

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

#418

HOMER L. OSTERGAARD

USS *NEVADA*, SURVIVOR

INTERVIEWED ON

DECEMBER 6, 2001

BY JACK GREEN AND JAMES ANTONELLIS

TRANSCRIBED BY:

CARA KIMURA

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USS *ARIZONA* MEMORIAL

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Jack Green (JG): Okay, are we rolling? Okay, this is oral history number 418.

The following oral history interview was conducted by Jack A. Green and Commander James Antonellis of the Naval Historical Center for both the Naval Historical Center and for the National Park Service, USS *Arizona* Memorial, at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, on December 6, 2001 at 5:20 p.m. The person being interviewed is Homer L. Ostergaard, who was a seaman first class on the USS *Nevada* on December 7, 1941. First question is, for the record, please state your full name, place of birth and birth date.

Homer Ostergaard (HO): Homer L. Ostergaard. I was born in Lincoln, Nebraska and today's date?

JG: No, the date you were born.

HO: The twenty-eighth of January 1922.

JG: Okay. What did you consider your hometown in 1941?

HO: Morgan, Minnesota.

JG: Okay. What were your parents' names?

HO: Dad was Harold and my mother was Henrietta.

JG: Okay. How many brothers and sisters did you have?

HO: I had a twin brother. I had a—I'll say how they were. My twin brother was in the navy yard, got in the navy. My brother Lyle was in aviation. And my brother Richard joined the navy when he was old enough.

JG: Okay.

HO: And I have one sister.

JG: Okay. Where did you go to high school?

HO: I didn't.

JG: Oh, okay.

HO: I took mine in the army, I got a...

JG: Oh, so you had previous army service?

HO: No, no, after.

JG: Oh, afterwards!

HO: I'm too young then. I'm only nineteen years old.

JG: Okay. So you did not graduate from high school.

HO: No. I took it in the service after.

JG: Okay. All right, okay. Where and why did you enlist in the navy?

HO: Because we had a snowstorm, a great snowstorm in Minnesota on Armistice Day in 1940.

JG: Okay.

HO: And I helped enough neighbors there as a farmboy...

JG: Okay.

HO: ...and I thought, after a couple of weeks of that, I says to my dad, I says, "Take me to Mankato, Minnesota," I says, "I want to join the navy. I've scooped enough snow around here!"

And I made it.

JG: Okay. Now where did you go to boot camp?

HO: Great Lakes, Illinois.

JG: Okay and what date did you enlist in? What date did you...

HO: I enlisted the sixth of December or sixth of—let's get this straight now.

JG: Okay.

HO: Yes, the sixth of December I enlisted.

JG: Which year?

HO: In 1940.

JG: Okay, in 1940.

HO: In 1941 I was a year older and one day when Pearl Harbor started.

JG: So you had been _____ the navy for one year one day.

HO: Yes.

JG: Okay, now you went to boot camp at Great Lakes...

HO: Right.

JG: ...and where did you go after Great Lakes, after boot camp?

HO: Then we were, we went to Bremerton, Washington to the USS *Nevada*...

JG: Receiving station?

HO: ...it was in dry dock at the time.

JG: Okay, so you immediately were assigned to *Nevada* from boot camp.

HO: Right.

JG: Okay, where did you, what was your division on board the *Nevada*?

HO: When I first went aboard it was the third deck division.

JG: Okay. And what were your principle duties?

HO: Well, there you're just a seaman. You're...

JG: Okay.

HO: ..._____ and _____ any place else. And then you have to go on K.P. for three months, for your, and I lasted about six weeks and I was always in helping the baker or the cooks after doing my work in the spud locker.

JG: Okay.

HO: And they asked me if I was interested in cooking and I said yes. 'Cause I said, "My mother never chased me out of the house."

JG: Okay.

HO: And...

JG: So you were hoping to strike for a cook's rate?

HO: And I was in the sink for maybe a week and pretty soon here comes another one so I'm out of there, 'cause that's the first place you go as a cook. You get the sink 'til somebody relieves you and he was from Minnesota, they boy that relieved me.

JG: Okay. So you were there striking for the cook's rate?

HO: Right.

JG: Okay. Now how long had the *Nevada* had been, had you been aboard the *Nevada* and been at Pearl Harbor when the attack took place?

HO: Hmm, I think we were in there in August.

JG: Okay.

HO: From the time we left Bremerton 'til we come out...

