

Rosalia Fleming Oral History Interview

BRUCE PETTY: Now, first of all, can you tell me your father's full name again?

ROSALIA FLEMING: My father's full name? My father's full name is San Joachin Concepcion [Aldad?]. (inaudible) grandpa. (laughs)

BP: Right. Okay. Now, when was your father born?

RF: That's one thing I don't.

BP: You don't know. Okay. Do you know where he was born? He was born in Yap?

RF: No, he was born in Saipan.

BP: Oh, he was. Okay.

RF: He was a baby when he came to Yap.

BP: Okay. So, it was his -- your grandfather went to Yap.

RF: Yes.

BP: Do you remember why he went to Yap?

RF: Yes. My grandfather went to Yap during the German time as a carpenter of the German.

BP: He was a carpen-- trained as a carpenter. He learned carpentry from the Germans or the Spanish?

RF: Maybe a German.

BP: Okay. Do you know what year that was?

RF: I don't know.

BP: Okay. But he stayed there during the Japanese period?

RF: Yes. He died -- I think I am not up in the school yet in Japanese time, so I believe I am only six years old.

BP: Okay. That reminds me. What was the year of your birth?

RF: November 9, 1924.

BP: Nineteen twenty-four. Okay.

BP: Okay. Now, what did your father do on Yap?

RF: Oh, my father is, during the Japanese time, is only -- he is a fisherman.

BP: He's a fisherman. Okay. And he did that the whole time he was there?

RF: Yes.

BP: Fisherman. Okay. So he had his own business, or he worked for somebody else?

RF: No, he has his own business, his own net, and...

BP: Okay. How are you doing? And so -- now, your (inaudible). Does he like to join the interview? I can ask.

RF: Sure.

BP: Okay. I'm Bruce, by the way.

ALFRED FLEMING: Hello. Nice to meet you.

BP: And (inaudible), can you tell me your full name? Your full name?

AF: My first name is Alfred.

BP: Middle name?

AF: [Floris?].

RF: Floris.

BP: Floris.

AF: (inaudible)

BP: Floris Fleming. And what year were you born?

AF: I was born in --

RF: What ye--

BP: What year?

AF: January 1, 1922.

BP: Nineteen twenty-two. You're just one year older than my mother, then. Hard of hearing. Okay. I'll speak up. Was it your grandfather or your father who came to Yap, who was the first one to come to Yap?

AF: My father was first come to Yap during --

RF: German.

AF: (inaudible) were to have business in Yap and some other Micronesia.

BP: Oh, he was the one who worked for Mr. O'Keefe.

AF: Worked for O'Keefe. My father was working for O'Keefe.

RF: No, no. No. His father come to Yap when he was 17 years old from Marshall --

BP: From the Marshalls.

RF: -- to work at Magistrate O'Keefe's office as bookkeeping.

BP: Okay. Doing bookkeeping. Now, O'Keefe disappeared at sea in 1902.

RF: Something like that. Yes.

BP: And so what did his father do after that?

RF: Just --

AF: (inaudible) continue. They were continue (inaudible).

BP: The business. Okay.

AF: So many years later, and they closed it, when the Japanese government come over to take over (inaudible).

BP: They take over O'Keefe's business, then, huh? Shut it down? Okay. All right. Did you know the [Untulun?] family while you were in Yap?

RF: A little bit.

BP: You did know it. Now, according to [Marian?] and [Androsina?], their father was chief of police?

RF: Right.

BP: Okay. And his name was --

RF: Juanito.

BP: Juanito.

RF: Juanito Adriano Untulun.

BP: Okay. Now, was he, like, chief of police of Colonia, or was he chief of police under the Japanese --

RF: Entire.

BP: The whole --

RF: Entire. Entire Yap.

BP: So did he, like, have special privileges because of that, or did he -- or did all the Chamorros have closer relationship with the Japanese than the --

RF: Yes. Everybody.

BP: They did. Okay. Do you know -- what was the reason for all the Chamorros leaving Yap?

RF: There's a -- stories, you know. The first thing when Captain Kenny asked --

BP: Captain Kenny?

RF: Kenny.

BP: K-E-N-N-Y?

AF: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RF: Yes.

AF: He was the commanding officer.

RF: He is the commanding officer at the time after the war when we left out there, because the other two groups already left, so we, us that is still there, we thought we were going to live there as long.

BP: Oh, so there were two groups of Chamorro who left before you.

RF: Yes.

BP: And you were the last group to leave. Okay. Now, where did the first two groups go? Back to Saipan?

RF: Went to Guam.

BP: They went to Guam.

RF: The second group is went to Saipan, and us, the last one, we thought we're not going to leave the island, because our great-grandparents was there, a long time, since the German time, maybe. Who knows? Maybe since the Spanish time, too. And we owned some land and all our citrus, so that everything is giving fruit. And we thought we were going to stay and die in Yap, but after the war, maybe -- start -- this started since 1997. The chief over -- all over the island in Yap, like every district that has a chief. So every Wednesday, they always tell us not to work at the office, because it's going to be a holiday routine. So that is going on. So after the late '47, Captain Kenny called the meeting, and announced that Tinian is a very nice place, and maybe you would be happy to go and see and stay there, because you are -- it belongs to the Marianas, and you not belongs to the Yap, because you're Chamorro. So there is -- since then, they decide. We come to Tinian. We go to Tinian and see if we like. So they come over here, maybe about a week or week and a half.

BP: Who came over here?

RF: Seventeen men. That's -- I forgot that.

AF: The boat then by naval vessel to (inaudible) survey them.

BP: Okay, to check out the island. Okay.

RF: But when we came back, it was good news. Let's go to Tinian, because it's a beautiful island, and the road is very nice, nice building, and everything is nice there. And it's lots of food over there. So the question is, how we go? So they said, you can get whatever you can carry, and you can bring to Tinian. And then they decide, because the people who come over here, they saw that there is no tall trees, no coconut trees, nothing, so they decide to bring everything. So that is why they bring from the (inaudible) chicken, goat, (laughter) pig, and cow. And then they bring quite amount of coconut for planting, and banana, and some other trees. So they load everything, and we came over here.

BP: Let me ask -- go back now. What part did the Yapese play in the decision to move the Chamorros from Yap (inaudible)?

RF: That's what I hear (inaudible). The Yapese wants the Chamorro to go out from Yap, because they want to stay for their own. It's a true story. Some Yapese really don't like the policemen long time ago, because they really -- police abused them, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

BP: The Japanese, or the Chamorro police under the Japanese?
No?

RF: Chamorro police abused the Yapese.

BP: Okay. Now this is during Japanese time?

RF: Japanese time.

AF: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

BP: Okay.

RF: And because at the time, we knew police, you can go to the village, and say, give me coconut, give me chicken, give me that. (laughter) So everything they -- that is the news I heard.

BP: Okay. Now one story I heard, too, was that, now, the Japanese had an official policy called proper place, where there was a hierarchy. There was the Japanese, Okinawans, Chamorros, then the Yapese. Is that correct? The Yapese were considered inferior to Chamorros?

RF: No, no. That is not -- Yapese has the proper place, because Yapese has pilung.

BP: Pilung?

RF: Pilung. Means key.

AF: Their chief.

BP: Chief. Okay.

RF: Their pilung. And then second class, third class, fifth class. So the chief always command --

AF: The other.

RF: -- the other low ranker.

BP: The younger rank. Okay. Were there Yapese police, too?

AF: There were Yapese police (inaudible).

RF: Yeah, but the Yapese not giving this -- what is this order to Chamorro or anybody, only among themselves the police.

BP: Okay. Okay. But the Chamorro police sometimes went to the village and took things.

RF: Us.

BP: Okay.

RF: And that is what they don't like. And also, they said that they're very -- what is this?

BP: Tradition?

RF: Something like that. And during the Japanese time, the system of allow for the Japanese, like, they're not allowed to drink liquor.

AF: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) alcohol.

BP: Right.

AF: In the barroom.

RF: So when the police asking one of their police, have you been drinking? Because I saw you. Said, no. Keep on denying it, and then they really hurt them.

BP: They beat them up?

RF: Beat them up.

AF: They punished them.

RF: Punished them, and also sometimes they get bamboo and put around here, make them sit down on the bamboo, and roll it. It's really --

BP: Painful.

RF: Painful.

AF: That is really, really pain.

BP: They put the bamboo --

RF: Over here.

BP: -- under their knees, and they make them squat on it.

AF: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RF: And sit on it.

AF: One on each side of (inaudible) go on top of it, and (inaudible).

RF: If you're still not saying what they're asking you, then they put you down like this, and they take -- what is this?

AF: A paddle board. You know, a big paddle.

RF: Paddle (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

AF: For the water. Open (inaudible).

BP: So they tie you on your back, and then --

RF: Yeah. They tie your hand --

BP: -- and it's a water torture.

RF: -- and your feet.

BP: And they force water in your (inaudible).

RF: Force water, and keep over here, so you can drown.

AF: So long as you said no, they will (inaudible) keep on, so one way out of that. Then you didn't commit it, but you have to say yes, so they'll have to stop.

BP: You have to confess.

AF: That's the only way.

BP: Yeah. The only way to stop the torture is to confess, even if you're innocent.

RF: It's very cruel. Not like today, that they just asking you question nicely, and everything. But a long time ago, it's not. And that is -- I think that is the law of that system.

BP: The Japanese system.

RF: Yes.

BP: Did they do that to Chamorros, too?

RF: If Chamorro --

AF: If you keep on lying, you know what I mean, they will.

RF: Yeah.

BP: Okay. So what are your earliest memories of living in Yap? I mean, you know, what sort of activities did you have?

RF: Oh, when we were young, nothing. We just go to school. Start in school at the age of 7, and then 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 years, you graduate from fifth grade. Then after that, nothing we can do. We just stay home, because the Japanese --

AF: If you want to go higher education, unless you go somewhere else, and you have to pay on your own (inaudible). But if you have to (inaudible), you're doing that. You couldn't get (inaudible).

BP: So did you have education beyond that, or no?

RF: No.

AF: No.

BP: Did you work at home, or did you help in the field, or --?

RF: Yes. I did work at home. I helped our parents (inaudible) because we have so -- I have 10 brothers and sisters.

BP: So there's 11 children in your family?

RF: Yeah. And then the mother is only sew a little bit for us only, not the business. And my father is going out (inaudible), when day like this, good weather, gets fees. But bad weather, one week bad weather, almost nothing to eat because they don't get (inaudible) to sell. So that is our life, long time ago. And only when our lives are better, I think I remember, just to swim in the -- what is this? In the --

BP: Lagoon?

RF: The ocean. Yeah.

BP: That was your main recreation?

RF: Yeah. That is the only one.

BP: Only recreation?

RF: Uh-huh.

BP: OK. Well, what do you remember most about going to school in those days?

RF: Going to school is nice because you like to learn. That is --

AF: The job is always there. There always is a job for anybody who wants to work.

BP: There's always a job there?

AF: The Japanese company is all work.

RF: Yeah, but a job that is only for men, not for women.

BP: Yeah, yeah. OK. How were your teachers? Do you remember anything special about your teachers when you were going to school?

RF: Yes. I have one very cruel teacher.

BP: Cruel teacher?

RF: Yeah. When I was -- third grade. (inaudible). His name is Canamori Sensei.

BP: How do spell that?

