

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

#417

EVERETT ALLEN MALCOLM

USS *ARIZONA*, SURVIVOR

**INTERVIEWED ON
DECEMBER 6, 2001
BY CAPTAIN MARSHALL HANSON,
KAREN BYRNE AND
CHIEF DAVID JARVIS**

TRANSCRIBED BY:

CARA KIMURA

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USS *ARIZONA* MEMORIAL

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Marshall Hanson (MH): Don't worry, this isn't a third degree.

(Laughter)

MH: Ready? This is oral history 417. The following oral history interview was conducted by Captain Marshall Hanson, USNR [United States Naval Reserve], Karen Byrne, of the Park Service Department, and Chief David Jarvis, USNR. And this was done for the National Park Service and the Naval Historical Center in support of the USS *Arizona* Memorial at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, on December 6, 2001 at 1600 hours. The person being interviewed is Everett A. Malcolm, who was an ensign on the USS *Arizona* on December 7, 1941. Is that correct, sir?

Everett Malcolm (EM): Correct.

MH: For the record, could you please state your full name, place of birth and birth date?

EM: Everett Allen Malcolm, born in Maxwell, New Mexico, 1917, April 18, 1917.

MH: What did you consider your hometown in 1941?

EM: I guess initially Raton, New Mexico. It's where I was reared and went to school. I went to high school.

MH: What were your parents' names?

EM: Ernest Everett Malcolm and Lauren Lenore, E-N, not A-U-N, Mercier, M-E-R-C-I-E-R, Allen.

MH: Where did you go to high school?

EM: Raton, New Mexico.

MH: Okay. Where and why did you enlist?

EM: I didn't enlist, I was appointed to the Naval Academy.

MH: Good point. So what year did you enter the Naval Academy?

EM: Nineteen thirty-seven, summer 1937.

MH: So you graduated in the spring of 1941?

EM: Not spring, February of '41. They jumped up three months because of the war in Europe. We graduated exactly ten months before Pearl Harbor.

MH: And when you got out of school in February, where were your first set of orders to?

EM: *Arizona*.

MH: The *Arizona*. And what billet did you fill when you arrived at the *Arizona*?

EM: I was assigned to the Turret Two as a J officer, JO officer. Jim DEER, class of '39, was a division officer, Second Division.

MH: So you were Turret Two?

EM: Beg your pardon?

MH: Which turret?

EM: Yeah, Turret Two.

MH: Turret number two?

EM: Yeah, the high turret.

MH: As a JO officer.

EM: Yeah.

MH: And what was your specific duties in that turret?

EM: Well, I was number two in command of the division and I carried out the directives of Jim DARE, the division officer. And a lot of contact, more than I expected with the crew.

MH: How large was your division?

EM: I'm trying to think. I think it was somewhere around 148 or 150 people.

MH: Hundred and forty-eight to 150 people. In support of you, how many chiefs did you have in that division?

EM: We only had one chief as I recall and that was a, the chief of, in the ordnance hardware. We didn't have a chief in the deck crew. We had a first classer. I was trying to remember his name last night but I think his name was Pace, who enlisted out of LSU in 1937. His second year at LSU and he had gotten married in his sophomore or junior year and reached the point where he

could no longer attend school and keep the family together so he enlisted in 1937, from LSU.

MH: Okay. Now, was your division broken up into subgroups?

EM: No, it was just a flat deck division. We were, all the duties were integral with the turret and the housekeeping and the spaces _____.

MH: So basically you had the responsibility from the ready rooms all the way up to the turret for a section of the ship?

EM: Yeah, well that was _____, I guess, _____ by the division officer and myself. We shared those duties. I know had to inspect the projectile ring about every two or three days to make sure it was operable, completely operable. Aside of a turret captain, whose name I can't remember for my life, he was about a twenty-eight year old veteran of the gunnery and had been the chief turret captain in that division, I think, for six or seven years alone, the chief turret captain. So it was, he was the heart and soul of that gunnery aspect of the division.

MH: Now as an officer, when you went to general quarters, what was your responsibility?

