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Interview with
Jose Amancio Perez
July 8, 1978

Place of Interview: Corpus Christi, Texas
Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello
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Oral History Collection

Jose Perez

Interviewer: Ronald E. Marcello

Place of Interview: Corpus Christi, Texas

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Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing Jose Perez for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on July 8, 1978, in Corpus Christi, Texas. I'm interviewing Mr. Perez in order to get his reminiscences and experiences and impressions while he was stationed at Camp Malakole during the Japanese attack there and at Pearl Harbor and the surrounding military installations on December 7, 1941.

Mr. Perez, to begin this interview just very briefly tell me a little bit about yourself. In other words, when were you born and where were you born?

Mr. Perez: I was born in San Diego, Texas, on December 23, 1919.

Dr. Marcello: Did you grow up and go to school in San Diego?

Mr. Perez: Yes, I did.

Dr. Marcello: When did you enter the service?

Mr. Perez: It was in August, 1940.

Dr. Marcello: Why did you decide to enter the service?

Mr. Perez: Well, at that time, things were pretty rough over here

because of the Depression, so the best thing I could do was to join the service.

Marcello: You know, the Great Depression was something that motivated a great many people to go into the service. Jobs were kind of hard to find, and the service offered a little bit of security, did it not?

Perez: Yes, sir, it sure did.

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

Perez: Well, I had read about the Army was good, you know, and you go places, see things--which I did.

Marcello: Did you go directly to the Hawaiian Islands when you entered the service in 1940?

Perez: No, sir, I went to Marfa, Texas, and that's where I got my three months training.

Marcello: Oh, you did get your training in Marfa, Texas.

Perez: Yes, sir. At that time, it was three months training. Twenty-one dollars a month.

Marcello: And this was the normal Army basic training?

Perez: Yes, sir, it was.

Marcello: Was there anything eventful that happened in boot camp that you think we need to get as part of the record?

Perez: Well, twelve of us Spanish guys joined here in San Antonio at Fort Sam Houston, and from there they sent us to Marfa.

Marcello: What was the base there in Marfa?

Perez: It was the 7th Division.

Marcello: What was the fort there?

Perez: It was Field Artillery.

Marcello: I see, Field Artillery.

Perez: Yes, sir, 155-millimeter howitzers.

Marcello: Okay, and this is where you took your boot training?

Perez: Yes, sir. There was twelve of us. You see, there at that time, they didn't like no Spanish guys; I mean, they were always after us. So we decided to go ahead with our training that we was supposed to get. After we got out of training, we asked for a transfer to the Hawaiian Islands. So we were granted that transfer.

Marcello: Why did you want to go to the Hawaiian Islands?

Perez: Well, they said it was pretty nice. It was the paradise of the Pacific, which it was. Everything was just very nice.

Marcello: Were you looking forward to a tropical paradise and that sort of thing?

Perez: Well, yes, sir, I was.

Marcello: Now, when you got the Hawaiian Islands, did you go directly to Camp Malakole?

Perez: Yes, sir, we did. We were attached to the 251st National Guard, which was from San Diego, California. At that time, there were only eight regular Army men, which I was one of

them. So we were attached to them, and we were with them all the way through when the attack happened.

Marcello: So there were only eight regular Army men attached to that National Guard Division?

Perez: Yes, sir. Out of the thirteen that actually transferred, some went one way and the other ones went the other way.

Marcello: Now were there more than eight regular Army people in that entire division?

Perez: No, I don't think there was, because we was the first ones that they got in there from the regular Army.

Marcello: Why was it that they put you as regular Army people in with this National Guard division?

Perez: Well, I never could figure that out; I mean, I don't know why. Maybe they needed some more soldiers, and we could help them more. That's the only way I can figure that.

Marcello: Where was Camp Malakole located?

Perez: Well, it was on the other side of the island. I believe it was north from Pearl Harbor--where the harbor was. It was on the other side.

Marcello: In other words, you couldn't see Pearl Harbor and so on from where you were located?

Perez: No, sir.

Marcello: How big a camp was Malakole?

Perez: Well, we had Company A, B, C, and D; we had four companies

and headquarters. So I figure there was . . . well, we had maybe about 200 men, 250, something like that.

Marcello: It was a relatively small camp then?

Perez: Yes.

Marcello: What particular unit were you assigned to there at Camp Malakole?

Perez: Well, I was in antiaircraft. I was a loader at that time. I got my finger caught when I was loading . . . I got it caught here . . .

