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(0:00:12 – 0:00:31) Jessica Williams: Today is September 22nd 2017, I'm Jessica Williams, and I'm sitting down with Albert Anguish, who served on board *Growler*. So first of all, thank you for having us. I'm definitely looking forward to chatting with you. So the first question is just to state your name and what your role was on *Growler*.

(0:00:32 – 0:00:54) Albert Anguish: My name is Albert Anguish. Everybody calls me Al, and in those days they called me Al. My role is I was the lead petty officer for the Naval Security Detachment that went on board the *Growler*. I was a Russian linguist and could also copy and send Morse code if needed.

(0:00:55 – 0:01:03) Jessica Williams: Great. So, just to get a little sense about your background, tell me where you're from and a little bit about your childhood.

(0:01:04 – 0:02:19) Albert Anguish: I grew up in Topeka, Kansas, which is about 60 miles from here. I'm the oldest of six kids. My dad was in the Marine Corps during World War II and my mom was a stay-at-home mom. I was basically a saint. (laughs) I sang in the church choir, and in fact when I graduated my high school, the Baptist church wanted me to go to Southwest Baptist School in Oklahoma and they would pay for it. And I thought about it but I didn't know if I wanted to be an evangelist or get up there and preach fire and brimstone like the preacher did to us, so. After high school I enrolled at Washburn University, and intended to graduate and become an attorney but after one semester I couldn't afford it anymore, and the world's situation was pointing towards – there was going to be trouble in Vietnam, and I didn't want to get drafted so I joined the Navy.

(0:02:22 – 0:02:29) Jessica Williams: Thank you. To back up a little bit, so you mentioned that your dad served in World War II. Did he tell you much about his experience?

(0:02:30 – 0:03:16) Albert Anguish: No. He was a marine, and he said that if I was ever going to join the service, join the Navy because they were the only ones that had three square meals and a place to sleep when he was in, so . . . but, like most World War II veterans I've run into,

they don't talk about it, what they did. It's something they just try to live with and . . . they're not really proud of it. I mean they're proud that they served their country but not that they're going to go around and have a couple beers and start bragging about it. (Jessica Williams: Yeah, I think . . .) And it's the same thing with the Vietnam vets.

(0:03:17 – 0:03:35) Jessica Williams: Yeah, I think that's my experience as well, talking to people. Yeah, just trying to imagine what they went through, it's very intense. But he did give you some, I would say, probably reasonable piece of advice about joining the Navy, certainly we've heard others get this advice as well.

(0:03:35 – 0:03:35) Albert Anguish: Right.

(0:03:36 – 0:03:49) Jessica Williams: And so you mentioned that you were attune to things happening in Vietnam. So what was your sense at that time, or what sorts of things were you hearing about the state of affairs over there?

(0:03:49 – 0:04:22) Albert Anguish: Well, we didn't get the newspaper, and TV coverage wasn't very good in those days, but once I started college, the history professor would talk about that the French were having problems in Vietnam, they had been there for years and there was a possibility they were going to pull out and we would become involved, so that piqued my interest in that. But, other than that, that's about all I knew. That it was a trouble spot in Southeast Asia.

(0:04:23 – 0:04:34) Jessica Williams: So you're in college, and you can't afford to keep going at this point, and so you end up joining the Navy.

(0:04:34 – 0:04:35) Albert Anguish: Right.

(0:04:35 – 0:04:38) Jessica Williams: So tell me a little bit about your early days in the Navy.

(0:04:40 – 0:05:36) Albert Anguish: Went to boot camp in San Diego. It was an all Kansas company. I was supposed to be trained to be an electronic technician after I finished boot camp. In boot camp they tested all of us for language aptitude and I scored real high. And I didn't think anything about it but when it came time to graduate from boot camp, they said, You're going to be a communications technician. I said, "I signed a contract to be an electronics technician." They said, You don't have a choice. Your language aptitude is high, so now you're going to be a communications technician, if the FBI says that you're okay to have a top secret cryptographic clearance. So, that was it.

(0:05:38 – 0:05:47) Jessica Williams: So you mentioned the Navy testing sort of found that you had this language aptitude. Is this something that you knew about yourself or thought about languages?

(0:05:47 – 0:06:18) Albert Anguish: No. I had a photographic memory, so it was real easy for me in high school, and to memorize things and remember things, and . . . the language test in boot camp was an international made-up language, but it wasn't hard for me to figure it out, so. I guess, just being intelligent and interested in things like that, I did my best to score as high as I could.

(0:06:19 – 0:06:25) Jessica Williams: So that's interesting. So basically they tested your ability to decipher a made-up language.

(0:06:24 – 0:06:25) Albert Anguish: Right.

(0:06:26 – 0:06:36) Jessica Williams: Huh. So your security clearance happened, sort of in tandem with, or right after?

(0:06:35 – 0:07:26) Albert Anguish: Right. Actually what happened was that my first school was in Imperial Beach, California. They said, You got to learn how to send and receive Morse code first. So, while I was there I found out that they had come back to Topeka and freaked out all my neighbors when the FBI shows up and starts showing their badges. They go, what did he do? He was such a sweet young man, you know, he was – sang in the choir. And they said, Oh, don't worry, we're trying to see if he's okay to get a security clearance. So, sometime halfway through that six-month course, they said, Yeah, you've been granted a clearance. So you're officially a communications technician.

(0:07:27 – 0:07:40) Jessica Williams: So it helped that you were indeed a saint. People could say positive things about your background. Did any of your family members or neighbors share anything else about their experience talking to the FBI?

(0:07:40 – 0:08:03) Albert Anguish: I never got a chance to ask any of them. I was so naïve that, you know, when I joined the Navy I didn't know there was discrimination until I got in the Navy and started seeing it firsthand because, I grew up with blacks and Mexicans and, they were the same as I was, so the Navy really woke me up to that.

(0:08:04 – 0:08:12) Jessica Williams: Do you remember any particular instances that happened that kind of brought this into relief for you?

(0:08:13 – 0:09:41) Albert Anguish: Later on. But in boot camp, we had one black guy in our all Kansas company, and he was a great guy but, for some reason some of the other Kansas people didn't treat him the same. They were from different parts of the state, bigger areas like Wichita and Kansas City. And they didn't show him respect. And he was, as far as I was concerned, a standup guy, very smart. In fact there's an interesting story I can tell you about him. We had to stand fire and security watches in boot camp and I was supposed to have the four in the morning till eight. He was standing the twelve to four, and he was supposed to wake me up a half hour ahead of time. Well, the reveille went off and I jumped out of my rack and I said, "Oh my God, I missed my watch." And I went over and I said, "Drake, what are you doing? You didn't wake me up." And he said, "Man, I came over there and you had your eyes open, I thought you were dead." Well I sleep with my eyes partially opened. So he thought I was dead and he didn't wake me up, so that was – he stood my watch for me, but then, from then on everybody said, Oh yeah, wake up Anguish. He just sleeps with his eyes open. So, that was kind of funny.

(0:09:42 – 0:09:49) Jessica Williams: (laughs) That is really funny. And I'm sure he was just completely alarmed and, yeah, just didn't know (Albert Anguish: Oh yeah.) didn't know what to do.

(0:09:50 – 0:10:32) Albert Anguish: We did have an incident in the boot camp where there was an all-Filipino company in the next barracks, and they didn't like all us white folks and Drake being an all Kansas company, and they challenged us to a – you wore a cartridge belt, to one of those out on the grinder. So we went out and it was more or less just "you do it," "no, you go first" and, you know, a lot of hollering. Then shore patrol came and broke it up, so, that was probably the biggest incident we got in.

(0:10:33 – 0:10:43) Jessica Williams: Watching some of this discrimination happening, which you hadn't really experienced before, how did that feel?

(0:10:44 – 0:11:27) Albert Anguish: I didn't understand it. I mean, I didn't understand what these people had done, I didn't realize how they were being treated in the South, and all I could reflect on was what I had experienced growing up, and they were like my best friends, and – in fact, my dad signed for the first black family in the neighborhood. He co-signed on a loan so they could get a house. They became lifelong friends, and followed my Navy career. So, like I said, I was naïve, and I believed that everybody was good in those days. I found out later on it's not true, but . . .

(0:11:29 – 0:11:43) Jessica Williams: Yeah, you know, for many people this experience is the first time that you're interacting with people from (Albert Anguish: Right.) other walks of life. So, yeah, so I'm sure it has a big impact (Albert Anguish: Right.) especially at – are you 18 or 19 at this time?

(0:11:44 – 0:11:46) Albert Anguish: I had just turned 19.

(0:11:47 – 0:11:47) Jessica Williams: Yeah.

(0:11:50 – 0:11:56) Albert Anguish: And I . . . was inexperienced in many, many ways. (laughs)

(0:11:57 – 0:12:31) Jessica Williams: (laughs) So, let's see. So, it'll be interesting as we talk more, to see, as your Navy career goes on, all the – because you saw a lot, and certainly, in your line of work, did a lot, or you were exposed to a lot of information in particular. So you mentioned that you – so the first thing you did was you went to Morse code school. So simultaneously the FBI is doing your background check, you went to Morse code school. What was the school experience like?

(0:12:32 – 0:13:40) Albert Anguish: You start out learning the Russian characters, and . . . I don't think it's classified anymore, but the Russian Navy had extra characters that were sent in Morse code, and you had to learn to use a Cyrillic typewriter. So if you hit an R, you had to know where R was on a Cyrillic typewriter. And, it was very intense training. And, I never really mastered the, sending Morse code that well. It just seemed to me like that's not what I joined the Navy for, and I didn't want to – I figured I wasn't going to go to work for the railroad after four years, so, to me it was kind of a waste of time, but learning the Cyrillic alphabet and how to copy it, was very, in the long run was very rewarding. Because I had no intention of staying more than four years.

(0:13:41 – 0:13:48) Jessica Williams: So you were just basically doing your time to then go off and hopefully get a job somewhere.

(0:13:48 – 0:14:18) Albert Anguish: Right, I figured the way they had it going, I was going to spend my whole four years in school. Because they said, Okay, from here you're going to Monterey Language School for Romanian. And I said, "Why Romanian?" And well, it was the start of the Cold War, and the United States wanted to have linguists with a secondary language, and then later on they would give you a primary language like Russian, Chinese, things like that, Czechoslovakian.

(0:14:19 – 0:14:27) Jessica Williams: So the intension was you got the secondary language (Albert Anguish: First.) first. Why did they do it that way?

(0:14:29 – 0:15:17) Albert Anguish: I guess because they wanted you to get some, what, some experience using the language, and see if you were comfortable with it. Unfortunately they sent me to Turkey on the Black Sea where all the intercept was in Russian, so my Romanian was worthless. I think maybe the Romanian Navy had a few PT boats, things like that, but I mean it was no big deal. So, I spent some time copying Morse code. And then, I could listen in on the receiver and pick up Russian transmissions but I had no idea what they were saying. I'd just record them and turn them over to the Russian linguist.

(0:15:18 – 0:15:22) Jessica Williams: How long was the Romanian training?

(0:15:22 – 0:15:39) Albert Anguish: Nine months – five days a week, six hours a day, two hours of study hall. You had to memorize a 30-line dialog every night. Which for me was a no-brainer because of my photographic memory and all my classmates hated me.

(0:15:40 – 0:15:47) Jessica Williams: (laughs) I bet. How long, with your photographic memory, could you read it once and then remember it? How long did it actually take?

(0:15:47 – 0:15:48) Albert Anguish: One time through.

(0:15:49 – 0:15:51) Jessica Williams: Do you still have a photographic memory?

(0:15:51 – 0:16:12) Albert Anguish: Not as well as I did, but it's – I still remember a lot of things. Not a lot of vivid memories. But I still can recall enough that I can put together a story about a place or a time or whatever.

(0:16:14 – 0:16:19) Jessica Williams: And was this something – your memory, is this something you were aware of before your time in the Navy?

(0:16:20 – 0:16:42) Albert Anguish: I never thought about it. I thought high school was a snap. It was the best time of my life up until I joined the Navy. I never thought about it. I was a good student, I loved school, never missed a day, so . . . having these secret talents and I didn't know about.

(0:16:43 – 0:17:03) Jessica Williams: So maybe they gave you some extra free time if you're not having to (Albert Anguish: Right.) hit the books so much. So, the Romanian course was nine

months and, you know, you're memorizing all these dialogs and things. What was the content of the dialogs? What sorts of things . . . ?

(0:17:03 – 0:17:40) Albert Anguish: They start out with everyday conversation and they keep progressing. With the Romanian, at the end, there was no focus on military terminology. And simply because, like I said, the Romanian Navy didn't have much navy. And so it pretty much focused on conversational Romanian. But when you graduated you had enough of a vocabulary that you could've gone on a street in Bucharest and passed for a native Romanian.

(0:17:43 – 0:17:50) Jessica Williams: So, you learn Romanian, you went to Turkey, and, you know, as you . . .

(0:17:50 – 0:17:52) Albert Anguish: Well, there was an interim stop.

(0:17:52 – 0:17:53) Jessica Williams: Oh, go ahead, yeah, please.

(0:17:54 – 0:18:26) Albert Anguish: Two weeks in . . . NSA, Fort Meade, Maryland, where they, kind of gave me a rush course about what the Romanian Navy had, and what to expect. And, again that was probably wasted time because once I got to Turkey and tried to do intercept on the Russian – Romanian, I keep saying Russian – Romanian Navy, they're pretty much nonexistent, so.

