

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

#275

HOWARD H. JUHL

USS *CALIFORNIA*, SURVIVOR

**INTERVIEWED ON
DECEMBER 8, 1998
BY JEFF PAPPAS**

TRANSCRIBED BY:

CARA KIMURA

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(Conversation off-mike)

Jeff Pappas (JP): The following oral history interview is conducted by Jeff Pappas, for the National Park Service, USS *Arizona* Memorial, at the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada on December 8, 1998 at eight a.m. The person being interviewed is Howard Juhl, who was aboard the USS *California* on December 7, 1941. Howard, for the record, would you please state your full name, place and date of birth?

Howard Juhl (HJ): Howard Juhl, let's see, born June 9, 1920 and Nebraska.

(Conversation off-mike)

JP: For the record one more time, Mr. Juhl, tell me your full name, place and date of birth.

HJ: Howard Juhl, born June 9, 1920, Nebraska.

JP: Nebraska, what part of Nebraska did you grow up in?

HJ: Central, central, Kearney.

JP: Central, Kearney?

HJ: Yeah.

JP: Tell me about growing up in central Nebraska back in the 1920's.

HJ: Oh, my grandfather homesteaded twenty miles north of Kearney and then my father. I grew up most of my youthful life on the land. And I was thirteen years old, I stopped going to school and (coughs) then from thirteen to eighteen, then I listened to my father and then the opportunity came up to join the navy and so I joined the navy, just turned eighteen.

JP: Well, tell me, before we get to the navy, tell me a bit about your father and his farming life.

HJ: He was a successful farmer as long as he inherited, as long as he got most of the land from his father. And so I...and so the...so much is racing through my mind! Anyway...

JP: Well, take your time.

HJ: Well, it turned out that I became very bitter about my father and I was very thankful that the navy rescued me from behind the plow.

JP: Can we—what was your father's full name?

HJ: Alexander Juhl. Alexander Juhl.

JP: Was he born in the United States?

HJ: Yeah, he was the first generation born after my grandfather homesteaded the land in 1888.

JP: The bitterness with your father, was that the result of working on the farm? Something you wanted or did not want to do?

HJ: Yeah, well, mainly him. The worst attributes of German traits of being dominant and becoming dominant, and I want to say repressive, it isn't quite the word, but I can't think of anything else. But the—wanting to control everything. And that is a very wrong way to lead people, shall we say, because you can't control everything.

JP: Do you have any brothers or sister?

HJ: Yeah, six. There were six in the family, yes. One brother and four sisters.

JP: Did he treat all your siblings basically the same way?

HJ: Yes, more or less, in that any way, two sisters still have the original land and I inherited land. And as a reaction against that, I took an interest in nature. And so I became very much aware of nature and I have successfully, far exceeding my expectations, what I've done about nature.

JP: Well, tell me about your love of nature.

HJ: Well, interesting, at the age of about ten years old, (coughs) then I sat up there on the spot and anyway I dreamed of doing something about nature at that time. And I dreamed of doing four square miles. That was a viable source for nature. And interestingly enough, I am amazed at what I have done.

JP: Well who and what had been your influences in regards to the natural world back in the 1920's? Had you read...

HJ: I don't think anybody can really say at that age, certainly, no one can say, it's just what you have, develop within yourself.

JP: This was a result of the relationship you had—did your mother encourage your nature...?

HJ: No, not necessarily, no. No, not necessarily. She was busy with six kids and started to go along out there. Living out, their number one job, people homesteading had, that had stayed with it for some length of time had to have a patience and perseverance and real drive that words cannot describe. But I'm talking about to survive the winters. For instance, my grandfather, when he came there the first winter, he dug a hole inside of the hill, a dugout, because you didn't have time nor materials for building anything except sod huts and of course, and he built a hole in the side of the hill on the original homestead hill.

JP: So what kind of nature or botanizing had you done on that four square mile tract that you described?

HJ: I didn't get the four square miles. I only got one-sixth, one-eighth of that.

