

The Planes Are Coming

By Bud and Marilyn Barber #82

(Bud) I was stationed in Kaneohe Naval Air Station in Hawaii when Pearl Harbor was attacked. I read that we were attacked a minute before Pearl. I saw the planes coming. I didn't see them until after they were there. I was 21 and in the Navy.

I was going to get my rifle, and I had to go across the back side of the administration building. They were strafing in, and I saw the bullets hit the ground. So I stopped and let them fly by. I could see the pilot. I could have hit him with a baseball, almost. The pilot had on a motorcycle helmet, and he looked right down at me.

I didn't notice how I felt. I was just waiting for him to get out of the way so I could go get the gun from the armory. I don't know how many planes there were. We shot down one. I might have fired a shot or two, but I didn't do any damage, I guess.

A fire was down at the hangar, which was two or three blocks away from where I was. They hit some of the planes.

We had airplanes that had to get in the water to take off. We had four in the water ready to take off, but the enemy got them first. We lost 16 guys and one civilian. They damaged so many planes, we didn't get one in the air until later that day.

My job there was to run the movies at night and work the bowling alley during the day. I was also trained with a rifle.

I served most of my time in the Pacific on ships after being at Kaneohe.

In Guadalcanal and in the Philippines, they tried to bomb us, but they missed. I was on a destroyer escort ship. They were strafing the land there (in Guadalcanal). They didn't strafe us. They tried to bomb us in the Philippines, but they missed us.

(Marilyn) I was in the women's Marines, stationed in Washington, D.C. I was chief clerk in a sergeant-major's office. I don't have much to tell. I was stationed in Arlington, Virginia, for the four years. We had a women's marine base across from the Navy annex, which was the headquarters of the Marine Corps. I don't know why I joined the Marines. I guess I was dissatisfied with

what I was doing, and I thought I'd try something else. It was one of the smartest things I ever did.