EM: Well, I was assistant turret officer.

MH: And what type of duties did that entail?

EM: Well, it entailed, occasionally I would be on the periscope, I mean the sights. We have these large—I can't even think of the name of them now. But anyhow, the sighting for the range of the guns, the fourteen-inch, forty-five caliber weapons. And I shared those duties with the, with Jim DARE, who was the turret officer. And I had a routine I had to follow, a check-off list and report to him the results of the check-off list when we manned general quarters. And I don't remember too many details now. It's just long ago. I mean it's been so long ago that I've just forgotten the check-off list that we ran down every time we went to general quarters in practice.

MH: Now my understanding is the khaki uniform had just come about in the navy. Was this the uniform you tended to wear aboard ship or...

EM: No, we wore that universally.

MH: Universally?

EM: Yeah. They adopted that shirt after I came aboard. I think I reported aboard sometime in March, March 18, March 20 and by summer we were wearing khaki in lieu of whites and boy, it was a blessing.

MH: My understanding though is Admiral Kimmel didn't like the khaki uniforms, so if you went to the club or you went ashore, you still had to switch over to your dress whites.

EM: Yeah, that's true. We couldn't leave the ship on liberty with that. For our uniform, we had to be in our whites.

MH: Now, were you allowed to wear civilian clothes off the ship...

EM: Oh sure.

MH: ...or did you have to keep...

EM: Sure. You could wear—I lived in the JO bunkroom and that was a pretty wild place. The first bow of the ship was the best dressed, except for shoes. (Chuckles) A bit hard to share shoes with 'em. But we had, we could leave mufti, leave the ship in mufti and I had a girlfriend whose father was a supply officer of the shipyard and they lived over in Nuuanu Valley so they allowed me to keep a suit up there for purpose of, in case I was caught ashore and had a social event coming up. I always had a suit to fall back on ashore.

MH: How many people were in your bunkroom?

EM: I think we had eighteen, about eighteen ensigns. _____ two-man room is a real accomplishment. I had just achieved that about two weeks before Pearl Harbor.

MH: And what type of seniority system enabled you to move from Boys Town into a two-man stateroom?

EM: Well, it was class standing, graduation.

MH: So it was done strictly on seniority?

EM: Yeah, strictly on seniority.

MH: So as a bunk opened up, they'd see who the next senior officer was...

EM: Yup.

MH: ...and moved them in.

EM: And there was an element of seniority involving the reserve officers that came aboard on active. They were, depending on the length of time they had served in the ROTC, they achieved a seniority in that respect. And I

remember when I went to the hospital two weeks before Pearl Harbor to have a gland removed from my thigh, the boy that succeeded me in the two-man room was a reserve officer named Jones. I forgot his first name. He was from Louisiana. And he occupied it for two weeks and when I got back ashore from the hospital, I couldn't find _____. Threw him out of my room! That was a real achievement to be in a two-man room.

MH: So you bumped him back out, 'cause he moved in.

EM: Well I was detached from the hospital the Saturday before, on December 6, when the *Arizona* came back in from weekly exercises. By the time I got aboard ship, it was noon and I first checked the senior watch officer to see which watch I had coming up in the upcoming duty section because I was in the first duty section. I was very proud of being an old _____ in port and he told me to forget about it because he had taken me off of the rotation. He picked me up with four days from the duty section came around again. So I went up to JO bunkroom to find out where everybody was and most of 'em had gone ashore at noon, which was allowed when you're in port and you're in the liberty section, you can leave the ship at noon on

Saturday. And I remember I couldn't find Jones because he had already gone ashore and so I couldn't, I had no right to disenfranchise him by taking his clothes out and moving mine in, so I was pretty disgusted and I went back ashore at noon. That's, the rest is history.

MH: So the ship came in, was it Friday or Saturday morning?

EM: I don't remember. I think it came in Saturday morning.

MH: And then you had checked out of the hospital...

EM: Yeah, I checked out of the hospital. I had a right to go back there and sleep Saturday night if I needed to.

