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Place of Interview: Fort Worth, Texas
Interviewer: George M. Randall
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Oral History Collection

Jack Guin

Interviewer: George Randall Date: February 8, 1989

Place of Interview: Fort Worth, Texas

Mr. Randall: When were you born, where, education--stuff like that? So you can just talk like we're talking here.

Mr. Guin: Well, as I told you, you know that my name is Jack Guin. I was born on April 29, 1921, in Guin, Alabama. My great-grandfather was a doctor, and he was the first resident of this town, which is now about the size of Weatherford, Texas. I attended high school in Mississippi and graduated in Memphis, Tennessee, from high school, and then I went to work on a river boat.

I worked on that for some six months, and then I joined the Navy in December, 1939. I had wanted to join the Navy ever since getting out of school, but back in the 1930s it was hard to get into the service because they had a quota system. I was acquainted with a chief petty officer in Memphis, Tennessee, and I told him one night that I wanted to get in the Navy, and he said his quota was filled. I had

already quit my job, so I went home to visit with my dad and mother. When I got there, he called me and told me that someone had failed their medical examination. So I went back to Memphis and from there to Nashville to take my oath. I enlisted in the Navy and went to Norfolk, Virginia, for thirteen weeks of training.

Randall: Was that the boot camp?

Guin: Yes, this was the boot camp at Norfolk, Virginia. After finishing boot camp, I was assigned to the USS Charleston, which was the flagship of the 13th Naval District in Panama. Our primary duties were monitoring ships that were going through the Panama Canal. We assigned certain men to ride these ships through the canal. We would ride them through the canal, and then when we got on the other side, there was a Panamanian railway, and we would ride the little train back through the jungle back to the other side. We were assigned to this four days a week.

Then after doing this for some six months, I was assigned to the USS Sumner. It was the Bushnell then. It was a survey ship. They would do surveys, make up charts and maps and blast out channels and put in tide gauges and all these types of work. We were under supervision of the Hydrographic Department in Washington, D.C. At that time, before the war, the chief hydrographer was a civilian, and he was in command of the USS Sumner. We

had Navy officers on board, but we were on detached duty from the Navy. We were not under the Navy Department.

After duty over in the Atlantic and then building an airbase, surveying out up the Essequibo River in what was in British Guiana, we came back and were assigned to go to the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. We proceeded through the Panama Canal to San Diego, California, and from there to Pearl Harbor. If memory serves me right, we got to Pearl Harbor around November 15, 1941.

On December 7, 1941, at approximately 7:58 a.m., I was called to the bridge to report on my crew, which was the diesel crew in charge of the sound boats that did the soundings in the channels and determined the depth of the harbors and things of this nature. I was called to the bridge to report them all present and accounted for. The officer-of-the-deck, about the time that I arrived, noticed coming over the mountains, from where we were moored at Pier 13 at the submarine base, a group of Japanese planes. Having served in China, he was familiar with the aircraft and recognized immediately that they were enemy aircraft and sounded General Quarters. I immediately went to my station, which was on the fantail of the ship.

Randall: Battle station?

Guin: Yes, battle station. I was responsible for communications. In other words, I had the headphones on

to receive the orders to what we would do on this gun station. Joseph M. Pastor, a machinist's mate second class, was the gunner on this gun, a 40-millimeter. We had live ammunition, having come out of the Atlantic because there were quite a few submarines and things in the Atlantic at that particular time. As these planes came over, they were so close that you could see the color of the eyes and the grins on the faces. I estimate that from where we were standing, on the deck of the ship, to the planes as they came in heading for Battleship Row, that they were probably not over seventy-five feet high.

We began firing, and we knocked down what was credited to be the first plane that was shot down. There's been a lot of discussion on this, but Joseph M. Pastor does have the distinction of shooting down the first plane, according to the Navy Department. I have his address. He lives in New York. I'm not sure right now what the city is, but I can give it to you.

Then we hit another plane, and it went over the Halawa Mountains, which are just behind there. It disappeared and went down. So we were credited with shooting down two planes. I stood and witnessed the dive-bombers and torpedo bombers as they came in and the explosions that occurred on the battleships.

After the raid we immediately put our sound boats in

the water. These were quite elaborate boats. They had sound equipment on them. They weighed ten tons, and we had to hoist them on board. But we could put them on. We put them and our other boats in the water. The harbor was completely covered with oil about four inches thick and on fire in some vicinities of the harbor.

