

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

THE NIMITZ MUSEUM

PRESENTS

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

INTERVIEWER - BLAIR HUBBARD
OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FILM CREW

TAPE NO. 172

NEW ZEALAND & PEARL HARBOR

THIS RECORDING IS MADE BY BLAIR HUBBARD OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FILM CREW AND THE ORIGINAL FOR THIS STATEMENT IS ON OUR ROLL NUMBER 8, FILED AT HARPER'S FERRY CENTER.

LBJ

ONE MORNING I WAS AWAKENING IN A NEW ZEALAND MILITARY HOSPITAL AT *SUVA* (SP ???) NEW ZEALAND IN THE FIJI ISLANDS. I KNOW THERE WAS AN ALABAMA DOCTOR BENDING OVER ME. HE TOLD ME WHO WAS AND WHY HE WAS THERE. HE TOLD ME THAT A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE I HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM A PLANE WITH FEVER OF 105, COMING FROM NEW GUINEA. I HAD BEEN PUT IN THE HOSPITAL THERE UNCONSCIOUS. HE WAS ADMINISTERING SULFA DRUGS. I WAS VERY UPSET AT THE STOMACH. HE WAS TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT HIS PROBLEM WAS TO GET ME TO RETAIN THESE DRUGS SO IT COULD GET TO THE INFECTION THAT WAS CAUSING THE FEVER.

ADMIRAL NIMITZ HAD SENT HIM A MESSAGE FROM PEARL HARBOR TO GIVE HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION TO ME. HE HAD HAD SOME DIFFICULTY WITH THE NEW ZEALAND DOCTORS.

AFTER I WAS THERE A DAY OR TWO, THIS WONDERFUL DOCTOR ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS QUARTERS AND SPEND THE NIGHT WITH ME AND HE WOULD GET ME A PLANE RIDE BACK TO PEARL HARBOR ON THE FIRST PASSAGE, WHICH HE DID.

WHEN I GOT TO PEARL, ADM. NIMITZ INVITED ME INTO HIS OFFICE. I REVIEWED MY EXPERIENCES OF A FEW MONTHS IN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA, AND NEW GUINEA. THEN, HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD READ OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ORDERING ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS OUT OF UNIFORM AND BACK TO WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO SAN FRANCISCO AND HE WOULD BE GLAD TO GIVE ME A SEAT IN HIS PLANE.

I TOLD HIM I JUST DIDN'T FEEL UP TO IT; THAT I WAS GOING TO STAY AROUND THE HOSPITAL IN PEARL HARBOR FOR A FEW DAYS UNTIL I FELT STRONGER. THEN THE ADMIRAL TURNED TO HIS AIDE AND SAID, "TELL THE LT. SO AND SO THAT THERE WILL BE ROOM FOR HIM. THE NEXT DAY, I PICKED UP THE PAPER AND I SAW WHERE ADM. NIMITZ PLANE HAD LANDED ON A LOG IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY. THE PLANE HAD TURNED OVER AND THE LT. WHO HAD TAKEN MY SEAT HAD DROWNED.

END OF TAPE.