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Interview with  
JACK BROWN  
April 23, 1988

Place of Interview: Austin, Texas  
Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello  
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Oral History Collection

Jack Brown

Interviewer: Ronald E. Marcello      Date: April 23, 1988

Place of Interview: Austin, Texas

Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing Jack Brown for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on April 23, 1988, in Austin, Texas. I am interviewing Mr. Brown in order to get his reminiscences and experiences while he was stationed at the Marine Barracks at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack there on December 7, 1941.

Mr. Brown, to begin this interview, just very briefly give me a biographical sketch of yourself. In other words, tell me when you were born, where you were, your education--things of that nature.

Mr. Brown: I was born on September 17, 1917, in Waco, Texas.

Dr. Marcello: Tell me a little bit about your education.

Mr. Brown: A high school education.

Dr. Marcello: When did you join the service?

Mr. Brown: I joined the service in June of 1941.

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

Brown: Because I was working in Dallas and the Selective Service Board had notified me that I was going to be drafted, so I volunteered for the Marine Corps rather than be drafted.

Marcello: Why did you volunteer for the Marine Corps?

Brown: I wanted the Marine Corps. I'd heard a lot of good things about the Marine Corps, so I wanted the Marine Corps.

Marcello: And where did you take your boot camp?

Brown: San Diego.

Marcello: How long did boot camp last at that time?

Brown: Eight weeks.

Marcello: So they had cut it down considerably, then, over what it had probably been before?

Brown: Yes. I went to Sea School after boot camp for eight more weeks.

Marcello: Why did you decide to go to Sea School?

Brown: Because I wanted to serve aboard ship, mostly an aircraft carrier.

Marcello: What kind of training would one undergo in order to get aboard a ship? In other words, what took place at Sea School?

Brown: Well, it was to polish us up to be more disciplined and to be an orderly mostly. That's what our purposes aboard ships were, mostly orderly and guard work. And it polished us up on our uniforms and our military

etiquette, too. It polished us up, more or less.

Marcello: Describe the process by which you got to Pearl Harbor. How did that come about?

Brown: When I finished Sea School in San Diego, I was sent along with eighty other Sea School people to the Pearl Harbor Marine Barracks as replacements for these ships in the Pacific Fleet. And most of them went aboard ships before December 7. Most of them went on the Arizona and the Oklahoma. I wanted an aircraft carrier, so I stayed in the Marine Barracks, and about two weeks before Pearl Harbor, the first sergeant told me that the next ship that came in there, I was going to have to go on because I could not stay any longer.

Marcello: At that point, what were your chances of getting on a carrier?

Brown: There weren't any chances because there wasn't anyone getting off of the carriers. That was the problem. They just didn't have any replacements for the carriers.

Marcello: Can you locate the Marine Corps Barracks for me there at Pearl? Where was it relative to the other installations or ships and so on?

Brown: The Marine Corps Barracks was back off from the harbor there, probably half a block. They had a parade ground. We had our administration building and a parade ground in front and our Marine Barracks on the north side of that. We overlooked the harbor and an administration

building and naval hospital, and we was right close to the front gate coming in to the harbor.

Marcello: How close were you to Hickam Field?

Brown: Right across the fence, probably fifty feet from the barracks there.

Marcello: Approximately how many Marines were located there at the barracks at any one time?

Brown: There was only probably fifty of us there on December 7 at the barracks, and all of us were doing guard duty. We'd done guard duty even when we went in there as replacements. We were on guard duty there all the time we were there while we were waiting for ships.

Marcello: Could you be more specific about the kind of guard duty that you were doing?

Brown: Well, I was guarding the fuel tanks at night--mostly night duty. We had a bunch of fuel tanks there that were for ships. The supply tanks were surrounded by cyclone fences, and we sat in there and periodically flashed floodlights all over the area all night long.

Marcello: Were these the kind of large above-ground storage tanks that we're familiar with in Texas?

Brown: Right. They were above-ground storage tanks that were all congregated there in one place.