(0:18:28 – 0:18:47) Jessica Williams: So in and around, so this is your first language training and your first practical experience using it. I just wonder, at what point did you really, sort of, realize the secrecy and the sensitivity of this occupation that you've now found yourself in?

(0:18:48 – 0:19:51) Albert Anguish: Soon as I got to Turkey and went into the operations building you had to have an ID photo. A marine sentry is there. You had to show it to him. Nothing you ever did in there could go outside. You couldn't talk about it with anyone. You learn real quick in there, you see the top secret stamps, and we had other code names for some of the stuff that was even above top secret, so, I knew I was into some heavy stuff then. And, it became very serious. You're almost looking over your shoulder all the time, make sure you're not doing the wrong thing, or somebody is looking this up and they shouldn't be, because the Morse code operators had no need to know what the linguists were doing, the linguists had no need to know what the Morse code people were doing, so.

(0:19:54 – 0:20:03) Jessica Williams: So once you sort of realize the weight of this, how did you feel about this occupation?

(0:20:04 – 0:21:17) Albert Anguish: I thought I was in something very unique and I was starting to like it even though I felt like I wasn't being utilized, because of my – I didn't speak Russian. And, like I said, I became fascinated with it, and the guys – we didn't have women in those days – the guys were all great, and . . . it was just fun being with them, and when we're on liberty we had great times, and . . . you worked a watch section, four watch sections, and you'd work like, an eve watch, go home, sleep for eight hours, a day watch, go home and sleep for eight hours, a mid-watch, off 56 hours. So, all the guys in the watch section, there would be maybe 10 of us, we would go to Istanbul and party for a couple days, so, we became very close. And then outside of operations and work, we had our own basketball team, and did a lot of things together on base, so.

(0:21:18 – 0:21:31) Jessica Williams: So yeah, not a bad posting it sounds like. Even if you're not using your language. (Albert Anguish: Right.) And so, I think you had told me that this is the point now you go back to learn Russian. Back to . . .

(0:21:31 – 0:22:56) Albert Anguish: Well, there was another and . . . they sent me from the base in Turkey up to Sinop, which is a port on the Black Sea. And there they had me listening to Russian communications, and by now I'd learned enough, on my own, to know that it was somebody out of Odessa, what kind of ship it was, what kind of operation they were conducting, so, I really got in tune with it then. And then they decided – the US Navy – they requested permission from Russia, to send a US destroyer into the Black Sea, and it was under the . . . one of the circumstances or conditions was that there would be no intelligence gathering. So, I really wasn't on there in civilian clothes. (laughs) And radio with headsets on, but . . . That really got me going because, I'm thinking, boy, this stuff, and then I, you know, you start asking questions, "Where's this information going?" And they say, Well, it goes to naval security group, it goes to NSA, and they use it to determine capabilities of the Russian Navy and our defenses. So then I knew, hey, this is what I want to do.

(0:22:57 – 0:23:02) Jessica Williams: Yeah. Yeah, I bet that is really connecting the importance.

(0:23:02 – 0:23:59) Albert Anguish: Right. And then that's when my enlistment was due to expire. And they said, Are you going to ship over? And I said, "Only if you send me back for Russian language school." And so they said, Okay. Went back for 18 months to Monterey, and, again the five hours, I mean six hours, five days a week, and again the two-hour dialogues, which I didn't have a problem with. But going from a Romance language to a Cyrillic language wasn't as hard for me as it was for my classmates. They really struggled because, for a person that's not familiar with the Cyrillic language – I mean, like, they have a backward R which

people in the United States would be going, why is it a backward R? Well it's not pronounced that way, it's a "ya." So . . . but for me it just came natural.

(0:24:01 – 0:24:05) Jessica Williams: Did you help your classmates because this was easier for you than others?

(0:24:05 – 0:25:25) Albert Anguish: I gave them tips on how to memorize dialogs, and one thing that was – I would tell them, look, if they ask you, or say, Good morning. You know what you're going to say in response. "I'm doing okay." And then you know that the next person is going to – "And how about you?" So there's no need to sit there and read the dialogue; this is what's going to be said. And that helped them. But a lot of them just – they would memorize a line. Then memorize another line. Then try to go back and – I said, "Don't do it that way. Read it all the way through, set it aside, and then just tell me what you remember, in English, and then we'll translate it into Russian." So that helped them. But . . . some of them didn't make it; they dropped out. There was too much pressure on them. And in the long run, after my career, I know that if you couldn't handle pressure, you couldn't do the job that I had to do. So, it was good. Like today's SEALs, if you can't make it all the way through, you're not going to be able to do what they want you to do, so.

(0:25:26 – 0:25:42) Jessica Williams: Yeah. It's an interesting point that there's the skills aspect of this training. (Albert Anguish: Right.) Learning the language and then there's just the, (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) yeah, the hours and the stress and the, you know, needing to perform and everything.

(0:25:42 – 0:26:00) Albert Anguish: Right. And the students that did drop out, they lost their security clearances and ended up serving on surface vessels, not as CTs, but as radiomen. So they were completely out of the loop.

(0:26:01 – 0:26:09) Jessica Williams: Yeah. So, the Russian course, you said was twice as long as the course in Romanian, so . . .

(0:26:08 – 0:26:10) Albert Anguish: Yeah, 18 months.

(0:26:10 – 0:26:15) Jessica Williams: So tell me about, sort of, the other things that you were learning, sort of, over the extra time.

(0:26:17 – 0:27:06) Albert Anguish: Towards the end of it, once they thought you were fluent enough, they started bringing in naval terminology, but they also – because we had Marines

and we had Army and Air Force in the class, they would discuss Air Force terminology and Army terminology, so, we basically started, you know, learning – and a lot of words for the services, the Russian services, were the same. And, they taught us as much as they could, they were all native Russians. But there was a point where they couldn't teach you anymore, and you had to learn that on the job. The classified terminology that the Russians used.

(0:27:08 – 0:27:17) Jessica Williams: That makes sense. How were you tested during your training? What sorts of evaluations happened along the way?

(0:27:18 – 0:27:43) Albert Anguish: Part of the test would be a tape, and you would listen to it and transcribe it. The second part would be an oral exam with the professor, he would speak to you and you would respond to him, and then you would reverse, take his role, and he would take yours. And they graded you 50/50 on the hearing and the oral.

(0:27:45 – 0:27:49) Jessica Williams: By the end of all of this, what was your Russian vocabulary like?

(0:27:49 – 0:27:53) Albert Anguish: 34,000 words, more than a Russian on the street.

(0:27:56 – 0:27:57) Jessica Williams: That's impressive.

(0:27:57 – 0:27:57) Albert Anguish: Yeah.

(0:27:58 – 0:28:01) Jessica Williams: What would be a Russian-on-the-street vocabulary?

(0:28:02 – 0:29:11) Albert Anguish: Uh . . . well, to give you an example, if you learn proper Spanish, you learn Castilian. If you go to Mexico, to Tijuana, they can't communicate with Mexicans on the street because they're speaking street Mexican. Well, that's pretty much – the thing is though, if you know proper Russian and have all that vocabulary, they get the drift of what you're saying, and they'll repeat it, maybe in different words. And you understand what they're saying, so, you can still communicate with them, but you can tell you're at this level and they're down here. And you try – in all foreign countries you try not to talk down to the people. But they would take us to Russian Orthodox churches in LA and have us sing songs and participate in the Orthodox ceremonies in Russian, so, they exposed us to a lot of Russian culture.

(0:29:12 – 0:29:23) Jessica Williams: That's a really fascinating aspect (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) of all of this. What did the Russian Orthodox parishioners think about all of you, did they realize these were military . . . ?

(0:29:23 – 0:30:12) Albert Anguish: They couldn't believe that we were military, that we could sing the Russian songs as good as we did, and that we could communicate with them. Because, you know, the service is liturgical, or whatever the word is, sometimes I get – I have trouble with Ls. But, we could communicate with them and understand what the priest was saying. So they were quite impressed. (Jessica Williams: Interesting.) And they couldn't believe that a language school could teach American born sailors to speak better than they did. They grew up in Russia, and were educated.

(0:30:13 – 0:30:31) Jessica Williams: It's an amazing testament, both to the intensity of this course that you're taking and also how the people who designed the school thought about, sort of, the military uses versus the civilian uses (Albert Anguish: Right.) and just the cultural things and . . .

(0:30:30 – 0:31:11) Albert Anguish: Well, when the communications rating was established after World War II, I think it was 1948, they knew they needed linguists. And they dedicated training that would be as intense as it could be, and as broad a vocabulary, because they saw coming down the road that Russia was not going to be our friend, and all the countries behind the Iron Curtain were not going to be our friends, so they made it as difficult, and as expansive as they could. And, I'd have to say they did a good job.

(0:31:12 – 0:31:26) Jessica Williams: Yeah. It's really impressive. So, let's see, so you now have made it through this training at the Army Language School. And tell me what your next step is from there.

(0:31:27 – 0:34:51) Albert Anguish: They sent me to Kamiseya, Japan. Naval Security Group Activity, Kamiseya, Japan, which is about 13 miles from Yokohama. And there I immediately was assigned a watch section. By this time I was a first class, so, I was the assistant watch leader for my section. We had a chief in charge and then me and then eight other Russian linguists. I was in flight status there, so I would fly on recon missions up and down the Russian coast, about four times a month. We would copy the stuff on the plane, and then come back and transcribe it, and then submit the reports to NSA and the Naval Security Group. At the same time . . . the Navy started putting linguists on board submarines. And this was strictly a volunteer program. The Navy could order you to do anything else, but they cannot order you to participate in it, so it was all voluntary. And, if you saw the guys that went out and come

back, you could tell they were a pretty elite group, and I wanted to be part of that, so, I said, “I want to go out on one.” So a few months later they said, Okay, you’re going on the USS *Growler*. You’re going to be the petty officer in charge. You’ll have an OIC in charge. And you’ll report to him and directly to the submarine captain. So we spent about a month preparing. Going over prior patrols to see what they focused on, what were the main points, what new things we were looking for as intercept operators to help national defense, and to find out the capabilities of the Russian Navy and naval air force. And, eventually, they flew us from Japan to Pearl Harbor where we got onboard the sub. My team consisted of – there was – I was a Russian linguist, we had another Russian linguist, we had two R branches, which were the Morse code operators, and we had one O branch, who was the teletype, can do telemetry, although telemetry wasn’t real big in those days. And the officer in charge was basically just an officer in charge. He had been to language school, but had no practical experience with being an intercept operator or transcribing, so . . . we commonly referred to . . . newbies, ensigns and lieutenant JGs, as graduates of the Knife and Fork School. They knew which side of the table to put their fork and which side to put the knife, and . . . we thought they were pretty useless.
(laughs)

(0:34:52 – 0:35:07) Jessica Williams: You’re not the only enlisted (Albert Anguish laughs) naval person to have such a comment (laughs) about junior officers. In fact, many of your *Growler* enlisted crew, fellow sailors, would say some . . .

(0:35:07 – 0:35:19) Albert Anguish: I might add here that later on in my career, when I ran into some of these officers that stayed in, I couldn’t believe how smart they had gotten. So, they learned from experience.

(0:35:20 – 0:35:53) Jessica Williams: Yeah. So, we’re going to get in, you know, deeper to what you were doing on *Growler*, but I want to back a little bit up to this moment about when you decided to volunteer to go on a submarine. So you knew this was an opportunity, you had to volunteer, which is of course as you said, the way the Navy mans its submarines. (Albert Anguish: Right.) But other than the fact that they seemed very elite, had you given much thought to submarines at all? What did you know about submarines?

(0:35:53 – 0:36:44) Albert Anguish: I knew absolutely nothing. I knew we had submarines. And really, the people that went on these patrols, my shipmates, they didn’t talk about it when they came back, with anybody else that hadn’t been on those patrols, because those patrols at that time did not exist. Nobody knew what you were going on board, when you were leaving, how long you were going to be gone. So, I kind of picked up from just hanging around and, you could tell that they were doing something a lot different than we were doing on the flights or

sitting there at a receiver in Kamiseya, monitoring Russian communications, so. But the only way you could get in on it was to volunteer.

(0:36:45 – 0:36:55) Jessica Williams: And after you volunteered, did you undergo any testing or training or anything particular to this role you were about to take on?

(0:36:56 – 0:37:28) Albert Anguish: Other than, they knew that I was a qualified linguist, and that I was stable – no submarine training. I mean, and we went on board in the absolute dark. Submarine crews go to – a lot of them go to New London, Connecticut, and spend months there learning. We came in from Japan. And all I knew was the submarine was black. (laughs) And it went underwater – that’s basically about all.

(0:37:29 – 0:37:40) Jessica Williams: (laughs) The very . . . (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) The most elemental thing. So, tell me about – oh, hold on, before we – hold on, I just heard that thing move. It doesn’t look like it’s going to fall.

(0:37:39 – 0:37:40) Matt Costantino: I think it’s good.

(0:37:40 – 0:37:41) Jessica Williams: Is it okay?

(0:37:41 – 0:37:41) Matt Costantino: Yeah.

(0:37:41 – 0:37:41) Jessica Williams: Okay.

