

National Museum of the Pacific War

Nimitz Education and Research Center

Fredericksburg, Texas

Interview with

Mr. Lawrence A. Barrett

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Interview in progress.

Dwight Daniel: This is an oral history interview of Lawrence A. Barrett, a retired Colonel both in...served in World War II and Korea; he was born 31 October, 1926. The interviewer is myself, Dwight D. Daniel, an oral history volunteer at the National Museum of the Pacific War located in Fredericksburg, Texas. Today is 11 November, 2005 and this interview is taking place at March Reserve Air Force Base, California. This interview is in support of the Center for Pacific War Studies which is the archive for the preservation of historical information of the National Museum for the Pacific War, Texas Parks and Wildlife. This is tape 1, side A.

Now Colonel, we ask very few common questions but there will be one common question. We always like to know where you were born and what your parents did. So where were you born?

Mr. Barrett: I was born in Milford, Massachusetts which is in Worcester County approximately eighteen miles south, southeast of Worcester and thirty south, southwest of Boston.

Dwight Daniel: Huh!

Mr. Barrett: I grew up in Hopedale...H-o-p-e-d-a-l-e, Massachusetts...was two miles wide and six miles long and was separated in 1888 from Milford.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Very historical; that has nothing to do with this interview.

Dwight Daniel: So what did your parents do?

Mr. Barrett: My father was a skilled machinist who married at a very young age...the difference between a blue collar and a white collar worker...he could not afford the pay reduction to become a white collar.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: This was in the world's largest producer of textile machinery in the world...Draper...D-r-a-p-e-r Drip Corporation which was raped and pillaged by Rockwell International.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: It drilled...my town that I grew up in from the lowest tax base in the commonwealth of Massachusetts to the highest.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: My...my mother lived in a house that was built in 1880 that my father bought before the company was taken over by Rockwell.

Dwight Daniel: The Company built the house?

Mr. Barrett: The house was built in 1880...by the...by the...this was...this was a model company town...it was very benevolent though.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, yep!

Mr. Barrett: You had a company store but no...you didn't use the (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, Endicott jobs in upstate New York...same way.

Mr. Barrett: Oh same way?...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...with Hershey, Pennsylvania

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, they built the houses and the houses last a thousand years!

Mr. Barrett: And if you were capable...made no difference whether your father worked in a foundry or...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...or if he was in an engineer department...they would pay your way to MIT.

Dwight Daniel: Yep! Yep!

Mr. Barrett: Because they felt...that keeping it in the family...to keep it in the town. I'm Unitarian and that was the basis of the town. The town was a Communist, Socialist...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...settlement that failed. Adin Ballou was the person who started it, but the Draper family bought it out. The blue laws stand to this day; there's a curfew bell that chimes at 9:00 p.m. and you better in because the cops will take you home!

Dwight Daniel: Wow! Okay, and your mother I assume was a housewife?

Mr. Barrett: Uh yes...well, because of the Depression she worked in a hat factory which...which is now condominiums that's in Upton...U-p-t-o-n, Massachusetts; she decorated hats. Her name was Adelaide Viola Bagley; she

was born in...2nd of June of 1902; the daughter of a policeman; fireman and head custodian of the opera house.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, how do you spell her maiden name...(unintelligible)?

Mr. Barrett: B-a-g-l-e-y...Bagley.

Dwight Daniel: B-a-g-l-e-y?

Mr. Barrett: ...l-e-y. And of course the Viola is next to the violin.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: And I don't know the basis for that...for that middle name, but she didn't either.

Dwight Daniel: Huh!

Mr. Barrett: My dad's name was Arthur Maurice Barrett, born on the 13th of November, 1900. His father's name was Maurice Arthur, and I did not know my father's name until I enlisted in the Marine Corps in December of 1943, and he had to sign a permission slip because I was only seventeen years old.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And I said, "Well why didn't you name me?" He said, "Well, people mispronounce it."

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: And he said, "I'm *not* Maurie; I'm not," he said, "I'm Maurice; that's the only way you pronounce it," which is the French way.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, so how do you spell it then?

Mr. Barrett: M-a-u-r-i-c-e.

Dwight Daniel: Oh okay, so he did spell it the French way?

Mr. Barrett: That's right!

