

John Fahey: I went from New Orleans, it just ... I was only there a couple of days and they transferred me to Tampa Florida and I was assigned to the crew of the Volans, in Tampa Florida.

We were, we were there for about a week, or so. And then they shipped the whole crew up to Newport, Rhode Island. So what they put us back through ... really, basically, was boot camp again - only this time, we did it as a crew together. Then, when we got done with boot camp, in Newport, they shipped us back down to Tampa, or where you got on the ship. It was commissioned and we took it down through the [Panama] canal and out to the South Pacific.

Janis Kozlowski: And then what kind of missions did you sail there, in the South Pacific?

John Fahey: Well, we were a cargo ship and we carried everything from medical supplies, to steel plate, to toilet paper, writing paper; anything a ship would need, why, we would supply 'em with it. And then, we would get resupplied at some station again. So, we traveled all over the South Pacific, going to various ports - from Espiritu Santo to Nouméa. We went to Guam, we went to ... all kinds of Islands there. And we were on the periphery of a lot of the fighting. We never actually got into it ourselves, but we supplied the ships that were going. We ... were, went to Ulithi; which is where they had the congregation of ships there. You could ... I think they had more ships in that lagoon than there was actually in the invasion in Normandy.

Janis Kozlowski: Tell me the name of that place again.

John Fahey: Ulithi. U-L-I-T-H-I. And that's where they formed up for the invasion of, like, Okinawa; and also for some of the other major invasions in the South Pacific. And, it was the staging point for ... because it's a great big lagoon, like a ... kind of a circle. And it was very calm in there and the ships could ... and they could protect 'em in there very well. And, so....

Janis Kozlowski: Did you have any ... um, instances when you were in the Pacific, as you did in Alaska, where you felt like you might have to be a part of some of the action?

John Fahey: No, not really. We were, like I say, we were on the periphery and we were in supply; so we were in the background most of the time. We ... I think the closest we got to anything was in the Philippines. We were in the invasions of the ... we weren't in any invasion of the Philippines, but we had to go the Philippines to supply some of the ships. I remember we were there for 29 days, and the reason I say 29 days is because ... if we'd have been there 30 days, we'd have got a medal - [Chuckle] a Philippines invasion medal. We would ... we were kind of disappointed we didn't stay another day. But, that was no big deal.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh. So, where was your home base, and where did you pick up supplies when you were working out of the South Pacific?

John Fahey: Well, we would.... Well, after Guam was taken we picked up stuff there. And another one was Manus, M-A-N-U-S. And other ships would supply us, actually, sometimes, though.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh.