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Interview with

W. E. BOYD

May 14, 1982

Place of Interview: Austin, Texas

Interviewer: R. E. Marcello

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Oral History Collection

W. E. Boyd

Interviewer: Dr, Ronald E, Marcello

Place of Interview: Austin, Texas

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Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing W, E, Boyd for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on May 14, 1982, in Austin, Texas. I'm interviewing Mr. Boyd in order to get his reminiscences and experiences and impressions while he was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Company C, 3rd Engineers during the Japanese attack there and at the other military installations on December 7, 1941,

Mr, Boyd, to begin this interview, just very briefly give me a biographical sketch of yourself. In other words, tell me when you were born, where you were born, your education-- things of that nature. Just be very brief and general.

Mr. Boyd: Well, I was born on January 23, 1917, in Blooming Grove, Texas. I went to school at Pecan School. It was a little country school. I was raised up on a farm and lived there until I got nearly grown. I worked some in Dallas, where I could find work to do. In 1941, February 24, I joined the Army.

Marcello: Why did you decide to join the service in 1941?

Boyd: The draft was a coming on--I saw that--and I was the right age, so I said, "Well, I'll just go on and get mine over with,"

Marcello: Why did you decide to join the Army as opposed to one of the other branches of the service?

Boyd: Oh, that's kind of hard to say, I guess, I just thought about the Army, and that's about it.

Marcello: How hard was it to get into the Army in 1941?

Boyd: It wasn't too hard. However, before this, me and one of my buddies went to join the Marines, I got in all right, passed, all right, but he didn't, so I came back and joined the Army.

Marcello: Where did you take your basic training?

Boyd: At Schofield Barracks,

Marcello: Where were you inducted into the Army?

Boyd: Dallas, Texas,...well, no, I signed up in Corsicana, but they sent me to Dallas and from Dallas to San Francisco, Angel Island, and from there on to Honolulu,

Marcello: At the time that you joined the Army, did you know that you would be going to the Hawaiian Islands?

Boyd: Yes,

Marcello: What did you think about the idea of going to the Hawaiian Islands?

Boyd: I kind of liked to see part of the world, anyhow, so I just... there was an opening there and...well, no, not really. There

was an opening in the Philippines at that time, but I went to Dallas, stayed a week, and they didn't get up as many as they ought to, so there was a bunch going to the Hawaiian Islands, 3rd Engineers, so I went with them. I hadn't ever been sworn in. I was just waiting on a bunch to go, So that's how I went to the Hawaiian Islands instead of the Philippines,

Marcello: Describe what happens when you get off the ship at Honolulu. What procedure takes place at that point?

Boyd: Well, I got on a train--I brought my equipment and the stuff that I had, which wasn't too much--and went out to Schofield,

Marcello: You did know that you were in the 3rd Engineers at this time?

Boyd: Yes,

Marcello: Is this the little train that they used to refer to as the "Pineapple Special" or something?

Boyd: That's right, the "Pineapple Special," I stood up, I think, for about twenty miles. We didn't get to sit down. It was crowded, and we stood up going out to Schofield,

Marcello: Now when you got out to Schofield, were you assigned to one of the quadrangles?

Boyd: Yes,

Marcello: Describe what your living quarters were like inside that quadrangle,

Boyd: Well, it was just a big room with double bunks up. I was on the second floor of this particular unit. It was just for training recruits, and that was all that was in there. That's

just about all.

Marcello: How many of those quadrangles were there?

Boyd: Well, this was just about one city block. This was Company A, Company B, Company C, and Company D, E, and F at that time. When I got through with training, I went into Company F, but then just sometime after that they changed and made...this was a regiment, and they just made a 3rd Engineer Battalion and a 65th, I believe, Engineer Battalion. They made two battalions and shipped one out, and we stayed there. I was in Company C at that time.

Marcello: Schofield was a pretty large place, was it not?

Boyd: Oh, yes, it was a large place. It had infantry, field artillery, cavalry. Yes, it was a big, large place.

Marcello: Describe what your basic training was like there at Schofield.

Boyd: It was just lots of marching, calisthenics, and then after we finally learned how to march, we got our rifles and held rifle training, shooting rifles and things like that.

Marcello: How long did basic training last?

Boyd: Six weeks.