JG: So you'd roughly been in, roughly four months the *Nevada* was _____ in Pearl Harbor and you'd been on her for the full four-month period.

HO: Right, right.

JG: Now, on December 6, the day before, did you have duty on the Saturday before the attack or did you have liberty?

HO: No, I had duty because I was on the next morning. When a cook goes to duty after one o'clock...

JG: Okay.

HO: ...seeing that you're split, you've always got a _____, you know.

JG: So you'd come out on watch at 0100 on the seventh of December?

HO: Right.

JG: That day. So you were working. Okay, what specifically were you doing when the attack started?

HO: That's when I was out with another one to dump that garbage on the over side.

JG: Okay, so basically you were, you had been on watch for roughly six hours.

HO: Oh yeah, from at least four in the morning...

JG: Okay. Four in the morning. So you were topside dumping out garbage over the side of the ship.

HO: Yeah, because there's them, they catch 'em on the side. They got that bucket and then they take it out to sea, you know, and dump 'em after.

JG: Okay now what was your first indication that there was an attack going on.
What was the first thing you saw?

HO: When that Jap plane went by me, I didn't, I couldn't believe my eyes. He was that low. He come right by where we were standing, me and this—his name was Anderson, helping me on that.

JG: Okay.

HO: And he went by and I couldn't believe it. And I swore he put his glasses on his forehead. He was that low.

JG: So was he flying...

HO: And then I...

JG: ...port or starboard of the *Nevada*?

HO: We're on, that was on the port side so and they come by on the port side.

JG: Okay, so he's flying from forward to aft.

HO: Right.

JG: In other words, on the port side, he's flying right by you.

HO: Yup, he must've dropped something before he come by us because...

JG: Okay, okay. Could you tell whether he was a dive-bomber or a torpedo bomber or just a plane?

HO: He could've been a dive-bomber but I don't believe it was a dive-bomber because to me it looked like more like a fighter plane, but you'd have to have something better than that coming that low to be a fighter plane, I would think.

JG: Okay, okay.

HO: Maybe I'm wrong, but maybe.

JG: So your first indication of the attack was seeing this aircraft come flying right by the port side of the ship. Did you hear the general alarm or...

HO: Oh yes. I heard general quarters and that's when, when they say general quarters, you drop everything.

JG: Now was this through the 1MC or was it bugled? Or what was the...

HO: It was announced over the loudspeaker.

JG: Oh, 1MC. So you heard them _____ the 1MC. Okay, now where was your general quarters station? You immediately proceeded there.

HO: I would say I was down four decks in the ammo.

JG: Okay.

HO: For small arms. But I went down there and that was a little after eight and I come out of there at three o'clock.

JG: Okay, three o'clock that afternoon?

HO: Right.

JG: So you spent the entire attack down in the small arms locker. Okay.

HO: Yes. About, I would say there was five of us down there.

JG: Okay.

HO: And then I come up topside and there's—what the heck you call them? Like people on load with the big stuff and they've got that...

Anyway, when I went by to go up side, I seen one laying there all—pardon?

?: Stretcher?

HO: Pardon?

?: On stretchers?

JG: Were they casualties?

HO: No, no. Not on a stretcher. He was laying on that thing you can...

JG: Casualty?

HO: You can move things. Like you see that you're loading down on that degree of the ship. I'll pick that word up.

JG: Conveyor?

HO: Conveyor, that's what it is! Right, right.

JG: Conveyor belt.

HO: And here's laying one and he's just about pure red and they stopped to _____, he says, "No, there's guys more hurt than I am."

And then I got the heck up side...

JG: He was wounded.

HO: Yeah, he'd been from something down in that area.

JG: So you're down in the small arms handling room, what were you and the other fellows doing?

HO: Just waiting to load something up, but I supposed you can't fire some of them things at, you know. Because, you know, like if they weren't these fourteen-inch projectors, that's for sure.

JG: So was this the anti-aircraft?

HO: I supposed it was but and they didn't get that much off neither, you know.

JG: So 1.1 inch. So you were basically just standing by for orders to pass ammunition.

HO: That's right.

JG: But this never happened.

HO: Nope. Here we was, sitting there the whole time down there with just, you could hear they _____ something.

JG: Okay, was there anything coming over the 1MC, any kind of instructions or things?

HO: Nope.

JG: It was just silence? You were just there?

