

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

**#271**

**PHILIP LANDRY**

**VP-23, FORD ISLAND**

**INTERVIEWED ON  
DECEMBER 7, 1998  
BY DANIEL MARTINEZ**

TRANSCRIBED BY:

CARA KIMURA

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**Daniel Martinez (DM):** The following oral history interview was conducted by Daniel Martinez, historian for the National Park Service at the USS *Arizona* Memorial. The taping was done at the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada on December 7, 1998 at approximately 3:30 p.m. The person being interviewed is Phil Landry, who was a member of VP-23 at Ford Island on December 7, 1941.

For the record, Phil, would you please state your full name, place of birth, and date of birth?

**Philip Landry (PL):** Philip Landry, April 15, 1922.

DM: And where was that place of birth at?

PL: Jeanerette, Louisiana.

DM: Lousiana?

PL: Right.

DM: You're a Cajun?

PL: I'm a Cajun.

DM: All right. And what would you consider your hometown in 1941?

PL: Jeanerette.

DM: Jeanerette. Now, where's Jeanerette located?

PL: It's in the southern part of the state.

DM: What's the closest...

PL: Lafayette, Louisiana, Lafayette.

DM: Lafayette, okay. How many were in your family, Phil?

PL: Eight. Eight. Two, well, there was eight children.

DM: Eight children. Where were you in the middle?

PL: Third from the bottom.

DM: Third from the bottom.

PL: Yeah, third.

DM: How many brothers and sisters?

PL: Four brothers and—three brothers and four sisters.

DM: And what'd your dad do for a living?

PL: He was a watch, night security. We call 'em watchman.

DM: Night watchman, right?

PL: But he was security, yeah.

DM: And your mother?

PL: She was a housewife.

DM: I guess so, with eight kids.

PL: Yeah.

DM: Now, your faith, if you don't mind me asking, was...?

PL: Catholic.

DM: Pretty much a lot of Louisianans Catholic.

PL: Oh yes.

DM: Yeah. Now, did you go to Catholic school?

PL: Yes.

DM: Elementary school?

PL: No, it was the last two years.

DM: Okay.

PL: My school years was in a Catholic school.

DM: And did you get an opportunity to go to high school as well?

PL: Oh, this is, what, this is where we were, I was speaking about. It was high school.

DM: Okay.

PL: At the time, there was only eleven grades...

DM: Okay.

PL: ...through the elementary and senior and I think now there's twelve grades.

DM: Right.

PL: There were only eleven at that time.

DM: Yeah. Now, you got out of high school and you got your life ahead of you. Did you know what you wanted to do?

PL: Not really.

DM: So how'd you end up in the navy?

PL: Well, I wasn't satisfied with the work I was doing.

DM: Right.

PL: And I thought, well, this is a good way to see a little bit of the world.

DM: Uh-huh.

PL: And so I joined.

DM: And you were living in the Great Depression part of that time, right?

PL: Yes. Yes. And I might add that the navy was pretty particular. I had to have my fillings. I had fillings. I had to have teeth work done.

DM: Right.

PL: They wouldn't take me 'til I went through my dentist and had my teeth filled.

DM: Well, as I understand it, they were pretty—the navy, all the military services were just taking the cream of the crop because lot of people were looking for jobs and they thought they might find it in the military.

PL: Right.

DM: But they needed to have qualified people.

PL: Right.

DM: And they had to have physically sound people. So in order for you to qualify, you had to get your teeth fixed.

PL: Right.

DM: Okay. So where did you enlist at?

PL: I was sworn in New Orleans.

DM: In the town of New Orleans.

PL: Yup.

DM: And from there, where did you go?

PL: From there, I went to San Diego, to boot camp.

DM: To boot camp.

PL: To boot camp.

DM: What was that like?

PL: It wasn't bad. It was—I had a previous—previous years in my life, when I was in high school I took what you call a CMTC, Citizens Military Training.

DM: Okay.

PL: It was a government, I think, government-sponsored program.

DM: Right.

PL: And I belonged to the Boy Scouts.

DM: So you had a pretty good inkling of what this was going to be about.

PL: Yeah, yeah. I wasn't surprised.

DM: So you go out to boot camp and in boot camp and did they tell you go into ship? Or what did you do?

PL: No, from boot camp, I went to naval air station, Alameda, for mechanic school.

DM: Now, how did you get selected for that? Or did you ask for it?

PL: I asked for it, oh yes.

DM: So you wanted to go to naval air?

