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Interview with

W. B. Ray

May 15, 1976

Place of Interview: Austin, Texas

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello

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(Signature)

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Oral History Collection

Wilburn Ray

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello

Place of Interview: Austin, Texas

Date: May 15, 1976

Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing Mr. Wilburn Ray for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on May 15, 1976, in Austin, Texas. I'm interviewing Mr. Ray in order to get his reminiscences and experiences and impressions while he was aboard the destroyer USS Worden during the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Now Mr. Ray, to begin this interview, would you just very briefly give me a biographical sketch of yourself. In other words, tell me when you were born, where you were born, your education--things of that nature. Just be very brief and general.

Mr. Ray: I was born in Bell County on May 14, 1917, in a small community south of Kileen named Youngsport.

Dr. Marcello: When did you enter the service?

Mr. Ray: On December 14, 1940.

Dr. Marcello: Why did you decide to enter the service?

Mr. Ray: Well, I had got my classification as a 1-A draft choice for the Army, and I didn't care to be a soldier.

Marcello: And that's why you decided to enter the Navy?

Ray: That's right.

Marcello: Where did you take your boot camp?

Ray: San Diego.

Marcello: Was there anything eventful that happened in boot camp that you think we ought to get as part of the record?

Ray: Well, when I got there, they issued me two pair of shoes. I stayed in boot camp six weeks, and when I got ready to leave, I threw one pair away, for there was just the tops left. We wore them out completely, plus they had already soled them and heeled them, too. So that was a constant grind on the grinder there. We just had six weeks training, and then we was shipped out.

Marcello: This, I think, is some indication about the extent of the national emergency. Boot camp had already been cut back to six weeks.

Ray: Right.

Marcello: At one time, I know, it was three months. It was twelve weeks, as a matter of fact. Okay, so where did you go from boot camp?

Ray: We was divided into different groups and put into what they called a "T-Unit." That's a transfer unit in San Diego there. Then they . . . I'm not sure just how that they decided what ship that you would go on, but then

on this particular day they put on the bulletin board that all these different recruits would be assigned to certain ships. We was all transferred from there by motor launch to the USS Enterprise. We went aboard the Enterprise and then went to Honolulu, and they picked us up from our respective ships--you know, the boats were there to pick up these recruits--and carried them to their respective ships.

At that time, I was assigned to the Cassin; 372 was the number of it. I don't remember just how long that I served on the Cassin, but they had a full crew on it at this time, and we made a goodwill cruise on it through the South Pacific and to Australia. Some of our sister ships went to New Zealand, and we went to Pangopango Island and . . . I don't remember the name of the other islands now. Then when we got back, though, the Worden was real short of seamen, and they transferred about ten or twelve of us off the Cassin to the Worden.

Marcello: Okay, let's back up there just a minute. What did you think about the idea of having duty in the Hawaiian Islands?

Ray: I wasn't really too "hepped" on that area over there.

Marcello: Why was that?

Ray: Well, there was so many military people there, and their

liberty was . . . you got to go on liberty at four, and it was up at midnight. You really had to leave your recreation area by ten o'clock to catch a boat back to your ship. So three or four hours' liberty was all that you really had in there.

Marcello: What did you think about the idea of serving on a destroyer?

Ray: Well, that was my preference when I was in boot camp.

Marcello: Why was that?

Ray: There was less discipline, I was told by reliable sources.

Marcello: And is this what you found when you boarded the Cassin and the Worden?

Ray: Yes, it was that way.

Marcello: When you went aboard the destroyers, as I assume that you were, first of all, put on the deck force. . .

Ray: Yes.

Marcello: What were you ultimately wanting to strike for?

Ray: I was pleased with what I was doing, and so I just continued in the deck force and made boatswain first class.

Marcello: How would you describe the on-the-job training that you received aboard the Cassin and the Worden during this period. Was it good? Fair? Poor? How would you rate the training?

