

## Jose King Oral History Interview

BRUCE PETTY: It's 11 September, 1997. I'm interviewing Jose King on the island of Tinian at the Aging Center. The interviewer is Bruce Petty. (break in audio) Okay, you were saying your father came directly to Rota from Korea or did he go to Japan first?

JOSE KING: He said he went to Japan then after Japan he went to Saipan because they're going to build the sugar cane industry, a factory in Saipan. Then from Saipan they're going to build the sugar cane industry in Tinian. That's why -- and Rota. So he went to Rota.

BP: You have to speak louder too. So how long was he in Japan? Did he ever tell you?

JK: I don't know.

BP: How long was he in Saipan?

JK: I don't know.

BP: Do you know what year he went to Saipan?

JK: Yes.

BP: What year did he go to Saipan?

JK: Nineteen forty-seven.

BP: Forty-seven is after the war.

JK: Yes.

BP: Okay, but when he first came to the Marianas what year was that?

JK: My father?

BP: Yeah.

JK: He came here in 1910.

BP: To Saipan?

JK: To Saipan.

BP: And how long was he in Saipan?

JK: Then he went back to Rota in around 1913.

BP: And he stayed there the whole time?

JK: Stayed there and he married to my mother.

BP: What year?

JK: I think 1925.

BP: So he was a bachelor for a long time?

JK: Yes.

BP: Did your father ever tell you much about his early life on Rota, about what he did or anything?

JK: No, he don't tell me anything about. Only I know when I grow up and going to the school, learn the Japanese language and letter up to three grade.

BP: Only three grades?

JK: Yes.

BP: What do you remember -- do you remember much about life on Rota before you started to school?

JK: Oh, yes. I still remember that time, Japanese time, before the war all the Japanese people is very kind people. Yes, very kind.

BP: And they were kind to your father even though he was Korean?

JK: Yes. Very peaceful that time.

BP: No problems?

JK: No problems.

BP: What sort of work did your father do?

JK: Just only I remember every morning he went to the job site, but I don't know what they're doing there.

BP: The Japanese side? There was a Japanese side of the island, you mean?

JK: Yes, Japanese.

BP: Where did you live on Rota?

JK: Live in Rota?

BP: Yeah, what part of Rota did you live?

JK: Songsong.

BP: Songsong village?

JK: Songsong village.

BP: And where were the Japanese living?

JK: They are living together.

BP: Living together?

JK: Yes. With the native people maybe around three miles away.  
They have a small village.

BP: What was that village called?

JK: But for my father, he stay with the Japanese family, one  
like a town.

BP: But you had your own house?

JK: Yes, own house.

BP: So of your Japanese neighbors do you remember any of them  
very well? Did you have any special Japanese friends?

JK: Yes, some still remember. Mr. Nakahodo at the time came  
back to Tinian. I meet him.

BP: He still comes back?

JK: Yes.

BP: You knew him from Rota?

JK: Yes. See Mr. Nakahodo. He's a classmate of my oldest  
brother.

BP: And he survived the war on Rota?

JK: Yes.

BP: So he was more a friend of your older brother's?

JK: Yes, but he knows me.

BP: So he comes to visit you?

JK: Yes. Last year he came here.

BP: Does he speak English?

JK: No.

BP: So who else do you remember of Japanese friends? Or if there is anybody else that you remember whether they were Chamorro or Korean or...

JK: I still remember the name, but they don't show up. Maybe I don't know, him die or...

BP: Who was this and why do you still remember him?

JK: Goto-san.

BP: How do you spell that?

JK: G-O-T-O.

BP: And what did he do? Was he a school friend of yours?

JK: He was my classmate.

BP: But he never came back to see you.

JK: And Suzuki-san. And Takagi. The principal of the school is Takagi Kocho-sensei.

BP: Have you seen him since?

JK: No. Never see him.

BP: So Nakahodo is the only person that you have seen?

JK: Yes.

BP: What do you remember about life though there? I mean did you play with other children; did you help your father work?

JK: No, we don't help my father because after the school we go back home, my father's not here. He's on the job site.

BP: Japanese site.

JK: Job.

BP: Job site?

JK: Yeah, working. Still working.

BP: So what do you remember about Japanese school?

JK: It was pretty good. Very, very good, the Japanese school. Very strict. So they're teaching us Japan. If you the enemy, if he catch you, you better die first or you kill first. Don't bring it to the like prisoner.

BP: Don't take them as prisoners?

JK: Yeah, you have to kill. Or you die.

BP: Or they will kill you.

JK: They teaching us. Because of our country you have to die for our country.

BP: So you were going to school during the wartime? Were you going to school during the war?

JK: Before.

BP: Before the war? But they were teaching you that already, that you were at war?

JK: Yes.

BP: Did you know about Pearl Harbor when you were in Rota? Did they tell you?

JK: No, I know about Pearl Harbor. In Japanese say [Japanese phrase].

BP: What's that?

JK: It's mean 1931 December 16.

BP: What happened then?

JK: Nineteen forty-one.

BP: December 6.

JK: December 8.

BP: Oh, December seventh in Hawaii would be December 8th in Saipan. A day difference, one-day difference. So they told you about that?

JK: Yes.

BP: Anything else special you remember about --

JK: I still remember in school time one big ship came to the harbor in nighttime, they blow up that ship.

BP: The Americans blew it up?

JK: Yes, Marines.

BP: Oh, they did? Was anybody killed?

JK: Many people die. Some people, they got wounded and bring to the hospital. But all our classmate, all the school children, line up in the road.

BP: They lined up in the road?

JK: Yes.

BP: Why did you line up?

JK: All the dead people and some wounded people; they're going to (inaudible) the heart and giving salute.

BP: Bow? So do you remember what year that was?

JK: I think 19 -- because no more school since 1941.

BP: No more school after 1941?

JK: Yes.

BP: Why? What were you doing?

JK: Because the airplanes came and that time we don't know about the B29, never seen that kind of big plane. So we are very surprised and we scared.

BP: When you saw the B29 you were scared?

JK: Yes, because we don't know what kind of plane is that.  
(inaudible) dropped the bomb.

BP: Yeah, but that was 1944. The B29 was not here before 1944.  
Did you see planes before that, other kinds of planes?

JK: Only small plane before 1944.

BP: What did they do?

JK: They keep on shooting in the island, they're shooting the jungle.

BP: But after Pearl Harbor you didn't go to school?

JK: No, no more.

BP: Did they put you to work or what?

JK: They stopped because since that time they burned all down our house so we go back to the farm. Very far. So we living in the farm.

BP: So your father was farming then or did he still work on --



JK: Only that way, no more. No more working. He planting. I mean he big [stubborn?] and many cow and pig and chicken.

BP: Was anybody in your family married to a Japanese?

JK: No.

BP: Was your father the only person from his family out here?

JK: No, they have around five or six Koreans married to Chamorro.

BP: On Rota?

JK: On Rota. So after the war supposed to send back all the Koreans, go back to his country, but our mother and other wives, they keep on crying, they have kids already. So the American officer said, "Okay, you guys, you can stay because you have a family already."

BP: Do you remember the names of those other Koreans?

JK: Yes. Mr. Oyama.

BP: Oyama is Korean?

JK: Oyama is Korean. The father is Mr. Shai.

BP: Mr. who?

JK: Mr. Shai. And Mr. Kanayama. He's the father of Serafina King. And the father of Senator King. I forgot his name. His father was a Korean. And some Koreans still stay in Rota, but I don't know the name.

BP: Did the Japanese have comfort women there on Rota? Or you too young to know about that?

JK: I don't know. I'm too young about that.

BP: After the soldiers came to Rota were the Koreans mistreated at all?

JK: American soldiers?

BP: No, the Japanese soldiers.