Marcello: As we'll probably mention later, this is one of the targets the Japanese should have hit but didn't hit.

Brown: Right. They didn't hit it.

Marcello: When was it that you got to Pearl Harbor?

Brown: I went into Pearl Harbor in the last part of August in 1941.

Marcello: Obviously, by that time relations between the United States and Japan were deteriorating, and I'm sure that by the time you arrived at Pearl Harbor, the security precautions and so on had probably been tightened. Had they been tightened?

Brown: No. In fact, I never heard any talk or nothing was never mentioned among us that things were tighter. We never noticed any difference from the time I went there until December 7. We was never told anything, and we never knew anything.

Marcello: In other words, more people were not put on guard duty or anything like that?

Brown: No.

Marcello: We also know from our reading that there was a fear by some people that the large number of people of Japanese ancestry on the islands might be a threat as saboteurs. Was that sort of thing ever drilled into you while you were here performing your security duties?

Brown: No, not until after the 7th, and on the morning of the 7th we found it out.

Marcello: Suppose there were some sort of an attack or something. Did you have a particular station or place to which you were to report or anything of that nature? You know, of

course, aboard ship everybody has a battle station, but you were here at the Marine Barracks, so do you have anything of that nature here?

Brown: No, not specifically. About the only thing is that we would all probably congregate down at the parade ground for instructions as to what to do. That was about the only thing that we would do, and that's what we done there on the 7th, is kind of grouped together.

Marcello: I'm assuming, then, from what you've said that none of your superiors or NCOs or anything of that nature ever talked to you very much about the situation between the United States and Japan or anything of that nature.

Brown: Nothing had ever been mentioned. In fact, we never noticed anything in the papers hardly or anything.

Marcello: You'd been in the Marine Corps for several months now. Did you think that you'd made a good decision?

Brown: Yes.

Marcello: In other words, you were happy.

Brown: Yes.

Marcello: Why was that?

Brown: Well, I just liked it. I liked the military discipline that they had. It was a good unit, a good outfit. It really was.

Marcello: What was the food like there at the Marine Barracks?

Brown: Great. The duty was great there at the Marine Barracks. I was making, I think, twenty-something dollars a month,



and I had a Palm Beach suit and a camera in the YMCA in Honolulu. I was doing great. I wasn't in no hurry to leave.

Marcello: How did the liberty routine work for you there at Pearl in that period before December 7?

Brown: I had liberty every day if I had night duty. I could go to town during the day if I didn't have something else that they needed to do. I could go on liberty most any day if I had night guard duty.

Marcello: Would you ever stay overnight very often in Pearl Harbor or Honolulu?

Brown: Not very often, no. Very seldom I ever stayed there.

Marcello: Was that mainly a matter of economics?

Brown: Right, twenty-one dollars a month.

Marcello: When you went on liberty, what normally was your routine? What would you do?

Brown: Just visit around and talk to people. I took a lot of pictures and enjoyed the people there. I got to know some of the Hawaiian people, and I visited with them in their homes.

Marcello: This, I think, more or less, brings us up to that period right before the attack. Of course, what we want to do here is go into as much detail as you can remember. Let's talk about that weekend of December 7, 1941. What did you do that Saturday, December 6? Do you remember?

Brown: I had guard duty on December 6 during the day. From

8:00 until 5:00, I was on guard duty.

Marcello: Describe for me what that would entail.

Brown: We would be standing colors in front of the parade ground at 8:00 in the morning and then going from there down to the...my post was the tanks down there, and I went down there and relieved the man on duty down there shortly after 8:00 each time that I went on guard duty.

Marcello: And then would you have certain rounds that you made down there at those tanks?

Brown: Right.

Marcello: How did that operate?

Brown: We had towers around the tanks, and we operated from different towers. There was one of us in each tower, and we could see the other person who was in these tanks. We shined lights at nighttime, and we had full-circle control of the whole tank area from these towers where we were.

Marcello: Approximately how many tanks were there?

Brown: As well as I remember, there was about twenty-five tanks in the area there.