MH: So, because you couldn't find Jones, you went back ashore?

EM: Well, after I found out I wasn't the watch section.

MH: After you found out you weren't in the watch.

EM: Yeah. No. My section had the duty that weekend, or that Saturday I should say, but Chief Masterson, who was the senior watch officer, had taken me off the duty list so he would pick me up the next time around.

MH: So...

EM: So I was free to go ashore.

MH: So when you went ashore on that Saturday, what did you do in the afternoon and evening?

EM: Well, I was a little ticked because everything had fallen apart. And the girl I was going with, Marian CHAFF-ER, whose father as I say was the supply officer of the shipyard, I called her up and wanted to know if she—we played golf. We played a lot of golf out at the Ala Wai Golf Course. And I called her to—she didn't expect to hear from me because she knew I was going back on board ship and had the duty section and called her up and asked her if she had made any plans. She hadn't so we played a round, we

played nine holes of golf in the Ala Wai Golf Course that afternoon. And they lived up in Nuuanu Valley at that time, off WOO-DEN Street. And we played golf and drove back up Nuuanu Valley and Marian had a call from a girl named Helen Jane Pucket, who was the daughter of the supply officer of the *Arizona*. And she, they were announcing an engagement party for her, in honor of her engagement. And one couple couldn't make it. There were three couples in the affair taking place and they had a cancellation from the one couple because he was executive officer of a destroyer, and I don't remember which destroyer, which—_____ plane got in the *Saratoga*. *Saratoga* didn't come in that weekend. So they couldn't make the party so Helen Jane asked Marian if she'd, if we could, we'd like to attend. Yes, automatic yes.

So I guess we, that was quite a party at the officers' club. I guess we left there about, oh, about 11:45 or twelve o'clock, sometime along in there.

MH: This was the officers' club on Ford Island?

EM: Yeah. No, no, no. Not on Ford Island. The base officers' club. Mary's Point Landing.

MH: Okay.

EM: I can't even find Mary's Point Landing any more. It's all been changed. But at any rate, we'd go over—she'd ride the car but we drove back up Nuuanu Valley and it was probably 12:30 when we arrived at her home. And there was, her father had previously been supply officer of the *Arizona* and there was also a bachelor living up, just two blocks from the SHAFF-ERs, whose name was Emerson, Captain Emerson. He was a dental officer. He'd been dental officer on the *Arizona* the same time that Captain SHAFF-ER had been supply officer. But he was a bachelor and he had duties practically every embassy of importance in the world. Great guy, bachelor. And he said any time...

God, I hate that. Sorry.

MH: No, a very emotional moment. But please carry on. You were, the doctor basically said any time any JO needed to have a place to stay...

EM: Yeah, any time you needed a bunkroom, just fall on the door and fall in the first bedroom vacant. So they only lived about two blocks from the SHAFF-ERs and I left SHAFF-ERs too late to catch a cab down to the YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association] and ride out to Pearl Harbor and catch the last boat to *Arizona*. So I rolled in and found an empty bunk. There were three other guys there. One of 'em was from the *Arizona*, two of 'em were from the *Oklahoma*. I knew 'em all. And we, Peter said, "Hi kid. Grab yourself a drink, come in and join the fun."

And there was all of us in the lanai sitting on the *puna*. You know, the Hawaiian custom is to sit on the deck and then use the coffee table to hold your drink. And I sat down and discovered they were talking about immediate, fourteen immediate causes of World War I. And that was a subject we had dealt very heavily in, in the last first class year to the last three months. Fourteen immediate causes of World War I. Of course, having two classmates there, I think that helped the discussion. And that

was probably about, probably lasted about 12:30 and they got out and came back to Pearl Harbor and I stayed bunking with Peter.

And the next morning there was a loud pounding on the door at street level, 'cause it was a two level house.

MH: Mm-hmm.