JP: What's one-eighth?

HJ: I got two 160-acre lots, which I started, that was my first nature project.

JP: And that was part of the original homestead?

HJ: Yes.

JP: How many sections did your family have as part of their homestead?

HJ: About a section and a half, no, the homestead, the original homestead was two 160-acres deals.

JP: So 320 acres total. What did you do with that land? How did you botanize or naturalize?

HJ: Well, haven't you read anything about Rockefellers and J. P. Morgan and all the rest of the big _____? There are ways and means of successfully doing something and amazing how few people that should know that are incapable of doing it. And that is you can give it away, you take deductions, you do very well financially, which the Rockefellers have done, and which I have done. And...

JP: So in other words, you farmed that land?

HJ: Well, I inherited it and bought it. And well my brother and I, on this particular 320 acres, and anyway, I had inherited—yeah, it's farmland and anyway, I put it away then to a nature group, on this 320 acres, eventually.

JP: Well, tell me about that, before we go on. Tell me about this nature group. Is this a local group in Nebraska?

HJ: Yes. Basically it is. Now there's the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and the Audubon. They're all big eastern organizations. And anyway fortunately, I became attached, connected with a local group, the Prairie Resources Institute out of Aurora, Nebraska. And he's about a forty-five year old chap that has done very well with it. He had similar ideals of what I had. And he's done very well with Prairie Resources Group.

JP: Do you have a name for this person, with the local group?

HJ: Oh. William Whitney in Aurora, the Prairie Resources Institute. And he's done remarkably well.

JP: And he's the executive director of the institute?

HJ: Yeah, mm-hm.

JP: What do they do with the land? What is their purpose?

HJ: He's interested in the prairie, the natural prairie. And anyway, I gave this 320 acres to him, I mean, to this organization. And then I take the deductions and it has to be a legitimate, recognized deal. See, this is the catch. Just like all churches are recognized by the government, but the only trouble is that when you give your house to the local church, anyway the next year the preacher has to send this little daughter to the proper school, and so your house is immediately sold and what have you. And but on my case, it's the Prairie Institute and it has a condition on there that there cannot be sold other than a natural deal, something like a natural deal. And so that's the condition. It's a condition on the donation.

JP: So in other words, they'll take the property, manage the property, but do not sell the property for commercial purposes.

HJ: No, no, that's right.

JP: Very good. Did you give them this land? Did they buy this land?

HJ: No, give it to 'em. And then I take deductions. And I took deductions from that. And of course you want to hear about the second one? Well, that's a bigger project out in western Nebraska.

JP: I would like to. Briefly though, but I'd like to hear it.

HJ: No, well, I could give you. I have to have much propaganda with me that I—what people have said about me. See, that's where I'm reluctant about making this interview because you're forcing me to talk about myself. And I do not like talking about myself.

JP: Oh no, what I'm interested in is, I'm interested in your interest in natural history.

HJ: Yeah, well, no, but you're forcing me to talk about myself. I have lots of literature where other people have talked about me.

JP: Well, the reason I'm asking the questions is that it's a unique organization. I want the organization to be put on record as a known entity and your involvement with this natural history group. That was my intent.

Then let's move on then and let's go to Hawaii. You had enlisted into the service, in what year?

HJ: Nineteen thirty-eight.

JP: Okay. And you enlisted in the navy?

HJ: Navy.

JP: And you trained...

HJ: In Great Lakes.

JP: Okay. Tell me about your training and when you eventually went off to Hawaii.

HJ: Well, three weeks and—I mean three months in Great Lakes and didn't do like a usual farm boy behind the plow, you're used to walking the plow for _____, of course, marching is a little bit different than marching behind the plow. And so, anyway, three months, you can have a beautiful three months of training. And so then the last day in 1938 arrived here in Long Beach, leaving Great Lakes, Michigan there in December and believe me, it was rather nice to come down into San Bernardino and Riverside and see orange trees. And anyway, I came onboard the *California* the last day of 1938.

JP: Tell me, what was your father's reaction to your wanting to enlist?