(0:37:41 – 0:37:43) Albert Anguish: Can I grab an . . .

(0:37:43 – 0:37:59) Jessica Williams: Oh yeah, yeah, please, and if – yeah, anytime, yeah, take a drink, because we’ve been cruising along. Yeah, the tape just made a noise. If we notice it’s going to fall, we’ll stop. Oh yeah, might as well give it another piece of tape while we’re at it.

(tape is added to the background behind the narrator)

(0:38:03 – 0:38:18) Jessica Williams: Oh yeah, there you go. Man, it’s so interesting to me that they were, like, taking you out to go to church and everything. I don’t know, I mean it makes – it just, it’s smart, but also sometimes you wonder how sensitive they would be to this kind of training.

(0:38:17 – 0:38:21) Albert Anguish: Well, maybe you want to get this when we're recording again.

(0:38:22 – 0:38:22) Jessica Williams: Okay, we can . . .

(0:38:22 – 0:38:23) Albert Anguish: Or are we still going?

(0:38:23 – 0:38:24) Jessica Williams: Oh, I think . . .

(0:38:24 – 0:38:24) Matt Costantino: We're still going.

(0:38:27 – 0:39:03) Albert Anguish: One of the things they really emphasized at language school is that the Russians had spies in the area, and they had photographs of us. They knew we were CTs. They knew where we lived. They had a complete dossier on us. So we had to be very careful where we went . . . when we were on liberty, or, like if we went to San Francisco, we can go nowhere near the Russian Embassy. It was just not a good idea.

(0:39:05 – 0:39:10) Jessica Williams: How did you feel when you learned this piece of information that they were . . .

(0:39:10 – 0:39:49) Albert Anguish: Then you're really looking over your shoulders, well who's that? You know, and you're walking down the street, who's that following me? And, you get real – almost semi-paranoid. And especially walking at night, and you hear somebody behind you, and you can't really see who it is. But after a while you start to live with it and you realize, if you're going to do this for a living, it's going to be a part of your life, and . . . as long as you're still able to do it, you haven't – nobody has confronted you, I guess you're okay.

(0:39:51 – 0:39:55) Jessica Williams: So did this get to you at a certain point? I mean I guess, you kept with it, so.

(0:39:53 – 0:40:46) Albert Anguish: No. No. I learned that this is the way it was going to be, and . . . the longer I was in, the more I got to see the stress, and I knew that you just had to deal with the stress, and . . . I just dealt with it. Some of the guys couldn't, and they dropped out of the Russian language school, like I said, or some just lost it and had nervous breakdowns and things like that, so. The dropout rate was probably 50%, and people that dropped out, you never ask them why. It was kind of a thing of pride and honor; you didn't want to embarrass someone. But I didn't have any trouble dealing with it.

(0:40:47 – 0:40:51) Jessica Williams: What did you do to deal with the stress? Are there particular things?

(0:40:53 – 0:42:10) Albert Anguish: Well, for one thing, you just don't even think about it. To this day I can make my mind go completely blank, which my wife doesn't believe, but, you just blank it out and don't think about it. And, you just go out and assume you own the world, and nobody is going to bother you, and you get on with your life. And to give you an example from later on in my career, flying off carriers in Vietnam. I had a friend that flew when I wasn't flying, and he threw up before every mission. And I asked him, I said, "Why do you do this?" And he said, "I need the money, the flight pay, to help my family." I said, "Well why are you throwing up?" And he said, "I don't want to die." I said, "Then you shouldn't be doing this. Your mind is not on your job if you're thinking about dying." He eventually – they relieved him, took him back to Japan, but – if your mind wasn't on that job, you couldn't do it, because you might miss something important.

(0:42:13 – 0:42:36) Jessica Williams: Yeah, we'll, thank you for that, that's really interesting, just to think about the mental effects of all this. And we'll get back to that I think, once we get into *Growler*. So, let's see. So, we took a little bit of a tangent, but you mentioned, you know, being assigned to *Growler*. So tell me, can you describe for me, you and your team boarding *Growler* for the first time?

(0:42:37 – 0:47:27) Albert Anguish: Well, for one thing, we were in our Navy uniform but we had on radioman crow's. That's the rating badge on your left arm, and CTs, it was a bolt of lightning with a cross quill. But radioman, it was four bolts of lightning. And that was done so if anybody was able to take pictures, it wasn't communications technicians going on board. We went down to where the *Growler* was, all the lights were turned off before we got there, it was on a night where there was no moon. And, you got out of the vehicle, and then you saw this big black object there, and they said, That's it. You go on and somebody escorted us over to the hatch where you went down, we went down through the hatch, and . . . good God what a site that was. I was not prepared for what it was like. It was small. It smelled terribly of cigarette smoke and sweat socks. And I couldn't believe how cramped it was. And, they said, We'll take you to your berthing space. Well, I figured we'd get a bunk to ourselves. Wrong. Because we were not regular crew members. They had no extra bunks for us to be individually assigned one, so we had to "hot bunk." And I go, "Hot bunk, what's that?" And they said, Well while you're on your 12-hour shift, the guy that's relieving you is in the bunk. And I said, "When I get off, where do I sleep?" And they said, In the bunk he just got out of. That was the first surprise. Then, they take us to the radio shack, because we took over main radio, and I could not believe how small that was and how much equipment they had jammed in there.

And to think you were going to be in there 12 hours, sitting there. Good thing I wasn't claustrophobic. From then on, we got a tour of the mess decks, the rest of the sub, introduced to the COB, who's the Chief of the Boat, the sonarman . . . the radiomen that we had evicted from their spaces and they referred to us as "blinking spooks." And then the captain and the XO. And . . . rest of the crew knew that we were spooks, which is the glorified name that the regular Navy used for communications technician. And, they didn't have too much to do with us when we were first on. We were the last ones, I guess, to go on board, and next thing I know they were saying, Prepare to shove off, and then probably an hour later they said, Prepare to dive. I wasn't even apprehensive about it going down for the first time; you couldn't even really tell that you were underwater. And then we just settled into a routine. It would take us several days to get to the station that we were assigned to, so basically, all you did was, when you were on your 12-hour shift, (laughs) you go in the mess decks and eat or play poker with – and that's how you got to know some of the other crew members. Or you could go, if the other guy that was in the radio room would let you in, you'd go in there and try to get a little sleep or just sit around. But, it was fairly boring, and . . . so you just passed time, and rehearsed for what, you know, you would probably report to the captain or the XO. And visited with the sonar guy, because he would be in touch with you, telling you if they had sonar contacts, which was critical for our mission. And you made sure all your equipment was working, just fine-tune everything.

(0:47:29 – 0:47:38) Jessica Williams: So this is, you're describing, as you're going off to go on station, just sort of getting acclimated to the patrol and getting ready.

(0:47:38 – 0:47:59) Albert Anguish: Right, to the sub, and to the crew, and . . . the daily routine in coming up, just to periscope depth every night to get fresh air and charge the batteries and all that, so. And when you could use the . . . I forgot what . . .

(0:47:59 – 0:47:59) Jessica Williams: The head?

(0:47:59 – 0:49:50) Albert Anguish: Heads. (both laugh) Boy! When you could use the heads, and if there was the metal chain with the little thing on there that says, "Do not use," you definitely did not use them, because that's when they were blowing sanitary tanks. And there's an interesting story I can tell. On this very first one, there was a new ensign on board; he wasn't part of the CT group, he was a new ensign in the submarine service. And, I saw him go into the officers' head, and I said, "Sir, you can't use that now." And he said, "Don't tell me what to do." I said, "You see that sign hanging on there?" He says, "Yeah, but it doesn't mean anything to me." And I said, "Well it should. You're not supposed to use them now." "Don't tell me, again, what to do." Well, I went back (laughs) and I started laughing. Pretty soon you

heard him open that, because you had to pull a handle. And when he opened that, all that stuff come blowing. The rest of that cruise, he came out, because he was still in his khaki uniform, we referred to him as “the great brown speckled officer.” And, every time he saw me, he’d just put his head down, walk on by. You learn also that, you’re not going to get to take a shower but once a month. You’re not going to get to brush your teeth but once a day. And then you figure out why everybody grows beards on subs, because you can’t shave. So, like I said, it’s adapting to sub life and just killing time till you reach station.

(0:49:51 – 0:50:14) Jessica Williams: Thank you for that officer story. It’s a great submarine story and also it’s a great junior officer story. So, you described all of, just the hardships really, of living in this environment. So, what were you thinking about this? Did you regret your decision to go on board or . . . ?

(0:50:15 – 0:51:07) Albert Anguish: No. I was enjoying it. The only thing that I didn't like was that my wife did not know where I was, what kind of vessel I was on, when I would be back, and the fact that because we were from Japan and not from Pearl Harbor, we didn't get familygrams. So we had no contact at all, with your family back in Japan, so for three months, you’re pretty much just hoping everything was all right, whereas the regular crew were getting monthly familygrams. They couldn’t respond, but they would at least get something from their wife or their dad or mom or something that would tell them everything was okay. So.

(0:51:09 – 0:51:13) Jessica Williams: That must’ve been hard to watch the rest of the crew get those messages.

(0:51:14 – 0:51:32) Albert Anguish: That’s another thing you just learned to live with. And you accepted that doing this, you wanted to do it, now you’re finding out the consequences. But in the end, the reward was going to be, you know, the recognition and then you join this elite group.

(0:51:33 – 0:51:46) Jessica Williams: I'm curious. We often like to ask people about their family life because I think it’s important to talk about, just what those impacts are. And since you mentioned it, I’ll ask you now. So when along the way did you get married?

(0:51:46 – 0:51:53) Albert Anguish: I got married after Romanian Language School. I married a girl from Bakersfield, California.

(0:51:55 – 0:51:57) Jessica Williams: And she was – oh, sorry, go ahead.

(0:51:57 – 0:52:35) Albert Anguish: And then she joined me in Turkey after about six months, because at that time, I was only an E-4, and military didn't pay for dependent's transportation. And then she was with me in Turkey, and then I made E-5, and they paid her – flew her back at government expense and moved what little furniture we had, to Monterey. And then we went from Monterey to Japan. And she was there with me the whole tour I was in Japan.

(0:52:37 – 0:52:42) Jessica Williams: How much, if anything, did she know about your job?

(0:52:42 – 0:53:37) Albert Anguish: She knew nothing. She knew I was a Russian linguist, and she knew I flew, and she knew I went to work, and I came home, but I never talked about anything. And to this day . . . I signed an oath when I got out that I can never talk about the classified stuff I did. So, first thing they tell you is, need to know. Your wife has no need to know. Your neighbor has no need to know. I said, "Well what if they keep insisting about what you do?" "Then make up a lie." And that's what they told you to do: make up a lie. So you become pretty good at lying. Oh yeah, I was over in Hawaii going to a school or whatever.

(0:53:39 – 0:53:43) Jessica Williams: So the advice was to just come up with something.

(0:53:44 – 0:53:45) Albert Anguish: Come up with a cover story.

(0:53:48 – 0:53:52) Jessica Williams: And how was that for you? What did that feel like?

(0:53:55 – 0:54:55) Albert Anguish: At first, I didn't do it, I just avoided situations, but then when you have – not my wife, she wasn't persistent, but you have neighbors, or somebody in your family back in the states, and they become so persistent, especially when you're back on vacation or on leave. Finally you just say – you just start making up stuff. "I was some place where I couldn't have any communications." And, "I was just, you know, working as a disc jockey for the naval radio station." Which I did do at one time (laughs), in Turkey. But, you just learn, and it's accepted . . . which kind of is ironic because you got a security clearance based on being squeaky clean and then they teach you on the other hand to lie. So . . . (the background falls down) Oops, that's on me probably.

(unrelated conversation not transcribed, background re-set)

(0:55:10 – 0:55:42) Jessica Williams: So we're back again, and so before the most recent collapse of the (both laugh) background, we were talking about your family life during these early years of your service, we were talking about the fact that you had to lie and make things up just to satisfy people's curiosity about what you were doing. Do you think that this need to

kind of make up stories about what you were up to, did you sense that it had an impact on your personal life at the time?

(0:55:43 – 0:56:39) Albert Anguish: Yes. Very much so. Because, outside of the military, if you did something, you could just lie about it . . . lying just became a way of life for – and not just for me, but for all of us that were doing – that were linguists, not just the ones that were riding the subs. The ones that were flying, the ones that were sitting back at the base. It just became a way of life. If they got in trouble with their wife for staying out late, they'd lie, you know. "We had a flat tire." Or, "It's all Al Anguish's fault, he kept me out, and wouldn't let me come home." It just becomes a way of life. And you knew you can get away with it because, who's going to question you?

(0:56:42 – 0:56:47) Jessica Williams: It must be a, just a strange way of operating. Maybe.

(0:56:49 – 0:57:25) Albert Anguish: I guess . . . if you were in the CIA, or FBI or something like that, could be similar to that. I mean they don't tell people where they're going, and . . . just like I told you before we started, we weren't in Laos or Cambodia. We weren't on subs. The government was not telling the truth, so it didn't become hard for us doing the job to fall into the groove.

(0:57:27 – 0:57:37) Jessica Williams: Do you remember, was there ever a moment where you really wanted to share something with somebody and you couldn't do it, or something that you particularly wished you could've told?

