

*National Museum of the Pacific War*

*Nimitz Education and Research Center*

*Fredericksburg, Texas*

Interview with

**Mr. James T. Lokey**

Date of Interview: December 12, 2005

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## Fredericksburg, Texas

### Interview with Mr. James T. Lokey

Interview in progress.

Interviewer: This uh, is recording properly. This is James D. Lindley; we're taking the oral history of James T. Lokey. The date is the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, 2005 at Mr. Lokey's home in Austin, Texas.

Mr. Lokey: This is James T. Lokey, and uh, in Austin, Texas on 12/12/05.

Interviewer: Okay, again, if you'll give us your name.

Mr. Lokey: James T. Lokey, Austin, Texas, 12/12/05.

Interviewer: Alright, Tom, uh, how about telling us about your experiences from the time you were drafted or volunteered. Uh, how old were you and where were you and what happened after that in your military experience during World War II?

Mr. Lokey: Okay, I volunteered in the aviation cadet program in November, uh the 21<sup>st</sup>; I think it was, in 1943. (unintelligible). Yeah, that's right, that's right.

Interviewer: Okay, 1943.

Mr. Lokey: Yep.

Interviewer: November, '43.

Mr. Lokey: That's correct. I went through basic at uh, Wichita Falls, Texas. Finished basic and was eliminated from the cadet program for convenience (unintelligible) of the government in 1943, and volunteered for gunnery

school uh, that same year. I went to uh, Laredo, Texas to gunnery school and was rated uh, as a top turret gunner. They give me the choice of the type of aircraft. I asked for a really a B26 and secondly a B25, third B17, and fourth B24. Naturally I got B24s. Went to Casper, Wyoming. Shortly thereafter, (unintelligible) my crew changed there and was shipped out to Shemya, the Aleutian Islands with my crew. We flew 11 combat, uh 10 combat missions and on the 11<sup>th</sup> combat mission, uh, we were shot up because the Russian, pardon me, uh over uh, Querette (spelling?) islands which were Japanese fishing areas, the what was left of the Japanese Navy had come up there to get away from the South Pacific American Fleet. They had radar and probably shot out 2 of our engines. Number 2 (unintelligible) shot clear out, clear off the uh, (unintelligible) class. Number 4 was uh damaged, and we were unable to uh (unintelligible). We broke formation and flew into Russia through the Kamchatka Peninsula through the town -

Interviewer: Go ahead.

Mr. Lokey: (unintelligible) circled the airdrome with 200 feet and the Russians had fighters up (unintelligible) us to land, and we could see the smoke rings coming out of the cannons on the ground by the aircraft because we'd flown right over the naval uh, Russian naval uh submarine area at the bay there at (unintelligible). We set it down, the gear collapsed, slid in on the belly after we'd flipped all of the heavy stuff out of the airplane. Uh, then (unintelligible), first one out of the airplane. I had on my belt a 45 Army automatic pistol and a uh Army knife. I jumped out; there were 8 Russians, 4

(unintelligible) on the ground and 4 standing up with an officer. They patted where my pistol was (unintelligible), I took it out and gave it to them - butt first. Then they asked for my knife at which I did at that time. They took us to interrogation; we gave our name, rank and serial numbers and refused to say anything else. We were -

Interviewer: What was the date of this? When, when do you remember?

Mr. Lokey: (unintelligible), 1944.

Interviewer: 1944; okay.

Mr. Lokey: We were then taken to uh a prisoners camp at a Russian prison camp, and we had just our (unintelligible) gear, and electric sheets.

Interviewer: Electric sheets.