AF: (inaudible).

RF: Ca-- C-A.

BP: C-A.

RF: Cana-- N-A-M-O-R-I.

BP: Canamori.

RF: Canamori. Sensei means the teacher.

BP: And is that, like, a dash, and then Sensei?

RF: Sensei is teacher.

AF: Sensei means teacher.

BP: How do you spell Sensei?

RF: Sensei. S--

AF: S-E-N.

RF: S-E-I-S-E-N. (sic) Sensei.

AF: (inaudible) There's an I at the end.

BP: OK. I'll look it up later. OK. What was so special about Mr. Canamori?

RF: That sensei is very cruel, and it happened that I was the one helping, also, my auntie at the (inaudible). But (inaudible), like, a store and a restaurant. So I always late to school. I late to [ES?]. So he found that, and one day, he -- that only made me (inaudible) class.

BP: You skipped school?

RF: No, I don't skip. I went to school tardy.

BP: Tardy. Late. OK.

RF: Late. So he call us upfront. And I remember all of us (inaudible). I don't know how this happened to them, but me, it's from my auntie's place. And he saw that I'm wearing an earring. And he just go to [Verne?]. He says -

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AF: Slap (inaudible).

RF: Slap me hard. I just turn around two times and I can't hear. My nose is bing -- like that. And then, very soon, it's -- what is this? I feel a cold in here because it break my hole here.

BP: Your earlobe.

RF: Uh-huh.

AF: It (inaudible) bleeding.

RF: Bleeding. And since -- believe me, since that (inaudible) day I don't wear earring.

BP: Really? Because you were slapped?

RF: I was slapped and it hurt me.

BP: Is that the worst punishment you received?

RF: Yeah, it is.

BP: Was anybody ever hurt seriously because of --?

RF: Oh, yes. I think so, because when you do something, also, they slap your hand, but I didn't -- it didn't happen to me. Maybe I'm a s-- I'm a good girl. (laughs) But they --

AF: They slapped really hard (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

RF: The ruler, the ruler about this (inaudible). There's a p-- oh my god, there's a ping, ping, maybe five times.

BP: Was anybody ever permanently injured?

RF: Yes, sometimes.

BP: Oh, OK, because [Escolastica Cabrera?], over (inaudible), she remembers two students dying from beatings they

received by their teachers. Did you have difficulties in school like that?

AF: You know, when (inaudible) tennis shoes and (inaudible).
Yeah, and they're wondering, when you're late, where is you late, (inaudible).

RF: Yeah.

BP: Oh, like that.

AF: In the back of the classroom. And when you come down, they come over and bust your palm.

BP: They hit you on the --

AF: (inaudible). Once you learn (inaudible), they keep watching you.

RF: Sitting on the chair and watching you.

BP: Really?

AF: (inaudible)

RF: Not all the Japanese teacher is cruel like that. Some --

AF: Some are really nice.

RF: -- are really nice to -- but my (inaudible) but this isn't, remember -- only Teacher Kanamori is the worst one.

BP: And that's spelled with a C, not a K?

RF: Mm-hmm, C -- yeah, K.

BP: K.

AF: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RF: Ka.

BP: Kanamori.

RF: Ka-na-mo-ri. Sensei.

AF: (inaudible)

BP: Sensei. Okay. After you graduated school, what did -- do you remember anything special about your life after that, or was it mostly just routine housework?

RF: I liked to go and study more, but my family was so poor, uh-uh. And so, we couldn't afford. So, what I did when I reached 16-and-a-half, I married. Get married.

BP: Oh, you got married at 16?

RF: No, no -- my first husband.

BP: Oh. He died?

RF: He died during the war. He got accident by the bomb -- by the war.

AF: Dynamite.

BP: A dynamite or a bomb?

RF: Dynamite.

AF: Dynamite.

RF: Because he's working for the Navy department, and they going to have a party at the time. So, my husband and my cousin --

AF: And my brother, older brother.

RF: -- and his oldest brother, and another two -- two surgeons, Japanese surgeon, they went to fish, and they're fishing at the (inaudible), only dynamite.

BP: Fishing in the lagoon with dynamite.

AF: Mm-hmm.

RF: Dynamite, uh-huh.

BP: You would -- you (inaudible) what you caught.

RF: So, when they go, they saw the -- this, they just -- they saw the big airplane, they called it, maybe, the --

BP: Between the war?

RF: (inaudible)

BP: Mama?

RF: So, they just throw the dynamite and run away and they don't catch anything. So, they went back and report that we don't have a lot. So, the -- their boss in that department --

AF: (inaudible) and I'll show you how.

RF: -- says, "Let's go back and I'll show you how to fish."
But --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: But his brother and my husband go with that -- these three Japanese male. My cousin didn't go, because he was sleeping, and they wake him up and he couldn't wake up.

So, they went. So, on the boat, he was hiding the -- what is this, fits in the dynamite?

BP: Fuse? The fuse?

RF: He was fixing, because that's the way they doing fixing. And then, when he put the fire, everybody says, "Throw, throw, because you going to get the accident. Accident, accident." He says, "It's okay, you don't know, I know what I'm doing." (inaudible) boom, like --

AF: (inaudible) exploded.

BP: How many people were killed?

RF: Two people. Him got killed, his stomach is -- everything go out.

BP: Your stomach -- your husband?

RF: No, no, no.

BP: The Japanese?

RF: The Japanese.

AF: (inaudible)

BP: The Japanese are the one who was doing it.

RF: Yeah, yeah --

AF: Yeah, he's the one who (inaudible). And then, on his (inaudible) exploded.

RF: So, only my husband and the other one didn't die right away. But later, my husband die after five days. Because

from here -- from here, it's all wounded down here, all.
And it's about this big. So, five days, five days he died.

BP: And what was his name?

RF: Felipe. Felipe Aquino.

BP: Aquino. Aquino. Was he Filipino or Chamorro?

RF: I think he's Portuguese. His father was Portuguese.

BP: Ah, okay. And did you have any children then?

RF: Yeah, it's her, the one who's sitting there, and one is married already.

BP: So, you got married when you were 16, and --

RF: Yes.

BP: -- did you just want to get out of the house, or -- or you were --

RF: No. He asked my father if he could talk to me and marry him, because that's the custom of Chamorro before. Even today, but they don't follow it. Yeah. The Chamorro custom is when you intend one of the girl to befriend or to marry, you have to ask permission the parents, and they make you sit down and talk to you. That is the --

BP: And then you married Alfred?

RF: Yes.

BP: How long did you marry Alfred?

RF: Oh, after five years of widow. Then I married him here.

BP: Oh, and -- when he came in town. I see.

RF: In 1949.

BP: Okay. So, your husband was killed in what year? This was during the war, must've been '43, '44?

RF: Forty-four.

BP: Nineteen-forty-four, then. Okay. Well, what else do you remember about those years, then, after you graduated from school? Anything special, any events that happened?

RF: For -- I don't -- I always only helped my mother and my father. And at that time, we used to go in the (inaudible) and I don't know how to say that (inaudible). We -- there's a kind of tree in Yap, and we caught it and we make -- because the Japanese need that to make rope. So, that's the thing --

BP: So, you did that to make money by selling --

RF: Yeah, to make money. It's good money, because you sell -- I think it's good money (inaudible).

BP: Anything else you remember much about those --

RF: And, also, I helped my father collecting coconut and then -
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BP: Make [copra?]?

RF: Made copra.

BP: That must've been very hard work.

RF: It is. And, also, I helped my mother, going to the farm. And work on the [barro?] pots.

BP: Is there anything special you remember about your father, even today? Anything he said, or anything special about your father and your mother?

RF: Nothing much. Because we don't have much time. Because he go fishing nighttime, sometimes daytime, or sometimes my father can make a boat to get -- he can build a boat. And he know how to sew the sail of this -- sail?

BP: Make a sail. Okay. And your mother? How about your mother?

RF: My mother can do anything. My mother can sew the suit of man, and pants. And he can -- she can cook good. And she's attending all of us kids.

BP: So, do you remember her -- anything special she said to you when you were growing up, or anything remarkable that you still remember about her?

RF: You know, my mother was very busy woman. Because we were small, and everything we -- we cook with the fire. We had to go and then cut the fire, bring inside, and then she don't have time to sit down and talk to us and tell us something.

BP: I hear that -- I hear that from a lot of people that -- in those days. Their parents worked very hard and they were so busy --

RF: It is -- and they have to wash by their hand, and they have to see me when I -- after school, I used to stay with my brother and sister (inaudible). So, she go to the farm and clean and clean the barro pots and bring some food for us.

BP: So, did you live in Colonia, or --

RF: Yes, Colonia.

BP: But you had a farm outside.

RF: Yes, farm outside the Colonia. We used to ride in bamboo -
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BP: Barge?

RF: Barge.

BP: Oh, so, you went by water everyplace.

RF: Yes.

BP: Oh, okay. Was anybody in your family married to a Japanese?

RF: Yes, my auntie. That's the one -- she owns a club in [Nyet?].

BP: She still owns a club in Nyet?

RF: No, no. She died a long time ago, after the war.

BP: But she had a restaurant, or a nightclub, or something there?

RF: Yes. She had a nightclub and then a restaurant. That club is -- that restaurant is only special for the --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: -- Japanese employee --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: -- government employee (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

AF: And they're all natives in that club.

BP: Did they have women there?

RF: No.

BP: No, just the restaurant.

AF: (inaudible)

RF: Just the restaurant. Just --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: I'm very small, like, this age. I think I start when I was eight years old, serving the food inside. And I don't know how to talk, so they just put the food and then I serve. And then, when they finish, I take (inaudible) --

BP: Oh, so, you helped your aunt?

RF: I helped them. I helped my auntie, but they don't pay me. Only -- because we were very poor, and maybe she's trying to get money, too. So, whatever left over from the food is given to us. We are very happy to -- because we ate good food.

BP: Okay. So, how were the -- as customers, how were you treated by the Japanese?

RF: Nothing. They just -- they're almost not talking to me. You know, one thing in this Japanese, they really respect.

During the Japanese time, all my 24 years in Yap, I don't hear anybody rip a little girl, or -- you going around --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: No. Especially that during the wartime, we living in the jungle. You can walk, maybe, one hour or two hours away from the other people. You met so many soldiers, they won't do anything to you. They are very respectful people.

BP: They're very respectful. Except for your teacher.

RF: Except for my teacher.

BP: Now, you had an auntie, though, who was married to a Japanese. What did -- what was her husband's name, do you remember?

RF: Ssissido.

BP: Ssissido. How do you spell that?

RF: S-I-- S-I-- S-S-I-S-S-I-D-O.

BP: S-I-S-S?

RF: Sissido. Yeah, you're right. Maybe I can write.

BP: (inaudible) Okay, what did he do in Yap? What sort of position did he have?

AF: (inaudible)

RF: Before they start a business, he was producing copra.

BP: Oh, so he's -- the -- this Japanese was married to your auntie who had the restaurant?

RF: Yes. Yeah. But they don't have restaurant yet. They were working on copra, (inaudible) copra.

BP: Was he from Okinawa or Japan?

RF: No, from Japan.

BP: Oh, he's a very poor man, I assume, if he's --

RF: Yeah, maybe. But then I don't know how it comes that he run the clock. Because that is a government clock. So, I don't know how it -- how he run the clock, and he write the Japanese newspaper, too. At the same time. That is at night, his job at night. And daytime, he cook for the government (inaudible) personnel.