Ray: Well, I thought it was excellent. They treated all personnel the same, and they didn't have much time to

give any special privileges to anybody. It was a man's operation. That's the way to describe it. Everybody done their duties, and we worked in the daytime and stood our gun watches at night. Then we rated liberty with the regular sections.

Marcello: How would you describe the morale of that pre-World War II Navy?

Ray: Well, on the Cassin the morale wasn't as good as it was on the Worden.

Marcello: Why was that?

Ray: I really don't know. It could have been . . . we had three first class boatswain's mates on the Cassin, and that could have been one of the main factors on it. But then I wasn't well enough aware with just how the Navy operated to be too familiar with just what was wrong.

Marcello: Well, describe what the morale was like aboard the Worden then.

Ray: Oh, it was fine. We had one chief boatswain's mate, and we had one first class. Then everybody was just more or less like a family more than they were in any other ship that I served on.

Marcello: What was the food like aboard the Worden?

Ray: Oh, it was just . . . I wouldn't say it was excellent, but it was fair. It was all edible.

Marcello: How about the living quarters? What were they like aboard the Worden?

Ray: Well, we was pretty well confined there. All the bunks was three bunks high, and under the lower bunk they carried this locker that each person had. We didn't have any upright lockers on the Worden, for it was an older-type ship.

Marcello: Getting back to the morale again, I would assume that the fact that everybody was a volunteer also had something to do with the high morale.

Ray: Well, it probably did. I just really don't know how to explain the difference in the morale of the two ships. It could have been that we had a skipper on the Worden . . . that he would come back and visit with the whole crew occasionally, where the skipper on the Cassin, he never did. You never talked to him unless if you had stepped in hot water somewhere.

Marcello: I would assume that promotion was fairly slow on the deck force in that pre-World War II Navy. Is that correct?

Ray: Promotions was slow in the Navy just period, see. But at this particular time, they had fleet promotions, not ship promotions. After the war was going, it was converted into ship promotions. I knew just a number of boys that had sixteen years in, and if they would ship over for

the twenty, they'd get them to be third class of some rate, you know. Sixteen years as a seaman first class is what'd you say, a slow promotion.

Marcello: Okay, so you were on this destroyer that was stationed at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. At this point, let's talk a little bit about your training and maneuvers that the Worden undertook. First, how much thought did you, as a young seaman, give to the possibility of the United States entering war with Japan--during this pre-Pearl Harbor period?

Ray: Well, I never did really think it would come to pass, for it looked like that we just had the greatest of everything there. When you'd look out and we'd go on just regular maneuvers, there'd just be all kinds of ships out there. You just couldn't see where anybody could possibly be foolish enough to attack anything with that many ships involved.

Marcello: In other words, you felt pretty safe and secure?

Ray: Oh, yes, I thought we was just as safe as we could be.

Marcello: When you thought of a typical Japanese, what sort of a person did you usually conjure up in your own mind?

Ray: Oh, I rated them about with them people at Honolulu there. We called all of them Orientals there--"Kanakies." It didn't make any difference whether he was a Jap or a Chinaman or what, you know.

Marcello: Did you ever hear any of the old salts who had served in the Asiatics talk about the capabilities of the Japanese Navy or anything of that nature?

Ray: I don't recall of ever hearing anyone speak of it. We did have some boys that had served over in China and some in Japan, too. We had a gunner's mate that had put in several years over there in China and Japan and various parts of that area of there.

Marcello: Okay, let's talk a little bit, then, about the training routine of the Worden. Describe what the typical maneuvers would be like during those months immediately prior to the actual Japanese attack itself. In other words, when would you go out? What would you do when you were out? And when would you come in?

Ray: We'd go out and we'd always go on maneuvers with either the Saratoga or the Lexington. We would be . . . we'd run what they called plane guard for those ships. We would tow a sled, and those bombers would bomb the sled there, see. Then occasionally they would tow this little old airplane, or sleeve was what it was really be, and we'd fire at this sleeve, you know. We'd go out and we'd stay ten days running various maneuvers and all sorts of gun practices and damage control. When we'd come in, we'd stay in about four days. Then we'd go back again and repeat the same proceedings.

