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Interview with
Carl H. Russell
February 27, 1978

Place of Interview: Bedford, Texas
Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello
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Oral History Collection

Carl H. Russell

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello

Place of Interview: Bedford, Texas

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Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Carl Russell for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on February 27, 1978, in Bedford, Texas. I'm interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Russell in order to get their reminiscences and experiences and impressions while they were living at Hickam Field during the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor and the surrounding military installations on December 7, 1941.

Now to begin this interview, what I'll do is have each one of you give me a very brief biographical sketch of yourself. In other words, tell me when you were born, where you were born, your occupation--things of that nature. Just be very brief and general. Let's start off with you first of all, Mr. Russell.

Mr. Russell: I was born in Mississippi in 1910, and I, of course, grew up on the farm and later on joined the U.S. Army Air Corps at that time. That was the reason I had gotten to Hawaii.

Marcello: When did you join the Air Corps?

Russell: In 1939.

Marcello: Why did you decide to join?

Russell: Well, I guess for several reasons; more or less for adventure, I guess, and a livelihood. It was during the big Depression, which was no jobs available, so I joined the Army. It looked like it was the best thing out.

Marcello: You know, the reason that you have just given is a standard reason that a great many people of your generation give for having entered the service. In other words, times were tough and jobs were hard to find. The service didn't pay very much, but there was a certain amount of security there.

Russell: Right. As I look back now, it was a kind of a home for anybody, you know, that was used to a hard time on the farm.

Marcello: Why did you decide to join the Air Corps as opposed to one of the other branches of the service?

Russell: Well, I'd had prior service in the infantry before--a couple of years in the U.S. infantry in Panama--and I got enough of that foot marching during those days.

Marcello: Oh, so in other words, your hitch in the Air Corps would have been your second hitch in the service?

Russell: Right, yes.

Marcello: When did you first enter the service?

Russell: Well, I first entered the service in June of 1936 and joined as a U.S. infantryman and was sent to Panama and spent two years down there doing the infantry troops' normal duties, which was marching and more or less in the jungles for two years cutting trail and different type maneuvers in this jungles there. That was one of the reasons for wanting to get away from the "foot marchers."

Marcello: So what did you do, then, after your first hitch was completed? Did you try to find work in civilian life once again?

Russell: Yes, I stayed out of the service almost a year, and the jobs at that time was still . . . they was just nil, you might say, unless you went back to farming.

Marcello: I assume there wasn't too much money to be made in farming at that particular time.

Russell: No, there wasn't. At that time, during the whole year there, the recruiting was even closed. They wasn't even accepting too many people to join the service. So I wasn't particularly interested in getting back in the infantry, and I waited until the recruiting opened up for the Air Corps. I had kind of been bothering the recruiting sergeant there in my hometown for quite awhile.

When the opening came in, then he called me and told me to come on down, and he'd fix me up.

Marcello: I've heard this from other people that I have interviewed. It wasn't necessarily easy to get in the service at that particular time.

Russell: No, it wasn't. It wasn't easy at all.

Marcello: Well, like we mentioned awhile ago, the service did offer a certain amount of security. Since the country was still in the midst of Depression, I'm sure there was quite a waiting line to get in the service at that time.

Russell: Yes, it was. In fact, it was closed there for a long time, and they just got a few openings in for foreign duty service. That was, at that time, considered foreign duty.

Marcello: We're talking about the Territory of Hawaii, of course.

Russell: Territory of Hawaii, yes.

Marcello: Now at the time that you'd joined the Air Corps, had you married yet?

Russell: No, we didn't get married until . . . oh, I'd been down there, I guess, from '39 to August of 1940 when Edith came down. Then we got married there in Honolulu.

Marcello: Well, let's back up a moment now and have Mrs. Russell give a brief biographical sketch of herself.

Mrs.

Russell: I was born in Mississippi in 1912.

Marcello: Did you remain in Mississippi all during this period?

Mrs.

Russell: Yes, I did.

Marcello: When did you go to the Hawaiian Islands?

Mrs.

Russell: It was in August of '41, wasn't it?

Russell: Yes, in '41. Right.

Marcello: Now all of this time, of course, you had known one another,
I assume.

Russell: Right.

Marcello: Were you born close to where Mr. Russell had been born?

Mrs.

Russell: Yes. I was from Laurel, Mississippi.

Marcello: I gather, then, that you were childhood sweethearts, so
to speak, and so on and so forth?

Russell: No. It's kind of a long story there. I didn't know her
until 1939, after I got back from Panama. I met her then,
and that was the beginning.

Marcello: When you were sent over to the Hawaiian Islands, I assume
that by that time you had plans to get married in the very
near future and bring her over.

Russell: No, at that time, a person had to be a staff sergeant or
above in grade before they were given permission to get
married.

Marcello: Why was this?

- Russell: Well, I don't know, but that was some of your pre-war regulations that you had. I guess it was because they figured you couldn't support a wife at any grade less than that.
- Marcello: From what I gather, the service didn't make too many provisions for housing and so on in the Hawaiian Islands at that time, either.
- Russell: No, it didn't. Of course, when we got married, we married with permission, and we had already got quarters lined up when we got married. So we moved right on the base at Hickam.
- Marcello: Now when you joined the Air Corps, did you join with the understanding that you would be sent to the Hawaiian Islands?
- Russell: Right, yes.
- Marcello: Did you go directly from your home in Mississippi to the Hawaiian Islands?
- Russell: I went to casual detachment in Fort McClellan, Alabama, and remained there until I guess they got the necessary cadre built up. Then we went by train to Charleston, South Carolina, and boarded a troop transport. We went from there on down the Panama Canal and on down around through to San Francisco and from there back to Hawaii.
- Marcello: And what was this detachment that you were joined to

temporarily at Fort McClellan? What was it called?

Russell: Casual detachment. It was just people that was waiting to be assigned to some post or station somewhere.

Marcello: Why did you want to go to the Hawaiian Islands?

Russell: Well, they always told me that the foreign duty was better than stateside (chuckle), and I guess that was the primary reason. Too, it wasn't any preference of when you assigned up for the Air Corps at that time to be assigned to the States. The openings that came out called for Hawaii, and that was the reason that I went to Hawaii.

Marcello: Now as foreign duty, did you receive any additional pay, or were you still getting just the regular Army pay in going to Hawaii?

Russell: Just the regular pay. It wasn't extra pay when we received foreign duty.

Marcello: Did you have visions of a tropical paradise?