JK: The Japanese soldier came to the Rota and no more ship came from Japan so no more rice, no more food to eat. So they're going to our farm and keep on getting our chicken to eat. If we don't give they're going to kill us.

BP: They said that to you?

JK: They say that to us. This kind of animal we need to supply the soldiers.

BP: What did you eat, your family?

JK: We could not do anything.

BP: But what did you eat?

JK: We're going to the mountain and looking for some food, some -- making what's calling --

BP: Slingshot?

JK: Slingshot. We catching the bird.

BP: But did you have things like breadfruit and --

JK: Yes, they have a breadfruit.

BP: But could you grow crops like sweet potatoes and taro? Did you eat that?

JK: Yes.

BP: The Japanese didn't take that from you?

JK: The potatoes, sweet potatoes, we're planting, my mother, my father also during the -- they demand from Japanese to plant. Or sweet potatoes.

BP: The Japanese told you to plant them?

JK: Yes.

BP: But did you get to keep some of it for yourself?

JK: No, we cannot get some. All the big one they get and small one like this, like roots, only that one we can get.

BP: So where did most of your food come from that you ate?

JK: Some are from the leaf of potatoes, leaf of some -- from jungles.

BP: So you lived off the jungle?

JK: Yes.

BP: Now, did anybody in your family, were they forced to serve in the Japanese military?

JK: No, no one.

BP: Didn't have to.

JK: No.

BP: Do you remember when the first Japanese soldiers came to Rota? Was it 1943 or '42 or do you remember?

JK: I still remember since I was in school they have soldiers. So those Japanese walking in the beach, digging the sand around five feet deep and three feet wide. So ask them

what they're going to do this. They're going to hiding there and shooting the enemy.

BP: Oh, that's what they were doing?

JK: Yeah. Another one around 10 feet wide and maybe 10 feet deep. Then putting in the top the [tonton?] and put the leaf of the coconut to hide the hole.

BP: So what was going in the hole?

JK: They're going to use that if the enemy -- that time we don't know what American, we don't know. Only enemy. The enemy is coming and when the time is coming they're going to go down in the hole. So cannot move anymore.

BP: So what else --

JK: And another, they're cutting the coconut tree, the long one, straight coconut tree, then put in one place like a top of the mountain, then painting black paint over the coconut and put some leaf in the cannon, like a cannon. To shoot the ship and shoot the plane. But it's not true. So the American fighter plane and keep on bombing that tree. They say they're going to spend all the bullet of the ammunition of the American so maybe not enough bullet to attack anymore. (laughter) Very funny.

BP: So life was pleasant for you on Rota. And then when do you remember everything changing? You said it got worse. When

did things start changing and became difficult, do you remember?

JK: It's very hard to remember because past 57 years, but still I can remember some. In that time when I go to the beach to get some water because we don't have water, especially in rice season, so we get some water from the stone and we put in the gallon --

BP: In a container?

JK: Container. That time we don't have plastic container.

BP: It's what, metal or wood?

JK: Metal.

BP: Metal container. Cans?

JK: No. Like that one. So very shine. Very shine to the sun. So the fighter plane, they saw us, keep on shooting us.

BP: But you were collecting water at the beach and the --

JK: You turn back to home. Go home.

BP: Fighter planes started shooting at you?

JK: Yeah, shooting us.

BP: Was anybody killed or hurt?

JK: No. Around me, my father, and my brother, three of us, early morning, 5:00, going home, maybe two miles just to walk. So during that time the American fighter planes came and light from the [bottle?] is here and then people shooting us. (inaudible) hitting the ground.

BP: Right beside you?

JK: Beside me. Thanks God we don't --

BP: Nobody was hurt.

JK: Nobody hurt.

BP: So you had to leave your farm and go towards the ocean to find water?

JK: Yes.

BP: And it was collected in rocks?

JK: Yes.

BP: There's no water on your farm?

JK: No, no water. Sometimes our blanket, clothes, when it raining we put down, put outside and make wet, then bring inside in the cave, then squeeze to get water.

BP: So you were hungry and thirsty?

JK: Yes, very hungry, thirsty that time. I tell myself maybe I going to die like this. Tomorrow we don't know what to eat. Very pity to my father. Also my father when his [ship?] down, keep on thinking where to get the food to the family.

BP: What did he say about those times? What did he tell the rest of the family? Or did he say anything?

JK: He don't say anything, but I know he's still thinking what's he going to do. Keep on going in the jungle and looking for some kind of fruits in the jungle.

BP: What do you remember most about your mother?

JK: My mother? Very, very skinny because nothing to eat and if they found a food they won't eat, they giving to us.

BP: Parents would give the food to children first?

JK: Yes.

BP: You said some time during the war you had a brother who was killed?

JK: Yes.

BP: Before we talk about that what do you remember about your brother? Was he older, younger?

JK: My brother is 16 years old, I'm 11 years old. So the Japanese soldiers take him, but they cannot give [the bomb?] because still young. So the Japanese soldiers, they take my brother. Then because my brother is very --

BP: What was his name?

JK: Ignacio [Bora?] King. But they giving him name [Gaquio?]. King Gaquio. So he's a nice shooter with the slingshot so the Japanese soldiers take him, also like this boy. So my brother --

BP: This is a Japanese officer who took him?

JK: Yes.

BP: To be his what? His houseboy or cook or something?

JK: Only houseboy. Daytime going to catch some birds and  
nighttime he put the -- what is calling that? Like a net  
of the mosquito.

BP: He put it where?

JK: To the bed of the --

BP: Officer?

JK: Yes.

BP: And he was --

JK: Because many, many, too many mosquito nighttime. So every  
morning when the officers get up you have to set everything  
--

BP: Clean up the room?

JK: Clean up the room. You said that he was hunting birds with  
his slingshot during the day?

JK: Yes.

BP: And this was for the officer to eat?

JK: Yes.

BP: Was he well treated by this officer or did he ever -- did  
your brother ever --

JK: No, we cannot see the officer.

BP: And your brother, you never saw him?

JK: No, my brother saw him, but us, we cannot see because he  
got high class officer. Officer people you cannot see.

BP: So your brother never could come home to visit his family?



JK: No.

BP: Never?

JK: Never come. Never come home.

BP: So even the Japanese were hungry?

JK: Yes.

BP: And the officer was eating birds that your --

JK: That's why when he go to the Chamorro village then he saw a chicken or cow or pig, you have to take that.

BP: Ignacio?

JK: No, the Japanese soldiers. They was getting hungry too. So if you don't give they're going to shoot you. They're going to kill you. So everybody was very afraid. So after that no more pig, no more anything. We getting very, very hungry.

BP: How long did that go on? Was this a year, two years?

JK: Around -- I don't know exactly, but during the war some people said 18 months.

BP: How long was your brother Ignacio -- how long did he work for this Japanese officer before he was killed?

JK: Around eight months. We never see him.

BP: Were you at the house when -- you said some Japanese soldiers brought your brother's body home or did they come and tell you to come and get --

JK: Yes, they told us to come and get your son, to my father.

BP: You were at home when they --

JK: Yes.

BP: And do you remember, can you describe the scene? You were at home and what was your mother doing, what was your father doing, and who was this person who came to the house?

JK: One of the Japanese came to our cave.

BP: Oh, you were in a cave?

JK: Yes, we was there. My father also sitting there in the early morning because my father wake up 3:00 in the morning to go get some food because the most the airplane, fighter planes, came around 5:00 in the morning. So my father going early, 3:00, 4:00, go to the sea, catch fish, and go to some place to looking for what kind of food we can eat. So when he come back in 5:00 around 5:30 the Japanese solders coming. So he said, "Mr. King, I'm sorry about this," but my officer said, "I'm going to tell you about your son. He's die at 5:00."

