

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

CENTER FOR WAR STUDIES

PRESENTS AN ORAL HISTORY BY

JAMES "HERB" MACIA

DOOLITTLE RAID

TAPE # 1 SIDE ONE

COX

TODAY, IS JULY 21,2000 AND I AM HERE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS WITH “HERB” MACIA, WHO SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II.

MY NAME IS FLOYD COX AND I AM WITH THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR LOCATED IN FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS. THIS GENTLEMAN HAS DECIDED HE WOULD LIKE TO BE A CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM AND WE CERTAINLY WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS INTERVIEW WITH YOU, HERB.

WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOUR PERMISSION TO DISCUSS YOUR PAST, INCLUDING THE TIME YOU SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II AND AFTERWARDS. THE WAY I WOULD LIKE TO START THIS IS GETTING A LITTLE BACKGROUND INFORMATION, WHEN YOU WERE BORN, WHERE YOU WERE YOU BORN AND WE WILL JUST TAKE IT FROM THERE.

HERB

FIRST OF ALL, LET’S TALK ABOUT THE NAME. IT IS M A C I A . WE HAVE MADE IT “MAY-SHA”, NOT “MA-SEE-UH”. THERE IS A M A C I A S , WHICH IS “MAY-SEE-US, WHICH IS HISPANIC. OUR FAMILY CAME FROM FRENCH CANADA. THE NAME IS A DERIVITIVE OF A FRENCH NAME THAT WAS BROUGHT THERE. “MISH-EE-AY. IT STILL SPELLED AS IT WAS STARTED YEARS AND YEARS, GENERATIONS AGO, MACIA AND WE PRONOUNCE IT “MAY-SHA.

I WAS BORN IN ARIZONA IN 1915. MY FATHER, MY GREAT GRANDFATHERS AND OTHERS AHEAD OF ME IN THE FAMILY GOT INTO THE MINING BUSINESS MANY, MANY YEARS AGO AFTER THEY CAME DOWN FROM CANADA. WHILE IN THE WESTERN PART OF MASSACHUSETTS, THEY WENT INTO TUNNEL DIGGING FOR THE RAILROADS AND THAT SORT OF THING. MINING WAS AN INDUSTRY THAT WAS A BIG ATTRACTION TO OUR FAMILY AND WE ARE VERY PROUD OF HAVING THAT AS OUR FAMILY WAY OF MAKING A LIVING AND SO ON.

OVER THE YEARS, OVER GENERATION AND GENERATION, ONE MORE ELEMENT OF THE FAMILY WOULD BE MOVING WESTWARD. FIRST, WOULD BE GOING INTO MISSOURI, THEN THEY WOULD BE GOING INTO COLORADO, AND THEN THEY WOULD BE GOING INTO NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA. SOMETIME THERE, THEY WERE IN CALIFORNIA, THE GOLD RUSH. NEVADA. AND SO I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN ARIZONA. AN INTERESTING PLACE, TOMBSONE, ARIZONA.

COX

IT HAS A LOT OF HISTORY.

HERB

RIGHT. MY FATHER WAS A MINING MAN. HE CAME THERE FROM NEW MEXICO WHERE HE WAS BORN AND RAISED. (HE) WAS A SUPERINTENDENT OF MINES AT THE TIME I WAS BORN. HE CONTINUED ON THERE, WORKING MINES. SOME HAD BEEN WORKED OUT. THEY WERE SILVER MINES. MANY PEOPLE MADE VERY GOOD FORTUNES THROUGH MINING. OTHERS ALWAYS FELT THEY WERE GOING TO, BUT THEY NEVER DID. THEY CONTINUED TO MINE.

I STUDIED MINING ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. I WAS IN A CLASS OF 38. I WENT THERE FROM HIGH SCHOOL. IT WAS AN EXPECTATION IN OUR FAMILY, THAT MOST OF THE MALES WHO COULD MAKE IT THROUGH COLLEGE COULD BE ENGINEERS. AND FOLLOW MINING ENGINEERING.

AT THE TIME OF THE WAR, FIRST OF ALL, OUR CLASS DIDN'T MOVE RIGHT THROUGH BECAUSE THERE WERE TWO PROBLEMS. ONE OF THEM WAS A DEPRESSION IN THE MID 30'S AND ALL. PEOPLE WERE RATHER SLOW IN GETTING AHEAD. AND ABOUT THAT TIME, WE STARTED FORMING A MILITARY FORCE, ANTICIPATING HAVING A REAL WAR. I DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL IN '38, ACTUALLY '39 AND I WENT INTO A MINING VENTURE WITH MY FATHER AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS RIGHT DOWN ON THE MEXICAN BORDER, NEAR NOGALES, ARIZONA. WE MADE A STAKE ON A SILVER MINE IN THAT AREA. HOWEVER, DURING THIS TIME, THE PRESSURE CAME ON WITH MUCH MORE EMPHASIS OF BRINGING PEOPLE INTO THE MILITARY. THE FLYING CADET PROGRAM WAS STARTED AND THIS WAS THE MEANS OF BRINGING YOUNG COLLEGE FELLOWS AND GRADUATES INTO THE MILITARY WHERE THEY COULD HAVE A COMMISSION, A MILITARY COMMISSION AND BE A LEADER AND ALL OF THAT.

MY INTEREST WAS NOT GREAT AT ALL. I WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THE MINING ENGINEERING THAN IN THE MILITARY. HOWEVER, IN THE COURSE OF THE LATTER YEARS OF THE '30's, THINGS GOT A LITTLE BIT BETTER AS FAR AS THE DEPRESSION WAS CONCERNED. OPPORTUNITIES BECAME MORE NORMAL THAN THEY HAD BEEN FOR SEVERAL YEARS. A GROUP OF OFFICIALS MOVED AROUND THROUGH A COMMUNITY GOING TO COLLEGES AND PLACES AND GETTING RECRUITS TO COME IN TO APPLY A CADET PROGRAM. THAT'S HOW I BECAME A MILITARY MAN. I DID FIND THE OPPORTUNITY HOWEVER TO CARRY ON A BIT WITH MY FATHER AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS IN THE MINING AREA DOWN IN THE NOGALES AREA. I WAS FINALLY SELECTED WITH AN ENGINEERING BACKGROUND TO BECOME A CELESTIAL NAVIGATOR. THE AIR CORPS WAS JUST BEGINNING TO TRAIN CELESTIAL NAVIGATORS, WHICH WE HAD NOT

HAD BEFORE, BUT THEY WERE FACING UP TO THE FACT THAT WE HAD BOMBERS THAT WERE GOING TO FLY A LONG DISTANCE. THEY WERE GOING TO LOOK FOR A SMALL AREA AND THEY WERE GOING TO DROP BOMBS, SO WE NEEDED CELESTIAL NAVIGATORS. THAT WAS ONE OF THE CRITICAL THINGS THAT WAS NECESSARY FOR US TO DO. TO BE ABLE TO FIND AREAS AT GREAT DISTANCES FROM OUR BASE AND THEN BE ABLE TO SPOT THE TARGET AREA AND SO ON. I WAS IN THE SECOND CLASS THAT GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MIAMI, FLORIDA, WHICH WAS CONDUCTING A SCHOOL OF CELESTIAL NAVIGATION. I GRADUATED IN FEBRUARY, 1941. WAS ASSIGNED TO McCORD FIELD UP IN WASHINGTON STATE WHERE WE WERE GOING TO OPERATE MEDIUM BOMBERS. THE FORCE WAS BEING BROUGHT IN, BECAUSE UP UNTIL THAT TIME, WE DIDN'T HAVE VERY MANY AIRPLANES TO WORRY ABOUT. , THE REASON THEY WENT TO MIAMI WAS THAT PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS WAS LOCATED THERE THAT WAS VERY HELPFUL TO THEM. SOME OF THEIR OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL, SENIOR OPERATING PERSONNEL, WERE THE PEOPLE WHO DID MUCH OF THE TEACHING. WE WERE TAUGHT NAVIGATION, WEATHER, MECHANICS AND SOME OTHER THINGS . FINALLY, OUR CLASS WHICH WAS THE FIRST CLASS , HAD FULLY PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI WERE ABLE TO GET OUR DEGREES AS OFFICERS. IN JUNE OF 1941, I WAS COMMISSIONED INTO THE ARMY AIR CORPS, , WHILE I WAS STATIONED AT McCORD FIELD

COX

LET ME ASK YOU THIS. DID YOU DIDN'T TAKE YOUR BOMBARDIER TRAINING AT THE SAME TIME YOU TOOK YOUR NAVIGATIONAL TRAINING. IS THAT CORRECT?

HERB

NO. NO BOMBARDIER TRAINING AT MIAMI AT ALL. IT WAS ALL CELESTIAL NAVIGATION. ALSO, WHEN I REPORTED INTO McCORD, I WENT INTO ONE OF THE SQUADRONS OF THE 17TH BOMB GROUP, 89TH RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON AND WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE RECONNAISSANCE PEOPLE WHO WOULD USE CELESTIAL NAVIGATION IN OUR MISSIONS. ODDLY ENOUGH, THAT BECAME QUITE AWKWARD FOR ME BECAUSE I NEVER ATTENDED A BOMBARDIERING TRAINING PROGRAM BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE BOMBARDIERS IN THE RECONNAISSANCE ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, IN OUR EARLY DAYS, EARLY '41 AND '42 WHEN MUCH TIME WAS SPENT TALKING ABOUT, "WHERE ARE WE GOING?" EVERYBODY WAS EXPECTING TO GO SOMEWHERE. IT WAS ALWAYS OUT OF THE STATE. IN THOSE DAYS, ALASKA WASN'T A STATE, SO THAT WAS ONE OF THE PLACES, BEING UP IN THE NORTHWEST, THAT WE EXPECTED TO GO TO. BUT, WE WERE ALSO EARMARKED TO GO TO THE FAR EAST. SINGAPORE AND A FEW PLACES LIKE THAT.

WE EVEN WENT TO THE PROBLEM OF TAKING THE GROUP---WE HAD MOVED OVER TO OREGON FROM WASHINGTON, AND WE WENT UP IN THE SUMMER, THE LATE SUMMER OF '41 TO SPOKANE, WASHINGTON WHERE WE HAD SOME PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF OPERATING OFF OF A NATURAL SURFACE FACILITY.

COX

LET ME ASK YOU THIS. WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT WERE YOU FLYING IN AT THAT TIME?

HERB

THE B-18 I THINK THEY WERE. YEAH, THE B-18. WE DIDN'T HAVE VERY MANY PLANES. VERY, VERY FEW. THIS WAS THE 17TH BOMB GROUP. IT HAD ATTACHED TO IT THE 89TH RECONAISSANCE SQUADRON. THE MEN IN THE BOMB GROUP HAD BEEN TAUGHT BOMBARDIERING AND SOME KNOWLEDGE OF NAVIGATION. WE IN THE 9TH RECONAISSANCE SQUADRON WERE RECOGNISED AS THE PEOPLE WHO DID RECONAISSANCE. IT ALSO IDENTIFIED US AS NOT BEING ONE OF THE BOMB DROPPERS. DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME, OUR UNITS WOULD FORM AND EVENTUALLY MANY WOULD BE SENT TO THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY, DOWN TO LOUISIANA OR SOMEPLACE. NORMALLY, PEOPLE IN OUR UNITS THOUGHT THE PILOTS WERE JUST ABOUT THE ONLY THING WE HAD. WE WOULD GO ON MANEUVERS, IN LOUISIANA AS AN EXAMPLE, CLEAR FROM UP IN THE NORTHEAST OR NORTHWEST, BUT THE PILOT'S JOBS WERE ALWAYS EMPHASIZED. IN MANY, MANY CASES, SOME THAT I WAS INVOLVED IN, DURING OUR MANEUVERS WHEN PEOPLE WERE GOING OFF TO TRAIN TO HAVE A WAR, THEY DIDN'T EVEN SEND NAVIGATORS OR BOMBADIERS. THEY DID LEARN BOMBING WHILE THEY WERE GONE BECAUSE WE DID HAVE A FEW PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN IN THE AIR CORPS FOR SOME TIME AND TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO LEARN WHAT YOU DO TO DROP A BOMB. EVEN SOME FELLOWS WERE VERY PROUD THAT THEY KNEW ABOUT NORDEN BOMB SIGHTS. OTHERS JUST HAD A LITTLE THING THEY LOOKED DOWN AND DROPPED SOMETHING.

OUR GROUP, THE 17TH BOMB GROUP, HAD GONE TO LOUISIANA AND HAD ARRIVED BACK. IN WASHINGTON STATE THE LATTER PART OF '41, SOME OF THOSE HAD GONE ON UP TO SPOKANE AND THERE WE WERE LEARNING MORE ABOUT BEING ABLE TO OPERATE OFF OF A NATURAL SURFACE SO THAT WE COULD FIND A PLACE WHERE WE DIDN'T HAVE TO HAVE A COMPLICATED EXPENSIVE COMBINATION OF RUNWAYS AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING WHICH WAS VERY EXPENSIVE. WE HAD TO HAVE TO BE ABLE TO HAVE THE BOMBERS AND SO ON. WE HAD JUST COMPLETED THAT ABOUT THE TIME AND IT WAS ANNOUNCED WHILE WE WERE ON THOSE MANEUVERS UP IN THE

WASHINGTON AREA THAT WE WOULD BE MOVING TO THE FAR EAST OR TO ALASKA WITHIN A FEW MONTHS.

WE WERE AT PENDELTON, OREGON WHEN THE WAR FINALLY BROKE, OUR FIRST MOVE WAS TO MOVE DOWN TO THE COAST AND START A RECONAISSANCE PROGRAM TO LOOK FOR JAPANESE WEAPONS, SUBMARINES AS AN EXAMPLE. ONE OF OUR FELLOWS, VIC HOLSTRUM, ACTUALLY SUNK A SUBMARINE OFF THE COAST.

COX

OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA?

HERB

OFF THE COAST OF WASHINGTON STATE.

COX

THAT WAS AFTER '41?

HERB

YEAH. THEN, THE DECISION WAS MADE MOVE TO THE UNIT TO THE EAST COAST, SOUTH CAROLINA. THE REASON WASN'T CLEAR TO ME AT THE TIME. I HAD BEEN THERE ONLY A SHORT TIME. WE WENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA. IT WAS ASSUMED THAT WE WOULD BE STARTING TO RUN RECONAISSANCE FLIGHTS FROM THERE BECAUSE THERE HAD BEEN SOME DAMAGE DONE BY GERMAN SUBMARINES. VERY SHORTLY AFTER WE GOT THERE, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT WER'E GOING TO HAVE A MISSION, THERE WAS GOING TO BE A MISSION EXECUTED BY OUR GROUP AND THAT WE WOULD BE GOING INTO THE REAL WAR. THEY WERE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD VOLUNTEER. AT THAT TIME , THERE WERE SOME JUST VOLUNTEERS FOR SOME INDIVIDAL LITTLE OPERATIONS THAT WERE NOT WELL KNOWN TO PEOPLE. ONE OR TWO FELLOWS DID VOLUNTEER FOR SOME OF THOSE MISSIONS. ONE OF THEM WAS TO GET SOME AIRCRAFT OVER INTO THE AFRICAN-TURKISH AREA. I ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT WAS GETTING READY FOR THE OPERATION AGAINST THE EUROPEAN AND OIL PRODUCING AREAS. I DON'T RECALL THE NAME OF THE OIL FIELDS.

COX

POLESTI?

HERB

YEAH. THAT'S IT. THEN, PEOPLE GOT SERIOUS ABOUT IT WHEN I WENT IN TO SEE MY COMMANDER, HIS NAME IS MAJOR JACK HILGER, TO TELL HIM THAT I WAS READY TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE REAL MISSION. I DIDN'TKNOW WHERE I WAS GOING BUT I WAS READY TO VOLUNTEER FOR IT.

COX

LET ME ASK YOU. WERE YOU MARRIED AT THIS TIME?

HERB

YES.

COX

YOU WERE A MARRIED MAN? AND YOU WERE ABOUT 26 YEARS OLD ABOUT THIS TIME?

HERB

NEARER 25 AT THIS TIME, I WENT INTO HIS OFFICE. HE SAID, "HERB, WHAT DO YOU WANT?" I SAID, "I'M READY TO VOLUNTEER FOR THAT MISSION." "THAT'S FINE", HE SAYS. "YOU ARE ALREADY A VOLUNTEER AND YOU ARE ON MY MISSION AND YOU ARE ON MY CREW AND YOU ARE GOING TO BE A NAVIGATOR AND A BOMBARDIER." HE TOLD ME THAT. WHAT A LOT OF THINGS WERE THE SELECTION OF THE COMMANDERS. THEY WENT THROUGH AND AS HE PUT IT, "WE WILL SORT OF DECIDE WHO THE VOLUNTEER IS."

WE ACTUALLY WERE GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING LIKE 16 AIRCRAFT OUT OF SOME 56 OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I DON'T REMEMBER. EXACTLY HOW MANY A SQUADRON WOULD HAVE. IT WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING LIKE 56, BUT A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER MORE THAN 16. THE LEADERS, THE SQUADRON COMMANDER WOULD JUST SIT DOWN AND THEY WOULD DECIDE WHO IT WAS THEY THOUGHT WAS CAPABLE OF DOING A MISSION LIKE THAT. SO, WE WERE SELECTED TO GO BASED ON THE COMMANDER'S VISION OF WHO IN MY OUTFIT ARE ABLE TO TAKE ON THESE RESPONSIBILITIES.

NOW, AT THAT TIME, WE HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT DOOLITTLE. IMMEDIATELY, THEY STARTED MOVING OUR AIRCRAFT DOWN TO FLORIDA. THIS IS IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE STATE WHERE THERE WERE A LOT OF RUNWAYS AND ALL THAT COULD ACCOMADATE THE TRAINING AND ALL OF THE AIRCRAFT AND ANY ENGINEERING THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO PUT THE AIRCRAFT IN BETTER CONDITION.

COX

WHAT TYPE OF AIRCRAFT WERE THESE HERB?

HERB

B-25's

COX

YOU WERE IN B-25's BY NOW?

HERB

WHILE WE WERE THERE, JIMMY DOOLITTLE CAME IN ONE DAY. OF COURSE, EVERYBODY'S ATTITUDE WAS , WELL, IF HE COMES, WE ARE CERTAINLY GOING TO GO INTO COMBAT SOMEWHERE. HE IS GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO CAN PUT IT TOGETHER. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT OUR GOING SOMEWHERE. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO GIVE US A NAVY OFFICER TO WORK WITH OUR PILOTS AND HELP IN GETTING TO OUR PILOTS THE TECHNIQUES OF A CARRIER TAKE-OFF. THESE PEOPLE, THE NAVAL PILOTS HAD NOT ACTUALLY FLOWN OFF A CARRIER UP TO THAT DATE, BUT THEY KNEW THE TECHNIQUES. THE TEACHING WAS DONE THERE ON THIS FIELD.

COX

ON THE RUNWAY.

HERB

YEAH, ON THE RUNWAY.

COX

AT THIS TIME, YOU WERE TOLD IT WAS A TOP SECRET MISSION? WERE YOU TOLD NOT TO DISCUSS THIS?

HERB

WHEN DOOLITTLE REPORTED IN, HE ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD BE A TOP SECRET. IT IS GOING TO BE AGAINST TARGETS. I THINK IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME THAT IT WOULD BE, NOT SEPCIFICALLY TOKYO, BUT IT WOULD BE AGAINST JAPAN. I REMEMBER ONE FELLOW HAD ASKED, "WHEN YOU SAY IT IS GOING TO BE A ROUGH, TOUGH MISSION, WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN?" DOOLITTLE SAID, "WELL, LOOK AT THE GUY ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT, YOURSELF AND THERE WILL BE ONE OF THOSE LEFT."

THAT IS JUST A COMMENT. I DON'T EVER REMEMBER HAVING SAID THAT BUT KNOBLOCH HAS SAID THAT A NUMBER OF TIMES.

COX

A FRIEND OF YOURS TOLD THAT. A MISTER KNOBLOCH?

HERB

YEAH. HE WAS ONE OF US MORE SENIOR GUYS ACTUALLY. WE KNEW WE WERE GOING ON A VERY, VERY ROUGH MISSION. I DON'T RECALL SPECIFICALLY ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS BUT I THINK IT WAS SORT OF AN ATTITUDE OF IF YOU STILL ARE GOING WITH US, YOU ARE A VOLUNTEER. THE ONLY THING HE SAID ABOUT THE DEGREE OF DANGER WAS THAT THING WAS, "OUT OF THE THREE OF YOU, THERE ARE GOING TO ONE OR TWO LOST" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I THINK THE THING THAT WAS MOST INFLUENTIAL, AND IT CERTAINLY WAS ON ME AND SOME OF MY FRIENDS, ANYTIME WE WOULD HAVE SOMEONE LIKE DOOLITTLE COME AND TAKE US OVER, IT WOULD BE A VERY, VERY IMPORTANT AND A VERY, VERY DANGEROUS OPERATION. HE IMMEDIATELY WAS THE BOSS.

COX

HE TOOK CHARGE.

HERB

HE TOOK CHARGE, RIGHT. JACK HILGER WAS THERE AS ONE OF THE SQUADRON COMMANDERS. WE LEARNED LATER THAT DOOLITTLE HAD ALREADY SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME WORKING OUT A PLAN. THE WAY THE THING HAD DEVELOPED ACTUALLY WAS WHEN THE COMMANDERS OF THE VARIOUS SERVICES, THE ARMY, THE NAVY, THE AIR FORCE, THE AIR CORPS, FOR IT WAS PART OF THE ARMY, WAS BEING CALLED IN TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE REGULARLY, WHEN HE (PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT) WOULD TALK TO HIS WAR COUNCIL ABOUT DOING SOMETHING ABOUT DAMAGING AND DESTROYING SOMETHING IN JAPAN.

COX

AT THAT POINT IN TIME, MORALE IN THE UNITED STATES WAS PROBABLY AT AN ALL TIME LOW WASN'T IT, BECAUSE THE JAPANESE WERE MAKING HEADWAY ALL OVER THE PACIFIC AND WE WERE JUST TAKING IT, AT THAT POINT IN TIME.

HERB

I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD COMMENT ABOUT SAYING IT, "WE OUGHT TO ATTACK THOSE GUYS." HOW COULD WE ATTACK ANY AIRCRAFT THAT CAN TAKE OFF OF A CARRIER. THEM? THEY ARE SO FAR AWAY FROM US THAT WE JUST NEVER GET OUT THERE. NOBODY THOUGHT WE HAD ANY AIRCRAFT THAT COULD TAKE OFF A CARRIER.
COX

THE JAPANESE WERE IN CONTROL OF MOST OF THE ISLANDS BY THAT TIME.

HERB

YEAH. WE CERTAINLY COULDN'T DO WHAT THEY DID BECAUSE THEY JUST CAME OVER. WE WEREN'T IN WAR. THEY PUT TOGETHER THEIR FIGHTING FORCE AND ALL AND THEY JUST CAME IN TO OUR SURPRISE AND ATTACKED OUR NAVAL FORCE. IT WAS HELPLESS. I THINK THE ATTITUDE OF MOST OF US, INDIVIDUALS, FELT THAT IS A GOING TO BE A COSTLY, ROUGH THING NO MATTER WHICH COUNTRY THEY HIT OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. IT WOULD BE A VERY, VERY ROUGH ONE. I THINK THAT HAVING THIS NAVAL MAN ASSIGNED TO US TOLD US THAT WE ARE GOING OUT BY WAY OF THE NAVY AND THAT WE ARE GOING TO ATTACK THEM SOMEHOW. THERE WAS NO QUESTION TO THAT. THE FACT THAT WE HAD A MAN LIKE JIMMY DOOLITTLE TAKING COMMAND OF US, TOLD US IT WAS GOING TO BE SOMETHING BIG.

COX

AT THAT POINT IN TIME, WERE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE NAME "JIMMY DOOLITTLE"?

HERB

OH YEAH.

COX

HE WAS QUITE WELL KNOWN THROUGH THE ARMY AIR FORCES EVEN AT THAT POINT IN TIME?