Marcello: In other words, you got your index finger caught on the loader?

Perez: Yes, sir, between the breechblock and the cartridge.

Marcello: What particular unit were you assigned to there? Now you were in an antiaircraft unit, but how was it designated? Like Company A, Company B?

Perez: It was Company A, antiaircraft.

Marcello: Of what division?

Perez: I don't know which division that I was attached to. I know there was a 251st National Guard. I don't know which division it was on the island.

Marcello: This was an antiaircraft unit to which you were attached?

Perez: Yes.

Marcello: How many weapons were there in this particular company?

Perez: Well, we had four antiaircraft batteries, and naturally we

had machine guns and rifles.

Marcello: What sort of heavy weapons did you have in this company?

In other words, what were the antiaircraft guns?

Perez: Ninety-millimeter guns.

Marcello: Ninety-millimeter guns?

Perez: Yes.

Marcello: And as you mentioned, you were a loader on these 90-millimeter guns.

Perez: Yes, at that time I was.

Marcello: Previously you mentioned that you had injured your index finger while loading. Did this occur during the attack or was this in during something else?

Perez: No, no, that was in training. That was even before the attack started.

Marcello: Now, describe what sort of training you underwent after you got there to Camp Malakole. In other words, describe what a typical day was like in this antiaircraft company. What sort of training did you undergo?

Perez: Well, since we already had our basic training here in the United States, when we went down there, they detached us to whatever we wanted to be. Like, I want to learn something about a 90-millimeter gun, so they teach me how to be a loader at that time. That was my training on it . . . or fuse-cutter if I want to learn to be a fuse-cutter. We

learned all that stuff because in case one was absent, you could take over right away, you see. We need about seven or eight men to run one of those guns--so that it could be operated.

Marcello: I see. In other words, even though you were a loader, you still had had some training as a fuse-cutter and as a fuse-setter, so that if anything happened to those people, you could take over their function.

Perez: Yes, sir.

Marcello: Now, did the training go on continually? Was it a daily thing?

Perez: Daily thing, yes.

Marcello: What did they stress in this training? Was it speed or efficiency or both?

Perez: Well, accuracy. In other words, to be right on target and speed at the same time.

Marcello: What sort of targets did you fire at in your practice?

Perez: Well, we had that target on the airplanes. They used to pull it with an airplane, and we tried to hit the bull's eye, in other words.

Marcello: Now as one gets closer and closer to December 7, 1941, and as the country gets closer and closer to war, did your training routine change any?

Perez: Well, no. You keep doing the same things. We had to . . . once in awhile we had guard duties, but the training was the

same. We would go out for maneuvers and do the same thing. We would come back to our camp, rest awhile, be ready for the next maneuvers, and keep on training. But it was the same--no changes at all.

Marcello: Did you have any more alerts or anything of that nature as one gets closer and closer to December 7th?

Perez: Well, I noticed in my outfit at that time that we used to pull guard with fixed bayonets, no ammunition--just fixed bayonets; and two weeks before the attack started, I know they started giving us ten rounds of ammunition for guard duty. We didn't know what had happened.

Marcello: Did you ever talk about this in your bull sessions and so on with your buddies as to why this took place?

Perez: We were wondering just why this took place. We didn't know why until afterwards.

Marcello: When you went on maneuvers, where did you usually go? Did you have a set position that you would go to?

Perez: Yes, sir. We used to have a firing place while we were on maneuvers.

Marcello: I assume that if an attack did occur, you were to head to that pre-arranged position?

Perez: No, sir, the group I was with was a garrison camp. Our camp, we used to call it a garrison camp. That's where we'd rest and we'd relax; and we trained at the same time because it

was close to the ocean, and we had enough land to train with machine guns or 90-millimeter guns.

Marcello: So in other words, you normally stayed right there at Camp Malakole, then.

Perez: Yes.

Marcello: You really didn't go off the base and set up in some other position.

Perez: No. We used to go out for maneuvers--playing war, that's all. Camp Malakole was just a garrison camp--a place to relax and to get the guns ready, cleaning them up, and having them set.

Marcello: Well, when you went out on maneuvers, did you take your heavy guns with you?

Perez: Yes.

Marcello: Would you set them up out in the field?

Perez: Yes, sir.

Marcello: Now, when you were talking about this camp being a rest and relaxation camp, were you referring to Camp Malakole?

