

Alex Trentoff Oral History Interview

BRUCE PETTY: First of all, I wanted to know, what was your father's full name?

ALEX TRENTOFF: Same.

BP: Alex Trentoff.

AT: Yeah.

BP: And when was he born? Do you have any idea?

AT: No idea.

BP: And he was born where?

AT: In Moscow.

BP: He was born in Moscow.

AT: Right.

BP: How did he end up in Vladivostok?

AT: He was working for Siberian railroad.

BP: He was an engineer, or something?

AT: No, he was a radio man.

BP: He was a radio man. Did he speak several languages?

AT: Yeah.

BP: What languages did he speak?

AT: A lot. German, Polish, Russian, Italian...

BP: He was a pretty well-educated man.

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: And he met his wife in Vladivostok, [or Moscow]?

AT: Yeah, Vladivostok at that time, they find out -- he arrive  
at Vladivostok, and he find his fiancée, you know?

(laughs)

BP: She was from Germany --

AT: German, yeah.

BP: You say her family had a business in Vladivostok?

AT: Right.

BP: What sort of business did they --?

AT: Some kind of groceries and cloth.

BP: Did she ever tell you how they ended up Vladivostok from  
Germany?

AT: Only my sister knows because they are born there.

BP: Your sister was born there?

AT: Yeah, two sisters born in Vladivostok.

BP: Now, is this the one who's married to Ben [Pangolina]?

AT: Right.

BP: She's still alive here, right?

AT: No.

BP: She died.

AT: She died.

BP: How about the other sister?

AT: Both of them died.

BP: Both of them died. Ben Pangolina is still alive.

AT: Yeah.

BP: I wonder if I could contact him sometime.

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: Yeah, I'd like to talk to him, because he's a good friend of Alfred [Fleming?].

AT: Right.

BP: What was your mother's name?

AT: Augusta.

(break in audio)

BP: So, your mother's name was Augusta [Tak?]

AT: [Carlona?].

BP: Carlona. Okay. I take it your father was caught on the wrong side of the Russian civil war.

AT: Right, right.

BP: So, he felt like he had to leave in order to save his life?

AT: Right, save his life and save his family.

BP: What year was that, that they left?

AT: Well, this I don't know.

BP: Early '20s probably.

AT: Right. Yeah, they came to Japan.

BP: They came down through Manchuria? Or did they take a ship?

AT: No, from Vladivostok, Japan, [straight?].

BP: And how long did they stay in Japan?

AT: A year.

BP: And then they went from there to Saipan?

AT: I think Saipan. Then from Saipan, to here.

BP: Do you know the story of what they did in Saipan? Nothing. Did your father tell you why he eventually came to Yap?

AT: Yeah, he told me that because he bought a book in Japan. And it talked about Micronesia. And Yap is best place because no animal. Nothing to harm the kids.

BP: No snakes.

AT: Yeah. And the people is nice people.

BP: Do you know what year he ended up on Yap?

AT: Nineteen twenty-five.

BP: Nineteen twenty-five. And what sort of work did he do there in 1925?

AT: First, he was making bread and cookies and selling to Yapese people.

BP: Oh, so he had a bakery there?

AT: Yeah, he made own bakery.

BP: Did he sell to the Japanese, too?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Now, there weren't too many Japanese there then, were there? Just a few?

AT: Oh, yeah, a whole bunch of them. Civilian.

BP: Civilian. They were involved, what, in the copra trade?

AT: Copra. And some people worked for NDK company.

BP: But your father was an independent businessman?

AT: Right. Then, after the bakery, he was working for NDK making copra and oil, selling the husk and the shell.

BP: To the [Japanese?] and the NDK.

AT: Yeah.

BP: Were any survivors of David O'Keefe's family still in Yap?

AT: No, only one was there. [I go up, was?] still there. Scott [Eugenie?].

BP: Eugenie Scott, yeah.

AT: Yeah. She adopt one of the son of Fleming, Tommy Fleming.

BP: She was related to Tommy Fleming?

AT: No, she adopt.

BP: Oh, she adopted Tommy. Why did she adopt --

AT: Because she don't have kids.

BP: She had no children of her own?

AT: Yeah.

BP: So did she stay there for the rest of her life, on Yap?

AT: No, before the World War II start, she left the Philippines. Since that, we never had a letter, nothing.

BP: Never heard from her -- don't know what happened?

AT: No.

BP: Now, your father's house, is it right where your house is?

AT: Right.

BP: In Chamorro Bay, then?

AT: Yeah. Same place.

BP: When you were growing up, did you get to go to a Japanese school?

AT: Yes, Japanese school.

BP: Even though you were not Japanese?

AT: Yeah, because they have only two family was there going to Japanese school. One is Japanese married to one Saipanese woman.

BP: Do you know their name?

AT: Yeah.

BP: What was their name?

AT: Yeah, Kato. The man's name is Kato.

BP: How do you spell that? K-A-T-O?

AT: Yeah. Kato. Josepa -- the wife name is Josepa.

BP: Josepa. And she was Chamorro?

AT: Right.

BP: Do you know her maiden name? What was her Chamorro name?

AT: I don't know. But you can find out from Ben Pangolina. He know.

BP: Oh, Ben Pangolina. Okay. That'd be great. Okay, Kato -- and he was married to a Chamorro. What kind of work did he do there?

AT: Carpenter. And he have three sons still alive.

AT: There?

BP: No, in Japan.

AT: I don't know if Kato is still alive or not, but Josepa is still alive.

BP: And living where?

AT: I don't know. Ben, I think, know.

BP: Not in Yap, though.

AT: No, no.

BP: So actually, there was a Japanese school for Japanese children. And you went there?

AT: Yeah.

BP: You and your sisters, along with --

AT: No, my sisters didn't go to school.

BP: They didn't go to school? Why was that?

AT: Because they're already old enough. And only myself went to Japanese school. She was going to night school -- Japanese night school, that's all -- so they can learn how to speak Japanese, that's all.

BP: So the Kato family, how many children did they have going to the school?

AT: Three.

BP: So it was just four students in the Japanese school?

AT: No, whole bunch.

BP: Oh, there were other Japanese?

AT: Oh, yeah. Japanese, Korean, Okinawan.

BP: So there were Okinawans there, too?

AT: Oh, yeah. They're making copra. They're making charcoal.

BP: And the Koreans? What were they doing mostly?

AT: They're working for some company, garden, and...

BP: Were they well-treated by the Japanese?

AT: Oh, yeah. No problem.

BP: What do you remember about the Japanese school? Do you remember your teacher or anything?

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: What was his name?

AT: One is... [just died?] about two or three years ago.

BP: In Japan?

AT: Yeah.

BP: You don't remember his name?

AT: Yamada Kocho Sensei. Yamada is a principal name. He was called Yamada.

BP: Yamada was the principal. Do you remember the name of the other teachers?

AT: Only one guy left. War start, he left there in Yap because he was army. He's a sergeant.