HERB

WHEN HE APPEARED, AND STARTED TO ASSUMING OUR LEADERSHIP, IT WAS JUST ACCEPTED THAT DOOLITTLE WAS GOING TO COMMAND IT. IT WAS PRETTY SERIOUS BECAUSE HE IS NOT JUST AN ORDINARY PERSON. UP TO THIS TIME, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT A FELLOW WHO IS A SQUADRON COMMANDER HERE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. PEOPLE WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT IT. YOU COULDN'T GO OVER AND ASK SOMEBODY, SAY, "WELL, I THINK WE ARE GOING HIT ONE OF THE CITIES IN EUROPE

FIRST," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. MAYBE A FEW OF THE ORDINARY PEOPLE THERE WITHOUT ANY RANK MIGHT GUESS THAT THAT IS WHAT COULD HAPPEN. I THINK IT WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT WITH THE NAVY GUY THERE , AND THE TAKE-OFF PROCEDURES THEY TAUGHT, THAT WE WERE GOING TO GO AGAINST THE PACIFIC THREAT WITH AIRCRAFT TAKING OFF OF A CARRIER ON A BOMBING MISSION. WE WERE SO BUSY DOING THINGS AND LEARNING THINGS AND WONDERING ABOUT THIS AND THAT THAT NO ONE AMONG ANYBODY I WAS TALKING TO TOOK THE ATTITUDE, "LOOK, IT IS OBVIOUS WE OUGHT TO DO IT THIS WAY " OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT THE WORD VOLUNTEER BECAME A VERY COMMON ONE FROM THAT LITTLE NOTE THEY PUT OUT WHEN WE WERE DOWN IN SOUTH CAROLINA. WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS. WE GOT THAT FEELING IT WOULD BE VOLUNTEERS AND NOT AN ORGANIZED THING UNTIL WE HEARD ABOUT DOOLITTLE.

WHEN WE GOT DOWN TO FLORIDA, EACH OF THE LEADERS, LIKE A SQUADRON LEADER THAT WAS THERE, HAD A DUTY, ONE WOULD BE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AIR INDUSTRY BECAUSE WE KNEW THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL PEOPLE, OR SENIOR FELLOWS THAT WERE IN THE OUTFIT THAT CAME DOWN TO THE SOUTHEAST WERE GOING TO THE NORTH CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THERE WAS LOTS OF AVIATION ACTIVITY THERE. THEY WERE GETTING NEW THINGS LIKE, ---WELL LET'S SEE,----POSITIONS FOR OUR GUNS AND ALSO ADDED FUEL CAPABILITY SO THAT WE COULD FLY FARTHER. THINGS LIKE THAT WERE STARTING TO COME ABOUT.

COX

AT THAT POINT IN TIME AS YOU WERE GOING THROUGH TRAINING, THEY ALSO LOADED ON EXTRA FUEL CELLS IN YOUR PLANES SO THAT YOU WOULD BE USED TO THE WEIGHT?

HERB

UH UH, YEAH. ONE OF THE THINGS WE SAW THERE WAS THE INSTALLATION OF GUN TURRETS. IN MANY OF THOSE PLANES, THERE HADN'T BEEN ANY. THERE WOULD BE A FIXED PLACE FOR A GUN IN THE TAIL AS AN EXAMPLE AND MAYBE IN THE NOSE. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TURRET GUN POSITIONS IN PLACE THAT COULD BE ROTATED AND AIMED AT AN ENEMY PLANE. THAT WAS SOMETHING NEW TO US AT THAT TIME.

COX

AS THE NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER, YOU SAT RIGHT IN THE NOSE OF THAT B-25 DID YOU NOT?

HERB

YES, UH UH. RIGHT.

COX

BEING IN THE NOSE, YOU HAD ACCESS TO MACHINE GUNS THEN. DID YOU GET TRAINING?

HERB

VERY LITTLE. I WAS NOT CONSIDERED BY THE CREW MEMBERS THAT I WAS REALLY A GUNNER LIKE THE FELLOWS THAT WERE NAMED "GUNNERS". THEY WERE IN THE REAR END AND SO ON. I WAS ONE OF THOSE OFFICERS. I JUST LEARNED HOW TO FIRE A FEW POSITIONS FORWARD. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I RECALL VERY LITTLE ASSOCIATION OF MY TRAINING AND BEING THOUGHT OF BY THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CREW THAT I WAS A GUNNER. AS BOMBARDIER, I WAS CHECKED OUT ON HOW YOU USED THE NORDEN BOMBSIGHT, BUT ACTUALLY WE HAD VERY LITTLE TRAINING CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT IT WAS THOUGHT TO BE A RADICALLY NEW THING. WE DIDN'T LEARN ENOUGH THAT WE COULD BALANCE THE THING UP THE NOSE. HOWEVER, AFTER WE WERE IN FLORIDA FOR A WHILE, ONE OF OUR FELLOWS WHO ALWAYS KNEW ABOUT ANY OTHER GUNNER POSITIONS OR ANY OTHER OF THAT EQUIPMENT, NAME IS ROSS GREENING, FROM THE 89TH RECONAISSANCE SQUADRON USED TO GO DOWN ON THE LINE AND STAND AROUND AND WORK WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WERE HANDLING AND MODIFY OR REPAIRING EQUIPMENT LIKE THAT. HE KNEW A LOT ABOUT IT. ONE OF THE THINGS HE INTRODUCED WAS PUTTING A FEW ROUND POSTS, SMALL POSTS THAT WOULD LOOK SOMETHING LIKE A GUN POINTING OUT THE REAR END, THE TAIL. HE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA, "LET'S PUT THOSE IN THERE, SO THAT WHEN A MAN IS LOOKING AT IT FROM A DISTANCE, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE TAIL GUNS". THEREFORE, YOU WOULD NOT ATTACK FROM THE TAIL WHICH WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN YOUR TACTICS.

ONE OF THE THINGS THEY DID AFTER WE PUT IN TURRETS, GUN TURRETS, THAT WERE ABOUT IN THE CENTER OF THE AIRPLANE. THEY SUDDENLY SOME OF THOSE WERE TAKEN OUT COMPLETELY AND GASOLINE WAS PUT IN THERE IN THE AREA THE GUNS HAD BEEN IN.

COX

THEY WERE LIKE FUEL CELLS?

HERB

RIGHT. WE WERE HAVING A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THE INDUSTRIES COMING IN WITH THINGS THAT REALLY WORKED, WORKS WELL. ONE OF THEM WAS THAT SOME OF THESE TURRETS WERE SO BIG AND HEAVY THAT THEY WOULD SHAKE THE AIRPLANE AND ACTUALLY CAUSE SOME OF THE METHODS OF PUTTING THEM TOGETHER, TO CRACK . THERE WOULD BE CRACKS THAT HAD STARTED TO APPEAR, IN THE BODY OF THE AIRCRAFT.

COX

THE VIBRATION OF THE MACHINE GUNS WOULD CAUSE FATIGUE IN THE AIR FRAME.

END OF SIDE ONE

TAPE ONE, SIDE 2

COX

TO RESUME OUR INTERVIEW HERE HERB. I BELIEVE WE ENDED UP SIDE ONE TALKING ABOUT PREPARING YOUR PLANES DOWN IN FLORIDA FOR YOUR TRIP ACROSS THE UNITED STATES IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR PRIMARY MISSION. AS WE WERE TALKING, IF I UNDERSTAND IT CORRECTLY, THEY TOOK OUT SOME OF THE MACHINE GUNS TO DISPLACE SOME OF THE WEIGHT BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT ON EXTRA FUEL CELLS FOR YOUR MISSION. IS THAT CORRECT?

HERB

YEAH. -----

COX

RIGHT NOW, HERB IS SHOWING ME A PAINTING HERE THAT DEPICTS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER WITH THE B-25's ON IT. ONE OF THEM IS TAKING FLIGHT. IT HAS A

NOTATION THAT "JIMMY LEADS THE WAY, DOOLITTLE TOKYO RAID, O820, 18 APRIL, 1942". I BELIEVE IT IS SIGNED BY A LOT OF THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS. IS THAT CORRECT?

HERB

YES.

COX

ALSO IN THE FRAME IS A PICTURE OF A GENTLEMAN NAMED GREENING,.

HERB

GREENING, ROSS GREENING.

COX

ROSS GREENING. IT HAS A SELF-PORTRAIT AND HE IS THE THAT PAINTED THE PICTURE OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER WITH THE B-25's. I WOULD LIKE TO READ TO YOU WHAT IT SAYS HERE IN A CLIPPING. "PAINTING OF JIMMY LEADS THE WAY" AND THE ARTIST WHO PRODUCED IT. THE PAINTING WAS PRODUCED IN A GERMAN PRISONER CAMP FROM THE MEMORY BY C. ROSS GREENING WHO WAS PILOT OF THE 11TH PLANE IN THE DOOLITTLE RAID ON APRIL 18, 1942. FOLLOWING THE RAID, GREENING WAS ASSIGNED AS COMMANDER 17TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP, A B-26 UNIT STATIONED IN NORTH AFRICA. IN 1943, WHILE LEADING A RAID AGAINST NAPLES, ITALY, HE WAS SHOT DOWN, CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED IN STALAG LUFT ONE, BARTH, GERMANY. WHILE IN PRISON, COL. GREENING PAINTED AND TAUGHT ART CLASSES. HE IMPROVISED MOST OF THE MATERIALS, BRUSHES FROM HUMAN HAIR, PAINT BOILED FROM CREPE PAPER AND CAN LABELS, AND PAPER BOUGHT FROM GERMAN GUARDS IN EXCHANGE FOR CIGARETTES PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN Y.M.C.A. HIS WORK RESULTED IN A BOOK OF 75 PAINTINGS INTITLED "*NOT AS BRIEFED*" MANY PILOTS DESCRIBED HOW THEY WERE SHOT DOWN AND ROSS PAINTED THE PLANES AND DETAILS, ALL FROM MEMORY. "JIMMY LEADS THE WAY" IS TAKEN FROM THAT BOOK. GREENING'S DECORATIONS INCLUDE THE SILVER STAR, THE PURPLE HEART, AIR MEDAL WITH FOUR OAK LEAF CLUSTERS, CHINESE ORDER OF JUNG HU, FIFTH CLASS, AND THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS. ALTHOUGH ROSS MET AN UNTIMELY DEATH FOLLOWING OPEN HEARTS SURGERY IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND IN 1957, HIS HEART LIVES ON."

THAT IS REALLY A FINE----

HERB

GREENINGS WIFE HAD PRINTED SOME THINGS THAT HE, ROSS GREENING, DICTATED AND WROTE RIGHT AFTER HIS FATHER DIED BACK IN THE EARLY 50's.. FOR YEARS THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET THAT BOOK PUBLISHED. IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO, SOME PEOPLE WHO WERE CLASSMATEES OF GREENING'S CAME AROUND AND SAID, "WHY DON'T WE GO AHEAD AND GET THOSE THINGS DONE AND HAVE PRINTED WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE THAT ROSS DID FOR US AND WE WILL PAY HALF PART OF IT LET'S GO TO THE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS AND FIND OUT IF THEY WILL PAY THE REST." THE RAIDERS DID THAT.. WE PAID \$7,500 .. IF YOU WANT TO GET A BOOK I CAN GO TO HIS WIFE AND JUST PURCHASE THE BOOK.

COX

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE ONE FOR OUR LIBRARY.

HERB

OK, GOOD. LET'S MAKE A NOTE OF THAT JUST SO THAT I CAN REMEMBER TO CALL HER. MY WIFE AND I FELT THEY WERE OUR FAVORITE FRIENDS. THEY JUST NICE YOUNG PEOPLE ALTHOUGH THEY WERE SEVERAL YEARS OLDER THAN WE WERE. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIM HIGHLIGHTED. HE WAS A GUY WHO COULD DO EVERYTHING. WHEN HE WAS THERE, AND THE REST OF US WERE JUST GOOFING OFF, , HE WOULD GO OVER TO THE BOMB SIGHT PEOPLE AND LEARN HOW IT WORKS. HE ACTUALLY DESIGNED THE BOMBSIGHT, THE BOMBER APPARATUS THAT WE USED ON THE TOKYO RAID.. IT REALLY WAS A SIMPLE THING EVEN I COULD USE IT. HE INVENTED ENOUGH LITTLE MECHANISMS IN THIS BOMBSIGHT THAT YOU, THE BOMBARDIER, JUST MOVE AHEAD WITH THEIR HANDS WHILE LOOKING DOWN, IT IS HOOKED IN TO THE INSTRUMENTS THAT THE PILOT IS WATCHING. YOU ARE GUIDING THE PILOTS. YOU'VE GOT A THING IN THERE THAT IS MOVING OVER AS THE BOMBARDIER MOVES THE SIGHT, OR SOMETHING.. IT'S KNOWN AS THE 20 CENT BOMBSIGHT OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

COX

WE HAVE A REPLICA OF IT IN OUR MUSEUM. IT IS A SIMPLE ALUMINUM PAD SIGHTING DEVICE BASICALLY.

HERB

RIGHT. WELL, THAT'S THE THING THAT HE INVENTED. HE KNEW THE NORDEN BOMBSIGHT PERFECTLY. HE WAS ALSO THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA, THE

NEXT TO THE LAST NIGHT, I THINK, OR SOMETIME, WHERE HE ADDED TWO STICKS STICKING OUT THE REAR END TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE ARE SOME GUNS BACK THERE.

COX

YEAH, THEY REMOVED THE GUNS AND PUT IN LIKE BROOMSTICKS OR SOMETHING TO GIVE THAT EFFECT.

HERB

HE DID THAT. RIGHT AFTER THE JAPS HAD BOMBED HAWAII, THERE WAS A LOT OF PANIC. WE WERE AT PENDELTON, OREGON. THE PILOTS FOR THE MOST PART HAD ALL BEEN ON MANUVERS DOWN IN LOUISIANA OR SOMEPLACE. THEY HAD JUST GOTTEN BACK WHEN WE WERE ALL CALLED IN AND WE WENT TO THE MESS HALL. WE DIDN'T HAVE AN OFFICERS ROOM. WE WENT TO THE MESS HALL.. THEY STARTED GIVING A TALK. HILGER, MY PILOT, AND SENIOR TO GREENING, A KIND OF PANIC STRICKEN GUY. GOT UP AND WAS TELLING HOW WE GOT WORD HERE THAT THE JAPS HAVE CARRIERS OFF THE OCEAN HERE.

COX

OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA ?

HERB

RIGHT. HE WAS SAYING WE WOULD HAVE TO GET THEM OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. RUSS GREENING GETS UP. HE IS CONSIDERABLY YOUNGER THAN HILGER BUT HE STARTSTALK, BUT HILGER AND EVERYBODY ADMIRED HIM SO MUCH THAT THEY NEVER QUESTIONED.. AFTER THEY CAME BACK FROM THE MANUVERS, WE LEARNED THAT THEY HAD GOTTEN A LOT OF NEW EQUIPMENT ON THE PLANES. WE HAD NOT GONE WAS SO WE DIDN'T GET CHECKED OUT. GREENING WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW WHERE ALL THE DAMNED EQUIPMENT ON THE PLANE WAS AND HOW TO OPERATE IT .HE JUST GOT UP THERE THAT EVENING AND DESCRIBED HOW YOU TURNED SOMETHING ON AND HOW YOU SALVO THE BOMBS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. HE WOULD SAY, "YOU LOOK OVER HERE---" ALL THE GUYS WERE JUST SITTING THERE. HE WAS JUST THAT KIND OF A GUY. HE HAD A TALENT. HE WENT OVER THERE. HE PAINTED THOSE PICTURES AND ONE OF HIMSELF. THING IS, HE PRODUCED A BOOK, NOT HIS BRIEF. THE WHOLE POINT HE WAS MAKING WAS TO GET THE GUYS DOWN THERE, YOUR'E IN EUROPE, YOUR'E READY TO GO TO WAR, YOUR'E GOING OVER GERMANY AND YOUR'E AFRAID TO DIE AND SO AND SO AND SO. WELL PRETTY SOON, THEY ARE A PRISONER OF WAR AND THAT WAS NOT

HOW YOU BRIEFED THEM. YOU JUST PAINTED A PICTURE OF A GUY BEING SHOT DOWN OR OF HIM AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I THINK THERE IS A BOOK--- THAT BOOK EXISTS SOMEWHERE. IF I CAN FIND IT. I THINK I MIGHT HAVE IT AND SOME WAY MAKE THAT AVAILABLE TO YOU. CERTAINLY HAVE IT COPIED OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

COX, WHEN YOU FELLOWS WERE DOING TRAINING DOWN IN FLORIDA AND THEY WERE MAKING SOME OF THE MODIFICATIONS ON YOUR B-25, YOU HAD AN INKLING THAT A MAJOR MISSION WAS COMING UP. NOW, WERE YOU MADE AWARE AT THAT TIME EXACTLY WHERE YOU WERE GOING? WERE YOU STILL IN FLORIDA?

HERB

YEAH. I THINK WE KNEW, WE KNEW. MARY ALICE, MY WIFE CAME OUT. WE HAD BEEN IN PENDELTON. WE HAD A CAR, EVERY BODY HAD A CAR IN THOSE DAYS. SHE WAS A VERY GOOD DRIVER. SEVERAL OF THE GIRLS FROM OUR SQUADRON AND HAD ASKED HER FOR A RIDE. SHE WAS GOING TO GO TO TUSCON AND SHE WAS GOING TO GO----- I HAD AN AUNT AND UNCLE LIVING IN LOS ANGELES AND SHE WAS GOING TO GO BY THEIR PLACE AND THEN THERE WAS OTHER PEOPLE THAT SHE WAS GOING TO VISIT. SHE DROVE, ONE OF HER BEST FRIENDS WAS GOING TOO. THEY HAD COME FROM SOME PLACE ELSE. ANYHOW, SHE WENT THROUGH TO LOS ANGELES AND STAYED A WHILE WITH MY UNCLE AND AUNT. THEN SHE WENT ON DOWN TO TUSCON, WHERE HER PARENTS LIVED AND THEN SHE CAME ON DOWN TO FLORIDA. SHE WAS THERE. WHEN I TOLD HER THAT WE WERE GOING TO BOMB JAPAN. I DIDN'T ANNOUNCE IT IN THE SENSE THAT IT WAS APPROVED. I JUST TOLD HER-----

COX

IT WAS YOUR OPINION?

HERB

YEAH. WAS SURE WE WERE GOING----AND SHE KNEW. SHE HEADED BACK TO TUSCON SHORTLY AFTER THE NEWS BROKE ABOUT THE TOKYO RAID. SO SHE KNEW ABOUT THAT. ACTUALLY, SHE WAS A GAL---THERE SHE IS RIGHT THERE. {HERB IS SHOWING A PICTURE OF HIS WIFE} SHE IS REALLY A WONDERUL GAL FOR HAVING FRIENDS AND ALL. I CAME OVER TO THE WIRE FENCCE AT THE BASE AND HUGGED HER AND KISSED HER AND THEN THESE OTHER FELLOWS CAME UP-----'CAUSE A LOT OF

THEM WERE NOT MARRIED AND SOME HAD CHILDREN. NONE OF THE OTHER WOMEN CAME UP. SHE WAS GIVING THEM ALL THEIR GOODBYE AND KISS ----(GARBELED) SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT DID THAT.

COX

HERB IS POINTING AT A PICTURE OF HIS WIFE AND I MUST SAY SHE IS QUITE ATTRACTIVE HERB.

HERB

SHE WAS.

COX

WHEN SHE CAME DOWN TO VISIT YOU IN FLORIDA, YOU WERE ABOUT THROUGH WITH YOUR TRAINING?

HERB

YEAH, UH UH.

COX

AND ONCE YOU COMPLETED TRAINING, TAKE IT FROM THERE. HOW DID YOU PROGRESS?

HERB

I JUST TOLD HER THAT I'M SURE WE ARE GOING TO GO OFF A CARRIER BECAUSE WE HAD PEOPLE COMING UP FROM CARRIERS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. THAT WAS ALL BEING PUT TOGETHER AT THAT TIME. OF COURSE, EVERYBODY THERE KNEW THE SAME THING SO YOU DIDN'T TALK AMONG YOURSELVES. I DID TELL HER. WHEN SHE GOT BACK TO TUSCON, IT WAS ANNOUNCED RIGHT PRACTICALLY THE NIGHT AFTER SHE GOT THERE. IT WAS THAT THE JAPS HAD SHOT DOWN A WHOLE BUNCH OF OUR PLANES.

COX

NO I HAVEN'T.

HERB

YEAH, IT WAS 8 PLANES THAT THEY CLAIMED THEY SHOT DOWN

COX

LET'S GET BACK TO YOUR PRACTICING THERE IN FLORIDA. WAS THAT QUITE INTENSIVE PRACTICE? I MEAN DID YOU GUYS DO TOUCH AND GO'S QUITE OFTEN WITH THE PILOTS LEARNING HOW TO GET OFF AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER DECK?

HERB

ACTUALLY, THE THING THAT THEY DID, IS THAT THEY BROUGHT THIS PILOT FROM THE NAVY AND HE WAS AN ACADEMY GRADUATE FROM THE NAVAL ACADEMY. HE WAS A GOOD PILOT. WHAT HE REALLY DID, HE JUST TAUGHT THE GUYS HOW TO MAKE A SHORT TAKEOFF. SOME OF THEM WERE VERY GOOD AT IT AND SOME OTHERS WEREN'T. HE JUST TALKED FROM THE TOWER. YOU KNOW, IN THE AIR FORCE, YOU TEACH A GUY TO HOLD THAT PLANE DOWN THERE AND BUILD UP YOUR SPEED.

COX

YOU JUST HOLD ON THE BRAKES AND BUILD UP YOUR REVS. {ENGINE REVOLUTIONS}

HERB

YEAH. THESE WERE JUST OTHER TECHNIQUES AND HE WAS TEACHING THEM SORT OF OPENLY EVEN THOUGH THE WORD WAS THAT HE NEVER HAD A CARRIER TAKEOFF. I DIDN'T PAY THAT MUCH ATTENTION BECAUSE ALL OF US HAD OUR OWN LITTLE TASK THAT WE WERE DOING. I THOUGHT THEY HAD LEARNED TECHNIQUES; HOLD IT DOWN FOR A MINUTE THEN BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF. I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY EVIDENCE OF SOMEONE BEING PUNISHED FOR TELLING SOMETHING THAT HADN'T BEEN PERFORMED. THE ATTITUDE WAS, WE ARE GOING AND WE ARE GOING TO HIT JAPAN, THEREFORE, WE CAN GET OFF

COX

I GUESS YOU GUYS WERE QUITE CONFIDENT AND ENTHUSED ABOUT YOUR MISSION. AT THAT POINT IN TIME AS WE MENTIONED, WE HAD NOT STRUCK BACK BASICALLY AT JAPAN.

HERB

ONE AUTHOR WROTE, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE, ABOUT US BEING READY FOR THE GALLOWS AND ALL, THAT WE WERE AFRAID THAT WE WERE GOING TO GET KILLED. IT WAS MORE IN A SENSE OF BEING CONCERNED ABOUT SHOT DOWN. I'M SURE ALL OF THEM WERE CONFIDENT THAT THEY COULD GET OFF. I NEVER WORRIED THAT WE WOULDN'T GET OFF. A COUPLE OF TIMES---SEE WE WERE BACK THERE ON THE 14TH AIRCRAFT, SO WE WATCHED ALL THOSE OTHER AIRPLANES FOREVER. WE WENT

THROUGH A LITTLE THOUGHT OCCASIONALLY, "I WONDER IF I COULD GET OUT THAT DAMN AIRPLANE IF WE GO OFF?"[THE END OF THE FLIGHT DECK; I KINDA OF THOUGHT, I WISH THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN. THAT IS A BETTER CHANCE TO RECOVER THE PEOPLE THAN IT IS TO GO THROUGH THAT MISSION. THERE WAS THAT KIND OF FEELING.

COX

WHEN FINISHED YOUR TRAINING IN FLORIDA, THEN DID YOU FLY YOUR B-25's THAT YOU WERE GOING TO FLY ON YOUR MISSION, TO THE WEST COAST?

HERB

YEP.

COX

AS YOU WERE TELLING ME DURING THE BREAK, THAT'S WHEN YOU FLEW OVER YOUR HOME TOWN?

HERB

RIGHT, RIGHT. WE FLEW ON DOWN AND THEN WE WENT UP TO THE CALIFORNIA, ---SACRAMENTO WAS JUST LIKE KELLY AIR FORCE BASE.

COX

A LARGE AIR FORCE BASE THERE?