Marcello: Was that shorter than what it had been prior to the coming of the national emergency? Do you know?

Boyd: I believe that six weeks...I believe that they cut that down some after that. But six weeks was our basic training, and then we were really turned to duty and assigned to a company.

Marcello: At the time that you joined the Army, how closely were you

keeping abreast of the current events and world affairs--things of that nature?

Boyd: Pretty close. I was trying to keep up with it, and I understand now that we were supposed to have been on the alert at the time. I didn't know a whole lot about that, what was going on.

Marcello: When you thought of the country getting into war, were your eyes turned more toward Europe or the Far East?

Boyd: Europe,

Marcello: Do you think that was probably because the war had already started there?

Boyd: I imagine that's what we were looking at more than anything. Of course, I didn't know about Japan, but I think everybody realized that we would be in war over there, too, if we was in war in Europe.

Marcello: What kind of function did you perform after you got out of boot camp? What was your job?

Boyd: Well, they assigned me to the motor pool because I had a history of mechanics and that kind of work. That's the kind of work I was doing before I went into the service. But I told my sergeant, "I joined the Army to get out of this garage!" But, anyhow, he put me down there at that time. After that, after I did some mechanic work there, then I was assigned to the deep well over there. I don't know if you are familiar with the water well over there or not, but they had one deep well over there that furnished all the island with water--Honolulu and

everything. We had a Guniting machine that blowed this cement on the walls--just a little water, a little sand, and a little cement. I was up working in this deep well, 1,300 feet in the ground, and then 200 or 300 feet from there on down to the water. We were Guniting the walls, and I was training civilians to operate this Guniting machine down in this well.

That's where I was at whenever they bombed Pearl Harbor--before. I went into Honolulu that night. I had been out in the field for a month, I guess, with these civilians, and I went down to Honolulu that night. About twelve o'clock, I came in to the barracks--the first time I had been in the barracks in, I guess, a month, anyhow.

Marcello: Okay, let's back up a little bit because we are getting a little bit ahead of our story. You mentioned that when you got out of boot camp you were working in the motor pool as a mechanic. Approximately how long did you work there?

Boyd: That was in April, I guess, April or May. I was in the motor pool up until December 7.

Marcello: In other words, you were still assigned to the motor pool even when you were working in this deep water well?

Boyd: Yes, as an operator on a Guniting machine.

Marcello: How did you get to be assigned to that deep water well?

Boyd: I had taken some training on this Guniting machine. I was operating this. They wanted some civilians out there to learn to operate this Guniting machine, and that's why they sent me.

Marcello: Basically, what was involved was simply spraying this sand and cement on the walls of this deep water well?

Boyd: On the walls, to keep it from sluffing off or caving in. It wasn't straight down in the ground; it went at an angle. You would go just about in the middle of a cane patch, in a little tin building. You would get down in this building and go down under the ground on a little cable car. You'd go out about fifty yards underground and then angle down to the bottom where all the machinery, pumps, and everything was.

Marcello: Did you enjoy that work?

Boyd: Oh, yes.

Marcello: Why did you like to do that?

Boyd: Well, you didn't have so many, . . . you know how it is in the Army with all the bosses (chuckle), I was kind of on my own out there working with them. I had bosses, yes, and they would come around. But I was in charge of the civilians and the Gunite machine in the deep well.

Marcello: What was the chow like in that pre-Pearl Harbor Army?

Boyd: Good. I liked the chow. People grumbled about it, but we had good chow.

Marcello: What part did sports play in the life of that pre-Pearl Harbor Army?

Boyd: Well, I played a little golf during that time. I played a little football, not much.

Marcello: Did you ever go to any of those boxing smokers?