BP: He stayed on Yap?

AT: Yeah, he stayed on Yap with the wartime.

BP: He survived?

AT: Oh, yeah. He stay -- oh no, wait a minute, wait a minute.

(break in audio)



BP: [Uehara?].

AT: I don't know the last name. Uehara Sensei, we said.  
Teacher.

BP: And how were they? Pretty good teachers, you think?

AT: Oh, yeah. I never get beat up.

BP: Other kids got beat up?

AT: Oh, yes. Yeah. Punish them.

BP: Anybody get hurt seriously?

AT: No, no. Sometimes, one guy make a wrong thing in the  
school. And we had to line up, two people, each other with  
each other.

BP: Slap each other across the face?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Students would have to slap each other for doing something  
wrong.

AT: Yeah. One guy did it. (laughs)

BP: One guy, so everybody had to get slapped in the face?

AT: Yeah. And after school, we have to find him and beat him  
up. (laughs)

BP: So was there one student who caused more problems?

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: Who was that?

AT: Some Japanese police sons. Some high-class people.

BP: You don't remember the name?

AT: One I remember, Mikuma, one young guy, a boy the same age with me.

BP: He survived the war, too?

AT: Yeah, he came after the war about 25 years. He came to Yap and visit me. He said, "Hey, we going to beat each other?" I said, "No, no." (laughs) And one from Okinawa, Uehara. I chopped his head off -- the [skin?] --

BP: You chopped his head off?

AT: Yeah, with a stick.

BP: Oh, did you hurt him very bad?

AT: Not my problem. I didn't see him coming.

BP: Oh, you were working in the field?

AT: Yeah. And they was playing a [bet?] and he slide down. And as soon as [just?] skin off [here?] -- that's why I remember him. He came. He said, "Hey, you remember (inaudible) the head don't [grow?] no more." (laughs) I said, "Oh, yeah. I remember." He's a good friend of mine. I didn't mean it to.

BP: He's still around now, you said?

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: He lives in Okinawa?

AT: Okinawa.

BP: Does he ever come out to visit you?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Will he be out again soon?

AT: Three of them.

BP: They come regularly to see you?

AT: Yeah, three of them from Okinawa to Yap.

BP: Do any of them speak English?

AT: One of them, the one I cut his -- he can speak English.

Three of them, no.

BP: If he ever comes again, I would really like to meet him.

I'd like to interview an Okinawan who lived there.

AT: We can find out with Ben what their names -- because Uehara is -- a lot of people in Okinawa are Uehara, Uehara, Uehara. Have to get the last name and first name. Then we can find out. One, Oshiro, he was -- about 25 year ago, he was governor of Okinawa.

BP: He was in Yap and he was the governor of Okinawa?

AT: Yeah, he came back to Okinawa. Was the governor of Okinawa.

BP: I'd better talk to Ben, then.

AT: Right, he can give you more information.

BP: In those days before the war, what do you remember most about that? Did you have to work after school?

AT: No. The time the war start, no more school. All the civilians left to Japan.

BP: Okay, but I mean, before this period, before the civilians left, what do you remember most about your life here?

AT: We were in the jungle. We live in the jungle. We're working for Japanese army, making sweet potato.

BP: But I mean before the war, before the army started coming in, when it's peaceful and quiet, do you remember much about those days?

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: Anything that you remember especially about that, about your life, what you did with your family?

AT: Very good. Very good. Very good.

BP: Plenty to eat?

AT: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. (laughs)

BP: You did fishing?

AT: Yeah, fishing. And we had hogs and chicken, ducks and goat and everything. Goat especially, I would go every morning and milk the goat.

BP: Did you work in agriculture at all?

AT: No, that's my father's goat.

BP: But you didn't have to work in the taro patch?

AT: No.

BP: So, actually, you went to school and then you just kind of played?

AT: Right. Right.

BP: Pretty good life.

AT: Yeah. Yeah.

BP: Was there anybody that you remember most about those days? Did you have any special friends? Any Yapese friends or Japanese friends that you remember more?

AT: Yeah, few Japanese. Few Japanese, they're really good.

BP: So good relations between the Japanese and everybody at that time?

AT: Yeah. And my father had a good relationship with the governor of Yap, the chief police. When my father cannot speak Japanese, my sister was interpreter.

BP: He didn't speak Japanese?

AT: No. But the governor, he can speak German. That's why they get together and talking German language.

BP: Now who was the governor, the Japanese governor? Was he a military man or a civilian?

AT: No, a civilian.

BP: You don't remember his name?

AT: I think Ben know.

BP: How about the [Hondenero?] family? Did you know them very well at that time?

AT: Yeah.

BP: [Agapito?]?

AT: Agapito, yeah. Sometimes they come down my house New Year and drink cognac with my father and Agapito. Big guy.

BP: What do you remember about Agapito? You ever talk to him?

AT: No. Because, you know, I was small. And every time they come down, they chase all the children out. "Hey, let's go play in the sand pile over there." (laughs)

BP: So you'd go play with Balthazar and Caroline?

AT: Yeah.

BP: They were about your age?

AT: Yeah.

BP: And [Filomena?], do you remember much about her?

AT: Yeah. She's Agapito wife. I think she's a beautiful in the family.

BP: The most beautiful girl in the family?

AT: Yeah.

BP: She still has family in Saipan.

AT: Yeah. And here, too.

BP: [Tomasa?].

AT: Tomasa, yeah. And Ursula. Ursula was married to Tommy Fleming, the one Scott adopt.

BP: Do any of them speak English? Tomasa or Ursula?

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: They speak pretty good English?

AT: Yeah.

BP: I might want to contact them some time.

AT: They live in some place in [Barrigada?].

BP: Now, this Agapito was a weatherman.

AT: Yeah, weatherman.

BP: But did he work for the League of Nations? Did he work for the Americans?

AT: I don't know. They took them to Palau, Agapito and the wife, and some [priest?], because they said they're English people -- and my father asked the general, and he said, "How about us?" And he said, "No, you guys no worry about Fleming. And about Schneider, no." Because they're part of a German family.

BP: Was that General Ito?

AT: Yeah.

BP: He's the one who arrested them?

AT: No, no. They had message from Palau came, and they said, "Got to go, those English people to Palau." Because in Palau, they had some kind of soldier -- I think they call Japanese Kempeitai. [Because the one only?] can kill people.

BP: So does the name Colonel Miyazaki sound familiar to you? He was the head of the Kempeitai in Palau.

AT: I heard the name, but...

BP: Well, you know Ramon [Natul?], he worked for Miyazaki.

AT: Yeah.

BP: He was telling me a little bit. So do you remember when they were arrested? Do you remember anything about them?

AT: Yeah. They just took them, put in a boat, and took to Palau. That's it.

BP: And you saw this happen?

AT: No.

BP: So who arrested them on Yap?

AT: Navy.

BP: The Navy did?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Oh, not the Army?

AT: No.

BP: Do you know why they took Filomena and the children?