Dwight Daniel: Ah, gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: Now his father came from Camden, Maine, but I said, "Dad, I want to find out about our family." And he said, "Don't dig too deep because you'll find someone...(unintelligible) for horse thieving!" And that's a very interesting way of putting it because in 1895 in Medfield where he was born...Medfield, Norfolk County they had an anti-horse thieving society that was in existence until I was born in 1926. I cannot find any evidence of his birth, death, marriage or whatever.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: My father was brought up *horribly* by a step-father who kicked him out...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...when he was nine years old and he went to live with his mother...grandmother.

Dwight Daniel: Now where did you...where were your schools...I mean...(unintelligible)?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, I did all my schooling in Hopedale...

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...which was a Class A school. At that time if you graduated from Hopedale High, the principal could certify you for any college or university including Johns Hopkins...

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Barrett: ...you did not have to take an entrance exam...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: ...and I quit. My sister was the salutatorian and I was always being told, “Why can’t you be more like your sister, Eileen?” Her name is Arie (sp?) Emma (sp?)...Emma Eileen named after...grandmother...great-grandmother.

Dwight Daniel: Now...so when you enlisted...uh, what date did you enlist?

Mr. Barrett: I enlisted on the 6th of December, 1943 which was about my fifth enlistment.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: I qualified for an officer’s training program; I was as large then...I was five, ten and weighed a hundred and sixty-five pounds.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, now what did you enlist in? The Marines or...?

Mr. Barrett: I enlisted in the Marines in the Fargo Building as it’s called in Boston, Massachusetts which was the First Marine Corps District.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, now why did you pick the Marines...and not...say the Navy, the Army or whatever?

Mr. Barrett: Well my father had a great influence on my life, but I had a surrogate father who taught me photography.

Dwight Daniel: Uh-hum.

Mr. Barrett: And I’d been around him, oh my goodness...I think I was maybe ten or eleven years old and had a camera club...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...and his name was Gordon Norton and he was a battleship Marine from the ‘20s.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: And his...his son was my closest friend, and he was a...a drummer in a band.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And I wanted to be a drummer, but I could never beat the sticks
(unintelligible)...but I couldn't do a (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: Anyway, Bernie went in...before the draft got him because you could enlist
up until the day before your eighteenth birthday.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: After that Selective Service determined where you went.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And he was...his photograph was dress blues, but they were never issued
dress blues.

Dwight Daniel: I know.

Mr. Barrett: We didn't have photographs when I went in December of '43.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: We didn't even have a photo of the platoon.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?! So where did you go...okay in '43 you enlist in Boston...then
where'd you go?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, went on a train...the Atlantic coastline to Yemassee, South Carolina.

Dwight Daniel: Ah man!

Mr. Barrett: Uh, well they treated us very, very nice until we got aboard Parris Island, and
because we were late getting there...in many ways...we were late in the day
and late in the platoon...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I asked this corporal who was seated across from me, I said, "How do you get in touch with somebody here." He looked at me, he said, "You S-bird, you don't!"

Dwight Daniel: Uh-oh!

Mr. Barrett: Uh-oh! I said, "Now I know what they meant by...*you'll be sorry!*"

Dwight Daniel: Right. So what was boot like for you then?

Mr. Barrett: Horrible!

Dwight Daniel: Why?

Mr. Barrett: Well adverse things...they put a bucket over our head and the D.I. had a swagger stick...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, it sounds like...

Mr. Barrett: ...and he'd beat on that...and I had tendonitis so badly and I still have it.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, that was because we didn't sound off loud enough!

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: And there were sixty-six of us in the platoon...mostly from Appalachia.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: And one of them said, "Anybody who fires higher than I do on the range, I'll buy him an ice cream cone," which was a big deal.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: I was one of six Experts.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: And so I became an Expert Rifleman...I forgot to bring the picture with me...

Dwight Daniel: That's alright.

Mr. Barrett: ...anyway...and I also became a Private First Class on a meritorious promotion.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: So I was seventeen on Halloween and in February I'm an Expert Rifleman and a PFC and I thought I was going to become a sniper.

Dwight Daniel: Uh-hum.

Mr. Barrett: However my camera club experience qualified me to now become an aviation...and they sent me to Pensacola...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: ...and I went through the eighteen-week course of ground, motion picture and aerial photography; had an instructor by the name of Leif Erickson, the movie actor.

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: Also Victor Mature who was a chief in the Coast Guard; they taught us in the motion picture phase. We had other...individuals...chief petty officers...don't recall their names...that were from Hollywood.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: And this was not for publicity; this was for the recording of history...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...of what happened in the Naval forces. I also knew David Douglas Duncan, and his contribution of twenty million dollars worth of material to the University of Texas at Austin. I...I can't get in touch with him because they

won't pass the word to him; he now lives in southern France and he's writing his autobiography.