Randall: Where did that oil supposed to have come from?

Guin: Well, it came from these ships. As they hit these ships, they hit the oil...

Randall: Ruptured the oil tanks.

Guin: Yes, ruptured the oil tanks and all of this came out into the water. Some of these ships were capsized, the Oklahoma in particular. We carried ammunition to these other ships because most of them had star shells and practice shells that they had been out with. They were not loaded with ammunition that they would have in a wartime situation. First of all, we had some men that cut a hole in the Oklahoma because there were were still some people inside there, and they got them out.

Then all night long, there were rumors and all kinds of talk that we were going to be invaded and have other things happen, you know, and everyone was nervous and excited about it. We were a danger to our own selves as much as the enemy was because everything that you saw you thought was an enemy.

Several days after this--I think two days, if memory

serves me right--my ship was assigned to carry a group of Marines to Johnston Island down in the Pacific. But they left the sound boats and several of us there. We had discovered that these little two-man submarines--two of them--had come through a net that we had over the harbor out there. These sound boats, the way that it would operate, we would put a cable out behind each sound boat, and we would take a weight and a float and set this cable at whatever depth that was wanted. If we wanted the channel to be thirty-five feet, we would let this drop down to thirty-five feet. Then we would circle out and drag, and when we hung an obstacle, we would put a buoy there, send a diver down, and put our explosives there and blast it out to whatever depth that we wished the channel to be or we were directed to blast it out to.

Randall: Even though it was one of those little submarines? Did you blow that up, or did they...

Guin: No.

Randall: ...take those out of the water?

Guin: What we did, they realized these were there, and they called for us to sweep the channel. So we did it just like we were going to blast out a channel. So we hung the submarine, the conning tower of this submarine, and we had an aircraft tender there, the USS Curtiss, with hoists that could hoist planes or anything else on board. So after we hung this conning tower, we sent a diver

down, and he attached a cable to this submarine, and the USS Curtiss hoisted it out. We brought it along with another one. There were two of them. We got both of them, and they set them up on the dock right there in Pearl Harbor.

First of all, they did drop one depth charge, and that was done by these torpedo boats like John F. Kennedy commanded. In fact, His squadron was there, but he wasn't on it at the time. They had that squadron of PT boats there. They were just testing them out. They hoisted those little ol' two-man submarines up on the dock. Then later, I'm told--and I'm sure they did--they put those things on rail cars and toured the United States when they were selling war bonds. That was quite a spectacle.

But I remember the people that were...it's hard to imagine the devastation that actually occurred there. We fished people out of the water or took them off of the ships. There were arms and legs and parts of bodies missing. There was a hospital ship there, and then all the hospital facilities--nurses and doctors and all the medical profession--worked day and night to try to alleviate the suffering and do what they could to the wounded. They went far beyond the call of duty in performing the duties that they did. It was a tragic situation.

As I reflect back on it, I think about how naive we were about the whole situation as far as preparation. For one thing the Navy at that time had the social aspect of it. It was close to the holidays, and people would come in for the social events. We never considered the dangers that might be involved, even though we had a lot of warnings. But one thing that we had in America, in my opinion--and it's been substantiated by investigations--was the fact that we were selling scrap iron and all the things that the Japanese needed to build up their war machine. In my opinion it was somewhat like today. The important thing is the dollar. It doesn't make any difference who we sell something to, as long as we're reaping some benefits from it.

But there is something far greater than that, in my opinion. Lives, the security of the country, and things of this nature are far more important than building up the riches of an industrial organization. This is merely my opinion, and I realize that I'm in the minority. But we today are doing the very same thing that we did then. If you go to Honolulu, Hawaii, or anywhere in the Hawaiian Islands, you will find out that the real estate people have sold out to foreign interests. This is not a new thing. We could go back, and you could make the argument that some of the biggest ranches in the state of Texas--cattle ranches--were owned by foreign investments

years ago. But this was somewhat of a different situation. A man out here with an old .45 back then was not much of a threat to America. But today I see foreign powers coming, and it disturbs me. It's not that I have any children or grandchildren. But I have nieces and nephews, and I think about their future. What are we going to do if these people with their money and their power can buy radio stations, can buy real estate, can control our newspapers? Then I was reading in the U.S. News and World Report sometime ago that, I believe, there were somewhere around one hundred Russian professors teaching in our colleges throughout the United States. Now this is what I read in their report, whether this is true or not. We certainly should share ideologies and thoughts and things with other countries, but I feel that this should be monitored closely. I feel that real estate sales should be monitored closely; I believe that foreign investments should be monitored closely. We talk about the federal deficit today, and we are building plants in foreign countries and taking money that has been earned here in the United States and investing it there. We think that this is a good thing, but how much money of the foreign worker goes into the U.S. Treasury? This is something you never see in a newspaper today. You do not see it on any news, or you do not find it in any periodicals of any nature. This disturbs me greatly.