PL: I wanted to be in the naval air.

DM: Okay. Was that always your dream you had as a kid, to be...?

PL: Well, I hadn't thought much about it, but when things got to that point, I started thinking maybe I better get in the aviation.

DM: Okay. So you went up there and you went to mechanics school.

PL: Right.

DM: And what did you work on and how did they train you?

PL: Well, we were the first class who didn't have anything to work with. We repaired fabric coverings on the planes. And it was really not much help.

DM: Okay. So when did you finally get to work on some engines?

PL: When I got to Ford Island.

DM: Is that right?

PL: Yeah.

DM: So it's, would it be unfair to say that you weren't as qualified as you should have been?

PL: Not really.

DM: So you kind of went to Ford Island, you got transferred to Hawaii.

PL: Yeah, I went across on the *Chicago*.

DM: On the cruiser *Chicago*?

PL: Cruiser *Chicago*.

DM: And you get to—and you're going to learn about navy aviation, you know, on the job?

PL: On the job, yes.

DM: And did you have a good teacher there?

PL: Yes. I might add though, this squadron I was in, we were picking out of the young fellows, like myself, for crewmen.

DM: Okay.

PL: Now, as a crewman, we don't do much mechanic work.

DM: Right.

PL: You stand watches in the plane with the gun in the placements.

DM: Right.

PL: That was about it.

DM: So was your squadron VP-23 you were assigned to?

PL: Right.

DM: And you go to Ford Island, you're here in Hawaii. What'd you think of Hawaii?

PL: Oh, I thought it was nice.

DM: Sort of like New Orleans with better weather, right?

PL: Yeah. Lot of sailors, though. That was, you know.

DM: Lot of sailors. And naval aviation was kind of an elite group, wasn't it?

PL: Yes, it was. At the time that I left, got out of boot camp, the majority of the fellows were going into aviation at the time.

DM: Right, right. And so you got assigned to aircraft that were called PBYs.

PL: PBY.

DM: Tell me what a PBY is.

PL: It's a two-engine, and at that time, it's a two-engine seaplane. Later on, they modified 'em and put landing gear. They made 'em amphib[ian]s.

DM: Okay.

PL: We had two thirty-caliber guns in the ball, one fifty on each waist hatch.

DM: Uh-huh.

PL: And that was about it.

DM: What was the mission of a PBY?

PL: Our mission was anti-submarine patrol.

DM: Okay.

PL: At the time. We flew patrols out of Ford Island.

DM: And what would you patrol?

PL: We had different segments of areas to cover.

DM: So you'd go out and patrol a sector?

PL: Right. And we'd stay out normally, oh, maybe eight, nine hours.

DM: How long could a PBY stay up in the air?

PL: Oh, twelve, thirteen hours.

DM: So it was long-ranged?

PL: It was, oh yes.

DM: Now, how far out to sea would you go or would you patrol around the island?

PL: Oh no, we'd go out to sea maybe three or four hundred miles.

DM: Okay.

PL: And the idea of being in the, saying that we were anti-submarine, we didn't really strictly look for subs, we looked for enemy ships too.

DM: Okay.

PL: Task force.

DM: Sure.

PL: That was our mission. Our mission was to report what we see, not to get involved, avoid all hostilities.

DM: Okay.

PL: We didn't want to gunfight.

DM: They wanted the information.

PL: Just the information, you were worth more if you could get back with the information than if you were shot down.

DM: What was your job on the PB Y?

PL: My job was, well, they called—a flight engineer was one of the fellows that took care of, up in the tower, that took care of the instruments and the fuel

mix, things like that. Then there was two waist hatches, the bubble type and you would stand watch in the back.

DM: Okay.

PL: And then that was it. We didn't have, we didn't really—the front bow was never manned very much.

DM: Uh-huh. What were the observation points then? The waist hatches or where you have a...

PL: The waist hatch, mm-hm.

DM: So you had, that's where you would look for...

PL: Right, because in the engineers' tower, you couldn't see anything. All you had was small windows.

DM: Did you have binoculars assigned to you?

PL: Yes, uh-huh.

DM: Now, a lot has been made about—and historians have argued this back and forth—about the patrols that Kimmel should have been, and [Rear] Admiral Bellinger, basically, was your commanding officer and he was in charge of the navy patrol squadrons right there on Ford Island. But you patrolled sectors primarily to the southwest.