- Boyd: No, only just right there in the company, I played a lot of pool, We had a pool table,
- Marcello: I understand that there was a lot of competition in athletics, though, between the various units on the island.
- Boyd: Yes, there was,
- Marcello: In general, how would you describe the morale of you and your buddies in that pre-Pearl Harbor Army?
- Boyd: It was good, Of course, everybody was over there for two years, and then they came back in the States for one, Of course, everybody was kind of happy when they went "over the hump" and got that one year in, You knew that you was "over the hump" and coming on back, Everybody was ready to come back after a couple of years,..well, not everybody. There was some that would "re" up (reenlist) and stay over there,
- Marcello: I've heard it said that after a while those islands could become confining,
- Boyd: Yes, after just a little while, But then after you get used to it,..now that's the reason I liked it out in the field so much, You could kind of do what you wanted to, and I did have a pretty good deal going while I was in the Army, I enjoyed it, Now after the war started, you know, I still stayed in the field, I didn't have to stay in the barracks much. I had KP one time, but I didn't ever have any guard duty or anything, so I was doing all right,
- Marcello: Awhile ago, you mentioned that the morale seemed to be pretty

high in your unit. How do you explain that?

Boyd: I don't know, It was kind of like a family. As long as we could get passes, go to Honolulu, everybody was happy. But if somebody would mess up, we'd get restricted to the barracks or something, and it would drop a whole lot. But that didn't happen too often. Everybody knew they was there for two years, and it just seemed like everybody kind of enjoyed it. There was some that didn't, but most of them did.

Marcello: How did the liberty routine work for you there at Schofield Barracks?

Boyd: Real good. I got my driver's license, so I could drive a truck or a jeep. I had a Class A pass, so I could go in and out whenever I was off-duty or anything. I could get off anytime.

Marcello: In other words, since you were working in the motor pool, did you have access to some of the equipment and so on?

Boyd: Well, not for my benefit, but if I needed to go somewhere, yes, I did.

Marcello: Oh, I see. In other words, you couldn't use the vehicles and so on, let's say, when you went on liberty or anything like that.

Boyd: Oh, no, no, no.

Marcello: What did a Class A pass mean? What was a Class A pass?

Boyd: Well, they issued you a pass. Now until you're in the Army so long, you have to go in and ask for a pass, and they'll write you out a pass for that day or overnight, whatever it is. And

a Class A pass, you carry it with you all the time. Anytime you're off-duty, you could leave the barracks and go down to Honolulu, Wahiawa, or wherever,

Marcello: When were you able to get off duty?

Boyd: Mostly on the weekends,

Marcello: How about during the week?

Boyd: No, we didn't get off--just on weekends. Maybe we could get off for something special. Now I had a cousin that was in the Navy there, and when he would come in, I could get a pass to go down and visit with him. He would come out there, and we'd get a pass and go somewhere during the week,

Marcello: Other than that, however, are you saying that it was pretty hard to get off the base during the week?

Boyd: Yes, that's right. If somebody was on a job or something and didn't have to work for some reason or another during the day, yes, he could get a pass. But we always had work to do.

Marcello: How about in the evenings? Could you get off during the evenings?

Boyd: Yes,

Marcello: So when did the workday end there at Schofield Barracks?

Boyd: Oh, I believe we came into the barracks about five o'clock. Of course, you know, you just had a few hours to go down to Honolulu or walk over to Wahiawa, which was closer, but after you got off work, we just didn't hardly have any time to get down to Honolulu and then get back,

Marcello: How far away was Honolulu?

Boyd: About twenty miles.

Marcello: How would you get from Schofield to Honolulu?

Boyd: Bus. And they quit running at twelve o'clock.

Marcello: Wouldn't some of the guys get together and get a jitney to go down to Honolulu, also?

Boyd: Yes, they did. Yes, that's right. They did.

Marcello: You mentioned that one of the other places that you would go would be Wahiawa. Now where was it located?

Boyd: It was just outside Schofield.

Marcello: What was there to do there?

Boyd: Nothing much, go to the ice cream parlor or something like that. That's about it. It had, I imagine, a population of 700 or 800. It had less than a thousand people there.

Marcello: What kind of establishments were there to take the servicemen's money?

Boyd: Oh, there was nearly everything, just things that you can buy, just like a little town out here in the country. Of course, there wasn't as much there as, say, probably here, but you could go to a little ol' bakery shop. They had all kinds of stuff like that. You could get a little something extra there--ice cream and cake, something like that--and you enjoyed it.

Marcello: I understand there were all sorts of other shops there, also, like tailor shops and things of that nature.

Boyd: Yes, tattoo shops and all that stuff.

Marcello: How often would you get into Honolulu?

Boyd: I would probably go down there about twice a month,

Marcello: When you went to Honolulu, what was your usual routine? What would you do when you went down there?