BP: So, he was a publisher of a Japanese newspaper?

RF: Yes.

BP: Very busy fellow.

RF: Yes, yes.

BP: Now, did he survive the war?

RF: Yes. And he went back -- his granddad -- my auntie (inaudible) and one uncle.

BP: So, they never saw each other again?

RF: Never saw one -- when he left, he never come back. But they both die horribly, we know.

BP: Okay, okay. The -- how -- when did your auntie die?

RF: He die in Guam for heart attack.

BP: Oh, she died of a -- and what year was that?

RF: I forgot. Maybe already 35 years ago.

BP: And they never saw each other again after that.

RF: No, no.

BP: What was your auntie's name?

RF: [Anna?]. Anna [Concepcion?] (inaudible). My father's sister.

BP: Okay. Was anybody in your family married to any other nationality? Korean, or --

RF: No.

BP: Okay.

RF: That -- my auntie married, first, to one Chinese.

BP: She was married to a Chinese.

RF: One Chinese.

BP: What happened to him?

RF: He die.

BP: From disease or something? Illness?

RF: I think so.

BP: On Yap.

RF: On Yap.

BP: So, there were Chinese on Yap, too?

RF: This -- this story -- that Chinese is a helper of a cook --

AF: (inaudible) island.

RF: [Andor?] island.

AF: On the Gulf.

RF: And then, his boss, Chinese, kill his boss and uncle.

BP: The Chinese who was married to your aunt killed his boss?

RF: No, no.

AF: No.

RF: He -- the --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: -- my uncle, my uncle's boss kill his higher boss. Because my uncle is only helping in cooking. So, that Chinese who kill his boss call my uncle --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: -- that's why he was, yeah, come over here. You hold this axe. And this was shake it like this. Says, no, don't shake, I want you to axe his head --

AF: Or you're going to get it.

RF: -- or you're going to get the same thing, what I did to him.

AF: (inaudible)

RF: So, he did the same thing. That's why they sent him to Yap, to -- as a prisoner and to be die in Yap.

AF: That was under the German --

RF: German rule.

BP: That was German time.

AF: That was German time.

RF: But when the German lost the war, he survived. So, after he survived, he married my auntie.

BP: So, he was supposed to be executed by the Germans?

RF: Supposed to be.

AF: (inaudible)

RF: Because German time, you kill somebody, no question, you going to be killed, at the time.

BP: And then he died --

RF: And then he died.

AF: (inaudible)

RF: Then he died, my uncle died, because he married my auntie. And then, what is this? When he die, he met this Japanese.

BP: Now, what did he die from? The Chinese?

RF: The -- I'm too small. I don't know what kind of sickness.

BP: I could hear sick (inaudible).

RF: Was sick. And then, he met this Japanese. And they were buying copra in [Villasenyam?]. So, I don't know how it happen that he -- they -- he's working for the club, writing a newspaper, publishing in nighttime. And daytime, they cook. So, at the time, I think one (inaudible) men helping him and two --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: -- two girl, two girl and myself. But then, they're always working in the kitchen, washing everything, cooking. And

me, all this time, under, because it's going up like this and always under. They give me the food, and I'll serve them. Just the serving.

BP: Okay. Now, when I was talking to Marian and Androsina, they said, during the war, that there was either a Japanese admiral, or some Japanese high-ranking officer, who many people suspected of being a spy.

RF: It is. He can tell you, because I don't have much.

AF: I think so. Because the only person in (inaudible) and the one I met.

BP: You met him?

AF: I met him. Was too loud?

BP: No, talk louder. That's all right.

AF: But around (inaudible) time I was working for Japanese army headquarter.

BP: As what?

AF: As transport and distribution of maritime supply. So, one morning, we had to wake up early morning to take our vessel in the field.

BP: The vessel -- a boat.

AF: A boat. So, early morning, waking up, and I had to go (inaudible) I had any breakfast. So, when I walked down, when I crossed the river (inaudible) I saw the admiral's --

BP: Was he an admiral?

AF: A general, of --

BP: He was a general. Was he Army or Navy?

AF: Army. He was waiting in pajama. You have a fishing boat. But six feet long (inaudible) river. How this man can get anything in this shallow water. So, as (inaudible) holding the pajamas, into the stream, (inaudible) He said, "You can't go fishing anyway," when I (inaudible) I salute him, I (inaudible) smile at me. So, following month, on full moon -- full moon, we have to ride on the vessel that we work on and get all the rest of the lower (inaudible) with it together, because he is the higher. Went into boat, go out fishing in the water. So, the only lady were on board with myself and my friend, [Ben Pangolina?]. He's in Guam now. He was the engineer (inaudible) I was the coxswain on the boat. So, I let another guy to hold the ladder for me. I went to the back and back again. Some other time, the officers, the German, walking to the stern. And we got a piece of paper to just write a note. But what he wrote, I didn't see it, but my friend Ben saw it. And what he wrote is not Japanese, because you cannot write Japanese letter like (inaudible) continue. You (inaudible) time. You cannot go or look at somebody was doing, because you might get punished. So, we just look around (inaudible) but the way he read, he wrote it to have an empty wishgiver that he

(inaudible) and plug it up, and (overlapping dialogue;
inaudible) --

BP: Now, was he aware that people might be watching him?

AF: Nobody.

BP: But you saw that he was writing, not in Japanese --

AF: No. But my friend, Ben (inaudible), saw it.

BP: He saw that?

AF: He saw it, but not in Japanese (inaudible).

BP: Okay. Now, Androsina was saying, though, too, that when they did their laundry -- this is during the war -- now, what year was this that you were out on the boat with him?

AF: That was from the beginning, when the Chinese came to me. I was working for (inaudible) until --

BP: No, but when you went -- when this general stuck the letter in the bottle, was this the -- was the bombing started already in Yap?

RF: Oh, yes.

AF: Oh, yes. I (inaudible) every day.

BP: Okay. So, now, they said, when they did their laundry, they would hang it under trees so the planes couldn't see it. But this general, he would hang his laundry on the roof for the house, where everyone could see it. He said, when the war was over, he was the first person to leave the island?

RF: He was.

BP: Do you know this general's name? What was his name?

AF: We only called General [Heicho Lajol?]. We don't call him the name, you know, (inaudible)

BP: Okay. So, that was all you know, was his name was --

AF: Heicho.

BP: How do you spell that?

AF: Heicho, it's (inaudible) --

BP: But how would you spell that? Was that mean rank?

RF: Yes.

BP: That's his rank, Heicho?

RF: Heicho is like a -- a (inaudible) --

AF: Just like when we call a general. Heicho was a lieutenant general, or --

BP: But you don't remember his name.

AF: No (inaudible).

BP: Okay. Do you remember anything else about him?

AF: (inaudible) what?

BP: Do you remember anything else about him?

AF: The only way, and -- I didn't see it, but some of the native Yap people, native on Yap, every time when there was a US plane coming over from bombing, he walk up to the field in white pajamas.

BP: In white pajamas?

AF: White pajamas.

BP: Why was a general running around in pajamas? Was he crazy,
or --

RF: Maybe he's a spy.

BP: That was the way the planes would identify him --

AF: No, they don't really have commentate, (inaudible) that
they -- when they drop in -- because the wind is coming
from east. And we went from the south and in west and went
fishing. And that, the current, and the wind would pull us
to the (inaudible).

BP: Out to see.

AF: And that somebody's going to pay for that. Because
(inaudible) something on the -- when we was fishing.

BP: Well, my question is -- and if the Yapese and the Chamorro
suspected this Japanese general of being a spy, didn't the
Japanese suspect him?

RF: No, I don't think so.

AF: No, nobody. He was lucky.

BP: Okay. But when the American planes would come over, he
would go up to the top of a building --

AF: (inaudible)

BP: -- in a pair of white pajamas.

AF: He would while wearing white pajama. But nobody pay
attention, because he was higher than when they joined

(inaudible). So, what happened, that -- one week until they clear the waters, there's stop -- not -- war over. That's all we know. Some people, lucky people, saw it. (inaudible)

BP: Saw the what?

AF: The admiral -- I mean general. The general. They transfer him to Colonia (inaudible), where there is cheap, where the harbor are.

RF: (inaudible)

AF: That's all we know. That somebody from the higher-ranking people in Colonia. And one night, they saw two officer and three sailor with them, (inaudible) with all the guns (inaudible) --

BP: These are Americans?

AF: Americans. (inaudible) come ashore with already the right (inaudible) in the harbor. And they saw this because walking through the harbor, but even that (inaudible) they just -- because first time they saw him, (inaudible). They (inaudible) so what time they went back. But so, for the next morning, these rumors are -- the merchant was Chinese and doesn't hide it (inaudible) and picked up the general. Nine o'clock, he used to wake up about eight, (inaudible) had breakfast. Nine clock, he do come out from the door, the general. Nine-thirty, (inaudible) he did (inaudible)

when they went in, the (inaudible) Japanese (inaudible) hanging.

BP: The what was?

AF: (inaudible) but he was not there anymore.

BP: His uniforms were hanging in the house, but he was gone. So, they think he went after the ship.

AF: (inaudible)

RF: (inaudible)

AF: (inaudible) that means someone saved the people. Because during the war, the Japanese dig the big mountain, they dig a hole. The purpose, they said, "That means when the Americans come in, everybody going to go in (inaudible)." The reason they dig the hole because they going to put all the enemy and kill them. So that they will have an (inaudible).

BP: Okay. So, that was a rumor, in other words. The rumor was that they dug this tunnel in the mountain, and they were going to take the Yapese and Chamorros and put them in there and kill them.

RF: Yes.

BP: Okay. Because that's where -- that's -- now, but that's -- I heard this from Androsina and Marian. But that was a rumor. Nobody can really confirm that's what was going to happen?

RF: Maybe that is true. Because every time the (inaudible) Guam come, it's -- they draw a, what is this?

AF: (inaudible) when they completed, done with the tunnel (inaudible) --

BP: The Japanese.

AF: (inaudible) then they start another one again. Not only one. Every time it was complete, vamos.

BP: Now, okay. So, every time they dug a tunnel, then -- was this a naval shell from a ship that hit there? In other words, they evidently completed this tunnel, where they were going to kill the natives, then a bomb or a shell would hit the tunnel and destroy it.

RF: No, that's an airplane -- from an airplane.

AF: That's not from the (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

BP: That's very accurate bombing for those days, to hit the entrance of the tunnel. Now, this was in the side of a mountain like this?

RF: Yeah. And they cannot see, because the Yap (inaudible) --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: -- very, very big (inaudible) --

BP: But every time they dug a tunnel, the bombs would destroy it.

RF: Right straight.

BP: And so, your thing, the theory is that the general would tell the Americans --

AF: Lead them on.

BP: -- and then they would --

RF: Because it's the one, I guess, they in killing the natives. Because they told the Navy -- because there's a navy and a army, and he's the army. And the navy department is the -- high-ranking is higher than the army. But the navy wants to kill the native so they can have enough supply. But the army said, "No, we don't want that. Let them plant for us."

AF: (inaudible)

BP: And we'll what?

AF: Let the native plant for us, enough supply, and we will pay (inaudible). So, the army want to pay. (inaudible) have them plant. (inaudible) So, don't kill them.