Dwight Daniel: Wow! So what were...okay now these...okay you're a young kid from...

Mr. Barrett: Massachusetts...

Dwight Daniel: ...have never really left Massachusetts...

Mr. Barrett: Yes, I ran away.

Dwight Daniel: You ran away?!

Mr. Barrett: But that...but that was coincident...there were three of us that were going to go to New York to join the Merchant Marines.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I was...oh, I was just as just...(unintelligible)...I was just as tall then as I am now; this is 1941. Well, I made a pact; they chickened out.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: I...I ran away before Christmas.

Dwight Daniel: Uh-huh.

Mr. Barrett: Excuse me, after Christmas 1941. I spent New Year's Eve...the last celebration where they had the lights on in Times Square.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, I was on my way to Florida after I found out they wouldn't let me go in the Merchant Marines...my aunt...they were quite well to do...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and they were down in Naples, Florida. I gave up when I got to (unintelligible), New Jersey which, by the way, is where John Basilone, the Marine, came from.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And my grandfather...being a police officer talked with the policeman there and they kept me at the police station but not in a cell and my mother came down and picked me up.

Dwight Daniel: Now...a question for you...okay, they picked you up...now you go back to Massachusetts; graduate...now all of a sudden the first time you...you see the big world is...boot camp.

Mr. Barrett: Wow! Yeah.

Dwight Daniel: What was it like...with all these people from different areas...particularly from Appalachia which was extremely poor compared to Hopewell at that time?

Mr. Barrett: Well...Hopedale...

Dwight Daniel: Hopedale.

Mr. Barrett: Well you have to understand, Hopedale was created before the industrial revolution.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And the person in the family was William Franklin Draper; he was the...the...rebellion; he was a lieutenant...marched off; he was nineteen years old on my birthday in 1861 on Halloween. And he went down...and I won't go into that detail...but he ended up as a congressman and the first

ambassador before he...he...there were ministers to...Italy, but he was the first ambassador, and he spoke with the king in French who answered in French and they did this by themselves; no horse holders permitted. And he offered to the king that for skilled people they would pay their way from Italy to Hopedale, Massachusetts.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: They lived in the bachelor quarters when they...proved they were going to become a United States citizen...they would pay the way for the family.

Dwight Daniel: Now let's...but you met these people from Appalachia...how was that like?

Mr. Barrett: Oh, I'm sorry. Well what it did is...my class of some thirty international...we had...people from Armenia, France, Italy, Spain; we had a brother and sister who were Hebrew...

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...so we had all religions; I'm a Unitarian; we had a Sacred Heart of Jesus...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...by the way, do...the priest would deliver his homily from the pulpit at the Unitarian Church...at (unintelligible). Now people have difficulty understanding that.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so I guess the deal was...

Mr. Barrett: I was very international...didn't know it.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so when you went to boot...the boot camp, it was no big deal?

Mr. Barrett: It was very...(unintelligible) no problem because...

Dwight Daniel: No, okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...I...I met these lads from Appalachia, but I related to them because...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...they kept...they kept calling me Massachusetts. They had a slight accent at the time.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha, okay. Okay, 'cause that's unusual...lot of people don't have experience with (unintelligible)...okay.

Mr. Barrett: Oh well...because...after...when the war's over...and I got back in 1946, I saw a friend of mine, Guido Nofre (sp?), who was a Sicilian, and I said, "How was it?" And he said, "I could speak with them; they all spoke my..." and their...their parents were so proud that they went to Americanization school before...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and they had to speak, read and write English...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and answer questions about the Constitution of the United States; they had to be able to recite...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...the Pledge. Nowadays...

Dwight Daniel: Well actually they still do for the citizens; it's the students that don't have to worry about it.

Mr. Barrett: Well...

Dwight Daniel: My wife had to go through all that.

Mr. Barrett: Ah, okay. Well I had students that I had in the program that should not have been in the program, but I carried them as extra students. They're part of the brains reign out of England.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And I told the mother he had to have his United States citizenship before I could nominate him for his scholarship.

Dwight Daniel: Now let's...let's get back to...okay, so you've gone through boot camp...

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: ...and then you...you've met...now they...they look at your camera club and made you a photographer basically?