HJ: He—I was mad. He knew I was mad at his _____, where life was not at all calm and peaceful. And anyway, so he had no feeling about it, really.

JP: Okay. So you're in Hawaii. You see your first orange grove.

HJ: No, that was San Bernardino.

JP: I mean southern California.

HJ: Yeah, San Bernardino.

JP: And you stayed there for how long, in southern California?

HJ: Oh, the homeport of the battleships was Long Beach. All right, so immediately after that, the first part of '39, the fleet took a cruise through the Panama Canal to Guantanamo, Cuba. That was the homeport over there, I mean a mooring port over there, Guantanamo, Cuba. So we set in Guantanamo, Cuba about April 1938. We were down there training. And then we were to go up and visit New York, 'cause New York had the World's Fair, 1939. So we got—so we went to Norfolk and we changed her ammunition, the powder, because it was all...

JP: Now, what ship were you on at this time?

HJ: *California*, I was on the *California*.

JP: You're also on the *California*.

HJ: Yes, until Pearl. And so I was on her almost three years.

JP: Mm-hm.

HJ: And then, Norfolk. So anyway, prior to going to Norfolk, I had noticed a little bulletin board, trip to Washington, D.C. And so I signed up for that and had a lovely two-day trip to Washington D.C. from Norfolk. I escaped loading all the loading, they had unloading the ammunition.

Anyway, I came back from the two days there and we had orders to go back to the west coast or to Hawaii. So we went back, 'cause under Roosevelt, see, that was the war clouds that were gathering in 1939.

JP: Were you aware of these war clouds at that time?

HJ: Yes, definitely, 'cause I had read as a child about the trenches in World War I. Obviously, ten years old, reading. And anyway, I got to thinking, well anything would be better—after being on the farm and in the mud and the dirt and all that, I thought anything would be better than the trenches, among the trenches, because the war clouds were definitely gathering over in Europe.

JP: Well did you feel back in Nebraska, before you enlisted, did you feel as though you had a choice about what you wanted to do with your life?

HJ: Oh yeah. Oh, yes, yes. Everybody has that to a certain extent. Yes, I mean, any time. Oh, for instance, when I was sixteen years old, my cousin was working, and he and I were working together and I said—now the CCC [*Civilian Conservation Corps*] was in operation. And I distinctly, to him, I said, “Gee, I thought it was strange that they don’t give them a little more military training,” in the CCC because they did give ‘em the uniform.

And my cousin said, “Oh, but that would be training them for war.”

And guess what, he fell in the Philippines. And so that was the age of sixteen that we had a philosophical discussion.

JP: A philosophical discussion about the potential of war?

HJ: Yes. Yes.

JP: In Europe or in Southeast Asia or in the Pacific?

HJ: Well now, Asia did not enter the picture at all, because that was, number one, was very far away, except for in Manchuria. But otherwise, the pending deal was always a repeat of World War I and that was very different for anybody who was capable of thinking, which I would love to here go into politics right now.

JP: You can talk about whatever you’d like. Okay.

HJ: Republicans.

JP: So now you're in Hawaii. And you had been to southern California by this time?

HJ: Oh yes.

JP: You had been to Cuba.

HJ: Yeah.

JP: You had been to New York and Washington D.C.?

HJ: No, we didn't make it to New York, only Norfolk.

JP: Norfolk.

HJ: And Washington D.C., yes.

JP: And Washington D.C.

HJ: Fortunately, I did. You know, this is where, like the navy is, like any organization, if you kind of—as I said, I just signed up for Washington D.C., had a, you know, lovely trip. You know, but number one, you have to do a little thinking when that, boom, right on the _____ word came up and the could only take so many, see.

JP: Well now you've been to quite a few places.

HJ: Yeah.

JP: Very different than the Nebraska prairie.

HJ: Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

JP: And you had this inclination toward natural history, looking back at the prairie. What did you think of all these new places as...

HJ: Oh, it was all fascinating. It was all fascinating. It was fascinating for any person growing up. The world is opening, so-called, within your perspective.