BP: So, the army's philosophy is, let the natives plant food for us, so we'll have energy to fight the enemy when they land. And the navy said -- their strategy was kill the natives so we'll have more to eat.

AF: (inaudible) lucky thing, though. The army general was -- he was a higher rank than the naval officer. I mean, the -- the general. (inaudible)

BP: I thought you said the navy officer was higher-ranking than the general.

RF: Right.

AF: No, no, no, no.

RF: It is.

AF: No, no.

RF: That's why we didn't --

AF: The general of the army general is higher than the navy. That's why he (inaudible) the navy.

RF: I thought the navy --

AF: Because in Japanese, when you were a higher-ranking, you always have the command, you're the command. (inaudible)

BP: So, it was this general who you think was a spy. He was the one who was responsible for that policy that declared the natives will plant and (inaudible).

AF: (inaudible)

BP: Okay, that's very interesting, okay.

RF: And at the time, anybody who saw something funny, they cannot talk. Because if you talk, (inaudible) mistake, you're going to be killed. That's why everybody is --

BP: Very quiet.

AF: So, we believe this true, that they must be spy, because somewhere around 1942, they suspect that maybe the American is going to invade Japan. So, I was here to go with Ben,

because Ben (inaudible) we have a friend of one of the white Russians in Yap.

BP: There's white Russians on Yap?

RF: Yeah, civilians.

BP: How did they get there?

AF: They -- (inaudible) white was to get them (inaudible) and (inaudible) from Russia --

RF: They run away from the --

AF: -- from the 1919 --

BP: Nineteen-nineteen, 1920 --

RF: -- nineteen-twenty-four, '22.

AF: They run from there, to China, and China, Hong Kong. And then they -- into Japan. And (inaudible).

BP: So, how many white Russians were on Yap?

AF: One family.

RF: One family.

BP: One whole family. Do you remember their names?

RF: Yes.

AF: (inaudible)

RF: The father is [Strychinov?].

BP: [Cherkinov?]?

RF: [Drekinov?].

AF: [Alexander?].

RF: Alexander [Trytinov?].

BP: Alexander.

RF: And the mother is [Augusta?].

BP: Augusta.

RF: Alexander, Augusta.

BP: Augusta. How do you spell the last name? Drekinov?

RF: No --

AF: (inaudible)

BP: T-R-E-K-N-O-F-F?

AF: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) Always Russia have an N
and (inaudible) or something.

BP: So, did they survive the war?

RF: Yes, and then the first -- what is this? Oldest daughter
is [Louisa?].

BP: Louisa. Now, where do they live?

AF: [Lucia?].

RF: No, they die.

BP: All of them died?

RF: No, only the -- the son is still alive, in Yap.

BP: The family speaks -- does he speak English?

RF: Yeah (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

AF: Oh, yes, he's big.

RF: -- you go and see him. And just remember --

BP: What's his name?

AF: [Alec?].

RF: Alec.

BP: Alex Treknoff. Would you have his phone number there?

RF: I don't have, but maybe --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: Who? This Yapese?

AF: The one who came here today (inaudible)

RF: Yeah. Somebody's going to Yap tomorrow, and I'm going to ask him to get the -- this is the telephone number from Alex.

BP: Okay. How long will he be in Yap?

RF: I don't know. Because he's going to get that piece of (inaudible) for a wedding party. He's working in [Xaipin?]. This is one of my nephew. It reminds me that -
-

BP: Okay, now, what were you going to say about this white Russian?

AF: (inaudible) because my friend, Ben (inaudible), had a girlfriend, Louisa, the name of the oldest daughter. And, also, the sister also had a Japanese soldier's (inaudible). And the soldiers, the Japanese soldiers, was Hawaiian-Japanese. Hawaiian.

BP: American. But how did he get into the Japanese army?

AF: Well, when we went to (inaudible) on vacation, the (inaudible) had drop into the Japanese army.

BP: Do you know his name?

AF: I don't know his name. But he's an American. (inaudible)
Japanese --

RF: Only the face is Japanese. But the way he talk is
American.

AF: Seemed like going one-three or something. Anyway, Alex let
it be known you can marry her. And he was a corpsman.

RF: During the (inaudible) --

AF: Japanese. Used to go from one (inaudible) Japanese, you
know, have their corpsmen. (inaudible) Japanese
(inaudible) very, very strict. I always (inaudible)
because that's an order

BP: You always had what?

AF: A shot. Kill.

RF: He'll kill himself.

BP: Oh, he's going to kill himself.

AF: No --

RF: It's the order of Japanese.

AF: -- to kill the native. Because American --

RF: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AF: -- going to (inaudible).

BP: So, he gives injections to all the natives to kill them?

RF: No. That's what the order (inaudible) --

AF: From Japanese (inaudible) --

RF: -- injection to kill the natives.

AF: The natives. Give them shot.

RF: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

BP: That's what he said. He said that he had orders from a higher-up to give injections to the natives.

AF: Oh, that's right, that's right.

BP: Okay.

AF: Whoever (inaudible) that he might be, you know, know to (inaudible) how -- this big American, who was, you know -- you have suspect on there (inaudible) shot him. Marty said, "I'm not going to do that." (laughs)

BP: I'm not going to do that.

AF: And he's (inaudible) but I'm going to go out and get the water.

BP: Ah, his water --

AF: So --

BP: -- right, yeah.

RF: It's how I --

AF: (inaudible) he -- so -- and the -- and then the Japanese army were -- but his heart isn't hot --

BP: His heart is not --

AF: -- but he's not American.

BP: His heart was an American -- oh. So, this is really an interesting --

AF: Yeah.

BP: -- story. This is incredible, okay.

AF: (inaudible) Japan (inaudible).

BP: This is going to be wonderful. Yeah, I have to -- I'd like to go to -- yeah, before -- within a week or two, if I could, before my wife gets too close to delivery date.

We'll see. Okay. Were there any special health problems then? You said your mother died of tuberculosis.

RF: Yes.

BP: That was quite common then?

RF: At Japan?

BP: Yeah, and -- yeah.

RF: At the time of this, no medicine for tuberculosis.

BP: But did a lot of people have tuberculosis?

RF: Not, so, but the -- like, Chamorro is just in the house. But they told -- that -- to stay away from kids and separate orders -- spoon and --

AF: Yeah.

RF: -- orders -- the thing that she's using. But it appears they told them, they command them to build a house --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: -- away from the family, so not to contact it, because very -- but is this (inaudible) this is.

BP: Okay. When did you first learn that there was a war between United States and Japan?

RF: They announce, because before the war, we start -- I don't know what to say. They start teaching us how to protect and how to help -- how to protect yourself and how to help others when the bomb is coming.

BP: What did they tell you -- how did they tell you to protect yourself?

RF: When you see the airplane is coming, you have to hide. And when you see that they throw the -- a bomb --

AF: Yeah, we'll get a --

RF: -- on the house --

AF: -- blanket --

RF: -- and you'll get -- yeah, blanket, but --

AF: Get a blanket and make it wet and just --

RF: Yeah.

AF: (inaudible) on that (inaudible).

RF: Or when they throw a bomb -- that the house is burning, you have to get -- we have to get a bucket, and we line -- and so, bucket, bucket, bucket, like this, and put the fire out.

BP: Okay, okay. What did -- you know, so, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, they announced that to everybody?

RF: Oh, yes.

BP: They did, they announced it?

RF: (inaudible)

BP: Okay.

RF: No, no, no, they don't announce to us.

BP: They didn't.

RF: They don't announce.

BP: So, how did you find out?

RF: We don't know until the war is over.

BP: Oh, really? Okay. Okay. When --

AF: (inaudible)

BP: When did you suspect something was wrong? Didn't life start changing at one time? Did they start bringing in more Japanese soldiers at one time? Didn't you suspect --

RF: Oh, for the war?

BP: Yeah.

RF: Very -- because when we were practicing how to take care -- how to help somebody during the war -- what is this? They told us to -- that if the enemy's coming, you -- there's a sign (inaudible) a sign that they're going to ring the whistle.

BP: Okay, a siren, okay.

RF: A siren. When they ring that siren, everybody have to prepare and run. Don't stay in the buildings.

BP: Did they tell you what the Americans would do if they landed? Would they -- they tell you that they would be --

RF: Oh, it's a very scary -- you have to -- at the time, we have to run away from the American, because they're going to rape you, they're going to kill you, they're going to -- things like that.

BP: Okay. Now, when did -- did they first bomb you from the air? Or did they -- ships come in and shoot you with guns?

RF: Oh, no, first bombing from the air.

BP: Okay. Do you know when that was?

RF: That was -- is March 31st, 1944. I cannot forget, because you know why? I was carrying this daughter here, and it comes early in the morning, just about -- the light is -- we can -- we hear that, and we heard the sounds -- very -- a distance, the --

BP: (inaudible)

RF: -- far away, and very different sound to the Japanese airplane.

BP: Okay, so it was early morning, and you heard a distant sound that was different from Japanese planes.

RF: Different from Japanese. But we thought that it -- Japanese airplane. But when we hiding under the tree, it's coming slow, slow down, slow down, and then start the bomb.

And when it start the bomb, it's closer to us, because we can see the -- how you call that?

BP: Shock waves?

RF: Yes. And then, that's the time we just run into the river, because Yap Island has a very different river, and some (inaudible).

BP: Okay. Did any of the bombs land close to you?

RF: Not very close, but I -- you know, we are on -- high, and they bombing the [Colonia?].

BP: Colonia.

RF: And we are up here, so everything is coming to us. But we thought we're going to die, because we thought it's throwing on us. (laughs)

BP: Oh, the dirt and stuff was landing on you?

RF: No, did not.

BP: Okay. Did you see any American planes shot down?

RF: No, not --

BP: Did you hear about any American --

RF: No, because when they start -- keep on fighting like that, I -- we didn't stop. We keep on running in the -- what is this? River? Between -- keep on running in the river. We very -- we are very close to Colonia before, and we keep on running on that river until almost go to the other side of that -- of the island --

BP: Oh, wow.

RF: -- now, because we keep on running.

(break in audio?)

BP: Okay, so you were running, okay.

RF: Yeah, running until it's almost -- I think -- you know, whole day, we don't drink water, we don't eat, we don't feel to eat, we don't feel to -- even my four years old daughter -- my father is the one who carry because my stomach is so big, and --

BP: Oh, you were pregnant?

RF: Yeah, I was carrying [Carmen?], that's why --

BP: Oh, I see. When you said --

RF: I was deliver her on -- in the river.

BP: You delivered her --

RF: Yeah.

BP: -- in the river?

RF: Yeah, at that time, we were running, and then we reached the place that -- it's a -- we don't have anybody, and my father said, "Maybe this is the best place for us, because we can stretch up ourself, because it's kind of round and" -- and then, not too long, I feel the pain that I'm going to deliver a baby.

BP: Was she premature then?

RF: She's a good, healthy baby.

BP: No, I mean, was she nine months -- you were at the nine months --

RF: Yes, yes.

BP: Oh, okay.

RF: Nine months, yeah. And then, my mother said, "What we going to do? We are middle of the war, and we don't have anything to do." And then, my father -- "It's okay, I know how to do it."

BP: How to do what?

RF: How to cut the --

BP: Oh, the umbilical cord.

RF: Yeah.

BP: Okay.