Marcello: And you say there was at least one guard per tank?

Brown: No. I believe there was six of us in towers surrounding the tank area.

Marcello: That means you were kind of up high, and you could look down and have a pretty good view of the whole area?

Brown: We was above the tanks, and we could shine lights in the

tank area and along the fences of the tank area.

Marcello: So nobody would actually be walking a post or anything of that nature?

Brown: No, there was no one on the ground at all around those areas. No one was allowed around the areas of these fences surrounding the tanks.

Marcello; Where were those tanks relative to the Pearl Harbor Navy Base and Hickam Field?

Brown: They were on the south end of the harbor there and in close to the Navy Yard. They were on the south end of the harbor, right where the Japanese aircraft went over them. They were kind of down below a little bit, where the Japanese aircraft went above them on December 7.

Marcello: While you were on guard duty that day, was there anything eventful that happened?

Brown: Not a thing. It was a usual Saturday on December 6.

Marcello: You mentioned that you remained on duty until 5:00.

Brown: Yes.

Marcello: What did you do after that?

Brown: I usually went to the Marine Barracks and cleaned up and ate. I went over to the beer garden and had a beer or two. Maybe I'd run awhile. I'd run most every day. I'd go over to the Marine Barracks and have a beer or two and then go to bed.

Marcello: So you did not go into Honolulu that Saturday night?

Brown: No.

Marcello: Was there anything eventful that happened back in the barracks that night?

Brown: Not a thing, no. Everything was normal.

Marcello: Okay, let's talk a little bit about the next day, then. Give me your routine from the time you got up until everything started to happen.

Brown: Our routine was the same as usual on December 7. I got up about 7:00 and went to breakfast. I came back from breakfast, and I went up to get my rifle to stand colors in front of the flagpole down in front of the Marine Barracks. Then I usually went back to my quarters and got whatever things was necessary that I needed before I went on guard duty.

Marcello: So you would be going back for an 8:00-5:00 shift again?

Brown: Right. I'd be going back for an 8:00-5:00 shift on December 7.

Marcello: Okay, go ahead and continue with the story.

Brown: I had breakfast and stood colors, and I went back to the second floor of the Marine Barracks and picked up my rifle. I had gone back up there to get something, and I had carried my rifle up there with me. I picked up my rifle, and approximately at the time I picked up my rifle, I heard the noise in the harbor. I looked out the window there, which was overlooking the harbor, and I seen the first Japanese plane pulling out of the harbor there after he had dropped his torpedo and was

pulling out. I knew then what was happening.

Marcello: So what did you do?

Brown: I took my rifle and went down to the ammunition storage room there by the barracks. The guy that was in charge of the ammunition storeroom was on weekend liberty, and it had a metal door on it, and it was locked. So several of us who was there managed to get a crowbar and break the door down and get in there and get some ammunition for these 1903 Springfield rifles that we had.

From there I went down toward the main gate of Pearl Harbor, and by the time I got almost to the gate, the Japanese planes were coming back in there again. They had already made one pass, but they were coming back in there again. I stood there at the gate and shot at these Japanese bombers that were bombing and strafing Hickam Field. They were coming in there about treetop high, and I stood there and shot at them with this 1903 Springfield rifle I had. One shot was about all I could get off before he was gone.

Marcello: Let me back up and ask you a few more questions. You mentioned that you're gathering whatever gear you need to have to go on guard duty, and you're up on the second floor of the barracks. Are there many other people on the second floor?

Brown: Usually, not very many. In fact, like I said, there was

only about fifty of us stationed there. Part of them was on liberty. There was probably twenty of us there on Sunday morning.

Marcello: Okay, you hear the bombing at first. You look out and you see that they are Japanese planes. By this time, does everybody know what's happening?

Brown: Yes.

Marcello: Okay, describe the scene that takes place on the second floor at that point when you realize that Pearl Harbor is under attack.

Brown: Well, everybody started hollering, "The Japanese have attacked!" We then took off with our rifles. The ones that was in the barracks there rushed with me toward the storeroom over there to try to get ammunition.