JP: But as far as the natural world, what did you see? You had an interest in natural history back in Nebraska. Tell me about seeing Hawaii, then, for the first time, _____?

HJ: Oh, it was simply fascinating, taking the little, old railroads out there, through the sugar cane fields and all that stuff. And every day is fascinating when you are capable, if you're capable of enjoying it.

JP: Okay, so now we're in Hawaii, the *California*, you cruise with the *California*...

HJ: Yeah.

JP: ...to Hawaii and you're stationed at Pearl Harbor?

HJ: Yeah.

JP: When, what time of the year was that? When did you do that?

HJ: Oh, this was in, obviously, June. June and so then we...

JP: June of nineteen...

HJ: Thirty-nine, yes. And so then war broke out in Europe in September and so then we were back and forth to Long Beach. Long Beach was our homeport. See, all the people married and what have you, they didn't keep 'em out there, at that time, too long.

JP: Yeah.

HJ: And so, there wasn't that, at that time, it was just more or less being, try to make Japan aware of the fleet. And so, well, so Japan was making preparations with the war, our war.

JP: Well, did you know this at that time though? When you were on that ship...

HJ: Anybody with an ounce of brains could see something was happening. But certainly the gold braid, coming to them at the time of the attack, there was apparently hardly one officer that was aware that this was to hit.

JP: So you were paying attention, specifically to the officers and their behavior?

HJ: Well, ours is not to reason why, ours is just to do or die. To that extent. But certainly after two hours of the morning of December the seventh, the gold braid went down and down, in my estimation, and at the end of two hours, they weren't very high at all.

JP: Yeah. Well, what was some of the evidence that suggested to you that war was imminent in the South Pacific, before 1941, before Pearl Harbor?

HJ: Well, just following what was happening in Europe and also what was happening in Manchuria. It just was and all that, it was just coming.

JP: So you had access to information there. Were you reading newspapers, listening to local news reports?

HJ: Everybody had the same access. We all had common knowledge of the so-called reporting and all that. It was just when these little, like Japan, when they went in there, the Manchurian incident, and then the [USS] *Panay*. The *Panay*, you know—oh, we're sorry, Japan reimbursed two million dollars for the seven or eight people killed on the *Panay*. Well, you just don't, one doesn't do this accidentally, shall we say.

JP: Did you talk to your friends about this?

HJ: Nah.

JP: Did you have conversations with your shipmates?

HJ: Oh no. Ours is—and just what I'm saying about the gold braid is that they're supposedly, theirs to analyze and do a little thinking. And anyway, old Thomas Edison who was with the, in World War I, was with the

scientific deal, see. Anyway, his concept of the, of Annapolis and West Point was they graduate very good bookkeepers, and by god, this statement held true throughout the whole fleet and it culminated in the Pearl Harbor attack.

JP: I wonder if West Point graduates had thought of themselves as bookkeepers or Annapolis graduates.

HJ: No, but it was. I don't know. See, their concept, they had been trained that we were going to go out and have a big fleet engagement and to go to _____ Japan and America was going to _____ outcome, have a big battleship battle and...

JP: Well, as a young sailor though, were you skeptical of the military command in 1939?

HJ: Well, we had no reason to be skeptical. Nothing was happening. You just had to polish, make sure the brass was polished and the decks were _____.

JP: Were there any officers that you remembered specifically on board the *California*?

HJ: No, they are not trained to think at all. No. And the morning of the attack, now I didn't see it, but my first, my leading man in there. I was _____ to keep the ship afloat, personally. And anyway, he was—we had taken two torpedoes on the side and needless to say, the ship was beginning to list. And the logical thing, our purpose was to keep it aright, to keep it upright.

JP: Well, before we go there, why don't you tell me a little bit about your specific duties on the *California* and where the *California* was located that morning?

HJ: Well, we were located where the *Missouri* is located now apparently. I haven't seen. But anyway we were, anyway, well anyway, we took two torpedoes.