Russell: Well, I'd heard a lot about Hawaii, and I wasn't too impressed with Hawaii other than the climate there.

Marcello: Now in joining the Air Corps, did you have to go through any further basic training, so to speak?

Russell: No. After you once had had what we called recruit training back during those days, that sufficed for this Army Air Corps.

Marcello: Did you go directly to Hickam Field?

Russell: No. When I went over there, they had taken the whole . . . I guess the whole boatload, so to speak, to Wheeler Field. Then from there, after about two weeks, they started re-assigning them to different units in Hawaii there. I was sent to . . . at that time, Luke Field was in the middle of Ford Island, which is in Pearl Harbor. They sent me to Luke Field, and Hickam Field was just being built up. It had its runways, but the living quarters was not ready. We commuted back and forth, which was only a couple of miles from down on Ford Island there to Hickam Field. Then they set up a tent city, and then Luke Field was no longer there by name, and it was moved by name only to Phoenix, Arizona, I think, and we become Hickam Field there.

Marcello: Now when you moved over to Hickam Field, were you at first living in "tent city?"

Russell: Yes. I lived in "tent city," I guess, about six months.

Marcello: What was it like living in a tent?

Russell: Well, there it wasn't bad, because due to the weather conditions there, it was ideal living in a tent. They had centralized bathroom facilities and all that, and that made it a little inconvenient. But other than that, it was nice living in a tent.

Marcello: Now what particular unit were you assigned to after you got

to Hickam Field? In other words, identify your unit.

Russell: Well, they had kind of a pool there; they called it the 17th Air Base Group. They pooled all these people, because they didn't have these permanent bomb squadrons, as we'll get into later, organized. I stayed in this air base group, I guess, for six months along with, I guess, hundreds of other people. We just did menial tasks that whatever come about to do. Then they had a big reorganization, and they formed this new group that they set up there, the 11th Bombardment Group and the existing 5th Bombardment Group, which was already there. So during the reorganization, I was assigned to the 31st Bombardment Squadron of the 5th Bombardment Group. I remained there in that particular squadron for the duration of the time I was down there.

Marcello: What did you do in that squadron? In other words, what was your function?

Russell: Well, I was in armaments--aircraft armorer. That was the people that was responsible for the bombardment part of the aircraft--the bombs, guns, rockets, and flares and what-have-you that was being used during those days.

Marcello: In other words, you were part of ground maintenance in a way. Not maintaining the airplane in a mechanical sense, but like you say, you were responsible for arming it and

things of that nature.

Russell: Right. That's right. It was considered ground maintenance.

Marcello: What sort of planes were you working with there?

Russell: When I first joined the outfit, they only had the B-18, which was a two-engine bomber.

Marcello: And it was the forerunner of the B-17, I guess.

Russell: Right. In 1940, I guess it was--sometime in 1940--we started getting the first type B-17's that was assigned to the Air Corps. Then they started phasing the B-18's out and sending them on down to the Philippines.

Marcello: I'm sure that B-17 was a rather revolutionary airplane for its time, was it not?

Russell: Yes, it was. Of course, the first ones that came out, they was not as near as potent as the latter ones that came out after the war began on account of the gunnery and the turrets and what-have-you that was mounted on those type of aircraft.

Marcello: Were you servicing the B-17's after they were introduced?

Russell: Yes.

Marcello: I'm sure that there was a lot more work involved in arming a B-17 than there was in arming the old B-18.

Russell: Oh, yes. Well, the B-18, of course, they didn't use them any at all after the war started. They had a couple around there, but I don't know but what they didn't get destroyed

there during the raid. But anyway, we were all together with the B-17's at the outbreak of the war there.

Marcello: Now all this time, were you keeping in touch with the future Mrs. Russell through correspondence and so on and so forth?

Russell: You mean after the war started?

Marcello: No, after you got to the Hawaiian Islands.

Russell: Yes. Right. We decided to get married . . . I guess it was in July. Anyway, we had to make some arrangements, you know, to get reservations for her to come down on the Matson liner.

Marcello: Now would this have been July of 1940?

Russell: Right.

Marcello: What rank were you at the time?

Russell: I was a staff sergeant.

Marcello: Describe the procedure that you had to go through in order to get permission to get married, and then talk a little bit about the arrangements you had to make later on.

Russell: Well, all I had to do is just go through the orderly room to go through the right channels, in other words, and get it authorized.

Marcello: Now did you have enough rank that you could bring her over?

Russell: Yes. Staff sergeant was the required rank at that time before they would authorize you. Now I imagine you could

have got married, but, in other words, it would have brought on difficulties later. When you got married you went on separate rations, because it was the idea to live off base or in your own quarters and be able to draw separate quarters and whatever other little allowance was allowed for that particular thing.

Marcello: Now did you make the housing arrangements and so on and so forth before you got married?

Russell: Yes.

Marcello: And around this same time?

Russell: Right.

Marcello: What was involved in that procedure?

Russell: Well, that was to just go through the base housing and to check on availability of quarters and see if they would have one at that time. More or less, if they thought you was serious in going through with your plans, they would set one aside for you. At that time, there seemed to be plenty. In fact, they had some non-coms living in some of these quarters to fill them up to keep them from being vacant.

Marcello: How much money were you making at that time as a staff sergeant?

Russell: I believe staff sergeant at that time made seventy-two dollars a month, plus about twelve dollars that was separate rations, they called it. That was the limit on it.

Marcello: Now did you actually do any flying at all here at Hickam?

Russell: Just very little. I went up a few times on tow-target missions and things of that nature where they had to have an armament man for controlling the tow-target release.

Marcello: But in other words, you didn't fly enough that you would have qualified for flight pay, so to speak.

Russell: No. No, I didn't.

Marcello: Mrs. Russell, what did you think about the idea of going to the Hawaiian Islands?

Mrs.

Russell: Oh, it was nice (laughter).

Marcello: What sort of visions did you have of the islands, that is, before you actually got there?

Mrs.

Russell: Oh, I don't know. The only thing you knew about it was just what little bit you read and what he had told me about it. He sent me a lot of pictures from over there which were just beautiful. The climate was so good and everything.

Marcello: Now did you have to make your own arrangements and so on to get over to the Hawaiian Islands, or was a great deal of this arranged by the government? How did it work?

Mrs.

Russell: No, he made the arrangements.

Russell: I made the arrangements just like the travel agency. In

fact, it was a travel agency in Honolulu there, and the government had nothing to do with it.