EM: And the lanai and the dining room and kitchen, living room were down the lower deck, the bedrooms were the upper deck and then the street level. And there was this banging on the door. My bedroom, as a matter of fact, opened out into it and I couldn't imagine what was going on. I opened the door and—put a bathrobe—and here were Mary and her mother, eyes like this. And the duty officer of the supply department who lived—and the supply department had a tower and it overlooked the entire harbor and right adjacent to Hickam Field and he was up working around in the tower when they saw them attack Hickam Field next door.

So there was orders, if anything unusual happened, he was supposed to call SHAFF-ER, Captain SHAFF-ER because—well, it was Commander SHAFF-ER at that point—because he was executive officer of the supply department. So that was, that prompted him to call Commander SHAFF-ER and report that it looked like Hickam Field was being bombed. And he couldn't, he could not identify the planes at that point. He didn't know but all he knew is that there was a bombarding going on at the airfield at Hickam Field.

So Mary's mother was up with Commander SHAFF-ER and Mary was still in bed, I think, so she wrestled Mary out of bed and they came over. It was about a block and a half apart. And pounded on the door and she said that Pearl Harbor was under attack. And just...

I'll never forget that wild look in her eyes. And Peter Emerson, who was sleeping on the same level, he was a funny, very clever guy, very dry wit. He had a great sense of humor. He came in my bedroom and said, "What is this ugly rumor I hear these women spreading about Pearl Harbor being under attack?" and he strolled over and pulled the curtain back.

Well, we were high enough up Nuuanu Valley on Wood Street that we could see puffs of powder. I was trying to think of the heights over which we could look to see the anti-aircraft puffs and I still can't remember the name of the heights. I thought it was St. Louis Heights, but it's not St. Louis Heights. Whatever the name of that ridge is, inhabited on the, I guess, the west side of Nuuanu Valley.

So anyhow, we got dressed as fast as we could and he had a, Peter had a new 110 Cadillac. I remember this. It was a real sporty car, '49 model, '41 model. And he let me drive. And we caught very little traffic, took the back road. And very little traffic but we kept pretty close to Pearl Harbor and Peter reached over and rattled my leg a little bit and he said, "For heaven's sake, kid, slow down a little bit." He said, "We're going to get killed as soon as we get to Pearl Harbor."

So I never forget that.

MH: So you got to the base. What type of security did you find at the gate when you arrived?

EM: Well, it was, they had firearms at the gate, had pistols. But there wasn't any unusual security took place. It was just ordinary routine security, the Marines had at the main gate.

MH: So did they wave you through on to the base?

EM: Yeah, waved me on through the base. So I drove down and parked in front of the Officers' Club, Mary's Point Landing, that's where all the boats came in from the ships. And I caught an *Arizona* boat I guess about ten, fifteen minutes after I arrived and I think the second wave of the attack was taking place because they were strafing everything in sight. And I could see that the *Arizona* had, something happened to the *Arizona* because her berth was just covered with black smoke. And so the nearer we got to the *Arizona* berth, the more I could see that she was burning and just, you can't imagine the shock.

So I couldn't get aboard the *Arizona* but I got aboard the *Vestal*, which is alongside the *Arizona* for tender overhaul. And I think in retrospect, just as an aside, I think one reason so many men died on the *Arizona*...

MH: Just take a moment, that's okay.

EM: What I found out later that there was a rumor, when the *Arizona* came in, that the yard tender was to prepare the *Arizona* for a trip back to Long Beach for Christmas, 'cause all the families were based in Long Beach. You know, that was the homeport before they shifted to Pearl. So everybody had liberty, practically everybody had liberty stayed aboard and saved money and get ready for the trip back to the States, back to Long Beach. And again, as I say, that was the reason there were so many killed because practically no liberty section. They just very few that took liberty.

But anyhow, Captain Cassin Young was the skipper of the *Vestal* at that time. And later, he was later killed in charge of the *San Juan*, I think it was the *San Juan*. He was the commanding officer of the *San Juan* in the Battle of the SU-RI-GA-WA Straits. No, it wasn't the SU-RI-GA-WA Straits, that

was the Philippines. Was north of Guadalcanal, was north of the straits, where the Japanese made the midnight runs on Guadalcanal. He was skipper in the east side. In my civilian clothes, each side of me was a firefighting detail. So I fought the fire fight in my civilian clothes. [Captain Young was the commanding officer of the *San Francisco* and killed in the Battle of Guadalcanal.]