(0:57:39 – 1:01:08) Albert Anguish: Uh . . . not with my first wife. And not my second wife. But with Tina there have been times where I just wanted to open up and tell her everything. And if I start to, she'll say, "No, stop there." So. I treat for PTSD with the VA, and I have not even talked to my psychiatrist about most of the stuff I did. They don't know that I did a lot of lying. They just know that I had a very stressful job, and I had some traumatic experiences, and . . . they deal with what they know. I would say, it's a hell of a burden to carry for, what, 50-some years, to never be able to talk about what you did . . . where you were . . . and never get recognition for it. And be able to, you know, not brag about it, but just say, "Hey, I was there." And, you know, "I'm partly responsible for what happened there." You can't do that. So, it's just something you learn to live with, it's a fact of life. Sometimes I have nightmares. A lot of times I have nightmares. And I have a lot of medication I take, and that helps me deal with – when I start getting weak, thinking that . . . I want to just blab – in fact (laughs), a few years back, when we were living in California, my wife said, "Why don't you write a story?" And I said, "I can't, because . . ." "Well, what about a ghostwriter?" So, we contacted some writers in

the Monterey area. Once I told them what it was about, they didn't want to touch it. They said, No, it's too risky. So, how Tom Clancy was able to write his novels with inside information about equipment and facts and everything, he must've had a communications technician, and in particular, Russian linguists that were on the fast attack submarines. Now, I don't know how that person will never get caught, but . . . they had to have done it, because you can't just dream this stuff up. You can't sit down and write a novel about it. It was too factual. So, that's as close as I had come to really thinking about it, but, again it's another thing you live with. You don't think about it. It's just another brick in the wall (laughs), like the song. (laughs)

(1:01:10 – 1:01:48) Jessica Williams: I guess, and, you know, first of all, thank you for sharing all of that. I think it's, you know, we think a lot about, we talk to many former crew members, both of our submarine, of the aircraft carrier, people who have had really intense job experiences, people who have seen combat and everything else. And I think, you know, our visitors don't necessarily know everything that all of you experienced, and I think the idea of withholding information and the idea of having to lie, and sort of, what kind of physiological implications there are, is something that probably (Albert Anguish: Right.) most of us don't think about.

(1:01:48 – 1:02:19) Albert Anguish: Well, I think, anybody that hears this, and to go over 50 years with never being able to talk about what you did – like my psychiatrist said, "That's one hell of a burden to put on a human being." So, but . . . when you stop and think about the goods you did, and the success you had, and how it contributed to America's security and national defense, it makes it all worth it.

(1:02:21 – 1:02:55) Jessica Williams: I think that's a great segue to talking about specifically what you were doing on *Growler*, to make that connection between this job, which we've mostly been talking about as a language skill, and that, just to kind of make it concrete in terms of what you were doing. So to ask just a general question, to get back on board *Growler*, even the Navy – the Navy was not putting spooks (laughs) on submarines, but why was the Navy putting CTs on boats like *Growler* at this time?

(1:02:56 – 1:09:33) Albert Anguish: Well, it was the start of the Cold War. The Russians were building a lot of new ships. Nuclear weapons were coming about. So, the submarines were sent out on patrols, to find the Russian submarines, to monitor any activity that might be going on in the air or on the surface. The same thing the Russians were doing to us, so, I guess the way you could describe it would be, we were playing hide-and-seek while they were playing hide-and-seek. So while you're hiding, you're really not looking for the other person. Well I got that kind of messed up there. When you're hiding, you're really seeking the other person, and

while they're hiding, they're seeking you, it's kind of a cat-and-mouse game. And . . . the number one thing on a submarine patrol is not to get detected, and that means to get contacted or detected by a foreigner, in our case, Russian – and it would've been submarines – because that compromised the whole mission. So, my role was to, in cooperation with the sonar operator, because he can forewarn us if he picked up screws, or the propeller sound, that there were a ship or a sub in the area. And, I knew what frequencies they used, so I would sit on those frequencies and listen for any communication at all. Now underwater, oral or vocal communication is not very often done, because you have to string out a long wire antenna, and – so there were other ways they communicated, like taking a hammer and beating on the hull, and then the other Russian sub would respond back. Almost like you're sending Morse code by beating on the hull. But, if you were at periscope depth and you knew there was a submarine around, you could watch the Russian surface ships, and the aircraft, and monitor what they're doing. So they think there's a submarine in the area, but they're not for sure. They're trying to locate us, so the aircraft are going around dropping sonobuoys, in a pattern, and each sonobuoy has a number, and if they pick up a ping, it'll identify the sonobuoy it's coming from, and they'll say, Okay – they'll let the submarine know that we have a contact in this area, so, you have to stay one step ahead of them the whole time, so . . . once you see the aircraft and hear the communications, they're dropping sonobuoys, you immediately let the conn know, the captain or the exec, they're dropping a sonobuoy pattern, where they're dropping it, and get the hell out of there. So basically what you're doing the whole cruise, is keeping the sub out of any area, any scene or scenario, that would compromise the mission and embarrass the United States.

(1:06:48) Besides that, we were tasked by the Navy, Naval Security Group, to see if there were any new subs out, any new forms of communication, like the beating on the hull with a hammer, other types of communication, and I can't say if we discovered any more of those or not. I mean I can say, but I won't say. But, that's intelligence that is very important, because all these exercises we're doing are preparation for war. And so you take what you learn from our mission and you apply it to the training for commander, nuke sub commanders, and the tactics you would use, so. Basically you just sit there and – the one thing that helped us was that we had an oscilloscope, and if they keyed their mic, a big spike would come up, so you know, hey, they're getting ready to transmit, and you could center the oscilloscope spike so you made sure you were on the right frequencies because sometimes the frequencies would drift a little bit, so, you wanted to make sure you were on the right one. And then, the Morse code operator that was along, he's copying whatever is being sent back to the main base. If we were in the Pacific Ocean, then it would be back to Vladivostok. If we were in the Atlantic, it would go up to the Baltic headquarters. I don't know if we ever took submarines into the Black Sea, but I'm probably pretty sure we did, but it had to have been after I got out of the Navy. That would be

a little scarier than – because that’s a pretty confined area, as opposed to the Atlantic or the Pacific Ocean. And, you just, like I said, you tape the stuff and, if you got a chance, you transcribed it, because the guys back at the base always liked it if the tapes were transcribed when you got back, and the written report was already done. And, that was basically what we did for three months.

(1:09:36 – 1:10:05) Jessica Williams: Thank you for that good – oh, sorry, didn’t mean to interrupt you there – for that good overview. I'm going to go back and ask a couple questions which are just clarifying, and probably you’re going to be restating some of the same stuff again. So basically – so essentially your job is to listen, so you’re listening to radio frequencies and other kinds of communications that you may discover, and it really sounds like it's a very broad task in a way, it's really anything that’s potentially militarily useful.

(1:10:05 – 1:13:02) Albert Anguish: Right. I mean if you have this Russian trawler out there, communicating with a naval vessel, you copy that and report that, because, you know, we said that the Russian trawlers were all intelligence gathering, and this is a way to prove that that’s what they’re doing. So, no, we didn't just sit on the main Russian – and each different naval operation had their own frequency, the PT boats were on a certain frequency, the minesweepers, the subs, the destroyers, were all on different frequencies, and it was, like, between 100 and 150 megahertz. So you had one set on the main frequency from Vladivostok to the ships, and then you would just continually scan back and forth through that 100 megahertz range, looking for any other signals. And that's how we normally would come up with some unique information . . . and new code words, and help – if they changed their code for their call signs. If you recognize a transmitter or a voice, and yesterday they were using this call sign and today they're using this one, the NSA and the Naval Security Group hasn’t compiled a new code, but you can say, “Hey, that's the guy that was using Dubro yesterday and today he’s using Sabonya.” So, right away they can start correlating, and within a couple days of the start of the month, you got the new code. And what you set your rotors on, and . . . for the next 28 days or so, you know who you're following. And then sometimes you could just get to look at them through the periscope, and they'll give you a hull number, and, you know, well . . . that's the hull number for the one who was using this yesterday, so the more you can feed back – but now this information is not going real-time to NSA or the Naval Security Group. That only goes after we get back, because we’re on radio silence when we’re out there. So, basically the only communication we're doing is with control, and communicating with the sonarman and he’s communicating with us.

(1:13:04 – 1:13:16) Jessica Williams: And to, and – oh sorry – and to clarify it for visitors or whoever might be listening to this, so why are you on radio silence?

(1:13:17 – 1:14:32) Albert Anguish: Well, you don't want to get detected, and the easiest way to get detected is to send out a teletype signal or a Morse code signal or be at periscope depth and communicate vocally. And, direction finding sites can cross-reference where that's coming from and, you're detected. Mission over. End of the submarine captain's career, because if you get detected, that's the end of your career. They take chances. We have standard operating procedures, written orders, and then we have these unwritten orders. And it's up to the CO, captain's discretion, where we go from here to here, how far we can go. And the farther you go, the better the results are, but it's higher risk too, of getting caught.

(1:14:33 – 1:14:37) Jessica Williams: And when you say, "The farther you go," what do you mean by that?

(1:14:43 – 1:16:08) Albert Anguish: Well, we're supposed to stay outside the 12-mile limit, the international limit for ships. And then there's a no-no land inside the one-mile limit. And . . . if you ever went in there, not to say that anybody ever did, but if you ever went in there and got caught, you'd probably be in Russia for a while. Probably be interrogated, because, like I said, we denied everything that – we weren't doing all this stuff, and of course they weren't doing it to us. I mean, I'm sure our fast attack subs and our US Navy would've loved to have captured a Russian sub, because you can go on and see what equipment they have. And there's another fact, speaking of equipment, and getting back to *The Hunt for Red October* and Tom Clancy, they referenced the KW37, the rotor that they used. Now again, that had to have come from somebody that did my job. Because that was highly classified. And that was just a thing that you'd set it with numbers and it gave you information.

(1:16:11 – 1:16:17) Jessica Williams: So yeah, somebody – Tom Clancy had good information from somebody.

(1:16:15 – 1:17:27) Albert Anguish: He had good sources, and how they got that person the money and not cause suspicion by the FBI and other people that, you know, monitor us, because we're still on the radar. I mean, my information now is pretty obsolete, but newer versions of what I did, people getting out, they really worry about somebody being subject to blackmail; that's why there was such a big deal about Flynn. Even though he was financially okay, but that was one of the worries. You could lose your clearance real fast if you got in financial trouble. They wouldn't risk keeping you around. They would call you in and say, Look, we're getting calls from bill collectors and you need to take care of this or you're not going to be able to do this. And if people didn't do it, they yanked their clearance, and out on a ship they went. Out of the business. So, it was a serious matter.

(1:17:29 – 1:17:34) Jessica Williams: It's interesting. Yeah, the vulnerability. Interesting.

(1:17:35 – 1:18:00) Albert Anguish: Well, to give you an example, I guess an analogy would be like – remember when Fuzzbusters came out? The radars you could put on your car to let you know when there was a smokey down the road. Well why were people doing that? They didn't want to get caught by the troopers. Well, that's what we were doing. We were out there to keep us from getting caught by the Russians.

(1:18:02 – 1:18:34) Jessica Williams: Gosh, I have a few, let's see, let me tail this one for a minute. So one question I have, I want to go back to some of this mission stuff in a minute, but since you mentioned equipment, so right now *Growler's* radio room is pretty empty because I think all the stuff, of course, came off after patrols because this isn't equipment (Albert Anguish: Right.) that they were going to leave on board. So in a general sense, can you just describe what the space looked like when you were on board, what kinds of, even if not specifics, just the kinds of equipment, how . . . ?

(1:18:33 – 1:21:11) Albert Anguish: Well the receivers are not classified, so. When you walked into the space, it was, from the deck to the overhead, stacked high with radioman's transmitters and receivers and all that. And then, there was an area where they had, maybe some file cabinets, and then there was a little bitty desk just as you went in the doorway, and that's where they had set up our positions. And there was the SP-600, which was one of the receivers, and above that was an R-390, which was another one of the receivers, and then over here on a little shelf was a recorder, to tape. And then we had a little pull-out desktop, where, excuse me, where, if we were listening to any communications we could sit there and gist. And gist, for the people that don't know what that means is, you're listening to what's going on but you're just pulling out key things like, speed, and course, or altitude, and you develop almost a Russian shorthand that when you go back to expand it, you know what that means. For example, when they first come on the air, they'll go, Как ты меня слышишь, and yell, "How do you hear me?" So, what we would do is just – well, like, what I would do is just say, KSM, and I knew in Russian what that meant. And then their response back, and I just put SL5, it means, "Hear you fine by." And that's basically what gisting is. You just pick out what's key and what's critical for the captain to know to protect your mission. And also what's critical to know to maybe get positioned a little better where we can get more details, like, visually ID a surface ship or get a better count of the screws on a new class of submarine or . . . any type of new communication. So.

(1:21:14 – 1:22:02) Jessica Williams: So, this leads to another question that we had, which was that – so *Growler*, we've been talking very specifically about this intelligence-gathering role, but

Growler also had this patrol area because it was carrying these nuclear missiles, so it's waiting to get an order to potentially launch a second strike. So we've had interesting conversations with the missile people about this. But your function is also very important to why *Growler* is out there. So I'm wondering the balance in terms of how the things you were hearing and learning, how that maybe affected the overall operations or where the submarine actually was? So can you talk, just sort of, about how this intelligence role impacts where *Growler* is and what *Growler's* doing?