Marcello: So in other words, you probably took a train from Mississippi to San Francisco . . .

Mrs.
Russell: Yes.

Marcello: . . . and picked up the Matson liner from San Francisco to Hawaii?

Mrs.
Russell: That's right.

Russell: It was all at our expense at that time. There was no government help at all like it is in this day and time.

Marcello: Am I to assume that the military wasn't too keen about marriages at that particular time?

Russell: Well, that's very true. In the lower grades at that time, you had to be in rank or in grade so many months or years before you could travel in grade. In other words, if I'd have been sent back from . . . I'll back up a little further. Like when I was in Panama, I was a corporal. Well, the day I got on board that transport to come back to the States, that's the date my corporal's rank expired. You didn't travel in grade like you do now; you can go all over the world and travel in grade, which at that time, they had no such . . . well, it just wasn't a custom.

Marcello: So the military really didn't offer any help at all in

terms of you getting married.

Russell: No, it didn't. In fact, they discouraged it, because I guess it was . . . well, I guess it was more of a hazard than it was anything else because of people having dependents they had to worry about instead of just being your own self and taking off and that was it.

Marcello: Mrs. Russell, when did you arrive in the Hawaiian Islands? Do you perhaps recall the date?

Mrs.
Russell: August 20th.

Marcello: Of 1940.

Mrs.
Russell: 1941.

Marcello: You arrived in August of 1941.

Mrs.
Russell: That's when the war started, wasn't it?

Marcello: Well, it started in December of 1941.

Mrs.
Russell: Right, and it was in August of '41 before we got married.

Marcello: When did you get married?

Mrs.
Russell: The 20th of August.

Marcello: Okay, how shortly after you arrived in the Hawaiian Islands did you get married?

Mrs.
Russell: Oh, I arrived that morning, and we got married that afternoon.

Marcello: It was that soon?

Mrs.

Russell: Yes.

Marcello: Describe what your quarters were like there at Hickam Field.

Mrs.

Russell: Oh, it was a duplex--a two-bedroom duplex.

Marcello: About how large was it?

Mrs.

Russell: Oh, it must have been about . . . I don't know. They were just real nice, big bedrooms and a living room and a dinette area and then a kitchen and bathroom.

Marcello: Were the quarters furnished?

Mrs.

Russell: No. They had the kitchen appliances. But at that time, you could check out furniture, couldn't you, from the quartermaster?

Russell: Well, most of what they had was just like the GI bunks, you know. But we didn't furnish it with government furnishings. We skimped and saved, and we went down to Honolulu and bought a bed and a few other things that we had to have. But, of course, people didn't expect it because it wasn't a custom for the government, you know, to furnish all this stuff like they do now. If you wasn't used to the fringe benefits, you didn't miss it, you know.

Marcello: Mrs. Russell, did you fully intend to work after you got married.

Mrs.

Russell: Oh, I hadn't planned. I didn't know. This was new to me (chuckle), Air Force life.

Marcello: But did you go to work after you got married in August of 1941?

Mrs.

Russell: After the war started, I worked a little bit down there at the base.

Marcello: I'm referring to that period now between August and December of 1941.

Mrs.

Russell: No.

Marcello: In other words, the salary that you received was enough to support a wife at that particular time.

Russell: Yes, as long as you lived within your means and didn't try to live too high, you know. It was adequate.

Marcello: Did you have base privileges and so on at that time in terms of purchasing food, so on and so forth?

Russell: Yes. There was a commissary nearby, and we used it. Of course, in those days, you didn't have to go to the commissary. You could put your order out in a little mailbox-like deal and two or three days later after they picked it up, they'd make your delivery right to the house. They'd deliver it right on into your kitchen. Of course, there was no money involved; it was all "jaw-bone," they

called it back in those days, and at the end of the month, it was held out from your paycheck at the orderly room.

Mrs.

Russell: Would you believe we bought bread for three cents a loaf? After the war started, I went to the commissary and . . . I knew I was coming home. You couldn't pay for your groceries when you bought them. If you went to the commissary, you couldn't pay for them then. I told them that I was coming back to the States and that I would have to pay for it then, and that's the only way they would take it. I just almost had to make them take the money.

Marcello: But the standard procedure was for them to simply deduct the cost of the groceries from your paycheck.

Russell: Right. It was a convenient method they had, but, of course, there wasn't as many people involved then as there are now. So now it would take a large body of people, you know, to try to handle on a base all the credit that they use for the post exchange and the commissary.

Marcello: Now where were your quarters located in relation to where you worked?

Russell: Well, I'd say it wasn't no farther than a quarter of a mile from where I worked.

Marcello: Would you walk to work?

Russell: I'd walk or I had a little old bicycle I used most of the time. But walking wasn't out of the question at all, because it was very nearby.

Marcello: Approximately how many people were housed in this area where you were living?

Russell: Oh, it was a large complex of GI quarters, and I couldn't estimate how many lived there. But there was quite a number of enlisted people there that was separate from the officers' living quarters on a different part of the base altogether.

Marcello: What does a young married couple do for entertainment during that period between August and December of 1941, given the fact that you had a relatively limited income? What would you do for entertainment?

Russell: Well, of course, back during those days, you know, theatres was the primary part of your social life or entertainment. We went to movies, and we would . . . the couple that got married the same day we did, which I imagine will be brought out later here, they owned an automobile. In fact, she came over in the same boat as Edith, and she brought her automobile with her. Every Sunday we'd go out on the beach to Waikiki or around the island or somewhere on the island, you know, for entertainment and recreation. So it wasn't a bad . . . it wasn't too hard, you know, to find

something to do.

Marcello: And as you mentioned, one could be entertained rather cheaply on the island.

Russell: Right.

Mrs.

Russell: And we saved money on that salary. It's hard for you to believe that, but we did.

Marcello: And I'm sure you made all the standard tours of the island and so on and so forth as any tourist would do.

Mrs.

Russell: Right.

Russell: Well, at that time, prices was real reasonable. It was comparable to what you'd make, you know, so you could live within your income.

Marcello: And coming out of the Depression, I would assume that your wants and your expectations probably were not as great as, let's say, a newly married couple in 1978.

Russell: That's true. If you had been through the Depression and started getting seventy-two dollars a month, that was "high on the hog" at that time, you know (chuckle), compared with the farm life that you was used to.

Marcello: How often did you get paid?

Russell: Once a month.