I know that I'm not the only one that thinks along these lines, and my thinking may be a little different than the general norm; but this should be considered as something that affects people of all walks of life, whether he be among the wealthy, whether he be among the poor, the middle class, or whatever vocation that he's in. Sooner or later this is going to affect the whole nature of things.

Randall: Now this is going to bring me right back around with some questions that I was going to ask you. One of them is, what was the morale in the Navy before Pearl Harbor?

Guin: We had the greatest morale in the Navy before Pearl Harbor, perhaps, that the services have ever witnessed.

Randall: What do you think contributed to that?

Guin: One thing was the eagerness to get in the service. It was an adventure. It was something that you were proud of. The week before, I had taken an examination for a rating in the service, and it required two days of writing an examination for this minor rating in the Navy. At one time I went up for fireman first class in Panama, and there were sixty of us that took the test for that one rating. After the war broke out, they grabbed every shoe salesman and everybody else. I have nothing against shoe salesmen, but they'd take anyone off of the street that could read and write, and they gave him just whatever kind of rating that they determined was

appropriate. I had an engineering officer that was a lieutenant, and all that he had ever done after getting out of college was to operate an elevator. It's necessary that you get this and train these people, but I had boys come in that I was trying to train, and they would look me in the eye, and they'd say, "I'm in for the duration, and you're not going to learn me anything." I've had this repeated to me several times. The bitterness of having to go into the service...there's some people that are equipped--just like we were talking about musicians and what-have-you--with a gift. There's people that have gifts to be soldiers and sailors and Marines and all of the other services that we might have. But there are people that have such tender sensibilities --I'd say in the arts and in the music and things like that--that anything that has to do with the service or with war or with killings or things of this nature is repulsive to their nature. They have no business of being in the service. This is why I'm violently opposed to a draft, is because you get people in there who don't want to be there. If I'm sitting on the battle line and someone is sitting here by me, and if he is looking for the enemy in one direction and I'm looking for him in the other, I want him to be dedicated. I don't want him to be there because he has to be.

Randall: Well, didn't the battleships and cruisers and all of them

have bands and pretty good musicians in those bands?

Guin: Yes, yes, outstanding.

Randall: How would that jive with the...

Guin: Well, you take the people in the band. That was their primary purpose, was entertainment. At the recent presidential inauguration, we just saw a beautiful song by a sergeant in the Marine Corps there if you recall. We had the same thing. If someone had musical talent, he was in the band, and he performed at these functions like the inauguration or the admiral's receptions or if they were having parties, entertainment, or what-have-you. At all the Naval functions, they performed, and they got ratings just like everyone else. But they were not involved unless it was necessary. They were not trained to be fighters. They were trained especially in music.

Randall: Well, now I want to ask you something else. You said that after the attack some of the men from your ship went over and cut holes in the Oklahoma. How did they do that?

Guin: With torches. We had torches. Yes, we had all kinds of torches.

Randall: Do you credit your men there with saving anybody?

Guin: Oh, yes, they got quite a few out. In all of this, here are some of the curious things that you run into. In all of my work and travels and what-have-you, I have come in contact with very few people that I was in the service

with. But two of them work with me, and one of them...I don't know the man very well, but he was on that Oklahoma, and our crew actually rescued him.

Randall: You said you had met two men.

Guin: Yes. One of them is deceased now. We have a reunion every year, and I belong to the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. We have a chapter here, and we meet about four times a year. Then the USS Sumner has a reunion every two years. It's going to be in Orlando, Florida, on May the 5, 6, and 7 of this year. There's quite a number--what is not deceased--that will be there. There's usually fifty or sixty at these reunions. We had it in Denver last year.

Randall: I'd like to ask you one question. Why would people who had experienced the trauma and the tension and all of Pearl Harbor want to join an organization that would commemorate that? What would be their reason for it?