BP: That same morning he died?

JK: Yes, that same morning. So my father wants to go, but I said, "Daddy, I want to go with you." So we walking around very, very far and climb up the mountain to make shortcut. When we reach there we sit down in that place of Japanese, keep on praying [foreign phrase], like that. Then we sit

down together and open the leaf of the trees so I see my brother's face.

BP: You saw your brother's face?

JK: Yes, only the face we can see. So after finish all the prayer and the officer said, "Mr. King, I'm sorry about your son. Great, very good boy. So you can take your son to your place." So my father is very happy to take the body of my brother.

BP: So you helped carry the body home?

JK: No, we cannot carry. Supposed to bring by truck. They got a very old truck, but it's very dangerous because of the planes. They're going to shoot again the truck. So four people, they're carrying, put in the box, bring to our cave.

BP: Was that Japanese helped you carry?

JK: Yeah, the Japanese, four Japanese.

BP: How did your mother react?

JK: My mother stayed in the house. (inaudible) my brother, we are (inaudible) from the sight of Japanese, my mother almost crazy. They hanging my brother, keep on crying, crying, crying. Long time she cannot see son. When he die --

BP: She cannot what?

JK: She cannot see.

BP: She can't see with her eyes?

JK: No. What I mean, cannot meet my brother. We could not meet together until die.

BP: She said that she cannot meet her son until she dies?

JK: "Only now I see my son. I never seen you when you're still alive. I want to see you before you die, but cannot." So we bury my brother. We cannot invite the people because many people afraid to go out. Only our family, some relative. Beside of my house, my cave, in the front, we put there. We dig in the soil and put there. Then we put that to a bamboo tree. We put flower, but now that bamboo become very big.

BP: It's still there, the bamboo tree?

JK: The bamboo is still there, but I think 10 years or 15 years ago all the priests, Catholic priests, they bring the bones in the truck, go in the cemetery.

BP: So your brother was moved to the cemetery 10 years ago?

JK: Maybe more. So now in the cemetery in the Songsong village.

BP: You said you lost another relative during the war, right?

JK: Yes.

BP: Who was that?

JK: Many relative in Rota.

BP: You lost many relatives?

JK: Many relative in Rota. My sister is still in Rota. I think you know Mr. [Hoko?], Victor Hoko?

BP: He's a doctor?

JK: The doctor, she Larry Hoko.

BP: And the other Hoko?

JK: She Victor. Victor Hoko.

BP: What does he do?

JK: He working in the government, I mean a governor [Farallon?].

BP: Oh, he works for a governor of Farallon?

JK: Yes, he's a director of -- member of the CIP.

BP: But now, did you have other family members who were killed or injured during the war?

JK: Yes, some. My uncle killed by the Japanese.

BP: One uncle?

JK: Yes.

BP: Just one?

JK: One and they have, but it's not our relative.

BP: Tell me about your uncle. What was his name and what do you remember about him?

JK: Ignacio de la Cruz. My mother relative, cousin.

BP: Your mother's cousin? He was Ignacio de la Cruz?

JK: Yes.

BP: What do you remember about him?

JK: Just only I remember the Japanese soldiers take him. They said this guy spy because they got tattoo in the body.

BP: Because he has tattoos? They said he was a spy just because he had tattoos?

JK: Yes. And many hair on the chest and on the hand and the color was white.

BP: Based on that they thought he was a spy?

JK: Yes.

BP: So when did they arrest him?

JK: During the war. Arrest him and kill him.

BP: Was he living with you in the cave or what?

JK: No, he don't live in the cave.

BP: Were you there when the Japanese arrested him?

JK: No. Just only my mother still ask my cousin is dead.

BP: Why did he have so many tattoos? A special reason?

JK: He was working in the, what's calling that? The (inaudible) hunting. The big wire?

BP: Wire hunting?

JK: Riding the boat and --

BP: Oh, he was a seaman?

JK: Yes.

BP: For the Japanese?

JK: No, before Japanese.

BP: Was he from Guam?

JK: I think it's from Guam. Captain Magellan went to Saipan and in Guam --

BP: But de la Cruz, you said he was a seaman. He went to sea on ships?

JK: I think yes. But (inaudible) Spanish.

BP: That's why he --

JK: His father was Spanish.

BP: So what kind of work was he doing on Rota?

JK: I don't know what kind of work he doing in Rota. But I still remember him making shoes.

BP: Was he married and have children?

JK: They call him Zapatero. Yes, he has one daughter, I think two daughter, but one -- and the daughter, I don't know how to say that. Let's say they have one daughter here in Tinian. She [Fermina Duncana?]. It's white husband.

BP: Her husband, he's American?

JK: Australian, I think.

BP: Here on Tinian?

JK: Yes. Still they have a store Tinian Center. That's the store.

BP: So what do you remember about his arrest and how he was killed?

JK: Only I know they're suspecting he's a spy so they take him and kill him.

BP: But how?

JK: But he don't know how to speak English. Only just suspect on Japanese.

BP: So they arrested him and they killed him right away?

JK: No. They [tied?] him for a little longer, take time.

BP: Got him where?

JK: Take time, go investigate.

BP: So he was in jail for a while?

JK: Yes.

BP: How long, do you know?

JK: I don't know.

BP: So then how did they kill him? You said they tied him to a tree yesterday.

JK: Yes, they tied in the tree for maybe two or three weeks, but I don't know what kind of weapon they're using. Only I know they said die. The Japanese kill him.

BP: They tied him to a tree, but you don't know how they killed him?

JK: Yes.

BP: What else do you remember from those years?

JK: And I remember also the priests in Rota, they (inaudible) of the priests.

BP: The what?

JK: What's calling? The priests in the second, second priest.



BP: Okay, a brother?

JK: (inaudible) brother. I remember that also. The Japanese said you have to move in the church, they telling to the priests, Spanish priests. So the father said okay.

"Because if you don't move I'm going to kill you." So the father said, "You have to wait me three days." So when he come three days the father is dead inside in the church.

BP: Did he kill himself?

JK: No. I don't know. Nobody knows they kill themselves.

BP: So after your brother was killed how much longer before the war was over?

JK: I don't know exactly how many longer, but I think eight months, seven months.

BP: Did they drop any bombs near the cave where you were hiding?

JK: Yes, all around.

BP: Anybody else killed from the bombs around there?

JK: Some. Yeah, some people.

BP: Did you see any planes get shot down?

JK: No. No because everybody hiding. But only I still remember again one night the airplanes came and dropped bombs, but that one is not bombs. They spray up all the island fire.

BP: Napalm?

JK: I don't know what's calling that.

BP: There's a big fire on the island?

JK: Big fire, including the time bomb. They have very small time bombs. So that time I watching a field, the potatoes field, very big field, we and one woman, Japanese woman, so I'm very lucky that time because they have a Japanese tank, around eight feet square tank and six feet deep. They got a well for water down there. So when he dropped the bomb all around is fire so we cannot run anymore. Supposed to burn our body also that time, but we jump in the tank. So including the fire go down to the tank, but you know, almost we tried to spray out the water in our body.

BP: So the fire was actually in the tank with you?

JK: Yes.

BP: And you used the water to put it out?

JK: Yes.

BP: So if it wasn't for that water tank you'd probably be dead, huh?

JK: Yes.

BP: That's the only thing that saved you.

JK: No water tank, we burn all our body. So next morning -- we stayed there until morning, maybe around 11:00, almost midnight, that's the time, until 6:00 in the morning we still stayed inside in the tank. So when I get up with the

woman we see many people down there, no more big fire, only the small fire, the light is blue. The blue light. One [boat?] Chamorro boat, she's the one (inaudible) Chamorro to plant the potatoes, is the one calling, "Who wants to go there and stop that fire?" No one go there and everybody afraid to go there. I was there also. I keep on looking. Even me, I never seen that blue light and smoke. They got smoke. So nobody wants to go there. So that guy, the name is [Manero?], I don't know the last name, he's the one, he bring some piece of wood, then he try to throw that let's say bomb. That time blow up the bombs.