Marcello: Did this procedure change any as conditions between the United States and Japan continued to worsen?

Ray: Not that a seaman second class would notice. It was just a kind of a routine that we stayed in. I don't mean that we did the same thing every time we went out, but then we would just continue to go out and do our practices.

Marcello: How much in the way of antiaircraft drills were carried on by the Worden?

Ray: Well, we didn't really have any antiaircraft guns other than the five-inch thirty-eight, which was the main gun that we had. But then we'd fire at that sleeve that those planes would carry quite often. We would fire a torpedo or let one of our sister ships fire a torpedo, and then we would fire a torpedo or let one of our sister ships fire a torpedo, and then we would retrieve that torpedo. And then that was in assuming that we would be a plane guard or a submarine patrol for these carriers in case that we would actually come to war, see. That was our duties after the war started. I thought we got real good at it (chuckle).

Marcello: Okay. Normally, when would the Worden come back into port for liberty? Or when would it come back into port off maneuvers, I should say?

Ray: We would stay ten or twelve days at a time.

Marcello: In other words, you didn't necessarily always come in on a weekend. It could have been in the middle of the week when you came in.

Ray: Oh, Lord, no, no! The bigger ships got the weekends (chuckle). We got the middle of the week because we was a smaller ship.

Marcello: What was the liberty routine like aboard the Worden when it did come in?

Ray: Well, before the war started, we would have what they call a two-section liberty. One section would stay aboard, and then two sections would go. But then like I said before, it was started at four in the afternoon and it was up at midnight.

Marcello: Why was it that you had to be back aboard ship at midnight when you were on liberty?

Ray: Well, they didn't have any . . . there was so much military there, they didn't have any facilities for that many people to stay in that particular town.

Marcello: When you went in on liberty, what was your usual routine? What did you do when you went on liberty?

Ray: Well, usually some of my buddies . . . we'd go to town and just do a little sightseeing. By the time that you'd get from Pearl Harbor into Honolulu, why, you'd spent probably an hour to hour and half getting to town, and then you'd know you was going to take that long to get back. So you

haven't put in a whole lot of time in Honolulu at that time. We'd usually go to a little cafe and eat something different that we hadn't had on the ship and we knew we wouldn't have. Then we'd come back to the ship.

Marcello: Many people say that Sunday was the best possible time that the Japanese could have chosen for an attack because the majority of the sailors would be hungover from a wild night in Honolulu on Saturday and consequently wouldn't be in any condition to fight back. How would you reply to this statement?

Ray: I can't agree on that, for I don't recall of ever being in Honolulu in the daytime, other than somewhere around . . . on some very special occasion liberty would start at noon, but I couldn't ever see any difference in Honolulu on Sunday or Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday. It was all the same to me. I can't see where any particular day would make any preferences. I don't feel that our military was that much of a "jug hound" anyway. They was all young men and taking care of their lives.

Marcello: In other words, it simply wasn't true that most people were coming back aboard their ships on the Saturday nights drunk and this sort of thing?

Ray: Not on our ship. But, then, we'd go to that liberty dock there, and there'd probably four or five thousand guys there waiting for their particular boats to come in.

There would be some people that had had too much, but then it wasn't that much too many, you know.

Marcello: When was payday aboard the Worden?

Ray: Every first and fifteenth.

Marcello: Well, that would have meant, then, that on that weekend of December 7, most of the crew members probably wouldn't have had too much money anyhow.

Ray: Yes, because the pay at that time wasn't the greatest. See, a seaman second class at that time was making thirty-six dollars a month (chuckle). A first class seaman would make fifty-four. Then a third class seaman would make sixty, and then it was sixty, seventy-two, eighty-four, and ninety-six dollars a month (chuckle). There certainly wasn't anybody that had too much money. But although it didn't cost too much to have liberty, either. But I don't think that any particular day . . . I think that they just timed it that way, and it just happened to be in their favor, and that's all that happened.