Perez: Camp Malakole.

Marcello: What was the food like in that pre-Pearl Harbor Army? Did you find the food acceptable? Was it good food? Did you eat well?

Perez: Oh, yes, we had good food, and we was getting paid well at the same time. We had . . . I believe we used to get the 20 per cent overseas. They used to treat us very nice--the

regular Army. We used to get paid first; we used to sign the payroll first before they did. They treat us very nice, and there was a whole bunch of nice people--all of them,

Marcello: So you got paid 20 per cent extra for serving in the Hawaiian Islands.

Perez: Yes.

Marcello: And as you mentioned, the regular Army people got paid before the National Guard people.

Perez: Yes.

Marcello: What were living quarters like there at Camp Malakole?

Perez: Well, they were very nice, I mean, not like some of the places where you have everything inside. But we had just a big, long barracks with beds on the side, closets; that's all we had in there, I mean.

Marcello: Did you find them to be fairly comfortable?

Perez: They were.

Marcello: Generally speaking, what was the morale like in the Army at that time?

Perez: Well, some of them, they were way low. Some were scared, and some just didn't care about what happened.

Marcello: Did you find yourself to be relatively happy in that Army prior to the Pearl Harbor attack? Were you quite satisfied with Army life at that time?

Perez: You mean before the attack?

Marcello: Yes.

Perez: Yes, I was. I used to like the people; I used to like the training that was given us. They was treating us all very nice, so I had no complaints coming back on it.

Marcello: What was the liberty routine like there at Camp Malakole? In other words, how often could you go on liberty?

Perez: Oh, well, we used to have overnight passes once a week. Or you could get a two or three-day pass if you . . . in other words, if you had anything to do or something like that.

Marcello: When you had a pass, where did you usually go and what did you usually do?

Perez: Well, we would go to Honolulu.

Marcello: How far away was Honolulu?

Perez: Well, from where we was, I believe it was exactly seven miles.

Marcello: How did you get there?

Perez: Well, they gave us transportation.

Marcello: Oh, the base provided transportation for you?

Perez: Yes, sir.

Marcello: Did you have a station wagon or a truck or something?

Perez: No, they had a truck to give us transportation in and take us back. We would go the YMCA. We used to like to go down there because there were a lot of games to play; or if you wanted to get a haircut, you could get your hair cut. You could walk around, look around, buy souvenirs. Then they

would take us back whenever they was ready. But people would go back at five o'clock or six o'clock or whenever the truck went back to camp again. Or some stayed overnight, depending on which ones you had.

Marcello: I guess you couldn't stay overnight too often, because you weren't making that much money, were you?

Perez: Well, no. Everything was pretty high. It sure was high, and we couldn't stay . . . you know, you would go and maybe look around--that's what most of us would do--and see things that we haven't seen. You know, like that King Kamehameha's palace and all those places, you know, we used to go and like to see that and the parks.

Marcello: Did you visit Hotel Street and Canal Street and go down in that area?

Perez: Well, we used to walk by, but, I mean, no, we didn't stay very long there. The only time we used to go in, we was in the YMCA. We had more good times there with games to play or things to see.

Marcello: Was there a lot of drinking on a weekend in Honolulu and around the various military installations and so on?

Perez: Well, yes, there was. There was a lot of drinking. Besides, that, beer was very high. It is high right now, but at that time I believe it was about forty cents for a bottle of beer on the island..

Marcello: So on a typical Saturday night, might you have a lot of drunks coming back to Camp Malakole, or was it just safe to say that people would go in and do some drinking on Saturday night but would not necessarily be drunk?

Perez: That's right. Yes, some of them used to drink, but they would be all right . . . in other words, they didn't fight or anything like that. They used to come very calmly.

Marcello: Now as the relations between the United States and Japan continued to get worse, did you and your buddies in your bull sessions ever talk about the possibility of an attack in the Hawaiian Islands?

Perez: No, sir, we never did, because we never thought anything like that could happen.

Marcello: You probably figured that the Hawaiian Islands were too far away from Japan for anything like that to happen.

Perez: Yes, sir, we did figure that.

Marcello: Did you have very much contact with the Japanese civilians that lived there in the Hawaiian Islands?

Perez: Well, yes, because some of them used to cut your hair at the barber shop; some worked in the cafe or lounge or something like that; some worked in places where you'd go down in Honolulu. In the YMCA, they used to have people working there. They were very friendly; I mean, we didn't have nothing to say about it.