Guin: Well, we do that in memory of the people that died there and gave their lives. We do this, too, as you're doing here, to keep it in a historical setting, if you will. In other words, we can say to the younger people, "Here's the mistakes that we made. Here was an event that changed the world." We reminisce as we get older, of course, but for me the greatest change in my lifetime has been from the time of Pearl Harbor up until the present. We came into a different era altogether. When I was

raised back there in the mountains of Tennessee and Mississippi and Alabama, it was like paradise. There was fruit of every nature out in the woods. There were chestnuts; there were persimmons; there was every kind of grape that you could think about. You could live off the land. The streams were running clear and pure, and I remember going down and catching fish right out of creeks that were running out of springs that came out of those hills and mountains. And it was paradise.

Since the war, with the pollution and things that have come along, it has eradicated all of that. Down there on my dad's farm, where we used to have all these things that I'm talking about, there's not a chestnut tree, and there's not any other kind of fruit tree that's growing out there in the wild. It has all disappeared. And this is something that the younger generation knows nothing about.

Now you go back to the war part of it. Today we have people that are getting killed on the battle fronts everywhere. We see the great fiasco that we had over in Lebanon--something just like Pearl Harbor on the thing. Have we really learned anything? Are we really listening for anything? Today, one thing that disturbs me is that nobody seems to be responsible.

Randall: Now is that the basic reason or the basic thrust behind organizing Pearl Harbor Survivors Association?

Guin: Yes, it is.

Randall: Point out the big lesson of the past?

Guin: That's right. The thing that we can do is that we ought to take our mistakes, and if we do not learn from our mistakes, then to quote an old saying, "We are men most miserable." But this is some of the things today. Can we really trust these people to be what they say they are?

Randall: How much dependence did the average enlisted man that you talked with...how much dependence did they put in the two Japanese representatives that were over here talking peace?

Guin: We had no confidence in them whatsoever. I remember a few nights before Pearl Harbor that I was sitting at a nightclub in Honolulu, and several of us were discussing the situation--something like that we put up with through the years with Russia and so forth and so on. I remember a pathetic remark that one of the men made. He said, "They're liable to come over tomorrow and blast us right out of the water." And this was what we felt. Now I believe it's been substantiated. We get the Pearl Harbor Gram, the Survivors Association newspaper, and the Navy Times has also gone back and rehashed this thing and has written quite a bit on it. Like everything else that's involved in situations like this, and has been since the beginning of time, there was a lot of things that

happened that we never did know about. These things were building up behind the scenes--things that should have been brought forth but that would have been embarrassing probably politically or otherwise.

And then if you remember hearing a few years ago, we've had this early warning system, and each morning they would test a certain test on it. A few years ago, if my memory serves me right, in Denver, Colorado, the ol' boy broadcast that we were being attacked. And they just ignored him. As it was, he just made a mistake, but suppose that it had been an accurate report. Now this is about the same thing that happened in Pearl Harbor. It has been substantiated that some lieutenants knew that these planes were coming in and reported it, and they said it was our own training planes that were out. So that part of it was ignored. And there's so many other things that you could go back through and substantiate, if you really wanted to, that were just human error.

Randall: What, in your opinion, would you point to as the basic cause of the Pearl Harbor attack and all?

Guin: I'll be blunt with you, and I'm a very blunt person. Greed! The fact that they wanted to sell this stuff! There's people in the world, whether we want to believe it or not, that they have no allegiance to anyone except to greed and money. This is not just in America; this is in every nationality under the sun. This has been

substantiated through history. This is nothing new.

Randall: Well, that would give Japan, of course, material strength.

Guin: That's right.

Randall: Other than that greed, what would be the cause? We were supposed to know certain things such as intelligence--military, diplomatic, and so forth.

Guin: That's right.

Randall: Did they know?

Guin: Yes, I think they knew quite a bit. But it's something like that...I was in a flood one time down in Arkansas. The river levees used to break down there and flood that whole territory. I remember one time that they went through--the sheriffs with loud-speakers and what-have-you--warning people to get out, that the levee had broke. Well, that night we had to get a bunch of them off of the house tops because they ignored it. We do this same thing with war stuff. We always think that it's never going to happen, but it does happen. And this is the great thing that we did there. It's easy to sit back and be critical because we're all subject to these things, but we ought to point these things out regardless of whether it's you or whoever is doing it. And they ought to be held responsible for it. Too often, it's human nature to say, if you've had a mistake, that you really don't want to admit that "I've really blown this thing."