Marcello: Did the liberty routine change any as one got closer and closer to December 7, 1941?

Ray: Not to my knowledge, it didn't.

Marcello: Okay, I think this kind of brings us up to the days immediately prior to the Japanese attack, so let's talk about Saturday, December 6, 1941, first of all. Where was the Worden tied up at that particular time?

Ray: We was tied in a nest--that's where a group of ships ties up for minor repairs--along by the side of the Dobbin. That was what they called our mother ship. That's . . .

Marcello: Destroyer tender?

Ray: . . . destroyer tender, see. Then on the other side of us was our flotilla leader, which was what they called . . . and it was the Phelps. It was in the same . . . I don't know what I want to say there. It was the squadron leader of our flotilla. That was what I wanted to say.

Marcello: Now where was this nest of destroyers in relation to Battleship Row? In other words, did you have a very good view of Battleship Row?

Ray: Yes. We was about 400 yards straight north of Ford Island --just about 400 yards. Battleship Row was beginning at the east side of Ford Island and continued on around into the dry dock area there.

Marcello: And you did have a clear view of the battleships?

Ray: Yes. We had held our reveille and done our . . .

Marcello: Wait just a second. I don't want to get up to December 7th yet.

Ray: Yes, okay.

Marcello: We'll get to that in a minute here. I did want to establish the location of your ship during that weekend. I would assume that the ship wasn't in a state of combat readiness

at that time. In other words, you probably had at most, what, maybe one boiler lit or something of that nature?

Ray: Well, me being a seaman, I would be kind of hesitant to make a prediction on that, but then we did come in there for some minor repairs. We could have not had any boilers lit--it's possible to have--and been taking all of our supplies from this tender ship. We were next to it.

Marcello: Okay, let's talk then about your routine on Saturday, December 6, 1941. What I want you to do is to tell me what you did from the time you got up in the morning until you went to bed that night. Go into as much detail as you can remember.

Ray: Well, always when you pull into port, regardless of what's the matter with the ship, there is always a lot of chipping and painting to do over the freeboard, you know, over the side. And we did that.

Marcello: In other words, you didn't have liberty on Saturday?

Ray: No, I didn't have liberty that Saturday. I was aboard the . . . my section didn't have liberty this particular day. We carried on our daily routine. In port on duty, there wasn't a whole lot of difference than there was being at sea, for you'd have . . . with the exception you'd paint over the side on this particular day. Then at night, why, we'd show a movie, and we'd have the range of the whole

nest there. You could go . . . see, if you'd seen your movie, you'd go over and look at the other one. If you'd seen it, why, you'd go back and look at another one. This particular night, I looked at the movie on the Phelps, for I hadn't seen it before, see.

Marcello: Just out of curiosity, do you remember what the name of the movie was?

Ray: No, I sure don't. But I remember this boy, and his name was Carl Ohela (?) from somewhere in Michigan.

Marcello: How do you spell his name?

Ray: I'd be afraid to say (chuckle).

Marcello: Okay.

Ray: He was a Frenchman.

Marcello: Okay.

Ray: We went aboard the Phelps and watched the movie, and then we come back. Then it's bedtime after the movie was over.

Marcello: What time were taps that night?

Ray: Ten o'clock, I believe, was about the normal time . . . ten o'clock.

Marcello: Did you go straight to bed?

Ray: I believe so.

Marcello: Did you notice anything out of the ordinary happening that night?

Ray: The only thing that I really remembered there that . . . during the movie they stopped the movie, and Russia had just

"walloped the hay" out of Germany this particular day over in . . . I don't remember the name of the town . . . but then everybody hollered and whooped, you know, for they . . . that seemed to be the only thing that was out of any ordinary at all on that particular day.

Marcello: Okay, this brings us into Sunday morning of December 7th. First of all, what sort of a day was it in terms of climate? What was the weather like on December 7th?