Marcello: Did you ever worry about the possibility that some of these people might commit acts of sabotage or something like that if war broke out between the two countries?

Perez: Well, no, not until afterwards. Then we figured out that something was going wrong someplace. Now the way they used to be way back before the war started, they used to come-- a Japanese ship--to the harbor and pick up some Japanese boys that used to live in the islands. We used to talk about it--how come they did that. That was in peacetime. They said they would take them back down there to give them military training down in Japan.

Marcello: In other words, they were taking these young Japanese men who lived in the Hawaiian Islands back to Japan.

Perez: Because after we had the attack, they said that some of the Japanese pilots had on that university ring which they got going to school here in Hawaii. I never seen it myself, but I heard about it.

Marcello: Did you have any maneuvers or alerts during that week just prior to the actual Japanese attack?

Perez: No, just had guard duty like we used to do it, but nothing else.

Marcello: Were the number of guards increased or anything of that nature?

Perez: Well, yes, there was maybe a few weeks before the attack. We noticed that they were doubling guards instead of being single again.

Marcello: Okay, let's talk about the events leading up to the actual attack itself. Let's concentrate on that weekend of December 7th. Do you recall what you did that Saturday? That would be December 6th, the day before the actual attack. Do you recall if you stayed on base that evening, or did you have liberty or anything of that sort?

Perez: Well, in my case I stayed. I didn't go to town; I stayed in camp.

Marcello: What did you do that night?

Perez: Oh, it was the same routine. We played cards, joked with the guys, heard music; and then we finally went to bed.

Marcello: Did anything out of the ordinary happen that night? Were there any loud, noisy people coming in or anything of that sort?

Perez: No, I don't think so. Yes, sir, everything was very calm.

Marcello: Okay, this takes us into that Sunday morning of December 7th. What I want you to do is describe your routine from the time you got up until the action started.

Perez: Well, on December 7th, some of our buddies were lined up at the mess hall. Since it was Sunday, we used to eat breakfast at nine o'clock. That gave us enough time to relax. Some of us were lined up ready for the mess hall . . . waiting for the kitchen to be opened.

Marcello: Could you stay in bed longer on Sunday?

Perez: Yes, sir, we could--as long as we wanted to.

Marcello: Sunday was a day of leisure?

Perez: Yes. But some of the people used to get up and eat breakfast, and they used to come back and go to bed again.

Marcello: How about yourself? What did you do on Sunday morning?

Perez: Well, I was getting ready to go and line up with the other guys for the mess hall. So some of them were sitting downstairs, and some of them were sitting down on the sidewalk waiting for the mess hall to be open.

So it was about 8:05 when they hit us. We saw planes coming in, and they started machine-gunning our barracks, and we were wondering . . . we didn't know what was going on.

Marcello: What time was this?

Perez: In my estimation, it was 8:05.

Marcello: 8:05.

Perez: So some of the guys started getting excited, seeing all these planes coming in and diving and using their machine guns on the roofs of our buildings. Then they came back over again. Well, everybody started getting kind of, you know, crazy. They didn't know what was going on or anything like that. So we finally decided that we . . . at that time, we had those 1903 rifles--Springfield rifles. That was what we used to use. So we had them in the supply room, because we didn't keep them in the barracks. We went to the supply room, and

we finally went and got the corporal that was in charge of the supply room to unlock the thing so that we could get the rifles out because everybody was shooting and we didn't know what was going on. So we finally got our rifles, and we got some ammunition, and we started firing back at them.

Marcello: How long did it take you to get the rifles and the ammunition after these Japanese planes had come in and were beginning to strafe?

Perez: I would say about twenty minutes. In twenty minutes, we had these rifles. Everybody got a rifle, and some got the machine gun. We had that .30-caliber machine gun that was water-cooled. So some of the soldiers got machine guns and didn't use no water or set up the tripod. The barrel burned their hand up. But you could see when the guy was diving . . . when the Japanese was diving, you could see that gold tooth on him.

Marcello: They were that low that you could see their gold teeth?

Perez: They had that big smile on them, and you could see that gold tooth on them.

Marcello: How many planes came over this first pass?

Perez: Well, I counted at least four or five of them.

Marcello: Did they just make one pass and go on?

Perez: No, they used to turn back and come back the other way.

Marcello: About how many passes did they make altogether?