Boyd: Oh, just go to the beach down at Waikiki or things like that. That's about it. I drank a little beer,

Marcello: Did you ever tour Hotel or Canal Streets?

Boyd: Yes,

Marcello: What was there to do over there?

Boyd: Oh, you could get something to drink, but I didn't drink too much. I drank a little. We went to these Japanese tea rooms, drank a little, sat down on the floor and ate a little--just sat down on the floor,

Marcello: What was your favorite place to go in Honolulu at that time?

Boyd: A little Japanese tea room. I can't think of the name of it. It was an elderly couple that...it was real nice. They had rooms. I would always get a room to stay all night.

Marcello: Did you stay all night very often?

Boyd: Maybe on Saturday nights. We'd get down there on Friday night and spend the night.

Marcello: How much money were you making at that time?

Boyd: Well, \$21 a month.

Marcello: When was payday? Do you recall?

Boyd: Once a month. I forget the day. That's what I say--we didn't have much money to spend. Of course, it didn't take near as much

money then as it does now, but still you had to be pretty close with it to make it from one payday to the next,

Marcello: Now as one gets closer and closer to December 7, 1941, and as conditions between the United States and Japan continued to get worse, could you detect any changes in the routine there at Schofield Barracks.

Boyd: Yes, it was some difference for a little while, but right prior to December 7, I couldn't tell any difference. But I think sometime about August of 1941, for a while, we were kind of on the alert.

Marcello: What would occur when one of these alerts took place?

Boyd: We would just fall out, and that's about all there was to it. We would fall out in assembly, and they would tell us something about it, that things wasn't looking too good.

Marcello: Would you ever go into the field?

Boyd: Oh, yes, we would go out on manuevers, yes.

Marcello: What would you do when you sent out on those manuevers?

Boyd: Just have a little mock battle--choose up sides out there. We had a rifle but not live ammunition, We had to use a little paddle that we popped together like a machine gun if we was in a crossfire or something.

Marcello: Did you have plenty of equipment for training, or was there scarcity of equipment?

Boyd: No, we had plenty of equipment there at that time.

Marcello: Did you notice that these alerts or manuevers increased as

one gets closer to December 7?

Boyd: Yes, we was out in the field quite a bit more--training, landing on the beach,

Marcello: What was your unit's particular function when an alert was called? What would it do?

Boyd: In the 3rd Combat Engineers, there would be a squad of engineers attached to an infantry company, and we would go with them to build bridges, these ol' corduroy bridges, we called them, with logs across swamps and things like that.

Marcello: So was there a particular sector of the island to which you would go?

Boyd: Yes, I've tried to think of this place, I know it was close to Haleiwa Beach, and we would go up in the mountains. Of course, we'd go up in the mountains, and then it gets flat up there. I know if we got a little time off in the afternoon, we could walk down to Haleiwa Beach and take a swim in the ocean,

Marcello: When you thought of a typical Japanese in that period, what kind of a person did you usually conjure up in your own mind?

Boyd: I got along real good with the Japanese, They were real friendly over there, They were really friendlier than the Chinese, But after the war started, you just had a feeling there that you didn't like to meet them too much, and you didn't meet them too much after that,

Marcello: Did you ever hear very much talk about the possibility of sabotage

being committed by those Japanese?

Boyd: Oh, yes, everybody was to watch for sabotage.

Marcello: Was this true even before the Pearl Harbor attack?

Boyd: Yes.

Marcello: What were some of the measures that were taken to prevent sabotage? Do you recall?

Boyd: No, I really don't.

Marcello: Do you recall any maneuvers that took place just prior to December 7, 1941?

Boyd: No. Now I know that my company was all out in the field on December 7 because I went into the barracks, and there wasn't a dozen people there.

Marcello: But they went out into the field after the attack occurred.

Boyd: Before.

Marcello: They went out before the attack occurred.

Boyd: I went in on December 6 at night, about twelve o'clock. I went into the barracks and spent the rest of the night before the attack the next morning, and there wasn't anybody, hardly, in the barracks. I don't remember because I wasn't with them, but they was out in the field somewhere on maneuvers at that time.