HERB

YEAH. THERE, WE WENT THROUGH A LITTLE EFFORT BECAUSE WE WENT IN AND HAD BEEN TOLD, THE PILOTS HAD BEEN TOLD, "DON'T LET THEM TOUCH A DAMN THING", YOUR GAS CONSUMPTION AND THINGS LIKE THAT. PRETTY SOON, AFTER WE GOT TO CALIFORNIA, THEY STARTED GETTING THEM TO MAKE A FLIGHT TO SEE IF THEY WERE REALLY HAVING UNUSUAL FUEL CONSUMPTION OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. "SKI" YORK WAS THE ONE WHO SPOTTED THE GUYS WHO WERE GOOF-OFFS IN FUEL CONSUMPTION. HE WAS THE GUY THAT ENDED THAT, WHEN THEY GOT DOWN TO THE NAVAL STATION, HE WOULD TALK TO THE GUY AND ASK ABOUT HIS PERFORMANCE. HE WAS THE MADE THE DECISION ON WHO EITHER DIDN'T TAKE AN AIRCRAFT OR WHO MIGHT HAVE ONE AND WAS NOT TAKING IT. YET THE MOST UNUSUAL THING WAS WHEN HE {SKI YORK} GOT OVER THE TARGETS IN JAPAN, HE REALLY STARTED USING UP GAS AND CAME TO THE DECISION THAT HE COULDN'T MAKE IT TO CHINA. HE WENT TO RUSSIA, VLADIVOSTOK. I DIDN'T REALIZE IT AT THE TIME, BUT HIS WIFE IS HERE, HIS WIDOW, THAT IS "SKI" YORK'S. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, SOMEBODY WOULD BRING UP

THE QUESTION BUT I, AT THE TIME, DON'T REMEMBER ANYBODY SAYING THAT HE DIDN'T PURPOSELY GOTO CHINA. OF COURSE, YOU WEREN'T THERE TALKING TO HIM BECAUSE HE'S WAY OVER HERE AND YOU ARE WAY OVER THERE.

COX

YOU WENT TO CALIFORNIA. HOW LONG AFTER YOU GOT TO CALIFORNIA DID THEY LOAD YOUR PLANES ON THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER?

HERB

OH, ABOUT 3 OR 4 DAYS JACK SIMS, A CO-PILOT, WAS THE BIGGEST WOMANIZER IN THE WHOLE GROUP. I REMEMBER ONE NIGHT, WE ALWAYS JOKED ABOUT THIS. WE HAD STOPPED SOMEPLACE, IN SACRAMENTO, 2 OR 3 OF US WERE DOWNTOWN, GOING INTO A BAR OR WALKING AROUND AND HERE COMES JACK. HE'S ALWAYS HAD THIS WHITE SCARF AND HE'S ALWAYS HAD A GIRLFRIEND. HE WAS NOTORIOUS FOR THAT.

COX

WELL, THEY LOADED YOUR AIRCRAFT ON. ABOUT HOW LONG A JOURNEY WAS IT ON THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER BEFORE YOU GUYS GOT READY TO LAUNCH?

HERB

ACTUALLY, IT WAS VERY QUICKLY. BEFORE WE LEFT PRT IN CALIFORNIA, SOME OF US WENT OUT ONE NIGHT AND ACTUALLY COULD SEE DOWN IN THE BAY, WE COULD SEE THIS CARRIER. WE WERE UP ON THE HILL LOOKING DOWN FROM WHERE WE WERE. IT WAS KIND OF A FOOLISH THING AFTERWARDS AND TALKING ABOUT HAVING THAT EXPOSURE. IT IS REALLY AMAZING THAT THE JAPANESE DIDN'T HAVE AN INTELLIGENCE THAT WOULD SPOTTED THOSE CARRIERS. THE GREATEST MISTAKE THE JAPANESE MADE WAS THAT THEY DID'NT INTERCEPT COMMUNICATIONS, CONCERNNG TWO CARRIERS. THAT IS, THE ONE THAT CAME UP FROM SAN FRANSISCO AND THE ONE THAT WAS OVER OUT OF HAWAII. THEY NEVER FIGURED OUT THAT THEY WERE TWO DIFFERENT KINDS. EVERYTHING THEY DID FROM THEN ON IT APPEARED THAT THEY WERE DOING IT WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE IN THEIR OWN MINDS THAT BOTH OF THOSE CARRIERS WERE STILL JUST LIKE NORMAL WITH NEITHER ONE OF THEM CARRYING ANY UNUSUAL AIRCRAFT. THINGS HAPPENED THAT WERE JUST UNUSUAL AS HELL. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT BOTHERED ME THE MOST IS THAT I WAS CONFIDENT WHEN WE TOOK OFF AND THAT PICKET SHIP REPORTED OUR POSITION BECAUSE WE DID INTERCEPT THEIR COMMUNICATIONS THAT APPRENTLYDIDN'T GO THROUGH THAT ONE CARRIER HAD BOMBERS. THE JAPS APPARENTLY NEVER KNEW THAT THERE WAS A

CARRIER WITH BOMBERS ON BOARD . EVERYTHING THEY DID, DEFENSE WISE AND ALL, APPEARED TO BE REFLECTING THAT KIND THING.

COX

WHEN YOU WERE ON THE CARRIER, AND I GUESS THIS WAS APRIL 18TH. IS THAT THE DAY OF THE RAID?

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT AND THAT IS, WHEN, THE PEOPLE THAT WERE OUT THERE WITH NIMITZ IN HAWAII AFTER THEY HAD BRIEFED THE COMMANDER OUT THERE AND GOT A FINAL DECISION, I THINK IT WAS HALSEY WHO SAID, “ I WANT TO TALK TO HIM (DOOLITTLE) AND I WILL GO INTO SAN FRANCISCO”. THIS WAS GOING TO BE SOME DAYS LATER. SO HE CAME IN AND JIMMY MET HIM AT SAN FRANCISCO AND THEY WENT OUT TO DINNER. AFTER THEY HAD THE PLANES LOADED AND ALL, AND THEY TOOK THEM OUT OF THE HARBOR, HALSEY TOLD JIMMY: HE HAD MADE A REAL GOOD FRIEND OF DOOLITTLE, THE WAY JIMMY TALKED, HE SAID HOW PROUD HE WAS OF HIM. HE DID TELL DOOLITTLE THAT, “I’M GOING TO GET RID OF THE REAL THREAT TO THIS MISSION AND THAT IS, HAVING YOUR PLANES ON THE CARRIER THAT CAN’T DO ANYTHING MEANS THAT WE HAVE TO GET RID OF THOSE PLANES. I AM GOING TO PUSH THEM OVER.” HAVE YOU HEARD THAT STORY?

COX

NO I HAVEN’T.

HERB

THAT IS IN SOME OF THE BOOKS SO YOU OUGHT TO FIND THAT AND DOOLITTLE SAID, ----- HE SAID SOME THINGS ABOUT WHAT IT DOES. HE SAID, “CARRYING THOSE PLANES, YOU CAN’T GET YOUR FIGHTERS UP”, AND HE DESCRIBED ALL THAT AND HE SAID, “I AGREE WITH YOU”. IN THE MEANTIME, BOTH OF THESE GUYS HAD MADE COMMENTS AFTER THAT DINNER TOGETHER THAT THEY BOTH ADMIRED EACH OTHER AND “THESE ARE MY KIND OF MEN.” HALSEY IS GOING TO PUSH THE BOMBERS OFF THE DECK SO THAT THE *HORNET* COULD DEFEND ITSELF AND COME IN AND HELP THE *ENTERPRISE*, IF NEED BE.

COX

IN THE EVENT THEY WERE ATTACKED?

HERB

YEAH. DOOLITTLE AGREED. HE SAID, "I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING BUT I THINK I CAN GET THOSE AIRPLANES OFF AS FAST AS YOU COULD PUSH THEM OVERBOARD, THEREFORE LET ME GO WITH THEM. IF WE RUN INTO A PROBLEM AND I HAVE TO GET THEM OFF, I WILL. I WILL GO WITH YOU RIGHT OUT TO THE LAST MOMENT. IN FACT. WE WILL BE READY TO LAUNCH TO BOMB TOKYO." THAT WAS A SUICIDAL THING RIGHT THERE. HE CALLED US TOGETHER THE NEXT DAY AND DESCRIBED THAT TO US. HE TURNED IT DOWN BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO LOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF BOMBING TOKYO. "JUST LET ME, I'LL GET THEM OFF AND WE'LL BOMB TOKYO, FROM THE TIME I'M WITHIN RANGE." NO ONE EVER PINNED DOWN "WHEN YOUR'E IN RANGE" BECAUSE YOU COULD STILL GET CAUGHT. HE BRIEFED ALL THE CREWS RIGHT AFTER THAT, RIGHT AFTER WE LEFT THE SAN FRANCISCO HARBOR. HE SAYS, "WE CAN DO IT AND WHEN THE TIME COMES, I AM GOING TO GO AND I AM GOING TO TAKE IT TO JAPAN. IF I HAVE TO LET IT GO IN, BELLY OUT, HIT THEIR TARGETS, THEY ARE GOING TO GO EVEN IF IT TAKES ME. " "SOME OF THE MEN CAN DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. THERE WAS A STORY LIKE THAT THAT HE TOLD. FROM THAT DAY ON, IT WAS TO US CREW MEMBERS LIKE, HELL, THIS IS A SUICIDE MISSION. WE ARE GOING TO CRASH IN TOKYO EVEN THOUGH WE ARE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO GO IN THERE WITH BOMBS. THOSE THINGS ARE IN THE BOOKS. FROM THEN ON, WHEN TALKING TO ONE OF YOUR BUDDIES SITTING OUT THERE, WE WERE TALKING, "WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK? ARE WE GOING TO CRASH THAT WAY? I WONDER IF I COULD JUMP OUT BEFORE I HIT THE GROUND

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ABOUT THE DOOLITTLE TALK WITH THE CHIEF OF STAFF, CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE, "HAP" ARNOLD? HE CAME IN FROM FLORIDA ON A TRIP. HE HAD BEEN UP AND HAD SEEN (GARBELED) AND SOME THINGS WEREN'T WORKING OUT UP THERE IN THE MANUFACTURING WORLD. THAT IS WHAT HE WAS DOING SOME WORK ON TOO. HE KNEW THAT. THAT IS ONE OF HIS GREAT ASSETS. HE WAS USED TO DEALING WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE IN THE MANUFACTURING QUARTER AND ALL THAT. HE CAME BACK FROM FLORIDA. HE WENT IN TO SEE ARNOLD AND USUALLY IT WAS, "THINGS ARE DONG FINE, YEAH, WE ARE GOING TO DO FINE." ACTUALLY I THINK YOU READ THAT BOOK IT'LL TELL YOU THAT HILGER WAS THE "OPS" OFFICER DOWN THERE. HE HAD CERTAIN THINGS TO DO. I KNOW THAT GREENING HAD CERTAIN THINGS TO DO. DOOLITTLE WAS TELLING ARNOLD "THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS I AM JUST AFRAID ARE GOING TO FALL APART AND WE WON'T HAVE AND THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO STAY ON AS THE COMMANDER." WHEN HE STARTED, HE WAS CALLED BACK TO ACTIVE DUTY. YOU KNOW, HE HAD BEEN AN ACTIVE OFFICER. I THINK HE WAS RECALLED IN '28 OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. SO HE HAD A JOB AS A PLANNER. HE WAS GOING TO WORK OUT THE PLAN AND DECIDE WHETHER THE B-26 OR THE 25, MAKE THE DECISION. THE 26

CAN'T MAKE IT. I AM SURE THEY MADE THAT CONCLUSION. FIRST OF ALL, IT WAS TOO DAMN HEAVY AT TAKEOFF AND SEVERAL THINGS LIKE THAT. HE WAS IN THERE TELLING ARNOLD THAT HE JUST CAN'T COMMIT HIMSELF TO THINKING THAT ISN'T SOMETHING THAT IS WEAK THERE AND HE DOESN'T WANT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN. ARNOLD SAYS, "JIMMY, YOU WERE BROUGHT IN HERE TO WORK ON A PLAN. YOU DID A WONDERFUL JOB AND YOU HAVE WORKED OUT ALL THE DETAILS. YOU ARE THE ONLY GUY THAT COULD DO IT". "BUT YOU CAN'T GO ON THIS MISSION. HELL, WE'VE GOT A WAR TO FIGHT. WE ARE GOING TO FIGHT PEOPLE IN EUROPE. WE CAN'T HAVE YOU GOING OUT ON EVERY MISSION THAT COMES UP." THEY HAD THAT. THEY DESCRIBED THE THINGS HE WAS SUPPOSED TO DO. ACTUALLY, HE WAS TO SELECT THE OUTFIT THAT FURNISHED THE PLANES AND THE MEN AND THAT'S THE 17TH BOMB GROUP. HE HAD GONE IN AND HE WOULD SELECT THE MAN THAT WOULD BECOME THE LEADER. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HE DID. JACK HILGER WAS THE OLDEST GUY THERE, THE MOST EXPERIENCED IN THE 17TH BOMB GROUP THAT WAS THERE AT THE TIME. SO HE BROUGHT JACK IN AS A LEADER.. AFTER "HAP" ARNOLD SAID, "I CAN'T HAVE YOU DO THAT. WE JUST HAVE TOO MUCH TO DO AND I DIDN'T BRING YOU IN HERE TO DO THAT." AGAIN, IT'S IN THE BOOK IN THERE. JIMMY KEPT TALKING TO HIM. IT HAS BEEN SO LONG SINCE I READ IT, I DON'T REMEMBER HOW FAR HE WENT ,BUT I WAS SORT OF A THING OF; I KNOW WHAT IT IS, THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE AND SO ON. IT CAME UP TO A POINT WHERE ARNOLD SAID, WELL, YOU WORK FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF." SOME BODY NAMED BRITT OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. AND HE SAID, " I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO IT" BUT WENT ON TO SAY, " YOU WORK FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF, HE IS RIGHT DOWN THE HALL. IF HE IS WILLING TO LET YOU GO, GO ON DOWN THERE AND TELL HIM." SO HE DID. HE STOMPED IN THERE. THAT IS ALL IN THE BOOK. HE WENT DOWN, WENT IN AND HE TOLD HIM THE STORY, AND THE GUY SAYS, "HELL, YOU DON'T THINK I AM GONG TO SAY YOU CAN GO WHEN HALF FINSHED OR SAY YOU COULDN'T GO AND THINGS LIKE THAT" JIMMY STILL GAVE HIM MORE WORDS AND PRETTY SOON, HE SAID, "ALL RIGHT, GODDAMN IT, I'LL LET IT GO, BUT I WOULD NEVER BE HAPPY WITH MYSELF IF THINGS WENT BAD." THE WHOLE POINT WAS, THAT SOME VERY IMPORTANT LITTLE FACTOR THAT HE ONLY KNEW ABOUT IT. THAT IS THE SORT OF THING HE WAS SAYING.

ANYHOW, HE GOT UP TO WALK OUT AND HE WALKED OVER TO THE DOOR JUST THEN, THE INTERPHONE RANG. HE WAITED, LISTENED, KNOWING THIS IS "HAP"" AND HE WAITED TO SEE WHAT HE SAID. THE GUY SAYS, ""HAP", GODDAMN IT YOU KNOW THAT I WOULDN'T DO THAT. I SO AND SO-----SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND JUST THEN, JIMMY OPENS THE DOOR AND STARTS WALKING DOWN THE HALLWAY AND HE WASN'T SURE WHAT THE GUY WAS SAYING FOR SURE. HE DID, BEFORE HE LEFT THE HARBOR AT SAN FRANSISCO, HE HAD SEVERAL PHONE CALLS FROM WASHINGTON. EACH TIME, HE

WOULD SAY, "GODDAMN, THAT'S MARSHALL. HE IS CALLING ME TO GET MY ASS OFF HERE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WHEN MARSHALL CAME ON, HE SAID, "JIMMY, I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE ALL READY TO GO AND I AM FOR YOU 100%. I THINK YOU'VE GOT IT. I'M WITH YOU," AND ALL THAT. EACH OF THESE CALLS----EACH ONE OF THEM, HE KEPT SWEATING IT OUT. THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED THERE. HE TOLD US THAT, ALONG WITH THE STORY ABOUT NOT HAVING PUSHED THE PLANES OFF. IN THAT CASE, THAT SORT OF GAVE THE GUYS A CHALLENGE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET THOSE DAMN AIRPLANES OFF AS FAST AS YOU COULD PUSH THEM OFF. IF YOU COULD, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO IN AND COMMIT SUICIDE. BUT ON THIS ONE, HE MENTIONED AGAIN THAT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT MISSING SOMETHING AND THAT WE WERE GOING TO GO THE WAY WE ARE.

COX

WHEN THEY ONCE MADE THE DECISION TO LAUNCH, AND YOU ARE SITTING IN THE PLANE, GETTING READY TO BE LAUNCHED AS PLANE NUMBER 14, CAN YOU DESCRIBE EXACTLY HOW YOUR FELLINGS WERE?

HERB

I WAS FEELING THAT WE WERE GOING ON IN TO A SUICIDE MISSION. THAT WAS WHAT THAT WAS NOW.

COX

THINKING ABOUT YOUR WIFE AT THAT TIME AND YOUR FAMILY?

HERB

YEAH. WHAT HAPPENED THEN AS I RECALL NOW, IT KEPT GOING ALONG AND IT NEVER HAPPENED. WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO IS HAVE A NIGHT BOMBING. DOOLITTLE WAS GOING TO TAKE OFF SEVERAL HOURS EARLY AND HE WOULD DROP INCENDIARY BOMBS ON SOME OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACES FOR FIRES FOR THEM, FOR THE JAPS, SO THAT HE COULD LIGHT UP THE TARGET AREA. BY THAT TIME, I THINK WE BEGAN THINKING CONFIDENTLY ENOUGH, IT WASN'T GOING TO HAPPEN THAT OTHER WAY AND WE WERE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY PLANES OFF. THAT'S FUNNY, I HAVEN'T THOUGHT TO THINK OF IT BEFORE. IN OTHER WORDS, THAT DAY, JUST GETTING OUT THERE AND THE FACT THAT THERE WAS GOOD WEATHER AND ALL THAT WE COULD GO. IT WAS ALL RIGHT. BUT., THEN WE WERE SUDDENLY ORDERED TO TAKE OFF.

COX

THE PICKET, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THE PICKET----THEY WERE AFRAID THE PICKET SHIP SAW YOU AND YOUR GUYS LAUNCHED A LITTLE EARLY, DIDN'T YOU?

HERB

THE PICKET SHIP, WE KNEW THAT THEY HAD SEEN US TAKE OFF, WE HAD TWO CARRIERS HERE, ONE OF THEM TO LAUNCH THE AIRCRAFT AND THEY JUST DIDN'T MENTION THAT THEY SEEMED TO HAVE BOMBERSON BOARD. IT WAS JUST THAT THEY NEVER MENTIONED BOMBERS. NOT THAT I REMEMBER. REALLY, AS THAT DAY WENT ON, IT DID TURN OUT THAT DOOLITTLE DIDN'T GO IN EARLY. I GUESS IT WAS JUST MORE THAT WE BUILT UP CONFIDENCE AS WE WENT ALONG. I WASN'T JUST HAPPY ABOUT BOMBING AT NIGHT. I JUST FIGURED THESE GUYS KNEW ENOUGH ABOUT IT THAT WE COULD MAKE IT. REALLY, I THINK WHAT OVERCAME OUR NEGATIVE THINKING WAS THE FACT THAT WE KEPT GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER. WE CAME DOWN THERE AND WE WERE GETTING A WIND AND WE WERE DRIFTING A LITTLE BIT TO THE NORTH. I HAD ANTICIPATED THAT WE WOULD FIND OURSELVES DRIFTING TO THE NORTH OF OUR TARGET. IN OTHER WORDS, WE DIDN'T COME IN TO TOKYO HARBOR AT ALL. WHAT WE DID, IS THAT WE CAME IN A LITTLE NORTH OF IT. BUT THEN, WHAT WE DID AS WE SAW THAT WE WERE NORTH, THEN WE JUST STARTED SWOOPING DOWN THE COAST. NEXT THING WE SAW, WE SAW SOME OUR AIRCRAFT COMING OUT OF THE HARBOR. AT THAT TIME, WE FELT GOOD. THOSE GUYS GOT THROUGH. THE FACT THAT THEY GOT THROUGH AND THEY ARE COMING OUTGAVE US MORE CONFIDENCE.

COX

YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT OUR PLANES? YOU SAW THEM COMING OUT?

HERB

YEAH. YHEY ACTUALLY DROPPED SOME BOMBS JUST TO GET RID OF THEM IN THE HARBOR. THAT WAS A LITTLE QUIBBEL BETWEEN THE PILOT AND THE BOMBARDIER ---- I GUESS THE BOMBARDIER.

COX

THAT WAS ON ANOTHER AIRCRAFT OTHER THAN YOUR OWN?

HERB

OH YEAH. THEY WERE COMING OUT AND THEY HAD NOT DROPPED THEIR BOMBS ON THE TARGET. I THINK THE PILOT TOLD THE BOMBARDIER AS I RECALL I NOW. HE ORDERED, "DROP THE BOMBS AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE." BUT, AFTER THAT, THERE

WAS QUITE A DISAGREEMENT ABOUT DROPPING OF THEIR BOMBS .THIS WAS A LONG TIME AFTERWARDS, WE FINALLY WENT TO CHINA AND WE WERE AROUND THERE FOR A LONG TIME AND THEN WE FINALLY STARTED HOME.

COX

WE WILL COVER THAT LATER ON.

HERB

THE BOMBARDIER KEPT SAYING, "IT ISN'T MY FAULT." THE PILOT WAS SAYING, IT WASN'T MY FAULT." I THINK IT WAS ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHERE THESE TWO GUYS WERE CLAIMING THAT THEY MISUNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER. THEY WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAD DROPPED THEIR BOMBS OFF TARGET.

COX

NOW, WHEN YOU WENT, WHEN YOU TOOK OFF, DID YOU FLY IN FLIGHTS OF THREE PLANES PER FLIGHT?

HERB

OH NO. EACH ONE WENT UP IN THE SAME PLACE.

COX

YOU FORMED UP INTO FORMATION?

HERB

YOU DIDN'T HAVE A FORMATION. YOU JUST HAD AIRCRAFT COMING UP. DOOLITTLE'S AIRCRAFT WAS SITTING IN A CERTAIN SPOT. THE CREW FROM THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER CAME UP AND THIS GUY HAD A FLAG SYSTEM AND HE GOT DOOLITTLE OFF. THEN, HOOVER, PILOT IN PLANE # 2 WAS GOING OFF AND IT APPEARED HE GOT HIS FLAPS UP AND THAT IS THE ONE THAT FELL OFF FROM HERE IT APPEARED HE WAS GOING INTO THE WATER, BUT HE PULLED UP IN TIME.. I THINK TED LAWSON ALSO WAS IN TROUBLE ON TAKE OFF. HE ALMOST WENT IN. WE WERE BACK THERE IN THE 14. ALL THIS TIME, WE ARE THINKING, I BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE IT. I HAD THOUGHT OF THINGS-----ONE OF US GOING OVER OR SOMEBODY GOING OFF THE SIDE OR SOMETHING AND THEY WERE HAVING TO GET THE PEOPLE OUT. I WASN'T AWARE OF SWIMMING AS I AM NOW.

END OF TAPE 1

TRANSCRIBED BY FOREST J. REES
FREDERICKSBURG, TX
SEPTEMBER, 2000
EDITED BY FLOYD COX

HERB MACIA TAPES

TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE

COX

PLEASE CONTINUE HERB.

HERB

ONE OF THE THINGS I THOUGHT THEY WOULD DO WAS START SHOWING UP. I
DIDN'T THINK THEY WOULD LET US ENTER THE TERRITORY.

COX

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE JAPANESE?

HERB

YEAH.

COX

YOU THOUGHT THEY WOULD THROW UP SOME INTERCEPTION?

HERB

YEAH, THAT IS WHAT I THOUGHT. I THOUGHT THAT WOULD SURELY HAPPEN.
SEE, WE WERE QUITE A DISTANCE FROM WHERE WE WERE HEADING, SO WE TURNED
SOUTH----

COX

HERB HAS A GLOBE HERE IN FRONT OF US AND HE IS DESCRIBING (HERE IS JAPAN, RIGHT HERE).

HERB

HERE IS TOKYO. WE ARE OUT HERE AND WE COME IN AND WE HEAD OUT DUE NORTH AND THEN WE TURN AND WE'RE GOING SOUTH AND WE ARE WAVING AT PEOPLE AS WE FLY OVER.

COX

YOU SEE THE JAPANESE PEOPLE DOWN BELOW YOU?

HERB

HERE'S NOGOYA. THEY LOOKED LIKE LITTLE FISHING BOATS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. LITTLE FAMILY GROUPS. EVERY TIME WE WOULD SEE THESE PEOPLE, WE WOULD WAVE AT THEM. WE WERE STAYING FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THEM AND YOU'RE REALLY DOWN ON THE DECK. YOU COULD SEE THEM PRETTY WELL, IT WAS AN AIRPLANE THAT JUST FLASHED BY.