Perez: Well, I couldn't say for sure, but I would say they made a good six or seven passes.

Marcello: Was there anybody that was hurt during these strafings?

Perez: Yes, sir. Some of the fellows that were hurt were the ones that were sleeping.

Marcello: The ones that were still in the barracks.

Perez: Yes. It came through the roof and hit them, and they got hurt. I mean, we didn't lose that many, but they sure got hurt.

Marcello: I assume that these planes were not dropping bombs.

Perez: Not in our place. But they were in some other places.

Marcello: Were there any antiaircraft weapons?

Perez: Well, we just came off of maneuvers. See, we had them in maneuvers . . . on Saturday we came from maneuvers, so we got the 90-millimeter guns set on the trailer yet. We didn't open them up, because we was not figuring on anything.

Marcello: Oh, you had just come back off of maneuvers on Saturday of December 6th?

Perez: Right. We just came back, and some of the soldiers got passes and some stayed. Some didn't want to go out, because they wanted to relax.

Marcello: Where had you had those maneuvers?

Perez: We had a place. I don't remember the name, but I know it was someplace where there was sugar cane and pineapples. But I

don't remember the place where we used to have that maneuver.

Marcello: How long had you stayed out there on those maneuvers?

Perez: Oh, we used to spend about a week every time we used to go out.

Marcello: So I guess by the time people came back off of those maneuvers, they were ready to go into town or relax and what-have-you.

Perez: Right. Some of them were tired, you know, from sleeping outside or on the ground.

Marcello: On a weekend, how many people would be on the base? Would there be a lot of people off the base?

Perez: Well, sometimes maybe there would be about a hundred or two hundred at once that would go out. But we still had enough that stayed there at camp.

Marcello: But you mentioned that there were probably no more than about 350 people there, so you would be somewhere around half-strength or something like that on a weekend.

Perez: Right.

Marcello: Okay, so the Japanese planes come over, and they strafe the base; you get your rifles and your ammunition. What occurs at that point, then?

Perez: Well, it had to be them, or it had to be us.

Marcello: In other words, did you go out and begin firing at these Japanese planes as they were diving low?

Perez: Yes, sir, we sure did. We got in the corner of the buildings

just like a cowboy movie--the same thing. There was nothing that we could do, and we didn't know what was going on. So we had to do something until finally orders came out that we had to move out.

Marcello: About how many rounds would you estimate that you fired at those Japanese planes?

Perez: Well, since every clip was only five rounds, I figure we fired maybe twenty or twenty-five rounds.

Marcello: And how low were these Japanese planes coming in?

Perez: You could see that big smile and that gold tooth, so they sure were low.

Marcello: Were they coming in at a fast rate of speed, or were they coming in rather slowly like in a glide?

Perez: No, in a fast-paced speed. They come in and take off fast.

Marcello: Okay, so you got the orders to move out. What happens at that point?

Perez: From there on, we moved out of the camp and we had a place where to set up. We were sent to Waipio Peninsula, which was in front of Pearl Harbor. That was the peninsula where the ships used to go in there. So that was the place where we had to set our guns down there and stay there, which we did. We stayed there for quite awhile. From there on, we were just living out of duffle bags--nothing else but duffle bags and sleeping on the guns. We used to have the alerts every morning

and every night--sunrise and sunup.

Marcello: What would you do when one of these alerts sounded?

Perez: Well, we would just . . .

Marcello: Man your gun?

Perez: We had to, yes, be ready on the guns. Everybody had their own position like they was supposed to be--just like they were coming; we were waiting for them. We kept on doing that daily.

Marcello: That evening of December 7, 1941, what were some of the rumors that you heard? Did you hear any rumors as to what the Japanese were going to be doing next? In other words, were you fully expecting a landing or an invasion?

Perez: Well, yes, we was. I mean, in our own opinions, yes, we were. We didn't know if they were going to land or, you know, what was going to happen, so we had to be ready for it.

Marcello: Were there a lot of trigger-happy GI's around that night? Did you hear a lot of rifle fire and pistol fire and so on?

Perez: No. After the attack, then we moved out. No, everything was very calm. Some of the men . . . you know, some of the guards used to go wild, yes. We had this tracer bullet in the rifle clip that used to get that sugar cane on fire.

Marcello: In other words, the tracer rounds . . . the guards would become panicky, and they would fire at anything that moved?

Perez: They would fire at anything that moved.

Marcello: And then the tracer rounds would catch the sugar cane on fire.