Marcello: Okay, let's go into that weekend of December 7, 1941. Let's start with that Saturday. What did you do that Saturday of December 6, 1941? Do you recall what your routine was on that Saturday?

Boyd: I was off-duty, I went down to Honolulu sometime up in the morning,

Marcello: So you spent most of Saturday in Honolulu?

Boyd: Yes,

Marcello: What did you do down there that Saturday?

Boyd: Oh, I don't hardly remember, I got a haircut and shave, These Japanese girls was the barbers over there at that time, We'd always get a haircut, shave, and a massage if we had the money, facial massage, I went down on the beach--Waikiki, That's about what we usually do when we go down there,

Marcello: What was the social life like for a young soldier in the Hawaiian Islands at that time?

Boyd: It wasn't too good, When I first got over there, it was a little different, but then there got to coming more and more soldiers and sailors and everything, and that's about all it was, We'd mostly mingle with one another.

Marcello: Where did you spend Saturday night?

Boyd: Back in the barracks,

Marcello: Did you visit any of the bars before you went back to the barrack?

Boyd: No, I didn't,

Marcello: So what did you do when you went back to the barracks?

Boyd: I went to bed about midnight,

Marcello: Was there any activity taking place back on the base when you returned?

Boyd: No, there wasn't anything going on, I rode the last bus in that night,

Marcello: Okay, this brings us into that Sunday morning of December 7, and, like you mentioned, there weren't very many people in the barracks that night?

Boyd: No, there wasn't. I'm sure there wasn't a dozen people there.

Marcello: If your unit was out in the field, why weren't you with them?

Boyd: I was assigned to this deep well, and I was working with civilians,

Marcello: Okay, I'm going to let you relate the story as it unfolded on that morning of December 7 from the time you get up until all hell broke loose,

Boyd: Well, it broke loose before I got up,

Marcello: Had you intended to sleep in that Sunday morning?

Boyd: Well, I was getting up, I heard these bombs going off, There was a guy about two bunks up from me, another soldier, and I said, "This dawn patrol is getting round here this morning," The dawn patrol would go out and come in every morning. He said, "Yes." I got up and was putting my pants on. I had on my pants, didn't have on my shirt.

I heard a machine gun and heard something hitting the top of the building. Company C was on the third floor up there, and I could hear something. I said, "That sounds like bullets hitting the top of this building!" So I went over there to the window, and I saw this plane with that rising sun on it. I

could see the machine gun bullets hitting the ground out there, and then I saw him turn a bomb loose. You could see that thing just fall right into a building, I says then, "That's not maneuvers! That's not the dawn patrol!"

Marcello: Awhile ago, you mentioned this dawn patrol, and I'd never heard it mentioned. What was the dawn patrol?

Boyd: Well, as I say, we was on the alert--supposed to be--for a good while, and there at Wheeler field, nearly every morning, just about daybreak, these planes would go out so far and come back, Now I don't think they was out there that morning, It was these other planes that I heard, Usually, whenever I was in the barracks before, you could hear them go out every morning about daylight, and by sunup they would come back in. That was it, They was supposed to be out checking. They called it the dawn patrol.

Marcello: Okay, let's get back to this initial Japanese airplane that you saw, How far off the ground was this airplane?

Boyd: It was just right up here (gesture), It looked like a hundred feet, It might have been more or less,

Marcello: Could you distinguish the pilot?

Boyd: You could see him, yes. I don't know if I saw him in that particular plane, but I saw another one come over about the same distance when I was outside, and you could see him,

Marcello: Okay, you mentioned that you hear this noise, You go to the window, and you see this airplane, You recognize it as a Japanese

plane.

Boyd: Yes,

Marcello: What do you do at that point? How do you react?

Boyd: I started getting my clothes on, and about the time I saw this, there was another little fellow who came running up the stairs from down below somewhere, and he ran through the barracks and said, "We're being attacked!" He said that two or three times, and a bomb would fall. You would hear one, and this fellow would hit the floor. He got up and ran right on back down. So by that time, I got my shoes and shirt and everything on, and I went downstairs.

Marcello: What did you do when you went downstairs?

Boyd: We got our rifles and things and went,, the company commander had got there, and the first sergeant, and they sent us out-- what was in there--on guard over to the Officer's Quarters.

Marcello: Now is the attack still taking place?