COX

WELL, THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING ANY RAIDS AT THAT TIME, WERE THEY?

HERB

NO. THAT'S IT. WHAT I EXPECTED AND I WAS OVERWHELMED WITH THAT BECAUSE I THOUGHT ALL THE TIME WHEN WE WERE GOING OUT THERE AT FIRST THAT THESE GUYS WERE GOING TO BE COMING OUT LIKE MAD. AND WHEN I SAW THEY DIDN'T, I JUST---MY WHOLE ATTITUDE CHANGED.

COX

AND WHEN YOU WENT OVER, I BELIEVE YOU SAID NOGOYA WAS ONE OF YOUR TARGETS/

HERB

THAT'S WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR RIGHT HERE. {LOOKING AT A WORLD GLOBE}

COX

WAS THERE JUST YOUR PLANE OR WAS THERE OTHER PLANES WITH YOU?

HERB

ONE OR TWO OTHER PLANES. FIRST OF ALL, WE WERE'NT FLYING IN FORMATION AND THAT WAS AGREED UPON IN THE VERY BEGINNING BEFORE WE EVER TOOK OFF, THAT WE WOULD ALL HAVE OUR INDIVIDUAL MISSION AND WE WOULD'NT FLY IN FORMATION. IT HAPPENED THAT 2 OR 3 GUYS BEHIND US WERE MUCH JUNIORS TO JACK HILGER. AFTER ALL, JACK HILGER WAS THEIR SQUADRON COMMANDER. THEY SEEMED TO TACK ON TO US. JACK JUST LET IT GO. THERE WAS NO FORMATION, YOU KNOW HAVING A COUPLE GOING ABOARD AND THEN ANOTHER AND ANOTHER. NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED.

COX

JUST INDIVIDUAL PLANES?

HERB

YEAH. THERE WOULD BE A COUPLE COME UP. IT TURNED OUT THERE WERE TWO OF THOSE GUYS THAT WERE BEYOND US THERE DROPPING ON OUR TARGET. IT JUST KIND OF IGNORED THAT THESE GUYS WERE TRYING TO STICK IN A LITTLE CLOSER TO US THAN WE THOUGHT WAS NECESSARY.

COX

HOW MANY BOMBS DID YOU HAVE ON YOUR SHIP, AIRPLANE?

HERB

I WOULD SAY THAT WE HAD AT LEAST FOUR. WE HAD GOTTEN AERIAL PHOTOGRPHS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. WE KNEW THAT THERE WERE SOME ARMY INSTALLATIONS IN NOGOYA, IN THE NORTHERN PART OF NOGOYA. THERE WERE THINGS LIKE A BARRACKS FOR AN ARMY UNIT OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WE CAME UP IN FROM THE SEA HERE AND THAT IS WHEN WE STARTED CLIMBING. UP TO THIS TIME, WE HAD BEEN STILL STAYING PRETTY CLOSE TO THE DECK. A LITTLE HIGHER, A LITTLE HIGHER THAN WE HAD BEEN OUT FURTHER. AS WE WENT UP THERE, THE OBJECT WAS TO GO UP AND LOOK NOGOYA OVER AS WE CAME IN AND THEN WE COULD FLY BY THE CITY RATHER THAN OVER THE CITY. NOW WE FLEW CLEAR UP TO THE END AND WE MAKE A TURN. THE AIRCRAFT PLANT WAS RIGHT DOWN ON THE WATER. IT WAS WAY DOWN. SEE LOOKED OVER THE CITY AS WE WENT IN AND JACK WOULD POINT OUT SOMETHING. "WE THAT BUILDING ". "I THINK THAT IS SO AND SO." ALL THE TIME THERE WOULD BE AGREEMENT. ONE OF THE THINGS, THE GUNNER BACK IN THE TAIL END; RIGHT AFTER WE CAME IN WITHIN GUN RANGE, HE CALLED OUT, "HEY, THOSE GUYS ARE SHOOTING AT US." THEN WE ALSO SAW THE OTHER BALL PLAYERS OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF

THE NOGOYA AREA. (LOOKING AT A MAP) HERE IS NOGOYA. THEY ARE A LOT CLOSER THAN I THOUGHT THEY WERE. HERE IS TOKYO, NOGOYA, AND YOKOHAMA. AS WE WENT UP THERE, THERE WAS A BASEBALL GAME GOING ON. THEY DIDN'T RECOGNIZE US AS AN ENEMY OR ANYTHING. THEY JUST LOOKED DOWN THERE AND THEY STOOD UP AND SOME WAVED. BUT THERE WAS NO FEELING THAT THEY KNEW WHO WE WERE. WE TURNED AND THEN AS WE CAME OUT, BACK TOWARDS THE BAY, WE DID DROP A COUPLE OF THOSE 500 POUND BOMBS IN THE ARMY AREA. THEN, AS WE CAME OUT, WE DROPPED INCEDIARY BOMBS WITH SCATTER BOMBS THAT WERE RAINING DOWN ON THEM. THAT REALLY WORKED. WE JUST CONTINUED RIGHT STRAIGHT OVER THIS GREAT BIG BUILDING. ALL I HAD TODO WAS JUST DROP THE BOMB.

COX

YOU COULDN'T HARDLY MISS HUH, HERB?

HERB

I COULDN'T HAVE MISSED. SO. WE STARTED OUT TO SEA. WE WERE HEADING BACK TO THE DEEP WATER BEFORE WE TURNED SOUTH AGAIN TO GO OUT INTO THE CHINA SEA. IT IS CLEAR DOWN HERE. (ON THE MAP)

BY THIS TIME, WE ARE VERY CONFIDENT THAT EVERYTHING IS FINE, AND THAT WE REALLY DID WELL. WE LOOKED BACK AND THE GUNNER WOULD BE LOOKING BACK AND HE CALLED OUT, "GOD, THERE IS ALL KINDS OF SMOKE BACK THERE. IT IS BURNING LIKE MAD". FROM THEN ON, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY CONCERN ABOUT BEING IN COMBAT

AS WE WERE GOING DOWN THE COAST, OFF IN A DISTANCE, AND WE WERE OUT QUITE A WAY, BECAUSE WE HAD GONE OUT FROM NOGOYA I'D SAY TEN OR SO MILES; BUT NOT CLEAR OUT TO SEA, WE STARTED SEEING A TASK FORCE COMING RIGHT DOWN BETWEEN US AND THE LAND. IT DIDN'T HAVE A CARRIER ON IT BUT IT DID HAVE SOME BATTLESHIPS AND ALL. THEY WEREN'T TOO FAR AWAY BUT NONE OF THEM MADE A MOVEMENT TOWARDS US. WE STAYED REAL CLOSE TO THE WATER. WE WENT BACK OVER REALLY SHALLOW WATER. WE COULD SEE THEM. THEY DIDN'T MAKE A MOVE TOWARDS US OR ANYTHING. WE PASSED GOING IN A SOUTHERN DIRECTION AND THEY WERE STILL GOING TO THE NORTH. WE DIDN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT WHAT IT WAS THEN. LATER, WE LEARNED THAT THEY HAD WITHDRAWN A FLEET FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN {LOOKING AT THE GLOBE} OVER HERE. HERE IS THE BAY OF BENGAL. THEY HAD COME IN FROM SOMEWHERE. HERE IS THE GULF OF SIAM, THAT PROBABLY IS WHAT IT WAS. HAD COME ACROSS PART OF THE CHINA SEA AND THEN ON UP. THEY DIDN'T MAKE ANY MOVE TOWARDS US AND WE DIDN'T MAKE ANY MOVE TOWARDS THEM.

COX

LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE, RIGHT?

HERB

SO THEN, WE COME DOWN TO THE ENTRANCE INTO THE CHINA SEA. WE FLEW SEVERAL ANGLES JUST TO TRY TO GET A DRIFT OF THE WIND. WE HAD A COMPASS BUT THE HELPFUL THING WAS BEING ABLE TO FOLLOW ANY ANGLE AS YOU ARE GOING OVER THINGS. YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE THINGS ON THE GROUND. NOW, IT'S NOT VERY GOOD WHEN YOU ARE OVER THE OCEAN BECAUSE YOU ARE LOOKING AT WAVES BREAKING. BUT, IT WOULD BE GOOD EVIDENCE. NOW IT WOULD BE BREAKING IN THIS DIRECTION AND YOU COULD TELL IT WAS TO A DEGREE. WE HAD PRACTICED THIS DOWN THERE IN FLORIDA USING A DRIFTMETER. THAT'S WHAT IT WAS. WE GOT PRETTY GOOD AT DOING THAT BECAUSE WE KNEW WHERE WE WERE DOWN THERE. YOU JUST GO OVER IT AND PRACTICE WATCHING THESE THINGS BREAK AND THEY SEEMED TO DRIFT THIS WAY WHICH WOULD THEN ALLOW YOU TO MAKE A CORRECTION. I THINK TO A PRETTY GOOD DEGREE WE WERE ABLE TO DO THAT. WE HAD USED IT AS WE HAD APPROACHED TOKYO, AND TOKYO BAY AND I HAD SENSED THAT WE WOULD HAVE DRIFTED SEVERAL MILES TO THE NORTH OF THE TOKYO HARBOR. NEVER BOTHERED ME. I JUST THOUGHT THAT WAS GOING HAPPEN. I HAD USED THE DRIFT METER BEFORE YOU SEE. IT DIDN'T APPEAR THERE WAS ANY DANGER OF HAVING GONE OVER THE TARGET AREA, THEN OUR (GARBLED) GET YOU OUT OF THE MORE HIGHLY POPULAED AREA AND THE MORE HIGHLY INDUSTRY AREA. WE WERE LUCKY NOT TO HAVE GONE OVER AND THEN SUDDENLY FIND YOURSELF OUT OVER SOME INDUSTRIAL CITY. WE WERE ABLE BY SORT OF RECOGNISING THIS AND THEN JUST TURNING AND WE JUST WENT WITH THE BREAKERS. YOU USUALLY SEE THE BREAKERS BREAKING UP THERE AND YOU JUST KEPT AWAY FOR GOING OVER ANY OF IT.

I WAS VERY COMFORTABLE AT THAT TIME. BEFORE THAT, WHEN I HAD BEEN OUT, WAY OUT TO SEA AND HAD A LONG ENTRANCE, I WAS CERTAIN THAT THESE GUYS WOULD BE COMING OUT WITH A WHOLE GAGGLE OF FIGHTER PLANES. I THOUGHT THEY KNEW WE WERE COMING AND THEY WERE GOING TO SHOOT US DOWN RIGHT THERE BEFORE WE COULD COMPLETE OUR MISSION. WE KNEW WE USED UP QUITE A BIT OF FUEL AND THAT WE COULDN'T DO MUCH ABOUT IT AND WOULD JUST HAVE TO FIGHT IT OUT WITH THEM RIGHT THERE. THAT'S WHY, RIGHT AFTER THAT WE SPOTTED AT FIRST TWO PLANES COMING OUT AND THEY WERE OUR PLANES. WE COULD TELL IT. THEY WEREN'T BEING CHASED BY ANY OF THE ENEMY THAT WE COULD SEE. WE FELT WE WERE SAFE. THEN WE SPOTTED A COUPLE OF MORE COMING DOWN. AT THAT TIME, OUR

THOUGHTS SORT OF WENT, "HELL, EVERYBODY'S WENT IN THERE AND THEY ARE GETTING OUT". IT FELT GOOD.

COX

ONCE YOU DROPPED YOUR BOMBS AND YOU HEADED BACK ALONG THE COAST, YOU KNEW YOU WERE HEADING FOR CHINA. IS THAT CORRECT?

HERB

NO, WE DIDN'T DROP ANY BOMBS. THE OTHER GUYS DROPPED SOME BOMBS, BUT WE DIDN'T.

COX

WELL, ONCE YOU WERE OVER THE TARGET, YOU DROPPED BOMBS O THE PLANT?

HERB

OH, OH, YES. OF COURSE. WHAT WAS I THINKING? YEAH I WOULD SAY WE DROPPED TWO BOMBS AND THEY WERE JUST ORDINARY DESTRUCTION BOMBS ON THESE TWO ARMY PLANTS. WE HAD LOOKED AT MAPS THAT DOOLITTLE PICKED UP IN WASHINGTON AND STUDIED THEM CAREFULLY AND DISCUSSED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DROPPING ONE THERE AND DROPPING SOMETHING HERE. ALL OF THOSE HEAVY 500 POUND BOMBS WOULD KNOCK BUILDING DOWN, THE ONES WE DID DROP BUT I DON'T THINK WE DROPPED OVER THREE. WE DROPPED ON THAT ARMY INSTALLATION AND THEN WE CAME ON DOWN ACROSS THE CITY AND SAVED EVERYTHING ELSE FOR THE NEXT ONE. WE DROPPED AT DIFFERENT TIMES. THEY HAD BEEN IN THERE ALL ALONG. WE DIDN'T HAVE TO LOAD THEM. WE HAD PLANNED TO DO IT EXACTLY THE WAY WE DID.

COX

YOU DROPPED THE BOMBS ON THE MITSUBISHI PLANT THEN?

HERB

YEAH.

COX

THEN ONCE YOU COMPLETED THE BOMB RUN, YOU TURNED UP THE COAST, THEN YOU KNEW YOU WERE HEADED FOR CHINA? THAT WAS PREARRANGED?

HERB

RIGHT. WE WERE SEEING BIG CLOUDS OF SMOKE COMING UP BACK THERE WHERE WE HAD BEEN. ACTUALLY, WE SAW AN AIRPLANE OR TWO COMING IN FROM THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT. THEY SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN OVERLAND AND THEY WERE COMING UP AND THEY WERE AT QUITE AN ELEVATION. IT JUST LOOKED LIKE SOMEBODY WANDERING AROUND. IT DIDN'T APPEAR TO BE A BOMBER PARTICULARLY.

ACTUALLY, NOW WE ARE REALLY GOING DOWN FAST AND GIVING UP OUR ELEVATION AND OUR PLAN WAS TO GET OUT THERE ABOUT 15 MILES AND THEN HEAD FOR THIS POINT DOWN BELOW ENTERING INTO THE SOUTHERN OCEAN. THAT'S WHEN I DID A QUITE A BIT OF ANGLE SWITCHING TO TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT KIND OF WIND WE HAD. I CONCLUDED THAT WE HAD A SOUTHERLY WIND THAT WAS BLOWING US KIND OF UP IN THAT DIRECTION. AT THAT POINT, YOU ARE VERY CALM. YOU ARE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT ANYTHING. ONCE OR TWICE, WE SAW WHAT APPEARED TO BE A YACHT OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT OFF IN THE DISTANCE. BUT, WE NEVER TRIED TO GO UP THERE. ACCORDING TO SOME PEOPLE, THEY TOLD ME THAT DOOLITTLE STARTED FORMING AN ATTACK GROUP ON THE WAY TO A YACHT OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. TO GO IN THERE AND HIT THEM IS SOME WAY. WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

NOW, WE WERE HEADING FOR LAND ACTUALLY AND WE WERE WONDERING WHAT THE ELEVATION OF THOSE COASTAL MOUNTAINS AND ALL WOULD BE. THAT BECAME KIND OF A CONCERN. IT WAS STARTING TO GET DARK. THE CONCERN WAS THAT IF WE LET IT GET DARK AND JUST KEEP COMING IN, WE MIGHT VERY WELL RUN RIGHT INTO THE MOUNTAINS. WE TALKED ABOUT THAT. AFTER WE CROSSED OVER THE SEA AREA, I THINK WE WERE ALL VERY CONFIDENT. THEN WE TRIED TO MAKE THAT BREAK THROUGH AND TAKE A MEASUREMENT ON THE NORTH STAR. I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE SO SIMPLE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GREAT TO FIND OUT THAT WE ARE STILL PRETTY WELL SOUTH. I HAD ASKED ABOUT IT AND JACK AGREED TO DO IT. WE WERE UP AND FLYING LONGER THAN WE THOUGHT AND HE FINALLY SAID, "I'M BREAKING OFF ON THIS ONE." BECAUSE WE GOT UP TO SORT OF INTERMEDIATE ALTITUDE WHERE IF YOU ARE REALLY TOO HIGH, YOU'RE GOING TO FALL A FARTHER DISTANCE. IN DOING SO, THERE WILL BE A LOT MORE PROBLEMS UP HIGH THAN IT WOULD BE IF YOU WERE DOWN LOW. WHAT JACK GOT TO THINKING, HE KEPT TALKING ABOUT, "WHAT WE HAVE TO WATCH FOR-----IF WE COME UPON A CITY, IT'S GOING TO TELL US THAT WE ARE NO LONGER IN THE COASTAL MOUNTAINS." THAT IS WHAT HIS KIND OF THOUGHT WAS. WE BOTH FELT-----AND THE OTHER GUYS IN THE CREW WERE JUST KIND OF CHATTING BACK AND FORTH. ONCE WE GAVE UP CLIMBING THROUGH THE CLOUDS, WE JUST GAVE THAT UP. WHEN WE BAILED OUT, WE WERE IN THE CLOUDS, AND WE BAILED OUT.

COX

DO YOU REMEMBER WHICH, ----- WHAT NUMBER WERE YOU WHEN YOU BAILED OUT? WERE YOU THE FIRST MAN OUT?

HERB

YEAH,

COX

WERE YOU REALLY?

HERB

YEAH. YOU SEE, WE HAD TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF PARACHUTES. JACK AND JACK, THE TWO JACKS, JSCK HILGER AND JACK SIMMS, THEY WERE BOTH CARRYING A NORMAL PILOT'S PARACHUTE AS IT IS STRAPPED ON. I HAD JUST THIS TYPE {INDICATING A PACK ABOUT 1-1/2 X 1-1/2 FEET} ON WHERE YOU TOOK A CHEST PACK ABOUT THAT SIZE. YOU TOOK IT, YOU HAD TO TURN IT AND PUT IT IN THE CHEST FATENER, AND YOU TURNED IT. MY PARACHUTE CAME OUT ON ME RIGHT THERE, WHERE THEIRS CAME OUT AND DOWN THERE. [INDICATING THE HIP AREA]

COX

WHAT HERB IS DESCRIBING IS THE PARACHUTE, HIS PARACHUTE FITTING ON HIS CHEST WHEREAS THE PILOT'S PARACHUTE FITTING ON THEIR BACK. DID THE OTHER CREW MEMBERS PARACHUTES FIT LIKE YOURS!

HERB

THEY WERE LIKE ME. YEAH. THEY WERE CALLED CHEST PACKS. ACTUALLY,----- (TELEPHONE INTERUPTION) IN A FAVORABLE WIND, THROUGH THE WIND PATTERN, THAT'S WHERE YOU GET JUST ENOUGH ANGLES THIS WAY AND THAT WAY. IT' NOT A VERY ACCURATE WAY TO DO IT. IT'S PRETTY FAVORABLE. WE DID COME AWAY FROM THE COAST LINE: YOU ARE GOING INTO AN OCEAN -LIKE THING. THEY CALL IT THE CHINA SEA. (A DISCUSSION OF THE MAP FEATURES)

COX

IN WHAT AREA DID YOU BAIL OUT?.

HERB

HERE'S NOGOYA.[REFERRING TO A GLOBE] WE CUT DOWN HERE AND OUT TO SEA. WE HEADED ALONG THE COAST SOUTH AND HERE TO THE EAST CHINA SEA. WE WENT NORTH OF SHANGHAI PAST HANGCHOW, AND SUCHOW.

COX

WHEN YOU BAILED OUT, DID YOU HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHERE YOU WERE, OVER CHINA?

HERB

YEAH. I FELT WE HAD COME FAR ENOUGH WE WASTED SOME TIME TRYING TO CLIMB AND ALSO WE HADN'T GONE IN AS FAR AS WE MIGHT HAVE. JACK WAS STILL LOOKING-----HE WAS HOPING WE WOULD FLY OVERLAND AND SUDDENLY BREAK OVER SOME COASTAL MOUNTANOUS AREA HE KEPT LOOKING FOR A CITY AND A VALLEY KIND OF COMING DOWN. WE NEVER SAW THAT. WE WEREN'T DISCUSSING IT AS SUCH. SHOULD WE DO THIS OR THAT? WE JUST SORT OF ALL AGREED THAT WE OUGHT TO START THINKING ABOUT BAILING OUT. THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT I WAS GOING TO BAIL FIRST.

COX

WHAT MADE THE DECISION TO BAIL OUT? WERE YOU RUNNING OUT OF FUEL?

HERB

I THINK TO A DEGREE. IF WE KEPT GOING, WE COULD RUN OUT OF FUEL. WE WERE LOOKING FOR A FAIRLY BIG CITY OR SOMETHING WITH LIGHTS. WE NEVER FOUND THOSE AT ALL. I THINK THE CONCLUSION WOULD BE, FIRST OF ALL WE DIDN'T DISCUSS IT VERY MUCH AND AS JACK----- HE DID MAKE THAT ONE THING, "I WANT TO GET IN HERE OVER THOSE MOUNTAINS, SO I CAN SPOT"-----HE FIGURED HE COULD SPOT A MORE INDUSTRIAL CITY SOMEWHERE. IT WAS DARK, AND THAT WAS FARM HOUSES AND ALL THAT. SO, HE MIGHT FIND SOMETHING THAT MIGHT GIVE HIM A GUIDE OF SOME SORT.

REALLY, I THINK WE ALL FELT THAT WE WERE GOING TO FALL IN THE SAME KIND OF TERRITORY. WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT WE WERE OVER CHINA. THE THING WE COULD HAVE HAPPENED WAS BEING BLOWN A LITTLE BIT TO THE NORTH. AND FIND THAT WE WERE IN JAP HELD TERRITORY. NOTHING THAT WE SAW OR HEARD OF OR ANYTHING GAVE US THAT IDEA.

COX

ONCE YOU BAILED OUT, AND YOU HIT THE GROUND, DID YOU FIND YOUR OTHER CREW MATES RATHER QUICKLY?

HERB

NO, I BAILED OUT AND I FEEL I PULLED THE RIPCORDER TOO QUICKLY BECAUSE I WAS SWINGING VERY DEEPLY AFTER I GOT THE CHUTE OUT. IT POPPED OUT UP THERE IN FRONT OF ME. I WAS SWINGING VERY BADLY. I THOUGHT I HAD JUST PULLED THE CORD TOO QUICKLY AND I WOULD STILL BE IN THE BACKWASH OF THE PROPS OR SOMETHING. I WAS SWINGING PRETTY HIGH.

COX

LIKE A PENDULEM?

HERB

ON THE OTHER HAND, I COULD SEE HOW SMALL THE CHUTE WAS AND IT WAS HOLDING ME. I WAS PRETTY COMFORTABLE THEN. THEN I STARTED KIND OF SPINNING. I STARTED WRESTLING WITH THAT. FINALLY, I GOT IT TO FALLING VERY COMFORTABLY AND I COULD SEE THE LITTLE CHUTE. THE CHUTE LOOKED TERRIBLY SMALL. I WOULD LOOK AT IT IN THE LATE EVENING LIGHT. IT WASN'T A DAYTIME THING. IT WAS SHORTLY AFTER I GOT OUT AND HAD THE RIP CORD WORKING AND ALL. THEN I REALLY FELT THAT I HAD IT AND WAS FALLING IN A DARK MOUNTAINOUS AREA. I DIDN'T GIVE TOO MUCH THOUGHT TO WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE OR ANYTHING. I'M LOOKING UP AT THE CHUTE A FEW TIMES AND BROUGHT IT UNDER CONTROL. IT WAS SPINNING AND THEN IT WAS FLIPPING BACK AND FORTH.

I HAD BEEN LOOKING UP A LOT, AND SUDDENLY I TRIED TO LOOK DOWN. I THOUGHT, "OH MY GOD, I'M GOING INTO A BLACK HOLE." IT LOOKED MORE LIKE A BLACK THING WAS COMING UP AROUND ME. THEN, IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT, "HELL, I'M JUST COMING OUT OF THIS CLOUD", AND THAT'S WHAT IT WAS. YOU HIT HARD BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN RELAXED A LONG TIME. YOU DON'T SEE ANYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE IT IS GOING TO HELP YOU. YOU ARE JUST SITTING THERE AND WHAM! YOU HIT THE GROUND. MAYBE I ROLLED OVER. THEN I WAS KIND OF OUT OF IT, THE CHUTE. I THOUGHT I COULD SEE SOMETHING, LIKE THERE WAS A HILLTOP RIGHT UP ABOVE ME. I TRIED TO CLIMB UP THERE, SCAMPER UP THERE, TO LOOK DOWN ON SOMETHING. I DID THAT FOR A WHILE. SUDDENLY, I REALIZED, "THIS IS AWFULLY ROUGH." PEOPLE IN THE WEST ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING OF PEOPLE GOING OUT AT

NIGHT. THAT CAME TO MY MIND. I WILL WAIT UNTIL I CAN GET INTO DECENT LIGHT. I COULD FALL OFF A CLIFF OR SOMETHING IN THE BACK.