And there was a man, a fellow whose name was Turkey Edwards, as I remember it. One of my shipmates corrected me yesterday. He said it wasn't Turkey Edwards, it was a name similar to that, but he was chief aviation machinist mate and he had _____ on the *Vestal* and he chopped the two-inch hawser loose from the stern of the *Vestal* to disengage the ship where there was so much fire and tops of the *Vestal* were on fire, because just, you know, tremendous tension on that cable because the *Arizona* had sunk and the bow was probably eighteen, twenty feet below the normal level and how the cable remained and didn't pull a stanchion, I'll never know. But anyhow, he chopped that two-inch hawser loose with a fire ax. And that enabled Captain Cassin Young to get the ship free of the *Arizona* because she had taken an AP bomb in the engineering spaces and was like, you

know, twenty-two caliber shot through a piece of paper. And she was taking on water real fast and he wanted to get her away from that. He didn't want to sink in the middle of the harbor. So they broke, she broke the *Vestal* loose, or he broke the *Vestal* loose. He headed toward Aiea Landing and he beached her at Aiea Landing. And I remained on board, I guess, two hours until they sent a boat back to shore and I got to take that off _____ well I hadn't _____ any duties anyhow. So he sent me back over to the receiving station. That was where everybody sent all the people that hadn't gotten back on board ship. And I was assigned—I think I got back aboard, back to the receiving station about somewhere around 9:30 or ten o'clock and they assigned me to a machine gun nest which they sent over to Mary's Point because there was a rumor of the Japanese landing at that time and they were afraid that there was a landing force in the rear of the Japanese vanguard. So they assigned me to a machine gun nest at Mary's Point Landing, me and three other guys. So we spent the night in the machine gun nest. I don't think, well I think one or two guys, we managed to change around. There were three of us and one of 'em got a little drowsy, well he dropped...

(Taping stops, then resumes)

EM: ...went to the _____ ship.

MH: All ready to go? Going back to your earlier comment, you talked about how you were in the machine gun nest on the night of the seventh. That's...

EM: Yeah, night of the seventh.

MH: That's the same night that the planes came in from the *Enterprise*.

EM: Yup. Boy, there was fire fight. I mean, the, well, from both Ford Island and the main part of the shipyard, they shot down, I think they shot down eight or nine ships and I don't remember whether they were all from the *Saratoga* or whether there was another carrier involved, but I think they shot down at least sixty-five or seventy percent of the airplanes that came in and tried to land at Ford Island that night. That's my recollection of it.

MH: Did you participate from your machine gun nest or were you too far removed to...

EM: We were too far removed. We were at the sub base end of Mary's Point Landing and that was where they expected resistance from Aiea Heights. And we were not in the direct line of descent for the planes coming in from the sea, *Saratoga*.

MH: The story is told that everybody fired at 'em so at least you...

EM: Yeah, everybody, all the ships that were still afloat. And there were, well mostly machine gun fire but I don't remember, my recollection is there wasn't any five-inch anti-aircraft fire at all. And I suspect that was because they couldn't, with the gun mounts, it would've been the gun mounts would be firing and they weren't quick enough to change azimuth with the five-inch mounts. It would be the machine guns.

MH: Now you indicated that the following day, on the eighth, you were assigned to the Intelligence Office?

EM: Yeah, Fourteenth Naval District Intelligence.

MH: Can you tell us something about your duties there?

EM: Well, we stood watch as we, everybody manned their post during the day, but we split the night with night watches. And we had at our disposal the Marine detachment headed by Diamond, Jack Diamond, famous old Marine Corps sergeant. And he managed to get, it was about a platoon of Marines. Every time we get a report of firing—you know, there was a lot of gunfire going on in Aiea part of the island at that point. And every time there's a report of fire on that, Jack Diamond would grab his Marines, platoon of Marines and head out there and try to find out what the problem was but they never did track down, find anybody guilty of machine gun fire. That went on for three nights, three or four nights after the seventh at Pearl Harbor.