Marcello: Normally, when you went on guard duty, how many rounds of live ammunition would you have?

Brown: None.

Marcello: Okay, so that day, when you were getting ready to go on guard duty, you had no ammunition?

Brown: No ammunition.

Marcello: Okay, so you go down to the ammunition locker or whatever it's called, and you break open the door. Now what kind of ammunition do you have?

Brown: I have a cartridge belt that I found in there that had ammunition in it, and I grabbed that and took off. Later, we found out that all that was in there was two

or three .30-caliber machine guns. That's all the firepower that we had there in the harbor. Later on in the day, we set up those machine guns in the parade ground.

Marcello: So now you're armed. You have both the rifle and ammunition. As you mentioned, you head down toward the main gate.

Brown: Yes.

Marcello: Why did you go there?

Brown: Well, that's the entrance to the harbor, and that's our control point for all our activity in the harbor there. The ones that were down there on guard duty knew what was going on, so that was just a natural instinct to head toward the main gate.

Marcello: At that point, is anybody giving any orders, or is anybody organizing anything?

Brown: Nobody is organizing anything at that point.

Marcello: Now are there other people besides you who are heading toward the main gate?

Brown: Yes. There were about five of us, as well as I remember, that was heading in that direction and were shooting at Japanese planes at the gate.

Marcello: Okay, you're down to the gate. There are Japanese planes all around. Do you organize any kind of a skirmish line to fire at these Japanese planes, or is every man firing at random targets?

Brown: Every man was firing at random mostly at Japanese planes. That's the only thing we had there that was coming in there. The Japanese planes were so close that you could see the pilot just distinctly and how serious he was when he went by. You couldn't see how you could miss him with that Springfield rifle. You just couldn't see how you could miss, but we did.

Marcello: When you say the Japanese pilots and planes were so close, could you give me an estimate as to how high above the ground they were?

Brown: Probably fifty feet above the fence that we were at.

Marcello: Now the planes that you saw, as you mentioned, were coming mainly from Hickam Field?

Brown: No, they were circling over, coming into Hickam Field over the gate from down toward town. They were coming in over the gate, the ones that we seen, and were going over Hickam Field. Hickam Field had their planes lined up, and they were going over the gate across Hickam Field and strafing and bombing their planes that were lined up along the runway there.

Marcello: Okay, so these were probably dive-bombers, then, is that correct?

Brown: Yes, yes, they were dive-bombers.

Marcello: You mentioned that you could distinguish the pilots. Can you kind of describe what you saw in terms of their uniforms or gear and so on?



Brown: The only thing I could remember was their cloth head gear that they had on and their goggles that they had on. The ones that I seen, the cockpits were open on them. They didn't have them shut. Their cockpits were open on them.

Marcello: Like you mentioned awhile ago, those planes were obviously moving fast enough that you could really only get one shot. Now I do know that a lot of times, after those planes had, in essence, made their bombing run and were pulling out, they usually had a rear gunner who was strafing. Was there any of that occurring here when you were at the gate?

Brown: The planes didn't have any rear gunners in them. I don't know what kind of planes those were, but they didn't have rear gunners in them--the ones that I shot at there. All there were were the pilots in them.

Marcello: Approximately how long were you down there at the main gate firing at those planes?

Brown: Probably fifteen or twenty minutes. I was shooting at the planes, and then things kind of quieted down, and they sent me down to the landing where the motor launches came in. They said that the sailors had ganged up down there, and the pilots were machine gunning them. They sent, I think, four of us down there to disperse them.

Marcello: And is that what you did?

Brown: Yes, we went down there, and they'd killed a lot.

Marcello: Did you have any problems dispersing these men?

Brown: Yes. They wanted to go to their ships. They didn't want to leave; they wanted to go to their ships.

Marcello: So how did you go about dispersing them?

Brown: We just started hollering and waving our rifles at them and to get out. They they began to move out and take cover.

