

Vic Krygowski: Well I got into military service actually when I was in my third year of college. At that time the representatives from the third naval district visited my school which was the Newark College of Engineering at the time, now it's known as New Jersey Institute of Technology. And they were looking for potential naval officers. Well, I had always been interested in things pertaining to the marine environment so I figured being in the Navy, especially since we had a shooting war going on in Europe, because that war started in September of '39 and it was now 1941. So, I signed up for it. And actually I was granted a probationary commission as an Ensign to be made permanent upon graduation and getting a degree a year later.

In the meantime, in that summer between my junior and senior year they offered me a job at a naval establishment of my choosing near my home and I chose the Brooklyn Navy Yard. I spent the entire summer in the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a probationary Ensign and I got Ensigns pay and I got the uniform allowance at the time since we were still at peace time, so I even got the ceremonial sword that every officer had to have at that time. I stayed with them until school started. They released me and I went back to complete my senior year in college.

Now in the meantime, December 7 of 1941 came along and for awhile I was sitting there on pins and needles waiting to be called to active duty in some capacity. They'd probably sign me up as a seaman at that time because my commission was strictly probationary and contingent upon graduating. But nevertheless they just told me and the others in the class to stand by and if they need us they'll call us. And so they permitted me to complete my senior year which the school abbreviated by one month; I graduated in May of '42. And then I went into the ... then I got my commission and I went into the Naval Reserve as a permanent Naval Reserve officer.

Janis Kozlowski: How old were you at the time?

Vic Krygowski: Well, I guess I was 21.

Janis Kozlowski: Pretty young.

Vic Krygowski: I graduated ... I mean I was born in 1920 – November of 1920. And that was '41 so I was 20 years old, 21, right.