Ray: Well, every morning between seven and eight o'clock, you'd get a little old shower. You could just about nearly bet on it. It didn't seem to be any different from any other days.

Marcello: Was it sunny? Overcast? Bright?

Ray: Yes, it was . . . the best I can remember, it was just . . . oh, it already come a little old shower, and it had already cleared out by eight o'clock in the morning. That's about what time that the attack really happened--was about eight o'clock.

Marcello: Okay, so describe what your routine was on that Sunday morning from the time you got up until all hell broke loose.

Ray: Well, we held reveille at regular time. By me being in the deck force, why, we would do our duties, like sweep and mop the decks and get ready for just a kind of a Sunday. Was always called a "rope yarn." That was, you'd do your

duties in the morning, and then you'd get to kind of lay around all day, which was a rest.

Marcello: Sunday was a day of leisure, in other words?

Ray: Yes, always. But then we had to do our regular duties before . . . you didn't neglect something to have a day of leisure. You just went ahead with your regular duties. After that, why . . . you always do your duties first, and then you have chow. This Carl Ohela (?) and I . . . we were close friends, and we bunked close together, and we was on the same gun crew. We just went on liberty together. So we ate breakfast and went back to the fantail. At that time, I smoked and he did, too, and we was standing there leaning on this life line there smoking a cigarette. We saw this first plane dive in and hit the hangar at Ford Island.

Marcello: Were these planes coming over the destroyers?

Ray: Well, they was banking as they was bombing the Ford Island hangar there, see. We saw about three of them do this. He said, "Do you see them planes bombing that deal over there?" I said, "They must have got a heck of a fire, and they're trying to blow it out with those bombs someway --with some kind of a fire extinguishing agent there." About then somebody hollered, "We've got an attack on!" And then this plane banks, and you see this huge red sun, you know, the setting sun, on the bottom of that plane.

Then they sounded general quarters . . . you know, all this is happening just "bing-bing-bing," like that. I run to my gun crew.

Marcello: Where was your battle station?

Ray: On the number two gun.

Marcello: Was this a five-inch gun?

Ray: Yes, five-inch thirty-eight.

Marcello: What was your particular function on that gun?

Ray: I was a loader. So we break our ready boxes open and start passing this ammunition, getting ready. We fired several shots, and our skipper got a citation on that for being so alert on the attack.

Marcello: Okay, so you were inside the turret?

Ray: No. See, this particular gun didn't have a turret. Everybody was out, you know. It didn't even have a shrapnel shield. It was just sitting out there.

Marcello: Okay, well, describe exactly what took place at that gun mount during the attack itself.

Ray: Well, we're in this nest, and we're . . . the Dobbin is on our starboard side, and the Phelps is on our port side. The way that we're in this nest, about the only way that we can fire is when the plane is nearly at dead ahead. We did get a little anxious and fired a little bit close to the bridge of the Dobbin and broke a bunch of the windows out, you know (laughter).

Marcello: About how many projectiles would you estimate that your particular gun mount fired that day?

Ray: I believe we got out between fifteen and twenty while we're still in the nest.

Marcello: Was this strictly ammunition that was there at the ready boxes?

Ray: No, we had some ammunition sent up from . . . in our maneuvers and the drills and what-have-you, always the mess cook and the officers' mess boys went to the ammunition room and ran the hoist and would send that ammunition up.

Marcello: Did you have enough power in the hoist to bring the ammunition up?

Ray: Yes, yes.

Marcello: In other words, it was not being hand carried to the guns or anything of that nature.

Ray: No, no, it was sent up by power.

Marcello: How would you describe the reaction of the crew when general quarters was sounded? Now I'm referring, again, to the crew there at the gun mount where you were located.

Ray: Well . . .

Marcello: Was it professionalism? Panic?

Ray: I'd say it was professional-like. The number one deal was that nearly everybody on this Worden is kids like myself, and we was always looking for something to be

exciting. It was no fear there. I think we handled it like a bunch of professionals should.