AT: I don't know. I don't know. That's --

BP: A mystery, [still?].

AT: Yeah.

BP: When did you find out that they had been shot?

AT: After the war. Yeah, the family came to Palau. They stopped Yap, they went to Palau. They were looking for the graveyard, but they never found the graveyard.

(break in audio)



BP: Do you know who the relatives were who came back? These were relatives from Tinian or from Guam? Was it Tomasa and Ursula?

AT: Yeah. Yeah.

BP: They were the ones who went there last?

AT: Yeah. And what's his name, a Tomasa brother. We call him [Tampepe?].

BP: (laughs) Is he still alive, too?

AT: Oh, he's still alive, yeah.

BP: And that's the brother of Filomena?

AT: Yeah. Yeah. Not the oldest brother. But they have lots of brothers and sisters.

BP: And he speaks English too?

AT: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

BP: And they were all on Yap when these people were arrested and taken away?

AT: Right. Yeah.

BP: And they didn't try to protest, or do you remember?

AT: Cannot.

BP: Not safe to protest. You know, because I found out --

AT: Maybe Ben knows a little bit about that.

BP: Ben Pangolina?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Okay. So then your family really weren't worried about being arrested as spies, then?

AT: Oh, no. We were happy. This is my son, here.

(break in audio)

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

AT: No.

BP: Did you ever live on any other island besides Yap during this period?

AT: No. Only after the war. My sister was in Tinian. And one married American guy. They live in Ponape first, because he was electrical manager. And they came back here. Her husband died and she went back to Yap and died there. She had a stroke.

BP: Okay. So she was married to an American and they lived out here for a long time?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Did anybody in your family have to serve in the military? Were they recruited to be soldiers or to do anything?

AT: Now?

BP: No, during the war.

AT: No.

BP: They left you pretty much alone?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Now, I am really interested in this Japanese Army officer that they called [Pesha?]. I'm told -- I don't know if it was you who told me, his name was [Yustaisho Ito?]

AT: Ito, yeah.

BP: And he was a general or a colonel?

AT: Yeah. Yeah, big shot. Nice guy.

BP: And you worked for him?

AT: Yeah.

BP: You were a houseboy?

AT: Houseboy. Me and one Yapese boy and one Japanese guy.

BP: When did you start working for him?

AT: We didn't work for a long time. I think about two or three months. Then I have to move.

BP: You had to move?

AT: Yeah. We have to move. Because there was something wrong or -- and that was for one year -- thinking -- but that time I was small, I said, "Oh, this guy, smoking Lucky Strike, Chesterfield, Old Gold..." We get to thinking this is an American one. And eating the big corned beef.

BP: Eat corned beef?

AT: Yeah. Sometime come around night -- nighttime, he move. He come around and visits my father and my mother. Nighttime. Daytime, they carry him.

BP: Now, wait a minute. During the nighttime he would go visit your parents?

AT: Yeah, he go.

BP: To what? Have dinner or?

AT: Yeah. [And he would bring] some rice and corned beef and -  
-

BP: And how did he become such good friends with your parents?

AT: Well, I don't know how they get good friends. I think they know because he can speak good German.

BP: Did he speak English, too?

AT: And speak English good. And my mom speak English good.

BP: Where did your mother learn English?

AT: I don't know. Maybe in Russia or someplace there. Because English and German are almost the same, you know.

BP: Now, you say during the daytime people would carry him around?

AT: Yeah. You know, for inspection. They carry him. He's got all the medals and everything.

BP: So he would be on what they call a palanquin, and it's like poles with a chair.

AT: Yeah.

BP: And who would carry him?

AT: The Japanese soldiers.

BP: Oh, the Japanese soldiers would carry him around. And what else can you tell me about this individual?

AT: At nighttime he just walk around with Yapese style so nobody know.

BP: Really? He dressed up like a Yapese?

AT: Yeah. I found out one time when I went home and coming back. And I said, "Who is this?" And he was a big fellow, too, that guy. "Hey, that's my boss. Hey! Where are you going? I [will see you] (inaudible)."

BP: So when did he first come to Yap?

AT: Ito? The time the soldiers get there and now he was there.

BP: Was that 1943?

AT: Yeah. Something like that. And first was some Navy guy was ahead of him. And you cannot say nothing. And the Navy guy started making tunnels to [kill all Yapese] -- there on the hills up there in Yap. They make a lot of tunnels there to [protect all the Yapese people won't kill it?].

BP: How do you know they were going to do that? Did the general tell you?

AT: Somehow some doctor -- the name of the doctor, [Itsuki Masume?]. (inaudible)

BP: So, this doctor, Itsuki Masume, he told you that they were going to kill the --

AT: Yeah. He came tell family here, he said, "They are going to kill all Yapese here." Because the soldiers starving.

BP: The soldiers were starving?

AT: Yeah. But the general -- the Army general said no, we have to keep them so they can make some potato and yam and all kinds. And he said, "No, no, no. I'm higher than you."

BP: He was higher than the Navy officer then?

AT: No, the Navy officer was higher than the Army officer. And he get killed -- a bomb hit him and he die.

BP: The Navy officer?

AT: Yeah.

BP: So Ito became the leading officer?

AT: Yeah. Yeah.

BP: So was the naval officer's name? Do you remember his name?

AT: I don't know. The other one, he's still small like this.

BP: Oh, okay. He married a younger woman then?

AT: Yeah.

BP: So did the general tell your father this? That he had --

AT: Yeah.

BP: And that was his decision?

AT: Yeah.

BP: We will put the Yapese and Chamorros to work planting and providing food for us, so no need to kill him. And so it was perhaps lucky that that Naval officer was killed.

AT: Oh, yeah. Yeah, otherwise -- they were gone, too.

BP: So what else can you tell me about this General Pesha? You worked for him for several months, you said?

AT: Yeah. He was a nice guy.

BP: And you did what? Clean the house, and do the laundry and stuff?

AT: Yeah.

BP: And were you there working for him when the bombing started?

AT: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

BP: Do you remember the day the bombs first hit (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)?

AT: The first time of the bombing, I was in the airport.

BP: Where they were constructing the air strip?

AT: Yeah. We was working with a Japanese student. We were helping them. And we don't know when the plane is coming, you know? Then after that, we were -- everybody run to jungle, all the families and the Japanese families. Then after six months, one big ship of men took all the civilians out -- Japanese civilians.

BP: You mean the Americans or Japanese?

AT: No, Japanese.

BP: Did they make it back to Japan?

AT: Some of them, and some of them got torpedoed.

BP: But you were working for the general during this time when the bombing started, right?

AT: Yeah.

BP: What do you remember about him during this period when the bombing started?

AT: Every time in the morning, he said, "You guys not -- you're not go inside the bomb shelter. Don't worry about it." And we said, "What? How do you know?" And he said, "They're no going to hit here this morning." So, he knew what he was doing, though. We listen to what the general said, you know?