Mr. Lokey: And put in a log building, and it was quite cold then – there was snow on both sides of the path going into the building. Temperature got down well below zero at night. We were there for uh, let's see how long were we there? About 3 months – give or take a time. The windows were sealed with newspapers and paste glue throughout all the windows so the cold couldn't get in. We had metal bunks with boards on them, given the ticking and taken to a straw pile to fill the ticking up to sleep on. Well, I'd done this before, so I packed mine good and thick. Uh, its quite cold – we were given 2 blankets (unintelligible). Uh, while we were there, we first got there they got up and we had a guy by the name of Paul – I don't remember his last name, but uh, he spoke very good English and he said uh, "Like to make a toast." And they'd given us uh portion glasses and there was (unintelligible), and uh, I smelled it and I told

sitting across from me and I says, "Rub it." And he says, "No, just pure alcohol." Paul says, "When you give a toast you chug-a-lug it, you drink all of it." He said, "Here's to Stalin and (unintelligible)." I believe it was Truman then, President Truman, and I chug-a-lugged that thing and I thought I was gonna die. Uh, we had black bread, uh fish heads, particular fish heads, and cabbage soup. We stayed there for quite a while, and I went out one day, we ran out of the uh, drink that we were drinking and uh, I went out with the interpreter to fill the bottles up. They were green bottles with a hole like champagne bottles – to the cabin and there tins, like square with the spouts on the top of them, and on the front was in English and Russian with a split down the middle, and it says, "Not to be taken internal – 100% alcohol, no 50, no, 10% alcohol and 90% (unintelligible) taken internally. And it had skull heads on it. We kept drinking it. In fact a couple of guys got into it and got to drinking heavy and got drunk; one of em was blind for about 2 days and the other one was sicker than hell. (Unintelligible) none of it alright though. I went down - I was 198 pounds when I was shot down. I'd been doing nothing but eating, sleeping and (unintelligible), and uh, the black bread and the food that we ate which I gave you above was the food, and when I left there – when I got back to the States, I weighed 125 pounds. So you can see I lost a lot of that. The black bread uh, gave a lot of us dysteria. We uh -

Interviewer: Dysentery?

Mr. Lokey: Dysentery, pardon me, and uh, we all lost a lot. I think I lost more than some. Oh we also had oatmeal, no sugar, no salt, no pepper of any type. I ate mine

and some of the other guys, cause I was getting hungry. I found I could eat anything. Uh, we stayed there and we had this interpreter with us, Paul, and we taught him to play, uh, I don't know exactly what the game is, but so you have a double deck of cards -

Interviewer: Canasta?

Mr. Lokey: Canasta, yes it was, and you (unintelligible) -

Interviewer: Right.

Mr. Lokey: And we would (unintelligible) up on him, and find out what kind of cards he had and we'd ask him for his aces, and when we got to him, he spoke English accent, and perfect English accent, and when we left there, he was (unintelligible) aces (laughter). But uh, they, we were there for that length of time, then we left there -

Interviewer: Let me ask you a quick question. Were there other crews there besides yourselves?

Mr. Lokey: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: How many do you think were there besides yourselves?

Mr. Lokey: There were 52 of us, uh -

Interviewer: Well, how many were on your crew?

Mr. Lokey: There were 11 men in my crew, and I've got a list of those, of those 11 men, I think I'm the only one left alive. Uh, my pilot may still be alive, but I haven't heard from him in many, many years, and don't even have any idea where he is. Uh, I was 18 and he was uh, almost 19 - that was the pilot (laughter). He was a Second Lieutenant. (unintelligible) was our Co-Pilot, uh, he was a First

Lieutenant, but he was a pilot on B26s and when they graduated, he went back to, flew back to Connecticut for his home, he and another guy, and they hitch-hopped all the way. (unintelligible) got their numbers, and he was a Canadian, uh, his mother was Canadian – he was born in Canada, and they said, “You either go back to Canada and lose your commission, or you go as a co-pilot in the B24s.” I first saw him when he walked up to an airplane that was running; he had his head sticking out of the (unintelligible) crushing his hat and a white scarf (unintelligible), never forget that (laughter). He was killed during the Korean War flying P80s.

Interviewer: Okay. So you, the 52 of you were then, after the 3 months of internment there...

Mr. Lokey: Yeah, there ended up 52, I don't remember how many were there when we got (unintelligible). We also had quite a few crews from B25s that flew out of (unintelligible), Aleutian Islands and they uh, there were quite a few of those people there, too.

Interviewer: Okay.