RF: Because he start to cut a bamboo, you know? But then, this [Untalan?] family pass by, and my baby was crying, you know? And says, "Oh, my! Somebody's having a baby at this time? How full she is, and the baby," you know? "Better stop and find out who is the one." And then, my father said, "Do anybody -- has a scissor-snip?" And then somebody -- "Yes, I have!" So, that's the scissors they use.

BP: So, the Untaman family, what -- that was a -- Marion and --

RF: Yeah, that's her auntie.

BP: Okay, which --

RF: Her aunties.

BP: -- which one?

RF: I think [Tomasa?].

BP: Tomasa.

RF: Tomasa and her mother. And then, they give my father -- and he -- because my father-in-law has to do it and just got a -- when I was a small girl, my father and my mother moved to [Yulatee?] island.

BP: Okay.

RF: And my father supervising the [MBK?] store in Yulatee.

BP: Okay, so he wasn't a fisherman the whole time, then.

RF: Yeah, I forgot. I just remember now. So, he learned from the lady there how to cut that --

BP: Umbilical cord.

RF: Uh-huh, because the lady there is doing that. They just cut the bamboo, and bend it and get the sharp place, and then they push -- I don't know how to do it, but they just -- they push down two times and -- by the other side and the outside, and you cut the -- so, that's what happened to my baby. We had that night. (laughs)

BP: Okay, okay.

RF: Cut with the scissors, but the -- just was by hand, and (inaudible) nothing. (laughs)

BP: And what did you do after that? Did you go back to your farm, or --

RF: No, we stay there almost seven days.

BP: Seven days.

RF: Yeah, because long time ago, in Japanese time, when you deliver a baby, you're not supposed to walk long distance or -- but it's just jump a long distance like that, or deep, because you're going to get sick. So, we stay there until time for me that it's good to walk.

BP: How did you eat?

RF: We just drink the coconut --

BP: Milk.

RF: -- coconut juice, and I think, at the time, we have a little bit -- banana.

BP: That was enough to produce milk for the baby?

RF: Oh, yes.

BP: Okay. So, what -- the -- after seven days, what did you do?

RF: Then we went back to my father's farm.

BP: Okay.

RF: Close to the Colonia, but we couldn't go out there because it's already destroyed by the bomb -- Japanese --

BP: Okay.

RF: -- or the American bomb.

BP: Okay. Did you ever hear about any American planes being shot down?

RF: Oh, yes.

BP: You heard about that.

RF: Oh, I hear about it, and we move out from Colonia. We went to shelter in [Ulu?] -- we call it Ulu village. And then, the American bomb coming around, and is shot by the -- what is this?

BP: Anti-aircraft?

RF: No, no, no. I think shot -- because the place where we staying is kind of hilly, and they make -- there's a Japanese gun there.

BP: Yeah.

RF: And they shot there, and it's -- fall down a -- not too far from the place where we staying.

BP: Did the pilot get out?

RF: Yes.

BP: What happened to the pilot?

RF: Maybe the pilot -- one of the pilot die. I don't really remember, because, you know, at the time, my baby's too small. And I don't go around when something happen. I'm just hiding. (laughs) So, one pilot -- I know (inaudible) there. But one is -- they take to the quarters.

BP: And what happened to him?

RF: I don't know.

BP: Okay.

RF: Maybe -- I don't hear they killing Japanese -- they killing American (inaudible) they -- everybody -- because at the time, not too long after they bombing us, the ships still coming to Yap island, and then transport from -- some of the soldiers and some of the prisoner to Palau.

BP: Palau.

RF: Mm.

BP: Do you remember [Marianne and Anracine?] as Aunt Philomena?

RF: Yeah.

BP: She was married to a Filipino -- his name is [Konan Daros?], I think?

RF: [Konan Dara Agapito?].

BP: Agapito.

RF: Yeah.

BP: Now, do you remember what happened?

RF: Yeah. Only I hear that, that he was prisoner during the Japanese (inaudible) start the war. Prisoner. Put him in a prison in the Colonia. And then, when the bombing come, I don't know, maybe they put him in the (inaudible) where the mother-in-laws is that stay there. And then, there's a time for them to take them to Palau. The first I hear that -- the wife and the two kids is allowed to stay in Yap.

But they decide that the family -- whole -- the whole family have to go together in Palau. And whatever happening, it's together already.

BP: Yeah, yeah.

RF: So, they take them to Palau, and they put thing -- I hear that one of my brother-in-law, he was in Palau. And he telling us that his aunty is very suffer, because very small amount of food they giving them, because two children and man and wife. So, most of (inaudible) she did not eat, and she (inaudible) two kids, because the two kids maybe like this and this. And then, he went there to (inaudible) and asking his aunty to come with him, so can save her and the kids. And she said, "No, we follow what is my husband is going to do. So, we going to follow."

BP: What was your brother-in-law's name?

RF: [Alfonso Diaz?].

BP: Okay.

RF: And his mother -- his sister, too, [Wilomena?] --

BP: Okay.

RF: And then, he's -- was the -- he was telling us that, too, they make them dig their own hole.

BP: Okay.

RF: And, I don't know, they just got the -- I don't know who's first, but that's what happened.

BP: Yeah. I -- well, I have the -- a copy of the war crimes trial --

RF: Oh.

BP: -- with the names. [Baltazar?], Wilomena, Caroline with the children, Agapito, [Hondaharo?].

RF: Hondaharo.

BP: And it says here that they were taken into the jungle and then they were shot, evidently. But --

RF: Not in Yap.

BP: In Palau.

RF: In Palau.

BP: But then, you said, according to your brother-in-law, they were decapitated.

RF: Yeah.

BP: And here, it says they were shot (inaudible).

RF: So, I don't know.

BP: Okay.

RF: No.

(break in audio)

BP: All right. Let me see where I -- (break in audio) okay, so after you returned to your farm, what did you do to survive until the war was over?

RF: Oh, let me think of --

BP: Oh, sure. I'll put it on hold.

(break in audio)

RF: It happened to me that day when we heading down. We'd -- during the wartime, we don't walk on daytime. My father is always scared and my mother always scared. And my husband is not with us, and my two brother and my two sister -- because during the war, before they bomb the -- they throw bomb on Yap island, the schoolchildren -- only the first grade, they did not take. But up to second, all the way to fifth grade, they take the children, take them to the airstrip in -- west side of Yap island, and there's another one on north side. And all the strong men -- together, and they putting a stone in the basket and helping the -- what is this? The packing of the airstrip in Yap. So, during the (inaudible) 1944, on 31st, the children is on -- almost on the field when -- what is this? When the bombing come. So, the first (inaudible) that the son -- the -- about the -- what is this? The machinegun sound, everybody's run like this, just like an ant -- so, everybody look how they go, go, go to find their family. So, we didn't meet our family until more than one week.

BP: Oh, so these are younger brothers and sisters that you had --

RF: Yes, yes.

BP: Did they survive then?

RF: They survived. And my husband is not with us, too. So, we -- my mother -- only as I go with my father and my mother and my younger sister -- and my father is very scared, even my mother. So, we go at night. So, we're going to pass one white -- there -- what is this -- river. And only one or two -- two but not three is going on top of that like this to -- so --

BP: To make a bridge.

RF: Yeah. So, my father said, "Let us pass all and let Lia" -- because they call me Lia, nickname. "Let Lia and the baby stay behind until we all pass." And then, I wipe the baby with heavy blanket, and so it -- my father says, "Okay, now" -- and he cannot give me a light, because it's -- they're scared of the bombing of the American plane. So, as soon as the two step like that, the bomb go -- is fell down, and I was down 12 feet below.

BP: In the water?

RF: No, it's dry --

BP: Oh.

RF: -- on this -- under -- I was under a -- so, my father (inaudible) my father then tried to find me, where I am. I'm between the rock. But nothing wrong with the baby, because I did not let the baby go. I just holding. But I

think I was landing on the sand. So, the place where I'm landing, all black, all black, the whole body.

BP: Bruised.

RF: Bruised. I cannot walk. So, I stay for another five days in that place.

BP: In the riverbed?

RF: In the --

BP: With the baby?

RF: With the baby and everybody. My father used to go and get the coconut to -- for us to drink, because, yeah, coconut and the coconut that has a -- already grow, you can cut that and eat the inside.

BP: Oh, yeah. So, did you have any broken bones?

RF: No, I don't have -- I have no bone --

BP: Okay, and how did you find your younger siblings after that?

RF: They came --

BP: To the farm?

RF: Yeah, because we move away from that farm, and we go farther inside. So, this is what they did when they go and find some Chamorro, they ask --

BP: When they -- who's they?

RF: My sister and my brother and my husband, too. But they're not together. They just apart, like I said, and when the

bomb comes, it just -- everybody's -- look for what you -- going to hide. So, my sister came first, and we ask then, "How's everybody?" Says, "I don't know, maybe survive, because I don't hear that somebody died." "And where are they?" She says, "I don't know." Then, after we" -- then they come one-by-one, oh --

BP: So, no Chamorros were killed during the strafing and bombing of the airstrip?

RF: Oh, yes. I think two. Two or one. After the (inaudible) I think that one killed in -- about a year after the -- was -- so, in '45, '44. So, airlift '45, one got killed.

BP: One? Who?

RF: One Chamorro men --

BP: Do you know his name?

RF: -- because -- yeah [Guillermo -- Gizelmo -- Guillermo Cruz?]. He -- they were working on the -- there's a strait going to -- because Yap is divided into three island-- so, they were working on this one, because there's a -- what is this -- a river, then there's a -- what to call it?

BP: Bridge?

RF: Bridge, yeah. And then, it's very clear place. So, the bombs saw them, and they throw a bomb, and he lost his two leg. Then, the bleeding, and then he died.

BP: Okay. Now, when -- how soon after this was your first husband killed, after the bombing started? Your first husband was killed --

RF: I think four months only --

BP: Four months after --

RF: Yeah.

BP: -- the bombing, so --

RF: Yeah, because my daughter born in 1944, 1944 March. March, April, May, June, July, August. No, it's six months, because he die on -- September.

BP: September '44.

RF: Uh-huh.

BP: Okay. Okay.

RF: September 20, '44 -- 28.

BP: Okay. So, then the whole family was back together again.

RF: Back together, yeah.

BP: But deeper in the mountains.

RF: Deeper in the mountains. So, deeper in mountain, we survive on -- now, this is -- whatever we can collect from -- because in Yap, there is a big nut tree, like this big one. And you open that, it's a big nut inside, and it's little bit like this. So, that's the one we were -- and eat with the coconut.

BP: You lived basically on just --

RF: Yeah.

BP: -- local foods --

RF: Yes.

BP: -- during that time. Okay. Did -- any babies born during that time? Did they die as a result of malnutrition or anything?

RF: I don't think so, because we believe that when you're eating coconut, drinking coconut juice, and you eat something like a taro, whatever, it's very good for the body. We proved that, because Japanese -- those Japanese that -- they were -- before the war, they're very -- look skinny. But after the war, it's -- become husky.

BP: Husky, okay. Did you -- during this time, did you have any special problems with Japanese soldiers and --

RF: No.

BP: Okay.

RF: -- I don't have --

BP: No special --

RF: I don't hear anybody have a problem with Japanese.

BP: Okay, now did you hear about any more -- did you get any more information or did you hear anybody talk about Americans being captured? You know, or some planes being shot down or any other -- 'cause there were a number of pilots captured --

RF: Yeah.