Boyd: Yes, it was taking place. Right at that time there was another one, and that's when I could see this pilot right over the quadrangle.

Marcello: Describe this particular incident.

Boyd: He came over,,,he was coming right over the quadrangle there, and in this corner here,,,like, this is the quadrangle (gesture) where you come out here to the street, I was in Company C, and Headquarters Company was right across the alley from it. He came in real low, and he wasn't a hundred feet up because this

soldier on top of headquarters Company over here was on one of these old water-cooled machine guns firing right at him. He came by, but he was shooting blank ammunition--he sure was.

Marcello: How did you know that?

Boyd: I found out afterwards. And it don't sound just right. I thought it sounded funny, but he threw out the ammunition, and it was all blanks. It was loaded with blanks.

Marcello: What was this Japanese plane doing? Was it bombing or strafing?

Boyd: Strafing. He dropped a bomb right there, but it didn't go off.

Marcello: Now when you said he was strafing, was he strafing your group or some other place?

Boyd: Right over the barracks.

Marcello: What did you do when you saw this plane?

Boyd: Oh, we was assembled right under the...well, there were three little balconies above us, and we were assembled under these.

Marcello: So you did have some kind of cover?

Boyd: Yes.

Marcello: Awhile ago, you mentioned that you got your rifle. Were the rifles passed out in an orderly fashion?

Boyd: No, we had our rifles stacked. Certainly, we knew where our rifles were at, but the supply sergeant was gone, so we had to break into the supply room to get them.

Marcello: How about ammunition?

Boyd: We had to get in there to get our ammunition. That's when we found out that these over here was shooting blank ammunition.

Marcello: Was there any hesitancy about breaking into the armory to get the rifles and ammunition?

Boyd: No, there wasn't. Like I say, the company commander and the first sergeant were both there,,well, I said the company commander, He got there after we got there. The first sergeant was there, but before we got in the company commander was there.

Marcello: Before you got in where?

Boyd: Into the supply room. We had assembled outside.

Marcello: Getting back to this Japanese pilot again, what did he look like?

Boyd: He just had his little ol' cap on, We couldn't,..it happened pretty fast, but you could see him sitting in there.

Marcello: How would you describe the scene? Was it well-organized, or was there a lot of chaos and confusion?

Boyd: In our part?

Marcello: Yes,

Boyd: There was a lot of confusion because it was a surprise. People were scared, and I was, too, I won't deny that. But the people were just running here and yonder,

There was a lot of military personnel, families, over there. Like I say, the Officer's Quarters was right behind our barracks, and the NCO's Quarters was right above that, between there and Wheeler Field, Schofield and Wheeler Field joins right there, and these women and kids all was coming in down there, running and hollering and screaming, But they sent me over to the

Officer's Quarters first to turn off the gas and electricity, was the main thing. Well, they was locked up, and all I had to do was knock the door in and unlock it to get in and turn it off and see what was going on in there.

Marcello: So you went over there by yourself?

Boyd: I went up one side, and another one went down the other side.

Marcello: About how far was the Officer's Quarters from you quadrangle?

Boyd: Like this quadrangle is here, and the Officer's Loop, they called it, was right around this way, right back into this. We went in here and come out over on this side of the quadrangle (gestures).

Marcello: In terms of distance, how far was it?

Boyd: It was about a block, you know, a block and back.

Marcello: In getting from the quadrangle to the Officer's Quarters, were you exposed? In other words, were you out in the open?

Boyd: Oh, yes,

Marcello: Did you come under any attack while you were going?

Boyd: No, that was about all the attack that I saw. Some more planes came over, and then I saw a plane or two get up. I guess from Wheeler Field is where it was, I saw two planes shot down right there--two Japanese planes, They fell right close by-- one over at Wahlaw and one back the other way.

Marcello: You mentioned awhile ago that that was about all the action that you really were engaged in after that second plane left. About how much time elapsed from the time you heard the first explosions until the action was over?

Boyd: It seems to me like it was over in fifteen or twenty minutes-- the best I can remember.

Marcello: Evidently, most of the action was taking place over at Wheeler Field. They wanted those planes, didn't they?

Boyd: Wheeler Field, yes. That went on for a good while. I could hear some right smart action going on--I don't know what it was--after I was around here turning the gas and stuff off at the Officer's Quarters.