(1:22:02 – 1:23:30) Albert Anguish: Well . . . in those days, with the start of the ballistic missiles, they needed concrete proof that the Russians were up to something before we would launch. We were part of the team that could provide concrete information that, yeah, this submarine is out there, it's got these – and this is the class, and it has these missiles on it, and it's behaving erratically, and it's out of its normal patrol area. All these things, and they're all factored back, again, to NSA. And back there they decide whether there's any potential risk or not. Now, if they actually fired on a plane or one of our surface ships or they detected us and tried to sink us, I guess that would be all the notice they would need to launch, but, yeah, it was pretty tense . . . the whole nuclear deal. I mean, if you listen to what's going on now, somebody's got their finger on the button the whole time he's pres – I mean, he's in office. So. Delete that remark please. (laughs)

(1:23:31 – 1:23:52) Jessica Williams: Yeah, (laughs) yeah, I know, it is interesting to be doing this exhibition now, just based on, you know, every day is a new interesting statement. Back into *Growler's* time, so, how much did you know about the missiles that were your fellow travellers on board *Growler*?

(1:23:53 – 1:25:08) Albert Anguish: Nothing, because it was off limits to us, and we had no need to go there. It was up in a forward part, and it was – well, once you got to see the sub, I mean it was a weird looking thing. (laughs) It was shaped like a tube and then all of a sudden it had this big – I don't even know what to call it on the front, and that's where the missiles were. So, you weren't allowed to go there, and I had no communications with anybody that dealt with them, and so, they left us alone and we left them alone. But I'm sure if a situation had come up where we had to interact, we would have. We would've got, probably – well, I know we would've had in our – besides the sub's standard operating procedures, our OIC had – and we would've been able to, based on the situation, he could determine if we could release information to somebody else other than the ones that were designated. So, it was the . . . real-time situation, what was going on.

(1:25:11 – 1:25:35) Jessica Williams: So, back a little bit to the – your communications with the commanding officer. So, this is to clarify one thing, and then there's a question. So if you heard something that potentially could generate some interesting information, you could ask the commanding officer to change the submarine's position? Maybe?

(1:25:35 – 1:26:03) Albert Anguish: No, you don't ask them to do anything. (Jessica Williams: Yes, I guess . . .) (both laugh) I could say, "Well you know, I hear this, but the signal's real faint." Then, they're smart. If they make the decision to move closer, and then all of a sudden the signal gets better, and the captain comes on and says, "Is that any better AI?" I didn't have anything to do with that, you know, so.

(1:26:06 – 1:26:10) Jessica Williams: So, (laughs) that's a good clarification. So you would just be . . .

(1:26:10 – 1:26:14) Albert Anguish: It's a real fine line now between what's classified . . . (laughs)

(1:26:14 – 1:26:28) Jessica Williams: Okay. Definitely tell me that; definitely tell me that. So basically, you tell the commanding officer information that would be pertinent to the safe operation and successful operation (Albert Anguish: Right.) of the mission, and it's up to the commanding officer to act.

(1:26:28 – 1:26:30) Albert Anguish: If he wants to take chances.

(1:26:31 – 1:26:33) Jessica Williams: If, yes, okay, got you.

(1:26:33 – 1:26:51) Albert Anguish: But it's not only his career, it's the lives of the people on the sub, and the embarrassment it would cause if an incident happened. There are just a lot of factors that went into why we did things and why we didn't.

(1:26:53 – 1:27:08) Jessica Williams: You mentioned this a couple times, so this is a little bit repetitive, but, so what, for you, was so important about doing your job well? What were the consequences of, again this is restating something, of you missing something or . . . ?

(1:27:08 – 1:29:59) Albert Anguish: Well because, the radiomen didn't have anything to do. They couldn't help. Sonar could pick up ships. But if there were any communications, they couldn't, you know, interpret them and pass on the information, so we were very critical. I mean, we were almost like, not only the ears, but the eyes of the sub. And we could let the

captain know, okay, we got this out there, they're on this course, they're, you know, steaming in a direction towards us, going 30 knots, or, we got aircraft up, they're, like I said, getting ready to drop sonobuoys, this is where they're dropping them, I don't know where we are, but . . . So it was very critical, and if I missed something . . . if I gave him a wrong course or a wrong, where the sonobuoys were being deployed, or misidentified an aircraft communication, it could be the end of the mission, I mean, in wartime it could be the end of the sub. You could be gone. So it was very critical. It's not a game. It wasn't a game. And nobody treated it like it was a game. Because if you did, you would never go back. They could figure out real quick, this person doesn't really pay attention to the job, is not into it, and . . . it's probably why you had to have the psych exams every six months, to figure out if you were capable of still being on there, why you wanted to be on there, anything that might show a weakness, so. I can't emphasize how serious this was, because as far as the United States was concerned, we were actually in a war with Russia at that time. I mean it was a lot of war of words but, you know, the Cuban Missile Crisis and things like that, you didn't know what they were going to do next, and on the other hand, they probably didn't know what we were going to do next. But all we could do was make sure that our ship, our sub, was fully aware of what was going on, and took the right course to avoid any situation. I guess that's as simple as I can put it.

(1:30:01 – 1:30:16) Jessica Williams: I think that's, simple and clear. You describe this level of seriousness. Was this very apparent to you as a young man on the submarine, the seriousness of your role?

(1:30:16 – 1:31:17) Albert Anguish: Oh yeah. I knew it when I first started doing the training for a month back at my home base. I knew this was not going up on a flight and flying up and down the coast or sitting at a receiver. I knew you were actually on a vessel where they were depending on what you were able – the information you were able to provide. Now on an aircraft it was critical too, because you wanted to make sure that you weren't getting into international airspace, and if the Russians were sending MiGs out, that was important to know. And you couldn't, you know, avoid that situation, but when you're down there, under the ocean, and you got Russian subs that we know are looking for us, you can't make a mistake. Very serious. It makes you grow up real fast.

(1:31:19 – 1:31:30) Jessica Williams: I bet. You mentioned that your watch, or your shift on, was 12 hours. So, does this mean that you are listening . . . ?

(1:31:30 – 1:31:32) Albert Anguish: 12 hours with headsets on.

(1:31:33 – 1:31:36) Jessica Williams: How did you maintain your focus during that? It's a long time.

(1:31:40 – 1:33:55) Albert Anguish: Just keep scanning the spectrum, and . . . just thinking about it. I mean, the one thing you couldn't do was go to sleep, and so you concentrated on staying awake. You did get a – midway through your shift, you got a six hour break, so the guy that relieved you would come in and relieve you for half an hour so you could go to the mess decks and eat and get a little break. So that kind of reinvigorated you. But, you could sit there for a month and never hear a thing. But you couldn't lose focus because, the first time you just say, well, I'm going to turn around here and stare at this, and all of a sudden that spike comes up and you don't see it, and you don't get – because it's showing spikes on other frequencies that are up, so if you don't miss that, and you don't get down to that frequency, you're going to miss what they're saying. I guess, for a person that's never done this, the only way you really know for sure is to walk a mile in that person's shoes. We can talk about it, and give examples, but unless you're there and doing it, you can't really do justice to it. You hope the person is understanding that it's a serious deal, because it was serious to us, and it was serious to everybody above us in the chain of command, all the way up to the president, although the president didn't have a high security clearance like we did, so. His briefings were what NSA and other departments decided he could have, but, yeah . . . That's it on seriousness.

(1:33:55 – 1:34:13) Jessica Williams: Okay. (both laugh) I'm curious about the pace of what you were listening to, in terms of how active were these Soviet communications. Was it something that kind of ebbed and flowed over the time of day or the time of year or . . . ?

(1:34:16 – 1:35:32) Albert Anguish: More, well, time of year factored in. In winter months, it wasn't as much. Especially, because if they were doing joint surface, air, and submarine exercises, sometime the ships couldn't get out of port. And so then they couldn't do ASW, Anti-Submarine Warfare exercise in the wintertime. And if there was an operation going on and it was good weather, they would usually last all day. Start in the morning, and the communications, the oral communications would be continual, all day long. If it was involving aircraft, the aircraft would be talking to Vladivostok, be talking to the surface ships, back and forth like that. We assumed that the submarines were getting the information through some form of communication. And if they were at a depth where they could transmit, then we would pick that up.

(1:35:35 – 1:35:52) Jessica Williams: And . . . oh, and how, so there were – this sort of, back to just, sort of the pace of your day. So you mentioned that there are five of you plus an officer. How many of you were typically in that radio room at a given time?

(1:35:52 – 1:36:15) Albert Anguish: Two. A linguist and a Morse code operator, copying in Morse code, if he could get it. And that depended on, you know, how far down we were, and how far out the long wire was trailed, and if he could pick up signals.

(1:36:17 – 1:36:20) Jessica Williams: And what about the fifth person, sort of, the teletype person?

(1:36:20 – 1:37:09) Albert Anguish: They were there just mainly – they could work on the equipment too; they could troubleshoot it, but mainly if – teletype in those days was a new form, and so they were on there I guess mainly just to, if it came up, they would be able to recognize it, and – in fact I don't even recall if we had a teletype machine on there. We must've had, to have a T-brancher on there, so, but I don't recall any of them ever doing anything. We would've called them in if – and you can recognize different types of telemetry signals, and we'd been trained to recognize that, we would've known to say, Hey, get so-and-so in here, I think we got something.

(1:37:12 – 1:37:19) Jessica Williams: Did you have reference materials of various sorts to consult if you needed to, I don't know, look something up?

(1:37:20 – 1:39:07) Albert Anguish: Well we had . . . we had classified documents that gave us submarine types, their weapons, their frequencies, surface, all that, code words, all the code words they used, what they meant. We had some other reference from prior trips. Terminology that may have been unique that we had never heard before. So we had stuff we could reference. But, mainly with the naval – whenever they were conducting naval operations, they were pretty straightforward communications. Because they're in a re-enactment or acting like it's a wartime situation, so they want their transmissions to be clear, precise. And so you're not going to get a rambling conversation about, take this course and go over there and do this and do that. They're going to say, you know, like, they'll say . . . oz means, is a code word for, "Do this." That's all they would say. So. I guess most of the reference stuff would be up in your head, from stuff you'd seen on flights, on recon missions, monitoring these operations from the air, and back at the base. And you just put everything together.

(1:39:09 – 1:39:36) Jessica Williams: This gets back to the idea of how important it was to be on the job, or learning on-the-job, right? Putting everything together from your experience just being in the room and listening and what-not. So you mentioned that, and we talked a bit about that, if you learned significant things you would pass it along to the commanding officer

or whoever had the conn. What was your means of contacting that person? How did you report to them?

(1:39:37 – 1:40:44) Albert Anguish: The 1MC. And he could pick up a headphone and listen to me, and I could talk to him on the 1MC phone that was in there. Nobody else could listen in on that. It wasn't broadcast out over a speaker and everybody in the conn could hear it. So the only two people that you could pass the information to were the captain or the exec, or your OIC, and the OIC was usually either in the wardroom or in the conn. But you'd have to tell the captain, "Have Lieutenant Barber" – I think you said that was his name, I can't even remember anymore – "come to the shack because I need to talk to him." And then he would come and I would fill him in on what was going on. And then he could go back. And if the captain wanted to have a private conversation with him, they could go to a secure area and he can relay stuff, and the captain could ask questions.

(1:40:46 – 1:41:07) Jessica Williams: And you had mentioned earlier, just in terms of being the eyes and ears of the submarine, that the sonarmen who are across the way from you also were, you know, they were of course listening to underwater sounds and things. If you needed to share information with each other, did that go back through the point of the commanding officer or did you have direct contact with them?

(1:41:07 – 1:41:48) Albert Anguish: I would never share anything with the sonar operator. His information was one way. "Hey spooks, I've got screws about 20,000 yards away." And then we would know. But we never went back and said, Okay, I got him on this frequency and this is what . . . No. That was, again, the need-to-know. They would complain about that when we would be playing poker, the sonarman. He'd go, "Well we're always telling you, but you never tell us anything." I said, "Well that's, the way it is." (laughs)

(1:41:49 – 1:41:50) Jessica Williams: Yeah, it's not personal, right?

(1:41:50 – 1:41:51) Albert Anguish: No.

(1:41:51 – 1:42:23) Jessica Williams: (laughs) So, I'm just going to take a moment to – there's other lines of questioning I have, but I want to see if there's anything else, particularly about your day to day. Oh actually maybe I'll just ask you. Is there anything else about your – so, a few other things I want ask you about is just, sort of, life on board, your interaction with the crew, that sort of thing, but thinking specifically about your job, being in the radio shack, are there anything else that I haven't asked you that you want to mention?

(1:42:21 – 1:43:18) Albert Anguish: Well, back to the question about, how did you stay serious and all that? It was my first patrol, and I was not going to mess up. I was not going to fall asleep. I was going to pay attention, so . . . just vigilant, because I didn't want to mess up. And we had a history from my base, of all the guys that had been out, nobody had ever got detected, and you didn't want to be the first one, so, I didn't want – didn't want that stigma. So, it was all the inspiration I needed – and my reliefs, because I made sure – and it was a marine, because we had marine CTs also – that he knew, and of course marines are always gung-ho, so, he says, "You don't have to tell me." I said, "I did anyway." But . . .