Marcello: So by this time, since you mentioned that you had been ordered to go down there to do that, things are beginning to get organized a little bit?

Brown: Yes.

Marcello: At least somebody's giving orders now.

Brown: Yes, things were getting better there. Yes, they sure were.

Marcello: In the meantime, has the attack completely ended, or are we just between the lulls?

Brown: Between the lulls. They came back in there again but not like they did to begin with. But they came back there--one or two at the time in there--and they were always machine-gunning those sailors, people, anybody, the ships. They were machine-gunning as they came in on their approach to the harbor.

Marcello: Now how long did you remain down there trying to disperse those sailors?

Brown: Probably twenty minutes. Then we left and went back to

the main gate up there.

Marcello: And then what did you do?

Brown: I stayed around the main gate there and helped at the main gate for several hours. One of the things that I'll never forget was a Coca-Cola truck that came in there with women standing up in it. It was one of the old-type Coca-Cola trucks that had sideboards on it, a big truck, and women were standing in there. They'd come out there to help. People from Honolulu were coming out there to try to help.

Marcello: Was there a traffic jam of sorts there at the main gate with vehicles trying to get back in or anything of that nature?

Brown: Very little, very little. The traffic wasn't great. In fact, under the attack, it was very few people trying to come in out of there.

Marcello: How long did you remain there at that gate?

Brown: I remained there until about noon, and then they sent me down then to the administration building to more or less stand guard duty down there around the administration building. They had all the secret information coming in out of there, and all the high officers of the Navy had offices in there. We stood post down there, too.

Marcello: In the meantime, since things had more or less died down, at least the action, during that period did you get a chance to take a look at either what had been done

over at Pearl Harbor or what had been done at Hickam Field? And if so, what did you see? Describe what you saw.

Brown: Well, before I went down to the harbor, I seen mass destruction over at Hickam Field--planes burning and just mass destruction all over Hickam Field. Well, I got down to the harbor, and I seen the ships turning over and the fires all over the harbor. Men were in the water trying to get out of the fire in the harbor, and people were trying to help them.

Marcello: What thoughts were going through your mind by the time you got over there to perform that guard duty at the administration building? Again, you're there and maybe there are other people around; but I'm sure that for the most part you're minding your own business, and you have your thoughts to yourself and so on. What kind of things were you thinking about? Do you recall?

Brown: Shock, mostly. I was in a state of shock. Really, until December 8, I was in a state of shock.

Marcello: I guess you're doing things automatically, more or less what you've been trained to do. Somebody gives you an order, and you snap to and do it.

Brown: Yes, we were doing things. We were told on Sunday afternoon...they came around and told each one of us that no one was to sleep, that we would stay on duty where we were. No one was to sleep because they

expected the Japanese to come back in there and take the island.

Marcello: In the meantime, had you replenished your stock of ammunition?

Brown: I still had the same bandoleer of ammunition that I had.

Marcello: Approximately how many shots do you think you got off at those planes coming in?

Brown: About six.

Marcello: You mentioned a moment ago that they were expecting some sort of an invasion. I'm sure that the area must have been one big rumor mill during that time. Did you hear any rumors?

Brown: Nothing. Nothing other than that they expected them to land. There's one thing that irked me then, and it still irks me. The Japanese broke radio silence over there. All the saboteurs--and apparently there was a lot of them over there on December 7--broke radio silence there and went to talking to the Japanese planes and feeding them information on December 7 there during the attack. They broke radio silence, and the planes were picking up their radios signals on the island there.

Marcello: In the meantime, was there very much thought or concern given to those fuel tanks that you had been guarding?

Brown: No, because nothing had ever happened to the fuel tanks. There had never been any fire out of the tanks down

there because if they had have, the whole thing would have went up. They were in close enough together that if they'd ever set one of them off, they'd have blown up the whole thing.

Marcello: Now I'm assuming that was the Navy's supply of fuel there.

Brown: Right, that was their ships' supply that was in those.

Marcello: And I guess it was virtually everything that the Navy depended upon.