BP: -- and they were --

RF: Well, no.

BP: -- executed.

RF: But I don't think they execute them in Yap.

BP: Oh.

RF: They take them all to Palau.

BP: Okay.

RF: Because the boat, the -- not very big boat. Not ship -- still going to Palau.

BP: Okay. Okay, so then you stayed deep in the jungle, in the mountains until the war was over?

RF: Yes, until the war is over. And during the time we stay in the jungle, we healthy, because we're moving and we're eating good. But everybody -- not everybody, but most every family -- maybe -- like, us, we are 10 family. But five of the kids has the -- I don't know what kind of disease. It's a -- some kind of a --

BP: Skin disease?

RF: Yeah, and it's --

BP: [Yoz?]?

RF: -- very ugly. Yellow and all like this on your mouth and your feet and --

BP: Oh, is your skin kind of wrinkled?

RF: Yes.

BP: Oh, it might be a vitamin deficiency. I can't remember what -- I --

RF: And especially on your mouth here. It's coming like this, and it's getting all like this? And yellow. And it's dripping some kind of a --

BP: Oh, liquid?

RF: Yes.

BP: Is the skin broken?

RF: Yeah, broken.

BP: It might be yoz.

RF: Oh.

BP: Might be yoz. Did you have trouble with your teeth getting loose?

RF: No.

BP: Okay.

RF: No.

BP: You might have had yoz.

RF: And -- but this is mostly -- everybody have that, especially when you strong and no open skin, it's good. But we -- as soon as you have open skin, you going to get it. And then, right after the war, the -- what is this? The American doctor come and check on us, so the first thing he give to us, penicillin -- who have that kind of

sickness, because some kids, you can see them all over here and all here. And so, only one time, they shot them in -- penicillin, you can see the next day is dry. So, maybe three times penicillin, no more. Okay, and then finish, now they call us again and give us -- what is this Ascaris medicine.

BP: A what?

RF: Ascaris, the worm.

BP: Oh, oh, oh, for worms.

RF: Ascaris, for worms.

BP: Okay, so everybody had worms, okay.

RF: Yeah. Everybody have plenty worm, I believe because at the time, I was working -- the kids, you know -- the military base, and -- at the kitchen. And the rest room is on the sea, go like this. But they put -- this is a screen all around so that everything will not split. Every time when I go there, plenty worm in there. (laughs) Right? It's -- but it's going to die, because it cannot go out --

BP: Yeah.

RF: -- and it's a big one like this, and it's bigger than this one.

BP: Wow.

RF: Yeah.

BP: Wow. (laughter) Everybody had worms, huh?

RF: Uh-huh.

BP: Okay, so when did you know the fighting was over and it was safe to leave the jungle?

RF: Oh, the Japanese knows that before us, because every time when a plane is coming, there's no whistle anymore. No siren now when we're in jungle. When we hear the plane, everybody's hiding, as to -- but the Japanese, they just walk to see what happened to them. And then, one day, we saw a piece of paper is coming down.

BP: Leaflets.

RF: Oh, but we cannot read English. (laughs) We don't know what's happened -- happening. So, it goes like this for a week and a half, and then we hear -- because my brother -- working with my husband, in the same direction, they have a boat. So, my brother -- what is this (inaudible).

F: (inaudible)

RF: (inaudible) because everything -- we cannot talk loud, because we were so scared of the Japanese, because they always warn us, "What do you know? What do you see? You don't talk," you know?

BP: The Japanese would tell you that?

RF: Yeah.

BP: Don't ever talk about anything you see or anything --

RF: Yeah, and said -- my brother said, "Maybe the war is over, because tomorrow, we're going to take our (inaudible) to the ship. We're going to dock. So, probably, it's going to be the war is over." And my father is very -- scaring on the Japanese, too, because my father just like an English man. He say (inaudible) and has one tattoo, flag here, but only flag -- without any mark. So, he always hide, because if they know you -- that you favor Japanese - - I mean, the American, you're going to be dead.

BP: They kill you.

RF: Yeah, my --

BP: Did that happen to anybody you know?

RF: In Yap island?

BP: Mm-hmm.

RF: No, because they don't talk. Mr. [Hofschneider?] is a very good man. We cannot -- up to today, we always say that -- because he's the only one person who knows who is -- our -- is this who is my father-in-law, that's he's (inaudible)

BP: Oh, now -- Henry Hofschneider.

RF: Yeah, Henry Hofschneider, because he's a German, and the World War II is the German and Japanese are friend. And [Scottis?] is not friend.

BP: Right.

RF: So, he don't open his mouth, so -- but that's why my father-in-law also always hiding in -- under the mosquito net.

BP: He didn't want the Japanese to see him.

RF: He don't want to see -- because he's -- knows he can -- he even -- he don't talk, but he -- when his -- we -- and they saw his face -- because he's not like my husband. He has a very tall nose, and the eyes -- so you know that he's a -- English man.

BP: Yes. Okay. So, okay, what hap-- the -- so, then you finally came out of the jungle when you realized the war was over?

RF: Yes, because -- and then, they surprised us one day. Maybe almost 100 American come to the jungle where we stay, and now we are able to -- this -- what is this -- Fleming family. So, everybody go there.

BP: You were next to the Fleming family?

RF: Yeah, we were neighbors. Neighbors.

BP: Neighbors, oh, okay.

RF: Yeah.

BP: And so, the -- they actually, the Marines came out in the jungle --

RF: Yeah.

BP: -- looking for you.

RF: Yeah, went looking for me, to -- searching for -- maybe the Hofschneider and the Flemings.

BP: Oh, okay. And so, you saw them, and then what was your first --

RF: Oh --

BP: -- reaction?

RF: -- we are so happy. This is -- oh, we are safe now!

BP: You weren't afraid of the men?

RF: No, no, we're not afraid.

BP: Oh, 'cause the Japanese told you they would kill you and --

RF: Yeah, that's what they -- that's what they said, they'll kill us. But because they're so friendly -- when you see people who -- friendly people come (inaudible) even wartime, if they're friendly to you, then you not going to be afraid.

BP: Oh, okay. So, what did they -- did they give you food or something when they first saw you? What did -- what happened?

RF: Oh, they bring -- what is this? Chewing gum and drinks and some -- like that.

BP: Were there any problems at all with American troops on Yap? Did they cause any problems at all there --

RF: I don't think so.

BP: -- maybe?

RF: I don't -- yeah.

BP: Okay. You said some of the Japanese officers committed suicide, yeah?

RF: Yes, the department where my husband and my father -- working, because after my husband -- that kill on the dynamite -- I stay with my father, with the same (inaudible) department, the navy department. So, the -- not the high-ranking -- maybe his --

BP: Subordinates?

RF: -- lieutenant, lieutenant officer. He commits suicide, yes.

BP: Yeah.

RF: He was sitting in his room, and kill himself.

BP: Okay, that's very interesting -- all right. So, then, the Americans stayed after that, I think, right?

RF: Yeah, they stay there.

BP: And then, you were there for, what, another two years, maybe? One year? Two years?

RF: Yeah (inaudible) because we left there in '48. So, another three, four years.

BP: So, you continued farming and fishing there, or how did you survive --

RF: Oh, the time when we were in Yap island, no. After the war, I just worked for the administration. We went there -

- and my sister-in-law -- just do cleaning. Cleaning the -
- inside the office and sometimes, they put me -- taught us
how to say everything English and how to write, because we
don't know how to write. We don't know how to read, since
after the war, yeah.

BP: Okay, so did you go to night classes to learn English, or -
-

RF: Yeah, I only had maybe three months night class, that's
all.

BP: Okay, and how were your relationship-- how was your
relationship with the Yapese at that time? Good, or --

RF: Good, because not only Chamorro is -- I work also in school
(inaudible) school. So, Chamorro and Yapese, the place
where we working together in the same department, we are
very good friend.

BP: All right. Okay. All right.

(break in audio)

RF: Okay? I believe that some of the Yapese don't like the
Chamorro, because they have this abuse -- that it's
happening during the Japanese time. Like -- because we had
-- when they took the land (inaudible) Cruz, one
(inaudible) who stay on the land, [Marian Aquino?] -- I
think five or six Chamorro policemen at the time -- and
maybe not -- there is no -- no, this is Yapese policeman.

So, these five is really doing maybe their job, because when you're working in that department, there's rules. So, you have to follow the rules. I cannot say that there are very -- that this -- there is some -- but this is his bad attitude, or he don't like the Yapese, no. They're working for the Japanese, so they're doing what is the rule of the Japanese, because if you don't follow, then you going to be fired. That's it.

BP: Okay. (break in audio) Were you at all unhappy about coming to Tinian, or would you say life was more difficult when you got here? Or was it better, or --

RF: No. I think I'm more happy when I'm here.

BP: You were happier.

RF: Because only the first six months is now so very difficult, because first time we come over here, we stay where the (inaudible) they build that place for the Japanese fishing company. The American build that for the Japanese to go out fishing and -- but when they decide for us to come there, then they just fix much better place, and that's the place they point us to stay.

BP: Okay.

RF: But when we come there, the house is too small. Maybe it's only 12 by 10. It's still small. Each house is 12 by 10, and one -- what is this -- community kitchen and one

community shower, and everything. And at the time, my father has 10 children, 11 children. Myself has two children, and myself, we were too big. So, we use two house. But we sleep like a sardine because it's too small.

BP: Yeah.

RF: Then, we went around on the island, and then we find that out there where the Navy quarters for -- it's a nice place. All Quonset hut and all futon inside, and everything is there. So, we decide to move up there, up on the hill. So, when we move up there, about Christmastime, yeah, maybe only six months we stay up there. The old people decide, too, to come down to the fishing village now. Why? Because they're -- everybody's coming only once a day, once a week, from Saipan. No communication. So, when you want to go to Saipan or you want to sit and (inaudible) you have to walk all the way down to the -- from there to --

BP: It's called an M-boat?

RF: M-boat.

BP: What was the M-boat? Mail?

RF: I don't -- no, M-boat, that's -- they call -- you know, this boat that -- going to Saipan in an -- SN-5 boat?

BP: SN-5?

RF: Uh-huh. That's the kind of boat we --

BP: SN-5.

RF: Okay, when you go on the pier, there is one boat on top.
It's a -- paint in orange, and no -- not -- no -- what is
this? A (inaudible) no --

BP: Superstructure?

RF: Oh, that's the kind of boat we --

BP: Oh.

RF: -- you see before.

BP: Okay.

RF: And no communication, so -- and also, we cannot leave
there, because we are -- island people, we have to go down
and fish. So, you go fishing, you walk down -- because, at
the time, is only two trucks that's working on the island.

BP: Oh, only two trucks.

RF: Yeah. So, if -- it's very, very hard to -- and then,
that's -- the time it comes, delivered -- happy when we
start -- stay down here, because we want to go fishing
(inaudible) but (inaudible) down the pier, my husband --
only to have a string or just a piece of wood and put -- is
it -- spear, just go and just spear the fish and bring it
home.

BP: Wow. Not like that anymore.

RF: No more. And it's a big fish, and good fish. And then,
about three years later, a school of mackerel coming in.
It's lots of -- lots of fish now. That's the time we look

for our fishing line and fish hook. And you can stay there and -- oh (inaudible) it's an (inaudible) fish that -- call it [iy-iy?]. It's very easy to catch.