But unless we do start taking the heat and holding whoever is responsible...if I'm out here and I fail to report a submarine that has surfaced, I should be held responsible for that. This goes back to the old Navy thing when you could be shot for some things. But today there's very little done about this. We have very little discipline today in any organization, as I see it, because they want to take care of "number one."

Randall: Well, taking care of "number one" brings up a point. Were there or had you heard of or do you know of any cases where people paid no attention to their own safety, their own life, and were trying to help a buddy in this whole Pearl Harbor scene?

Guin: Well, there in Pearl Harbor this was true. Like, we were talking about the guy reporting those planes that he had picked up on radar and then ignoring it. Another thing is that at the time of the morning that they timed this thing was when when everyone was just getting out of bed. Everything contributed to it.

But I'll give you an example of how people will ignore things. Another battle that I was in was in France, when we went in at Cherbourg on D-Day. I had a group of men, and what we were doing at that particular time was damage control. If the ship was hit, we had these mats and things to put over the side to keep the water from coming in and what-have-you. A plane came in

strafing us across the water--all the ships and things there--and I yelled for everybody to hit the deck. We had things that we could hide behind or get down low. Two of the young men that had never been in battle decided it was so exciting that they walked over to the side of the ship and got cut in two with aircraft fire from this plane. Now here is an example of when you get into battle, and you get into things, and you ignore a lot of safety things.

We ignored all of the warnings. It's something like you and I sometimes with the medical part of our life. I mean, we put off going to the doctor. You get into the military, and it goes into that, too. We put off taking the precautions that we really should have taken in remedying the things that should have been remedied.

Today, we still have the same thing. We have concentrations of aircraft carriers and bigger ships of all nature congregating together. Sometimes you need that, and I think maybe we deploy them a little better than we did then. I haven't been to Pearl Harbor in some time, but I would imagine they still come in there somewhat like they did back then (chuckle).

Randall: With all of those ships in Pearl Harbor, was Pearl Harbor big enough for them?

Guin: Oh, yes, it was. You see, the reason that all the battleships were lined up in Pearl Harbor, though, right

at what we called Battleship Row, was the fact that the draft on those ships...in other words, it was down deeper in the water. That was the main channel there, more or less, so the bigger ships had to be where the deeper water was, and they would build up at that one particular point.

Randall: I see. When the crew responded to General Quarters calls and all that, how was their reaction? Did they act in a normal manner? A well-trained manner? Did they scatter around like sheep?

Guin: Absolutely. You would go through these drills, and that's where I go back to the training that we went through. You do not even think. All you think about is this drill that you've gone through. You immediately go there, and you are trained for this particular function, and you have shut everything else out of your mind. So this is the good part about regimentation in the service and discipline in the service. Without it, you're helpless. Now there was confusion, mass confusion, because you can imagine the feelings that you would have of the unexpected. It's something like a tornado hitting you. You're totally unprepared, mentally and every other aspect of it.

Randall: Was it fear or anxiety or what?

Guin: Just the fact that it was surprise, more or less. Then there's a certain amount of fear in any situation such as

that, but your training overcomes that. Then anger set in. There was such anger that you can't imagine. Well, you see what happened when mobilization came here in the United States due to the anger and all.

Then we got the propaganda. We talk about propaganda over in Germany. They had nothing on us, actually, as far as propaganda was. If you can remember, they used to show Hirohito as a rat and all of this, that, and the other on the movies and all. I was over there. I went over there in the minesweep, and we swept out Tokyo Harbor for them to sign the armistice. But the thing that still bothers me is that if those people were so bad, when we started to drop the bomb, why did we drop it on innocent people? Why didn't we get the ones that were responsible for it? Now this has bothered me ever since I've been out of the service. It's always the ones that are not responsible who are the ones that suffer. There was very few of the admirals and all who were killed.

And now one thing that bothers me--and forgiveness, I guess, is divine--is that I don't trust them. They say if they get you the first time, it's their fault; if they get you the second time, it's your fault. And I kind of go along with this philosophy, myself. You can go back to the wars that we've had with England and every other nation, and you see that you can't hold this all the

time. But they have an ideology and they have a different lifestyle than any other group of people in the world. It's regimentation. We talk about today in our high schools and our colleges that it's our fault that they outdo us. Well, if we wanted total regimentation here in the United States, we can have the same thing they have. But that's why we have a United States; that's why we have freedom. It's because we do not want that type of regimentation, and I pray to God that we never do have that.