PL: Yeah. Towards Japan. (Chuckles)

DM: Yeah, towards, well, towards Kwajalein. But were you ever assigned or do you recall ever going north and doing north sectors or anything like that?

PL: I really can't recall. I can't say for sure.

DM: Now, when did you come to Hawaii? What was the month and the year?

PL: Okay, I got out of school in Alameda around October.

DM: Okay. October of what?

PL: Of '41.

DM: Oh, of '41.

PL: Right.

DM: Just a few months before the war.

PL: Right.

DM: So you were relatively new to the squadron...

PL: I was.

DM: ...and to Hawaii.

PL: In fact, my job at the time of the attack, I was a mail orderly.

DM: Is that right?

PL: Yeah, I happened to get there when the mail orderly was already—because, I suppose you understand, you either go into mess cooking or mail orderly or beach crew.

DM: Right.

PL: Well, I was lucky, I didn't have the beach crew.

DM: And in fact you didn't get the chance to fly 'til after the war got started, right?

PL: That's right.

DM: Okay. Now, the beach crew is a real important part of the PBV's life.

PL: It is.

DM: Can you explain what a beach crew does?

PL: A beach crew, the plane comes in and attaches itself to a buoy.

DM: Okay.

PL: And we have ramps that goes in the water.

DM: Ramps from Ford Island that go down in the water.

PL: Yes. And while the plane is floating out there, it hung onto the beach, to the buoy, they take the big wheels out. I don't know whether—well, they're like a big airplane wheels—and they hook 'em onto the side. There's places to hook 'em on and put the tail wheel on. Then there's a tow motor that pulls it up and parks it on a ramp, and that's what the beach crew does. And you do it just the opposite going back the other way.

DM: Because the PBV doesn't have any wheels, so in order to pull it up out of the water, you gotta attach this beaching here to it.

PL: That's right. The beaching gear has to be attached.

DM: And there's a tractor that comes along?

PL: It hooks onto that, the plane is headed out.

DM: Right.

PL: They pull it from the tail end.

DM: Okay. They pull it in, not from the bow?

PL: No, from the tail end.

DM: All right. Well, let me take you to the events of December 7. Now, on December 6, did you have the watch or the duty or did you have liberty?

PL: Well, let's see. December 6 would have been...

DM: A Saturday.

PL: ...Saturday. I would've been off. I would've been on liberty.

DM: And did you like to go down to Honolulu?

PL: Oh yeah.

DM: And go to the Black Cat, maybe?

PL: Yeah.

DM: Maybe head down to River Street and see what's going on?

PL: River Street, yeah. (Chuckles)

DM: Maybe see what the accommodations are like down there?

PL: Yeah.

DM: 'Cause I understand the new Senator and the Cottages, and these were places that were rather friendly.

PL: Yeah.

DM: And not unlike some of the places in New Orleans.

PL: Oh no. I might add that the biggest problem being in such—well, it was such a big naval base, and you know, if it's a lot of sailors everywhere you turned around, you saw a sailor.

DM: Right.

PL: But that was part of the deal, I guess.

DM: Well, you came from a small town, right?

PL: Oh yes, very small.

DM: So there was a lot, this was a big town. This naval...

PL: Oh yes. Yes.

DM: On the morning of December 7, did you have the duty that day?

PL: No.

DM: So where were you, you were at the barracks, right?

PL: I was at the barracks, in my bunk.

DM: What deck were you on in those barracks? Do you remember?

PL: I think it was the second floor.

DM: Second floor.

PL: Yeah.

DM: And a lot of people think the sailors slept late that morning, but actually on the ships, they got up early and had a breakfast and everything, but I don't know much about what happened at naval aviation. When did you have to get up or could you sleep in?

PL: Oh, I could sleep in. I had the day off.

DM: Okay.

PL: During that time, in the tropics, you only worked one out of three days. You were off in the afternoons. You only worked a half a day.

DM: Okay.

PL: Unless you had a duty.

DM: If you were in naval aviation?

PL: Well, yes.

DM: Yeah.

PL: Uh-huh, that's right.

DM: Now, was your barracks, was that open-bay or—you know, open-bay in the sense that a lot of guys slept in...

PL: Oh yes. Yeah, it was rows of bunks.

DM: And down on the first deck, as I understand it, there was a galley area.

PL: Yeah, they had—you made your—your meals were served down there. You had the master-at-arms where they checked you in and checked you out.

DM: How was the navy chow here in Hawaii?

PL: Good. Yeah.