Brown: Right, right. Their sole supply of fuel was in those tanks. If the Japanese had have blown up those tanks there, they would have made a lot of difference in things there.

Marcello: So how long did you remain on guard duty, then, over at the administration building?

Brown: I stayed there all night until 8:00 the next morning, and then they told me to go get some sleep at 8:00 the next morning. That night we had three of our own planes come in--the only activity we had. I didn't shoot at them, but the gunners around all over the harbor turned loose on them, and they shot down one of those planes that I know of.

Marcello: Describe what you saw. I'm assuming that you did see that take place.

Brown: Yes. I seen the plane come in there--the one of them that they shot down. I seen it come in there. He had

his lights on and everything. They shouldn't have ever shot at it. They shouldn't have never sent him in there, but they did. He had his lights on whenever they shot at him and shot him down.

Marcello: I understand that the...well, I had one of the other Pearl Harbor survivors describe the firing that took place as something similar to what he remembers about a year ago when there was the fireworks display relative to the Statue of Liberty being restored. Was that a good description?

Brown: That was true. There was a lot of fireworks around there at those planes that came in there. The aircraft carriers...all their planes landed there on what was called at that time Ford Island, which was part of the harbor.

Marcello: By the way, had you received anything to eat that day?

Brown: No. I don't remember eating that day.

Marcello: What was your routine the next day, December 8?

Brown: On December 8, I went in the barracks about 8:00 and went to bed, and about 9:00 the first ordnanceman shook me and told me to get my gear.

Marcello: And then what occurred at that point?

Brown: Then I was going aboard the Indianapolis. I told them that I hadn't shaved or taken a bath. He said, "Well, don't worry about it. You got to go on now." So I got my gear and went aboard ship.

Marcello: When did the Indianapolis pull in?

Brown: She pulled in that morning, December 8, and we left *there at noon that day.*

Marcello: And where did the Indianapolis go, and what did it do?

Brown: We went out of there and went out to sea, and we were going out on patrol probably four or five days. Then we came back into Pearl. We was by ourself with one or two destroyers. That's the way we stayed pretty well the whole war, was by ourselves. We came back in there and picked up supplies about a week later, and then we went to sea and joined the Lexington; and we picked up some transports with soldiers and Navy nurses, a lot of Navy nurses, and escorted them to Melbourne, Australia.

En route to Melbourne, Australia, we were attacked in the Coral Sea by fifteen Japanese twin-engine bombers just before dark one afternoon. This was about February, 1942, I believe. All of the aircraft carriers had taken on their planes except for two fighter planes, so they couldn't launch any. So those two fighter planes went up in the sun and attacked those fifteen twin-engine bombers, and before they got within gun range, they knocked out of the sky thirteen of those twin-engine bombers. The ships got the other two, and after they hit them, they tried to make suicide hits on the aircraft carrier, but luckily they missed it.

Marcello: What responsibilities or functions would you and the



rest of the Marines have aboard the Indianapolis? Would you be manning the antiaircraft guns and so on?

Brown: We manned the antiaircraft guns and stood orderly duty for the captain and stood any guard duty that was posted. We took care of the guard duty aboard ship, and we also worked just like the sailors did, mostly, taking care of the ship. I chipped paint for, I think, the first year that I was on there after the war started. We threw everything wood over the sides. We worked a lot. We done four hours on and four hours off the whole time I was on there.

Marcello: Let me back up a minute and ask you a couple more questions relative to Pearl Harbor. There's one question I should have asked you earlier. That night of December 7, while you were manning your post, could you hear sporadic gunfire during the night? You mentioned the planes coming off the Enterprise and how firing took place then. But could you hear scattered shots all night?

Brown: Occasionally, yes. Not much, but occasionally a shot or two was fired out of the harbor there, it seemed like, down around the ships down there.

Marcello: I suspect it wasn't too safe to walk around that much that night.

Brown: No. They had all the lights out there, and there at the administration building everything was blacked out

there.