And it was right, I guess Waikiki side of Red Hill, Red Hill ammunition depot, I mean petroleum depot. That's where it seemed to emanate. That's

where all the controversy took place, but we never did—during the daylight they'd search the area up there and never find any source of fire.

MH: Now, when you were doing this duty, where were you billeted since the *Arizona* was not available?

EM: Well, as it turned out, SHAFF-ER moved in the quarters at Makalapa about the ninth of December and I'd been sleeping over at the receiving station and when they moved into those giant quarters up at Makalapa, they had three bedrooms and they asked me if I'd like to stay up there. And there's only one answer to that. So that was where I spent the rest of the time I was at Pearl Harbor, I was a guest up there.

MH: Now, oh, now out of tape. Okay, we'll take another break and I'll kind of follow on question. Tape's faster than battery.

END OF TAPE ONE

TAPE TWO

MH: We were talking about where you stayed following the attack and the changes that you made. The last we knew, you were fighting fires in your civilian clothes and obviously your personal items were still on the *Arizona*. At what point did they issue you more uniforms?

EM: I've forgotten. But I know I recovered all my stuff from the *Arizona*, 'cause my cruise box went back aboard ship when I reported at noon and was on the ladder to the officers' quarters. Of course it was submerged. I got all my uniforms back though, salt-water soaked.

MH: Salt water soaked?

EM: Yeah, I tried to resurrect my blues but the gold was all tarnished, green, so I had to throw the uniforms—as a matter of fact, I remember the only thing I retrieved that I recovered that wasn't harmed in any way was a coin box I had in my cruise box and I had a random bunch of pennies and dimes and

quarters and so on and so forth. I recovered those, no changing the condition of those things, but everything else was ruined.

MH: So when you worked over at the Fourteenth District at the Intel[ligence] Office, had somebody provided you with uniforms then or...

EM: Yeah, we, they had, I remember where the clothing issue took place. But we were issued three sets of khakis and that was all we had, I mean, all we needed. And I remember the rest of the time I spent at Pearl Harbor, I wore those three sets of khakis. Took 'em with me.

MH: Now, did you continue working at the Fourteenth Naval District, or did you get reassigned later?

EM: Well, I was assigned to new construction. I don't remember the exact date but I didn't get out until about the middle of February. But I was assigned the construction detail of the USS *Indiana*, Newport News, Virginia. I was in the pre-commissioning detail of that ship.

MH: You were a plank owner on her?

EM: Plank owner, yeah. A real plank owner.

MH: And where was she constructed?

EM: Newport News, Virginia.

MH: So you basically caught a ship back to the U.S. and crossed to Virginia?

EM: Yeah, all the transportation between Pearl Harbor and the Mainland was by ship. And I've even forgotten the name of the transport.

MH: Now, did you go through the Panama Canal or across country by train?

EM: No, cross-country by train. Yeah, I got to see my family en route. And I can remember arriving in San Francisco and boy, San Francisco was really still in the—this is in February, sometime in February. They were as nervous as cats on a hot tin roof.

MH: So a lot of tension still in San Francisco sixty days later.

EM: Yeah, a lot of tension. Yeah, San Francisco, three months later.

MH: Okay. Now, is this your first visit back to Hawaii since the war?

EM: No, I had, I was stationed out here in 1958 and '59, I think. I transferred to the supply corps after the war was over because the indication I had unsatisfactory eyes. That was a real anomaly. I had deficient eyes and yet I stood O.D. watches until I got senior off that I took over CIC and I had very poor eyesight. And of course, during the war, you need the best eyesight you've got on the bridge. If you had deficient eyesight and after the war, my prospects for being transferred to the reserve, because of my eyesight. So I elected to go into the supply corps.

MH: So did you complete your career on active duty?