Randall: How was the morale among the men after this was over with and the stress of the battle itself was done?

Guin: It was devastating and, like I say, the nervousness that we had of the unknown. I remember several days later--I said the ship left port and left me there--that I was working on an engine down there in the harbor. We had to go to a barracks. They had quartered us in the barracks because my ship was gone. Each day they would come out, and you had a password, and usually it was a state. And this particular day it was "Florida." Being up all of this time and exhausted and trying to get this engine back in operation and what-have-you--I had worked down there until, I'd say, 10:00 at night--I headed back for the barracks. A Filipino sailor stepped out. He was on guard and poked a B.A.R. (Browning Automatic Rifle) in my stomach and asked me what the password was. And I had no

idea, you know. I just went blank. I knew but I just went blank. Well, he marched me up to headquarters because anyone could have had on a sailor uniform. There was all these rumors going around, and we knew somebody had got in there and betrayed us. So this was the condition we were under for a long time. If something would move or if they would hear something, they would start shooting. So it was quite a nervous situation for quite a while after that, and unsettled circumstances. It takes awhile to get back to normal on things. But like I said, after that there was nothing but anger and determination, and that's why we really went to work and really went after them on this.

Randall: The caliber of the men coming in, the dedication or the interest in the service...was there a difference between those that came in, even though they might have been reservists, before Pearl Harbor and those after Pearl Harbor?

Guin: Yes. See, we had people that were retired. Maybe they had served twenty years and were retired, but were in the reserves.

Randall: I see.

Guin: Or not in the reserves. They could still call them back because they had a record of them. We had some very good men come back in then, and that's about the only thing that saved us. Then there were the numbers and the

people that were trained. The thing that saved us was people, the regular Navy. We had USN and then we had the reserves, USNR. Some of those people, say, machinists or whatever their trade might be, had the education and the dedication to be trained fairly early. It took a short time to get them trained. But we had...I don't know how many. Just like you'd get in anything when you have a mass influx of people like that, we had a lot of misfits and things, and this was the real problem of getting people trained. But I think all in all, we did a magnificent job of training the people, and it was work.

I remember going on a ship, and there were two of us that had ever been in battle. We stayed up day and night training people. But the thing that you had to impress on these people--and I always told this to my people in the engine room--is that "If I tell you to do something, don't even think about it. You do it. If it's wrong, it's not you. It's me." This goes back to regimentation. If you're in battle, you cannot take time to explain to your men why he's doing something. If you do, the battle's already lost. And today we have this type of thinking that you have to tell me why. Well, this will not work in the service. Today I have read an seen this in civilian life that we're advancing in technology faster than we're able to train people to take care of it. They tell me that they have stuff on ships

now that we have to get civilian people to operate. And I think perhaps this fits in with what happened over there in the Persian Gulf when they shot down that civilian plane not long ago. I think somebody was not properly trained on how to operate that radar.

Randall: You mentioned in the beginning about going up onto the deck that morning, and your deck officer saw those planes coming over. How far were you from Battleship Row at that time? Did you think that might have been their target?

Guin: We knew that it was their target. You take an auxiliary ship like us. They had no intention of knocking us out unless we just happened to be in the way, you know, because we were no threat.

Randall: Innocent bystander (chuckle).

Guin: But your big battleships and carriers, if there were any of those, and ships of this nature, they knew that if they knocked those battleships out that they had a great advantage. And they did. They don't realize...for some reason they never took advantage of the opportunity after they knocked out these battleships. There was nothing to stop them from landing on the West Coast. It has been from historians and people that are really conversant with this type of operation that I've heard it discussed. It's still a mystery why they never took advantage and came in on the West Coast because there was nothing

actually to stop them. Oh, they might put up token resistance, but if they would have really had the ships and things to land, why, it would have been quite an operation. It's something to think about. That's how close we came to really getting bombed.

Randall: Did our various services at Pearl Harbor--the Navy, the Marines, the Air Corps, the Army--have any kind of rivalry?