(1:43:19 – 1:43:28) Jessica Williams: Yeah, better that everybody is on board and it's important, yeah, thinking about your first patrol . . .

(1:43:28 – 1:43:36) Albert Anguish: It's almost like right now I'm back on the *Growler* and I'm sitting here looking at you, and I'm, "Why am I talking to you? You don't have any need to know." (laughs)

(1:43:38 – 1:44:04) Jessica Williams: 400,000 people a year need to know about what's going on, on *Growler*, I think. (both laugh) No, I understand, and so thank you. Thank you for, you know, stressing things to the landlubber here. (laughs) So one question is, so you have manuals and references and things. Did your team bring equipment on board? Was that stuff already there in the radio shack?

(1:44:05 – 1:44:51) Albert Anguish: That equipment they installed in Pearl Harbor. But it belonged to – well it was specialized equipment, I suppose that the radiomen could get their hands on. And they knew what we needed, they knew we needed those two type of receivers and a recorder, and . . . they installed them. As far as carrying a lot of stuff, we didn't because we flew commercial. And so, in those days, we couldn't carry weapons on the plane, so there was no way really to – because it would be in a briefcase, and you didn't carry a lot of stuff.

(1:44:52 – 1:44:57) Jessica Williams: So it was all, it sound like it was all set up and, you know, you guys came on . . .

(1:44:56 – 1:45:09) Albert Anguish: Yeah. What you needed to do your job was there. Now . . . when I talk about the reference stuff too, it would be very small folders that would fit in a briefcase.

(1:45:13 – 1:45:35) Jessica Williams: So, if other things spring to mind, we may kind of go back to your work. But I'm curious about – you know, we talked a little bit about you coming on

board and getting acclimated to life on the submarine, so I'm wondering if you can talk for me a little bit about your interactions with the rest of the crew, so, the sub's crew?

(1:45:34 – 1:51:12) Albert Anguish: Yeah. The first week or so I pretty much was either in the radio shack or in my rack, because, you know, I've never been in a sub before, and it seemed like some of them were standoffish, and maybe it was me that was being standoffish. Basically I was scared that I might do something to offend them because, you know, I kept hearing, "Spook." You know, "Spook." "Spook." "There goes that spook again." You know. So, after about a week, I was on the mess decks and this one guy that I'd talked to a couple times says, "Hey, you want to play poker?" I said, "Oh, I'm not very good at it." He says, "Yeah, we want you." So, then I started playing poker with them, and I got to know them, and then pretty soon I started talking and, I mean, not about the job, but, they started saying, Well this guy is okay, you know, he's a regular spook. And, of course I was losing too, and win every once in a while, but that was thoroughly good time, and . . . enjoyed it, I made some good friends, and I can't remember any of their names now, and I'm surprised that Barbour remembered, or another crew member remembered my name. But . . . I think we had movies. But it was only what we took out with us, and you didn't take a lot because it takes up space. And we had (laughs) fresh food for about a week. Once that runs out, then you're drinking powdered milk, eating powdered eggs, and a lot of Spam, so, sometimes you would skip the mess decks. The one thing I had mentioned before, off record, off camera, was . . . it took me a long time to get adjusted to the cigarette smoke, because it seemed like everybody smoked except me, and when you're on a – the ventilation system on a diesel sub, does not do anything. I mean people were smoking while they're eating and it made it hard for me to eat, but eventually you get so hungry you got to eat. And . . . grew a beard. Actually I started playing so much poker that I didn't get enough sleep sometimes, so I'd be tired when I'd start my 12-hour shift, but I never fell asleep. And, if I was getting tired or whatever, I'd ask the Morse code guy, I'd say, "You got anything going on?" And he'd say, "No." I'd say, "Go get us a cup of coffee." So he'd go get us some coffee and, a doughnut if they had anything, if the cook had made anything, so. But . . . other than that, when you were in the shack, you were in there with, two of you, and nobody else could come in except the OIC. And once you got familiar with the crew, got to know the people that worked on the conn, the control area, they would say, Come on up, you know, why don't you try qualifying? Now, to qualify on a submarine, you have to know every person's job on there. You have to know every valve, what it does, everything. Plus, I thought, well that's going to take up (laughs) all my off-time, and even if I can get dolphins I can't wear them, because CTs couldn't wear dolphins, so, I mean, I thought, well that's an exercise in futility. I guess now there are some that later on were able to qualify and wore their dolphins, but we couldn't do it when I was on there, so. I would go up to the control and sit around and . . . be interesting to listen to the commands they were given, and watch the steer, and the COB.

COB's really important on a sub, he's actually (laughs), chief of the boat, but he's actually the heart and soul of it. Navy never gets anywhere without a good chief, because that's what you need, and this guy was good. And the exec and CO, they rely on him, and then all the crew, they look up to him. And one thing I did notice on there, there was never any animosity, no bickering between crew members. Everybody seemed to be supportive of the other one and no getting digs in. Well to me it seemed like they were as serious about this as I was, and that made me feel good. So.

(1:51:13 – 1:51:19) Jessica Williams: And it's, I think it's definitely a testament to the people at the top, right, the COB as well as the . . .

(1:51:19 – 1:52:28) Albert Anguish: Yeah. And as far as getting exercises, there was no place to exercise. I mean, you were . . . it's a good thing I was in good shape when I went out because there was no place to do – you couldn't lay down on the deck somewhere and do sit-ups or do chin-ups because the hatches were only (laughs), and you couldn't hang on the pipes that were throughout the sub, so. Your body tone kind of suffered for three months. And, the one thing, I will say that, after being down for three months, I'm kind of jumping ahead, when you first go back to periscope depth and they crack it and bring in that fresh air, you want to throw up. It's such a smell. And then when you get off, you're (laughs) wobbling. I mean it's like you haven't got your sea legs, and you don't even notice that when you're on a sub until you walk onto the pier, like a drunk. So. I digress. (laughs)

(1:52:30 – 1:52:43) Jessica Williams: That's funny. I imagine, you know, *Growler* coming back into port and everybody coming out of the submarine, but to imagine everybody now, sort of weaving their way onto Sierra 9 is kind of funny.

(1:52:44 – 1:53:03) Albert Anguish: Well, we do man the rail, when we can, and I said, "Can I go out and man the rail?" And we wore coveralls on the sub, so we would man the rail because you always honor the *Arizona*, so that was a neat thing to get to do, so – and look through the periscope.

(1:53:04 – 1:53:26) Jessica Williams: Yeah. Oh, one thing I wanted to ask you, you know, you mentioned that generally it seemed like people got along pretty well on *Growler*. You had mentioned way back at the beginning of our conversation that one of the things that struck you joining the Navy was some incidents of discrimination, and I'm wondering if you sensed any of that on board *Growler*.

(1:53:28 – 1:55:46) Albert Anguish: No. And I believe we had a couple black petty officers. And I'm not sure what their jobs were. And I think we had a Filipino steward. And they were treated just like everyone else, I mean, when you went into the mess deck, the black guy could come over and sit down next to you, and the Filipino would come out and visit, and you never saw anybody, you know, because I think they all knew, they were in this together, and if we don't get along, somebody is going to suffer. And, if you liked the submarine service, and you cause trouble, you're not going to be in it once you get back and a report is made, so, I think there were a lot of factors, but . . . the Navy that I was part of, and the ships I served on, and the subs and the aircraft, there was no display of discrimination at all, because everybody had a security clearance – except for the regular crew – and they knew what we did and they knew if we were on there that it was probably going to be a pretty important mission, so. Now I did notice on a aircraft carrier, when I made a couple transits on those, there were quite a few incidents on those, and they involved some fights between blacks and whites, or Hispanics and blacks, and they had a Marine Detachment and there were people in the brig. And they would take them out every day on the flight, I mean the deck down below, the hangar deck, and be about 40 prisoners out there and they would be exercising them. So there must've been quite a few problems, but, again, the people I dealt with, I never saw anything.

(1:55:48 – 1:56:04) Jessica Williams: Thank you. Let's see. Are there any other particular stories about your time on *Growler*, or moments, or just personalities, or things that spring to mind?

(1:56:06 – 1:59:33) Albert Anguish: Well, in no particular order, when we – I don't know if you know about the light system on a sub. When it's daylight, it's red lights in the sub. Because, so their eyes adjust when they look through the periscope. So basically, in the sleeping quarters there was never any light. And when we were on the surface pulling back into Pearl, and you got a chance to look at your bunk, and excuse me, but the cover that went over the mattress, the Navy called "fart sacks." It was as black (laughs) as this. And I said, "Oh my God, I've been sleeping on that?" (laughs) Because you couldn't – there was no way to do laundry or anything like that. And . . . other experiences? There were no initiations. I think a couple guys got their dolphins and I got to witness what they do on – but they're not like the Marines where they pound their insignia into their chest, you know, they do a little ceremony. No, time went by pretty fast and everybody has a short timer's calendar and you mark off the days, you know. And they do do an anchor pool. And I don't know if you've heard of those or not. But, everybody in the crew picks a time. They'll give you the date. It picks a time that they're going to drop the anchor, or tie up to the pier. And everybody puts in a buck or whatever, and then whoever comes closest to that time gets all the money. And again, I didn't win that, but that was something neat. And, just so you, to understand that submariners are a special breed.

They get away with – I mean they can still grow beards. Surface people can't. They could during the Vietnam War but they can't. They can let their hair grow. I didn't have a haircut in three months. Yeah, it's just a unique experience. Next to flying off carriers, and landing on carriers, I would say that being on a submarine is a higher thrill, because it's longer duration, and there's more on your shoulders than being able to look out and see and have the navigator tell you, "Okay, we got to change course." Because they're more involved in an aircraft or on a surface ship, so. If I had to do all over, I'd do it all over. And I wouldn't skip serving on a diesel because it made me appreciate how much (laughs) better a nuclear submarine was.

(1:59:34 – 1:59:38) Jessica Williams: Yeah, I'd love to hear specifically, your comparison of the . . .

(1:59:38 – 2:02:41) Albert Anguish: It was like night and day. Went onto the nuclear sub; you didn't have to duck to go through hatches. There was a big workout area; I used to do sit ups on top of the reactor. Take a shower every day if you wanted. Food was great, because we could carry a lot more. Made our own water. Moved a lot faster, because we only went four knots when submerged, on the *Growler*. So we could get from one area, on a nuclear sub, to another, if we had to, real quick. Where on the *Growler*, if we needed to go a hundred miles it might take us 25 hours to get there, you know, so. Had TV. More entertainment. Bigger crew. Had my own bunk. (laughs) I was a first class by then. And, just like I said, difference between night and day. It's probably like if you're going to fly from the United States to England, going coach or going first class. Which we have done, we didn't come back first class, we came back business class, and, I mean it was so much different. But my appreciation is for the submariners that served during World War II and afterwards because . . . they didn't get to come back after three months. They were out there until they either sunk somebody and ran out of supplies – had to go somewhere. They could be out there for four years, or they got sunk. So . . . it was an honor to be on, and, like I said, I wished I'd have been in Pearl because I probably would've stayed in touch with a lot of the crew members. But when you're in Japan and they're there, and they don't – the Naval Security Group will never send you back to the same sub. Because they didn't want you getting too familiar with the crew and the crew getting too familiar and then it breaks down the barriers between you, so. I guess the wall would be a better – so. But, that's about it. When we came back in now, we came in daylight on the surface. But we were in uniform. And we got off, we went back down below decks and changed into civilian clothes and then got off.

(2:02:43 – 2:02:47) Jessica Williams: And then did you go fairly quickly then back to Japan?

(2:02:47 – 2:05:15) Albert Anguish: We had to get back to Japan that same – we left that same day because we had to get back and then we went through a one-week debriefing about day by day, what happened, and then we have to do a report. And that's the main function of the OIC. He has to take everything from the daily logs and compile it into a narrative that can be reviewed, and then we get debriefed on that. “Okay, on this date, you say this happened. We need more detail.” And then you can expand on what’s in your report. What made you think this way, and how did the captain react, and . . . so it was worthwhile. I was more prepared when I went on the next one, because I knew what to expect. The only thing I would say about the *Growler*, I wish we would’ve been . . . intercept all the time; it would’ve been so much more fun. I would’ve loved to have run out of tapes, instead of go back with half the tapes we had on board. Now we had to take the tapes back with us, so going back, I think – I don't believe we carried the tapes with us, I think we went to the security area there, and they sent them back for us through a secure channel. But they were usually there within a couple days. And then guess who got to transcribe them? The marine and me, because we're the ones that know what we heard and – because they hadn't been transcribed before. All they've been is gisted; so now you get the full-blown report. Then you get to type it up on a Cyrillic typewriter . . . on the old six-ply – I don't know if you ever heard of that, carbon paper, and a blue copy, green copy, yellow copy, gold copy, (laughs) purple copy. One went to NSA, and one went here, and one went to your mother, and . . . (laughs)

(2:05:17 – 2:05:21) Jessica Williams: That’s great. So you ended up kind of reliving the whole patrol again?

(2:05:22 – 2:05:25) Albert Anguish: That's like I'm back there now. I'm ready to go.

(2:05:27 – 2:05:34) Jessica Williams: How long was it after you got off *Growler* – so you did a patrol on *Grayback* too then, right? Or no?