DM: Now, the morning of December 7, I would like you to just tell me how it happened, to you.

PL: Well, it was turmoil. It was really something. We, when we realized that it was an attack, well most of the fellows ran down to the barracks, to the hangars.

DM: Okay.

PL: And that's where we didn't do much, we couldn't do much. But everyone was running around like chickens cut off, with chicken heads cut off.

DM: Let me take you to the barracks. Were you awake or did the bombs wake you up?

PL: The bombs woke me up.

DM: And what, did you say, “What the heck was that?”

PL: Yeah.

DM: Did you think a plane exploded or what did you think?

PL: When we realized that it was an attack, well we all ran down to the hangars to do as much as we could because we’re quite a little ways from the hangar.

DM: Did you look out the window and see planes or did you see anything up there?

PL: Really, it’s hard to say ‘cause I can’t remember for sure. But everybody was, it was really...

DM: So you threw your clothes on.

PL: Yeah.

DM: And what did you throw on, dungarees?

PL: Yes. Yes. And what really hit me was the fact that when I went down to the barracks, down through where the master-at-arms was, he had a chair in his hand, he was breaking all of the windows in the, all the front windows in the...

DM: And why was he doing that?

PL: Because he must have had knowledge that they were bombing us.

DM: And he didn’t want the shrapnel...

PL: The splinters, right. That’s it.

DM: And what did you think? What the heck is going on?

PL: Yeah.

DM: And so I know where I...

PL: You have a vision...

DM: I know where the barracks are.

PL: The barracks.

DM: So you're running down that roadway.

PL: Going to...

DM: Down towards hangar number six. What hangar were you at?

PL: Well, we were in the hangar, the first hangar, we were right across from the dry dock.

DM: Okay, so you were hangar...

PL: The first hangar.

DM: ...twenty-one?

PL: Twenty-three.

DM: Twenty-three.

PL: Yeah.

DM: Okay.

PL: I think that's the way it was.

DM: I will send you a chart and we'll do this later. I will correspond with you. I'll send you a chart and you'll be able to mark these things.

PL: Okay.

DM: We'll clarify that. All right. So you get down there and what do you see?

PL: I see planes burning, hangars burning and everyone's running around.

DM: You see casualties?

PL: I really didn't. No, I didn't.

DM: And that must've been the day before, everything was fine and you see this destruction.

PL: Yeah.

DM: Did it strike you and did you see planes then?

PL: Yeah, it was just hard to comprehend. I mean, you know, here I was, only nineteen years old at the time.

DM: And what'd you think? Were you scared?

PL: Well, yeah, but it was excitement was just—we didn't 'til we realized how bad it was. Especially when I went back to the barracks and saw the *Oklahoma* not far from the barracks.

DM: Right.

PL: Tipped over and the *Arizona* was just a little ways...

DM: Did you, when you went out of the barracks to get down there, even glance towards Battleship Row, or were you so concentrated...

PL: No. No. We just ran.

DM: And the noise must've been tremendous.

PL: Yes, it was.

DM: 'Cause there was gunfire and there was bombs going off.

PL: Bombs.

DM: Planes roaring overhead.

PL: Mm-hm. And there were two waves at the time.

DM: Right.

PL: You know, there was two...

DM: Now, where were you when the second wave...

PL: Well, I, we were, I can't remember what we were doing. But when the second wave came, everyone ran for the hangars, to get inside the hangars.

DM: But might not been as safe in the hangars, since...

PL: No.

DM: ...they bombed 'em.

PL: That's right. But we couldn't save any of it. I think we got one plane off.

DM: Now, I know that down on the PBY ramp, where your planes were, VP-23 planes, there was also planes from the battleships. There were some Kingfishers down there, the *Arizona*'s planes were down there. Did you see those planes? One of our—and they were marked, but...

PL: Well, from where we were, our hangar was, we really didn't see much of what was going on at the air station, at the airstrip.

DM: Right, right. You were a fair distance from Hangar Six, right?

PL: Yeah.

DM: Yeah.

PL: Hangar Six must've been carrier planes?

DM: Well, no, Hangar Number Six and Twenty-three were right at the end of the PBY ramps, yeah. And Twenty-three, we'll look at that and see where exactly where you were. But that was where the greatest destruction was and there was a lot of damaged planes and I'm sure that's what you were looking at.

PL: Yes.

DM: Because you could look out from there and look across at the...

PL: At the shipyard.

DM: Yeah, at the shipyard and floating dry dock number...

PL: Floating, yeah.