Guin: They coordinated things. Each one had his own assignments to do. Now the Marines, as I understand it, they immediately went to their stations around the coast. They were to prevent the landing. And I tell you what. I have never been around a group of people in my life as dedicated and as well trained as the Marine Corps was at that time. We had a detachment with us in Panama, and I have seen those fellows sit out on the deck and sight a rifle for hours at a time, not doing anything but just sitting and sighting that rifle and all. Then later on in landings, this is where your training comes in. If you take a detachment of Marines that were well-trained and you throw him on the beach, he's going to secure you a beachhead.

One of the things that happened over in France with poorly trained troops--due to I don't know what; maybe not enough time and what-have-you--is that some of those people got killed over there because they were

actually not properly trained on how to secure a beachhead. In other words, I don't think we ever got anywhere after D-Day in France until Patton landed. When Patton landed, he began to really penetrate and go.

But this goes back to your training. At Pearl Harbor you had your Marines, and you had your Navy and the Air Force. At that time it was either the Navy or the Army Air Force. Each one had his own assigned duty, and that's what they did. When this here happened, they put it in. Now Kimmel and Short have been criticized and were demoted and disgraced, you might say. But it wasn't their fault. There was nothing that they could do about it because they got their orders from Washington, D.C. Like you and I, if you were working on the railroad or I was working for AT&T, there's certain things that I could do, but if it's something really important, I have to get it from higher up. And so this is a chain-of-command. As far as the ships being in Pearl Harbor at that particular time, I feel that if they would have left those ships out there and if nothing happened, why, they would have been reassigned, anyway (chuckle). I imagine the pressure was to bring them in.

Randall: Well, that's about all I can think of to ask. Do you have anything else that you might want to make a comment on of some kind?

Guin: I just hope that it never happens again, but today, like

I said, I see some things building up. You study history and I study history, and it repeats itself all the way down the line. If you remember in Egypt, when they first came down with the chariots and the horses, first of all, they had those swords, and they cut off the heads of those Egyptians because they had no horses. Then they got horses and chariots, and this thing just keeps building up. So there's always someone that's staying up day and night, and they think on this only. This is where you have to be alert. Vigilance, they say, is the price of security, so I think we should be vigilant and think about these things. That's all we can do.

You take my experience in Pearl Harbor. There's people that had other experiences. It's like a mountain. I remember being in South America one time, and we were going to go up on this mountain if we could have gotten up there. It looked kind of formidable from where we were standing. There was an old man standing there who said, "Son, there's always four sides of a mountain." Well, you take this situation where people were in Pearl Harbor. You see it in a different view. There's different sides. This is what makes America great and makes the world great. It's not one man's opinion but a consensus of everyone's opinion and then deciding what we want to do.

Randall: See, that's one reason for taping these interviews. It

will create a source material for people to study in the future.

Guin: That's right.

Randall: Scholars can sit down and digest all this material. Everything you have said or Joe has said or Tom has said will be part of the full picture.

Guin: I remember reading a quote from some great industrial giant. He made this remark: "If I have three men and they all think alike, I can do without two of them." So this is what different opinions contribute.

Randall: That's what we need, is to add all these together. You saw something in Pearl Harbor. You saw something. Another ship, something. Add all those together and then you can get the larger picture.

Guin: That's right.

Randall: And I do want to thank you very much.

Guin: Well, I certainly enjoyed it. Here's one of the things that's in history. The old cowboy, you know, he's been portrayed in the movies as everything under the sun. We live in a fantasy world. I'm afraid today that the story the younger generation is going to get is what they see in the movies. They're going to see John Wayne, who we...I have nothing against John Wayne. I think he was a good actor, but it's always puzzled me that if he was such a great patriot, why didn't he go to war? And they can make up all kinds of excuses, see, on the thing.

There's another thing we get into. I find that the greatest patriots that we have today in Congress are people that never went (chuckle). Have you noticed that?

Randall: You're right. I think this, then, will conclude the interview.

Guin: Thank you.

A P P E N D I X

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

At this time of the season in America, we have several days appointed by law, or custom in commemoration of some event. Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, Etc. We also have days that commemorate wars and great battles, that have occurred through-out the history of our great country. The call for remembrance has echoed down through the ages - Remember the Maine! Remember the Alamo! Remember Pearl Harbor!

I do not remember the Maine. It was a U.S. battleship blown up in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, February 15, 1898 In the start of the Spanish-American war, 23 years before I was born. But I do remember from history, that some 260 men lost their lives.

I do not remember the battle of the Alamo. This occurred in 1836 where 186 men lost their lives in a war with Mexico. BUT I DO REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!