BP: They blew up?

JK: Blew up.

BP: And killed him?

JK: Almost, but he [wouldn't?] die, but the hands, the ones holding the stick, all cut by like this, like a rope. And many holes in the body, from the face, all around, they fall down.

BP: But he lived?

JK: So everybody run away, but when he saw that guy, "Help, help, help," keep on calling help, so he going there slowly, like very afraid to go there, slowly, slowly, but keep on asking help. So when he go there my friend, the Japanese woman, around 70 years old, they run and looking

for some kind of wood to put that guy there. Then only I still remember the hand like a rope, they cut all this one. Like this the hands. Bring to the hospital in Songsong village, the Japanese new hospital. But another problem, when you go to the hospital you don't have -- what's calling this?

BP: Bandage?

JK: Bandage. Nothing bandage. Only one way, we get the banana leaf to make dry, then like a bandage. They using the banana leaf. No medicine. So they cut this one, cut here, then they move a little bit the skin down, then cut the bones inside, then after cut the bone they put back the skin.

BP: So they cut the hand off?

JK: Yes, then tie them up. Tie the skin.

BP: Did they have a painkiller for him or no? He just --

JK: No painkiller, nothing. Nothing medicine.

BP: They just cut his hand off?

JK: Just a little bit like that. So every night [moaning sound], "I'm going to die."

BP: Were you at the hospital with him when they did this?

JK: Yes. Because that guy my cousin.

BP: He was your cousin?

JK: Yes.

BP: You don't remember his last name?

JK: [Mangonia?].

BP: Manuel Mangonia?

JK: Yes.

BP: Is he still alive?

JK: Five years ago he went to Saipan, stayed there. But long time staying Tinian.

BP: He still alive?

JK: Yes, still alive.

BP: Manuel Mangonia. I wonder, does he speak English?

JK: Little bit, like me. He's older than me.

BP: Where does he live in Saipan, do you know?

JK: I don't know. Just farming.

BP: Do you remember anybody else that was at the hospital?

JK: No. We cannot go inside in the hospital to visit some people because everybody crying and asking help, but we cannot help. There's many Japanese soldiers also.

BP: What else do you remember about those years, anything else?

JK: One more thing I still remember. The Japanese soldiers said because we stay in the high mountain, from the sea level very high, they said, "We're going to digging the hole to find out the water."

BP: Drill for water?

JK: Going to make the well, the water. So one month, two months, keep on digging around six people around and get the [sensor?] and keep on digging the --

BP: It was in rock?

JK: Yes, rock.

BP: Hammer and chisel?

JK: Yes. So one month around 20 feet down, nothing water. Keep on digging, 40 feet (break in audio).

BP: So you went 20 feet, no water, then 40 feet, no water, and then --

JK: Hundred feet is no water. Then stop. Stop digging. Because sometimes I go there, I get small rocks and I throw down in the well, you cannot hear that because very, very deep. So I keep on asking my dad, "What happened? Until now the water is not coming up. We are very thirsty." My father said, "Don't talk. I'm going to tell you the secret of this well."

BP: Speak louder.

JK: My father said, "This is very, very secret, don't tell anyone. This well not for the water. Only they said looking for water, but not water. All the Chamorro people, want to put down there. They going to kill all the people." I said, "Why?" "Because not enough food for the soldiers. So if the native people, the Chamorro people,

they're stealing some potatoes, not enough for the soldiers, so more better kill all the Chamorro."

BP: How did he know that?

JK: He know it because he got the friend, Japanese --

BP: Japanese friend?

JK: Yes.

BP: The well was about 100 feet deep. How big was it?

JK: Oh, boy, around 20 feet round. Enough for all the Chamorro to put down there.

BP: So they stopped at 100 feet, then what happened?

JK: Then tomorrow my father said one of his best friend, the old man, he said (inaudible) my father.

BP: The old man, he was Japanese?

JK: Yes.

BP: What was his name?

JK: I don't know. I don't know his name. One night they have a meeting --

BP: Who's they?

JK: All the officers, high class officers. Tomorrow we going to kill all the people, the Chamorro. Anybody wants to, you have question? So one woman said, "Wait a minute. For what I'm going to say do not kill the people, the Chamorro. Instead of kill we're going to use those people to plant any kind of vegetables, potatoes. The soldiers no need to

work. Can work but only (inaudible) put bomb in the [village?] and the [reef?] like time bomb." I don't know, that's calling [kirai?].

BP: Anti-tank mine?

JK: If you step on that you --

BP: Oh, land mine.

JK: Yes. No need soldiers to plant potatoes or crops. You're going to use the Chamorro to plant for us. That's the way they agree.

BP: This old man was your father's friend?

JK: Yes, very close friend.

BP: And he told --

JK: He said, "Mr. King, you better run away. You have to run away very, very deep mountain because tomorrow they're going to kill you, all the Chamorro. Maybe not you, not your family, because your family is [type/side?] of the Japanese. But the Chamorro." My mother is Chamorro so we have many relatives Chamorro so we need to help them. "But you, you have to run away."

BP: So what happened the next day? Did they all run away?

JK: No. Nobody knows what's going to happen from that. Nobody knows.

BP: But this old man told you, you should run away so why did you not run away?



JK: Because that day telling to my father, but next day they got meeting to cancel to kill the --

BP: Okay, canceled. So they decided, the officers decided to follow your father's friend's advice?

JK: Yes.

BP: To put the Chamorros to work growing things?

JK: Yes, right. Since that time from 11 years old up, woman, woman, young man, everybody planting crops.

BP: How long did that go on before the Americans landed?

JK: I don't know exactly how long.

BP: So from that time on though until the Americans landed what else happened? Is that when -- your brother was killed after that time?

JK: Before that.

BP: And your uncle was killed?

JK: Before that.

BP: But you don't know how your uncle was killed?

JK: I don't know.

BP: But his name was Ignacio de la Cruz. So basically after that you were either -- when you were growing crops was during the daytime or at night?

JK: Nighttime and daytime.

BP: Didn't you have to worry about planes?

JK: Yes. You not see Mr. [Bora?]? You said you talked to him.

BP: Antonio Bora.

JK: He's the one also I don't know he going to tell you about the one place, potatoes place, the B29 came and kept on dropping the bomb, he was there. He don't tell you about that?

BP: He said he had, I think he had a relative, or he knew some Chamorros who were killed.

JK: Yes, I see that guy. I see him.

BP: See who?

JK: Our relative.

BP: Who was killed?

JK: Mr. Bora and my brother (inaudible) King. Mr. Bora, my brother, and another Chamorro, three guys. The one is die our relative. So around three Chamorro. But together with Mr. Bora.

BP: He was there?

JK: He was there.

BP: Because he was a Japanese soldier then.

JK: Yes, but he was there in that field when the B29s dropped the bomb. When he hear the bomb [makes bomb sound] he knows already that's the bomb, so he hiding and they teaching us what to do. Put your finger in your nose and your eyes, your two eye and the ear, you have to make --

BP: And then you stick your thumbs in your ears?

JK: Yes.

BP: So he laid down on the ground did that?

JK: Laid down in the ground.

BP: What about the others who were killed, they didn't do that?

JK: I think they don't do that. Then when the bomb, keep on dropping the bomb, you know the air of the bomb very strong, sometimes they pick you up.

BP: Were you at that field then?

JK: No. But next day, not at nighttime, that one, that happening. And next morning the dead body bring to our village. Not village, just our jungle.