BP: And so what did you do?

AT: And so one day, maybe one month or two month after, I said, "I think we've got to go inside the bomb shelter today." I think, you know. But it hit there. The whole valley all the way down.

BP: And you were in a different area when they came?

AT: Yeah. But kind of close, you know?

BP: So what's this about his laundry that you were telling us about?

AT: Oh, his laundry, [taro patch?], he never put the one away.

BP: He never hung it from a line?

AT: Yeah. But like this, sideways, around.



BP: He laid it on top of the taro patch to dry? And you said he had you lay it out so that it had certain shapes to it?

AT: Yeah. Sometimes we have to tie the string. Sometimes we just put it on top of the taro leaves.

BP: But you said, didn't he have you make letters or something out of them?

AT: Yeah. But that time, you know, I was small, I don't -- we don't what that -- why today, we string, tomorrow, same laundry, still clean, we have to put it out.

BP: So one day you'd dry the laundry on a line, and the next day --

AT: The next day, go other way.

BP: You lay it flat out on the taro patch, even though it's clean and it's already dry?

AT: Yeah.

BP: You said something about -- you had to lay a certain color (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)?

AT: Yeah. Not all the time same color, different each color.

BP: The Flemings were telling me, too, that a lot of times when the bombing started and everybody was looking for a bomb shelter, he would go to a mountain wearing a white uniform?

AT: Right. Right.

BP: And the planes could see him up there?

AT: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

BP: Because there were no trees up there?

AT: No tree. His house open like this. Not in jungle.

BP: And he would stand up there and what would he do?

AT: I don't know.

BP: You didn't go with him?

AT: No.

BP: What else did he do to you fellows at that time?

AT: Sometimes he -- that one I heard from people, you know?

Sometime he would ride in a boat, and everybody would bring the sake bottle back. But his bottle, it's overboard.

BP: Did he put a note in it or something?

AT: I don't know. After there, the war is over, then we find out he's putting a word inside --

BP: He was putting notes in there?

AT: Letter. Yeah. And they said that, those guys said -- those boat operators said, "We were going same direction, never go change that direction."

BP: This is even after the bombing started?

AT: Yeah.

BP: You'd go out the same direction?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Did you go beyond the reef?

AT: Beyond the reef.

BP: And then he would drop the bottle over with a note?

AT: Yeah. After he were turning around, [let it?] out. But everybody keep the bottle.

BP: Except him?

AT: Only him. You know, at that time, I was young, you know. I don't care about that kind of thing. Just have fun that time -- I don't care what -- why we were putting the clothes like this. Why you going like this? Why you go like that? Why triangle?

BP: Why a triangle?

AT: Yeah. And after the war, oh.

BP: Started thinking about it?

AT: I said, oh, maybe it was some kind of message [from airplane], you know?

BP: They never bombed his house?

AT: No. Never. Not even when machine gun, no.

BP: Did he ever say anything to you that made you suspicious?

AT: No. Even in my house, we never had the machine gun and never bombed.

BP: But all around Chamorro Bay, it was bombed and machine (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)?

AT: Oh, yeah. And all the jungles. And where we live in? No. Only one bomb hit close to my house. It's about half a mile. The same day they bombed the general valley and my

valley. The same day. Then, all the way to [the ocean?].  
But it never hit my house.

BP: What else can you tell me about him? Can you remember anything else about this General Ito?

AT: We never know when he left after the war.

BP: You don't? Now, the bombing stopped. I guess you learned that the war was over?

AT: Yeah.

BP: And the general stayed there for how long afterwards? Six months? A year?

AT: One week. One week until the American ship came. Then one morning, he disappeared. Just disappeared.

BP: How many US troops were there when he disappeared? Now, were there very many? Let's put it this way. I think the war was declared over the end of August or early September 1945. And did you know about it right away?

AT: Oh, yeah. Yeah, one airplane came and dropped a lot of [smoke because?] the war was over.

BP: And then how long after that did US forces arrive?

AT: About two weeks.

BP: Large number or small number?

AT: Large.

BP: Marines?

AT: Marines.

BP: The day they landed, is that the date the general disappeared?

AT: Before they landed, disappeared.

BP: He disappeared before they landed?

AT: Yeah. Somebody pick him up.

BP: How do you know somebody picked him up? Was it the Japanese or the Americans that got him?

AT: American. A lot of people talking about this. He left. Not Japanese people. Then he cannot kill himself. Already they know he's spy.

BP: So what was it -- just, like, one boat came in and took him?

AT: I think so. I think so.

BP: And nobody has ever heard anything from him or about him since?

AT: No. No.

BP: Was there a Japanese officer left there for several months, in charge of Yap?

AT: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

BP: What was his name?

AT: His assistant.

BP: What was his assistant's name? You don't know his assistant's name?

AT: I know some of it. [Ito Tanaka?]

BP: Because I read that there was, I think, a Colonel Ito who was left in charge of Yap under the Americans -- the Americans said, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

AT: There is a second one.

BP: And that was Colonel Ito?

AT: Yeah, Ito.

(break in audio)

BP: I read that this Colonel Ito, though, he was even in charge of the Americans that were there; is that true or not?

AT: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

BP: So the Americans had to answer to Colonel Ito?

AT: Yeah. He's nice guy.

BP: How did the Americans feel about having to take orders from a Japanese officer? Or did you ever find out how they felt?

AT: I don't know. At that time, I already started working with the Navy, because I needed some money and food.

BP: How long was it before the Navy came and took all the Japanese soldiers back to Japan?

AT: Maybe three months, I think.

BP: And Colonel Ito went back with them?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Did he ever come back for a visit?

AT: No.

BP: You never heard from him again?

AT: No.

BP: Do you remember seeing any American planes fly by?

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: (inaudible)?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Do you know what happened to the pilots?

AT: Most of them went in the ocean.

BP: And they were rescued?

AT: Yeah. Submarine. American submarine.

BP: Were any of them captured by the Japanese?

AT: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Many.

BP: What happened to them?

AT: Two from between 9 and 2, I think they came for checking out because they had a scuba thing.

BP: These were frogmen?

AT: Yeah.

BP: They were captured on Yap?

AT: Yeah.

BP: What happened to them?

AT: The same time they took them, and there's a priest, and Agapito to Palau, same time.

BP: They took them together?

AT: Yeah.

BP: They were executed there?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Any of the planes crash on the island?

AT: On the island? Yeah, a lot of them, but they all died.

BP: The planes are still out there in the jungle somewhere?

AT: Yeah. Some of them, just ashes, you know, burn everything. Some are here. I got a couple of props and I took them. That. In my yard, you see that?

BP: Is there an old Spanish cannon there, too?

AT: Yeah, that one I got in the ocean.

BP: I wonder if that was off of O'Keefe's ship?

AT: No, no, no. No. Well, that one was a missionary ship.

BP: What was it called?

AT: They don't know.

BP: The Flemings said that there was a Japanese soldier from Hawaii that was there in the Japanese Army who spoke English and he was --? Did you know him?