Marcello: When you're under battle conditions of this nature, is there a lot of talking and shouting taking place, or is everybody quiet and simply doing his job?

Ray: Everybody's doing their job, you might say, in self-preservation, you know. They're doing what they're taught to do to save their own life, and there's no hollering or . . . it was just real routine stuff.

Marcello: I would assume that if there were a lot of talking, this could also lead to a great deal of confusion.

Ray: Yes, yes. See, the gun captain, he gives all the commands. If somebody is neglecting their duties a bit, why, he may holler at this particular individual, but then as far as somebody . . . if he's carrying out his duties, there's nothing to it. I think we had a good gun crew.

Marcello: How long did it take you to get up steam to get out of there?

Ray: I'm going to say . . .

Marcello: Was it less than an hour?

Ray: I'm going to say about twenty-five or thirty minutes.

Marcello: Which is very fast, is it not?

Ray: Yes.

Marcello: Under ordinary circumstances doesn't it take a destroyer, maybe, at least forty-five minutes to work up steam?

Ray: Yes, or maybe an hour and a half, you know. I believe we was under way in twenty-five or thirty minutes. The closest bomb that came to our ship . . . it dropped this bomb, and it hit right off of the fantail. It like to have . . . and it didn't explode, but the impact of this bomb hitting the water like to have drowned the number-five gun crew, you know. It just gushed all over . . . but then it didn't explode.

Marcello: I would assume the Japanese were looking for bigger game than the destroyers.

Ray: Yes. I think the only reason they dropped this one in our nest was that they just thought, "Well, maybe we'll hit in the nest and do some damage. But then that wasn't their real target or wasn't their intent when they come in there.

Marcello: Did your gun crew do any damage to the Japanese planes?

Ray: Well, we thought we shot one down, but then any one of the other ships could have. But then we felt like that we did shoot one down.

Marcello: How low were these Japanese planes coming over the Worden?

Ray: Well, they was already banking out of the Battleship Row. I can still kind of see the things in my mind, but I'd be kind of reluctant to say how high they were. They was . . . it seemed to me like 250 or 300 feet high.

Marcello: What sort of activity were you observing around you?

Ray: Well, I was just doing what I'd been taught to do before, and you couldn't help but hear those planes coming. See, they were coming through this Battleship Row, and they're coming around right across our bow. You're seeing them scamps as they're coming by. But then we're . . . everytime we're getting a chance, we're busting a salvo, so . . .

Marcello: In other words, you really didn't . . . you were so busy that you really didn't have time to observe what was actually happening over at Battleship Row or anything of that nature.

Ray: Right, right. That's right.

Marcello: Okay, so the Worden finally gets up steam, and you start moving out of there. Now describe what takes place at this point.

Ray: Well, when we get up steam, well, we cast off our lines, and we back out . . . you know, you back down. Then we went out by Battleship Row, and this Raleigh, this cruiser, had turned over just a short piece from where we went by. We're going out through this channel, and this Utah . . . was that the battleship.

Marcello: The Utah turned over; it was the old target ship. The Nevada was the one that was grounded on the bank. The Oklahoma had also turned over.

Ray: Well, we passed this one ship that had grounded.

Marcello: That was the Nevada.

Ray: Nevada. Well, it was in the channel there. We passed it on the way out there.

Marcello: Was the Worden firing as it was going out the channel?

Ray: No, no. We didn't have any targets to fire at at this particular time. We went out and the sea got awful rough; it just got horribly rough. We don't have any radar. No small ship at this time had radar. It was just the bigger ships.

Somebody had sighted something. The night was dark, and it was a rough sea. It was just a horrible night. Somebody had spotted this object way off, and they're trying to get communications with this ship. They're on the same alert that we're on. Our captain hollered, "Load and lock!" you know. Well, that's to load your gun and lock . . . you know, put it in safety. Well, one of those boys was all shook up or something. But anyway, when he loaded, well, he didn't lock. He fired. The skipper says, "Oh, my God! They'll cut us in half!" For by then, they'd already found out that it was a heavy cruiser that belonged to us (laughter).

