

# Jim A. Triplett

U.S. Navy  
USS Copahee



**Jim A. Triplett, Sr.**  
U.S. Navy  
Survived Pearl Harbor Attack

I was born in Wichita, Kansas and moved with my family to Springfield, Illinois at one year of age. On February 11, 1938, I joined the United States Navy.



**Ford Island, Oahu, Hawaii**

At 7:57 a.m. on the morning of December 7, 1941, I was standing on the dock at Ford Island, Hawaii with my brother Clifford C. Triplett, also in the US

Navy. We were closest to the USS California that was in ships row.

As we witnessed the beginning of the Japanese attack, we went immediately to separate our battle stations. My station was on the roof of the Administration Building. I remained stationed at Pearl Harbor for another year before being transferred to the main island submarine base. I was assigned the task of looking after the possessions of the sailors who went to sea aboard the submarines.

A few months later, I went aboard the USS Copahee and served one year. Next, I was assigned to the USS Blount, a cargo supply ship. We went to sea to supply larger ships with all sorts of equipment, food and other supplies needed for the war. It was also my job to train the men to handle cargo safely at sea.

While on leave, I married Bertha Barlow in Springfield, Illinois on January 26, 1946. We had three daughters and one son. I remained in the Navy for 21 years serving aboard six ships and did duty at the Naval Gun Factory, Washington D.C., Norfolk, Virginia, Davisville, Rhode Island and on Kwajlein Island in the Pacific. With the rank of Boatswain Mate Chief, I was discharged on June 16, 1959. I am a charter member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. For the next 27 years, I worked as a semi-truck driver doing heavy hauling. I am now 84 years old and reside in Springfield, Illinois with my wife, Bertha.

Jim A. Triplett  
Springfield, Illinois

