

Janis Kozlowski: And, and you ... so, did you start on that ship in '41, did you say?

John Fahey: Actually, it was right after Pearl Harbor; I went on board in January of 1942.

Janis Kozlowski: And, and then how long did you stay on that ship?

John Fahey: I stayed on it 'till it was decommissioned in Boston in December of 1943. We took the St. Mihiel.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, why did they decommission the ship in the middle of the war?

John Fahey: Because they decided to make it into a hospital ship. And so when they got to Boston, they decommissioned it. They sent ... all the crew was sent to various receiving stations around the country. They gave us leave - I think it was two weeks leave. This was right around Christmas. And we could turn ourselves in anyplace on any receiving station on the east coast, or as far south as New Orleans - we could not turn ourselves back in on the west coast.

Everybody was scared to death of the submarines in the Atlantic at that time. We wanted to get sent back to the west coast and get a ship. But, I went on leave back to Iowa, where I was originally from. And I turned myself in to New Orleans - that was the closest one to the west coast that I could get. And I was there two days, and they shipped me to Tampa, Florida to a receiving station. And I was assigned to the next ship. We eventually ended up back in the Pacific, anyhow.