BP: Jungle camp?

JK: Yeah. So I go there because everybody knows that some Chamorro, three Chamorros, dead. So when I go there the stomach, the intestine of stomach is going outside, the hand is nothing, they cut by bomb. So one nurse, Okinawa lady, 17 years old lady, she's the one cleaning all the dust in the face and sewing the stomach back inside the intestine.

BP: Of the dead people or wounded?

JK: Yeah, dead people.

BP: She sewed them back up?

JK: That one together with Mr. Bora, that incident.

BP: Mr. Bora was helping her?

JK: I don't know. But only I know when he laid down already in the [salmon?] in the ground.

BP: And this Okinawan nurse, she would sew the intestines back in for burial?

JK: Yes.

BP: There were three Chamorros?

JK: Yes. But that lady, she got the name, I still remember, Higa Katsuko.

Q: How do you spell?

JK: H-I-G-A, Higa.

BP: Katsuko means what? First name?

JK: Yes, first name Katsuko.

BP: How do you spell Katsuko?

JK: Katsuko Higa, the last name.

BP: How do you spell Katsuko?

JK: K-A-T-S-U-K-O. But very pity to that nurse 17 years old, next day she going to the hospital to serve the --

BP: Wounded?

JK: Some time when you go down the small fighter plane, they saw the lady because white dress and white hat. Very innocent, the lady. Also it's a nurse, but wearing white dress, very easy to see. So early morning 6:00 going down to the hospital -- that hospital inside the cave. We say hospital, that one, because many people inside. So that

plane, the fighter plane, they have a small bomb. They don't use the machine gun, they drop the bomb. So goes to that lady, the bomb. When the bomb is blow the lady, they hit over here. Hit by the bomb. But she's not die yet. Maybe after one hour, two hours, waiting some people to pass that rope. For two hours some people passing, then they saw her.

BP: But she's still alive?

JK: Still alive. But I think no more blood.

BP: Did she die eventually?

JK: No. When they bring to the hospital the color is more red color, white and like a vinegar color, the body, the face, and bring to the hospital. Only one way, carried his back.

BP: Carried her on his back?

JK: Then bring to the hospital.

BP: This is a Chamorro?

JK: No, Okinawa.

BP: So nobody saw her get hit by the bomb?

JK: Nobody.

BP: Two hours later somebody found her?

JK: Yes. When he bring to the hospital after one hour, two hours, this time she dead.

BP: She was dead?

JK: Yes. Very beautiful lady and you know, some people, even Chamorro or anybody need help, she's the one go there. But nothing medicine, only to clean wound and get the banana leaves and just tie up.

BP: You said dried banana leaves?

JK: Yes.

BP: So she helped a lot of people?

JK: Yes. I still remember the lady. It was very near our cave, her cave. Maybe around 200 feet away.

BP: Did you ever talk to her or you just knew her from all of the help she gave?

JK: We knew her, her mother and my mother is very close friend because (inaudible) together. Also little by little outside our cave so they know each other.

BP: Her mother was pretty upset about this?

JK: Yes, and the mother said -- after die in the cave they bring up to the house. And his house, let's say the cave house, I was there also.

BP: When they brought the body?

JK: Yes. Everybody crying, crying or just only digging beside the cave and put the bodies there. That's all.

BP: There are a lot of people died and buried outside the cave?

JK: Not so many. Let's say around 10, 15 people. Because the people were so very afraid to go out.

BP: Did any babies die during that time? You know, when people had babies there was not enough food for the babies.

JK: Oh, there's many. Many die.

BP: Many babies died?

JK: Some mothers, no milk in the, you know.

BP: In the breasts?

JK: And the small kids, naked, no clothes, very dirty, very skinny.

BP: Were there any medical problems like diseases?

JK: Yeah, some.

BP: From the mosquitoes or no?

JK: Some mosquitoes. Plenty mosquitoes.

BP: Did you have things like malaria or dengue fever?

JK: They don't have malaria, no. That's from the mosquito, no? No, they don't have.

BP: Any skin diseases?

JK: No, we don't have skin disease. Sometimes they have from our mosquito and the flies. No nothing to wash your body.

BP: Nothing, just dirty? Just before the -- when did you find out that the war was over? Do you remember hearing about the war being over?

JK: Yes. I still remember because keep on coming, the airplane, but no more bomb, no more shooting, but still we're hiding, running and hide. Two days. First day no

bomb, only keep on -- I don't know what they're doing, taking picture or what, but we are hiding. Next day they come again. They spray down the cigarette, Chesterfield and Lucky Strike and Camel, but we are afraid to use that again because we heard that before Japanese time if you found a pen, ball pen, do not get because that's a time bomb. They're telling us. We are very afraid to get some cigarette. Maybe when you open maybe bomb also. Some kids get the cigarette that open, but no blow up. That's the time they get the cigarette.

BP: Were you smoking at that age?

JK: No, I didn't smoke, but I bring to give to my father and my mother. So after that they keep on drop the paper. When we get the paper the war is over, they said.

BP: So how long before the American Marines came?

JK: When the war is over, 1945? I think, but I don't know what month.

BP: I think it was September 1945.

JK: September?

BP: Yeah, the Marines came to Rota. So were you there when the Marines came in?

JK: Yes. We was in the jungle in our cave around early morning. Early morning we was there. You know, all of us,



family, my mother, my father, my brother, my sister, was there.

BP: In the jungle?

JK: In the jungle. But we know the day the war is over, but we are still hiding. One of us said, "Hey, look at your back." "What?" "Look at your back, somebody's standing." When we looking back very big guy, some very black, the color, some very white, then blue eyes. I never seen the blue eye people. Oh my God, those people. That's American. Maybe an American, we don't know. These people maybe came from the heaven, like that. Even the shirt is like green leaf, the jacket. And very slow gun, the [Coggin?], machine gun. They was there around us, but that time very dry, the land, many leaf from the tree, but no one hear that noise. Beside us already. Supposed to be here (inaudible). Because very dry leaf of the trees, but nobody hear that. Ten feet back, Marines around.

BP: All around you?

JK: The gun they pointing us.

BP: So were you frightened?

JK: Only they said, "You Japanese? You Spanish?" But nobody talked. We cannot say anything. So my mother a little bit she knows Germany very well to speak, German language and Spanish. So one Spanish also together with the Marines.

Said, "Speak Spanish?" My mother said, I don't know, I forgot. They said, "Comprende?" Said, "I understand." They talking Spanish language. But some other American, "You Japanese?" They pointing the gun. But we cannot say anything because we are panic already. When we look the eyes was blue eye, very tall people. But you know, some Hawaiian Japanese was there.

BP: They spoke Japanese?

JK: Spoke Japanese. Only asking about, "Where are the Japanese? Some Japanese hiding here?" My mother said, "No one hiding here. The other side the Japanese side. This is all Chamorro people."

BP: So what happened to you after that?

JK: After that they giving us some biscuits, cigarette, and candles. But we are still afraid to eat that. Maybe poisoned. But when my mother say to the Spanish soldier, "You better eat, this is not poison." Then open the biscuit and he's the one first eating, the soldier. "See? You eat." They giving us to eat. But when we eat that we got the pain stomach. We eat that biscuit. What happened, maybe poisoned is one. But it's not poison. Too much dry already our intestine, stomach. Very dry and when we eat that, the first time we eat sweet biscuit so we eat a lot.

BP: You ate a lot.

JK: That's why.

BP: You got sick?

JK: We got sick.

BP: How long was it before you could eat without being sick?

JK: Maybe around three, four days only.

BP: And so what happened? Did they take you some place, did they put you in a camp or what?

JK: Yeah, they put us in the camp, but very nice place. We changed our dress. Our dress very dirty and very old dress. They remove all and then giving us nice jacket, military jacket, clean also our body. Like a fire truck force.