Marcello: Do you recall what day of the month it was?

Russell: Well, it was usually on the 1st . . . first or last day

of the month, depending on what day of the week it come on. There was what they called a supplementary pay. If you decided you wanted money in the middle of the month, they'd come out with a supplemental pay that you could sign and draw. You'd have to designate what you wanted to draw within that payday. Of course, that would be held out from your pay at the end of the month.

Marcello: And everybody got paid in cash at that time, too, did they not?

Russell: Yes, it was counted out in cash.

Marcello: Now as one gets closer and closer to December 7, 1941, and as conditions between the United States and Japan continued to deteriorate--I'm referring to that period between August and December--did your training routine change any there at Hickam? Did you notice any changes occurring?

Russell: Well, no, I don't believe I did. I don't believe anybody had any idea that there was any buildup toward any future wars. We was under pretty strict training at all times, I mean, even in our own jobs. Prior to Edith getting down there, we'd gone through--and I was one of the ones that was involved--we'd have to set up a ground training period there that lasted about six weeks. It was all done on the base. It was the idea of the base defense in case of any emergency, you know, to run out and set up machine guns

and what-have-you in case of an alert that might involve enemy action. But none of us every thought that it was being done for any future invasion or any threat that the Japanese would have to offer them.

Marcello: Did you ever have any alerts during those weeks immediately prior to December 7th?

Russell: Well, I'll tell you, we had an alert--and at that time, it sounded routine--on Saturday before this happened on Sunday. Of course, we'd had those before. It was kind of a routine affair where everybody'd report to their station. All the aircraft would be dispersed from the hangar line to out in the remote areas across the runway and what-have-you. This took place on Saturday before the raid. But we dispersed the aircraft, and everybody just went through the routine period there. About noon, then, the alert was called off; "all clear" was sounded. Of course, all the aircraft was pulled back in and lined up, and all the guns were put back in their lock-up.

Marcello: Why would they line up all of the planes in the nice, neat rows? What was the purpose in doing that?

Russell: I imagine just for convenience.

Marcello: Convenience in what way?

Russell: For the ground crews and service crews to service them.

Marcello: I've heard this reason given before. In other words, it

was much easier to refuel those planes, also, if they were lined up in rows.

Russell: Right. And, too, having several squadrons in the same ramp, you didn't have all that much room, you know, to have them dispersed furthermore than right in your own immediate hangar area, because you'd be getting into somebody else's area.

Marcello: How much thought was given to the possibility of sabotage if the United States and Japan did go to war? After all, there were quite a few people of Japanese ancestry in the Hawaiian Islands. Was the possibility of sabotage ever brought up or discussed?

Russell: You mean prior to the war?

Marcello: Yes.

Russell: Well, no, because, like I said before, nobody had any idea that the Japanese'd ever pull this on us.

Marcello: Are you saying in effect, then, that even when you and other couples got together that the possibility of war with Japan never really entered conversations?

Russell: No, it didn't. Now we knew that the United States and Japan was . . . there was a friction between them, but we didn't have any idea that it would come to this. Eventually, maybe they'd go to war, but it'd be declared in the old method, you know, that Congress'd have to

declare war or something.

Marcello: In the meantime, were you getting in more airplanes and personnel and so on there at Hickam Field? Again, I'm referring to this period now in the weeks immediately prior to the actual attack.

Russell: Well, there was some more units that was formed there. But the existing squadrons, they didn't bolster them any. They formed some new outfits which was there on Hickam and some at Wheeler Field, which was farther up in the Schofield Barracks area.

Marcello: Now at this time, what sort of airplanes were you servicing?

Russell: Well, at this time, we had the B-17 altogether.

Marcello: The B-17's had completely replaced the B-18's by this time.

Russell: Right.

Marcello: Approximately how many B-17's were there in your squadron?

Russell: Well, I think at that time each squadron had about twelve.

Marcello: Now did you have a particular type of function that you performed on these B-17's? Or as an armorer, could you be loading it with bombs one day and machine gun ammunition the next day?

Russell: Right. You could load both of them for the same mission that it was going to fly--training mission, of course, then. There was no demolition bombs--explosives--loaded or used during that training. It was all sand-filled

bombs with a black powder spotting charge where when it exploded that they'd take pictures and could tell how close to the target the bombardier was coming. That was about the limit of the loading of the bombs at that time, was just all training bombs.

Marcello: Now many people like to say that the Japanese could not have picked a better time than a Sunday morning in order to launch that attack. In other words, a great many people like to assume that Saturday nights in Honolulu and the surrounding areas were times of partying and carousing and heavy drinking and things of this nature. What were your observations along these lines? Mrs. Russell, how do you feel about that?

Mrs.

Russell: Well, from what little bit I know about it, I think that's right. Of course, we were not the drinking type, ourselves.

Russell: Well, a lot of people like to accuse the military of being the drunks and the carousers, but I don't see it any different from the civilian population.

Marcello: In other words, what you're saying, in effect, then, is that the military was really nothing more than a reflection of civilian life on a weekend.

Russell: That's true. When the whistle blew for quitting time on Friday afternoon, they thought of getting out and doing

whatever they wanted to, you know. If it was drinking beer or going to the beach or what-have-you, it just followed the old pattern that was set, I guess, for everybody--civilian and military.

Marcello: Is it perhaps safer to say, then, that Sunday was a good time for an attack mainly because it was a day of leisure?

Russell: That's true; that's very true.

Marcello: I think even for those personnel who lived in the barracks, if they didn't have the duty, there was no really set time that they had to get up and so on.

Russell: No, there was no . . . usually, on Sunday mornings, a lot of men didn't even get up to go to breakfast, you know. They didn't postpone breakfast because it was Sunday morning; they had the same schedule morning after morning. So it was a very good time; they couldn't have picked a better time.

Marcello: Okay, this brings us then to that weekend of December 7th, I think. I want you to recall in as much detail as you can what your particular routine was on that weekend. Let's start with you first of all, Mr. Russell. Now you did mention that on Saturday there was a short alert that had been called. It started on Saturday?

Russell: True. Saturday morning, yes.

Marcello: Now normally, did you go back to the base on a Saturday

morning? That is, did you go into work on a Saturday morning, or were you normally finished on Friday?

Russell: Well, back in those days, normally the workweek called for working up until noon Saturday whether it was on the flight lines or whether it was inspection of the barracks and drill or parade or what-have-you.

Marcello: So in other words, then, normally you would have gone to the base on a Saturday morning.