EM: Yeah, I did. Yeah, I transferred to supply corps immediately after the war and all my billets thereafter were on supply details.

MH: So at what rank did you retire?

EM: I retired as a commander in 1962.

MH: Now, when you returned to Pearl, and you said that was in the fifties?

EM: Fifty-eight, '59, I think it was the approximate dates I was back here. I was—the navy sent me to the University of Pittsburgh School of Engineering in 1956, 1955, '56 and I took a masters degree in petroleum engineering. So thereafter all my billets were petroleum billets.

MH: Now, did the navy have a supply school like they do in Athens today?

EM: Well, yeah, they have a supply course school.

MH: You went through that as well?

EM: I went through that as well. I didn't go through that until 1946, 1947. I've forgotten which.

MH: Okay, when you returned to Pearl Harbor, how did you feel when you got back and saw Ford Island and the base?

EM: Well, it brought back a lot of memories of course. And the first time I came back, I don't remember the exact date, but it seemed to me there wasn't much change had taken place in the harbor itself. But when I came back here for duty in '58, '59, I think it had been a profound change. It seemed to be much more growth around Ford Island than I had recalled. And everything else, well just general condition of Pearl Harbor itself had changed. And when I came back for duty with the supply department, I was the officer in charge of the fuel depot in Red Hill for two, I guess two and a half years that I was here. But this is about the fourth or fifth time I've seen Pearl since the war and it's, I'm just, I'm completely disoriented. I can't pick out a landmark.

MH: Now, you've been out to the *Arizona* Memorial...

EM: No, I haven't yet but we were close by yesterday. We had, the tour group that I'm in, we had a day on the *Missouri*.

MH: Are you planning to go out there tomorrow?

EM: Oh sure, I'll be out there at the crack of dawn, six-something. I'll be up. I have a call in at the hotel for six o'clock. And I think the first boat out is 6:30 and then we're invited to brunch by the admiral at the shipyard, I mean the, I guess he's Commander of Naval Forces, Pearl Harbor and that's his title.

MH: Which admiral?

EM: Talbot.

MH: Talbot.

EM: He's having a brunch immediately after the service aboard the *Arizona* and that'll last until about 10:30 and then we're going to pack up and go over and meet the next wave of people going to the memorial, the *Arizona* Memorial, the families and so forth. I think there's only eighteen of us at this particular _____ meeting and I think I was told there would be twenty-two but it turns out there's only eighteen or nineteen of us. And there are a couple of those in wheelchairs.

MH: Karen, do you have some questions?

Karen Byrne (KB): What do you think that will be like when you go out there tomorrow? Is it going to bring back lots of memories for you?

MH: Might be a challenge but it's something that you're up for, right?

EM: It's going to be hard.

MH: Chief, do you have any questions?

David Jarvis (DJ): (Inaudible) Sir, you were reassigned the day after the attack to another unit. I just want to know how did the navy know you were still alive?

EM: Well, which part of the navy?

DJ: I mean you survived the *Arizona*, how did, was there a central gathering point of taking names of who...

EM: Yeah, that was the, so called, I guess it's receiving station now. It was receiving station then. 'Cause all the survivors, everybody who didn't have a ship or didn't have, wasn't attached to a command, reported in, survivors, at the receiving station, which is where we bunked for, I don't know about the other people, but where I bunked until the SHAFF-ERS moved in up to Makalapa.

DJ: So word got to you to report to the receiving station to get a bunk and eventually you got clothes.

EM: Well, they set up a desk for the survivors and you reported to the survivors desk who you were and what ship you were on. And that was the extent of it.

DJ: Were you surprised how fast you were reassigned by the process?

EM: Well, no, I wasn't surprised at all because, you know there's still work to be done, even after the shipyard and then all the rumors about a possible invasion, you know, they put everybody to work. I'm sure that everybody was assigned a detail of some kind or another by the end of that morning, by the end of that day.

DJ: (Inaudible) I got the same response from other people...

EM: Yeah.

DJ: And the other question was what you believed, you had mentioned it earlier but it was not taped, what was the factor that you think got you assigned to the USS *Arizona*?