HO: And you were wondering what you're doing. You know, why, what's going on.

JG: So what caused you to come topside at three o'clock.

HO: Well, that's when they must've called us down and said we could.

JG: Okay.

HO: We could come up.

JG: So 1MC, over the 1MC they tell you to come topside.

HO: Right.

JG: Okay. Now you were telling us you came, you were coming up topside, you saw a badly wounded man on the conveyor.

HO: On the way up, yes.

JG: On the way up. Okay.

HO: Then I come outside and the first thing I see is all that burning out there and them planes crashed, laying around and them ships burning and then by that time that's when that O.D. says to me help carry the dead out. And so we loaded them and took 'em over and come back and took one more. I know I helped with two loads but then after that I think I went over to help cook on the others. Well, not, you know, later that night, after that other deal.

'Cause then we went off there. We had to eat. We had to stay someplace, so us cooks went in to help but we stayed right there in the galley there and laid on some flour sacks and some sugar sacks. That was our bunk. (Chuckles)

JG: Okay. All right. So when the *Nevada* does her sortie, you were below so that at three o'clock when you come up, she's already beached at Hospital Point.

HO: Yup, yup.

JG: Okay. So you were basically, after helping move the dead to the whale boats, you go back to the galley and start cooking for the crew?

HO: Well, we were still on until, like I say, we were there that night, but I had to help on them bodies, you know.

JG: Sure.

HO: And then come back to the ship. God knows what I was doing after.

JG: Okay.

HO: 'Cause if you're a body, they're going to get you to be helping on something.

JG: Okay. So you're just doing the duties...

HO: And then when them planes come in, in the evening, well then we got our next, the marines were there and they handed us an M-1 and said get out in the cane field, they think it's an invasion, you know.

JG: Okay.

HO: And we says, "What do we do?"

He said, that marine sergeant says, "You'll hear me if I tell you to fire your weapons," you know.

JG: Now, was the marine sergeant from the *Nevada's* marine company?

HO: Yes, yes. Yes.

JG: So at what time do you leave the ship with your small arms, your landing force material, to go into the cane fields? What time was that?

HO: Well, it was, it had to be almost dark.

JG: Okay.

HO: That's as much as I can remember.

JG: Okay. So it's gone dark and you were ordered to this company with the marine detachment. You go in the cane fields. Now this is the ones that are right, that are on the other side of the channel from Ford Island?

HO: Right.

JG: The ship has already been moved to the other side so you're there. So when it's dark you are in the cane fields. How long do you spend in the cane fields?

HO: Oh, I'd say about an hour. And then they must've realized or they knew by that time that that was our own planes.

JG: Okay. So you are there when our aircraft from the *Enterprise* arrived. Did you shoot?

HO: Somebody did some shooting because I'm pretty sure there was two of them downed out of the three.

JG: Yes, there was some.

HO: Yes.

JG: But you yourself did not shoot?

HO: No, no. No, no.

JG: You were just sitting there?

HO: Just ready. They thought it was invasion. Well, you're going to take anything you can. We could've had that that morning for them planes, you know, but we didn't.

JG: Okay now so you spent about an hour in the sugar cane field...

HO: That's right.

JG: ...now what did they do after that? What happened?

HO: That, I think, is when we went back and we started sending everybody to shore to get something to eat because we hadn't eaten since breakfast, you know.

JG: Okay.

HO: And it's time to do something and that's when us cooks went in to help cook over there then.

JG: Okay, now where did the cooks go to cook? Where specifically?

HO: Was on that main one. They only had one that I know of.

?: Ford Island?

JG: Is that Ford Island or at, was it at Ford Island? Did you go?

HO: Oh, it wasn't very far from where all the ships were so...

?: Hospital Point?

JG: Hospital Point?

HO: It had to be in someplace there but I know it was the main one.

JG: Okay, all right.

HO: 'Cause they had an awful, it was awful big and we had a lot of storage in there. Like I say, we slept on them flour sacks and sugar sacks.

JG: It sounds like Ford Island.

HO: I think so.

JG: Probably somewhere on Ford Island.

HO: Yeah.

JG: So from that point on you basically cooked for the survivors and for other personnel in the area? How long did you do that?

HO: Well, I think I lasted two days or three because then in come the USS *Lexington*.

JG: Yes.

HO: And I was transferred over there and some of us other cooks on there.

JG: Okay.