Mr. Lokey: Uh, while we were there, the weather got pretty nice, you know May 15<sup>th</sup> shot down, June, July and uh, the uh, played volleyball against the Russian troops, and we beat them every time. I say, we, I didn't play much. But uh, they flew a crew in with the Russian officers to play em. They played about 8 games and they didn't win a one – (laughter). And oh, talk about a mad bunch of Russians. But uh, it wasn't, looking back on it, it was quite an experience. While I was there, it was quite miserable.

Interviewer: Right, during the time you were there, were you made aware of any events going on in the war or were you isolated from the events of the war?

Mr. Lokey: We were pretty well isolated from events, except for other crews that came in which they'd tell us. Uh, one of the crews that came in was a B25 crew, we saw them coming in, and uh, all of a sudden parachutes started coming out of them. And uh, uh, we saw the last parachute come out and we didn't know it was the last one at the time, and shortly thereafter, the airplane blew up. Uh, it was the last one; they all got out of it. One guy was hurt, but uh, they had gone in on low-level bombing where the sea was rough, and a bomb had ricocheted off the water, and come back and lodged in the uh, bomb bay -

Interviewer: Oh, goodness!

Mr. Lokey: And they was scared to try and get it out because both the front and rear uh, had spun off, so it was a live bomb. And they just got out of it before it blew up. We lost, we lost – the B24s, we lost almost 90% of our outfit right there at the last, because they, uh, like I say, the Russian Navy was up there, and they had radar.

Interviewer: So were the Russians shooting us down? Shooting the Americans down?

Mr. Lokey: Yeah, with radar. Before that, they'd just shoot at us, and uh, we didn't have any anti-radar jamming equipment or anything in those days; we did have radar navigation. Incidentally, uh, this is (unintelligible) story, on my first mission, we took a uh, radar navigator with us that was not (unintelligible) with us at the time, and we got (unintelligible) from the (unintelligible) formation, and we continued on, we were in the weather and all of a sudden,



the weather broke out and the bombardier says, "Ah, there's the runway."  
And uh, the radar navigator said, "Well, we're (unintelligible) and we dropped  
a (unintelligible) over (unintelligible) right down the middle of that runway. I  
say full load, I think there were 4 or maybe 6 bombs because they had fuel  
tanks. And we dropped them and broke off. We got back and they took  
pictures, and they said, "My God, that runway (unintelligible) to land on  
Russia. So I'm one of the few people, I think, has ever bombed Russia. Of  
course, when I got shot down, I uh, didn't say a word about it.

Interviewer: Didn't know anything about that!

Mr. Lokey: Nope, don't know anything about that. And of course, that bombardier, we  
got another bombardier shortly thereafter (laughter). I mean not bombardier,  
radar bombardier.

Interviewer: So where were these 10 missions that you had prior to the time that you were  
shot down? Where were you flying to? What were you bombing? What  
were the targets?

Mr. Lokey: Uh target area Superior Islands (?) and they were...what they were, they were  
big fishing uh, where fishing boats went out and brought the fish back in and  
what we were doing (unintelligible) canneries, and their fishing boats and  
(unintelligible) to disrupt the supply going back into Japan. (Unintelligible) I  
counted 35 uh, Japanese fighters that had attacked the (unintelligible)  
formation. And this was before the Navy got up there, and they didn't get  
(unintelligible). I found out, after I returned and got into history on it, the  
Japanese would teach the pilots to fly then send them to an area of little bit of

resistance which was up there. (Unintelligible) come up there and have no experience except they knew how to fly the airplane. They would find "Oscars." The leader was a guy flying a Tony, which was kind of like our P51, and uh, he would come in and make a pass and then the others would try to simulate what he did (unintelligible), and so he, so they, we got a few holes in some of the airplanes (unintelligible), but nobody was ever hurt.

Interviewer: Were you ever during your, those 10 missions, were you ever able to shoot down any of these planes?

Mr. Lokey: No, our nose gunner ended up getting 2, uh, we came through (unintelligible) came out of the clouds and there were 2 Russian uh, Japanese fighters come head on to us, and they just pulled up, kind of startled, and he got both of them. And that was (unintelligible). We called him Pop; he was the oldest man on the crew – 22.

Interviewer: So, after uh, the several months of internment there, then what happened?