Perez: Yes. We always used "two, two, and one"--in other words, two bullets and one tracer. The tracer was used for sighting. The tracer would tell us if we was too far away from the target or too close to it.

Marcello: So you had two bullets, did you say?

Perez: No. We had "two, two, and one." In other words, the way we had them set was two ball ammunition, two armor-piercing bullets, and one tracer. "Two, two, and one" and "two, and one," all the way.

Marcello: Did you stand guard that night, that is, the night of December 7th?

Perez: Well, everybody was standing by. Yes, we were on the guns at that time.

Marcello: Did you fire any rounds off at anything moving in the brush?

Perez: No, because we was . . . we had other guards standing by when we was standing by the guns ready for it. We had to sleep with the guns.

Marcello: Incidentally, were there very many officers on the base that day, or were most of them in town when the attack started?

Perez: Well, I believe . . . I didn't see one. I think they were in town. We had one lieutenant standing by, but he was sleeping late just like everybody else. He didn't know what was going on.

Marcello: What did you talk about that night while you were out there at the guns?

Perez: Well, that the Japanese were coming. Maybe that they were dropping some, or they were going to hit us from some direction-- just crazy ideas, I believe.

Marcello: Now, had these positions already been pre-arranged? Had you gone into these positions before on any of your maneuvers and so on? Now, you mentioned you're down there in the Waipio Peninsula.

Perez: Yes.

Marcello: Had you ever gone there on your maneuvers and so on?

Perez: No. No, at that time, it was the place that they give us to stand by. It was for protection just in case . . . like, we had Hickam Field and Pearl Harbor right in front of us. We were right on the peninsula.

Marcello: So you had to dig in when you went down there?

Perez: No, we didn't dig in; we just stayed on the top of the ground.

Marcello: Did you sleep in tents, or were you out in the open?

Perez: Well, when we started, we'd sleep on the guns, and then we put up our own tents, and then after awhile we built a little barracks by that time. So we had our own little barracks down there. Oh, maybe about eight guys could sleep in one barracks. They were smaller; it wasn't big at all.

Marcello: Do you remember the night of December 7, 1941, when those

planes tried to come in off the Enterprise and all the ships in the harbor fired at them? Do you recall that?

Perez: No, I don't.

Marcello: How long did you stay out there on the peninsula?

Perez: Well, we moved down there . . . I'd say we stayed there about six or seven months. And then from there on, we had to make a new company. In other words, I was taken out of that company there, and they made the 711th with the 95th and made new soldiers out of the new ones that were coming in and training them for combat.

Marcello: They combined the 711th with the 95th?

Perez: It was attached to it. It was the 711th Battery attached to the 95th. That was an antiaircraft group, too.

Marcello: So they combined those two, that is, the 711th and the 95th?

Perez: Yes, yes. The 251st National Guard was out already. I wasn't with them no more. I was already transferred to that other outfit.

Marcello: What was the other outfit that you were transferred to?

Perez: That was the 95th.

Marcello: Was it the 95th Infantry or what?

Perez: No, that was antiaircraft.

Marcello: The 95th Antiaircraft.

Perez: That was the one that was right in front of the peninsula there-- Waipio Peninsula.

Marcello: Where does the 711th come in?

Perez: Well, that was a battery number on it--711th--attached to the 95th.

Marcello: Oh, I see. Okay, Mr. Perez, is there anything else relative to the Pearl Harbor attack that we haven't mentioned and that you think ought to be part of the record?

Perez: Well, like I say, when I was transferred to this company here, now out of that eight men that we were together with the 251st National Guard--Spanish guys--I was the only one that stayed behind, and they moved on. The way I understand, when they had this attack on Midway, some of my friends got caught in that. I never seen them, and I don't know what happened to them--if they are still alive, or they got killed or what.

Marcello: You never saw the other seven individuals again?

Perez: No. I was the only one that stayed behind. So far up to now, I haven't heard from them at all.

Marcello: Well, this is a pretty good place to end this interview. Mr. Perez, I want to thank you very much for having taken time to talk with me. You have said a lot of interesting and rather important things. I'm sure the scholars will find your comments very valuable some day when they use them to write about Pearl Harbor.

Perez: I'm very glad to be a Pearl Harbor Survivor. Well, just like everybody says, "How did you come back?" Well, I think I was

lucky all the way.

Marcello: Okay, well, again, thank you very much.