JP: Well what were you doing? What were your specific duties?

HJ: My purpose, I spent two years scrubbing decks and keeping the brass polished. Now if the Japanese had come over and had seen such a beautiful bright polish, they probably wouldn't have had the heart to bomb us, but they did. But anyway, then I was down into what they call the C & R, construction repair gang. And my primary purpose was construction, repair. And then our battle stations was counter flooding.

JP: Okay.

HJ: So that's where I was.

JP: That's what you were doing. That's where you're responsible for.

HJ: Yeah.

JP: Now tell me about that morning.

HJ: Oh, anyway, my first deal I was sent up to—we have the emergency breathing apparatus.

JP: Okay.

HJ: Well, very good except our—and they required a little can of oxygen, see, high-pressure oxygen. Well anyway, ours were all empty and so I was sent up forward to where they'd have the first torpedo head hit, and I was going _____ locker to try to see if they had any fresh torpedo, I mean fresh oxygen. Well, as I came up there, I heard, "Poison. Poison gas! Poison gas!"

And I had sort of suspected—and we had a bit of training about carbon monoxide and I suspected it, but I... Anyway, as I came through—this was in the forward part. I was in the aft ward part of the ship and I came through the hatch, was waiting, anyway, as I came to this hatch, a nice, big, husky individual came stumbling through and with sort of glassy eyes and then, klump, fell down. And but I only had my purpose there. I was to get some oxygen bottles. So it was the most comical thing. I suspected it was carbon monoxide, but I didn't know. And the, I was there going through all these

bottles of gas, oxygen bottles, trying to find one that was open. Trying to hold my breath. And...

JP: Take your time.

HJ: Trying to hold my breath (coughs).

JP: Mm-hm.

HJ: And (chuckles) watching myself and so I couldn't find any bottles. So anyway, I went back to where the air was a little bit better, see, in the aft ward part of the ship, because the torpedo had immediately hit _____ content of carbon monoxide. And so anyway, I wasn't able to do anything there, but I was aware that there was something definitely, that the gasses were up there. And of course, needless to say, then they were permeated eventually all over. So the tremendous numbers of us that were...

JP: Now, this gas...

HJ: Yeah, carbon monoxide.

JP: ...and that was caused by?

HJ: The torpedo explosion up there, yes.

JP: Right. And you were located below deck at this time?

HJ: Oh yes. Then the electricity went off within five to ten, fifteen minutes; there was no electricity and then all the emergency deal. And so I came back there and my leader of aft ward repair party then was counter flooding. And that was one of the few things that worked, the counter flooding was under hydraulic system that they would, the hydraulic system would open the valves to counter flood. And anyway, the story I heard later on is that John Barton was his name and anyway, he'd wanted to counter flood and our ensign, who was a reserve ensign, he was waiting from central control to give orders to counter flood. Well, (coughs) I just said electricity went off right away, so it meant that we had to depend on sound-powered phones, which were very good in themselves. But if you depended on electricity,

see, then you were complete. Anyway, the ensign refused to counter flood and the story I heard that this John Barton was ready to just take a wrench and bounce it off his head, because he was saying, “Now, do not counter flood!”

But we were listing and that was our purpose, was to counter flood and level off, to keep the ship level, from rolling over.

JP: But you had no electricity. Were the pumps, were the hydraulic pumps operated...

HJ: Oh yes, they were hydraulic. That was one thing didn't depend on electricity then.

JP: Right.

HJ: So that was a real feeling that was something was done that was right.

JP: Well, how much water and how quickly did the *California* take in that morning?

HJ: Oh, very much, because we were there for the purpose of the routine inspection. And so therefore, Kimmel was very good routine inspection type of individual.

JP: Now, Kimmel is the...

HJ: The admiral. And everything had to be on routine inspection, so our—we'd open up all the voids, see, the battleships had loads of compartments, see.

JP: Was the *California* scheduled for inspection that day?