Mr. Lokey: Well, after the time there, we uh ended up getting ferried by Russians and later on we found out why, but we were ferried out there on 2 C47s and the (unintelligible) crews, and we went to (unintelligible), Russia, and landed there, ate – that was the first decent meal we'd got and they had fish, and I got a fish bone stuck in my throat. Uh, then from there, on up into (unintelligible), Russian, spent the night and we went into uh, a fort, wooden fort, long fort with houses on the inside and we could hear the wolves howling at night. Then from (unintelligible) there on down to Baku and uh, (unintelligible) several other stops – took us about 4 days. They fly only day

time. They didn't have any instrument that would be for their pilots. And we flew at about 300 ft. all the way across Russia. We got to one little town, I don't remember what it was, and it was the crew chief's, uh, hometown. And he built a wrench, like the old Ford wrench, and tied a string around it and a note and we flew over the town and circled it, he pushed the door open which was hard to do in a C47 (unintelligible) and threw that thing out right over the town. And then you could hear the (unintelligible) go right on through the roofs (unintelligible). But uh, they're, they're a peculiar bunch of people. Their pilots, I (unintelligible), pilots also flight engineer and uh, they uh, they didn't fly instruments at all; they just looked out (phone ring). They got to the mountains, they just flew over the top of them and back down the other side.

Interviewer: Do you want to get the phone? We can stop this. Okay, let's go ahead. You, after, after they uh, you were telling me a story about the Russian throwing the note out the win -

Mr. Lokey: Uh, (unintelligible), Russia, and we had all walls around this place we were in; they had dogs and guards and on the top of the wall, they had pieces of glass in the masonry on top of the walls. And outside there in (unintelligible), grape vineyards, all gorgeous, full of grapes. What we'd do is *accidentally* throw a ball over the wall, several of us or 3 of us would get into the wall or run out and they had, looked like an Arab type people, and steal grapes, take our shirts off (unintelligible) and throw them over the wall and help each other over the wall. The Russians knew what we were doing, the soldiers did, but they let us go. But we were really in prison camps both times. The other

camp we were in up the (unintelligible) had barbwire all the way around it. And uh, not barbwire, uh, fence, and then had barbwire sticking out on the top. But we found a little stream that we could crawl under there and go down and we'd catch little fingerling trout – oh, maybe 8 inches and bring them back and (unintelligible) and build a fire, cook them and eat them – guts, heads, everything, you know; we were so hungry, and the Russians let us do that. They (unintelligible) us. We took a button and take a pin, a safety pin, some of us had a couple of safety pins and make a hook out of it and put that button on the (unintelligible), and those little (unintelligible) bit it and he'd jerk it (unintelligible) but you could jerk the fish out of the water and that's how we caught the things. Now all this time, you keep in mind, I'm 18 years old.

Interviewer: Right.

Mr. Lokey: But, (unintelligible) and uh, been there for quite awhile, and we did go to town one night. Half of us went one night and half of us went the next night – went to a big park, and uh, my pilot (name unintelligible), played a trumpet in a band when he was in high school, and they had a band there, and they were singing uh, he got on the trumpet and started playing Boogey Woogey and the Russians got real mad. When we were in the first camp up in Siberia, the Russians lived in a tent; we lived in a large (house or hut ?), and they'd get down there and they'd get to playing these concert pianos, that Russian music and singing and dancing with each other. Uh, we got down there a time or

two, its probably they could probably better than any girl you ever saw in your life. The Russians are, at that time, a very peculiar bunch of people.

Interviewer: Uh-hum. What happened after Kashkan?