COX

FOLIAGE?

HERB

NOTHING LIKE GOING OVER ANY BIG TALL MOUNTAIN.

COX

NOT LIKE A FOREST THEN?

HERB

IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS IN A WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY WHERE WE HAD RE-FORESTATION. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, IT WOULD BE QUITE AND THEN IT ----- THERE WOULD BE SOME RAIN AND THEN THE RAIN WOULD SUDDENLY STOP. THEN IT WOULD STOP AND THE WIND WOULD START TO BLOW. I WOULD GET SOAKED AND THEN HAVE THE WIND ON ME. I WAS QUITE CHILLY BUT NOT FREEZING. I HAD GOTTEN DOWN NEAR THESE PINES AND JUST PUT MY LEGS AROUND THEM. I HAD A PARACHUTE AND I HAD DROPPED IT OFF A LITTLE WAYS OFF AND I COULD SEE IT AND I WENT DOWN AND GATHERED IT UP. I REALIZED RIGHT THEN THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE A BURDEN BECAUSE IT ALL WET AND A BIG CHUTE. AT THE MOMENT I WAS THINKING ABOUT GETTING RID OF IT AND THEN I THOUGHT, I'LL JUST HANG ON AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. I DID. I JUST SLEPT SOME OF THE NIGHT.

IN THE MORNING, I STARTED TO SEE AGAIN. I COULD SEE THE EDGE OF THE MOUNTAINS BEHIND ME AND COULD SEE THAT BETTER AND I SCRAMBLED AROUND A LITTLE BIT. THEN, I STARTED LOOKING RIGHT DOWN IN TO THE VALLEY. IT WAS OBVIOUSLEY A WATER COVER AREA DOWN THERE. I GATHERED UP MY CHUTE. IT WAS HEAVY AS HELL AND I STARTED GOING DOWN AND THINKING ABOUT WHAT I WAS GOING TO THROW AWAY THERE OR SOMEPLACE ELSE. I FINALLY WAS ABLE TO WALK THROUGH SOME OF THIS WATER AND I CAME TO ANOTHER SIDE. IT WAS A SIDE OF ONE OF THE HILLS
HERE. I CAME UP ON IT AND THERE WAS A WALKWAY.

COX

I ASSUME THE WATER WASN'T VERY DEEP THERE WHERE YOU WALKED ACROSS.

HERB

THAT'S RIGHT. IT WASN'T. IT WAS SHALLOW. I GOT UP THERE AND THERE WAS A WALK UP ABOVE. THERE WAS A LITTLE WOMAN SITTING, SQUATING DOWN, GOING TO THE BATHROOM. I LOOKED AWAY FROM HER AND WALKED ON DOWN.

COX

WHAT AN INTRODUCTION TO CHINA.

HERB

YEAH. ALL THE TIME I HAD BEEN GLANCING AT A LITTLE HUT THAT WAS UP THERE ON THE HILL. THERE WAS SMOKE COMING OUT OCCASIONALLY. I KNOCKED ON THE DOOR. WE HAD BEEN TAUGHT TO SAY IN CHINESE, "I'M AN AMERICAN SOLDIER." OF COURSE. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF CHINESE IT WAS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. A GUY CAME OVER TO THE DOOR AND HE OPENED IT. IT WAS ONE THAT OPENED BOTTOM AND TOP. HE OPENED THE TOP AND HE LOOKED OUT AND LOOKED JUST LIKE THE CHINESE I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED, LITTLE, WITH GREY HAIR. I SAID MY WORDS AND FINALLY HE JUST SHOOK HIS HEAD. IN THE MEANTIME, WHILE I WAS THERE AND WALKING AROUND HIS PLACE, I SAW SOME PEOPLE COMING DOWN. SOME WORKERS APPARENTLY, LIKE A GROUP OF PEOPLE. THERE WAS A VILLAGE BEHIND THEM. I TURNED AROUND AND I TRIED TO GIVE HIM THE CHUTE OR SOMETHING. I REMEMBER STALLING A LITTLE BIT WITH HIM AND THEN HE JUST TURNED AROUND AND WALKED AWAY.

COX

HE IGNORED YOU?

YEAH. THEN I STARTED WALKING UP TOWARDS THIS VILLAGE AND THESE PEOPLE WERE COMING DOWN AND APPEARED TO BE JUST WORKERS COMING DOWN TO WORK; I WAS TRYING TO SPEAK TO THEM. I WOULD SAY "AMERICAN" OR NOD AND THEY WOULD ALL LOOK AWAY FROM ME. I CAME TO A PLACE WHERE THERE WAS A FELLOW THAT WAS LYING DOWN QUITE A BIT AND REACHING WAY DOWN INTO THE WATER. I JUST STOPPED AND WATCHED HIM TO SEE WHAT THE HELL HE WAS GOING TO DO. HE COMES UP AND LOOKS AROUND AND HE'S YELLING. "GOD, HE SEES ME." HE WALKED OVER-----ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO ME, BEFORE I LEFT THE SHIP, THEY GAVE US A LOT STUFF, SOME OF IT WORTHLESS, BUT WEIGHTY AND ALL, SO I HAD A BAG, WHAT DO THEY CALL THOSE BAGS? ANYHOW, I HAD THAT. I PUT ALL THAT STUFF IN THERE. A BOTTLE OF BOOZE WAS ONE THING AND SOME OTHER THINGS. I PUT THEM IN THERE AND THEN THERE IS A STRAP ON TOP OF THE JACKET SHOULDER WITH A LEATHER THING AND I PUT THE BAG STRAP UNDERNEATH THAT SO IT WOULD HANG ON

BETTER. WHAT HAPPENED, WHEN THE CHUTE OPENED, THIS BAG WAS FALLING AND IT JUST TOOK THE WHOLE JACKET SHOULDER OUT. THAT IS WHAT ATTRACTED THIS YOUNG GUY. HE STARTED LOOKING, HE COMES UP, AND LOOKS AT ME. HE OBVIOUSLY WAS NOT LIKE THE GUYS WALKING DOWN----MOST OF THEM WERE WOMEN. THIS GUY WAS JUST INTERESTED. I MADE A MOTION OF, LIKE "COME ON". I LOOKED OVER THERE, AND SIGNALLED LET'S GO THERE. FIRST HE IS HOLDING MY ARM. PRETTY SOON HE STARTS CALLING OUT.

COX

YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT YOUR SHOULDER. YOU SAID IT PULLED YOUR SHOULDER OUT?

HERB

IT JUST TORE----WHAT IT DID, IT WAS UNDER A STRAP HERE----

COX

OH, IT TORE YOUR UNIFORM?

HERB

IT JUST TORE THE UNIFORM. THE LEATHER THING. HE WAS INTRIGUED WITH IT. JUST THE FACT THAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT WAS GETTING TORN. THEN I HAD A NUMBER OF PIECES OF PAPER I HAD TAKEN OUT OF A SCRATCH PAD. IT WAS SPRINKLING OCCASIONALLY BUT NOT BAD. I TRIED TO DRAW OUT A PICTURE OF A RAILROAD. HE KIND OF LOOKED A LITTLE CONFUSED. HE KNEW KIND OF WHAT IT WAS. HE STARTS TO KIND OF TAKE ME OVER. LIKE, LETS GET GOING. I STARTED WALKING, SOMEWHAT AT HIS PACE. THE LITTLE COTTAGES AND ALL WERE SMOKING. YOU COULD SEE THERE WERE FIRES IN THEM. IT WAS EARLY MORNING. THEN HE STARTED FOR THE EDGE OF THE LITTLE VILLAGE AND STARTED CALLING OUT. (HERB GAVE AN IMITATION OF THE SOUND OF THE CALL). NOW, I AM JUST WALKING WITH HIM AND SMILING AT HIM. WE GO ON DOWN AND SEE MORE PEOPLE. FINALLY HE TAKES US TO A SPECIFIC HOUSE AND KNOCKS ON THE DOOR. SOME PEOPLE CAME THERE AND HE GAVE THEM A REAL QUICK CHAT. THEY TALKED BACK AND THEN THEY STEPPED BACK AND I WENT ON IN THE HOUSE. I WENT IN THERE AND ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE I SAW IN THERE WAS A GUY WITH A LONG BEARD, CHINESE BEARD. HE WAS SITTING THERE. I SAT DOWN. THERE WAS HARDLY ANYONE IN THERE. THEN THEY WERE STARTING TO GET PEOPLE COMING UP TO OPEN WINDOWS WHICH WERE ON THE SIDE. THEY COULD JUST STAND AND LOOK IN JUST WITH THEIR HEADS STANDING THERE. SUDDENLY I TURNED AROUND AND SAW THIS

CHINAMAN WALK IN. THEY TALKED A LOT. FINALLY, THE CHINAMAN STARTED TO WRITE SOMETHING HE WAS GOING TO DO.. HE WAS TALKING BACK TO THEM. THEY WOULD SAY (MAKING SOUNDS) DO THIS AND (MAKING SOUNDS) I'M DOING WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO. HE FINALLY FINISHES DRAWING THIS OFF AND HE TURNS AND HANDS IT TO ME. I LOOK AT IT AND IT IS A THING THAT GOES DOWN LIKE THIS AND OF COURSE THEY WERE LITTLE CHINESECHARACTERS. I LOOKED AT IT. I SAID, "I DON'T KNOW."

COX

YOU SHOOK YOUR HEAD "NO" HUH?

HERB

THAT'S RIGHT. I JUST SAID, "I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT." THEY ALL STARTED LAUGHING. THERE WERE 3 OR 4 OF THEM STILL IN THE WINDOW. I GOT MY PAD OUT, JUST PUT SOME STICK FIGURES DOWN LIKE THAT, THE SAME WAY HE DID. THEY WERE ALL LAUGHING AND I SAID, "HA HA". I PICK THIS UP AND I HAND IT TO THE CHINESE AND HE LOOKS AT IT A MOMENT AND HE SAYS, SOMETHING IN CHINESE. HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND MY DDRAWINGS EITHER..

COX

YOU ARE POINTING IT TO THE PEOPLE LOOKING THROUGH THE WINDOW, THE GUY YOU ARE SHOWING TO COULDN'T READ ENGLISH?

HERB

THAT'S RIGHT. SO, I COME UP. THIS LITTLE GUY COMES BACK UP TO THE WINDOW AND SEE HIM BACK THERE. WE WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE. HE KEPT TELLING THEM AND HE POINTED AT ME. I SAID, "NO,NO,NO." I DIDN'T WANT TO GET HIM TO THINKING HE HAD SOMEPLACE TO PUT ME. SO WE STOOD THERE AND A FEW MORE PEOPLE CAME UP. FINALLY, HE INSISTED. HE CAME RIGHT INTO THE HOUSE AND KIND OF PULLED ME OUT. I FINALLY "OK I WENT." WE WENT OUT AND WE CLIMBED OVER A LOW RIDGE. IN THE MEANTIME, I DREW OUT A PICTURE OF AN AIRPLANE AND A TRAIN.. I MAKE A TRAIN. IS THERE A PLACE WITH A TRAIN. MAYBE WE CAN GO THERE. HE LOOKED AT THAT AND KIND SHOOK HIS HEAD "YES". SO, WE STARTED UP OVER THIS LITTLE RIDGE. A COUPLE OF TIMES, WE SLIPPED AND WE WOULD FALL IN THE WATER AND THINGS LIKE THAT. IT IS STILL RAINING. FINALLY HE GOT TO BE MORE INCLINED TO TRY TO WALK IT. WE COULD SEE A ROAD RIGHT WHEN WE GOT OVER THIS LITTLE RIDGE. WE COULD SEE A ROAD DOWN THERE. WE STARTED WORKING TOGETHER. I WENT DOWN THERE. IT WAS A PRETTY GOOD ROAD AND I STOOD AND FOOLED AROUND WITH HIM AND ALL. I JUST

TURNUED AROUND AND WALKED DOWN THIS ROAD. I STARTED OUT. WE WALKED A LITTLE WAYS AND PRETTY SOON SOME PEOPLE CAME AFTER US, YELLING (SOUNDS). PRETTY SOON SOMEONE ACTED AS THOUGH THERE IS SOMEONE HERE FOR YOU TO SEE. IT WAS. IT WAS ONE OF OUR OTHER GUYS.

WHEN YOU BAIL OUT LIKE THAT, YOU SCATTER ALL OVER. ONE OF THEM MAY COME IN IMMEDIATELY OR GET THERE BEFORE. THEN WE STARTED OUT AND WE ARE GOING SOUTH ONE THING BOTHERED ME: WE WERE HEADING, DOING A LOT OF WALKING SOUTH AND I HAD NOTHING THAT I COULD REALLY MEASURE THAT I WAS GOING SOUTH. THE ONLY THING THEY EVER TOLD US ON THE SHIP ABOUT THE CHINESE AND THE JAPANESE IS THAT THE JAPANESE WILL BE IN UNIFORMS AND THE CHINESE WOULD NOT. THEY WILL BE IN PAJAMA TYPE CLOTHES AND THAT'S HOW WE WERE TO TELL WHO WE WERE WITH.

IN SEVERAL PLACES WE WOULD COME UP TO A LITTLE SHACK THAT OBVIOUSLY ON A BOUNDRY LINE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE A NUMBER OF GUYS DRESSED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS. THEY ALL COME UP AND START TALKING. I WAS WITH SOME OF THE GUYS WHO WERE GOING DOWN. THESE LITTLE CARTS THEY HAD FOR US. I WOULD GO OVER AND SPEAK TO THEM. FINALLY, I SAID TO ONE OF THEM, "LOOK, LETS KEEP GOING IN THIS DIRECTION AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN-----"

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE

TAPE TWO SIDE TWO

HERB

WE DID GET A SCARE. THE GUY THAT HAD BEEN WITH US TURNED BACK AND CAME UP AND SORT OF INSISTED ON US TO COME BACK TO HIM. WE HAD WALKED AWAY. AS WE WALKED THERE, HERE CAME SOME MILITARY PEOPLE IN UNIFORM. THEY WERE COMING AT DOUBLE TIME. I SAID, "OK". ONLY ONE OF OUR WAS GUYS WITH US AND I SAID, "WE'VE HAD IT". I SAY TO IRELAND, THE GUNNER, "WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO" WE WERE CARRYING SIDE ARMS. I SAID, 'I'M PUTTING A COUPLE OF THESE GUYS AWAY.'" IRELAND SAID, "I'M GOING TO DO THAT." I SAID, "NO, WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE AN ARGUMENT ABOUT IT, BUT WE ARE GOING TO GET RID OF THEM." WE JUST STARTED WALKING TOWARDS THEM AND LITTLE APE LOOKING LITTLE OFFICER IN A UNIFORM AND HE CALLED OUT. (THEY ARE DOING DOUBLE TIME AT US. HE SAID, "NO, COMRADES, COMRADES." EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, WHEN YOU WOULD BE WITH A GROUP OF CERTAIN CHINESE WOULD HEAR A WORD THAT YOU RECOGNIZED. YOU GET OUTSIDE

AND DISCOVER THAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW ANY MORE WORDS. ANYHOW, THEY CAME. BOTH OF US TURNED TO EACH OTHER, NO HARM TO US. IT TURNED OUT THIS LITTLE MAN CALLED OUT, "YOU COMPANION---THERE WAITING." WE LOOKED OVER THE SIDE OF THE FIELD AND THERE WAS HILGER JUST GETTING OUT OF A TRUCK, A FLATBED TRUCK. HE HAD A SLING OVER HIS ARM SO HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN HURT A BIT WHEN HE HIT THE GROUND AND THEN HE GOT SOMEBODY THAT HELPED HIM THERE. HE WENT OVER AND JUMPED DOWN FROM THE FLATBED. WE JUST TURNED AND STARTED WORKING TOWARD HIM. FOR A MOMENT THERE, I THOUGHT THE SUREST THING IN THE WORLD WAS THAT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TO KILL SOME PEOPLE OR BE KILLED.

COX

YOU THOUGHT IT WAS A JAPANESE COMLUMN COMING IN?

HERB

WE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS.FROM WHAT THEY HAD TOLD US ON THE SHIP, THE JAPS WOULD BE IN DRESS UNIFORMS, AND THESE GUYS WERE IN GOOD UNIFORMS AND ALL AND THEY ARE ORIENTAL. WE BOTH HAD THE SAME REACTION. REALLY, IT CAME AWFULLY CLOSE. WE WERE BOTH WALKING UP BEHIND THEM INTENDING TO TRY TO TAKE THEM OVER. JUST THEN THIS LITTLE CHINAMAN WAS VERY NEATLY DRESSED. OBVIOUSLY, SOMEONE WHO HAD MORE THAN MOST OF THE OTHERS WE HAD SEEN. HE WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND IN ADDITON, SOMEBODY OVER AT THE TRUCK WHERE HILGER HAD JUST GOTTEN DOWN, THEY CALLED OUT, "HI GUYS". WE HEADED FOR THEM, THEN, WE GOT TOGETHER. WE WENT IN TO THIS LITTLE WALLED VILLAGE. WE DROVE ALONG THE ROAD. IT WASN'T A QUARTER OF A MILE AWAY FROM US. WE WENT IN AND WE WALKED DOWN THAT STREET. IN FACT, WE WERE WALKING ONE TIME AND PICTURES WERE TAKEN.[THIS PICTURE IS IN THE MUSEUM ARCHIVE] WE WENT IN AND THERE WAS A HOUSE THAT HAD LIGHTS ON. WE WENT INTO IT. IT WAS KIND OF RUN DOWN. HERE IS A PICTURE OF US STANDING AROUND ONE OF OUR GUYS; HE WAS KIND OF IN A BED. HILGER WAS ON THAT SIDE STANDING AND I WAS ON THIS SIDE AND WE WERE LOOKING DOWN ON HIM. THE PEOPLE THERE WERE OBVIOUSLY, I WOULD SAY, CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, AND HAD BEEN THERE A LONG TIME. [THIS PICTURE IS IN THE MUSEUM ARCHIVES.]

THAT EVENING, ALTHOUGH THEY DIDN'T TALK TOO MUCH ABOUT IT, WE COULD TALK TO EACH OTHER ABOUT HAVING A DRINK OF WATER OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. THEN THEY CAME IN WITH THE REPORT THAT WAS GOING TO BE A BOMBING. IT WAS GOING TO BE IN THE NIGHT OR EARLY MORNING. THAT IS WHEN WE WENT OUT, GOT OUT IN THE STREET AND WENT OUT AND GOT UP ON THE SIDE OF A HILL.

COX

THEY HAD A REPORT THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE A JAPANESE BOMBING/

HERB

YEAH. WE WERE SITTING UP THERE WHEN A BOMBER OR A FIGHTER FLEW OVER JUST ONE TIME AND LEFT. WE STAYED THERE QUITE A WHILE, I WOULD SAY AN HOUR OR SO AND THEN WE WENT ON. WE SAW NOTHING ELSE. WE STARTED BACK IN. LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE HANGING OUT WINDOWS, SOME OF THEM CALLING OUT TO US AND ALL. FROM THEN ON, QUITE OF NUMBER OF PICTURE TAKEN OF US BEING IN THE COMPANY OF OFFICERS AND WHERE WE ARE TALKING TO THE PEOPLE THAT WERE OBVIOUSLY DOING THEIR WORK. WE HAD A MEAL WITH THEM. I KNOW WE GOT SEVERAL PICTURES WHERE WE ARE ALL STANDING AROUND A CAR AND WE ARE BEING READY TO BE TAKEN TO A RAIL LINE THAT WAS UP TO THE NORTH, THEY KEPT TALKING ABOUT. WE WENT UP THERE AND GOT ONTO THAT. IT TOOK US THERE AND TO THE EAST. THAT IS WHERE THE PLACE IS THAT WE SHOULD HAVE LANDED..

BEFORE THE MISSION WE WERE TOLD THEY WOULD HAVE, THEY HAD A HOMING DEVICE FOR THE NAVIGATOR. IN OTHER WORDS, AS WE CAME IN PART OF THAT AREA, WE TRIED THAT HOMING DEVICE, BUT TO NO AVAIL. BUT WE THOUGHT THAT IF WE CONTINUED TO FLY TO THE WEST AND ALL, WE WOULD FIND THESE HOMING DEVICES. THEY WERE TO COME THROUGH THE NAVY DEPARTMENT THAT THEY HAD THEM OUT. IT TURNED OUT THAT THEY DIDN'T GET THEM INSTALLED. THEY ACTUALLY HAD AN ACCIDENT OUT THERE, SO THEY NEVER GOT THEM INSTALLED.

GENERALLY WE FELT THAT WE WERE IN THE AREA THAT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE GATHERED. IT WAS QUITE CLOSE TO THE BORDER, TO THE COAST. WE STOPPED AT A PLACE WHERE ONE OF THE SENIOR OFFICERS WHO HAD PEOPLE WHO COULD TALK ON TELEPHONES AND TALK TO EACH OTHER. PRETTY SOON WE WERE TOLD THAT THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE US IN A CAR DOWN TO THE RAILROAD TRACK AND THEN THEY WERE GOING TO PUT US IN A TRAIN. WE WENT DOWN AND GOT INTO THE TRAIN. IT WAS VERY COMFORTABLE. WE WENT EAST AGAIN AND PRETTY SOON THEY STOPPED AND THE CARS WERE THERE TO PICK US UP AND TAKE US A BIT SOUTH OF WHERE THE TRAIN WAS. WE WALKED IN AND THERE OUR GUYS WERE. DAVY JONES (A PILOT) WAS IN THERE, AND HE SAID, "HEY HERB, HOW ARE YOU DOING OLD BUDDY?" WE KNEW WE WERE BACK WHERE WE WERE HEADED IN THE BEGINNING.. WE HAVE OTHER PICTURES OF STANDING IN FRONT OF A TUNNEL THAT HAS BEEN DUG, FOR SAFETY. WE ARE ALL STANDING IN FRONT OF THAT. WE HAD A PLACE THAT WAS ABOUT A QUARTER OF A MILE FROM THAT TUNNEL WHERE THEY HOUSED US AND THEY HAD TOILETS THEY HAD

DUG OUT AND THEY WERE ALL WOODEN THINGS THAT WERE DESIGNED LIKE AN OUTDOOR TOILET.

COX

A PRIVY?

HERB

. WE WERE RIGHT NEAR A PRETTY SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY PLACE. WE STAYED THERE FOR , I WOULD SAY, POSSIBLY TWO WEEKS. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE FOUND IS THAT THEY WERE IN A SPY SYTEM THAT WAS LAID OUT AND THEY HAD THIS PLACE WHERE WE WERE LIVING.. THEY WOULD COME IN SOME MORNING AND SAY,-----REPORT- ----THESE GUYS COULD SPEAK ENGLISH-----REPORT COMING, REPORT COMING AND SOMETIMES IT WOULD BE RIGHT ON THE NOSE. SOMEONE, ONE OF THEIR PEOPLE: WORKING OVER WHERE EVER THE AIRFIELD IS. THEY GET THE WORD THAT THERE IS GOING A PLANE LAND. SOMETIMES, THEY SAID THERE WOULD BE AN AIR RAID IN TWO HOURS. AND THAT WOULD HAPPEN. IT WOULD BE A PLANE THAT WOULD COME BY, GO AROUND. NOTHING DAMAGING OR DANGEROUS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

SLOWLY, WE FINALLY GOT BACK IN THE TRAIN, WENT BACK TO THE WEST AND THEN THEY STARTED TAKING US TO THE PLACE ON THE WAY TO KUNMING, CAPITOL. THAT WAS A HELL OF A LONG WAYS OFF AT TIMES, WE WOULD GO ON BOATS IN THE RIVERS AND AT OTHER TIMES WE WOULD BE ON HIGHWAYS ON TRUCKS. WE FINALLY STOPPED AT A PRETTY GOOD SIZED COMMUNITY WHERE THEY WERE HAVING PLAYS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. MANY OF US HAD THINGS MADE FOR US, SOMETHING WE COULD USE, A STAMP OR OUR SIGNATURE AND THINGS LIKE THAT. THEN IN THE EVENING, THEY HAD A GATHERING OF QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND WOULD PUT ON A PLAY THAT YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL, BUT YOU LAUGHED LIKE HELL. THEN FINALLY ANOTHER AIRPLANE CAME IN AND PICKED US UP, AND TOOK US TO KUNMING.