Russell: Right. Normally, that would have been the case.

Marcello: Well, describe what your routine was on this particular Saturday morning when the alert was called. Did you know it was coming?

Russell: No, no. They always sounded so many alarms on some type whistle, you know, where you knew it was an alert. So everybody . . . it's been so long, I don't recall whether we was in place in our places of work or whether it was started before we left our quarters to go up to the barracks or the hangar line. So I'm not too sure as to what happened.

Marcello: How seriously was this alert being taken?

Russell: Not serious at all because we'd gone through those; it was a routine thing every so often. It wasn't planned; I mean, you didn't know what day it would take place. But it was just something, I guess, to follow through on their plans

on the dispersal of the aircraft.

Marcello: As you mentioned then, the alert called off at noon?

Russell: Yes.

Marcello: And all the planes were brought back to the hangars and lined up in the nice, neat rows outside.

Russell: Right.

Marcello: What time did you quit for the day?

Russell: Well, if I remember right now, it was noon or maybe a little after noon before everything . . . maybe the alert maybe was called off at noon. By the time you re-assembled all your gear and your aircraft and put it back in place, it had taken awhile to do that.

Marcello: Mrs. Russell, did you have any big plans for that weekend?

Mrs.

Russell: No.

Marcello: Were you getting ready for Christmas perhaps?

Mrs.

Russell: No (laughter). We had gone to town that afternoon. I didn't remember about this alert thing; I just remember we'd gone to town.

Marcello: What did you do when you went into town that afternoon?

Mrs.

Russell: Oh, we shopped around, looked around, if I remember right.

Marcello: I guess, given your pay at that time, you did a lot more looking than you did buying.

Mrs.

Russell: We'd gone to town or either gone to the movie that night. I can't remember which.

Russell: I don't recall what we did that night--the evening before.

Marcello: Do you recall whether you were with another couple or several couples?

Russell: No, I don't. No, I can't.

Mrs.

Russell: I think we went to the movie instead of going to town.

Marcello: Now when you say you went to the movie, was this a movie right there on the base?

Mrs.

Russell: Right.

Marcello: Do you recall what time you probably got to bed that night?

Russell: Oh, I imagine it was 10:30 maybe.

Marcello: So it was rather an uneventful night, in other words.

Russell: We had no TV; all we had was a little old radio, you know. You got the local downtown station on the radio, and no TV (chuckle) to sit there and watch. So I don't recall just what transpired there.

Marcello: But it was a relatively uneventful night so far as you know. Nothing out of the ordinary was happening.

Russell: True.

Marcello: Okay, this brings us into that Sunday morning of December 7th, then, Once more I'll ask you to go into as much detail

as you remember concerning the events of that day.

Russell: Well, the best I recall, we was in bed. In fact, we was asleep early Sunday morning. We was awakened by these thunderous explosions nearby.

Marcello: Now did your bedroom face the airstrip and so on and so forth?

Russell: Our quarters were just across the fence from the dividing line between the Pearl Harbor personnel. It was a very short ways from the entrance to the harbor--the channel that the ships go back and forth to get into the harbor.

Marcello: In other words, you were hearing these explosions over at Pearl Harbor.

Russell: Right.

Marcello: Did you have a good view of the ships and Battleship Row and so on from where your quarters were located?

Russell: Well, no. We could see the ships coming in and out of the harbor, but there was too much, I guess . . . I don't know just what it was between our house and where the ships . . . the Battleship Row down there. But we couldn't see them except maybe some of their masts sticking up. But you couldn't just look on it and say, "There's the so-and-so." But anyway, it was only a very short ways from where we lived to Battleship Row.

Marcello: So what happened now? You mentioned you were in bed, and

you heard these thunderous explosions, to use your words, down at Pearl Harbor.

Russell: Yes, during these thunderous explosions, you could hear airplanes also coming out of a dive and then pulling out of the dive. Soon after, just a few seconds after, you'd hear these explosions. So this waked us up, and we ran to the window and looked out that way, and you could see these billows of smoke just going skyward. All these planes, then well, you could hear them more often then and more explosions.

Marcello: Were you both observing this action?

Russell: Yes. So I jerked on a robe and run out in the backyard, and that was more or less facing our own outfit up in the hangar area and the barracks are where the outfit was located. You could see smoke billowing from up there, too, and you could see the planes coming in and dropping their bombs and pulling out of their dives.

Marcello: You did not know these were Japanese planes at this time.

Russell: No, we didn't. So Edith came out there; we was in the backyard. By the time she got out there, this Japanese had come over the hangar area and released his bomb, I suppose, and he come in right over us. He was coming right toward us, and he pulled in for a bank to turn, I guess, to go back and strafe the place. When he pulled

over, banked his aircraft over, you could see those red rising suns on the wing, and he was just looking right down at us.

Marcello: Approximately how high was this plane flying?

Russell: I don't imagine he was over 200 feet high.

Marcello: And could you distinguish the pilot?

Russell: Yes, you could see the pilot. If I remember right, it was an open cockpit, and he could just look right down on you. He had a flying helmet on and what-have-you.

Marcello: So now you recognize that this is definitely a Japanese plane. I assume that you did know that this was the Japanese insignia.

Russell: Well, I knew then it was the Japanese.

Marcello: What'd you do at that point?

Russell: Because at first I thought, you know . . . when we first heard those explosions and those aircraft coming out of their dives, I thought maybe it was some of the Navy over there pulling a maneuver, you know. After we got out there and saw all this smoke, we knew it wasn't maneuvers. After we got out in the yard and we saw what was taking place, I run in and put on my coveralls and told Edith I'd better go to the hangar and see what I could do up there. When I left out, I met Henry and Hazel Humphrey. That was the couple I referred to earlier. They were coming by to get

Edith--Hazel was the other girl. Henry was to take them . . . or they was to take theirselves off the base. So I assumed they'd picked her up, and I went on to the hangar. In the meantime, there were planes . . . the worst of the first raid was over by the time I got up there, but everything was on fire, and hangars were burning, and aircraft was burning.

Marcello: Did you have any problems getting from your quarters up to the base?

Russell: No. As I say, the worst of that first raid was over. So I got on into the hangar and into my section. Of course, everything was locked up, and nobody was there with the keys. The guard that they had on the different hangars there, we had to get him to shoot the lock off with his pistol.

Marcello: You're referring to the area where the armaments and so on were kept.