Mr. Lokey: (Unintelligible) Kashkan, excuse me, the war ended while we were there. We did hear about the big bomb drop and the war ended so we went to (unintelligible)... no Russia got into the war first, and uh, that's why they moved us out of (unintelligible), cause we were going into (unintelligible)...took over after the war and still happened. Uh, they uh went to the colonel and says, "Hey, we're allies now." He says, "Yes sir, (unintelligible) allies." Uh, I also saw my pistol down there. This Russian colonel had it, and I'm 18 years old, uh physically in good shape except skinny. And uh, I was going to take it away from him, my gun. I had uh, (unintelligible) ... over his shoulder... (unintelligible) ...on each side of my pistol grips with green eyed glass and (unintelligible) on the outside, so I recognized my pistol immediately, but I didn't get it. Uh, they (unintelligible)...American forces. I'm not a drinker, but that night, the American forces there just really welcomed us, and we started drinking. And I was drinking seven (unintelligible) and Coke. I got pretty drunk, I guess, because I went out with one of the other guys that was stationed there, and I crossed this river. It wasn't very deep, uh, it took me 3 times to cross it – the first 2 times in the water. Got on the other side and I just passed out and went to sleep. Woke up the next morning and that river was about 2 ½ feet wide (laughter). Like I say, I'd never drank before, but uh, it was quite interesting.

Interviewer: I'm curious, when do you think, how long after the bomb was dropped or bombs were dropped did you find out about it? Was it rather – within a day or so or was it weeks?

Mr. Lokey: Just within a few days because a uh, guy from Moscow, an American officer, came down and brought meal to us and also on the radio and that's when we turned, we found out that the big bomb had been dropped. At the time, we heard it on the radio, they said it was the size of a golf ball (laughter), cause you know the 2 bombs were Fat Boy and Little Boy – quite large. But uh, that was quite interesting. We got there, we were there for several days and we flew from there down to (unintelligible) on (unintelligible) on the Persian Gulf crossed to Cairo – there for a day or two. From Cairo to Tripoli, Tripoli to Casablanca, uh, my part of the bunch were there for about 20 days. Then flew to the Azores and uh, then to uh, uh New York City at Fort (unintelligible), and they gave us uniforms, the Americans. We had at that time been in (unintelligible) ... thrown away our heavy stuff and uh, Russians gave us shoes; they brought us a whole truck load of shoes and some socks; one size fits all. And I'm sorry I didn't keep mine, but I did not. When we got to American (unintelligible), they gave us clothes, but the only clothes they had were WAC clothes –

Interviewer: Oh my!

Mr. Lokey: The shirt would button the wrong way, the pants buttoned up the side and uh, give us GI shoes and socks and underwear. And the caps we had on were (unintelligible) ...you know, the American caps (unintelligible) came down

low and in back. When we hit New York, we still had those uniforms on, and uh, we were sitting in the airport in New York, and uh, an MP came by, and Tech Sergeant Richards, was our photographer and he was there and uh, he didn't know what our rank was. By that time, we'd made all Buck Sergeant but he didn't know it, we had no stripes or anything on. We had uh, (unintelligible)... ropes tied around (unintelligible), and this MP came by and he was going to run us all in to jail, and Tech Sergeant, he was character, he says, "I'm Tech Sergeant (unintelligible), we are all POWs, and you're not gonna run a damn one of us in." And this MP says, "Oh, sorry, sorry, Sergee." We were all PFCs, Corporals, maybe Buck Sergeants, about 6 of us. And uh, they said, "Forget it." And in fact, they got us coffee and everything. When we hit the States, got off the airplane there, and there was a Red Cross and a Salvation Army booth just outside there where we got off. Went to the Red Cross (unintelligible)...I hadn't had any cigarettes to speak of, went to Red Cross and they said uh, "Nickel for coffee, nickel for donuts and nickel for a pack of cigarettes." I looked at the bottom of the pack of cigarettes, I remember the camel particularly, and it said donated to the armed services and not to be sold. And the guy from the Salvation Army said, "Hey, y'all, come on over here. We drank coffee, ate donuts, got 3 or 4 packs of cigarettes apiece for nothing. So, I give the Red Cross nothing, but I give to Salvation Army as much as I can, even today and I'm 80 years old (laughter).