BP: So, I understand, too -- somebody was telling me that the military left, like, a two-year supply of food and gasoline?

RF: I forgot. At the time, nobody buying gasoline. Nobody buying diesel, because everything is there. And I forgot to say that when we came over here, we go around, we see one huge (inaudible) Quonset. So, this Quonset is only for powders, like a flour, ice cream, and things like that.

BP: Ice cream?

RF: Yeah, ice cream. Ice cream powder.

BP: Oh, ice cream powder.

RF: Powder. And another one is the canned goods. Now, another one is -- and canned goods is all this -- military -- this -- military, this is sausage, like Spam, but it's a huge one, like this --

BP: Large cans of spam?

RF: Oh, and corned beef, the huge one, and -- what is this? Corned beef hash? And now (inaudible) for that? My husband also find one ice cream machine, and it's -- and then, he fix a little bit, and he start making ice cream

from the powder, from that -- those -- so, that is our beginning of starting business.

BP: Now, I understand, too, even in the early 1950s, there were still old B-59s parked up at North Field, is that true?

RF: Yes. But we don't know -- I don't know what happened, because when we come over here, early part -- like, in 1950, 'cause we come here in '48 -- and 1950, two different company come. One company collect all the aluminum, the North Field, and they burn it there and make it into a block.

BP: Block.

RF: And another company is buying the scrap metal. Start from late -- and bronze, and now is this -- yeah.

BP: Steel? Iron?

RF: No, then later on, that one. Another time, when they're doing that, every month is bear -- size of a boat -- a big bear come and load everything.

BP: A big what?

RF: A bear.

BP: Bear?

RF: Bear. A ship. Big cargo ship.

BP: Oh, big -- okay.

RF: They call it bear.

BP: Okay. Now what country were these people from who salvaged the metal?

RF: No, that is American.

BP: American company?

RF: American.

BP: Oh.

RF: And I understand one -- brothers -- I forgot the name. But this brother has a company -- so, maybe the one that -- melting the -- is this the] --

BP: Aluminum?

RF: -- aluminum, they got in trouble, because they rip off the chain -- you know, this -- because they assemble the bomb here.

BP: Oh.

RF: This is where they assemble the bomb.

BP: The atomic bomb, yeah.

RF: Atomic bomb. And you know the chains? Because they use that for going like this.

BP: The pulley?

RF: Uh-huh. So, they disassemble that and take it to Guam.

BP: For what reason?

RF: But because they don't have right to take that -- and because they -- we've been asking who took that, and nobody

knows. But then, we hear news that they caught these two brothers in Guam, that's when --

BP: Are they American?

RF: American. All the businessmen who come here (inaudible) is all American.

BP: Wasn't there somebody American who was a soldier here during the war? He started a cattle company or something here? A Jones or something like Jones?

RF: No.

BP: No?

RF: No.

BP: Thought there was an American who -- back in the 1950s, he had a -- some kind of big business, and --

RF: No, 1962, the Bar-K Ranch -- Bar-K Ranch, they start in 1962.

BP: Bar-K?

RF: Bar-K.

BP: Oh.

RF: Because Barbara and Ken. Barbara is name of Ken's own mother. Maybe you hear now this [Triple-J?]

BP: Triple-J.

RF: That's the family.

BP: Yeah.

RF: Because Triple-J is running by his brother, Bobby. Bobby.

BP: Okay, now what was the last name?

RF: Ken Jones.

BP: Oh, Jones.

RF: Jones.

BP: Ken Jones.

RF: Ken Jones. But they -- before the place is a Bar-K Ranch -
-

BP: Bar-K.

RF: -- because Bar -- the B is Barbara and K is Jones.

BP: K, oh --

RF: K.

BP: -- K is Ken.

RF: Yeah, Ken.

BP: And then, Barbara was his mother?

RF: Yes.

BP: And she was out here, too?

RF: No, he -- not here. And maybe they own some big land in
States, because this Mr. Jones is -- Seabees when they come
to here and Guam.

BP: Ah, he was a Seabee, yeah.

RF: And -- yeah, and then I -- he did not move -- he did not go
away from the island. He married one of the women in --
lady, and they start the business, this MDC.

BP: MDC?

RF: MDC.

BP: What's that?

RF: I don't know.

BP: Oh. Now, what happened to him? Is he still alive?

RF: He's still alive, but with another wife.

BP: Okay, he lives in Guam or here?

RF: No, he -- oh, does -- he retire, so he sold this ranch and he sold some other thing, because he has a big thing over here, in this island, and knew he went back to the States, and he buy another -- big land there, and raising cattle and also horse, 'cause he's really in love in this horse --

BP: Horse business, is it -- (break in audio) okay, you were saying that your grandfather moved to Yap during the German times. And then, I think, you told me that your father was born on Saipan.

RF: Yes.

BP: Did your father go from Yap back to Saipan? Or did -- was your father -- was your grandfather in Saipan and then your father was born, then he went to Yap? Or how did --

RF: No, no, no. Since they came to Yap, they did not move.

BP: Okay.

RF: Until maybe the -- easier for them to move because, at the time, German family -- they move to Yap, is not easy for

them to go back and forth. So, what I understand is when they come to Yap, they just stay there.

BP: So, your father was born in Saipan --

RF: In Saipan --

BP: -- before --

RF: -- before they went to --

BP: -- went to --

RF: -- Yap.

BP: Oh, okay. Ow, you said that your father worked -- he was a fisherman all his life, but there was a period when he worked in Ulithi Atoll for the --

RF: Yes.

BP: -- MBK.

RF: Mm.

BP: Why did he leave fishing to go there? Do you know why he went to work there?

RF: We were so small at the time. Maybe they just (inaudible) because I'm the oldest one, and I have one baby brother.

BP: Okay.

RF: And then, they have another two -- two others -- there's -- two babies come.

BP: Okay.

RF: Then, they quit there and go to Yap, because it's time for us to go to school.

BP: Oh, okay. So, basically so you could go to school, then.

RF: Yes.

BP: So, he was there for how many years (inaudible)

RF: Maybe -- I think five years.

BP: Five years, okay. Okay, now everybody refers to O'Keefe as His Majesty O'Keefe. Was that what they called him then, in Yap?

RF: In Yap, yes.

BP: They always called him His Majesty, because I think they made a movie about him back in the 1960s, but --

RF: Yes, I saw a movie. I hope I can see that again.

BP: With John Wayne and --

RF: Yes.

BP: I think it was very fictionalized version of O'Keefe.

RF: Yes.

BP: Yeah. Was Lee Marvin and John Wayne, I think (inaudible) okay. Are you -- you referring to a Captain [Kinney?]. He was administrative officer of Yap after the war?

RF: Yes, yes, yeah. He's the one who call a meeting for the general -- Chamorro generals (inaudible) and telling us that -- what about going to --

BP: Tinian.

RF: -- to Tinian to be a resident there, because it's beautiful island and it's -- we don't want to be abandoned island.

BP: Okay.

(break in audio)

RF: The Japanese who were there during the war -- is -- have to go home.

BP: Okay.

RF: And only two couples were there, but nobody knows where they -- what happened to them.

BP: Here on Tinian.

RF: Yes.

BP: Yeah, okay.

RF: Two -- Chamorro couple came here as -- shoe repair.

BP: This is during the war?

RF: Yes.

BP: Oh, and nobody knows what happened to them?

RF: o.

BP: Okay, and do you know their names? The (inaudible)

RF: I don't know, but I only know that the -- [Lizama?] family.

BP: Izama. Izama.

RF: Lizama.

BP: Lizama, okay. Okay, the beatings and torture, was that done by the Chamorro police, the Japanese police, or both? Like, when they arrested somebody for stealing and they beat them and -- to get a confession?

RF: Well, they take them to the -- was this? Office, and they -
- the -- this is Japanese (inaudible) there, and Chamorro
is, like, interpreter, yes.

BP: Oh, okay. So, I see.

RF: So, when it come to the beating, the Chamorro is the one
who -- beating them.

BP: But at the orders of the Japanese.

RF: Mm.

BP: Do you know if [Juan Antalong?] was involved in any of
that?

RF: He's the chief -- police, maybe -- I don't know, maybe the
(inaudible) lower rank.

BP: Okay. Okay, you were talking about a white Russian family
living in --

RF: Yes.

BP: Was that (inaudible) called them the [Tretinoffs?]?

RF: Tretifnoff.

BP: Tretifnoff, okay, 'cause the -- James Hofschneider gave me
a phone book for the [FSM?].

RF: No.

BP: And I'll see if I can find that.

RF: No.

BP: All right. Okay, I'd like to know more about -- there was
a Japanese soldier from Hawaii. He was an American. Could

you tell me again -- now, you met him? Or was it your husband who met him?

RF: My husband is the one.

BP: Is he --

RF: (inaudible)

BP: -- he's gone now?

RF: (foreign language) oh, he's there (foreign language)

AF: (inaudible)

BP: Okay, but when he comes back, I'll ask him. Now (inaudible).

AF: (inaudible)

BP: Okay, now this general, this Japanese general that everybody thought was a spy, nobody knows his name, but you called him -- what did you call him again? You had a --

RF: Taisho.

BP: Daitcho?

RF: Taisho. Taisho.

BP: Oh, okay, so that -- T-A-I-S-H-O.

RF: Mm.

BP: Okay.

RF: That --

BP: 'Cause I was looking at the different ranks, and taisho -- so, that means general. Okay. Taisho. Okay. Now, when the Japanese on Yap surrendered to the Americans -- I was

looking this up in the history books. It was a Colonel Ite, I-T-E. He surrendered to a Captain J.L. -- no, J.L. Wyatt from the destroyer *U.S.S. Tillman*. Does the name Colonel Ite mean anything?

RF: I don't know, because after the war, we just -- we're not able to talk to anybody. We don't know how to speak English, then, so --

AF: (inaudible)

BP: Okay.

(discussion in foreign language)

AF: Yeah?

BP: Okay, and U.S. Forces -- it said the surrender of Yap didn't happen 'til 5 September, and first military forces that went to shore was on 7 December. That was December. That was several months -- four months after the surrender of Japan. Okay, and it says also that there was a Japanese colonel by the name of Edo, and he was retained as a military governor of Yap for a while under U.S. Forces. Do you remember a Japanese colonel still being in charge of --

RF: Yeah, I don't know, because I have a baby and I don't know. But he -- maybe, because --

AF: After the war?

BP: Yeah, do you know -- remember a Japanese colonel by the name of General Ite?

AF: (inaudible)

BP: I-T-E?

RF: Ite.

AF: I don't know when and -- what (inaudible).

BP: Well, he was the Jap-- the ranking Japanese officer who surrendered to a Captain Wyatt. Like, Captain Wyatt of the *U.S.S. Tillman*. That's when Yap surrendered. There was a Colonel Ite that surrendered. And U.S. Forces didn't land on Yap --

AF: No.

BP: -- until December. The war was over in August, and U.S. Forces landed on Yap in December. And they left a Japanese colonel in charge for a while. His name is Colonel Edo. Does that sound familiar?

RF: (foreign language)

AF: Oh, right after the war -- remember what the month -- but we're still under the Japanese force, you know?

BP: Right.

AF: And (inaudible) people got there, got to Colonia, they call -- was the harbor, yes? The -- like my father (inaudible) and had meeting with American Forces, yeah.