HO: I had three for sure that I knew, you know, that come with. And that was the last of Pearl Harbor for me because we took off and then went out and made a raid down in, way down low and come back. Then they put some more bunks in the *Lexington* because when I went aboard that first, I slept on the deck, right under one of the bakers. And they day we got sunk, he said to me, “Now I know why you were a little excited on there,” he says, “this isn’t fun is it?”

And I’d bump him, you know, when they dropped a depth charge out there. But when we got sunk the day we did get sunk. And I go through two and never had a scratch on either one.

JG: So you survived the sinking of the *Lexington* at the Battle of Coral Sea and so what happened? What does the navy do with you then?

HO: Then we got picked up on there and we went back on a cattle barge ship and went to San Diego and then I got assigned to the USS *MAL-AH-SET-OH*. That was a transport.

JG: Yes.

HO: In Philadelphia.

JG: Yes.

HO: And there we carried like 6,000 troops on that thing. It was an Italian liner converted.

JG: Yes.

HO: And when I went to Philadelphia, I was on that for two years.

JG: Okay.

HO: And then I got new construction for a tin can and they asked me—I was in Norfolk, Virginia—and said they got three places for you so I took San Pedro, California because my dad had some relation there and I figured,

well, I can go over there and get Sunday dinner sometime, you know, which I did.

JG: All right.

HO: And I was on that 'til—see, that was in, I'd say in '44 sometime. Maybe July, _____, went aboard that, you know, and then when I got, when we got down in '44, then I went to the USS *Tills*. That was a DE, tin can.

JG: A DE?

HO: A DE, yes.

JG: Which class? Butler class?

HO: It was one of the better ones.

JG: Okay.

HO: And that was the 748 and I made chief on there.

JG: My gosh.

HO: Four years in the navy and I made chief. Well, you got rushed in.
Somebody had to do it. And by golly...

JG: So you were chief cook?

HO: Yes and when I had, I had an old-timer on there and we was in one of them typhoons out there and them tin cans, they really bounce around in little destroyers and he stepped right in the dishpan of water. We had taken the water out and then I had to take over and they were kind of laughing, the officers on there. They said, "By god, the chief can still cook, can't he?"

I says, "You don't forget that, you know."

So I did that for that guy and he was an old-timer. I mean he was a garbage man or something in Boston and he got drafted and he come in, you know. But he did his job.

And then to make final, I seen the *Nevada* one more time after that. We pulled into Okinawa.

JG: Yes.

HO: When they were just about done over there and them torpedo or them suicide planes were coming in there and all that stuff, you know. Here's that *Nevada* hit again out there. The mast _____ went by and they couldn't believe it. I says that son of a gun just won't sink, will it? And it didn't.

JG: No, it didn't.

HO: No, they had to put it down with our own, with the atomic bomb. They didn't get it down off, you know, out of Pearl Harbor or someplace.

JG: Yes. Yes, she was scuttled.

HO: Yeah.

JG: Yeah, she was scuttled off of Hawaii 'cause...

HO: But I did get, I got on that DE, the *Tills*, me and the supply officer had to go ashore and then when we went ashore, we stepped on the dock where the Nagasaki, Japan.

JG: Yes.

HO: And I got to walk with him over there and we went to another tin can and what I seen what destruction that we had did—'cause I was always bitter at the Japs—and that calmed me down. I said now we got revenge for what they did. There was one steel rod sitting out there, I'd say eight feet tall, that was about all that was in there. That thing was flat.

JG: So the *Tills* was at Okinawa. What other battles was the *Tills*...

HO: Well, we were patrolling.

JG: Yes.

HO: We were _____ with the flat top. Them baby flat tops?

JG: So you were _____ group?

HO: We were doing that and I hit one of them typhoons out there. Took us four days. We ate a sandwich if we could get it or, oh god. You never. And we had guys, you know, we had three guys. When we pulled out, they'd be heaving over the side. And none of 'em were sick when that one come. They didn't know if we were going to...

JG: Sink. Would that've been the great typhoon of December 1944?

HO: Something, yeah. Yup.

JG: Yes, the great, they call it the Halsey Typhoon.

HO: Oh, that was a rough one. Four days of that.

JG: So at the end of the war, you're on the USS *Tills* and you're at Nagasaki, Japan. Do you stay in the navy or do you get out?

HO: I, when we left there, we went to Guam and I was in Guam the night that they declared the war was over.

JG: Okay.