AT: He's the one who was in [Tipin?] for Fleming, and Hucksnyder, and my father, and my mother, and my sister. Well, they got them and my father went. I don't know his name because by that time I started working already.

BP: This is before the Americans came, I'm talking about that.

AT: Huh?



BP: They said there was a Japanese soldier. He was a corpsman, and he knew your family, and they said that he was born in Hawaii. But he went to Japan before Pearl Harbor and ended up in the Japanese Army. No?

AT: Corpsman? That's Itsuki Masume.

BP: But he was in the Japanese Army, right?

AT: Right. He's a foreman.

BP: How would you say the relations were between the Chamorros? Some of the Chamorros had been there for two or three generations. Did they have a good relationship with Yapese?

AT: Yeah. Good, good.

BP: No problem, okay. I talked to the Flemings. They said the Chamorros all had to leave, and they left in two groups, I guess as early as '46 or '47. Some went to Guam and some went to Saipan.

AT: And Tinian.

BP: Well, there was a third group that stayed there until 1948. The Flemings were there and I guess-

AT: Hucksnyder?

BP: Hucksnyder. I guess they thought they were going to stay there forever. According to Rosa Lea Fleming, she said -- she's not sure, but she thought that all the chiefs from

Yap had a meeting and decided that they wanted the Chamorros to leave and go back to the Marianas.

AT: Yeah, that's it.

BP: They asked Commander Kenny to remove them? Is that a true story, you think?

AT: That's a true story.

BP: Why did the chiefs decide they wanted the Chamorros? For the land, or you don't know? You have no idea, huh?

AT: No idea. Because there was wood. They liked each other, but I don't know why the chief --

BP: Why he did?

AT: Yeah. All those chiefs now are dead. Now, they want the Chamorro come back.

BP: For what reason? To help the economy?

AT: I don't know, but all I hear, they don't have a land because they don't remember where the land is. Some screw-up, you know.

BP: What's my next question? I forget what I was going to ask you. Oh, I see it. Do you know this Commander Kenny?

AT: Yeah. First, it's Murphy, then Commander Kenny, then Carroll.

BP: Carroll?

AT: Yeah, American commander.

BP: What do you remember about Kenny, though? Did you know him at all?

AT: He's all right, and Murphy okay. But Carroll, no.

BP: What was wrong with him?

AT: I don't want no soldier like him.

BP: He was just mean, or...?

AT: Yeah. Yeah.

BP: So, the Americans didn't like him either?

AT: No.

BP: What can you tell me about Kenny? Did you know anything about him? Because he was responsible for helping to relocate the Chamorros to Tinian.

AT: Right. He's okay, but he liked to listen to what the Yapese chief said. Of course, I think Kenny was scared of the police chief. That's what one chief told me when we worked together, "That guy I think is scared of Yapese chief." They said he read the book. He read the book what Yap Island, and they said they have a lot of magic people there. That's why --

BP: So, he didn't want to make the chiefs mad?

AT: Right.

BP: They think he needed their cooperation to get work there?

AT: Right.

BP: But most Yapese, they wanted the Chamorros to stay there.  
They were good friends.

AT: Oh, yeah, yeah.

BP: There was a chief of police there who was Chamorro. He was  
Untalan, Juan?

AT: Yeah, Untalan. That one is still alive, yeah.

BP: Juan?

AT: No, no. No, dead already. Yeah, Juan, Japanese time.  
Juan, not only Juan, Mariano, Harry. Yeah, three of them.

BP: Did he have to arrest the [Hundaneros?] for the--? He was  
involved in that?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Well, I guess I can interview him, but I guess that's too  
late. How did the US troops behave when they came? Were  
they well behaved, or were there any problems with rape, or  
anything like that? There weren't any?

AT: Nothing. Nothing. They were good.

BP: Were you afraid personally of the American soldiers?

AT: Oh, no.

BP: You didn't think they would bother you?

AT: No.

BP: After the fighting was over, what do you think was the most  
difficult period for you?

AT: That, yeah, that one, Itsuki Masume came to the house and he told me, "Hey, now that the war is over, you guys don't go around, until the Marines come down and get you guys. Because some Japanese, maybe they hate you guys. Maybe they can kill you guys." So, we didn't run around. Then, one morning we went, me and my friend, down the dock. Already, there would be an M Boat there. And then one Hawaiian guy called me up. He can't speak Japanese.

BP: He was a Hawaiian American troop?

AT: Yeah. And he said, "You know what, (inaudible) family, and Fleming, and the Hucksnyder family?" I say, "Yeah. I'm a (inaudible)." "Oh, everybody okay?" And I said, "Oh, everybody, we're okay?" "How about Fleming?" I say, "Yeah, they're okay." But I don't know how they get there.

BP: You don't know who got there?

AT: It's easier to get there because they are going to ride with the commander's car, you know, with like a bulldozer and tire is in front? They're going to get through there. That's the way, you know, all my family brought it.

BP: And that's how they were brought back to Colonia?

AT: Yeah. But I know the way, well, to go to my house, you know. No creek, no nothing. But Fleming, I don't know who took them over there. There were a lot of jungles to go through.

BP: Did the Japanese troops commit any atrocities before--?  
No? They were all behaved?

AT: Yeah. They were okay.

BP: So nobody was hurt?

AT: No, no.

BP: So, you didn't really have any difficulties after the war with making a living or anything?

AT: No. No.

BP: I was talking to your friend, what's his name, [Tikin?].

AT: Tipin?

BP: Yeah. Because he said some people were killed after the war from unexploded bombs and stuff.

AT: Oh, yeah, one of them. He's the one of them. He's one of them.

BP: He was hurt?

AT: Yeah. They get the mine, and they tried to take it out to take the --

BP: The detonator off?

AT: -- fuse out to use dynamite for fish, and there were five of them. They was fooling around, and one started smoking, you know, at the ground. And they said, "Hey, stop that." And that time he yelled to them, that time that thing exploded.

BP: How far away were you from there?

AT: I didn't watch that. He watched that.

BP: He told you about it?

AT: Yeah. And we heard about it and those four people, they find in pieces.

BP: That big, huh?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Just tiny pieces of them though?

AT: Yeah. They didn't fill one small basket for four people.

BP: They couldn't fill a basket?

AT: No. But, him, he was about five feet from them. And he flew 25 feet inside a potato patch and landed, and one side burned. But nothing happened.

BP: I think he was saying also that you and Francis were involved in, what, defusing bombs?

AT: Oh, yeah, yeah.

BP: Anybody else killed by those bombs?

AT: No.

BP: But he said after --

At: Because a marine teach me how, you know. Then, we know how to --

BP: And that was scary though?

AT: Oh, yeah. That time, you know, I'm kind of young, I don't care. But now, no way.

BP: No way?

AT: No way, oh hey.

BP: But he was also saying that a lot of people were killed after the war because they were using dynamite.