Interviewer: So, uh, that was then in September of '45 where, or August when you were uh-

Mr. Lokey: We got back to the States November, I can say that we put us on (unintelligible) and uh, they (unintelligible) and I went to Dallas and I got off in Dallas. Uh, we were dirty, because one of the windows were open and it sucked the wind, and I got off in Dallas, Texas and I was (unintelligible) but I had 30 days TDY which (unintelligible)...and I got off there, and my mother and father and my sister, met us, met me because I'd called them and told collect, and uh, I got off and my sister said something to me and I said something back and she said, "You God damn Yankee," - I'd lost my Texas accent (laughter). But uh, 30 days leave and we went, I went to Fort Sam. And when I got to Fort Sam uh, I got my Staff Sergeant's rating there, then and that's probably (unintelligible) ...for so many days (unintelligible) and so forth. And I got special clearance, and then I got out and (unintelligible) reserve. (Unintelligible), they said, "Hell, you got both your arms (unintelligible), cause you know I went to college, joined OTC, joined reserves as Second Lieutenant, made my First Lieutenant, moved to Dallas, Texas and a buddy said, "Come on out and join me (unintelligible). \$35, after 3 months you get a check for \$105 - that's \$35 bucks a month, that'd buy a new car," so I joined em. I never did get for (unintelligible) ...Korea. And uh, then, of course, I stayed in (unintelligible)...

Interviewer: Right. Just for the museum, uh, add to the story about the aircraft that's at our museum that you had the opportunity to fly. Do you mind telling us that story?

Mr. Lokey: I uh, -



Interviewer: Tell us what the aircraft is.

Mr. Lokey: B25. I uh, was stationed at Reese Air Force Base after I graduated from pilot's training as an instructor pilot of B25s. And after they, they phased them out to T33, (unintelligible), but we put a B25 on a pedestal on the gate. My wife and I made (unintelligible)...thing that was on the brass plate and we put the airplane up and welded it in place. Uh, I'm sure I (unintelligible). And I went to the museum, they told me (unintelligible)...Reece Air Force Base, and I said, "Hell, I flew that airplane." (laughter). I had uh, Travis, Pearl Travis, (unintelligible), who was second man off the (unintelligible) on B25, was my operations officer in B25s at Reece. And when we phased those out, the last 2 airplanes B25 airplanes that were commissioned in the Air Force were flown to (unintelligible) for storage; he and a co-pilot and I flew (unintelligible). I landed first, he landed last – that was the last B25 that landed that was commissioned, and Colonel (unintelligible) landed the last one which was in uh, (unintelligible). (Phone rings). '33, '54, (unintelligible) '57, '58, '59, somewhere around in there; I don't remember exactly (unintelligible).

Interviewer: Okay. Any other thoughts you might like to share with us about your experiences during World War II in the Pacific?

Mr. Lokey: Well, when we got shot down, I'd never seen a bomb hit. So I talked my tail gunner into changes places with me. He took the top turret, and I took the back turret; we're all capable in any position of gunnery. And the top turret had steel plates behind it, so you got in and shut the plates – to get out, you

had to reach behind your back and pull uh, a latch on it. When we got shot up, I knew we were hit pretty bad because it, really the (unintelligible) ...went on, and I lost my (unintelligible) and my intercom. And there I was in that forward turret, I couldn't reach the release to get out of it, and uh, the bailout bell rang one time between stand by for bailout, and the second ring, you go. And I kept scream, and I panicked back there, I mean I have never in my life knew when, then, before or after, I was really not fit for much, and Sergeant Stevenson (unintelligible) came back and opened me up and got me out. And the thing was he had his parachute harness faster than other parachute harnesses and he brought a parachute harness, and hooked it around me and hooked it around his. We walked back into the uh, gunnery position in the B24, over the top and walking just a piece of the (unintelligible) – the whole thing had been shot up, but it didn't hit the controls. But we ended up, when we crashed in Russia, we ended up with only one engine running, and that outboard on #1 which is an outboard, and it was running. #2 was gone, #4 was (unintelligible), and #3 was (unintelligible). And so that's one engine on a (unintelligible) B24. We need something that they said was impossible, (unintelligible). Both pilots, by this time, I'm up in front with them, have got both feet on the right rudder to keep it from (unintelligible). First we went down from about 22,000 feet to just 100 feet and circled the air (unintelligible), and then landed. What I really, when I got captured, I was never so scared in my life – before or since or after.

Interviewer: Your uh, total number of years of service?

Mr. Lokey: 26

Interviewer: 26; how many years did you fly B52s?