HO: And the chief quartermaster says to the skipper, he says, "can we take seven cases of beer over? We have to give two to our NCO club, where the chief's quarters."

And he said okay so and I think we drank two beers to come back a-ship.

We were so damned glad it was over with.

JG: So you were.

HO: Right.

JG: So you were at Guam when the war ends?

HO: Yup and then I got back to San Pedro, California and I got, hopped a plane...

JG: Uh-huh.

HO: ...as far as Chicago I got, then I took the 400 into Mankato, Minnesota.

JG: Okay.

HO: And got my leave from there. Then I went back and went to, in Florida on—
we decommissioned the *Tills* down in...

JG: Green Cove Springs?

HO: Yup, Green Cove Springs, Florida.

JG: Okay.

HO: And I got, I stayed out and I got discharged the seventh, no, the fourteenth of February '47.

JG: _____. So you were actually commissioning and decommissioning crew on the USS *Tills*?

HO: Well, they didn't quite have her done when I went over to another one and was on there for about a month and then, because more or less I was on that but you were decommissioning other ships there. You were doing stuff wasn't even in your, heck, what did I know about. Well, soldering or welding on them things, you know.

JG: Okay. So you decommed the *Tills* at Green Cove Springs, get out of the service and what did, briefly, just what did you do in civilian life after that?

HO: I done a little plumbing with a hardware man there and then I went over cutting meat at a locker plant.

JG: Okay.

HO: And then they kept calling my mother, the army did, in St. Cloud, Minnesota and she says, "If you want him so bad," she said, "you can call the locker plant in Springfield, Minnesota."

So they did, you know and I come up and they offered me, I got an E-5, a sergeant rank.

JG: Yeah.

HO: And I went to Fort Sheridan, Illinois and that was a cook school there and being chief, you know. And I stayed there for two years as an instructor.

JG: Okay.

HO: And who do I meet but two from—one guy keeps looking at me and that sergeant was with me at that naval air station. He said, “That chief knows you over there. He keeps looking over here.”

And I says, I said, “Well, his last name is Hanson,” I said, “and we called him Feeney in the meat locker on the *Nevada*.” (Chuckles)

And he comes over as soon as we had break at ten o’clock and he’s over there and he says, “I know you but I don’t know you.”

I says, “Well, Feeney, I know who you are.”

Then he couldn’t get over that nickname he knew. And then I told him who I was, he couldn’t believe it.

JG: So how long did you stay in the army?

HO: I stayed for, I went in in '48 and I got out, I went to Korea with the engineers and come back home. Well, I got married before I went to Korea. Married a, she was a WAC and...

JG: Okay.

HO: And I stayed in there 'til pretty near seven years.

JG: Okay.

HO: And I got out in September. I stopped at my uncle's place on the farm out of _____ Minnesota. And my twin brother was working, he'd been out of the navy and he had this hardware store up there. He was kind of a _____ in there and this major comes over from the National Guard and he says, he's talking to him and he says, my twin brother says to him, he says, "That damn twin brother of mine," he said, "he got out of the service and he's a thirteen-year service."

And he says, “Well, tell him to come over and see me.” He says, “We got an opening the first of November.”

And I went over and took a test and I got that job the first of November and I worked twenty-two years there. When I was fifty-five years old, I said this is enough and I had thirty-five years service with the guards and all that and I retired and when I got sixty I drew one and I had one retirement to go on the other one.

JG: What was your highest grade when you retired from the National Guard?

HO: E-8. I was first sergeant.

JG: E-8. You were first sergeant?

HO: And I was E-7 when I got out of the navy and I retired with that and I'm very happy and satisfied. My wife and I we celebrated our fifty-first in August, so I think I did all right. When I got married, and guys were all

whispering, they said, “He’s knocked up, they’ll have to,” but we never had no children!

(Laughter)

JG: Very interesting. Very good! Jim, would you like to ask some questions?

James Antonellis (JA): Yeah, when the *Nevada* got under way, can you recall hearing the engines start up...

HO: Yes.

JA: ...the vibration, could you hear anything?

HO: You could feel ‘em backing and then you know you could feel them speeding up just a little bit more as they were in the _____.

JG: So you knew you were moving?

HO: Oh yeah. You could tell that. And then all at once it kind of like a jab, you know, and that's when she must have went into the cane field, you know.

JG: Okay, so you knew when she went aground too.