AT: Yeah. You know that cord? That cord?

BP: The fuse?

AT: Yeah, the old, old. As soon as you put the fire in, it go (makes explosion noise).

BP: And it killed a lot of people?

AT: Yeah. Before you throw that thing there... I've got one friend of mine, all this one come off.

BP: Did he live?

AT: No. His whole brain come out.

BP: Rosa Lea Fleming, she was married to somebody else by the name of [Felipe Diaz?]?

AT: Yeah, Felipe. Felipe Diaz.

BP: He was killed there?

AT: He died in Angaur or someplace there in Palau.

BP: Oh, he's in Palau? I thought he was there in Yap when that happened.

AT: Felipe?

BP: Dynamite fishing with some Japs?

AT: Oh, yeah, Felipe. That's the other one I'm thinking about. Yeah, dynamite. Felipe. Yeah, there's two Felipes. One



died in Palau and that dynamite. He died with a snake. He ate the snake and died.

AT: In Palau?

BP: Yeah. Another Felipe.

BP: He was Chamorro too?

AT: Yeah.

BP: He ate a poison sea snake?

AT: Yeah. Well, a sea snake or some kind of snake.

BP: He must have been very hungry because a lot of people did die of starvation, I'm told. What sort of work did you do after the war? Did your father continue with his bakery business, or...?

AT: After the war?

BP: Yes.

AT: No, my father passed just about -- before -- one month after the war.

BP: He died of disease or what?

AT: No. He didn't have -- not enough food for him because he only used to eat cattle, ham, fish. He liked beef steak, some meat, you know? And he got diarrhea and now out of medicine. It's too much. I mean no one was helping him with medicine, managing it, and he just ate.

BP: Itsuki, this is very interesting. Do you know what happened to him after the war?

AT: He left and never -- he said he will come back. He's from Kyushu. All the soldiers who was there from Kyushu.

BP: Because they thought -- the Flemings thought that he was from Hawaii. He was born and raised in Hawaii.

AT: No, he went to school to Hawaii.

BP: Oh, when he was a young boy?

AT: Yeah.

BP: I see, okay. You never saw him again. Now, what sort of work did you do after the war? You worked for public works, is that it?

AT: No, I worked for a group of Navy, first a power plant. After Chamorros left, I worked in a boat pool, running boats, PT and M boat. And then we went to sail it. The Navy would put us -- making like a seaman and working with the seaman. I was two year in seaman. I learned a lot of things there. Taught me how to navigate and everything.

BP: You were a seaman?

AT: Yeah.

BP: For the Navy Department?

AT: Yeah. Then we come back then I started to work in the hospital.

BP: Okay, but you were in Yap this whole time?

AT: Yeah.

BP: You worked in a hospital with Francis?

AT: Yeah. Then Francis went to school and I quit because one chief then said, "Hey, that's not your place. Come on, heavy equipment." So, of course, I like to drive heavy equipment. I didn't want to stay in the hospital mixing syrup and have medicine, all kinds. I said, "No never mind, not my place." I said, "Okay, Chief. Tomorrow morning, I'll be there." So I started working heavy equipment until the (inaudible) came, then I was a boss over there.

BP: In heavy equipment?

AT: An operator.

BP: That would be public works then?

AT: Yeah.

BP: And you retired from that?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Now, did you start your own business after that?

AT: No, I just go a little fishing.

BP: It's a good life then?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Francis tells me you have property here in Guam now, too?  
Do you own property here?

AT: Yeah.

BP: In Saipan?

AT: It's Tinian.

BP: Oh, you own property in Tinian?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Where's your property in Tinian?

AT: I don't know what my brother-in-law did.

BP: You have a brother-in-law?

AT: I gave it to him as a gift. Because at that time I am young, you know. I don't need this kind of thing.

BP: Who is your brother-in-law?

AT: Ben.

BP: Ben Pangolina? So he has it over there?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Can you think of anything else that I haven't asked you, that was important, that you remember about the war or before?

AT: I don't know. What do you like to find out?

BP: I've asked you just about all the questions I can think of but sometimes I don't ask --

(break in tape)

BP: Did you know when your parents got married, or did you say you don't know?

AT: I don't know. I think I have some kind of copy in my house there. I don't know if I still have it or I lost it.

BP: Okay. How about your oldest sister, do you know when she was born? How old was she? How old would she be if she was alive?

AT: If you ask Ben, he know.

BP: Ben knows all those things. He was married to your oldest sister, you said?

AT: Yes.

BP: How old is Ben now?

AT: He's 76, 78, or something like that.

BP: So, both of your sisters were born in Vladivostok?

AT: Right.

BP: And what were their names? I don't think I got their names.

AT: [Agusta?]. Ada, A-D-A, my second one.

BP: She's called Ada?

AT: Ada.

BP: A-D-A.

AT: A-D-A. And Olga.

BP: Olga, okay. So, Olga was the oldest sister, and she married Ben Pangolina. Ada?

AT: Married to one American guy. He's [Bert Pierce?] or [Danley?] Pierce.

BP: Bert Pierce?

AT: Yeah.

BP: You don't know what state he was from?

AT: No, I don't know. Maybe Ben knows, too, yeah.

BP: When did your mother die?

AT: Well, really... You can ask Ben too.

BP: Was this before the war?

AT: After the war. Well, she died here.

BP: In Guam?

AT: Yes. She was staying with Ben and my sister.

BP: Was that in the '50s? '60s? You don't know?

AT: No, more, or something like that, '50s, yeah.

BP: One of David O'Keefe's daughters was there in Yap, but she left before the war, you said?

AT: Before the war.

BP: That was Eugenie?

AT: Eugenie. Scott and Eugenie.

BP: Was her husband, Scott, still alive then?

AT: No. I don't know. I didn't see him.

BP: But you knew about him?

AT: Yeah. Because she always comes and drink cognac with my father.

BP: Were you born then?

AT: Oh, yeah. Yeah. She just left before the war.

BP: What, 1940s, 1930s?

AT: Forty-three, something like that.

BP: The Japanese let her leave?

AT: Oh, yeah, yeah. Now, no soldier yet.

BP: Oh, no soldiers? If she had stayed, she might have been arrested (inaudible) Agapito. So, she left with her son, Tommy?

AT: No. Tommy stayed and then she left.

BP: Is there any reason why she would leave her son?

AT: I don't know.

BP: You don't know why she left? Was she afraid, or...?

AT: I don't know.

BP: O'Keefe had another daughter, surviving daughter, Daisy. Was she --?

AT: Daisy, yeah. I don't know.

BP: She wasn't there during the war?

AT: No.

BP: But did you know her before the war?

AT: No. I grow up, only Scott was there, Eugenie.

BP: He died though in Yap before the war, you think?

AT: I don't know.

BP: You don't know. Okay. You mentioned a fellow from Okinawa, Oshiro.

AT: Yeah, Oshiro.

BP: Was he a fellow student or a teacher?

AT: Student.