(2:05:33 – 2:05:37) Albert Anguish: No, no. I had thought I did but I didn't.

(2:05:37 – 2:05:38) Jessica Williams: Okay, yeah. I couldn't remember.

(2:05:38 – 2:05:40) Albert Anguish: It was a friend of mine that was on the *Grayback*.

(2:05:40 – 2:05:45) Jessica Williams: Okay, so you had one diesel patrol, the one on *Growler*, (Albert Anguish: Right.) and then you went . . .

(2:05:45 – 2:05:51) Albert Anguish: I think one is all you need to appreciate the diesel service.
(laughs)

(2:05:53 – 2:06:06) Jessica Williams: If you get to hang out with some of your fellow crew members, you can tell them that. (laughs) (Albert Anguish: Yeah. (laughs)) There is one person who supposedly made all of *Growler's* eight patrols. (Albert Anguish: Oh wow.) I haven't spoken to this person, but this is what I hear.

(2:06:06 – 2:06:07) Albert Anguish: Oh, he had to been a career guy.

(2:06:08 – 2:06:22) Jessica Williams: Yeah. Yeah. But even a career – to be on – supposedly with the Regulus boats, for the crew, you could do, I forget how many, a certain number and then usually they would send you (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) somewhere else just because it's, as you describe, not the most pleasant . . .

(2:06:22 – 2:08:36) Albert Anguish: Yeah, to be able to stay on that long, because the Navy's philosophy or policy was three years and you go to a new duty station. So, every three years I had to be transferred, so. But it was a good, the three years I was in Japan was . . . beginning of my career, and then the more I got into it, the more I loved it. I kept going up in rank, and got involved in some really neat things, and even taught Russian at Goodfellow Air Force Base because they decided after having the linguist on the subs initially, it would be nice if they had a school where they could learn the naval terminology. So they developed a tri-service command in San Angelo, Texas, and I was one of the first group of instructors they sent there and I taught. They had finished the 18-month course, then they come there for six months, and you would lecture three hours and then you would play tapes and they would transcribe them. And they would be all from naval surface operations or flight operations or anything from subs. They were better prepared when they got, than when we were. Ours was basically on-the-job, so. And a lot of the guys I trained, years later when we lived in Monterey, one of them – he was just a little snot-nose third class when I had him in my class, and I walked into the barracks where the Navy – at the Army Language School for the Navy, and went down, I was looking for the quarter deck and out pops this E-9 and it's the seaman, I mean, the third class, he's, "Chief Anguish!" He says, "I remember you. You remember me?" And I says, "Yeah, Rick. I didn't think you'd amount to anything." So . . . anyway.

(2:08:36 – 2:08:59) Jessica Williams: That's great. Yeah, it's neat to cross back paths with people. So, we've been through, like a lot of, you know, the early part of your career and your time on *Growler*, and you were in the Navy for a while after that. (Albert Anguish: Right.) So I'm

wondering if you wouldn't mind just kind of summarizing where you went after you left *Growler* and went back to Japan.

(2:08:59 – 2:15:12) Albert Anguish: Okay, I went to Adak, Alaska. And there I was just an intercept operator, and that was a two-year tour. And . . . we didn't get a whole lot of good information there. Lot of Russian trawlers would sit out in the harbor. So basically it was just two years of standing watches and occasionally getting the Russian trawlers transmitting, and that would be about it – unless maybe a Tu-95 Bear or a Tu-16 was on some kind of flight operations and would get close enough that we could pick up their aerial communications, but, basically it was mainly boring . . . because I really didn't care much about the trawlers, I mean, they were just . . . we knew what they were doing, sitting out there, but their communications were so mundane that you couldn't get anything from it, so. I was glad to leave there. And then I went to Goodfellow for two years. I was supposed to be there three years, but they needed people to ride patrols again in Japan. So I went back . . . I left Goodfellow early, I went to Japan, and they put me in flight status there. And I was one of the senior people, so I was in charge of crews. And I wanted to go on patrol but they said, We need you more doing this, so I flew then, the recon missions.

(2:11:02) (laughs) One interesting experience I'll relate to you, flying these recon missions. Normally we would leave Atsugi, Japan, fly up and down the coast, and then go back to Japan, and we were flying on the old Super Constellations. Our designation was EC-121, "Willie Victors," four engine prop job, a crew of 33 with all our equipment on board . . . took every bit of the runway to get airborne. Then they would feather two engines, and fly on two. It would take us about two hours to get to station where we would be in range of picking up communications, and then we would fly up and down, so we'd be airborne for 20 hours. But it was – usually you were busy the whole time. That was very interesting. But one time they decided, let's fly from Atsugi all the way up to Misawa Air Force Base, which is up on the northern island. Stay there, and then fly back the next day. So, we did that; we got there. Navy CTs are notorious for being drinkers, because we had a lot of time when we weren't at sea or flying or whatever, to drink, because we never had really anybody enforcing our hours. So we went to the Officer's Club, and in those days there was no, you don't drink 12 hours before your flight, so (laughs), I think we closed the club at 3, and we took off at 5 in the morning. Immediately everybody crashed, except for the pilot and the copilot. And we're going along and – we have headsets on, and you can hear all the communications between the different positions. And I hear the, "Pilot to navigator, pilot to navigator." And you hear, "Uhhh, yeeeahh?" You could tell he had just woken up. "Where the hell are we?" "Uhh, just a minute. Uhh . . . oh my God, we're 200 miles inside Russian airspace!" He says, "Well that'd explain why we have two MiGs on either side of us, pointing down." He said, "Get us a course and get us

out of here.” We refused to go down. But one of our stupid crew members was sitting there and decided to flip them off. Well, I'm listening to them talk back to their main base, and in Russian they say, Somebody on that big plane gave us the finger. I (laughs) got on the intercom to the pilot and I said, “Tell whoever’s doing that to knock it off. We don't need to piss them off any more than they already are.” And they escorted us back outside, but I’ll tell you what, once that happened, everybody was wide awake. And, that was an interesting deal. Now if that had been the North Koreans . . . they shot down one of our planes, and I lost good friends on that. And, they also captured one of our ships, and you don't mess with the North Koreans, so I take what's going on now very seriously. And, I hope to hell we don’t go to war, but, you never know. But I know our Navy is still out there, preparing and doing their job, and the guys on the submarines are still out there and doing the same thing, so I’m sure we’ll be in good shape. I wished I was there.

(2:15:13 – 2:15:14) Jessica Williams: Really?

(2:15:15 – 2:16:26) Albert Anguish: Oh, yeah. I mean when Desert Storm started, I thought that they should take us old people that had already gotten older, and replace the young ones. I mean, hell, we’d already lived our lives. But they said, No, that’s not going to work. My philosophy then would’ve been shoot and take names later, so. But, from . . . Japan, then they needed people to ride out of Fort Meade, Maryland, so then I volunteered and I went back there. And I did a couple patrols out of New London, on nukes. And then they said, Uh-oh, we need you to take over the detachment at Brunswick, Maine, flying on P-3 Orions. So that's where I ended my Navy career, on P-3 Orions, trying to detect Russian ships carrying nuclear weapons, so. And then I got out.

(2:16:26 – 2:16:28) Jessica Williams: What prompted you to get out at that point?

(2:16:28 – 2:19:27) Albert Anguish: I was tired. I was burnt out. And I’d been, I guess, all this caught up with me, and I was drinking a lot, and I was angry. And I just . . . I knew that if I re-enlisted and the Vietnam thing kept going, I’d go back there and be flying off carriers, and fifty percent of the people who flew off carriers either got killed or prisoners, so I just said, “I’m done. I don’t want to do it anymore.” And I got out. I know I gave up . . . I only needed two more years, but, I was ready to go. I was burnt out. Didn’t want to do it anymore. In retrospect, it was a mistake. But, at the time I just wasn’t in a frame of mind to deal with it anymore. Too many days in buildings without windows and under the water and never talking to anybody and I just said, “Hey, I want something new.” It really didn’t work. (laughs) Because I ended up getting remarried. That ended after 10 years, and then I met Tina, and that was the best thing that happened. She got my ribbons back for me, they had been stolen, and got me

involved in military things, got me to go to the VA and apply for disability which I'd been denied earlier, and I did, and I'm on disability now and treating for it, so . . . owe her a lot. And if the Navy hadn't made me a CT, I doubt if I would've done all that. I'm sure I would've gotten out after four years, because I wouldn't have liked being on a surface ship, repairing radars. And, to me that wouldn't have been very exciting. Once I got out there and found out what it was all about, the excitement took over, so I know I probably would've gone back to Topeka, finished school, become an attorney – I might've gone in the reserves, but I doubt it . . . became a millionaire. (laughs) But I'm rich. I don't need money, I'm rich in a lot of ways. My life experience, I wouldn't do it all over. Wish someday I could just go into a lot more detail.

(2:19:29 – 2:19:50) Jessica Williams: You've already, even just by describing sort of what your experience was like and what your day to day was like, you know, it helps people understand, not only the past, but also the present, right? The fact that the subs are still out there, there are still people, they're not called CTs anymore, but engaging in this kind of . . .

(2:19:50 – 2:21:12) Albert Anguish: Right. And they've been risking their lives, because, they were on the *Liberty*, that the Israelis said, Oh, we didn't recognize it, and killed 38 of my fellow CTs. Just . . . lost a lot of them. And, people don't realize that we were risking our lives when we were out there doing it, and they're still doing it today. And, as far as – I can't imagine what the technology is like now, I mean, to me, we were pretty bare basic bones, and (laughs) when I see what NSA can do now and, what you can do with a little bitty computer chip. I would love to be out there to be able to see what kind of stuff – maybe they have equipment now that transcribes the tape for you, and if it's garbled, they can filter it out, I mean, I'm sure that they've worked on things like that. But I guess I'll never know because it's never talked about, so. Maybe at the *Growler* reunion. I'll probably find out I still owe somebody poker money (laughs) with interest. (laughs)

(2:21:12 – 2:21:56) Jessica Williams: (laughs) Yeah, one of the – it's interesting thinking about the – and I don't know about the technology today, but one of the things that is really interesting for us about *Growler*, and interesting for me in general about historical technology, is the balance of the human factor and the technology, so what does technology help people do and what do people need to do to make sense of it? So I've talked about this a lot with the sonar guys as well, just sort of, what could you hear and how much are you doing (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) in your own mind versus what's the technology telling you? And it sounds like, in your case, it's kind of similar to the sonar guys in the sense that you were listening to things that – you're able to hear things you wouldn't hear (Albert Anguish: Right.) with your human ear but it's still you interpreting and making sense.

(2:21:56 – 2:22:31) Albert Anguish: Right. I'm sure that they have equipment now that's replaced the oscilloscope, that covers the whole spectrum, and you get lights flashing on your console or whatever, and it tells you, go to this frequency, go to that frequency, or an alarm goes off, you don't have to sit and stare at it. And (laughs) I'm sure the space is a lot bigger (laughs), and I'd have my own bunk because I'd be in the goat locker. Chief, that's where – they called where the chiefs bunk, goat locker.

(2:22:32 – 2:22:43) Jessica Williams: What would you say to a young person who might be thinking – who would be thinking about going into this line of work, somebody who's interested in doing this kind of . . . ?

(2:22:43 – 2:25:46) Albert Anguish: First off, I would say, if you want to have a family, if you can't be away from your family for extended periods of time, if you can't talk about what you do, this is not for you. You have to be willing to sacrifice, basically, a family life. Just being a normal human being, you know, you go home and, "Oh, I had a rough day at the office." You're not ever going to be able to do that. If you're claustrophobic . . . if you've got any single thing in your background, they will uncover it and you won't get a clearance. My granddaughter wanted to be a CT. She was an honor student in high school, went to Chico State, got to drinking up there, wrote one hot check, applied for a security clearance and they denied it. Because she had written that check. And that's how serious they are. It's not a job for a person that doesn't have self-confidence. You got to be sure of yourself. You can't have any doubts. You can't be real analytical. I mean you can't take a day to think about what you just heard. You got to make a snap decision. So . . . it was a special breed. I'm sure they're still a special breed. And now women are doing it. And I never served with them but I'm sure they're just as capable as we are, and maybe they're even better with hearing because I know she hears a lot of stuff that I don't want her to hear. (laughs) And now I'm hearing a lot of stuff because I got new hearing aids, so. But, if you want to serve your country, doing a job that's needed, that will really contribute to national security, then this is a job . . . try to get into either the Air Force Security Group, the Army Security Agency, or the Naval Security Group, and as a linguist, and that means you'll have to go to language school, unless you already are fluent in another language, and then just volunteer. Get some experience and then volunteer for everything. And it'll be an exciting life, with rapid promotions. That's about what I would say.

(2:25:47 – 2:26:19) Jessica Williams: Good thorough advice. And, you know, I had mentioned before that we are doing this new exhibition about *Growler* that's opening in May. And so I wonder, just kind of, I guess maybe a somewhat related question, we have visitors from all over the world, most of whom have zero idea about submarines, have never been on one before,

don't know anything about the Cold War. So what might you hope our visitors might take away from seeing *Growler* and seeing the space where you worked and whatnot?