BP: They washed you off with the hoses?

JK: Yes.

BP: No showers?

JK: No, that's first time because (inaudible) making the barracks.

BP: So how long -- what do you remember then? After the Americans what was life like for you on Rota after the Americans took over? What do you remember about that?

JK: Yeah, I still remember but I cannot go to work because I'm still young, but my brother, Antonio Bora, going to Guam to work.

BP: Oh, your brother went with Antonio?

JK: No, before Japanese time together.

BP: Your brother was with Antonio?

JK: Japanese.

BP: During Japanese times.

JK: But Mr. Bora 1946 or '45, or '46 I think, went to Guam.

BP: And your family stayed in Rota?

JK: Stayed in Rota.

BP: For how long?

JK: Two years.

BP: What did your father and mother do during those two -- did they work or what?

JK: No, they don't work. We start again for working on our farm.

BP: If you had land on Rota why did you leave Rota? You said something about your mother. She was in a coma? Or she was in the cave and you couldn't wake her up?

JK: Yes, when I said --

BP: Go back. When was this that she was in a coma in the cave?

JK: In 1944.

BP: How long before the Americans came?

JK: Around three months before the Americans --

BP: Was she sick or what? What happened?

JK: No, not sick. Just fall down and cannot move.

BP: Was this during the daytime, at nighttime, or what?

JK: Daytime and nighttime. Because even daytime, very dark inside.

BP: So, what, she just laid down and nobody could wake her up?

JK: Nobody. We are very scared, maybe die already, my mother. So when you wake up --

BP: How did you know she was not dead?

JK: Because the pulse is still moving. But even though you shake her, my mother, even the rat is running beside her. She can hear that.

BP: She can hear it? She told you that later?

JK: Yes. So I don't believe (inaudible) like dead already. Mother said even the rat is passing his side, you can hear that rat. If the rat is touching her body he knows already.

BP: She knows.

JK: Even mosquito, when touch his body she knows.

BP: But she can't move?

JK: But that time cannot move.

BP: She can't talk?

JK: They won't talk.

BP: She was like that for how long?

JK: One night. Maybe one night and half day. In 24 hours maybe like 16 hours.

BP: A day and a half.

JK: When he wake he say, "Oh, I see my brother, I see my sisters still in Saipan. So if you don't die, if you still alive until the end of this war over, so first we go back to Saipan to see my brother and my sister. No one believe me, you alive, but okay." Even my father accept to go.

BP: Because of your mother's vision?

JK: Yes. So when we go back in 1947 to Saipan all the brother and sister was in Saipan still alive.

BP: That was in [Tuanka Noa?] then?

JK: Yes, Tuanka Noa.

BP: What did they say? Did your mother tell her brother and sister about her vision, her dream?

JK: Yes.

BP: And what was their reaction?

JK: They said, "When I see you" -- to the brother -- "You sitting in that chair, I pointing the chair, that's true." The sister, she was in the kitchen, washing something, washing the kitchen. That's true.

BP: So she had that vision.

JK: That time okay, more better we go. We stay together, stay one year in Saipan, more better we go to Tinian. When my father first come to Tinian to search the place. So he found many houses, military house, and car like Ford and

Jeep, everything they have in Tinian. Clothes, military clothes, steamer box. They don't bring the military --

BP: They leave it?

JK: Leave it. Everything they leave it. Even the guns, many guns.

BP: Food? Was there food?

JK: Yes, one warehouse, very big house.

BP: You owned land in Rota, right?

JK: Yes.

BP: What happened to your land in Rota?

JK: My mother giving -- what's calling that? Giving to my older sister to watch that land.

BP: So she's still there?

JK: She's still there.

BP: She speaks English?

JK: Little bit, but her son (inaudible) doctor.

BP: And so you said though when you were in Saipan you went to school in Saipan, but you had problems. Tell me about going back to school in Saipan.

JK: When we go back to Saipan my mother take me to the school, put me in the school in Tuanka Noa. So I'm very interested to learn about the language of -- American language. So you know, our sound in Rota and Saipan different.

BP: The Chamorro?

JK: Chamorro.

BP: Different accent?

JK: Yes.

BP: Different words?

JK: Same words, but different pronunciation. So they keep on teaching me, "Oh, you came from Rota, you are [galita?]. I don't like you." Sometimes pushing me. So when I go back home I tell my mother, "This boy give me hard time so I don't want to go back to school."

BP: So how long did you go to school in Saipan?

JK: Only two days, three days.

BP: You quit?

JK: I quit.

BP: You just stayed home or did you work?

JK: No, I cannot do anything, just only going fishing.

BP: What did your father do? Did he work?

JK: No, he don't work.

BP: He just got food from the Americans?

JK: Yes, they have a supply from the American soldiers.

BP: So you stayed with your mother's brother and sister?

JK: Yes, then we come back to Tinian.

BP: What do you remember about the early years of living on Tinian. Before we go what time is it?



JK: Five past 1:00. When we came to Tinian you don't worry about food. Many food. Just only we get the wood from the military site, tea, plywood, everything. Then we make a house in Marco, now Marco Valley.

BP: Which is where?

JK: Going to the --

BP: Airport?

JK: No, no. For the [Warrapom?].

BP: Is that south or east or --

JK: East.

BP: That where the village was then?

JK: Yes. So they have a company, American, Mr. Young and --

BP: Mr. Young?

JK: Three American was here to make the product from -- planting product. So get many Chamorro to plant a big (inaudible) Guam.

BP: Did they? So everybody was a farmer then?

JK: Yes, everybody farmer then. That's our living. We receive a small money, but nothing to worry about food because the money only to buy the clothes and shoes, but for the food nothing to worry. At that time many fish, many coconut crop in the island, many birds.

BP: Not now?

JK: Not now. Now no more.

BP: Were there any Americans from that period that you remember very well?

JK: I'm not so much remember because very hard to get the communication because we don't know how to speak American language.

BP: So did you go to school here on Tinian?

JK: No, because they have a school in old village and Yap people came from here in 1948, they got one camp that's around 300 people.

BP: You were here before the Yap people?

JK: Yes, before. So stay in the old village, they're calling old village, the military new barracks. Very big place, all the people go there. So they got school there. But us, we stayed in Marco maybe around three, four miles away. So very hard to go to that school.

BP: So what did you do? You were a farmer most of your life or what?

JK: Yes. Farmer and fishing.

BP: Did you do any other kind of work?

JK: No.

BP: Always that?

JK: Always that.

BP: And then you married and raised children too?

JK: Yes.

BP: How many children?

JK: I have (inaudible) children.

BP: How much?

JK: One dozen.

BP: Whoa.

JK: But my daughter, one of daughter, three of my son, are  
military.

BP: They're in the military now?

JK: Yes, now. Army.

BP: Are they officers, enlisted men?

JK: Army.

BP: Are they officers or enlisted men?

JK: The oldest son is a captain now, Army. The second son is  
first sergeant. And my daughter, I don't know how many.

BP: She's Army too?

JK: One son is Navy.

BP: What is he in the Navy?

JK: (laughter) I don't know. He joined the Navy.

BP: Do they come back to visit?

JK: Yes, two months ago they come here and they see me.

BP: So you made a living being a farmer and fisherman all your  
life?

JK: Yes.

BP: Now, there's a Senator King? Is there a Senator King here in the government?

JK: Yes. Relative.

BP: Son?

JK: Cousin.

BP: Now, your wife's maiden name is?

JK: My first wife is [a Brentney?]. We divorce. I got divorced in 1988.

BP: What was her maiden name?

JK: (inaudible)

BP: No, her maiden name. What was her name before marriage?

JK: She's here, she's working here. She's a chief cook.

