Honolulu.

Albarado: It was nice there.

Marcello: Where were you staying?

Albarado: We were on the docks--Honolulu Harbor--and then they switched us around from one place to another. We were at Love's Baker Shop--that's in Honolulu--and we were on top of the building. On top of the building, they had like little shelters with a roof over. We just had our cots under there and slept under there.

Marcello: Did you have very much contact with the civilians here in Honolulu?

Albarado: During that time, yes, because we were working on top, and there were a lot of civilians working in the baker shop. They were restricted from coming up, but some would come up. Sometimes we would sneak down there. We didn't have trouble getting cookies (chuckle). We had all the cookies we wanted there. Then we went to the Dole pineapple factory. They have a Dole pineapple factory there. They used to bring us pineapples. We got to eat so much pineapple that I got tired of them. We were also on the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. That's about the only big hotel that they had at that time.

Marcello: Do you know why they were moving you around to all these various places?

Albarado: I don't believe they wanted us to be too friendly with the people working there. That's why I imagine it is, because we couldn't go too much around where they were. Those young soldiers would try to get out and have a good time. On the Royal Hawaiians we had a fellow who used to come up to see us, and he was with the civil defense. When we were at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, he used to come up there and bring us stuff to eat.

Marcello: Describe what conditions were like in Honolulu after the attack. For instance, what kind of conditions existed with regard to blackouts or travel restrictions or anything like that?

Albarado: Well, for quite a while we had blackouts, and everything was in the dark. Yet business people could use real small lights. The vehicles had blackout lights. The activities went on pretty good afterwards. It wasn't wide-open like it was before, but they had a lot of activities.

Marcello: I would assume that you guys would have had a monopoly on all the women in Honolulu since nobody could get any passes.

Albarado: Oh, I tell you, the monopoly was there in a way, but the women were outnumbered by men. There was so many men around there.

Marcello: Even during the period when passes and liberty was restricted? Was that the case?

Albarado: In what way do you mean?

Marcello: Well, when you were in town after Pearl Harbor, nobody was getting any passes or any liberty, were they?

Albarado: Well, not too long afterwards, they got liberty, yes. They got liberty not too long afterwards.

Marcello: And how long were you...

Albarado: But then it was just for the day. Most of the time, you couldn't stay out at night.

Marcello: How long were you with this machine gun crew there in Honolulu?

Albarado: I was there about a month. From there they brought us back together at Fort Kamehameha, and we stayed there for a while. From there I was transferred to another outfit--to the 97th Coast Artillery. We had our battery right at the end of Pearl Harbor. They was taking the guns off one of those ships. I believe it was the *Oklahoma* or one of them ships. They took the guns off, and they

mounted them in cement right on the end of that base, which was right across the road from the harbor--Pearl Harbor. Our guns were there. That's where I really started cooking there. Well, I was cooking for our outfit, but just for a while. Then I really started cooking there and was attached to the Navy. In other words, we were manning them guns on the Navy base. It was a receiving station. So that's where I started really cooking. We had to furnish the cooks for the Navy, so I stayed there from 1942 to 1943. That was nice. It was a Sunday dinner every day, because they were waiting for them troops coming in. Sometimes we had maybe a couple thousand men coming in at one time, and it was a big receiving station. So we had to put out the food, and it was always the best. It was because they were coming off them ships, and on them ships--them troopships--they couldn't feed them all that good.

Marcello: When did you leave the Hawaiian Islands?

Albarado: In 1943.

Marcello: And where did you go?

Albarado: I came to the States. we came as a cadre pool--officers and noncommissioned officers.

We came to California, and that's when I got married. We stayed in California--the cadre pool did (noncommissioned officers and officers--a few days. In other words, from there they gave us a furlough. That's when I got married--on my furlough. That was on April 7, 1943. From there I went back to California, and then they sent us all up to Camp Edwards in Massachusetts--up around Falmouth, Massachusetts, and Buzzards Bay. That's where the Kennedys come from--where Hyannis Port is located. That's where we went, and we had a bunch of recruits that was sent for us to train there.

Marcello: And, did you spend the rest of your Army career in the States?

Albarado: Oh, no. We trained the men. I have all the dates here [refers to paper] because I forget the dates. I came back to the States on March 13 of 1943, and then I came on furlough. A month later we went to Massachusetts, and we stayed there. We went to Europe on July 24, 1944. I went on to

England, France, Belgium, Germany--all through there.

Marcello: Did you remain as a cook during that period?

Albarado: Well, a lot of times, you didn't cook over there. You had them little cans of rations that you'd warm up yourself. Everybody would warm their own because we was going through the fighting.

Marcello: You were on the move all the time, then, I guess, weren't you?

Albarado: Right. At that time we had them 90-millimeter guns, and they was pretty new. They was for antiaircraft, and also we used them as field artillery. We were going mighty fast at that time. We didn't even have time to...all we had time to do was put sand bags on them tripods to hold them down and then move on. That's when we was in France and Germany.

Marcello: So you still were part of an artillery outfit?

Albarado: Yes, and also our outfit was attached to the 9th Air Force. I believe the 9th Air Force took the 101st Airborne across the Rhine, and we were protecting them.

Marcello: And where were you when the war ended?

Albarado: I was about to leave to go to Austria. I had all my stuff packed. When it ended I was right around Munich--a little past Munich. I can't remember the town, but it was some little town there. Then I stayed there awhile. After the war they came out with that point system. I was getting ready to go to Austria when I was discharged. That was in 1945.

Marcello: Well, Mr. Albarado, I think that's probably a pretty good place to end this interview. I want to thank you very much for having taken time to talk to me about your experiences relative to Pearl Harbor. I'm sure that students and historians are going to appreciate what you've had to say.

Albarado: Well, I tried my best with what I can remember. It's so far back that you forget a lot of that stuff.

[End of interview]