COX

WAS THAT AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT OR WAS IT FLOWN BY THE CHINESE?

HERB

IT WAS A CHINESE. ONE THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE INHERITED FROM THE AMERICANS. IT WAS A PRETTY RAUNCHY ONE BUT IT WAS SUFFICIENT. IT WOULD HAVE PROFESSIONAL CHINESE OFFICERS FLYING IT ALL RIGHT.

COX

THAT PLANE TOOK YOU TO KUNMING?

HERB

YES. THAT BROUGHT US INTO KUNMING. THAT IS WHERE WE SAW MADAM CHIANG KAI-SHEK AND THE GENERALISSIMO. THAT WAS THE CAPITAL OF CHINA. WE HAD SEVERAL SENIOR OFFICERS IN THERE. THAT IS WHEN WE LEARNED THAT THEY HAD LOST THE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THEY HAD PUT IN TO GET US DOWN.

COX

THE HOMING DEVICE?

HERB

THE HOMING DEVICE. THEY HAD BROUGHT IN AND THEY HAD TRIED TO LAND AND HAD AN ACCIDENT OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

KUNMING IS CONCERNED, THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE SOMEBODY COME OVER WITH AN ATTACK, DROP A BOMB OR SOMETHING AT 3:00 THIS AFTERNOON. THIS WAS PRETTY ACCURATE. THESE WERE, AS I SAY, CHINESE PEOPLE KIND OF KEEPING OUR UNITS ON A BASE WHERE THEY COULD HAVE A PLACE TO LIVE.

WE ALL FINALLY GATHERED, IN THE PLACE THAT WE WERE ORIGINALLY GOING, THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO BOMB JAPAN AND THEN GO ON TO CHINA. THERE WERE CERTAIN BASES THERE THAT WE WERE GOING TO. WHEN WE GOT THERE, WE GOT SCATTERED. THEY WERE TO PUT OUT A HOMING DEVICE SO THAT WHEN WE CAME IN CLOSE TO THESE BASES, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO PICK THEM UP AND FIND THEM AND THEN FIND A LITTLE BASE OR SOMETHING. I THINK IT WAS DIRECTED BY A STAFF THAT HAD NOW SETTLED IN KUNMING, THE CAPITOL WHERE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHINESE EFFORTS AGAINST THE JAPS EXISTED. THEY HAD A HEADQUARTERS. THEY HAD 2 OR 3. STILLWELL WAS AT ONE OF THEM. REMEMBER, HE WAS AN OLD TIMER.

COX

THAT'S GENERAL STILLWELL?

HERB

.WE WENT LOOKING FOR A GATHERING PLACE, WHERE WE WOULD GATHER WITH GENERAL DOOLITTLE WHEN WE WENT BACK. OF COURSE, HE WAS STILL A LT. COLONEL. WE GOT TO CHUN KING BECAUSE THERE IS WHERE MADAM CHIAN KAI- SHEK AND GENERALISSIMO WAS. ALSO A COUPLE OF THOSE AMERICANS. I CAN'T RECALL THEIR NAMES. GENERAL OFFICERS THAT WERE ASSIGNED THERE, FOR A YEAR OR SO. AS

YOU SAW SOME PICTURES THERE , [PICTURE IN THE MUSEUM ARCHIVES] DOOLITTLE AND HILGER TALKING TO MADAM CHIANG. WE HAD A WONDERFUL DINNER WITH HER. THAT'S WHEN DOOLITTLE STARTED TALKING ABOUT GETTING TOGETHER. WE ARE GOING TO GET TOGETHER WHEN WE GET BACK IN WASHINGTON. HE HAD THAT IN HIS MIND ALL ALONG, KEEPING IT TOGETHER. IT HAS DONE JUST EXACTLY AS HE HAD THOUGHT ABOUT.

COX

A REUNION EVERY YEAR?

HERB

YEAH. WE HAD THE DINNER THERE WITH MADAM CHIANG. SHE WAS A DELIGHTFUL, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, TALKED PERFECT ENGLISH.

COX

IS THAT CORRECT?

HERB

YES. WE ARE SITTING ACROSS THE TABLE TALKING BACK AND FORTH TO HER. THE GENERALISSIMO COMES IN AND SHE SAYS, "OH, MY HUSBAND." HE MADE LITTLE HONKS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. HE CAME BY AND SHE INTRODUCED EACH ONE OF US. I HAD BEEN SITTING RIGHT STRAIGHT ACROSS FROM HER. SHE WOULD SAY THIS IS CAPT. MACIA. HE WENT AHEAD AND HE LEFT VERY SHORTLY AND WE CONTINUED ON, AND FINISHED THE MEAL. THEN WE JUST STARTED TALKING WITH THE STAFF ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN NOW. WHERE ARE WE GOING TOGETHER TO GET BACK. THERE WERE NONE OF THE PEOPLE THERE WHO HAD COME IN AS AN ORGANIZATION OR ANYTHING. IT WAS JUST A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS. THEY COULD HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME SQUADRON BUT THERE WAS NO DISPLAY OF LEADERSHIP DOOLITTLE DID SHOW UP SO THAT HE WAS THE PERSON THAT EVERYBODY LISTENING TO AND ALL OF THAT. HE WAS TALKING ABOUT GETTING BACK TO WASHINGTON. SOMETIMES, HE WOULD MAKE REMARKS ABOUT PROBABLY BEING COURT MARTIALED BECAUSE HE LOST HIS AIRPLANE. WHEN HE WENT AND VISITED HIS AIRCRAFT, THERE'S PICTURES OF HIM SHOWING HIM SEEING HIM ON A WING OF ONE OF HIS PLANE AND IT IS CRASHED. HE WASN'T IN IT. HE BAILED OUT AND IT JUST KEPT GOING ON. THE SERGEANT THAT WAS THERE WAS AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS, ONE THAT HAD BEEN WITH HIM FOR MANY YEARS. THEY TALKED LIKE A FATHER AND SON. HIS NAME WAS LEONARD. HE WAS AN ENGINEER. DOOLITTLE WAS REALLY DOWN HEARTED. HE SAID, "I'LL BE THROWN OUT WHEN I GET BACK THERE.

THIS IS THE MOST WORST THING I CAN IMAGINE.” LEONARD WOULD ALWAYS SAY, “OH GENERAL, YOU ARE GOING TO GET PROMOTED.” OF ALL THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS WONDERFUL. DOOLITTLE SAYS, “HOW CAN YOU LOSE ALL YOUR BATTLE FORCES AND THEN STILL THINK THAT YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED?” LEONARD SAID, “WELL, WE REALLY GOT BACK AND WER’E READY STILL TO FIGHT AND ALL OF THAT. WE ARE NOT BEATEN.” THEY GOT ALONG. LEONARD WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM. HE LIKED TO GO OUT THERE AND TALK TO HIM.

PRETTY SOON, THEY SENT SOME OF US DOWN TO SOUTHERN CHINA, QUITE A WAY SOUTH OF CHUNGKING. WE STARTED RUNNING INTO THESE PEOPLE PULLING OUT OF BURMA. WHAT WAS THAT ORGANIZATION THAT WAS OVER THERE?

COX

THE FLYNG TIGERS?

HERB

THE FLYING TIGERS. WE STARTED RUNNING INTO THEM. THEY WERE PULLING OUT OF BURMA, SLOWLY AND IT WAS VERY EVIDENT. A LOT OF THEM WERE SMART ALEC AS HELL. WE WENT DOWN AND WE SAW THEM. WE HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE GROUP OF US GOING OVER THE HUMP AND ON OUT THROUGH INDIA AND ON TO HOME. THAT’S WHEN WE WERE VISITING WITH THEM. IT WAS JUST A CASE WHERE WE ARE GOING ALONG WITH FRIENDS MOVING NORTHWARD AND THEN TO THE WEST. THEY DID HAVE SOME AIRCRAFT COME IN. I THINK THERE WERE SOME THAT HAD BEEN FLOWN IN THERE EARLIER TO ACTUALLY ENGAGE IN COMBAT.; WE TOOK SOME LOSSES THERE, AND THAT SORT OF THING. THE NEXT THING WE KNEW, WE WERE BACK UP IN CHUNGKING AND THERE WAS ALL KINDS OF RUMOR ABOUT HOW WE WERE GOING TO GET OUT OF THERE AND SO ON. THEY DID FORM THE HUMP OUTFIT. GENERAL TUNNER WAS THE GUY WHO DID THAT. HE WAS LATER THE COMMANDER IN FRANKFURT WHEN I WAS OVER THERE AFTER THE WAR. HE ALWAYS BRAGGED ABOUT HOW HE PUT TOGETHER THE HUMPSTERS.

COX

THAT’S THE MILITARY PLANES THAT FLEW THE HUMP?

HERB

HE FORMED IT AS AN OUTFIT THAT WAS REALLY DOING A JOB. WE WENT BY MEANS OF THAT OUTFIT WHEN WE WERE GOING OVER THE HUMP. YOU GO INTO INDIA AND THERE ARE SEVERAL LIVING AREAS THAT HAVE MILITARY UNITS IN THEM AND

THEN WE WOULD STOP OVER THERE. WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO CALCUTTA. THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD SIZED CITY. MOST OF THE MEN WORE SHORTS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. I REMEMBER THINKING TO MYSELF, YOU WILL NEVER SEE A BUNCH OF AMERICANS DRESSING LIKE THAT. IT'S EXACTLY THE WAY THEY ARE DRESSING NOW. WE STAYED THERE IN CALCUTTA. THEY TOOK AWFULLY GOOD CARE OF US. WE WERE GIVEN ROOMS AND WE HAD PEOPLE TO TAKE CARE OF MAKING THE BED AND CLEANING UP EVERY MORNING. GOING IN, THEY WOULD HAVE AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING AFFAIR. SOME OF THE NATIVES WOULD BE THERE. IT WOULD BE SORT OF LIKE A PUBLIC DANCE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WHAT WE WERE JUST DOING THEN IS FIGURING OUT HOW WE WERE GOING TO GET OUT. PRETTY SOON WE WERE PUT ON THE TRAIN. WE WENT TO THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. CALCUTTA, IS RIGHT ON THE BORDER. AS A MATTER OF FACT, ONE OF OUR GUNNERS, WHEN HE LANDED, JUST OUTSIDE OF CALCUTTA, AT THE AIRSTRIP, THERE WAS AN AMERICAN WHO HAD JUST FLOWN OVER THE BAY AT THAT AREA AND HAD JUST COME BACK AND IMMEDIATELY OUR GUY WENT OUT AND, SAID, "WHERE ARE YOU GOING?". HE FINALLY WENT OFF WITH HIM AND FLEW A MISSION OUT THERE.

THE NEXT DAY WE STARTED LOADING UP IN THE TRAIN. WE WENT TO NEW DELHI. NEW DELHI IS IN THE CENTRAL PART OF INDIA. WHEN WE GOT THERE, WE STOPPED SEVERAL TIMES AND HAD OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS. WE WEREN'T SURE WE WERE GOING TO GET THROUGH. WE STOPPED IN NEW DELHI. OF COURSE, EVERYBODY WAS WONDERING WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. ARE THEY GOING TO COME IN AND GET US OUT, OR WHAT? SOME OF THE GUYS WE RAN INTO WERE PEOPLE WE KNEW. FINALLY, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE SENDING OUT SOME NEW, VERY LARGE AIRCRAFT FOR MOVING SOME OF THE PEOPLE BACK TO THE UNITED STATES. I HAPPENED TO BE AMONG THOSE. THERE WERE ABOUT FIVE OF US. THERE WERE A COUPLE OF THEM THERE FROM SOUTH AFRICA THAT WERE GOING OUT. THEY WENT BACK TO SOUTH AFRICA. FIRST OF ALL, WE WENT INTO ALEXANDRIA, THEN TO CAIRO. THE BRITISH WERE ALL THERE IN THEIR SHORTS AND ALL, IN DESERT HATS. THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF THEM. WE STAYED IN THE SHEPARD HOTEL WHICH WAS A FAMOUS HOTEL. WE WERE FREE, TO VISIT WHEREVER WE COULD. SOME OF THE GUYS WOULD HAVE THESE BELLY DANCERS. THEY WOULD BE THERE DOING A DANCE AND A BUNCH OF THE GUYS WOULD BE SITTING ON THE FLOOR AROUND THE PLACE. IT WAS A REAL DISCOVERY OF HAVING SEEN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD. YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE. THE GIRLS WERE VERY NICE TO YOU. AT THE TIME, THE GERMANS WERE NOT FAR AWAY OUT TO THE DESERT AREA. THERE WAS A LOT OF CONCERN ABOUT THAT.

THE DECISION WAS MADE TO GO DOWN THROUGH EGYPT. WE SAW SOME OF THOSE FAMOUS CARVINGS AND THINGS LIKE THAT AS WE WENT ALONG. I WENT OUT TO

A PYAMID. I RODE A CAMEL. THEY ARE THE TOUGHEST DAMN THINGS TO RIDE BECAUSE THEY PUT THEIR LEG DOWN AND IT IS JUST LIKE A BIG BOARD TAKES OVER. IT IS REAL ROUGH. WE HAD HUNTER'S HATS ON AND ALL OF THAT. WE THOUGHT THAT WAS GREAT. WE WENT OUT TO THE PYRAMIDS AND WE WENT UP IN THE PYRAMIDS. WE WERE WITH A COUPLE OF GUIDES AND THEY TOOK US UP INSIDE THE PYRAMID THERE WAS A LOT OF STOPPING AND WAITING. THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN. WE COULDN'T GO WHERE WE WERE HEADED. THEY FINALLY SENT LIGHTS DOWN TO US AND THEY WOULD GUIDE US OUT.

COX

THIS IS INSIDE THE PYRAMID?

HERB

INSIDE THE PYRAMID. YEAH. FINALLY WE WENT DOWN TO CAIRO. THERE WAS AN AMERICAN TRANSPORT. IT WASN'T A WELL KNOWN ONE. WE WERE THERE AND MADAM CHIANG KAI-SHEK WAS WITH US AND ALSO THE ONE FAIRLY SENIOR SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICERS. WE RODE WITH THEM IN THEIR AIRCRAFT. FIRST, WE WENT UP THE RIVER AND IN THAT AREA WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF FIGHTING IN RECENT YEARS STRUGGLING AMONG THE DIFFERENT PEOPLE THAT LIVED IN THOSE AREAS. THEN FINALLY, WE MADE A TURN TO GO STRAIGHT ACROSS AFRICA.

(GETTING MAPS AND COMMENTING OF VARIOUS LOCATIONS)

THEY ARE AREAS FAMOUS FOR HAVING A LOT OF WARFARE THERE. ABOUT HERE, ABOUT SHAD OR NIGER, N I G E R , WE STARTED TO GO STRAIGHT ACROSS HERE HEADING FOR THE WEST COAST. THERE WAS A LOT MORE BRITISH AND THEY TALKED MUCH LIKE ANY GROUP THAT THEY WERE IN. THEY SEEMED TO HAVE BI-LINGUAL ABILITY. LET'S SEE NIGERIA-----WE CAME OUT OVER HERE. OH, ETHIOPIA, WE WENT DOWN TO ETHIOPIA THEN WE TURNED ACROSS THE CONTINENT TO GO TO THE WEST. FINALLY, WE GOT OVER IN AN AREA CALLED THE IVORY COAST.

COX

THE IVORY COAST OF AFRICA IS WHAT YOU ARE POINTING AT.

HERB

YEAH. NIGERIA, HERE'S NIGERIA UP HERE. WE WERE IN THERE. I REMEMBER ONE OF THE THINGS THAT IMPRESSED US IS THAT THERE ARE BLACK MEN IN STORES THAT TALK WITH AN ENGLISH TONE. (ACCENT) IT WAS INTERESTING. YOU WOULD EXPECT THEM TO BE TALKING DIFFERENTLY. THEY TALKED JUST LIKE AN ENGLISHMAN.

COX

LET ME ASK YOU HERB. HOW MANY OF THE DOOLITTLE GROUP WERE WITH YOU AT THIS POINT WHEN YOU WERE HEADING BACK HOME, BACK TO THE U.S.? THE WHOLE GROUP WASN'T TOGETHER AT THAT TIME?

HERB

. I CAN'T RECALL THERE BEING ANY OF THE DOOLITTLE GUYS WITH ME. IT FINALLY CAME TO THE IVORY COAST, THEN WE FLEW ACROSS THE NORTH ATLANTIC TO BRAZIL, SOUTH AMERICA. WE CAME UP THROUGH THE WEST INDIES TO MIAMI. I REMEMBER THE NIGHT WE ARRIVED IN MIAMI. WE WERE HEARING MUSIC THAT WE NEVER HEARD BEFORE. I THINK THERE COULD HAVE BEEN 2 OR 3 THAT WERE DOOLITTLE RAIDERS WITH ME AT THE TIME, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHO. I REMEMBER WE HAD GOT IN THE HANDS OF A YOUNG STATE DEPARTMENT GUY OVER IN CAIRO. HE WAS THE DUMBEST CHARACTER I EVER SAW. THERE WERE 2 OR 3 STATE PEOPLE WE RAN INTO THAT JUST DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANYTHING. THEY WEREN'T SMOOTH OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT BECAUSE THERE WAS ONE, ONE GUY PARTICULARLY,, BUT I DO REMEMBER SOMEONE WHO THOUGHT HE COULD TELL US THAT WE OUGHT TO DO THIS OR THAT, IF WE WAS GOING TO GET ACROSS

WE WENT ON AND WE GOT TO FLORIDA. I REMEMBER WE WERE LISTENING TO POPULAR MUSIC AT THE TIME. I FINALLY CALLED MARY ALICE ON THE PHONE AND TOLD HER WE WERE THERE.

COX

AT THIS POINT IN TIME, SHE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER YOU WERE WELL OR NOT, DID SHE?

HERB

NO.

COX

SHE JUST KNEW YOU WERE-----

HERB

SHE GOT A LETTER FROM GENERAL DOOLITTLE JUST SAYING THAT HERB IS COMING HOME AND EVERYTHING IS ALRIGHT AND WE APPRECIATE WHAT HE DID AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

COX

DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT LETTER?

HERB

I THINK I HAVE IT, YEAH. I'LL LOOK AND SEE . WE FOOLED AROUND THERE FOR A WHILE. I ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT MARY ALICE WOULD TELL SOMEBOPDY THAT SHE GOT A LETTER FROM GENERAL DOOLITTLE BUT SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHO TOLD HIM THAT WAS COMING HOME AND WAS SAFE

THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH IT. I WENT ON HOME. WE DID GO UP TO WASHINGTON AND WE MET SOME PEOPLE THERE WHO WERE IN THE PENTAGON, I HAVE PCTURES OF ALL OF US THERE. THIS WAS JUST A GATHERING FROM DIFFERENT PLACES OF THE PEOPLE THEN. THEY HAD THIS ONE PICTURE OF SEVERAL GUYS FAIRLY SENIOR IN THIS GROUP. ALSO, GETTTING A LITTLE CHANCE TO TALK TO 2 OR 3 PEOPLE IN THE PENTAGON. THERE WASN'T ANY LARGE GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICERS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. THEN I JUST GOT ON THE TRAIN AND WENT OUT TO THE WEST.

COX

WAS THERE ANY POINT IN TIME AFTER THE MISSION THAT YOU HAD AN OFFICIAL DEBRIEFING ABOUT YOUR MISSION THAT YOU CAN RECALL?

HERB

TO A DEGREE. I THINK THAT WHILE WE WERE IN CHUNGKING, DOOLITTLE GAVE LITTLE TALKS ONCE IN A WHILE ABOUT THE MISSION. I THINK HE GOT NOTICE THAT HE WAS PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL, WHEN HE WAS STILL IN CHUNGKING. NOW, THERE WERE OTHER AMERICANS IN CHINA AT THE TIME IN HANGING AROUND CHUNGKING. THEY HAD JUST ARRIVED IN A PLANE THAT MADE IT OVER THE HUMP. WE WOULD JUST MEET THE PERSON AND GET ACQUANTED AND TALK ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND ALL.

COX

SO, YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY REAL OFFICIAL DEBRIEFING WHERE THEY ASKED YOU ALL ABOUT THE ACTION THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE MISSION?

HERB

WELL, NO THEY DIDN'T. ONE OF THE THINGS WE STARTED DOING WAS SIGNING THINGS. I HAD THAT PIECE OF SCARF, I THINK OR PIECE OF PARACHUTE OR SOMETHING. I

REMEMBER I HAD A THING WE SIGNED, WHITE CLOTH. THAT WAS WHEN WE WERE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FEW OFFICERS THAT WERE THERE THERE AS A STAFF FOR SOME TIME. SOME OF THOSE GUYS HAD GONE WITH US DOWN TO BURMA. WE FLEW WITH SOME OF THEM AT THAT TIME. LATER, WE WOULD HAVE ONE OF THOSE SENIOR GUYS, WE WOULD RUN INTO HIM LIKE AT NEW DELHI. WE WERE IN A BIG HOTEL AND THEY HAD JUST FINALLY COME OUT OF BURMA, HAD COME OVER TO NEW DELHI. BUT THERE WAS NOTHING AT ALL WHEN WE SAW THE STATE DEPARTMENT GUYS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT OF THEIR CALLING US TOGETHER AND ASKING ABOUT THINGS. I SAY THERE WAS THIS ONE FELLOW, TO ME, I THOUGHT WHAT A HORRIBLE THING TO HAVE A FELLOW LIKE THIS AS A STATE DEPARTMENT MAN. HE DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW ANYTHING AND HE WOULD ASK FOOLISH QUESTIONS.

COX

NOW DID YOU GO TO WASHINGTON BEFORE YOU HEADED OUT TO THE WEST COAST TO SEE YOUR WIFE?

HERB

YEAH. WE WERE IN WASHINGTON FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND THEN WE HEADED OUT. WE DIDN'T HEAD OUT AS A GROUP THAT WOULD BE GATHERINNG BACK WHERE WE WERE BEFORE. IT WASN'T THAT WAY AT ALL. I WENT BY TRAIN, I REMEMBER THAT VERY CLEARLY. I STARTED TO TRY TO GO BY AIR BUT THEY NEVER SEEMED TO HAVE TICKETS. IT WASN'T BECAUSE WE WERE FAMOUS, WE WERE JUST SOME PEOPLE IN ORDINANCE. I REMEMBER GETTING TICKETS TO GO ON THE TRAIN TO ST. LOUIS. WE WENT TO ST. LOUIS AND STAYED THERE OVERNIGHT, THEN WENT ON TO TUSCON. THERE WAS NO WELCOMING PARTY THERE. I CAME HOME, THAT'S ALL.

A FELLOW WHO LIVED IN TOMBSTONE AND HE HAD BEEN IN THE MILITARY. HIS NAME WAS CHAMBERLAIN. HE WORKED FOR THEN NEWSPAPER. HE FELT THAT HE BELONGED TO THE MACIAS. YOU KNOW, THE FACT THAT YOUNG HERB MACIA HAD DONE SOMETHING GREAT HERE, YOU KNOW. HE SORT OF TOOK OVER. HE HAD A NICE PLACE ON THE EDGE OF TUSCON. HE HAD COLLECTED BUILDING MATERIAL FROM SOME OF THE OLD BUILDINGS AND ALL THAT WERE IN TUSCON. HE HAD MOVED THEM ALL OUT TO HIS PLACE. HE WAS VERY PROUD OF THEM. I REMEMBER WE USED TO GO THERE OCCASIONALLY WHEN WE WERE IN COLLEGE. HE WOULD TAKE US OUT TO THOSE PLACES. I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY SENIOR PERSON COMING AND WELCOMING ME AS SOMEONE WHO WAS ASSIGNED THAT TASK .

END OF SIDE TWO, TAPE TWO

TRANSCRIBED BY FOREST J. REES
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS
SEPTEMBER, 2000

MACIA TAPE # 3

TAPE # 3, SIDE ONE

COX

AFTER YOU GOT OFF LEAVE FROM YOUR RETURN FROM THE DOOLITTLE MISSION, WHERE DID THEY SEND YOU THEN HERB?

OF COURSE DUE TO THE FACT THAT YOU HAD ESCAPED THE CHINA AREA, THEY WOULD NOT REASSIGN YOU TO THE PACIFIC AREA. IS THAT CORRECT? WASN'T THAT THE POLICY AT THAT TIME?