Russell: Right, yes. So he got his gun and shot the lock, and it sprang open. We undertook to try to get the guns out and get them installed in the aircraft so maybe they could use them aircraft guns, you know, for any other attack that was made. But we never did make it.

Marcello: Now were the planes all destroyed by this time?

Russell: Well, not all of them. There was still some that was

intact, and some of the aircraft personnel, mechanics, had got the little old tow trucks and towed them out to try to disperse the ones that wasn't on fire, the ones that hadn't been shot up with shrapnel and what-have-you. With the help of two or three others--I don't recall who--we got the guns out on a little old cart-like deal and pulled them out onto the warm-up ramp where the aircraft was normally sitting. By that time, another raid had started.

Marcello: Now what sort of planes were coming over in this second raid?

Russell: Well, the second raid had fighters and torpedo planes. Later on, at the end of the raid, there was high-level bombers.

Marcello: Okay, describe this second attack since you were obviously in the thick of it.

Russell: Well, as I saw there was no chance to load these guns in time to use them, my next move was to get out of the way of the aircraft, because I figured the aircraft in the hangar line would be the target area. So I crossed the runway--that was some 300 yards, I guess, from the hangar line--and I sat there and watched the raid take place. So it lasted . . . I don't recall how long it lasted--not very long--but it was so destructive during the few minutes that

they was there that it left nothing that wasn't injured
someway or damaged.

Marcello: Now at this point, how would you describe the reaction of
the personnel there at Hickam? Were they acting in a
professional manner? Or was there a great deal of panic
and confusion?

Russell: Well, there was very few . . . compared with the amount of
people that was assigned to the outfit, it was very few
that ever got over to the hangar line, because there was
a lot of them that was off base and a lot of them that never
did get away from the barracks area. But the ones that got
over there, well, they was acting in a professional way.
They was trying to react in a way to where they could offer
some kind of resistance or get the equipment out of the
way to keep it from being destroyed.

Marcello: Were there people putting up resistance, that is, firing
at the Japanese planes?

Russell: Well, none in our area because we had nothing to fire
back. I understand on some parts of the base that some of
them finally got up some of these, as I mentioned earlier,
ground defense guns that they'd been trained to set up
for. A few of those got in the action, but very few of
them.

Marcello: Could you see anybody firing at these planes with rifles

and pistols and other small arms?

Russell: Well, nobody had rifles and pistols. We had a few pistols in the armament shop there. But during those days, you didn't keep pistols and ammunition in the same compartment. There may have been a few rounds there for guard purposes, but as far as use for just enough to start a "young war," they didn't have that much. You had to go to the ordnance department to get it so that therefore there wasn't enough guns and ammunition available to put any resistance.

Marcello: What sort of thoughts were going through your mind as this second attack was occurring?

Russell: Well, I don't think you had a chance to think. It was more of a nightmare than it was reality. It was hard to believe that such as that could happen to where . . . and that kind of a surprise attack. So it was hard to think about what may happen.

Marcello: In the meantime, did you have time to think about what was happening to your wife?

Russell: Well, I thought about it, yes. I thought that she was safe. However, it was two or three days before we ever made contact. She didn't know what had happened to me. But they wouldn't even let the dependents back on the base there for three or four days. Of course, our quarters . . . she had come in and got to . . . I guess they decided to let

them back in because there was a lot of them, you know, that their husbands was killed and what-have-you.

Marcello: In the meantime, what did the base look like? I'm referring now to the destruction that had taken place. Were there a lot of fires and explosions and this sort of thing?

Russell: There was a lot of fires, yes, and, of course, the explosions . . . most of the explosions at Hickam Field had taken place, I guess, during the raid, because there was no ones that was set off later. There was a lot of . . . other than the hangar area and the aircraft that they'd set on fire with incendiaries, other than a few wooden buildings, there wasn't . . . and the big depot, it burned out. But other than that, there wasn't any of the quarters that was injured or burned or anything like that.

Marcello: What sort of damage had been done within your particular squadron?

Russell: Well, they had bombed the hangar, and it blowed out all the doors--the big sliding doors. They had shot up the aircraft, and a lot of them were sitting out there burning up. The ones that wasn't burned up, they was destroyed due to being shot at--shot with machine guns and what-have-you. They was put out of the action. Like I say, it was a

nightmare and it was demoralizing.

Marcello: I'm sure there was a certain feeling of helplessness because there was no way that you could resist.

Russell: That's true. You was helpless in trying to . . .

Marcello: Let's shift back a minute and pick up the story with relation to Mrs. Russell's activities during this period. We're back now to the time when you were in the backyard, and you identified this plane as being Japanese. Now what particular activities did you undertake at this point? As we mentioned, Mr. Russell, of course, had to get back to the base. What procedure did you follow, Mrs. Russell?

Mrs.
Russell: Well, Henry and Hazel came by and picked me up, and we took Henry to his hangar. She had a friend living out in Waikiki Beach, and we drove out there.

Marcello: Now you just decided to do this on the spur of the moment, I gather.

Mrs.
Russell: Well, Henry said he thought it would be safest if we left the base, and that's where we went.

Marcello: Did you have a rather uneventful ride in dropping him off at his hangar and then proceeding out to Waikiki?

Mrs.
Russell: Not at that time, we didn't.

Marcello: Nothing happened.

Mrs.

Russell: No.

Russell: That was during the lull between raids there.

Marcello: Okay, so what did you do then when you got out to
Waikiki Beach?

Mrs.

Russell: We tried to come back to the base, and before we got out
there, they were having another attack. If I remember
right, it wasn't very safe for us to be out on the
street. We turned around and went back. I think we got
to the gate, and, of course, they wouldn't allow us in,
so we went back.

Marcello: What sort of thoughts were going through your mind while
all this was taking place?

Mrs.

Russell: That's hard to say.

Marcello: You mentioned awhile ago that it wasn't safe to be out. I've
heard it said that a lot of the material that was falling
was actually spent shrapnel from the Navy guns and so on
and so forth. This is what was falling on Honolulu.

Mrs.

Russell: I think that was what was about to fall on us, too, and
that's why we turned around and went back, if I remember
right.

Russell: That was the case in that some of that shrapnel was falling.

Marcello: All that shrapnel that goes up has to come down.

Mrs.

Russell: Yes.

Russell: Other than that, I don't think Honolulu . . . in fact, I know the harbor, I mean, their piers and what-have-you there wasn't bombed. But they did have a . . . it rained down some of this shrapnel that was caused by some of these explosive shells.