DM: ...where the *Shaw* was

PL: The *Shaw*.

DM: And beyond that, the *Pennsylvania*. In fact, you've seen those pictures taken from there.

PL: Oh yes.

DM: And those are some of the most vivid images because you can see a sailor sitting on the ground and a sailor standing and they're looking at all of this and all these damaged planes. It must've been inconceivable to you that this could ever...

PL: Well, it was.

DM: Did you know it was the Japanese?

PL: No.

DM: Who'd you think was doing this?

PL: We had no idea. (Chuckles) But...

DM: Did you ever see the wings of those planes finally and figure...

PL: Finally we come to that conclusion it was Japs, because we could see the Rising Sun on their wings.

DM: What were you guys trying to do down there?

PL: Well, we were trying to get some of our planes up in the air, but that wouldn't have—I can't see why that would help any. I mean, a PBV against a Zero has no chance.

DM: Right.

PL: You might as well stay where you are.

DM: Was anybody trying to get the guns out of the planes?

PL: Oh yes. There were a few fellows that got the guns out of the waist hatch. They were mounted on the pedestals.

DM: Right.

PL: And they managed to get quite a few of 'em off.

DM: And start firing back?

PL: Firing back. Especially for the second round, by that time, we knew what was coming.

DM: Yeah. And what did you do down there for the rest of the raid? Do you recall?

PL: I can't really recall.

DM: Did you hang with some of your friends that you worked with? Or...

PL: Yes.

DM: ...were you on your own?

PL: And we set up tents and we slept—for the first week, we didn't go back to the barracks.

DM: Oh, so you slept out there by your...

PL: Oh, we slept behind the hangars. And they brought our meals down and we didn't go back. We drank water out of the swimming pool.

DM: Oh, you did?

PL: Mm-hm.

DM: Because the water line had busted, right?

PL: Well, yeah, and they were afraid of, you know, they thought there might be some sabotage too.

DM: And might have poison. 'Cause when the *Arizona* went down, it went down on the water line for the Ford Island. So what did you think the next day was going to bring?

PL: That was...that's hard to say. I guess my biggest concern was to let my family know that I was still alive. 'Cause I knew they would be worried.

DM: And did you get that word to them?

PL: Yes. They gave us little cards, special for, just to let 'em, you know, to send home to the families, to let 'em know that you were still alive.

DM: Does that card still exist?

PL: No. I don't know whatever happened to it. Because I didn't get back—I left to go in the navy in April of '41 and I didn't get back 'til '43. I didn't get any boot camp, or no boot leave or anything.

DM: After Pearl Harbor, did you stay in the Pacific?

PL: Oh yes. For a while, for some time.

DM: Did you, were you involved in any of the...

PL: Yes.

DM: ...battles?

PL: We had a skirmish. We observed a task force and we had a skirmish with two Jap planes.

DM: Okay. Where was this at?

PL: This was in Santa Cruz.

DM: Santa Cruz battle?

PL: Area. And we lost our navigator. It was a fluke shot. He got hit in his throat and hemorrhaged.

DM: Right.

PL: And that was really the biggest contact we had with the Japs.

DM: Uh-huh. Were you in the Battle of Midway?

PL: No. I wasn't. I wasn't in the flight crew then.

DM: Okay. Now, in '43, you go back home, are you reassigned after that?

PL: Forty-three, I go back home with the intention that I'll go back to the islands, the Pacific. When I get back to North Island, off of leave, they—see, this is a whole squadron. Said, “Your orders have been changed. You're going to Camp Curry,” which is Miramar now.

DM: Right.

PL: And you're going to have B-24s. Only we call them PB-4Ys.

DM: Right. And they had the different tail, right.

PL: Right. But we had the double tail.

DM: Oh, you had double tails?

PL: We were one of the first twenty-four squadrons the navy had.

DM: So VP-23 now went to these new...

PL: Yes.

DM: ...twenty-fours.

PL: And it was called 103 then.

DM: Okay. So the designation changed.

PL: Yeah. And from there, we went to Norfolk, Virginia. We stayed there for a couple of weeks and then went to Quanset Point. And from there, we went to Argentia, Newfoundland. And then...

DM: Now you're in the Atlantic?

PL: Right. Well, I'm in Argentia, [*Newfoundland*] there's another squadron being formed in—I can't remember the name of that airfield out of Norfolk. So four of us was sent back and we formed VP-114.

DM: Okay.

PL: And from there, we went to North Africa.