On December 7, 1941 My ship the U.S.S. Sumner (AGS 5) Was moored port side to berth S13 at the U.S. Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor. At 0757 Signal watch and Quartermaster on the bridge sighted about 10 Japanese dive bombers attacking the Navy Yard, and sounded General Quarters. I remember running to my battle station, as the Japanese planes dropped from the sky to attack, I remember the grinning faces of the pilots as they came in at tree-top level. I watched as one of my ship-mates Joseph M. Pastor shot down a Japanese torpedo bomber headed toward Battleship Row, in what was believed to be the first plane shot down in the war. Moments later we scored another hit, setting the tail of a dive bomber ablaze as it disappeared over Halawa District. I remember watching as the first wave -183 fighters, high-level bombers, dive bombers, and torpedo bombers, their rising-sun emblems bright against the sky, roar in over the mountains of Oahu. They hammered Battleship Row. I remember the torpedos hitting the battleships across the Harbor from my ship, the fire from the explosion, the oil leaking and covering the the entire Harbor. I remember putting all of our ships boats in the water to carry ammunition, and assist stricken ships. I remember helping pull the dead and the wounded from the ships and from the water. I remember the blood, the wounded that would be maimed and disabled for the rest of their lives.

I remember the Doctors and Nurses that worked day and night, and gave their ut-most devotion to duty in adminisetring to the wounded. I remember the helplessness and the flustration we all felt in seeing all the devastation that was inflicted by the raid, upon the ships and air bases. Eight battleships, three light cruisers, thre destroyers, and four auxiliary craft had been sunk or damaged. One hundred and eighty-eight planes had been destroyed. The human cost - more than 2.400 brave Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, and Civilians killed and some 1.170 wounded.) The attack brought a call to action, for all America. Pepole rushed to enlist, Factories of war materials went into full production in building the greatest array of military force this nation has ever known.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it, -"a date which will live in infamy."

Infamy' is defined in Webster's Dictionary as -disgrace, dishonor, a person convicted of an infamous crime. I am sure that after the attack, most Americans felt a sense of disgrace. the sneak attack left everyone with a feeling of rage, we went to war and vowed that it would never happen again. But will it? We might reflect back on some of the things that happened several years before the war, some of the powerful business and political leaders of this country, thought it would be good business to sell materials, such as scrap iron and other things the Japanese could use to build up their war machine. Somewhat like the proponents of the so-called "free-enterprise" system we have in America to-day.

Their main concern then as now was making money and taking care of--them--selves. Today the newspaper ads are filled with Japanese products of every description, we are inundated with screaming automobile commercials coming through the Television Tube during prime time telling us how superior Japanese vehicles are to those made in our good old U.S.A. Our postman brings us any variety of fat catalogues and fancy brochures telling us to buy Japanese; how superior, how dependable, how economical their products are. To compound the pitch, trade magazines and special segments by learned TV sources espouse Japanese management and industrial know-how, subliminally shaking their fingers at us while praising the loyalty and dedication of even the lowliest of Japanese workers as if to say, "See, America, what you lack!" And sadly, we buy it! And we buy, and buy, and buy!

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

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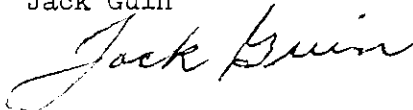
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And as they buy, it never enters their mind that not one penny of the Japanese workers wages goes into the U.S. Treasury. Would this have something to do with the U.S. deficit? There are many ways to destroy our country. Economically is one of them. In times of financial distress in our nation, I think we should keep this in mind. If a private citizen did something to harm their country, it would be called treason. If a politician can get a bill through Congress that is harmful to the livelihood of the country, many times it is called good business.

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And as they buy, it never enters their mind that not one penny of the Japanese workers wages goes into the U.S. Treasury. There are many ways to destroy our country, economically is one of them. In these times of financial distress in our nation, I think we should keep this in mind. If a private citizen did something to harm their country, it would be called treason, but we see many people doing it, and it is called "good business." I thought we won the war with Japan, but today Wall-Street trembles every time the Japanese money market makes a move. Many of the buildings and factories and much of the real estate in the U.S. is owned by Japanese and many are trying to get them to buy more. Yes, I remember Pearl Harbor and the brave men that died there, but I'm afraid that many americans will only remember John Wayne, Ronald Reagan and the other movie stars that played parts in the war movies, that way, it is easy to forget.

Jack Guin



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