Mr. Barrett: Well I wouldn't share your point; uh, arrived there; I won't go into those details, but that taught me to be a straight, upright Marine, and...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I always arrived early.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: My dad gave me more money than he earned per week and he used to take a bootleg cab from Washington, D.C. to Havelock, North Carolina.

Dwight Daniel: Now a question for you; what was it like with Victor Mature and people like that?

Mr. Barrett: They were so down to earth...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...we met them in what we called a slop shoot; that was where the enlisted men could drink beer...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...at the Marine Corps barracks. This is where the line company guards were because all air stations...all naval facilities are guarded by Marines...no longer...only the Naval Academy. I walked up and I said, "Excuse me," and 'cause there were very few Marines in the Photo School that actually remembered me...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...and they said, "What do you want?"...uh, called me Jarhead, and I said, "May I shake your hand?"

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Well he was a big, big Marine, and he grabbed my hand and shook it. And by the way, he had just gotten married to a WAF...uh, excuse me, a WAC sergeant...sergeant, you know...they never divorce. Victor Mature was there; he had a hand on (unintelligible); he was the chief petty...he enlisted in the Coast Guard...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and unlike some other people he said, "No, I want to participate as a Coast Guardsman." And the reason they put him down there is because of...of his experience of being a non-actor, but he was excellent behind the camera.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, no kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: Oh yes. We...we used the Mitchell...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...which is a very large camera. We also used a handheld Imo which was used by Sergeant Genaust for...who...who photographed the identical photograph of the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima. I used to see that and I didn't realize that that was an actual photo...I thought it was a reenactment.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah, no.

Mr. Barrett: No, but he died and his...his body is still at Iwo Jima.

Dwight Daniel: So it's interesting that...these...these actors that are making gazillion dollars...just like common folk then?

Mr. Barrett: Well what they became...they were...they were patriots...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...and they felt that they could add to gathering the history as you are, and that's what we were doing; we were primarily historians; we were photojournalists.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: I'm a member of the Marine Corps Combat Karl Stein's Association which, by the way, exists only because the Commandant endorses them every year.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: And I've been to one of their meetings and that is the back...the back room of the entertainment room; and we met...and I learned so much about what's going on in the entertainment world today.

Dwight Daniel: So, okay so you met these...real life people that are, you know...

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: ...that everybody goes ooh-ahh!...and they're just like normal (unintelligible) to you guys.

Mr. Barrett: They...they're straight forward. Matter of fact, years later...my...my wife who was bombed out six times in Europe...she was at a function down at...Rancho Santa Fe and who comes in but Victor Mature.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Now he didn't remember me, but I told some stories about him and on him and he said, "You're right on!" And it had to do with his membership in Los Angeles Country Club...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...and some other things that happened in Pensacola, and he said, "You were there!" he said, "I don't remember you, but you were there."

Dwight Daniel: Wow! Cool!

Mr. Barrett: And I come to find out that he was close personal friends of a friend of mine in (unintelligible); he used to stop in (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...he passed away; and that was his real name. He was Austrian by the...by dependency. Uh, his parents came from Austria.

Dwight Daniel: So how long was your class now down there?

Mr. Barrett: We...eighteen weeks.

Dwight Daniel: Eighteen weeks! (Unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: The first part we used the...the Graflex which is a...you looked down into the tunnel...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...where it had a focal-plane shutter and we used to go up to officers country supposedly taken photos of the...the flowers and so forth...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and the admiral's wife came out and said, "Why is it the Marines know how to break the code?" And I said, "What do you mean?" She said, "You know you're not supposed to be up here." Said, "M'am, we're on official duty." She said, "Tell me another one!"

Dwight Daniel: Wow.

Mr. Barrett: But we became qualified...combat photographers because we also used the speed graphic.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Then we also used the Imo; motion picture camera.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Then we transitioned; my first flight in a military aircraft was in an SBD. I've made contact with that aviator who lives over here in Santa Ana...his name is Gordon Gray (sp?).

Dwight Daniel: Question for you; what kind of cameras did you use while in the air?

Mr. Barrett: Well, we had a K-20.

Dwight Daniel: That's what I thought, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Yes, we had the K-20; we had the handheld for the oblique or the oblique whatever you want to call it...those are handheld.

Dwight Daniel: And those are what...K-12s or...can't remember.

Mr. Barrett: Oh, golly, it was a Fairchild...

Dwight Daniel: Yes.