BP: What was her last name though? Was it [Fudella, Borja?]?

JK: She was a King in my time, but now it changed. She got husband.

BP: But before she married you what was her name?

JK: Tobis.

BP: And you have a second wife now?

JK: Yes. Last wife, the name is Marlene Filipina. I got one daughter.

BP: How old?

JK: Four years old. So everybody said that's my -- what's that? They don't suspect she's my daughter.

BP: Like Mr. [Hushnider?] has a Filipino wife, no?

JK: No.

BP: No?

JK: Just separated but not divorced.

BP: Can you think of anything else you'd like to tell me before we stop here?

JK: Yes.

BP: Is there anything else you remember you would like to say?

JK: No, I think it's good enough.

BP: Did your father ever go back to Korea for a visit?

JK: No.

BP: Never went back?

JK: Never go back.

BP: Never saw his family again?

JK: Never saw. So my brother and me, we went to Korea to search with the family of my father, the parents, but we cannot find.

BP: Never found anybody. Because you know, Jesus Matsumoto --

JK: He's from North Korea. My father's South Korea.

BP: But he told me his (break in audio). Did your father when he married your mother, did he become a Catholic?

JK: Yes, that's why they giving him his name as a Jose.

BP: So then the church did recognize his marriage to your mother?

JK: Yes.

BP: And he became Jose when he became a Catholic?

JK: Yes.

BP: Now you said most of the time you were a fisherman and a farmer on Tinian.

JK: That's right.

BP: But you did work for the local government at one --

JK: No.

BP: You never worked for the --

JK: No, never work.

BP: But you said you were making \$26,000 a year.

JK: Oh, this last year.

BP: Just one year?

JK: No, only three months.

BP: The rest of the time you were a fisherman and farmer?

JK: Yes. After that I working in the government from 1983, but even though after four years they changing the leadership because of the politics. When you lose your leadership you're going to lose also the job. No more job.

BP: So worked from 1983 to 1987, right?

JK: Right.

BP: Just four years?

JK: Yes.

BP: What was your job at the time?

JK: That time she Mayor [Mindiola?], Mayor [Monglonia?] in 1983. Then after that Mayor Mindiola.

BP: So you worked for Mayor [Manglionna?]?

JK: Yes.

BP: And what was your job for him?

JK: Same. Public relation officer.

BP: So sort of a party job?

JK: Yes.

BP: Republican party?

JK: Yes, Republican.

BP: So then he lost the election in 1987?

JK: No, he don't continue to candidate for the mayor. He giving to his brother. So his brother against Mindiola. So he lose. So Mr. Mindiola take me to work for two years. Then after that they have election again with Mr. Mindiola and Mr. Monglonia, the previous mayor. So Mr. Mindiola lose. And this last, I think it's 1991 to 1994, so when Mr. Mindiola, the mayor, lose, that time I don't have job. I keep on asking favor, "Please can you take me to work because I have a family," but his answer, "okay, Mr. King, if we got budget we going to take you." So I keep on waiting months by months, three months I ask him again same question, no budget. Until this last year they have an election for the senator, that's two years, so my candidate

lose again. But before lose the governor, (inaudible), take us because we going to support his candidate in Tinian. He really wants to take that candidate.

BP: You also said that you and your brother, John, went to Korea to see if you could find your father's family. What year was that?

JK: That year around 1980. I think 1979 to '80.

BP: Is that after your father died?

JK: Huh?

BP: This is after your father died?

JK: Yes.

BP: And who did you contact in an effort to find your father's family?

JK: Only my brother's [new friends?] and my brother is married to Korean lady.

BP: Your brother?

JK: Yes, that's why they keep on asking because the wife of my brother, she knows many people in Korea.

BP: Where did your brother meet his wife?

JK: My brother, he went to Korea.

BP: When did he go to Korea, between '79 and '80?

JK: No, no. Around 20 years ago.

BP: Nineteen seventy-seven, '75?

JK: Yes, that year.



BP: Now, why did he go there the first time?

JK: Just like a tourist.

BP: And he met a Korean woman and he got married?

JK: Yes. He found one lady there so he get married.

BP: Did he go there to look for a wife?

JK: (laughter) I don't know.

BP: (inaudible)?

JK: Yes.

BP: He died?

JK: No, still here.

BP: They got divorced?

JK: No, they aren't divorced. Still together.

BP: Wait a minute. So he has a Chamorro wife and a Korean wife?

JK: Before take the Korean lady he got one lady, but they weren't married.

BP: Oh, they weren't married?

JK: Living together.

BP: Did they have children?

JK: No, don't have children. So after die, the lady, that's the time he went to --

BP: Oh, she died?

JK: Yes.

BP: But she was going to help you find your father's family in Korea?

JK: Yes.

BP: But --

JK: We cannot make it.

BP: How much time did you spend there looking for them?

JK: We stayed there for two weeks.

BP: Did your father ever say anything to you about his family in Korea?

JK: No. Just only my father, I still remember [the plan?] because I was a kid. So he said he wants to go to other place, keep on going around. That's why --

BP: He never mentioned his mother and father?

JK: No, only he mention what this place -- he said [Zendanando?]. He stayed in Zendanando. Pusan.

BP: So you went to that area?

JK: Yes, we went there. We stayed in apartment; keep on going around, keep on asking some people who knows Mr. King.  
(break in audio)

BP: This is tape two, interview with Mr. Jose King on Tinian. It is Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, 1997. Our interviewer is Bruce Petty. (break in audio). Okay, so you went there to look for your father. Did your father at any time ever express a desire or wish to go back to Korea

and find his family or did he just -- did he ever say anything like that?

JK: No, he don't say anything.

BP: So it was just the interest of you and your brother, it wasn't anything else?

JK: (inaudible) my brother, but it's very hard because of the languages.

BP: You're also saying that one night there was a Japanese ship that came into the harbor at Rota. What was the name of that harbor?

JK: [Ternon?]

BP: Ternon?

JK: Ternon.

BP: That's the name it has today?

JK: Yes. And Songsong Lago. They calling Songsong Lago.

BP: That's the Chamorro name, you mean? How do you spell -- oh, Songsong?

JK: Songsong.

BP: Lago?

JK: Lago, yes.

BP: Do you remember the name of that Japanese ship?

JK: No, we don't know.

BP: How about this name, does this sound familiar? [Shoun Maru?].

JK: I don't know what is that name of.

BP: Because there was a ship sunk in the harbor near Rota by an American submarine. It was called Shoun Maru. S-H-O-U-N.

JK: Showa? Showa Maru?

BP: Shoun. Was there more than one ship sunk there or just one?

JK: No, they have two ship there. The meaning of Songsong Lago, this is the south, this is west, like that.

BP: So Songsong Lago means south?

JK: This one, this is the north, northwest, south.

BP: Okay, but what does Lago mean?

JK: Lake.

BP: South?

JK: East.

BP: Lago means east. Okay, Songsong Lago. So there was two ships that you know that were sunk?

JK: One in the Ternon, one in the Songsong Lago, but that Songsong Lago ship, that's a military ship. They carrying many soldiers in the ship. So that ship supposed to go to other place, but when they passing in Rota to drop some soldiers, that's the time the submarine, they hit the ship. So all of them, the ship is sink. So some people come up to the land.

BP: Okay, the survivors.

JK: Survivors.

BP: So that was not in the harbor, that was off the coast?

That ship, was it in the harbor when it --

JK: Yes, outside from the harbor.

BP: But the ship you were talking about was the [Heepalon?]  
that you saw blow up?

JK: Yes.

BP: That was a civilian ship or military?

JK: That time you don't know what kind of ship is that,  
civilian or military, but many militaries, not civilian,  
riding in that boat.

BP: They were mostly military?

JK: Most of them military, Army.