Marcello: I'm sure that by this time, that ship was one big rumor mill.

Ray: Oh, yes, yes.

Marcello: What were some of the rumors that you heard?

Ray: Oh, God! They'd already landed on the other side of Diamond Head, and they had just . . . just any kind of fantastic

rumor you can imagine, it was already floating through the ship, you know.

Marcello: So what did you do . . . how . . . let me put it to you this way. How long did you stay out?

Ray: We stayed out all that night and the next day, and late in the afternoon we came in that day. All of our . . . at that time, we had meals . . . what they call family-style. You'd take a regular china plate, and you'd go sit down, and then the mess cook would bring the food and put it on the table. You would dip it out. Then if you run short, well, this mess cook would go get something else. Incidentally, they'd have a bowl on this table each meal, and then you would put something in that bowl, especially on payday, you know. So that would kind of entice those mess cooks to do better job. Well, anyway, we've gone out, and this sea got so horribly rough that we haven't cleaned up our tables. So when we get back, we got all the doors dogged down and the hatches all dogged down. Everything we're doing, we're living off topside. We're trying to keep as much buoyancy as we possibly can, you know. So when we start undogging these doors and hatches and look in there, it looks like everything in the world is done stacked and broke and turned over and whatever. It's just a horrible mess.

Marcello: Now this is all from that morning, is this correct?

Ray: Yes, yes. We're eating sandwiches. The chief, he'd brought us some . . . the galley's on topside, and they had a certain amount of stuff that was on topside. They could make sandwiches out of Spam or salami or something in that nature. That's what we'd live on.

Well, then when we went in, why, we're trying to draw some cooking and eating utensils again. All of our plates are broke. We got these little old tin pie plates about that big, you know (gesture). They're smaller than a regular pie tin. That was our eating facilities for . . . oh, it must have been . . . I guess three months was approximately when we got those regular mess trays.

Marcello: While you were out there thrashing around in the open seas, did you ever have any submarine scares?

Ray: This particular night?

Marcello: Yes.

Ray: Yes, they said that we had contacted a submarine. We dropped, I guess, one rack of depth charges on it. We didn't have any kind of depth charges at this time . . . only just the kind that just rolled off. We didn't have the hedgehogs and the K-guns and the mousetraps and those as we had later on, you know.

Marcello: When you came back into port the next day, describe what Pearl Harbor looked like.

Ray: Well, we'd already gone right by the Battleship Row there, and these ships are all turned over. We're going to draw facilities to get us back in tow there. These rumors are really going good then. Boy, they're just fantastic! So each gun captain has turned in a request of certain number of men to fulfill his gun crew to the full capacity. They turn that in to the executive officer. Then when you get in there, well, some of those ships are still burning. This crude oil on that water . . . I know it had to be six inches deep all over the whole area there. You could throw a Coke bottle on the water there, and it would hold it up, you know, an empty Coke bottle.

Marcello: What thoughts or emotions did you have when you saw all this damage and destruction?

Ray: Well, it just kind of leaves you at a loss to wonder why that anything had been slipped up on, and you didn't know just what had happened, really. It was just really unbelievable to see that there was so much destruction done in such a short amount of time, and you were thinking in your mind that you just knew that there wasn't anything ever going to happen to the United States, you know. It's just unbelievable.

Marcello: During the course of all these events, was there anything humorous that happened . . . that you can think of?

Ray: I can't say that there was (laughter). Unless it was some

of those fairy tales that they told about them people landing on Diamond Head there.

Marcello: Well, Mr. Ray, I can't think of anything else, and I think we've covered the subject pretty well. I want to thank you very much for taking time to talk to me. You've said a lot of interesting things, and I'm sure that scholars are going to find it valuable when they write about Pearl Harbor.

Ray: I hope so. I hope that I didn't leave anything off that's of any interest, and I hope that I didn't add anything that's not any value to it.

Marcello: Well, once more I want to thank you very much for participating.