BP: Okay, but it was saying in the book that the war was over in August of 1945. Yap surrendered on the fifth of September, but before U.S. Occupation Forces arrived, it

was the following December. That's about four months after

--

AF: Hmm? The American came over?

BP: On December --

AF: No (inaudible) area --

BP: Before that?

AF: Yeah.

BP: Okay, I'll go look at it again.

AF: Because in December, I remember, when we had the program
(inaudible) and American Forces be there several months
before -- from --

BP: So, that was December 1945 that you had the (inaudible).

AF: -- 1945, they came over there, I think (inaudible) in '45,
they came around (inaudible) not in November.

BP: Okay, okay.

AF: (inaudible)

BP: Okay, I'll go look it up again. But I'm more -- I'm
curious, too, though, about this -- you said there was a
Japanese soldier from Hawaii.

AF: Yes, one -- I think it was a corpsman.

BP: Corpsman, right.

AF: Yeah.

BP: Now, tell me again, how did you meet him?

AF: I didn't meet him personally. He had a plan with the white Russian lady.

BP: White Russian lady.

AF: Yeah, that's --

BP: I heard --

AF: -- was Anna, the younger --

RF: Ada.

AF: Ada.

BP: Ada (inaudible)

AF: (inaudible) no, is probably, because he's been in Hawaii for, you know, like a lot of Americans, you know? European (inaudible) yes, until -- 'cause he's (inaudible) American, because he's -- was in Hawaii, Japanese. But they had friends, because (inaudible) but we get (inaudible) with Ada during the war.

BP: Yeah.

AF: Lot of time, when he told Ada and family that, "Don't worry, because we are going to give you (inaudible) when the Americans (inaudible) but it's at (inaudible) you can, you know, kill them."

BP: Yeah.

AF: "So, I'm not going to do that."

BP: So, it was Ada who (inaudible).

AF: Ada.

BP: A-D-A is -- your spelling it?

AF: Yeah.

BP: She's the one who told the story to you.

AF: Yeah, who told -- not directly to me, but (inaudible).

RF: (inaudible)

AF: -- her boyfriend --

RF: Brother-in-law.

AF: -- brother-in-law, he's the (inaudible).

BP: Okay.

AF: -- so --

BP: So, [Ben Pang?] -- she told the -- Ben Pang [Lin?], Ben Pang Lin told you.

AF: Yeah.

BP: Okay.

AF: Right.

BP: Okay. And so, what else did he -- they tell you about this Japanese --

AF: Yeah, they said it's getting serious, because -- like (inaudible) they been, you know, prepared for (inaudible).

BP: Oh.

AF: -- as well -- looks like is -- was possible that they came (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) they're going to have to -- what's that?

BP: Oh, so the -- I mean, the Japanese from Hawaii said that --

AF: Maybe was all --

BP: -- about the kids?

RF: No, no, no, no.

AF: No? They ordered (inaudible) all the Japanese (inaudible) people working for the (inaudible) the Americans start to invade.

BP: (inaudible)

AF: (inaudible)

RF: (inaudible) the --

AF: The people, the local --

BP: Okay, this is moving along pretty fast. There's not that much left. We might be able to finish this up -- now, okay, now I want to know -- again, when did your mother die? What year?

RF: Nineteen fifty.

BP: Nineteen fifty, from tuberculosis.

RF: Yes.

BP: And she died here?

RF: In Saipan.

BP: On Saipan, okay. Now -- but you said also, in 1945, when the Americans landed in Yap, they were giving everybody penicillin shots.

RF: Yes.

BP: Penicillin should have cured tuberculosis. That's what they were giving --

RF: No, no. They giving a -- they giving a -- penicillin because all the -- most -- everybody has that kind of wound. It's, like, in here --

AF: Wounding all along the --

BP: Skin disease, like --

RF: Yes, you can see --

AF: Yeah, all of --

BP: Okay, but at the same time, though, penicillin was the first antibiotic used to cure tuberculosis in --

RF: Oh.

BP: -- after the war, so I'm just surprised that they didn't give her --

RF: No, they didn't give her.

BP: Are you sure it was penicillin they were giving --

RF: Yeah, penicillin.

BP: They told you --

RF: Mm.

BP: Mm, okay.

RF: 'Cause my daughter had the sickness, but -- and it's really fast, because one time they give her -- a few days, it's right --

AF: All gone.

BP: Okay. Okay. Okay, Captain Kinney, he was the administrator for Yap under the Navy, right? And did he have a title? Was he called administrator? Or what was his title, do you remember?

AF: I don't know about that.

RF: The only -- no (inaudible) is a captain. He's a captain of the --

AF: No, but (inaudible).

RF: Captain Kinney.

AF: Captain Kinney.

BP: That's all you know. How long was he on Yap? Or do you remember?

RF: I don't know, but what -- we came over here in 1948 -- no, maybe sometimes -- 1946 --

BP: Okay.

RF: (inaudible)

BP: Okay, and he was still there --

RF: -- '46 or '47.

BP: -- when you left Yap.

RF: Yes.

BP: Okay. Okay, now I just -- I ordered a book, and it's a history of the comfort women. You familiar with the term comfort women?

AF: Comfort -- (foreign language) yeah?

BP: The Japanese, they recruited some Japanese but also a lot of Korean women and Chinese, Malay, and Tahitian women to -
- they were forced into prostitution for the Japanese soldiers. I was reading that they did have a number of comfort stations on Yap.

AF: No. There was no comfort -- no.

BP: Yeah, there's -- in a book, they said there was --

RF: Right.

BP: -- a comfort station.

AF: That before war --

RF: Before the war.

AF: -- yes, but not during the war, because there only 300 left
(inaudible)

BP: Oh, they took the --

AF: They got took back to Japan.

BP: Oh, they did, in --

AF: Yes.

BP: Did --

AF: (inaudible) in the way in (inaudible).

BP: Oh, okay. Were you familiar with -- did you know where the
-- about the comfort stations, then, before the war?

RF: (foreign language)

AF: Yeah, they have on (inaudible) [Tomuch?]?

RF: Tomuch?

BP: Yeah.

AF: (foreign language)

RF: Yeah. I think on two different place.

AF: Yeah.

RF: Yeah, it's a -- one is --

AF: That in --

RF: (inaudible)

AF: -- near Colonia.

BP: Near Colonia.

AF: The other called Ken.

BP: How do you spell that?

AF: Ken village.

BP: King village?

AF: Ken.

RF: Ken. K-E-N. K-E-N.

BP: K-E-N village.

AF: Ken -- in village.

RF: (inaudible)

AF: Next to the -- Colonia.

BP: Near Colonia.

RF: Now, may be -- close to the Yap (inaudible).

AF: (inaudible)

RF: -- yeah, yeah.

AF: (inaudible) American came over to Yap.

RF: Yeah (inaudible).

BP: Now, there's a comfort --

AF: Now comfort (inaudible).

RF: That's most of that place.

AF: Close to --

BP: Close to the Naval Hospital?

RF: Yeah, and --

AF: Yeah, then (inaudible).

BP: Okay, so that was during the war, then, right?

RF: The -- no, no, no.

AF: No, before the war.

RF: After the war.

BP: After the war?

RF: That's after --

AF: Before the war.

RF: No, that --

AF: Before the war --

RF: Yeah, before the war --

AF: -- there was (inaudible).

RF: -- there's a place where they stayed.

BP: Okay.

RF: There's that kind of business. But after the war -- during
the war, they're not in Yap.

AF: Gone.

BP: They take them out, huh?

AF: (inaudible)

RF: I think so, because everybody -- all the civilian have gone --

AF: They going to -- had to leave, yeah.

RF: -- except -- only one woman -- Japanese policeman's woman stay there at the end of the war.

BP: And did she survive?

RF: No. I don't know.

AF: I don't know.

RF: She -- Officer Wani -- they put him away, because it happened that they kill --

AF: (inaudible) during the war --

RF: During the war?

AF: -- when the Japanese was killed (inaudible).

RF: Oh.

AF: Yeah.

RF: Oh, because Hapazawa is the one who killed this leper --

AF: No, 'cause he killed by -- they order --

RF: Order them to be killed.

BP: They killed the lepers on Yap?

RF: Yeah.

AF: All the lepers.

RF: The leper who come from Saipan, and Chamorro -- two --
brother and sister.

BP: They had leprosy.

RF: Yeah, they had --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: -- leprosy. But they look (overlapping dialogue;
inaudible) American --

AF: -- European (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RF: -- so, he's the one who order -- send order --

AF: To -- yeah, to kill them.

RF: -- to kill them.

BP: And he was a policeman?

RF: This -- he's a police officer.

BP: Okay, Japanese police officer --

RF: Yes.

BP: -- and he ordered the killing of two Chamorros with
leprosy.

RF: Mm.

BP: And what was the name of the police officer, again?

RF: [Hapazawa?].

BP: How do you spell that?

RF: H-A--

AF: Yeah.

BP: H-A--

RF: --P-A--

AF: --P-A--

RF: --Z-A. Hapazawa (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AF: Hapazawa.

BP: W-A.

RF: W-A, yeah. Hapazawa.

BP: Hapazawa. He was the policeman.

AF: He was the police --

RF: He's the --

AF: -- officer.

RF: Yeah, police officer.

BP: Now, do you know the names of the Chamorros with leprosy?

AF: (inaudible)

RF: [Asi?] --

AF: (inaudible)

RF: No, no. Palashis the -- that's -- Palashis their family.

BP: Palash--

AF: Oh.

RF: Maria, I think, maybe. It's very easy. I can ask Mr.

Palashis, the one who's working at the airport.

BP: Here? Okay.

RF: Yeah, I'll ask him, because that's his uncle.

BP: His uncle. All right, okay, Maria, and who was the other one? Maria --

RF: Maria and Pedro, maybe. Oh, no, no, because his father is Pedro. I better ask.

BP: Okay. Do you know [Chenning Palaskus?] in Saipan?

RF: Yes.

BP: Who is that (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RF: Yeah.

BP: Really?

AF: Yeah.

RF: I think so.

BP: Okay. So, why were they sent to Yap?

RF: Because at the time, during Japanese time, in Saipan, they don't have leper place. So, in Yap island, there's a small island --

AF: A small island that (inaudible).

RF: -- so, they sent them --

BP: So, then there were other people who were killed besides the (inaudible).

RF: No, only the --

AF: Only them.

BP: Why, just because they looked European?

AF: 'Cause they suspect that they might --

BP: (inaudible)

AF: (inaudible) Japanese (inaudible) to American --

BP: Okay.

AF: -- because (inaudible) looks like Chamorro, like they have
--

BP: Yeah.

AF: (inaudible)

BP: Okay, can you tell me more about that story, or is -- can
you tell me more about that story?

AF: Yeah.

BP: Did you ever meet them, the [Pilashes?]?

AF: No.

BP: You just heard about the story later?

AF: We heard about -- we never -- 'cause (inaudible) the
Japanese (inaudible) the leper colony.

BP: Yeah.

AF: The only people can go (inaudible) that as the police --
the (inaudible) police and the (inaudible) no other can go
there.

BP: Okay.

AF: Just the (inaudible).

BP: Okay, and so this Hatazawa, he's the one who ordered the
killing.

RF: (inaudible) order and then --

END OF AUDIO FILE