BP: But that was in the harbor when it was sunk or outside?

JK: Outside the harbor.

BP: And that was the one that was Songsong Lago?

JK: Sasan Lago.

BP: How do you spell that?

JK: S-A-S-A-N Lago.

BP: And that was (inaudible).

JK: Yes.

BP: Can you remember more things about Ignacio de la Cruz?

Since we talked the other day do you remember more about  
him or no?

JK: Only that I know my mother told me that was our uncle. They suspect him as a spy because the color is white and they have tattoo in his chest.

BP: His son was telling me that they kept him in a jail that was a cave and they had bars made from bamboo or something and he was there with a Catholic priest or a Catholic brother.

JK: I remember also the Catholic -- like a deacon. Not the father, not the priest. A deacon or so. I remember they take him and put in what you say, in cage of bamboo or I don't know. Because I don't see it. Only that I know they're going to kill him. So they stand in front of the very big hole. So they nailed down and the Japanese soldiers, they're going to shoot him.

BP: They shot him?

JK: Yes.

BP: You said there was the Chamorros, they were working at a sweet potato field when the B29s dropped bombs. You said three were killed and one was a relative of yours?

JK: Yes.

BP: What was his name?

JK: His name is Crispin -- what is the last name? Crispin [Monglonia?]. And the other one was Osma.

BP: How do you spell that?

JK: O-S-M-A.

BP: That was [a Moroni?], wasn't it?

JK: Yes, Osma. The other guy, I don't know the name because we cannot see the face because all burned and we cannot recognize who is that.

BP: So then you said they brought the bodies back to the caves where you were living?

JK: The body, I don't know where -- I think they don't put in the cave because already dead.

BP: Yeah, but you said they brought them to where your village was.

JK: Oh, yes.

BP: And then this Okinawan nurse came and she sewed up the bodies for burial.

JK: That's right.

BP: And that's where you saw them?

JK: Yes. I saw in my two eyes.

BP: She put the intestines back.

JK: Yes.

BP: And then the next day she was killed by a bomb too?

JK: Yes.

BP: And you said also that most of the people, they were living in these caves very close together, is that correct?

JK: Yes.

BP: What area of Rota was that? Was that up in the highland?

JK: Yes, very highland. They calling [Sakaza?], that place.

BP: How do you spell that?

JK: S-A-C-A-Y-A.

BP: That was the Chamorro name?

JK: Yes. Sakaza.

BP: And you said there were maybe 250 people that were buried in that area who were killed during the war. Is that it?

JK: Yes.

BP: Did they die from disease or were they all killed from bombs?

JK: The most killed by the bomb and machine gun.

BP: So the bombs fell near the cave?

JK: Yes.

BP: Many times or just a few times?

JK: Not so many time. Sometimes two times a week.

BP: You said you buried the people near the cave. Was it like very far from the cave or how far away did people bury them?

JK: No, just around 1,000 feet away.

BP: And after the war did they take those bodies and move them to the cemetery?

JK: Yes, picking up all the bones and put in the Songsong cemetery inside the church.



BP: And that cemetery is still there today?

JK: Yes.

BP: You can go there and see the names?

JK: Yes. If you go there you can ask even the mayor in Rota or you can go to the Catholic church, they got servant there, you can ask.

BP: Can you tell me more about the children, the Chamorro children, of the village who lived in these caves? You said they didn't have any clothes?

JK: They have clothes, but very old clothes. Was only the clothes keep on using because you was in the -- before the American bombs coming we have some clothes, but the house is burned so only on our body and some new clothes, we get that clothes and we keep on running.

BP: Do you remember anybody giving birth to babies while they were in the caves?

JK: In my place we don't have. Only after the war finished 1945 one baby born, Mr. Shai. He was -- now he's retired already, but he was chief captain police, police captain.

BP: On Rota?

JK: No, in here.

BP: Oh, he's the --

JK: Now he living in Saipan.

BP: How do you spell that?

JK: S-H-A-I.

BP: Is that a Chamorro name, Shai?

JK: No, Korean name.

BP: He's still there, Mr. Shai. What's his first name?

JK: John. He's my cousin.

BP: Is his name in the phone book?

JK: Yes.

BP: So you don't remember anybody having babies, giving birth to babies there?

JK: No, only him in 1945.

BP: After the war.

JK: Yes.

BP: The area where you were living, were all the Chamorros living there or were there Chamorros living in other places?

JK: They have another places. They're calling -- those people stayed in the south of the island. That place is very nice because they have a lake, water.

BP: So there were Chamorros living on the south of the island?

JK: Yes.

BP: What area was that called where they lived?

JK: Like Ternon or so, that area. From the Ternon goes to the south, they got water fountain, big water, from the mountain.

BP: Oh, they had -- water came from the mountain, they had a fountain?

JK: Yes, that water they're using now in the village.

BP: So they didn't have problems with water?

JK: No problem for the water.

BP: How about food?

JK: Only food many people planting food.

BP: Were they hungry like you were in the mountains?

JK: They have a little bit different because those people can go to the lake and catch some squid.

BP: Squid or shrimp?

JK: Shrimp.

BP: Why didn't the other Chamorros move down there where there was --

JK: Very far. Very, very far.

BP: You couldn't live there with the other Chamorros?

JK: No, because when they starting the bomb then we run away. Everybody goes to his own farm.

BP: Oh, you had a farm up there?

JK: Yes.

BP: So that area where you lived, it had a name. do you remember more -- when you went to Saipan you knew Jesus Matsumoto in Saipan before you came to --

JK: Yes, in 1947 I meet him. Because Mr. Matsumoto and my father, you know, same Korean so he wants to make some kind of business. So Jesus (inaudible) back of (inaudible) building, that's our place before in 1947 when we go to Saipan. So Mr. Matsumoto and my father, he trying to make some business to making miso and toyo.

BP: What's toyo?

JK: Toyo, they put in the batter. The color is black, good for the soup.

BP: Oh, soya?

JK: Soya.

BP: Oh, soya sauce.

JK: And miso.

BP: But you said in Saipan though Mr. Matsumoto asked you to buy handkerchiefs?

JK: Yes. After that, after the business, the business is making good, but no market.

BP: No market for the miso and the soup?

JK: To sell those product.

BP: Why? Because the Japanese were gone or what?

JK: No, no Japanese.

BP: The Chamorro don't like that?

JK: Not much.

BP: So that's when he got into the handkerchief?

JK: So after that they stop. So since Matsumoto wants to make some another business, so that's the time he make -- he thinking about the military soldiers, many military was there in that time, so he told me to buy handkerchiefs. So I don't know what's going to do. When I give him the handkerchiefs that's the time he make jewelry first, then painting.

BP: What did he paint?

JK: The body of a woman, naked body.

BP: He could sell those to the --

JK: Yes, I'm the one selling that. Yes, I went to the barracks of military.

BP: And you had no trouble selling?

JK: No, you don't have. Everybody happy. Let me buy, let me buy. Oh, boy, nice, nice.

BP: How much?

JK: Two dollars each.

BP: And how much did you keep? How much money did you get?

JK: I don't remember how much, but they still give me also.

BP: So how long did you work for Mr. Matsumoto?

JK: Two months.

BP: And then why did you stop?

JK: Then my father decide to go to Tinian.

BP: So where did you get the handkerchiefs?

JK: They have a small store in Saipan, [Joten?].

BP: It started that early?

JK: Yes.

BP: What kind of work did your father do on Tinian when he first came here? Did he do farming too?

JK: Yes, doing farming. Only that job they have in Tinian.

BP: But you just followed in your father's --

JK: Yes, right.

BP: Can you think of anything else since we talked the other day? Do you remember anything else?

JK: Maybe that's all.

BP: That's pretty good.

END OF AUDIO FILE