

Thomas Wheelus, Hugo

I provided troop support for three year. The range of guns 8.5 miles . I was Involved in what was called operation linebacker where we went all the way up the coast of Vietnam firing at military installations and the blockaded Haiphong Harbor. This was like '73 this is what really brought an end to the war. They really thought we were serious and thought we could make a deal. I was in supply but I served on the damage control teams on the main deck of the ship. I was involved in anti-swimmers' watches. There were about 20 trigger-happy kids on deck all-night to shoot anything in water that looked suspicious to keep anyone from swimming up to ship and putting a bomb or mine on ship.

People had been known to swim ten miles out and put bomb on side of a ship and swim back Involved in a couple of operations when we used our missiles in Vietnam. The ship I was on had guns and missiles and we used both effectively.

I am on my fourth row of medals. In three years. The big part of it is I was on the command ship of the 7<sup>th</sup> fleet. When he received an award, everyone on the ship got an award. I was just on the right ship at the right time. I wasn't a hero.

Navy big E for excellence.

Vietnam service award

Navy unit commendation

Meritorious unit citation

VN combat action

Sharp shooter rifle and pistol

good conduct medal

VN Service Medal

I volunteered I was an enlistee and I volunteered for service in Vietnam.