Marcello: The Japanese seemed to know what they were doing and what they wanted to go after.

Russell: It was well-organized, and they was well-briefed on their mission.

Marcello: In a way, I suppose you have to have a certain amount of grudging admiration for the manner in which they did carry out the attack . . . as you look back on it years later, perhaps, in the sense that it was very professionally done.

Russell: Well, yes, they were to be commended on their secrecy and in carrying it out in the way they did even though we were the victims. From the books I've read since then, they'd been planning that ever since World War I when them and the Russians had fought.

Marcello: Mrs. Russell, where did you spend that evening?

Mrs.

Russell: With Hazel's friends over in Waikiki Beach.

Marcello: I assume there were blackout conditions.

Mrs.

Russell: Definitely.

Marcello: What did you women talk about during that period? Do you recall?

Mrs.
Russell: Just wondering if our husbands was safe and how long this thing was going to last and how soon we could get back on the base.

Marcello: How long was it before you got back on the base?

Mrs.
Russell: They let us back on Tuesday after the raid . . . for a few minutes.

Marcello: What were you able to do when you got back to your quarters?

Mrs.
Russell: You just ran to your quarters, and you got your toothbrush and your pajamas and some more clothes and got off the base as quick as you could . . . and left him a note.

Marcello: But even up to as late as Tuesday, you still had not seen him. Did you know he was alive at that stage?

Mrs.
Russell: No. The McGinnis' was the name of the people where we were staying. Somehow or another, he had called (chuckle) every McGinnis he could find in the phone book, and I was not there. He didn't stop to think that maybe they had an unlisted number, which they did have.

Marcello: So what did you do during that two or three-day period on Monday and Tuesday?

Mrs.
Russell: Okay. On Tuesday when we went out; we went by our quarters

. . . no, on Wednesday we went back, and I had a note from Russ. Hazel went by her quarters; there was no note for Hazel. I don't remember just exactly what day it was that we found out that Henry had been injured and he was in some hospital, so then we were going from one hospital to another to try to find him.

Marcello: Now you mentioned that you first came back to the base on Tuesday?

Mrs.
Russell: Tuesday, yes.

Marcello: Now the note was not there on Tuesday.

Mrs.
Russell: No.

Marcello: But in the meantime, you evidently had gotten back to the quarters, also.

Russell: Well, the quarters was only, like I said before, a quarter of a mile. It was on base, and it was no problem for me to get to the quarters. However, you was under that . . . trying to get re-organized there and get on your feet again, we worked all through the night on Sunday night. I never did get back to the quarters until maybe Monday evening.

Mrs.
Russell: I think he did leave me a note when I got there Tuesday, and I found the note from him that he was okay but he had

not seen Henry, if I remember right. Then I left him a note, and that kept up until, I think, it was Thursday . . . it was Thursday, I believe, when we got back on the base to stay.

Marcello: But in the meantime, other than returning to the base, were you just able to do nothing but sit around and wonder and think?

Mrs.
Russell: Right. Right. But after we found out that Henry was in the hospital, we checked on the hospital there at the base, and he was not there. So we went to Fort Shaftner?

Russell: Tripler General Hospital at Fort Shaftner.

Mrs.
Russell: Tripler General Hospital. Poor Hazel, she just couldn't go in there. I had to go in, and they said, "Well, we don't know if he's here or not. You'll just have to go down each ward and check and see." We finally found him.

Marcello: How badly had he been wounded?

Mrs.
Russell: Well, he had been shot through the leg, and I don't know where else, but I talked to the doctor. Then he developed pneumonia, got blood clots, and that was it.

Marcello: He did die.

Mrs.
Russell: Yes.

Marcello: In the meantime, Mr. Russell, what did you do in the after-

math of the attack, that is, after all the action had been completed and the planes had gone away?

Russell: Well, they began to try to get some guns out. In fact, they had all their old 1903 rifles that were in storage in cosmoline--that's a thick grease--so they started issuing those out and trying to get them cleaned up to where they would fire and get ammunition and tried to get organized.

But if I recall now, Monday all day, the rest of Sunday afternoon, it was kind of a nightmare. Everything that moved, you thought it was another Jap attack. There was a lot . . . you know how rumors get started. There were rumors around that the Japs were landing by submarine and they were parachuting in and this, that, and the other. It kind of kept you demoralized; you didn't know what to do.

Marcello: Did you fully expect an invasion?

Russell: Well, we didn't know what to expect. Since, you know, all those rumors were getting started that they was landing by sub and this, that, and the other, you didn't know what to expect.

Marcello: Where did you spend that Sunday night?

Russell: Well, that Sunday night, we spent it . . . I guess it must have been a mile from the hangars in a clump of trees. We

got our little old tents set up . . . no, I don't believe we even set up tents. It was just more or less staying out there. Of course, all during the night, there was rumors floating around that the Japs had landed by submarine and they could be coming dressed like GIs, this, that, and the other, and it kind of kept you messed up, you know.

Marcello: Did you hear a lot of sporadic gunfire that night?

Russell: Yes, everything that moved, there was somebody firing at it. Luckily, I guess, there was nobody that was hurt. There was a bunch of people where we had spent the night down there on Sunday night.

Marcello: Now were you armed by this time?

Russell: No, except I had a pistol myself that I'd got out of the section when I opened the door; they had some pistols in there--.45 automatics. None of the rest of them was armed except a few that had managed to get guns that readily they had available.

Marcello: What'd you talk about that night while you were out here bivouacked, so to speak?

Russell: (Laughter) Well, it wasn't . . .

Mrs.

Russell: (Laughter) He was too scared to talk!

Russell: There was no sensible conversation going on, because it

was all on the assumption that the Japanese was landing and what you were going to do and this, that, and the other.

Marcello: What sort of an attitude did you have toward the Japanese by this time?

Russell: Well, the attitude wasn't very good, I assure you that. Of course, it was too soon afterwards to really have any real good idea exactly what you thought of them. You didn't like what they just did.

Marcello: During this whole ordeal, we haven't talked about food or eating. Did you have very much of an appetite that day?

Russell: No, I don't recall eating anything all day.

Marcello: How about you Mrs. Russell?

Mrs.

Russell: I don't think I did. And there wasn't much talking going on. Everybody was sitting around quiet and wondering.

Marcello: Everybody was more or less keeping his or her own thoughts, in other words.

Mrs.

Russell: You just didn't know what to think. It was such a shock.