Marcello: There's another question I want to ask you. Describe what you saw when the Indianapolis was going out through the harbor on December 8. Did you have a chance to witness the results of the attack, that is, the destruction and so on? Describe what the surface of the water looked like. Start there.

Brown: The water was covered with oil. It was solid oil all over the harbor. The scene was horrible--all the wrecked ships and the turned-over Oklahoma and the sunken Arizona. It was a horrible scene.

Marcello: I've heard people say that Pearl Harbor as such was relatively clean in terms of the water and so on before December 7.

Brown: Yes.

Marcello: It was a very clean harbor.

Brown: It was a clean harbor. It was a well-kept place. The harbor was well-kept, it sure is. Ford Island, where the airplanes came in over there, was a beautiful place.

Marcello: And what did it look like? Did you get a chance to see it?

Brown: Yes. There was destruction over there. They had caught some of our planes on the ground over there and destroyed them.

Marcello: Were there fires and so on still burning on December 8th when you left there?

Brown: Yes, there were fires still burning.

Marcello: What did you see over at the Arizona?

Brown: I didn't see too much. My thoughts were with the boys.

Marcello: And you mentioned that you remained aboard the Indianapolis for how long?

Brown: Twenty-one months.

Marcello: Twenty-one months?

Brown: Yes.

Marcello: And once you got off it, where did you go then?

Brown: I went back to Camp Elliott in San Diego, and I wanted to go to the East Coast. They asked me where I wanted to go, and I told them I wanted to go to the East Coast. They told me that that was as far east as I was going, that I was going back overseas. So they gave me twelve days leave from Mare Island in San Francisco en route to San Diego, to Camp Elliott. I went to Waco and was there two or three days, is all the time I had, and I turned around and went back to Camp Elliott. I trained there on artillery and went back to Guadalcanal and got into Guadalcanal at the mopping-up stages of Guadalcanal, and I joined 1st Marine Division.

Marcello: Just mention some of the campaigns that you were in after Guadalcanal.

Brown: We left Guadalcanal and went to New Calendonia. We went to the Russell Islands, and we stayed there at kind of a rest area for the division. Then we landed on Pelieu in

the Palau Islands, which was supposed to have been about a seventy-two-hour operation. I landed there on my birthday, and that was on the 17th of September, and I left there in March, I believe it was, of the next year, which was 1945. I left Pelieu and went to Guam. We were studying maps of Japan on Guam whenever the war ended.

Marcello: So they were preparing for the eventuality of having to invade the home islands?

Brown: We were making plans, yes, to invade Japan.

Marcello: Well, Mr. Brown, I think that's probably a pretty good place to end this interview.

Brown: Incidentally, I spent eleven months of that time in Alaska up there aboard the Indianapolis, sinking Japanese transports that were trying to supply the islands up there. They had people up there that was caught on those islands that they couldn't get off of there, and they were trying to furnish supplies for them. The eleven months that I was up there, that's what we done, was sink Japanese transport ships in there.

Marcello: They were on Kiska and Attu, weren't they?

Brown: Kiska and Attu Islands. And I got off of it one time in eleven months. I went into Kodiak one time in eleven months.

Marcello: So you really did earn your sea legs while you were

aboard the Indianapolis.

Brown: Yes. The reason that I got off of it...I'd been on there twenty-one months, and I didn't think I was going to get off. I was the captain's orderly at that time. He requested repairs. The ship had busted in the middle. Those high waves up there had broken the armor in the middle. It was terrific, the waves were. It had broke the ship up above the waterline, plumb up to the aircraft hangars, and he requested permission for repairs. They told him to go to Pearl Harbor, and he turned around and requested stateside. So we came into Mare Island, but before we got in Mare Island, I came down with something. They thought it was TB, and that's why I got off. They pulled out of there after repairs, and I was still in the hospital, so that's the reason I got off.

Marcello: Well, again, I think that's a pretty good place to end this interview. I want to thank you very much for your comments. You said a lot of interesting and important things, and I'm sure that students and researchers are going to find your observations very valuable when they get a chance to use them.