



OBON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Pearl Harbor Stories

Part One

Every December 7th our thoughts go to **Pearl Harbor**.

OBON SOCIETY has two direct connections to men involved in the attack on Pearl Harbor and each has their own unique story. They are as different as night and day, but both are worth hearing.

There is too much to say in one newsletter about Ed Johann and J.C. England. We are not even going to try. So we decided to spread out OBON SOCIETY's Pearl Harbor remembrance over the next several weeks, just so we will have the space needed to tell these two men's stories.



Ed Johann; U.S. Navy



J.C. England; U.S. Navy

We are going to start with Ed Johann's story.

Ed grew up in a big family from California. His father struggled to maintain the family with a job that paid 35 cents per hour so when Ed saw a poster from the U.S. Navy offering \$21 per month, he signed up. "I could send 10 bucks home each month to help the family," he explained, "and spend the rest on candy."

In the summer of 1941 Ed found himself aboard the *USS Wright*. It was seaplane recovered vessel moored to the pier in Pearl Harbor but would accompany aircraft carriers to recover any pilots who ditched into the water. On December 3rd, 1941 they got their orders to prepare immediately to get underway; the aircraft carrier *USS Lexington* was leaving and the *USS Wright* was ordered to accompany her. That's when Ed received his orders....he would not be going!

To be continued....