DM: And were you flying the B-24s too?

PL: B-24s.

DM: Okay.

PL: With the double tail. We didn't have the PB-4Y1, with the single tail. We still had the older...

DM: Old B-24s.

PL: Yeah.

DM: And then you served in the North African theater?

PL: Yeah.

DM: And then did you move up and go to England?

PL: Oh yes. We operated out of, we operated, half of the squadron operated out of Gibraltar. We operated and we were doing anti-submarine work in the Bay of Biscay and in the Mediterranean.

DM: So you're probably one of the few Pearl Harbor survivors in this organization both fought the Japanese and the Germans.

PL: Right.

DM: And the Italians.

PL: Yeah.

DM: And were you in—go ahead.

PL: Well, from Gibraltar, we were transferred to England. And we operated out of England.

DM: In 1944?

PL: Forty-four, yeah. We went to England a week after D-Day.

DM: Okay.

PL: A week after...

DM: I was going to ask you if you were involved in D-Day. You were post D-Day, you were involved.

PL: Yeah.

DM: And did you have any close brushes with the Germans?

PL: No. By the time we got there, we had more or less control of...

DM: Of the air.

PL: ...going over with the submarines, because that was our biggest trip, was the...

DM: Now did you stay all the way through V-E Day?

PL: Oh yes. I had—when I went in, I joined for six years.

DM: Okay.

PL: And I had to stay, I had to take my time.

DM: Did they send you back after the Pacific, after that?

PL: No. I was given shore duty, which I thought I rated.

DM: (Chuckles) After fighting a war for five years.

PL: Right.

DM: Well, how come you joined the Pearl Harbor Survivors? Why did...

PL: Well, I tell you, for some reason, I wasn't in contact with any of the fellows. So I decided—I don't know why, what made me think of wanting to join, but I did join the Pearl Harbor Survivors. And then the list of new members, the day that the magazine came out, there was two fellows called me that day.

DM: That remembered you?

PL: Who remembered me. And then they just kept going and that way I went to the reunions. And I go to several reunions because we have a fleet Air Wing Seven from the Atlantic, plus the Twenty-three and Pearl Harbor.

DM: So, today is the fifty-seventh anniversary, do you remember that like it was yesterday?

PL: There's a lot of things that I don't think I'll ever forget, like walking, that afternoon, walking through the mess hall and looking at all the bodies on the mess hall tables.

DM: Where you used to eat?

PL: Huh?

DM: Where you used to eat?

PL: Yeah. They were using that for a...

DM: Morgue.

PL: ...morgue. Well, morgue or if they were alive, they'd take 'em, but that's where they laid 'em. Most of the fellows were off the ships, full of oil. It was...

DM: Is that the first time you saw a dead person?

PL: Yeah.

DM: That's a big thing to swallow when you're that age.

PL: Yeah.

DM: Is there any other memory that's vivid to you besides that?

PL: Well, none that I can say. I guess when we had the skirmish with the two Jap planes.

DM: And seeing somebody die in combat?

PL: Yeah.

DM: What's this all mean to us as a country, Pearl Harbor, in your view? What should we remember about this? What's the lesson?

PL: Well, I really can't think of anything but I guess we should never let our guard down again.

DM: 'Cause young men and women will...

PL: Right.

DM: ...end up like they did in the barracks, right.

PL: Right. And you know, I'll add something to what I've been saying. We flew patrols—I was in the flight crew, I had to correct that. I wasn't in the flight crew before the war, but I did get to Midway. But we flew a patrol out of Oahu before the war, with guns in the air, live ammunition in the guns. But I went over the *Chicago*, we had general quarters every morning and every night. That was before the war.

DM: All right.

PL: Which makes you think, you know, how did we ever let 'em get that, you know, get to us that way?

DM: I suspect that they were determined to get to you guys.

PL: Yeah.

DM: And they chose a route that was rough seas.

PL: Yeah.

DM: Not well patrolled.

PL: Right.

DM: And that's war.

PL: And we never thought that they would hit Pearl Harbor. They thought they would hit, maybe, out in the Pacific somewhere, but never that close to home.

DM: Maybe that's the lesson.

PL: Yeah, that is a lesson, I think.

DM: I'd like to thank you so much for this interview and telling me more about PBYS than I've known before. And this interview will go a long way in making people understand what you did on that fateful day in December.

PL: Uh-huh.

DM: Thank you very much.

PL: Okay.

END OF INTERVIEW