BP: Oh, he was a student?

AT: Yeah.

BP: And he became the governor of Okinawa?

AT: Yeah, one time.

BP: Just a one-term governor. Was that in the 1940s, 1950s, or you don't know?

AT: No, it's 1969 or '70, something like that.

BP: I have a book on the history of Okinawa. I will see if I can look that up. You don't remember the name of the Japanese governor. I was wondering if you --

AT: Ben don't know?

BP: No, he didn't know either. He said there were a couple of governors, but he couldn't remember the name. I was trying to find some more details about your father's life. Now, did he fight in the Russian Civil War, do you know? He didn't fight?

AT: No.

BP: He just worked on the railroad?

AT: Yeah.

BP: But he was on the czar's side, you think?

AT: Right.

BP: Did he tell you, though, when were like the Boskovitzes -- were they coming to Vladivostok? Did he tell you anything about that?



AT: Yeah.

BP: Were they very --

AT: That's why they started breaking the railroad, so they're slowed down to come.

BP: Oh, they were breaking up the railroads for the Boskovitz?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Now, in 1917, I think, there were American and Japanese troops who were in Siberia for a while. I don't know, was it '17 or maybe 1920. Do you remember your father say anything about American or Japanese troops being there?

AT: No.

BP: The ship that you took to Japan, was that a Japanese ship?

AT: A Japanese ship.

BP: Did your father say about how he was able to get passage on the ship to Japan, or...? Never talked about that?

AT: No, no. Only he told me -- he said everybody was standing on the ship. It was so overloaded.

BP: Oh, with so many people?

AT: Yeah. No place to lie down.

BP: How long was the trip from Vladivostok to Japan?

AT: He didn't tell me that.

BP: He was in Japan for one year before he came to Saipan. How did he make a living in Japan, or did he have money?

AT: He never tell me that. Maybe he had money or something.

BP: He didn't read Japanese, but you said he read a book about Micronesia.

AT: Yeah.

BP: Or did somebody read it for him?

AT: I think so.

BP: Getting back to Eugenie, do you know -- when she left Yap, do you know where she went to? Did she go to the Philippines or someplace? Because I heard she was in the Philippines after the war.

AT: Oh, yeah?

BP: Yeah. Okay.

AT: We never heard from her since she had left. She said she will write letters and everything.

BP: You never heard from her?

AT: No.

BP: So, she left in 1943 when it was still civilian Japanese?

AT: Right.

BP: Now, was it '43 or '44 that the soldiers were there? Late '43?

AT: I can't remember. I don't know.

BP: David O'Keefe disappeared at sea in 1901 or 1902, I think.

AT: Yes.

BP: There were still people there who were running the company for him, I'm told. Were there other people from his staff

there? I know Scott, you said, was there for a while and died or something?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Were there other Europeans there besides Scott and Eugenie that you remember?

AT: No.

BP: They were all gone by then, huh?

AT: Alfred Fleming, he doesn't know about it?

BP: He said when his father -- I guess it was his grandfather had come to Yap from the Marshall Islands. He was a Scotsman, and he was there to work as a bookkeeper. But that was before the turn of the century, back in the 1800s sometime. You said you went to a Japanese school?

AT: Right.

BP: But was there also another school for the Yapese that were settled there?

AT: Yeah.

BP: So, why were you allowed to go to the Japanese school, you think?

AT: Maybe because I'm European or something.

BP: You never found out though?

AT: Yeah.

BP: You said the principal of your school was Mr. Yamada. And he went back to Japan before the war, about 1943?

AT: Right. Yeah.

BP: And then you said he died though a few years ago? Does that mean he came back to visit you, or did he --?

AT: Oh, yeah, one time before he died, with some students.

BP: How many years ago was that?

AT: Maybe 15 years after the war was over.

BP: Oh, he came back?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Did he ever write to you or anything after that?

AT: No.

BP: But he came to your house to visit you?

AT: Right.

BP: So, what did he have to say about?

AT: Oh, I took him fishing and...?

BP: Did he have anything to say about his life after that?

AT: No.

BP: They didn't talk about the war?

AT: No.

BP: I guess, Filomena, she had other brothers and sisters living on Yap, is that correct?

AT: Yeah. And they are here now.

BP: There's Tomasa? Ursula?

AT: Ursula. And a brother, one brother... I forgot his name.

BP: And that's it? Two sisters and a brother?

AT: I think some more.

BP: There are some more?

At: Yeah.

BP: They're still alive?

AT: A lot of family there.

BP: Now, you said there were two American pilots?

AT: Right.

BP: Ben said they were in a B-24 because I know they weren't flying B-29s, I don't think, over--

AT: B-24?

BP: I think B-24s and B-25s, they were flying off Ulithi to bomb Yap. I don't remember reading about B-24. Most of the B-29s were in the Marion Island.

AT: From Kenya, they was coming from Kenya.

BP: Really?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Because I was reading that a lot of the planes, besides carrier planes bombing Yap, they had --

AT: Sometimes they have carrier, but that one is almost every day at 11:00. This comes, about 40 of them, and it's just the bombs.

BP: But did you know that the Air Force had an airbase on Ulithi?

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: And that it was only a 15-minute flight? And they would come --

AT: But the B-17 and B-29 cannot land on Ulithi.

BP: Right. But B-24?

AT: It can. But I don't think B-24 was there, coming to them. But very often.

BP: That's what Ben said. I'll go look in the records and see what I can find. You said there were two American pilots that were shot down?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Now, you say they were sent to Palau on the same boat with --

AT: Same boat.

BP: How do you know that? Somebody told you, or...?

AT: Yeah, somebody told me.

BP: And the two frogmen.

AT: Two frogmen.

BP: Were they captured all about the same time or at different times, or...?

AT: Different times.

BP: But you never saw them personally?

AT: No. I know they caught two from [Gardil?] and two the fliers. And the frog is from Gardil and two from (inaudible) my district where --

BP: Okay, you come from (inaudible). And that's where the old Spanish fort was, was it?

AT: Right.

BP: You also said after the war, at one point, they were training you to be a seaman to work on ships?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Well, could you work in the engine rooms or something?

AT: No, the deck.

BP: The deck? Now, was that like a Merchant Marine on civilian ships or you worked on --

AT: No, the Navy?

BP: Were you in the United States Navy then, or were--?

AT: Yeah, there. We have our uniform and everything else.

BP: Did you have a rank?

AT: No rank. They were teaching us how to tie the cable wire, navigation, and...

BP: So, you worked right along with US seamen. Did you get the same pay?

RSP: No.

BP: Why?

AT: Different pay.

BP: Lower pay?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Why?

AT: I don't know.

BP: Just because you weren't American maybe?

AT: I don't know. A lot of Yapese were working with us, some in the engine room, some deckhand, some cook.

BP: Did you protest, or did you think that was fair, or you didn't?

AT: I don't mind because I like it.

BP: You liked the work? And the pay was adequate for your needs?