(2:26:23 – 2:29:23) Albert Anguish: This is a time that we were involved in a lot of secretive work, as were our enemies. We were spying on them, they were spying on us, because we were in a cold war situation, and one of the ways to do it was to use a submarine with intercept people on board that could monitor communications and give good feedback. I guess, I would say that we've progressed a lot more in equipment, but the methods are still the same; we're probably still doing the same thing. It's just a better submarine, better equipment . . . and without this . . . there probably would've been a war, if we weren't – both sides weren't trying to keep track of the other, I think there probably would've been a war. If we hadn't have prevented the Bay of Pigs and Cuba got the missiles, 90 miles from the United States, he was very erratic . . . could've easily started a nuclear war, so. It's a point in time that, well, up to this day you'll never be able to go out and read about specifics of what we did, or where we were. But why we did it, it was for the country, and this is how we did it, on this old equipment here that looks like it ought to be in a museum, which it is. (laughs) I would, depending on where they're from . . . just, maybe emphasize that this was necessary to help protect them and their homeland, because we have been protectors of other nations, so . . . I don't know what else to say. If I was there, I could probably give them a guided tour, "Yeah, that's where I almost slept sometimes." (laughs) "That's where I got to take a shower once a month."

(2:29:24 – 2:29:27) Jessica Williams: Well, I hope that you guys will come.

(2:29:27 – 2:29:30) Albert Anguish: We will. She's made a definite plan on it.

(2:29:31 – 2:29:49) Jessica Williams: Yeah. Yeah, that'll be – you'll get to do that and maybe talk to visitors and stuff. (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) I'm going to take a moment to make sure I didn't – there's nothing that I – so I think some more questions may pop to mind, but I think I covered almost everything that I came in thinking about, and other things too.

(2:29:49 – 2:29:57) Albert Anguish: I left out a couple incidents which I don't want to talk about. They're – so, I won't.

(2:29:59 – 2:30:00) Jessica Williams: That's good. Yeah.

(2:30:01 – 2:30:06) Albert Anguish: I, I, no, I won't. (Jessica Williams: Yeah.) They're part of the reason I have PTSD, so.

(2:30:09 – 2:30:27) Jessica Williams: Well if that's, yeah, whatever you want to say or not say, (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) obviously, you know, you got to, yeah, (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) take care of yourself in that way. Is there anything that you want to ask? I think – let me just make sure . . .

(2:30:27 – 2:30:29) Albert Anguish: I got him chuckling a few times there. (laughs)

(2:30:30 – 2:30:30) Jessica Williams: Huh?

(2:30:31 – 2:30:32) Albert Anguish: I got him chuckling a few times.

(2:30:32 – 2:30:41) Jessica Williams: We're not supposed to laugh, because then (Matt Costantino: Laugh internally.) we are laughing over you, which is why we are trying very hard to be composed, because the funny stories . . .

(2:30:41 – 2:30:46) Albert Anguish: Well, I hope its worthwhile information and you come up with something you can use.

(2:30:47 – 2:31:04) Jessica Williams: Oh, absolutely, absolutely. I think, you know, certainly your underscoring just what you were doing and how important it was, these are the kinds of things that not only help our visitors connect to the human aspect of *Growler* but also to history and that's what . . .

(2:31:04 – 2:31:13) Albert Anguish: Yeah. And I'm sure, like the guy you said made eight patrols with them, he figured out what we did after a couple, three, you know, oh, okay.

(2:31:13 – 2:31:38) Jessica Williams: It is – you know, I've talked to other crew members about spooks and what they thought you were doing, and essentially they thought you were doing what you were doing. They may not, of course, know how exactly you were doing it or the technology or the kinds of things that you were learning, but this idea of listening and intelligence gathering was known to them, or deduced by them.

(2:31:37 – 2:32:10) Albert Anguish: Yeah. Well, you know, and then *The Hunt for Red October* comes out, and pretty much, you know, shows you linguists on board, listening to the communications, so, using equipment that was classified before, so. Maybe even one of those – if there are any Russian visitors, I might ask one of them, “What can you tell me about your country (laughs) that I don't already know?” (laughs)

(2:32:11 – 2:32:21) Jessica Williams: Yeah, I mean we get people from all over. And I was wondering, because you say you still speak Russian, if you wouldn't mind just, like, introducing yourself in Russian, because maybe it would be useful for some . . .

(2:32:21 – 2:32:36) Albert Anguish: Oh, okay. Yeah. “Меня зовут Albert Anguish. Я был начальником американского флота.” “My name is Albert Anguish. I was a chief in the American Navy.”

(2:32:37 – 2:32:38) Jessica Williams: Excellent.

(2:32:38 – 2:33:21) Albert Anguish: And then I'll, you know, I'll tell them, “Я хочу пива.” “I want a beer.” And then I'll end with, “Я люблю тебя.” Any idea what that means? “I love you.” Everybody should learn that. That's one of her favorite sayings. I also could teach them to cuss, in Russian, but I . . . learned to use some of those on the sub. Nobody heard me except the Morse code operator, and he didn't know what I was saying, you know, so.

(2:33:23 – 2:33:30) Jessica Williams: There are words that many people want to learn in other languages but I think ‘I love you’ is maybe a better one. (laughs)

(2:33:29 – 2:34:20) Albert Anguish: Yeah, the other one's are – some of them I know are, they're not very nice. I mean . . . which, you know, like some of the words that we hear in the English language now, ten years down the road could be part of vocabulary. So . . . I have a ball cap, that says, “Major Spook,” on the back, but I have to be careful where I wear it, especially in the Kansas City area, because I don't know if you're old enough to remember but that's how they referred to blacks in the '60s, as spooks. So I don't wear it when I go to a Chief's game or into Kansas City.

(2:34:21 – 2:34:37) Jessica Williams: Yeah, you know, I've had some thoughts about this too, just in thinking about how we frame language in the exhibition, because of this other connotation of this word, but it is the common way that everybody described your position on the boat at the time. Yeah. Yeah, it's a word with . . .

(2:34:37 – 2:35:49) Albert Anguish: Well the people that probably are interested in touring that are going to know that it has to be something to do with undercover work or whatever, because . . . I mean just the connotation, and most people “spook” means, you know, you're spooky, you creep around, you know, so. And I don't think they would assume I'm black, so. (laughs) Although a guy did, after I got out of the Navy, I went back to Topeka and grew an afro. (laughs) It was when they were having all the riots all over the United States, and I was in my

car, and this white Cadillac was behind me. The guy kept honking his horn, and I look, and I could tell it was a black guy. And at the stoplight he pulls up next to me and looks over and he goes, "Oh, hell, you're not Otis; you're white." (laughs) So I went and got a haircut. (laughs) Because my hair – I used to have a lot of curly hair and it got way out. (Jessica Williams laughs) How long did we go?

(2:35:50 – 2:35:51) Jessica Williams: Oh, let's see . . .

(2:35:52 – 2:35:54) Matt Costantino: We're at two hours and 35 minutes.

(2:35:54 -2:35:54) Albert Anguish: Wow.

(2:35:54 – 2:36:04) Jessica Williams: Okay, that's pretty good. Anything else that comes to mind? Anything, any *Growler*, anything at all before we sign off?

(2:36:07 – 2:36:30) Albert Anguish: No, and I had mentioned to you on the phone, I thought that we had the dead body but I think you said it was on the *Grayback*, so that's probably how I heard about it, and they stuck it in the reefer, and, yeah. And it may have been the *Grayback* . . . I don't remember if it was us – we pulled in – it must've been the *Grayback*, pulled into Adak, and stole the admiral's totem pole.

(2:36:30 – 2:36:31) Jessica Williams: This is a *Growler* story.

(2:36:32 – 2:36:32) Albert Anguish: Is it?

(2:36:32 – 2:36:33) Jessica Williams: Yeah.

(2:36:33 – 2:36:44) Albert Anguish: Okay. And then we got a message, or the *Growler* got a message that if we had that totem pole, to bring it back. And they had to go back.

(2:36:45 – 2:36:47) Jessica Williams: Were you on *Growler* at the time?

(2:36:47 – 2:38:16) Albert Anguish: I think I was on it then, because I remember going to Adak for some reason, and I don't know why we went there. I thought it was a medical emergency, maybe somebody had appendicitis or whatever, and I remember the totem pole incident, because the guys said they put it in a torpedo tube. How they got it down in, you know, down that hatch, because . . . they wouldn't have opened up the missile canopy to bring it in that way, so. The admiral was not happy, and CINCPAC Fleet was not happy. And of course the

captain, he said, "I didn't know it was on there." You know, he thought it was pretty cool. And I guess they told him about it, but then when they found out about it, then he didn't think it was so cool. Anyway . . . if I think of anything else . . . I'll contact you or maybe we can just talk about it next year. Maybe once I go on board and something will remind me of something else. Are any of the COs, XOs, part of the reunion stuff?

(2:38:17 – 2:38:33) Jessica Williams: The guy who was the last surviving commanding officer died in April or the end of March. (Albert Anguish: Oh.) This was Robert Owens, who would've been after – I think Captain Henderson would've been the captain while you were on board, and so he . . .

(2:38:32 – 2:38:36) Albert Anguish: Okay. See, names I'm not real familiar with.

(2:38:36 – 2:38:50) Jessica Williams: Yeah. He would've been the XO, maybe, when you were on board, (Albert Anguish: Probably. Yeah.) but he became the CO in 1963, and he, yeah, we've done two interviews with him. I had gone out to California to interview him and then he passed away three weeks after.

(2:38:50 – 2:39:40) Albert Anguish: Yeah. I do know that – whatever, if there was a good report and new stuff discovered by our team, it kind of fast-tracked the officers on the sub, especially the XO, to get his own boat. So you always tried your best to make sure you're – you couldn't put BS in your report, but, I mean, if you got something, you thought it was something, you glorified it as much as possible, because you knew that the better they looked, the better chance they had, and you might end up with them as a skipper. And, I know I really liked the XO and the CO, and the COB, so. A lot of them are probably dead now though.

(2:39:41 – 2:39:52) Jessica Williams: Yeah, there's, one of the XOs on *Growler* is still alive. He later became the CO of *Grayback*. He was actually part of *Growler's* commissioning crew. (Albert Anguish: Okay.) His last name is Ekelund.

(2:39:52 – 2:39:53) Albert Anguish: Oh, so he was a plankowner?

(2:39:53 – 2:40:24) Jessica Williams: Yeah, so he was a plankowner, he was the XO, and then he became the CO of *Grayback*. And one of the COBs is still around, and he would've been the COB, I think in 1963. His name is Lister. And he was a World War II sub vet too. (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) And we went and we talked to him, he's in Indiana at the moment. And, you know, I think he would like to come, but he also had recently broken his leg and stuff. He was a great, like, very nice guy and very funny.

(2:40:24 – 2:41:46) Albert Anguish: Yeah. I know when I went on there, first, and I was introduced to the chiefs, I thought, boy, these are a bunch of crusty old guys, all had that bend in their finger from the coffee cup, you know, and I said, I don't want to end up like this. But fortunately my job never became just a, you know, a nobody, as we would call it. Yeah, I guess if I could put a name on the CTs as a whole, they're kind of like the SEALs. They were an elite group, and still are an elite group. The ones that were really good, stayed in, and you ran into them at other duty stations or on different ships, and a lot of them were guys that I had gone to boot camp with, which is amazing because four of five of those became CTs too. But I didn't know it at boot camp, and then later on I run into them in Japan or someplace, and I go, "Boot camp." I said, "What are you doing here?" And they go, I'm a CT, I'm a Russian linguist, and I go, "Oh, wow, I'm a Romanian linguist." "Well, what are you doing here?" You know, so . . .

(2:41:49 – 2:42:03) Jessica Williams: Yeah, it is funny how the Navy sort of brings people back together. (Albert Anguish: Yeah.) Excellent. So yeah, anything else, oh, and when you come, if anything comes to mind when you're in New York, we can talk more, but anything else?

(2:42:04 – 2:42:07) Albert Anguish: Does the museum have shirts and stuff?

(2:42:08 – 2:42:24) Jessica Williams: I think so, and if not we should talk to the gift shop by the time this – I think they'll be thinking about more *Growler* things (Albert Anguish: Okay.) by the time this exhibit is ready to open. I hope anyway. Yeah. Are we good, we good?

(2:42:24 – 2:42:25) Albert Anguish: Yeah, I think so.

(2:42:25 – 2:42:26) Jessica Williams: Okay. Cool.

(2:42:27 – 2:42:30) Albert Anguish: I hope you can get some good stuff out of it.

(2:42:30 – 2:42:31) Jessica Williams: Oh, definitely.

(2:42:31 – 2:42:33) Albert Anguish: But I get the whole thing?

(2:42:33 – 2:42:34) Jessica Williams: Yeah, you get the whole thing.

(2:42:33 – 2:42:34) Albert Anguish: Oh boy.

(2:42:34 – 2:42:43) Jessica Williams: So the last thing that Matt is going to do is he's just going to take your close-up, so you can just sit back, relax. In case we ever need a close-up for some reason.

(2:42:44 – 2:42:47) Albert Anguish: This is my good side, I guess. (both laugh)

(2:42:51 – 2:42:52) Matt Costantino: All right, that looks good.

(2:42:53 – 2:42:53) Albert Anguish: Okay.

(2:42:53 – 2:42:56) Jessica Williams: Excellent. Thank you, Al.

(End of interview)