HJ: Oh yes. And we have to open up these manhole covers, big manhole covers so that they can go down and inspect. They have to be opened up and ventilated, see, in order for anybody to go down there.

JP: Okay.

HJ: So all this routine inspection involves days and days of inspection, see.

JP: Okay, Howard, we're going to stop there for a few moments...

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HJ: ...sounded about that time. And a young kid from Louisiana came right on through there and said, with big eyes, he said, "Them planes got little red spots on their wings!"

And so and I had just read a book about Japan and Port Arthur, where in 1904, when she was fighting with Russia, that she pulled a surprise attack on Port Arthur. And I knew right then and there that this was it.

JP: So you're having breakfast...

HJ: Finished breakfast, yes.

JP: Tell me what happened right after breakfast.

HJ: Well, then they had general quarters and your immediate reaction—and you're trained, this is trained, see. You must remember that I had almost three years of training, training, training. And my reaction is to go to your battle station. And my battle station was below decks and everything, below the armor decks. So you're sealed in there and anyway, and having read from this deal I'm talking about, about Port Arthur, and anyway, I—and general quarters takes five minutes before everything is sealed. And anyway, I just had to go out two minutes or more to go out and try to see this little plane with the red spots on their wings.

JP: So you...

HJ: Against all basic training.

JP: Oh yeah.

HJ: That was amazing, how I had to go against every bit of training I had to do that.

JP: Yeah.

HJ: Yeah.

JP: So you saw the planes?

HJ: Well, I didn't allow myself any time out there because my training was I had to get down below. But I took a peek out there and of course it was clatter, clatter, clatter and I really didn't see a plane myself, but I at least—and I said to myself, “When I'm going down below, it's going to be down below. We'll be sealed up and it may be my last deal.”

But I fought against every bit of basic training. It's amazing how I had to fight myself.

JP: Tell me about the first torpedo hit then.

HJ: Oh, it just all, by the time I got down there and what have you, and then, BOOM! And then we didn't know what happened. But it was a bump, that was the forward part of the ship. And then shortly afterwards, then on the aft ward part of the ship, it was the opposite side, of course. And then there was another bump and it was two torpedoes we took. And then an hour later, we took the bomb.

JP: So *California* was now taking in water.

HJ: Oh, yes.

JP: Your job was to get rid of that water.

HJ: Well, our job was to control it if we can in anyway with all this manhole covers all open and what have you, why, the water started coming in.

JP: What did you do? How did you feel at that particular moment in time?

HJ: Oh, all you do is what you're trained for. That's what I'm talking about. When I went out there, took that minute to go up there on the deck, I had to go out.

JP: So you knew exactly what to do then?

HJ: Well, you do whatever you're trained to do. This is the training, how important training is.

JP: And what was it that you were told to do, trained to do, specifically?

HJ: Well, you do whatever. You looked for your superior.

JP: Okay.

HJ: See, yeah, so that's like me, the guy was actually counter flooding and then the so-called ensign. You look for them and they're supposed to know.

JP: Did you find your immediate superior that morning?

HJ: Oh yes. Well, you go down to your station, see. Yes.

JP: And what did he tell you to do?

HJ: Well, that's where he went, he sent me up there to find these oxygen tanks to begin with, you know.

JP: Well tell me about the inevitable fate of the *California*.

HJ: Oh, so we took on water and what have you. And the two torpedo hits and the bomb—the bomb didn't affect our water integrity, because it bounced on opposite decks. But the—well, so we counter flooded, that kept us on more of an even keel. So anyway, immediately, within two hours, we saw right away that we had every pump available in the Hawaiian area, the diesel engine pumps. So for the next two days, we were able to, with all the pumps that were available, we were able to pump the water out faster than it came in. Then we came back after a wee bit.