AT: Yeah.

BP: How many years did you do that?

AT: One year.

BP: Just one year?

AT: Yeah. It was one year and a half. And I quit because one chief -- I met one chief in the (inaudible). He was drinking and he said, "Never mind that sailor, come on."

BP: But I thought you were working in the hospital then?

AT: Yeah.

BP: So, you were a seaman for a year and a half then you worked in a hospital?

AT: Hospital.

BP: For how long?

AT: Maybe a year, a year and a half. Yeah.



BP: So, you left being a seaman to work in the hospital, and you didn't like working in the hospital, and this chief invited you --?

AT: Yeah. Then I went to Tinian.

BP: You went to Tinian as a heavy equipment operator?

AT: No. I just went to Saipan first where we visit one old man, t Russian old man.

BP: There's a white Russian living there? What is his name?

AT: [Osmolovsky?].

BP: Does he have any family there still?

AT: No, he don't have no family. Only a friend with my father. And then almost he's dying and he called me up. So, I stayed there for a while until he died.

BP: How long?

AT: Over three months. Then I went to Tinian and I was staying with my sister and Ben for a while.

BP: They were living on Tinian then?

AT: Yeah. Then I went back to Guam.

BP: Now, how long did you stay on Tinian?

AT: Maybe six months.

BP: You acquired some property at that time?

AT: Yeah. My sister had a property, so she gave it to me. And I said, "I don't need the property."

BP: Where was the property located, do you remember?

AT: I remember. I don't know what the name, but...

BP: Was it near town or the Caroline Heights, or...?

AT: The old town. Now, this town is down where the dock is.  
It was old town before.

BP: Were you a seaman and then you went to Saipan after you quit being a seaman?

AT: No, I went to the hospital first then I went to Saipan.

BP: And then you went to Tinian?

AT: Tinian.

BP: Then you came back and started working in heavy construction?

AT: No, I come back here and, yeah, I went back to Yap for construction, and that's how my sister and Ben got to Yap.

BP: They came back to Yap?

AT: No. No, not Yap. Guam. Then there, I said, "Hey, I've got to go around because I'm still young." So, I came to Guam looking for them, and they gave me a job, a mechanic job.

BP: So you worked in Guam for a while?

AT: Yeah.

BP: How long?

AT: Over two years. Then I went back, and one guy put me in heavy equipment. Since that, I was working. Never go

away. Just a vacation, 30 days, then I come down here. Go back here up again.

BP: When you were a seaman, did you sail around to different islands or was it riding around here?

AT: No, no, different island.

BP: Like, where, where did you go?

AT: Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan.

BP: What kind of ship were you on?

AT: AKL like --

BP: A [stower?] ship or a supply ship?

AT: No, the cargo ship.

BP: You retired from public works in what year?

AT: Right about six years ago. Six.

BP: So, 1991?

AT: Ninety-one.

BP: So, you worked how many years in public works?

AT: Maybe 42, 43.

BP: Forty-three years. Let's see. Today looking back, what would you say was the best part about living under the Japanese? And then after that, what was the worst part about being under the Americans?

AT: The Japanese part?

BP: Yeah. What was the best part about living under the Japanese?

AT: They're kind and the store, everything is cheap. And they got a lot of jobs. That time not so much payment but you still can live. But now in Yap, you work for heavy equipment -- I had a good salary, \$4.50 an hour. But the rest of the people, \$1.50, \$2. And everything in the stores is expensive.

BP: Is it more difficult to live now than it was under the Japanese?

AT: Yeah.

BP: Was it that way during the naval administration and the Trust Territories too?

AT: I think so.

BP: You think it was more difficult to live then?

AT: Yeah.

BP: So, you're saying the best part about the Japanese period was that you didn't get paid a high salary, but at the same time, it was not expensive to live. With your salary, you could buy things from the store and live comfortably?

AT: Right.

BP: And then after the war, the salaries were higher under the Americans?

AT: Right.

BP: But everything was more expensive, and so you had a more difficult time making a living.

AT: No. Just right after the war, it was okay. And (inaudible) civilian, DT and everything, that started it, and started getting higher and higher and higher and higher.

BP: So during the naval administration, it wasn't too bad?

AT: No.

BP: But with the coming of the Trust Territories-

AT: Yeah, civilian--

BP: -- it became more difficult to make a living?

AT: Oh, yeah.

BP: But now that you are part of the FSM, it's still difficult?

AT: Right, still, but Yap never grow.

BP: It has never grown?

AT: No. Like Pohnpei, they got their own factory and the salary is high and like costs are high. Palau, Yap still the same.

BP: And why is that, do you think?

AT: Well, they have a bunch of congress, a bunch of crooks, that's why. (laughs)

BP: You think the government officials are a bunch of crooks?

AT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

BP: What makes you say that?

AT: I know they are a bunch of crooks over there.

BP: Are they stealing money from -- or what?

AT: Maybe so. You see that Chinaman start -- they're making fisheries over there may be a year and a half and they stop. Because probably somebody putting one pocket money here and not for the Yap states. They want to pave the road, but where are they going to get money? From US? No.

BP: Not anymore.

AT: No more.

BP: So, what's going to happen to Yap, you think, now?

AT: I don't know.

BP: Do you think Yap should stay with the Federated States of Micronesia, or would it be better off with a closer relationship to the United States?

AT: That's what I don't know. This bunch of congress people, I mean those administration people -- it's the young people.

BP: So, you think they have their own interests above that of the public, huh?

AT: Yeah. They want to come back. That's always I heard on the radio in Yap, they want to come back with all (inaudible) Yapese.

BP: O'Keefe?

AT: Yeah. And they have, what, they call the Yap Day. Before, you can go in the Yap Day, you wear just pants and everything. Now, you have to wear a breast guard or a man will use the du.

BP: Du? How do you spell du? You don't know?

AT: Yeah, I don't know. I only wear one. Only my son wear one time for taking pictures.

BP: What do you think the future of Yap is?

AT: I don't know. Will it be good or if it will come back, I don't know.

BP: You don't know what the future is?

AT: No.

BP: Does it worry you?

AT: No.

BP: It doesn't worry you?

AT: I don't care.

BP: You don't care?

AT: Yeah. I can make my own money and... They said if it comes back, I am going to -- and that's why I vote for the people, so this time, they are going to stop.

BP: Just going to stop listening. And you are not going to get money from the US pretty soon.

AT: No.

BP: It would be interesting --

AT: So, a lot of people are going to fight about that.

BP: Yeah, (inaudible).

AT: A lot of people. And every one of those congress or governor are going to die.

BP: Do you think if Yap developed a closer relationship to the United States again, that things would be better, or...?

AT: I think so, yeah.

BP: But by itself, do you think there's probably --

AT: No way.

BP: It's not going to work, huh?

AT: No. No way. They're not.

BP: All right. I think I've got some more information here.  
I'm going to go back to my hotel room now.

AT: Okay.

END OF AUDIO FILE