HERB

YEA. THEY WOULD ASSIGN ME TO ANOTHER AREA.

COX

BACK TO THE PACIFIC AREA? BEING AS YOU HAD ESCAPED FROM THE PACIFIC AREA INTACT, WHEN YOU WENT BACK TO BEING ACTIVE AGAIN, THEN THEY ASSIGNED YOU TO THE EUROPEAN THEATER, DID THEY NOT?

HERB

WELL, YEAH. IT WAS IN NORTH AFRICA THAT WE WENT TO. I JUST TRYING TO REMEMBER WHERE WE STARTED GETTING TOGETHER.

COX

DID THEY GET THE SAME GROUP OF FELLOWS TOGETHER WHO WENT ON THE TOKYO MISSION? YOU MENTIONED YOUR FRIEND HILGER. WERE THERE OTHERS IN THE GROUP THAT WERE PUT BACK TOGETHER IN A DIFFERENT UNIT?

HERB

I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY HOW WE FORMED UP. THE WAR HAD BEEN GOING ON NOW FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. I REMEMBER WE WENT FOR INSTANCE TO TUSCON. DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE IS OUT THERE. I REMEMBER GOING OUT AND BEING PROCESSED BY THE SEARGENTS WHO THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD IF I ACCEPTED A RESERVE COMMISSION

ANY TIME THEY STARTED PREPARING TO GO TO NORTH AFRICA. WE DIDN'T LEAVE ANYTHING IN TOKYO OR THAT AREA. AS FAR AS GETTING TOGETHER, I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY THING LIKE HAVING OR HAVING SEEN PERSON THERE AT DAVIS MONTHAN TO WELCOME US OR SOMETHING. THERE WERE GUYS ALL OVER THE PLACE. WE DID FIND OUT THAT WE WERE GOING INTO B-26'S. [MARTIN MARAUDE BOMBERS] THAT WAS A REAL SURPRISE TO ME. THE BALL STARTED ROLLING THEN GATHERING PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO MOVE ON AND GO BACK TO EUROPE. THAT'S WHAT WAS HAPPENING. WORD GOT OUT THAT WE WERE GOING TO NORTH AFRICA AND THERE WERE GOING TO BE SEVERAL GROUPS AND HILGER WOULD BE THE COMMANDER. THEY ACTUALLY FORMED UNITS. THEY STILL HAD THE 17TH BOMB GROUP WHICH IS THE ONE THAT THEY TOOK THE AIRPLANES FROM FOR THE DOOLITTLE RAID. THE 17TH SEEMED TO BE STILL EXISTING, BUT JACK HILGER WAS GOING TO HAVE A GROUP, AN AIR GROUP. FROM THE 89TH RECONIASSANCE SQUADRON IT WOULD BE THE 320TH BOMB GROUP. THERE WAS ALSO GOING TO BE A 319TH BOMB GROUP. A FELLOW NAMED HOLSAPPLE WAS THE COMMANDER OF THAT.

FIRST, THERE WAS ANOTHER SQUADRON COMMANDER WHO HAD TAKEN OVER, AND HE ONE DAY FLEW ACROSS THE CHANNEL AND COUPLE OF SQUADRON COMMANDERS WERE FLYING ON HIS WING AND THEY WERE SHOT DOWN OVER GERMANY. ACTUALLY, THEY WERE SHOT DOWN IN FRANCE I GUESS, BECAUSE THEY WERE SHOT DOWN NEAR THE CHANNEL. THAT WAS GERMAN TERRITORY.

COX

RIGHT. THAT WAS GERMAN TERRITORY THEN.

HERB

HILGER TOOK OVER THE 320TH GROUP. IT WAS FORMING UP AND STARTING TO MOVE TOWARDS NORTH AFRICA. YOU ARE REALLY REMINDING ME WE DIDN'T DO VERY MUCH AT GETTING BACK AS AN ORGANIZATION.

SEEMS TO ME THAT THE KIND OF PARTY WE WENT ON TO. WE WERE AT HOME AND DOOLITTLE GATHERED SOME OF US TOGETHER OR HE WENT DOWN AND OTHERS GOT TRANSPORTATION AND JOINED HIM AT A HOTEL AT THE MCFARLAND. IT WAS A MAN NAMED MCFARLAND WHO WAS A FAMOUS HOTEL MAN IN THOSE DAYS IN FLORIDA. HE WAS A FRIEND OF DOOLITTLE'S. WE HAD A GATHERING THERE. THERE WERE NO WIVES OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. THE GUYS CAME DOWN THERE AND THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE DOWN IN FLORIDA WERE ENTERTAINING US ----(GARBLED). I HAVE GAPS HERE IN TIME. I DON'T KNOW. I COULD HAVE BEEN DOING THAT A COUPLE OF YEARS AFTER I GOT BACK.

I'M NOT SURE. WE DID JUST LIKE I WAS SAYING ABOUT THE BANKER. PEOPLE JUST IN OUR FAMILY KIND OF WENT AROUND AND ON THAT OCCASION WE WERE IN PHOENIX, MY BROTHER-IN-LAW QUITE A BIT OF BUSINESS WITH THIS BANKER. HE WENT TO SEE HIM AND THE BANKER CAME TO SEE ME AND MEET ME ABOUT THE RAID. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO. I WASN'T SURE WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO. I COULD HAVE GONE INTO MINING BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A PLAN FOR THAT. HE SUGGESTED, "WHY DON'T YOU GET INTO BANKING?" I REALLY HAD NOT HAD THAT KIND OF EXPERIENCE. WELL, MY BROTHER DIDN'T HAVE IT BUT HE MADE A DAMN GOOD BANKER. I WAS HIRED BY THE VALLEY BANK. I HAD A JOB IN THE BIGGEST BANK DOWNTOWN IN TUSCON. I WAS THERE TO BE TRAINED TO BE A BANKER. WE WOULD COME DOWN THERE WITH MY FATHER-IN-LAW. HE HAD A BUSINESS, AND HE TOOK IN DOWNTOWN EVERY MORNING AND WE LIVED NEXT DOOR TO ONE ANOTHER WE WOULD GO DOWN AND HE WOULD DROP ME OFF AT THE BANK. I WAS JUST DOING JOBS, LEARNING WHAT THE TELLERS DO AND SO ON. I WOULD BE AT THE TELLERS FOR A WHILE. I WASN'T WORTH A DAMN AT USING THE MACHINERY AND ALL THAT. I WAS GOING ALONG QUITE A WHILE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. I GOT ACQUAINTED WITH QUITE A FEW OF THE FELLOWS IN THE BANK, YOUNG FELLOWS COMING ALONG. SOME OLDER FELLOWS THAT HAD SEEMED TO BE GETTING ALONG BETTER. WE MADE FRIENDS AND SO ON.

COX

THIS IS ABOUT 1946?

HERB

THIS WAS IN---YEAH, ABOUT THAT TIME. I STARTED-----I HAD BEEN DOING A LOT OF THINGS. I HAD BEEN GOING OUT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA BECAUSE THEY WERE, THEY HAD A LOT OF PLANS FOR INTRODUCING ME TO ONE ANOTHER, THINGS LIKE THAT. I WOULD GO OUT THERE AND BE ASKED QUESTIONS. I WOULD HAVE SOMEONE COME UP AND TAKE A PICTURE OF ME AND I WOULD STAND LOOKING UP AT MY (GARBELED) I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO COME IN, THEN THE DEAN OF MEN WHO I HAD KNOWN VERY WELL. HE WAS A VERY OUTSTANDING PERSON THAT EVERYBODY ADMIRER A GREAT DEAL. BUT, HE WASN'T A MAN WITH A BIG FAMILY. HE HAD MARRIED A GIRL SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE BUT SHE WAS THE KIND OF A PERSON WHO DIDN'T MAKE A LOT OF FRIENDS. WE WERE INVITED OVER TO THEIR PLACE FOR DINNER AND ALL. THAT WAS SOMETHING TO HAVE AN INVITATION FROM HIM. THEY DID. THE UNIVERSITY REALLY SHOWED AN INTEREST AND WERE VERY PLEASED THAT I WAS BEING HONORED.

MARY ALICE: SHE HAD DONE A FANTASTIC JOB OF SELLING BONDS. SEVERAL TIMES AFTER ----DURING THAT PERIOD THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT, I WOULD COME IN THERE AND THERE WOULD BE A RANCHING FAMILY OR SOMEBODY THAT I KNEW. WE WOULD BE DOWNTOWN WITH THEM. WE COULD COME DOWN THERE IN A JEEP OR SOMETHING AND TALK TO THEM. ONE OF THEM WAS A FAMILY THAT I HAD BEEN HAVING QUITE A FUED WITH, HAVING SOME BATTLE AT SOME DANCES WITH THESE YOUNG COW PUNCHERS. BUT, THERE WASN'T ANY ORGANIZED THING. THE UNIVERSITY WAS ORGANIZED TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY HAD PEOPLE THAT WERE PLANNING A LITTLE GATHERING OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. OCCASIONALLY, I WAS GOING OUT TO DAVIS MONTHAN OF SORT OF BECOMING A LITTLE BIT ACTIVE. THAT WAS GOING ON AMONG THE PEOPLE IN THE MILITARY AT THAT TIME. IT WASN'T ANY SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT FOR ME.

COX

WHEN YOU WERE IN NORTH AFRICA, WERE YOU WERE FLYING IN A-26'S OR B-26's? WHO WAS YOUR PILOT? WAS HILGER YOUR PILOT AGAIN?

HERB

YEAH. THE WAY WE DID THAT, WE HAD THE 17TH BOMB GROUP, THE 319TH, AND THE 320TH. THOSE WERE THREE BOMB GROUPS. WE WERE ALL FORMING ---- WE WERE FORMING IN TUSCON, THE OTHERS WERE FORMING AT BARKSDALE AND PLACES LIKE THAT. PRETTY SOON, WE WERE STARTING TO GATHER TO GO OVERSEES, TO NORTH AFRICA. THERE WAS AN AIR BASE IN INDIANA, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT AREA WAS A BASE. WE HAD FIRST GONE DOWN TO, IN OUR CASE, WE HAD GONE TO FLORIDA.

“ONE A DAY IN TAMPA BAY” WAS THE BIG TALK. BEFORE THAT, WE WERE REALLY KIND OF ON LEAVE AND THERE WAS NOBODY TALKING ABOUT IT AT ALL. WE WERE STARTING TO FORM UP AS GROUPS. WE FORMED UP AS I RECALL NOW, IN TUSCON. THEN WE STARTED FLYING AND WE WERE MEETING DOWN IN FLORIDA. THAT’S WHERE I RAN INTO HILGER. HE HAD TAKEN OVER. WE WERE HAVING A LOT OF PROBLEMS. THERE WAS A SAYING THERE WHEN I ARRIVED, “ONE A DAY IN TAMPA BAY”[MEANING, ONE PLANE CRASH A DAY]. THE FACT THAT THESE B-26’s WERE REALLY GIVING THEM TROUBLE. I REMEMBER THE PRESIDENT EVEN CAME DOWN ONE TIME TO EXAMINE THE PROBLEM. NO ONE KNEW WHY THE PLANES WERE CRASHING. SOMEBODY WOULD TAKE A FLIGHT OVER SOMEPLACE AND THEY WOULD HAVE AN ACCIDENT, AND SEVERAL WOULD BE WOUNDED OR KILLED. THIS IS AGAIN IN FLORIDA. WE WERE OPERATING THERE. I FORGET WHAT THE NAME OF THE AIR BASE WAS. RIGHT THERE ON THE BAY. HILGER WAS JUST RUNNING AN OUTFIT. HE PUT ME ON HIS STAFF AND I WOULD GO TO MEETINGS AND ALL. I WAS THE CHIEF NAVIGATOR. THEN WE MOVED UP HERE TO THIS PLACE JUST OUTSIDE OF CHICAGO IN THAT AREA AND WE WERE FORMING UP THERE. WE CAUGHT UP WITH THE 17TH GUYS AND THE 319TH AND THAT IS WHERE DAVY JONES, ANOTHER RAIDER PILOT, WAS. EVERYBODY WAS THEN JUST OPERATING LIKE THEY ALWAYS DID. BOTH THE 17TH AND THE 319TH WERE AHEAD OF US IN PICKING UP AIRCRAFT AT THIS BASE. THEY WERE HEADING OFF TO SOME BASES UP HERE IN MAINE. THEN, THEY WERE GOING TO GO ON TO GREENLAND AND OUT THROUGH THAT AREA. SOMETIMES THEY WOULD STOP OVER AT ICELAND, THEN THEY WOULD GO ON INTO NORTHERN SCOTLAND. FOR INSTANCE, DON SMITH, WHO WAS PILOT OF A 15TH GROUP AIRCRAF. HE WAS ONE OF THE YOUNGER PILOTS AND INEXPERIENCED. BUT, THEN, HE WAS A GOOD PILOT. HE HAD AN ACCIDENT IN BRITAIN AND HE WAS KILLED.

COX

IN HIS B-26?

HERB

IN A B—26, YEAH. THEN IN THE 17TH GROUP THERE WAS THIS GUY. HE WAS A VERY WELL KNOWN WEST POINTER THAT EVERYBODY KNEW ABOUT. HE WAS A REAL COMER. HE HAD A COUPLE OF PILOTS, SQUADRON COMMANDERS ON HIS WING AND THEY ALL GOT SHOT DOWN. IN THE MEANTIME, DAVY JONES HAD LEFT THE UNITED STATES AND CROSSED OVER. THE WORD WAS THAT HE HAD HAD ACCIDENT UP IN GREENLAND. IT TURNED OUT THAT HE HAD SOME PROBLEMS GOING OVER . HE HAD ALREADY BEEN ASSIGNED AS A GROUP COMMANDER, TO FLY SOME MISSIONS IN

TUNESIA. HE WAS SHOT DOWN. HE HAD A NEW COMMANDER FOR HIS GROUP WITH HIM AND HE WAS IN THE AIRPLANE THAT WAS SHOT DOWN.

COX

WERE THEY CAPTURED OR---?

HERB

YEAH. THEY CAPTURED THEM. THEY WENT TO A GERMAN PRISON CAMP UP IN GERMANY.

COX

THIS WOULD BE IN 1943 ?

HERB

YEAH. WE WERE GOING IN TO COMBAT AND WE ARE IN THIS TYPE OF AIRCRAFT THAT LOST A LOT OF AIPLANES. IN OUR CASE, THEY FINALLY DECIDED THEY WERE GOING IN THE NORTHERN ROUTE. HILGER DECIDED TO GO A CENTRAL ROUTE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC. IT TOOK US DOWN TO BRAZIL AND THEN WE LOADED UP IN BRAZIL AND WENT ACROSS THROUGH ASCENSION ISLAND. I WAS THE NAVIGATOR FOR THAT LONG FLIGHT. THERE WAS ANOTHER GUY WHO HAD BEEN IN THE COMMAND BEFORE BUT HE DIDN'T GO ON THE DOOLITTLE RAID. HE WAS A DEPUTY COMMANDER BUT AN OLDER PERSON THAN MOST OF THE OTHER FELLOWS. HE HAD BECOME PRETTY ACTIVE IN THE 320TH BOMB GROUP AS A DEPUTY COMMANDER. THEN HE JOINED OUR PARTICULAR SQUADRON. IN THE MEANTIME, HILGER WAS RELIEVED OF HIS COMMAND BECAUSE THEY FELT HE WAS TAKING TOO MUCH TIME TO GET OFF. I REMEMBER WHEN I WENT IN THERE, THE WORD WAS THAT THEY HAD COME INTO THIS PARTICULAR BASE IN INDIANA THAT WAS THERE FOR DOING SOME WORK ON NEW IDEAS ON EQUIPMENT, THINGS LIKE THAT. THAT WAS TAKING SOME TIME. THE FEELING WAS THAT THE 17TH AND THE 319TH. WE WERE JUST KIND OF STUCK THERE. THERE WAS MODIFICATION BEING DONE ON THE AIRCRAFT AND THINGS LIKE THAT. FINALLY, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT WE WERE GOING THE SOUTH ROUTE. IN THE MEANTIME, HILGER HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED AND ANOTHER GUY TOOK HIS PLACE. WHAT THE HELL WAS HIS NAME? CAN'T THINK OF IT AT THE MOMENT. HE WAS QUITE A WELL KNOWN FELLOW, PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE SENIOR TO HILGER. HE WAS GOING TO COME OVER. I REMEMBER WE WERE STILL THERE AND WE GO WENT TO THIS CLUB AND WERE STANDING AROUND THE BAR IN THE EVENING TALKING. IN THE MEANTIME, THE FELLOW THAT I HAD MENTIONED EARLIER WHO WAS A LT.COL., CAME IN. ASSISSTANT, HE WAS AN OLDER FELLOW. IT

TURNED OUT THAT WE CELEBRATED HIS BIRTHDAY ON OUR WAY OVER. I REMEMBER, HE INVITED US OVER FOR HIS BIRTHDAY. HE WAS 39 YEARS OLD.

COX

AN OLD MAN.

HERB

HE HAD A VERY BAD REPUTATION FOR A PILOT. HE HAD BEEN A NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER FROM DENVER, COLORADO. HE WASN'T A VERY GOOD PILOT. HE WAS FLYING OUR AIRCRAFT BECAUSE THE NEW GUY. HE HAD TAKEN COMMAND OF THE GROUP. IT WAS ALWAYS KNOWN THAT I WAS GOING TO FLYING WITH HILGER 'CAUSE I'M THE NAVIGATOR AND WOULD BE WORKING WITH HIM, BUT HILGER WAS NOT GOING. THIS GUY MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT "I'M BRINGING UP THE REAR". HE SAYS, "I'M TIRED OF HEARING THESE STORIES ABOUT AIRPLANES GETTING STUCK AND THEY ARE SCATTERED OVER THERE AS YOU ARE GOING OVER ". NOW, THIS IS OVER THE NORTHERN ROUTE. HE SAID, "I'M GOING TO BRING UP THE REAR, I AM NOT GOING TO LEAD YOU GUYS, I'M GOING TO BRING UP THE REAR." "MACIA, YOU ARE STILL GOING TO BE MY NAVIGATOR. WE ARE GOING IN THERE AND I AM GOING TO CLEAN OUR THE PLACE TO MAKE SURE WE ALL GET OFF." WHAT HE WAS SAYING WAS THAT'S THE BIG PROBLEM. I'LL BRING UP THE REAR SO THAT ALL PLANES WOULD TAKE OFF . WE GOT READY. I GOT THEM TO NAME OUR AIRCRAFT "HERBIE III" JUST FOR A LARK. IT WAS A NEW AIRCRAFT THAT WE HAD JUST GOTTEN IN. WE GOT "HERBIE III" PAINTED ON IT AND OFF WE WENT AND WE WENT DOWN INTO THESE ISLANDS DOWN THERE OFF FLORIDA. WE LEFT MIAMI AND THEN WE WENT THROUGH A FEW OF THOSE ISLANDS, THEN WE FINALLY WENT INTO SOUTH AMERICA, BRAZIL. THEN, WE MADE OUR FLIGHT FROM BRAZIL. WE HAD TO WAIT FOR SOME TIME THERE. IT WAS A VERY SHAKY TIME. I WASN'T SURE WE WERE GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT. WE LEAD THE GROUP GOING OVER TO ASCENSION ISLAND. THAT WAS AN ISLAND SITTING OUT THERE BY ITSELF.

COX

RIGHT

HERB

LUCKILY, WE GOT IN. WE LOST ONE AIRCRAFT THERE. AFTER WE WENT IN, WE STAYED A FEW DAYS AND WE RAN INTO SOME OTHER GUYS THAT HAD BEEN IN THE 17TH BOMB GROUP. WE KNEW THEM QUITE WELL. THE NEXT MORNING, WE TOOK OFF TO GO TO AFRICA UP TO THE IVORY COAST. I THINK IT WAS REFERRED TO AS THE GODEN

COAST, GOLD COAST OR SOMETHING. SINCE THEN, I HAVE A NEPHEW WHO OPERATING GOLD MINES DOWN THERE. HERE IT SAYS IVORY COAST AND IT IS ONE OF THE FAMOUS PLACES GO CLEAR BACK TO THE EARLY EXPLORERS OF THE WEST. THERE WAS MINING AND GOLD FOUND AND THINGS LIKE THAT. THEN, FROM THERE, WE SET UP THE PROBLEM OF GOING FROM THERE UP TO NORTH AFRICA. THE FIRST THING WE HAD TO DO WAS TAKE OFF FROM HERE AND FLY UP TO THE WEST COAST. IT WAS GETTING TO BE QUITE A BIT OF TRAFFIC ACROSS THERE. THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AT TIME THERE WERE QUITE A FEW THINGS GOING ON OVER HERE AND PEOPLE WERE COMING OVER DIFFERENT WAYS. SOME OF THEM WOULD COME IN AND TAKE OFF A CARRIER OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND COME IN. WE STAYED THERE QUITE A WHILE.

FINALLY, WE TOOK OFF AND FLEW TO NORTH AFRICA. WE FLEW TO A BASE WHERE THERE WAS A PRETTY GOOD RUNWAY. IT WAS ONE OF THESE THAT THEY LAID DOWN WITH STEEL PLANKING.

COX

THE MATTING.

HERB

I REMEMBER IT WAS RIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS. A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS. WE LANDED THERE AT NIGHT. AFTER WE LANDED, I COULD SEE THE LITTLE SPARKS WE WERE MAKING 'CAUSE WE WERE BOUNCING AND THE TIPS OF OUR PROPS WERE CLIPPING OFF THE MATTING. THESE GUYS WEREN'T TOO QUALIFIED AS FAR AS B-26 FLYERS YET. WE WERE THERE AND WE WERE WITH THIS GUY FROM DENVER. I NEVER CAN THINK OF HIS NAME. IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE WAS STILL A PRETTY POOR PILOT. A COUPLE OF TIMES, WE HAD ONE OF OUR ENLISTED GUYS COME TO ME AND ASK ME IF WE SHOULDN'T DEMAND THAT HE NOT TAKE ANY MORE OF THE FLIGHTS. HE WAS SITTING UP THERE AND HE WOULD COME DOWN AND HE WAS VERY NERVOUS AND HE WOULD START SWEATING. WE HAD A PRETTY SENIOR NCO THAT WAS THERE AND HE CAME BACK TO ME. "COLONEL, HE SAYS, OR CAPTAIN OR WHATEVER THE HELL I WAS AT THE TIME. " I'M AFRAID HE IS NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT. HE JUST HASN'T HAD THE EXPERIENCE. HE IS SWEATING LIKE MAD." I LOOKED AT HIM AND GOD, HE WAS SHAKING. BUT, HE KEPT MAKING IT. (A STUDY OF THE MAPS, LOOKING AT THE GLOBE)

WE CAME OUT HERE NEAR THE COAST, DAKAR IS OUT HERE. THERE IS A RIVER THAT'S RUNNING UP HERE, COMES DOWN FROM HERE. TIMBUCKTOO IS UP HERE. THIS IS THE NIGER RIVER I GUESS. WE PASSED TIMBUCKTOO AND IT CAME OUT. GAMBIA I THINK COMES OUT AT THE COAST OF GAMBIA. WE ARE STILL UP AGAINST SOME PROBLEMS OF CROSSING OVER THE SAHARA DESERT AND THEN OVER THE MOUNTAINS

THERE ON THE NORTHERN COAST. WE WERE ABLE TO DO IT. WE CAME UP, GOT OVER THE SAHARA. WE CAME INTO MARAKESH. MARAKESH WAS QUITE A PLACE. WE GOT OVER THE MOUNTAINS. ACTUALLY, THE MOUNTAINS WERE'NT AS SERIOUS AS THOSE RIGHT ABOVE TUSCON. IT WAS AN IDEAL. IT WAS IDENTICAL OF TUSCON WAS. YOU JUST COME DOWN AND WE COULD SEE MARAKESH AND WE WENT IN THERE. IT WAS A POPULAR PLACE. THAT IS WHERE THE PRESIDENTS HAD THEIR GATHERING AT ONE TIME. WE STOPPED AT A HOTEL WHERE WE WENT IN TO HAVE A DINNER. THEY HAD A BAR. ONE OF OUR SQUADRON COMMANDERS-----WE HAD TWO SQUADRON COMMANDERS THAT HAD COME FROM WEST POINT. BOTH WERE GOING INTO THEIR FIRST COMBAT, ONE OF THEM HAD BEEN BASEBALL CAPTAIN AT WEST POINT. HE WAS KIND OF A TOUGH LOOKING LITTLE GUY, LIKE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BE REALLY TOUGH IF HE WANTED TO. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED THAT EVENING, THERE WERE QUITE A FEW AMERICAN PEOPLE THERE, STATE DEPARTMENT PEOPLE AND ALL . THEY WERE COMING, TALKING TO US, NOT ABOUT THE TOKYO RAID, BUT JUST WHO WE WERE. THIS TOUGH LOOKING LITTLE GUY, STARTING TO BALD. HE SANG. HE HAD A VERY GOOD VOICE. AT SEVERAL PLACES, HE REALLY GOT US INTO PROBLEMS. HE WOULD GET DRUNK, BEFORE THIS, BUT HE WOULD GET TO SINGING LOUD, THEN PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE, MORE SENIOR OFFICERS WOULD RAISE HELL ABOUT QUIETING HIM DOWN. HE WOULD SING THIS SONG OF "OFF WE GO INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER.-" THESE PEOPLE, MANY OF THEM IN UNIFORM WOULD COME UP TO ME AND OTHERS AND SAY, "I WANT TO BE ON THAT GUY'S CREW. I WANT TO BE IN HIS OUTFIT." HE LOOKED LIKE NOBODY COULD WHIP HIM. WE STAYED THERE A COUPLE OF DAYS.