And see, that night, let's see, that night, the diving ship—in August of '41, three months before, I had gone to diving school for four weeks. And so I came back second-class diver and I made one dive on _____, on the *California* there before. And so the first night, and I wound up going down in the, like in my living quarters and what have you, where I just left there eight hours before, and it had all been down underwater. But meanwhile, we had pumped the water back out, see. See the pumps were able to pump it faster than it was coming in. And so what a horrible, eerie deal to go down there and just what you left, your living quarters, eight hours before had been underwater and so the oil, see, everything. All the water was covered with a half-inch of oil. And so all of this. And anyway, went down there and I tried, we were trying to go down and see whether we could stop, any place we could stop the flow of the water coming in, but it was next thing to impossible, because everything was open for inspection.

And so that went on the first night and the next...

JP: At this point, when you went back down to the living quarter decks...

HJ: Well, that was that night, the night of December 7, see. You must remember that, the great, tremendous amount of happening within every hour, especially like in my work, everybody had whatever, their number one, primary purpose was to rescue anyone who you could rescue.

JP: Did you?

HJ: Yes and earlier that day, I had gone down to where we helped them take out boats and the object is, like you had temporary air supplies coming in. And anyway, whatever leader of the party you had, his purpose was to primarily to watch all his help. If you were down there, shall we say, fifteen minutes, going out and you get fresh air. Because then we knew that carbon monoxide—see carbon monoxide had permeated the entire ship, so 1300 people were all suffering from carbon monoxide. And then by that time, we knew what it was. So the main thing was not to go down below too long and the main thing was to get out in fresh air. Of course, we didn't know that to begin with. What I mean, we weren't conscious of it.

And anyway, so I...

JP: So at that particular moment, you didn't know that the ship had been infested with carbon monoxide poisoning? That's not something that you...

HJ: Well...

JP: ...were aware of?

HJ: ...we sort of knew it, but we were—well, that was later on in the day. But that's why I'm just saying every hour of the day, there was something going on. And so that was earlier in the day. The primary purpose of anybody, if you could get 'em out, by god, we did.

JP: This is rescuing...

HJ: Yes.

JP: ...sailors?

HJ: There was only two people that couldn't be reached on the ship that actually were trapped. And so, all right, so....

JP: So now you're below deck, you're in the living quarters, you're rescuing soldiers, sailors.

HJ: Yeah, yeah, that's all...

JP: How long did you guys do that for?

HJ: Long as was necessary, long as you could get to 'em.

JP: Through that night, through the next day?

HJ: Well, yeah. Well, we rescued all that we could anyway, as near as I knew. Because you must remember that it was a huge deal, so all I could speak of was my own little world that I lived in. And for instance, then, I was on the, that afternoon, standing up there—the main thing, see, was to get out from—

we were conscious then of what carbon monoxide was until you simply had to get out in fresh air. Anyway, standing out there on the deck and anyway, we brought up a body, and anyway, put him into the deal. And then so the officer said, "You want to go along?"

So anyway, I went along and rode with the corpse, going up there to Red Hill. Now, have you heard Red Hill? And you know, all that had to be within hours, within a half hour, somebody had to make a decision, "What are we going to do with the bodies?" see. Because, you know, hot, tropical climate, see. So anyway, it was interesting, I had a lovely tour up there with the bodies, seeing all those bulldozers out there, scooping away and scooping away.

JP: And it was a lovely tour with the bodies?

HJ: Well, for me it was, see, to get away from the ship and fresh air. You know, I mean this is what I'm just saying how every minute of the day there was something going on.

JP: But had you seen dead bodies before your time at Pearl Harbor?

HJ: Not necessarily. No. No, no, no, no.

JP: Well, what did you think about that?

HJ: Well, so it is, but you were trained for it. And certainly reading about Europe, see, by that time, see, we were well aware that when a bomb goes up, this or that, but in this case, these were, you know, that was the mainly, the bomb was a major casualty, quite a number, third or more from the torpedoes.

JP: Okay.

HJ: See, the forward torpedo. And the, other than that, so anyway, when you're dead, you're dead, period.

JP: Well, I think at that time, right now I think we'll stop and we'll end the interview and I want to thank you for your time this morning.

HJ: Okay.

JP: Very much. Thank you.

HJ: Yeah.

END OF INTERVIEW