Mr. Lokey: Well, I really didn't fly them an awful lot. Uh, I flew the B25 as an instructor, then I flew the T33 as an instructor, then they was getting ready to send me to intelligence school and ground me, so I volunteered for B37s. Went to Wichita, Kansas, checked out in B37s, and (unintelligible), I got about 1,500-2,000 hours with the B37s. They phased those out, and they sent me (unintelligible). I loved the B47 and the B52 is my favorite thing. Uh, because the bullet, the big ugly, and uh, it uh, for example, ailerons, if you wanted to bank to the left, you turned the wheel and you had uh, spoilers up on top of the wings which took the lift out of that thing and (unintelligible). And of course, the other wing would stay where it was. And I never did like it, but I did (unintelligible), uh, during Viet Nam. I uh, went through, I guess (unintelligible) and Elmendorf as a weapons (unintelligible), I was (unintelligible) nuclear weapons (unintelligible). And by this time, I'm a Lieutenant Colonel, and I went to, over there, (unintelligible) man because I was the only guy around that had experience with (unintelligible) bombs. They were the same bombs, the same latches on the racks, and the same uh, you could (unintelligible)...that was all the same. So I went over there (unintelligible) and then I got to (unintelligible) missions into Viet Nam. And uh, then uh, the aircraft commander (unintelligible). I flew 25, uh, I probably had, yeah, 25 missions there, over there, aircraft commander. And a funny story, uh, B47 (unintelligible). B52 was up over behind you, plus you had all

these bombs hanging. We had to hug, sit and bounce on those B52s. And I use to have pictures; I don't know what happened to them, showing my drops (unintelligible)...nothing but planes. And then going over to Viet Nam taking pictures and nothing but pot holes all the way around. Uh, I pulled in around a tank and I pulled in and in a 52, I could refuel cause I (unintelligible). I had a helmet on, sunglasses on my helmet and an oxygen mask on. I pulled in behind this tanker, and boy I was fighting it (unintelligible)...So, I did, (unintelligible), refueled, and I climbed back up and I (unintelligible) in (unintelligible), 3 or 4 (unintelligible) and I dropped down again, and the third time (unintelligible), I dropped down and I said, "(unintelligible), what the hell's wrong? I'm in the envelope." He says, "Yeah, brother Lokey." He recognized me (unintelligible), and I use to say, "Put the boom down, and I'll hooked on." And he recognized me with the helmet on, and uh, (unintelligible) and oxygen mask, and I guess he recognized my voice. And un, so then he let me stay and I got my fuel (laughter).

Interviewer: He was having fun with you!

Mr. Lokey: Yeah, yeah, he was pulling my leg, and uh, later on in the years I was B52s, I quit flying. I flew (unintelligible), and uh, C123s which is a twin engine short field take off and landing with a (unintelligible) drop down, (unintelligible) drop down the back. And uh, I was teaching weapons to B52 crews (unintelligible), and I (unintelligible) to me one day, and I said, "Uh, I can take that 50 caliber machine gun apart and put it back together in 5 minutes." And I said, "Give me 10 minutes, I'll do it backwards." He says, "You're

crazy, Colonel." I says, "Try me." So we went into the room and (unintelligible), he said, "First, let's see if you can do it in 5 minutes." Well, I was a gunner just the same as B52s, I mean, uh, uh, 50 caliber machine gun. I took it apart and put it back together in about 3 ½ minutes. He said, "Where in the hell did you learn that." (laughter). I said, "I was a gunner in World War II, and I had to do it in 2 minutes." (laughter) (unintelligible). But uh, I, I enjoyed the service like I say; I stayed in for 27 years total. And uh, not many people go from Private to Lieutenant Colonel in their career.

Interviewer: That's right.

Mr. Lokey: I could have done 2 more years and tried to make (unintelligible). But they (unintelligible), so I set down and figured out if I retire now with 26-27 years, and I figured out if I took 2 more years and made (unintelligible), how long it would take me to make up and I would just now be at the age of 80, if I'd had to still be in to make up for whatever was lost, so I retired at Lieutenant Colonel. But uh, 27 years total.

Interviewer: That's great! Well, thank you, Mr. Lokey, thank you very much.

Mr. Lokey: Well, this was quite interesting.

(end of side 1 and interview)

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