EM: Well, I think really I was assigned there to take Allan Chapley's place as coach to the *Arizona* football team. You know, secondary duty?

MH: You mentioned you had played football at the academy.

EM: Yeah. Yup, three years of varsity football and matter of fact, I was just _____, I was, played in three Army-Navy football games. We won the last two and I was lucky enough to make that last touchdown to beat 'em in 1940.

MH: Congratulations.

EM: So I had a good—it was kind of a funny situation. I was first string, played first string for two years, my junior and first class year. And the second game of the season against William and Mary, I dislocated my shoulder and broke three ribs. That was the second game of the season. And of course the doctor's first reaction, "Turn your suit in," you know, he didn't want me. He thought I was through.

But I didn't turn my suit in and I didn't miss a practice but I didn't _____ practice. I won't say I missed a practice, I did, I missed the first week of practice because I had my arm in a sling. And I couldn't go out for that first week. But after the first week, I put my pads and put my pants on and my shirt. I put pads on and kept my legs in shape and I made all the trips and helped Keith MOLES-WORTH, who was our assistant coach, backfield coach, in the booth for the _____ we had on the game. I was his assistant up in the booth, calling plays and, you know, analyzing certain things that were happening on the football field. But I think after the first week I didn't miss a practice, I made all the trips and the doctor cleared me on Thanksgiving, the day before Thanksgiving, ten days before the Army-Navy game, cleared me for to go back and play. And I turned out on a, I guess it was Friday after Thanksgiving, when they freed me and let me report out there in pads. The first time I'd been in pads since the second game.

And SWEED Larson was our coach and well, I was a little late because I had a hard time getting my togs on. You know, that long lay-off and I was

probably a little late and he was going over the generalities of the football meeting in just general terms and SWEED Larson turned around and said—you know, I was late for the sit-down we had at the beginning of every session—SWEED Larson turned around and yelled, “Oh, here comes old Sinbad the sailor!”

So I acquired a nickname with that long lay-off. But anyhow, they had two scrimmages remaining before the Army-Navy football game. I was fresh, ready to go and my poor shipmates, boy they were beaten down physically. I mean, the season of football really takes its toll. And I had a real hot practice two days in succession. So that following week, which is the last week before the practice for the Army-Navy game, I was back on the first string and played practically the entire game.

MH: Now, you had said that you think the reason you were transferred to the *Arizona* was to replace or to assist Allan CHAP-LEY.

EM: Well, I think I would've been his assistant for the first year, but the second year, that would've been his last year on the *Arizona*. But the second year I think the responsibility would've been mine.

MH: Now, you arrived at the *Arizona* in March of '41?

EM: Well, somewhere around March. February or March, but I don't remember exactly when it took place because the transport—I can't think of the name of the transport—they were on regular schedule and we had to time our, release our orders, time our arrivals with the availability of the transport.

MH: Now, when was the football season for the navy's leagues? Was it a late summer or was it a fall season?

EM: Well, no, it was a fall season and we would've started practice in July but in the meantime war clouds were looming and the, I think they cancelled football competition sometime in July.

MH: So...

EM: And that's normally when the football season would've started.

MH: So no football in 1941?

EM: So no, they cancelled it entirely.

MH: Okay.

EM: So...

MH: Karen, do you have any more questions?

KB: Just one, is today the first time you've talked about your experiences at Pearl Harbor?

EM: Yeah.

KB: Today?

EM: Well, no, yesterday or the day before, on the *Missouri* when I was intercepted by an ABC man out there, that's the only two times that I've talked about it.

KB: So for sixty years, you really never talked about it?

EM: Well, I won't say I never talked about it, but very rarely because, you know, it was old history and I wasn't in the environment that invited it so there hasn't been any, there's no chance for that type of relationship with anybody.

KB: Does it help to talk about it? Does it make you feel better?

EM: Yeah.

KB: Good.

MH: Well, we thank you for sharing your experience with us and we also thank you for the service that you gave to this country.

END OF INTERVIEW