Russell: In fact, the big consolidated mess hall that was built within the barracks--the barracks was build around it, all the units at that time lived in these barracks, I mean, the people that wasn't married and live off base--and this mess hall was bombed extensively. I don't recall how long

it took them . . . in fact, I know they didn't re-open that. They set up smaller mess units . . . more or less each individual outfit set up their own mess units later after they got back together again.

Marcello: Did you get very much sleep that night?

Russell: None at all.

Marcello: What'd you do the next day?

Russell: Well, the next day was, if I recall, trying to get a bunch of guns out of the storage--out of the ordnance storage--and get them cleaned up. Each man was just threw a gun and told, "This is yours. Get it cleaned up." A lot of them never had a gun in their hand before.

Marcello: I assume they also dispensed with all the red tape in issuing the arms and ammunition.

Russell: That's right. You didn't have to sign your name, rank, and serial number to get a gun that day. So not being familiar with guns, it was about as dangerous around there then from our own people as it was during the raid from the Japanese, because they was firing those guns through carelessness and not knowing how to operate them. Luckily, nobody, I guess, was hurt seriously.

Marcello: What did the base look like the next day when you had a chance to kind of look around and perhaps be a little bit more objective about the situation?

Russell: Well, it was a sad-looking place, I mean, as far as the hangar line, which our primary function, you know, is keeping the airplanes flying. There was very few planes that was available for flying due to damage through shrapnel or fire or what-have-you.

Marcello: Did you get involved in any salvage work that Monday?

Russell: No. It wasn't long after . . . I don't recall how many days, but you've probably heard of it before on some of your other interviews. During this time, we had some B-17's coming in from San Francisco being assigned there. Before they landed, it was during these raids . . . however, they didn't know what was taking place. But about the time they'd set their wheels on the ground and come in for a landing, these Japanese planes would attack them, you know.

Marcello: Did you actually see this?

Russell: I saw quite a bit of that.

Marcello: Describe this activity, because it sounds rather important and interesting.

Russell: Well, some of these planes, B-17's, they saw what was going on, and they saw that--that was the stories that came out later--the hangar line was under fire from the Japanese, and they saw it was for real. A few of them landed on the beach and different places. But the ones that got caught in trying to land, before they got through

taxiing to a stop, they were completely in flames.

Marcello: In other words, they were being followed down by the Japanese fighter planes and so on.

Russell: Right, right. No sooner than they hit the ground to come in for a landing than that fighter would pounce on them, and their incendiary bullets that they had would set the plane on fire. A lot of them, some of their crews was unable to get out--all of the crews--because the aircraft was still rolling and on fire. So it was a pretty terrible mess.

Marcello: Incidentally, what sort of a day had it started out to be in terms of weather and climate? Do you recall?

Russell: Well, it was a beautiful day, I mean, weather-wise.

Marcello: A good day for an air attack?

Russell: A good day for an air attack.

Marcello: Good visibility?

Russell: Good visibility. There was a few clouds as usual, but not enough to make an overcast to where the sun wasn't out.

Marcello: How soon was it before you were reunited with your wife again?

Russell: I believe it was on Wednesday or Thursday, but we had made contact through leaving notes in the quarters before then. She knew that I was all right, and I knew that she was all right. I don't know how long it was before they were able

to come back and take up residence back in at the base.

Marcello: By this time, was it already assumed that you would be going back to the States?

Russell: No, that didn't come out until later on in December. Of course, they started talking right away about evacuation, but they didn't know what kind of priorities that would be given. But later on, the priority going back would be given to people that had their husbands or somebody injured or killed. The ones with little children, babies, would be on the first priority. Then as they got on up to the singles, you know, without children, they were last to be evacuated. So as it turned out, Edith was down there until up in February of '42 before they evacuated her.

Marcello: In the meantime, Mrs. Russell, did you seek any sort of employment and so on during the aftermath of the attack?

Mrs.
Russell: Yes.

Marcello: What did you do?

Mrs.
Russell: I think I worked in the dry cleaning office down there.

Marcello: Down on the base at Hickam Field?

Mrs.
Russell: Yes.

Marcello: Was there a demand for civilian personnel to work on the base following the attack?

Mrs.

Russell: I don't know how much demand there was. I just thought, "If I get me a job and go to work, they'll let me stay."
(laughter)

Marcello: I see.

Mrs.

Russell: But they wouldn't let me stay.

Marcello: Incidentally, did they have very many of Japanese ancestry working on the base?

Russell: Not too many, no. I don't recall any in the civilian part of it, which was the Hawaiian Air Depot, which was mostly civilians in there. I don't recall; I wouldn't have known how many, if any, that they had, but I'm sure that they must have had some.

Marcello: Did you ever get a chance to see the damage that was done to the ships at Pearl Harbor?

Russell: No, I never did get to go down there other than when she boarded this Navy transport down there, but it wasn't in the line where the burned-out ships was. It was in a different area. But I never did get a chance because of you couldn't leave . . . because you was in too much demand to try to get things underway to get started. So I never did get down into the harbor part there to see the damage that was done.

Marcello: How long did you remain at Hickam?

Russell: I remained there until, I guess, it was the middle of the summer.

Marcello: Of 1942?

Russell: Yes. They had flared out some runways into the canefields at different areas on the same island of Oahu there. We moved out--this one particular squadron that I was in-- we moved out to this dispersed area between Hickam Field and Schofield Barracks in a canefield where they had just run one runway there. We remained there, I guess, about six months. We moved on around on the other side of the island, and we was only there a very few months.

I believe it was October or November when we loaded up after they had got some bases secured on down below, and we moved to . . . well, we unloaded our equipment in the New Hebrides. They had a runway there, which the aircraft was operating from to go out on search missions. The search missions was looking for the Japanese fleet and submarines and what-have-you. So we got there in November, I guess it was, November or December . . . the latter part of November.

Then in December of '42, the Solomon Islands--Henderson Field--was secured. My outfit was moved into Henderson Field, and I flew from New Hebrides into Henderson Field by B-17. We set up shop and we had all these striking

forces that was assigned there from other units flying out on missions bombing the different places the Japanese-held territories.

Marcello: Well, that seems like a pretty good place to end this interview, I think. I want to thank both of you for taking time to talk with me. You've said a lot of very interesting and important things. I'm sure that scholars are going to find your comments very valuable when they use these to write about Pearl Harbor.

Russell: Well, we thank you for your time and being able to do this for you.