Marcello: After you had taken care of that business over at the Officer's Quarters, what did you do next?

Boyd: Walked guard back and forth through there.

Marcello: Over at the Officer's Quarters?

Boyd: Yes, Yes, I stayed on guard for fourteen days, until we got some relief over there to take us off.

Marcello: What happened that evening? What were some of the interesting things that happened that evening?

Boyd: There was just lots of shooting going on among our men. Every-time something would happen, you would hear gunfire. It wasn't the Japanese planes they were shooting at, One of our planes would get off the ground, and they would shoot at it.

Marcello: Were you on guard duty that night?

Boyd: Yes, I was on guard for fourteen days and nights.

Marcello: What kind of relief did you get while you were on guard duty?

Boyd: Not very much. See, there was a Japanese barber shop down in the quadrangle there, and there was about six or eight chairs

there, and we just used that because these Japanese barbers left. We didn't see nothing after them. We used that for a guard-house. We would sleep in a barber chair a few minutes at a time there for several days, several nights. About the time we would get a little sleep, well, they would have an air raid alarm. Of course, we would have to all get up and get out there. Really, it was just something else, you know. People were still pretty nervous.

Marcello: How many hours would you be on guard duty before you got relieved?

Boyd: Four,

Marcello: Four on and then how many off?

Boyd: You was supposed to get off two. Most of the time we didn't get two,

Marcello: Where were you fed, or how were you fed?

Boyd: Well, our barracks was right there, and we'd go over to the barracks and eat.

Marcello: What kind of rumors did you hear that night after the attack?

Boyd: Every kind. I can't hardly remember all of it. We heard that there was Japanese troopships down there landing all around the beaches and all--that kind of stuff like that.

Marcello: Did you believe these rumors?

Boyd: Well, yes,

Marcello: I guess you had no reason not to believe them.

Boyd: That's right.

Marcello: Did you, yourself, do any firing that night?

Boyd: No, I didn't, I didn't fire a round,

Marcello: How much ammunition did you have?

Boyd: I just had a belt full of ammunition, as all I had,

Marcello: You mentioned that you continued to stay on guard duty in those days following the attack?

Boyd: Yes, for fourteen days I was on guard duty.

Marcello: Did you ever get a chance to examine the damage that was done over at Wheeler Field?

Boyd: Yes,

Marcello: What did it look like? Describe the scene over there.

Boyd: Well, now whenever I was there, there was some planes that was bombed down here outside the hangars, but there was two hangars here that they said was full of planes, and that's the two hangars that they bombed the most right there, Some of the empty ones, they didn't bomb. It was tore up not as bad as Hickam Field, but it was nearly just about knocked out.

Marcello: What did the flight line itself look like?

Boyd: These planes that was down here at the end of the runway, I understand that they had an inspection on Saturday and had taken all the guns off the planes, These pilots that got out here and got up carried their guns with them and put them on the plane and took off, I saw them shoot down two Japanese planes there that morning,

Marcello: What did that do for your morale?

Boyd: Well, it helped. This little ol' P-40--I think that's what it was, a P-40--I mean, that thing went up there, and he come right on down there and knocked him out. I don't know whether it was the same P-40, same pilot, that went on over here then and got the other one or not. But they got two of them right quick, and then that was about the end of the action for the Japanese planes right there at that time. But they kept bombing further on.

Marcello: What kind of damage was done over at Schofield?

Boyd: Not too much damage there.

Marcello: How long did you remain in the Hawaiian Islands before you left?

Boyd: Let's see,,,I was there about a year. We built pillboxes and dug out all around that island after that.

Marcello: So they were still fully expecting an invasion to take place?

Boyd: Yes, they sure was.

Marcello: Okay, well, Mr. Boyd, I think that's probably a good place to end this interview. I want to thank you very much for having taken time to talk with me about the events there at Schofield Barracks. You said some very interesting and important things.

Boyd: I hope that I've remembered everything. I think of other things every once in awhile that I'm sure I haven't thought about here. But it was pretty exciting, I'll tell you that. I hope we don't ever have to have it again.

Marcello: Well, again, I thank you very much for giving me your thoughts.

Boyd: I appreciate it.