THEN, WE STARTED MOVING UP TO AN AREA CLOSE TO ORAN, WHICH IS RIGHT ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST OF NORTH AFRICA. THEY WERE GOING INTO CASABLANCA. WAS AT ORAN, ALGIERS, BIZERTE. THOSE ARE THE CITIES ALONG THE TOP THERE.[LOOKING AT THE GLOBE] MUCH OF THE TRAFFIC HAD TO NORTH AFRICA. IT CAME THROUGH CASABLANCA. SO, WE WERE KIND OF COMING IN THROUGH THE BACK DOOR. WE WENT UP TO A PLACE CALLED TAMPA ROUY (SP?). IT WAS QUITE A LEVEL PLACE AND SOME PRETTY GOOD RUNWAYS HAD BEEN BUILT. WE FOUND THAT IT WAS RAINING PRACTICALLY EVERY DAY. HERE WE WERE AT TAMPA ROUY HAVING A HELL OF A TIME WITH THE RAIN. WE DIDN'T GET INTO ANY COMBAT. OUR GROUP WAS STILL KIND OF SCATTERED AROUND. WE HADN'T MOVED UP THERE ALL TOGETHER . I WAS ALWAYS IN THE LEAD PLANE. WE STARTED GETTING THE AIPLANES IN GOOD SHAPE. ONE DAY THERE WAS ONE OF OUR GUYS WHO HAD BEEN ON THE DOOLITTLE RAID WITH US AND ANOTHER FELLOW WAS A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF OURS . AN ENLISTED MAN, A SENIOR ONE SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT "HERBIE III" HAD JUST CRASHED. THE DAMN

THING HAD REALLY CRASHED AND HAD BLOWN UP. GOD, PEOPLE WERE RUNNING FROM IT..” NO ONE WAS KILLED. THEY ALL GOT OUT OF IT.

COX

ANOTHER CREW WAS FLYING THE PLANE YOU HAD NAMED?

HERB

YEAH. SO THEN WE WERE HERE AT THIS PLACE AND WE WOULD FLY A MISSIONS OUT, LOOKING FOR SUBMARINES OUT FROM TAMPA ROUY. IT WOULD RAIN. IT WAS A MISERABLE PLACE. EVERYBODY WAS IN TENTS. THE RAIN WOULD DROWN PEOPLE OUT. IT WAS A TOUGH ONE. WE STAYED THERE FOR A WHILE, THEN WE WERE MOVED FORWARD PAST TRIPOLI, NOT OVER AS FAR AS CAIRO. THEN, WE WERE MOVED WELL AHEAD OUT INTO LIBYA. IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAD A COUPLE OF CHANGES. THAT GUY WHO HAD TAKEN COMMAND AND SAID “HE WAS GOING TO BRING UP THE REAR”, HE GOT INTO SOME TROUBLE. THINGS LIKE HE SAID THERE IN A BAR, “I’M GOING TO BRING UP THE REAR”. ONE OF THE THINGS HE DID WAS HE GOT DOWNTOWN IN BONN AND HE HAD A DATE WITH A NURSE AND AS THEY CAME OUT OF A BAR, HE SPOKE TO AN ENLISTED MAN AND THE GUY DIDN’T SALUTE HIM. GOD, HE GAVE THE GUY HELL. IN THE MEANTIME, HE HAD ASSUMED THE COMMAND OF THE 320TH . HE HAD GONE ALONG AND EVERYBODY THINKS HE IS DOING ALL RIGHT BUT, HE REALLY WAS CHASTIZED FOR THIS. HE STOPPED THE GUY AND HE GAVE HIM HELL AND YELLING, “YOUR’E TALKING TO A COLONEL”! I THINK HE HAD A DATE WITH A NURSE AND SHE WAS AN OFFICER. HE JUST DID SOME STUPID THINGS. FINALLY, HE WAS IN TROUBLE, THIS ASSISSTANT ONE THAT HAD A BIRTHDAY, HE WAS STILL HANGING IN THERE, KIND OF A NICE GUY. HE KIND OF TOOK OVER. THEN, WE STARTED HAVING REPLACEMENTS COME IN FOR SEVERAL PEOPLE INCLUDING THE TOP MAN.

COX

ABOUT THIS TIME, FLYING OUT OF AFRICA, WERE YOU DOING STRICTLY SUB HUNTING OR WERE YOU ANY----?

HERB

YEAH. WE WERE OUT THERE HUNTING----DOING QUITE WELL. WE WEREN’T IN ANY COMBAT OR ANYTHNG LIKE THAT. WE WERE GETTING READY TO BE MOVED UP. IN THE MEANTIME, THE GERMANS. WHO WAS THE FAMOUS GENERAL?

COX

ROMMEL?

HERB

YEAH, ROMMEL. HIS TROOPS HAD BEEN PULLED BACK FROM CAIRO. HE HAD MOVED ACROSS NORTH AFRICA. HE WAS ON HIS WAY INTO THE WESTERN PART THERE. WE WERE VERY VULNERABLE. WE MOVED UNITS, BOTH AIR FORCE AND AIRBORNE IN THERE TO STOP THEM. THEY HAD A HELL OF A TIME. THEY FINALLY, I THINK THE ALLIES FINALLY WON THE CONTEST. WE HAD ANOTHER MAN WHO HAD COME IN TO TAKE OVER. IT HAPPENS THAT HE WAS A FELLOW FROM ARKANSAS. HE WAS VERY PROUD OF THAT. HIS NAME WAS FORDICE. HE WAS A REAL FINE MAN. THIS IS ONE OF THE BIG BREAKS I HAD EVEN THOUGH HILGER HAD TREATED ME WELL, FORDICE REALLY TREATED ME MUCH BETTER. I WAS INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. HE TOOK OVER AND HE HAD A NATIONAL GUARD OUTFIT WITH HIM. HE WAS USING THAT PART TIME BUT HE WAS WORKING INTO TAKING OVER OUR B-26's. EVERYBODY THOUGHT THE WORLD OF HIM. HE WENT ON EVERY MISSION. WE WERE UP TO FIGHTING. WE WERE GETTING ALONG FINE. WE HAD ALREADY STARTED HAVING MISSIONS TO FLY ACROSS THE MEDITERANEAN AND DROP BOMBS. HE INTENDED TO FLY EVERY MISSION . HE WAS REALLY A WARRIOR. HE WAS A REAL BIG GUY AND A FINE LOOKING FELLOW. THE TOWN, FORDICE, ARKANSAS IS NAMED AFTER HIS FAMILY. ONE DAY, HE AND ANOTHER PERSON WERE MOVING SOME AIRCRAFT TO ANOTHER BASE. THE WEATHER WAS BAD AND THEY DIDN'T PLAY IT RIGHT AND HE CRASHED AND WAS KILLED. HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST COMMANDERS I EVER SAW.

WE HAD UNITS THAT WERE STARTING TO FLY THEIR FIRST MISSIONS UP INTO SARDENIA AND PLACES LIKE SICILY. WE WERE GETTING MORE PEOPLE IN AND WE WERE GETTING MORE MISSIONS.

COX

END SIDE ONE, TAPE THREE

HERB

WE WERE IN A PHASE WHERE WE ARE STARTING TO ENGAG WITH THE GERMANS FAR MORE. WE WERE UP IN TUNESIA, THAT'S ABOUT HALF WAY ACROSS NORTH AFRICA HERE. WE HELPED SUPPORT THE ALLIES ON SICILY WHEN THE GERMANS CAME IN TO TAKE IT. WE WERE SUCCESSFUL AND THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO TAKE OVER. WE HELPED

ON THAT. THAT'S OVER NEAR ITALY. WE HAD ONE BIG MISSION. THIS ROSS GREENING, YOU KNOW WHOSE PICTURES ARE IN THERE. HE WAS A GROUP COMMANDER OF THE 17TH AND THEY WERE ALREADY IN COMBAT WITH THE GERMANS BEFORE WE WERE. HE WAS THE COMMANDER OF A MISSION THAT HAD PEOPLE FROM THE 17TH, THE 319TH AND THE 320TH, ALL THREE GROUPS. IT WAS AGAINST NAPLES. RIGHT UP ABOVE NAPLES THERE IS A VOLCANO. GREENING, I WAS RIGHT ON HIS WING PRACTICALLY, OF COURSE I WASN'T THE PILOT, BUT, WE ARE GOING IN A GOOD STRONG FORCE, AND GOD, SUDDENLY, HE WAS HIT. HE WENT DOWN AND ALMOST WENT INTO INTO THE VOLCANO'S CRATER.

COX

HE WAS HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE?

HERB

YEAH. HE WAS HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT. FROM OUR GROUP, WE HAD A COUPLE OF GUYS GET HIT.. WE WERE ALL IN FORMATION. WE WERE COMING RIGHT IN ON THE TARGET AT NAPLES: THAT IS A BIG CITY THAT HAD A LOT OF BUSINESS GOING ON. THE PLANE ON OUR WING WAS HIT. IT WAS THE DAMNDEST THING I EVER SAW. I WAS IN MY AIRPLANE, AND I WAS LOOKING UP. WE JUST KIND OF PASSED BY. THE NAVIGATOR WAS LOOKING DOWN AT ME AND JUST THEN, WHAM! THE AIRPLANE JUST BLEW UP. THAT WAS A TOUGH ONE.

COX

HE GOT OUT ALIVE THOUGH?

HERB

NO, HE DIDN'T. NOBODY GOT OUT ALIVE. WE WERE IN, AS I SAY. WE WENT INTO SARDENIA AND HELPED SUPPORT THEM. THE GROUND FORCES WERE ABLE TO TAKE OVER SARDENIA. THAT WAS ONE OF OUR SUCCESSES. LATER ON, NEAR THE END OF THINGS OVER THERE, WE HAD DRIVEN THE GERMANS BACK AND OUT OF A LOT OF AREAS IN ITALY. IT WENT FROM THE NORTHERN PART OF ITALY WHERE THAT HAD A LOT OF MOUNTAINS AND DAMS AND BRIDGES AND ALL. WE WERE SUPPORTING THAT. THAT WAS REALLY TOUGH, BECAUSE YOU HAD TO BE VERY ACCURATE IN HITTING AND ALSO THEY HAD THE ADVANTAGE BECAUSE YOU ARE COMING OVER AND THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHERE YOU WILL BE TO DROP THE BOMBS ON THEM. WE LOST QUITE A FEW PLANES AND PEOPLE BECAUSE AS I SAY, THEY WERE DEFENDING THAT DAM, IT IS HARD TO HIT THE DAM, IT IS HARD TO HIT THE BRIDGE. SOMETIMES YOU STRADDLE IT. ONE BOMB WOULD FALL SHORT AND ONE BOMB AND ONE WOULD GO OVER IT. THEY WERE

SITTING THERE QUIETLY LOOKING RIGHT AT YOU AND SHOOTING AT YOU, AND KNOWING EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE DOING. WE DID TAKE SOME LOSSES BUT WE IMPROVED IN OUR TECHNIQUES AND THE RESULTS IMPROVED.

ON ONE OCCASION WHEN JACK SIMMS WAS THE PILOT AND I WAS GOING WITH HIM, IT WAS GOING TO BE OUR 45TH MISSION IN A B-26 AND WE WERE GOING TO DECLARE THAT 45 MISSIONS WAS A TOUR OF DUTY. NOBODY HAD EVER FLOWN A TOUR OF DUTY.

COX

FORTY FIVE MISSIONS IN A B-26?

HERB

YEAH.

COX

WOW. MY GOODNESS.

HERB

A FELLOW NAMED ARCH WOODRIDGE WAS IN THE 319TH AND HE FLEW OVER 100 MISSIONS.

COX

IN A B-26? ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS AIRPLANES WE HAD AT THAT TIME.

HERB

YEAH. HE WAS LATER OUR COMMANDER, ARCH WOODRIDGE WAS. ON THIS OCCASION, WE'RE PLANNING A MISSION AND I'M IN ON IT WITH JACK SIMMS. HE WAS THE OPS OFFICER AND I WAS THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. WE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING VERY TRICKY. WE ARE DOWN AT THE TOE OF ITALY. WE HAD DROPPED BOMBS ON THEM UP AT NICHOLAS AND NAPLES. THAT'S WHERE THE GUY WAS KILLED, AND GREENING WAS LOST. JACK AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW WE WOULD DO THIS. WHAT IT WAS, THE GERMANS HAD A LANDING ON THE COAST THERE AND THEY WERE BREAKING DOWN OUR TRANSPORTATION. THOSE WERE THINGS THAT WERE HARD AS HELL TO KEEP FROM LOSING. NORMALLY YOU COME IN FROM THE SEA AND YOU WOULD GO IN AND YOU GOT ALL THE DAMN GUNS SHOOTING RIGHT UP AT YOU. WE GOT TO TALKING THIS DAY ABOUT HOW WE WOULD DO IT AND WE DECIDED WITH THE

GERMANS BEING RUN OUT OF ITALY DOWN THERE AT THE TOE AND HEEL. THEY WERE GETTING ALL THEIR WEAPONS OUT OF THERE, SO WHY DON'T WE JUST GO IN BEHIND THEM DOWN ACROSS FROM SICILY, JUST A SHORT CROSSOVER, COME IN OVER THAT AND THEN FOLLOW UP ON THAT SIDE AND COME IN FROM BEHIND. BOY, WE HAD FIGURED OUT A GREAT DEAL. ONLY PROBLEM WAS, AFTER STARTING THE BOMBING ATTACK, SUDDENLY WE REALIZED THAT THEY ARE MOVING THEIR WEAPONS FROM THE SOUTH UP GOING NORTH ON A RAILROAD AND THEY HAVE THEIR WEAPONS ON THE FLAT CARS. GOD, THEY KNOCKED THE HELL OUT OF US. WE WERE GOING IN THERE THINKING WE ARE NOT GOING TO GET SHOT AT. WE LOST AN ENGINE.. WE WERE THE LEAD AIRCRAFT. WE HAD TO FALL OUT. OTHER DAMAGE TO US AND WE FELL OUT AND WE ARE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHETHER WE CAN GET BACK TO BASE. WE WERE STILL STATIONED OVER IN NORTH AFRICA. WE ARE THINKING ABOUT HOW THE HELL WE ARE GOING TO GET HOME AND ALL. SUDDENLY A 500 POUND BOMB JUST SLIPPED OUT, JUST FELL ABOUT 2 OR 3 FEET AND WAS HANGING THERE . THE YOUNG GUY WHO WAS BACK THERE----WHAT YOU DO, YOU HAVE TO GO IN THERE AND ARM THESE THINGS. HE COMES RUNNING BACK AND HE SAYS, "THAT BOMB IS HANGING OUT OF THE BOMB BAY AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT IS GOING TO BE HARD TO LAND. DON'T KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO. CERTAINLY WE CAN'T LIFT IT. IT IS 500 POUNDS." JACK STARTED TO GO THROUGH WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO. SHALL WE BAIL OUT BACK HERE? WE HAD TO CROSS WATER TO GET BACK TO SICILY. WE STARTED BACK. IT ALSO SPOILED OUR DEAL TO GET THE FIRST TOUR IN AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING.. HE KEPT LOSING ELEVATION. WE KNEW THERE WERE SOME AIR STATIONS BACK THERE AND FIGHTERS WERE OPERATING FROM THEM.

COX

GERMAN FIGHTERS?

HERB

NO. JUST AMERICAN. WE HAD TAKEN SICILY. WE HAD TAKEN THAT OVER BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE BOMBERS IN THERE. WE DID HAVE FIGHTERS. THEY WOULD BE TAKING OFF AND WHAT THE HELL SHOULD WE DO? IF WE LAND AND WE HAVE ANYTHING LIKE A TIRE GO OUT OR A WHEEL OR SOMETHNG OR HAVE A POOR LANDING AND THE THING SCOOTS THE GROUND AS WE LAND.

COX

IT'S LIABLE TO GO OFF.

HERB

YEAH, THE FIGHTERS ARE COMING OFF IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. OF COURSE, THEY DON'T KNOW WE ARE GOING TO COME IN AND LAND UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT. THAT SCARED THE HELL OUT OF THEM. ANYWAY, WE GOT THROUGH THAT AND ENDED UP ALL WELL.

COX

YOU LANDED SAFELY THEN?

HERB

YEAH. WITH THE FIGHTERS TAKING OFF AT FIRST, THEY STOPPED THAT AFTER A FEW HAD TAKEN OFF.

COX

THAT BOMB WAS STILL HANGING THERE?

HERB

THE BOMB WAS HANGING DOWN. ALL OF THESE THINGS: A BOMB COULD BE DROPPED, A WHEEL COULD GO DOWN AND ALL THAT. WE GOT THE WORD TO GET BACK AS SOON AS WE COULD AND WE DID. THE WORD HAD GONE BACK, RIGHT AFTER WE GOT OUR FIRST FIGHTERS, WHOSE MISSILES FROM THEM FIRED ON US. SOME OF THE GUYS REPORTED THAT WE WERE DAMAGED SO BADLY THAT WE ARE NOT GETTING BACK. WE FELL OUT. THE REPORT HAD COME IN. WHEN WE GOT BACK AND LANDED, WE WENT OVER TO OUR TENTS AND ALL OF OUR NICE JACKETS DISAPPEARED AND EVERYBODY THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD.

COX

THEY TAKE THE SPOILS REAL FAST.

HERB

THEY TAKE THE SPOILS. THEN THEY SAW US IN PERSON. WE WERE THERE.

COX

GET ALL YOU CLOTHES BACK?

HERB

YEP. GOT ALL OUR CLOTHES BACK. FIRST THING WE DECIDED TO DO WAS GO FOR A HOLIDAY TO ALEXANDRIA, OUT TO EGYPT. JACK AND I WERE ABLE TO GET A PLANE

WITH A COUPLE OTHER GUYS. TYPICAL OF JACK, AFTER WE GOT TO ALEXANDRIA, JACK WAS OUT CHASING GIRLS. WE WENT OUT WITH A COUPLE OF THEM. HE HAD A REAL CUTE ONE THAT LIKED HIM VERY MUCH. WE STAYED ABOUT A WEEK, LONGER THAN THEY EXPECTED, AND OUR COMMANDER EXPECTED. FINALLY, WE HEADED BACK TO OUR BASE WHICH WAS BACK ON SARDENIA. IT WAS ANNOUNCED TO ME THAT JACK, THE WING COMMANDER HAD DECIDED THAT THEY NEED US AND THAT WE ARE NOT THROUGH. WE MAY HAVE FLOWN 45 MISSIONS, BUT WE ARE NOT THROUGH, THEREFORE, WE ARE STAYING ON. ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS OF MINE WAS THAT I HAD SO MANY DUTIES. I HAD BEEN THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, THE NAVIGATION OFFICER, THE BOMBING OFFICER AND I HAD BEEN FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER. OUR COMMANDER WAS A REAL FINE GUY, LIVED IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. HIS NAME WAS LIVINGSTON. HE WANTED ME TO STAY. HE SAID, "HERB, GODDAMN IT, YOU JUST GOT PROMOTED -----(IN '42 OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.) WE REALLY NEED YOU" AND SO I AGREED. THAT WAS THE WORST MISTAKE I EVER MADE.

IT WAS HEARTBREAKING TO GO BACK THERE AND WRITE MARY ALICE THAT I AM NOT COMING BACK. ONE OF THE WORST POINTS IN TIME WAS THE NIGHT WHEN I WENT OUT TO THE AIRPORT TO BE PICKED UP BY SOME GUYS THAT WERE COMING THROUGH TO PICK ME UP TO TAKE ME TO THE EAST, BANG OVER THERE BY A DOOR IN ONE OF THE BUILDINGS WAS A NICE LOOKING LADY AND A LITTLE BOY. I'M SITTING THERE LOOKING AT HIM, THINKING GOD ALMIGHTY. EVEN THOUGH I SURVIVED, WE HAD TAKEN A LOT OF LOSSES AND OTHERS HAD TAKEN EVEN MORE. I THOUGHT, MY GOD, I GAVE THEM AWAY AND I REALLY FELT TERRIBLE. I DID GO BACK AND WE GINNED UP AND WE ACTUALLY WE WERE GIVEN A LOT MORE WORK TO DO. ONE OF THEM WAS TO SUPPORT THE LANDINGS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE. WE SUPPORTED LANDINGS THERE TO TAKE FRANCE. COMMANDER LEAD A TOTAL OF 36 BOMBERS TO SUPPORT THE LANDINGS-----PUT OUR BOMBS DOWN SO OUR PEOPLE COULD LAND.

COX

ON D-DAY?

HERB

YEAH. WITH SOME OF THOSE THINGS THAT WERE DONE. THEY GAVE THE CROIX DE GUERRE BECAUSE WE REALLY WENT TO WORK FOR THE FRENCH. WHAT THE FRENCH DID, THEY GAVE THE CROIX DE GUERRE TO THE ORGANIZATION INSTEAD OF AN INDIVIDUAL. THE COMMANDER JUST DECIDED TO GIVE IT TO ME BECAUSE I HAPPENED TO BE THERE A LITTLE MORE INVOLVED ON THAT PARTICULAR MISSION. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS YOU HAVE IS THE CLOUDS, WHEN YOU ARE ABOVE THE CLOUDS AND

THEY COME AND GO. WHEN THE COMMANDER CAME IN TO DROP THE BOMBS, THE CLOUDS CLOSED OFF ON HIM AND HE HAD TO HOLD HIS DROP. I CAME IN BEHIND HIM AND THEY OPENED UP. SO, I WAS ABLE TO DROP THE FIRST LOAD OF BOMBS. THEREFORE, I GOT THAT CREDIT. THAT WAS THE END OF THAT.

THAT IS PRETTY MUCH THE END OF THE WAR.

COX

THOSE B-26's DURING D-DAY THAT YOU WERE FLYING, WERE THOSE THE ONES WITH THE WHITE RING AROUND THE FUSELAGE, DO YOU REMEMBER?

HERB

NOT PARTICULARLY. I DON'T THINK SO.

COX

I HAVE READ THAT A LOT OF THE PLANES HAD A WHITE RING AROUND THE FUSELAGE TO DESIGNATE THAT THEY WERE ALLIED AIRCRAFT.

HERB

I DON'T RECALL THAT. THEY WERE COX

COX

YOU GOT TO RETURN TO THE STATES SHORTLY THERAFTER?

HERB

YEAH. I WENT HOME AND WAS ON A LEAVE AND THEN I WENT BACK OVER. THAT IS WHEN I GOT INTO SUPPORTING FRANCE. THAT WAS THE CONCLUSION OF OUR EFFORTS OVER THERE.

COX

WELL, I THANK YOU VERY MUCH HERB FOR TAKING THE TIME TO-----

HERB

VERY BORING I KNOW.

COX

IT'S NOT BORING. THIS IS HISTORY. I WANT TO THANK YOU ON MY PERSONAL
BEHALF AND ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR IN
FREDERICKSBURG. THANK YOU..

END OF TAPE

END OF SERIES

TRANSCIBED BY FOREST J. REES
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER, 2000

EDITED BY FLOYD COX

NOTE: A COMPLETE LISTING OF THE VARIOUS AIRPLANE CREW MEMBERS IS SHOWN IN THE BOOK BY
JAMES H. DOOLITTLE ENTITLED, "I COULD NEVER BE SO LUCKY AGAIN."
BANTAM BOOKS 1991