HO: Yeah.

JG: You could feel that.

JA: When the *Arizona* blew up, did you hear that?

HO: I don't know but there was something awful and just like we, well, we knew we got hit a couple times too, you know, because them big winches up in the front, one of them stood like this where a bomb had went down, you know. And that's a lot of steel sticking straight up like that. That was on the *Nevada*. But we had, that chief warrant officer we had on there, King, he was, he's in the record book, but that was a great man.

JA: So you knew him?

HO: Yeah, by face and all that but he could talk to, like me, a seaman first, just as well as anybody else, but he knew his work. He knew his job. A guy like that saves a lot of ships too.

JA: Did you know Ensign Thompson?

HO: I wouldn't, I, the one that was on duty at the thing, I know him but face, but I never, the name, no, I wouldn't.

JG: You didn't know him at the time?

HO: No, no.

JA: So you knew you were on your way. You could feel...

HO: Yes.

JA: ...the guns fire, the vibration of the ship. You could hear the engines. For the most part you were still somewhat...

HO: Yeah.

JA: ...insulated.

HO: Yeah, you know, what are you doing?

JA: _____ in the magazine.

HO: Right.

JG: Now how was life like, for you, as a sailor in Pearl Harbor, did you go down to Hotel Street? Did you...

HO: Oh, I passed once in a while.

JG: Once in a while, okay. Did the *Nevada* have a favorite bar? I understand many battleships had their own bar that they would, the sailors would hang out.

HO: You know, I always did like a beer, you know, but the other I never cared. I couldn't take booze, I'd heave right away.

JG: Sure.

HO: But I know, my twin brother, I met him once over here and we went ashore you know and had a couple. But we didn't get that far. Hell, Pearl City was enough 'cause when we come back, we picked up eight extra, well about twenty extra each tin can, you know, bring 'em back to Pearl Harbor here, you know. And we had ten chiefs extra in our and we never closed the chief's quarters on the *Tills* when the _____ is on because they would play cards twenty-four hours a day, somebody was playing and this one chief, he was eating them damn onions and he gets up, he runs around in his sleep and says, "What the heck? What's the matter?"

He says, "I'm killing my mother-in-law!"

(Laughter)

(Conversation off-mike)

JG: Okay. Well, I think that's pretty much what I had. Jim, anything else?

HO: But I wanted to tell you one thing. I got to see Butch O'Hara knocked down five of them Jap planes that day.

JG: 'Cause the *Lexington*...

HO: We were standing up on topside...

JG: Yes.

HO: ...all they had was the firing guns that was _____.

JG: Yes.

HO: That was the only _____ they had on it. We're standing up there waving our white hats as he'd shoot one and he knocked down five of 'em that day.

JG: _____.

HO: And one come down kind of suicide this side and we'd had some new forty pom-poms on there and they'd they hit the ground. And there was a baker sitting with his first class, he says, "Home, let's get on the end here," he says, "because if we ever get sunk," he says, "we've got to be able to get to the water, you know."

(Laughter)

HO: But when I did abandon ship on the *Lex*, you know, you go down them ropes and...

JG: Sure.

HO: ...there's somebody with their feet in your head, you know. I got down, I was wondering why they were burning so much and _____ dots, you know, when I got down there. But my best friend, one of my cooks that was with me, the same age and all that, he was on a raft and they went around to save the *Lex*, torpedo, and he was a-raft with twenty guys hanging on to the ropes and if they hadn't, if _____ hadn't made that, they'd have lost them twenty because nobody knew they were out, you know. That was a break. But George and I, we were on three ships together and he was from Minnesota. He was an orphan, you know. But I, we corresponded after we got out of the service and everything like. You meet a lot of good people. You can say what they want.

JG: How long were you in the water after you left the *Lexington*?

HO: Well, I swam for a little bit and I finally got over on the *Minneapolis*. And then like a dummy at 10:30 at night they want the airway plane on tin cans and this one cook belonged to them so he talks me into getting up that basket

to go across at night, 10:30 at night. And like a dummy, I did it! Aw!

That's a thrill. (Laughs) I don't know why I did it, but I did it!

JG: (Laughs) Okay, well thank you very much, Mr. Ostergaard.

HO: I had a lot of good times.

JG: Sounds like it. We really appreciate it. Thank you for coming in the interview with us.

HO: Yup, thank you.

JG: Thank you!

END OF INTERVIEW