Mr. Barrett: Sherman Fairchild...by the way, he designed his own airplane because he wanted a smooth camera platform.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: All Fairchild aerial cameras. Nowadays, of course, you can download it from computers.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But we had a negative size...nine inches by eighteen inches...

Dwight Daniel: That's what I thought.

Mr. Barrett: ...and we had that...down through the belly of a B-25, but we called it a PBJ...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I'm getting ahead of the story because that was what I flew in in combat.

Dwight Daniel: Oh okay.

Mr. Barrett: Now I didn't know my wife at the time; she was born a United States citizen in Kassel (sp?), Germany and they went back in 1948...her brother, mother and she, and of course the Gestapo picked up their passports.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And...

Dwight Daniel: But getting back...I'm not trying to...

Mr. Barrett: Alright.

Dwight Daniel: But back to the camera...now...this...this is really cool. You...you're a kid, you know...your camera club...

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: ...and you've been given unlimited access...

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: ...to really lots of cool equipment.

Mr. Barrett: Absolutely!

Dwight Daniel: How...how'd that make you feel?

Mr. Barrett: Well it empowered me, and I didn't know the words at the time...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...but here I am a PFC, seventeen years old...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and you're a...a commander is in our class! Well of course a commander leaning over the tray from the back side...to other people looked like a Marine enlisted man...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ...but enlisted men did not have hip pockets...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...hip pockets, they had...because that saved money.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: Somebody did a sky lock on him...well, I'm telling you...after that you kept your hands to home...

Dwight Daniel: I see.

Mr. Barrett: ...because it was a survival situation in a dark room. You...just thrown in there; you had to process your own film...then you had to go out and make your own prints...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...nobody ever helped you. And that...a lot of people did not make it through the class...not...not from the Marine Corps; we...we stayed together.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: We cooperated so we'd all graduate.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: We all were promoted.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding? Now who else was in the class? You said Marines?

Mr. Barrett: Marines and Navy, we...up through the rank of commander.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Uh, Gordon Gray had flown B-24s; not the Privateer, but the twin-tail. That was high altitude, strategic photography.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: I think the reason they sent him to Photo School was so that we were (unintelligible) from combat. And the next time I saw him he was a major; had an F9F squadron...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...uh, Tigercat and I flew with him in Tsing Tao, China in the late...well in the winter of 1945-46.

Dwight Daniel: Well talk about that. Okay, so...let's...all these Marines graduated from the world's greatest school...then...then where'd you go after that?

Mr. Barrett: Well went back to Cherry Point and they put us in the station Photo Lab; we called it a photo shack...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...so it was in base operations; that's when I got to meet Tyrone Power.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: And his beard was so heavy that he wore pancake makeup, but it still showed through and he was *clank, clank!* He went through a boot camp at Par...at uh, San Diego...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...then because he was so bright he became a...a Nav Cad...Naval Aviation Cadet...

Dwight Daniel: Right, that's what I call it.

Mr. Barrett: ...then he became a Marine Corps Aviator. Well...and also Sterling Hayden...but that's a different story.

Dwight Daniel: Huh!

Mr. Barrett: Sterling Hayden was incredible; he ran the partisans in Albania.

Dwight Daniel: Right, I knew that.

Mr. Barrett: He got the Silver Star and the Bronze Star and...well anyway.

Dwight Daniel: Interesting, so what...what was it like meeting Tyrone Powers?

Mr. Barrett: Well he was to me...I would say...we admired him...he was so handsome...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ...uh, I'd seen the movie, the...the picture...Dorian Gray; it was in black and white. The only thing that was in color was the shocker when they unveiled the portrait...oh wow!...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ...that ran the...the...up and down your spine! So he...he could arm an R4D...DC3...C47...and he said, "What are you staring at?!"

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: "Sir, I want to take your photograph." "Why?" I said, "Because I had not seen you here at Cherry Point." He said, "You don't have to take my photo." But anyway...I took his picture! (laughter) It was an official photograph. Because he taxied up...he was being treated as though he were a very high ranking officer...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ...but they knew his...they knew he was coming in from...we're here... wherever he departed...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...so he came up to the VIP spot and that's why I saw him because I was standing by the trash truck.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And we...whenever there's a crash and the farthest away...I remember it was Chappell Hill and we had to record that for accident investigation.

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay. So where...so now you're at Cherry Point...one of the cool things...did you...I mean you did the accident; what else?

Mr. Barrett: Well we did lab work, and it was interesting...the WRs, the Women Reserves, and of course we called them Beautiful American Marines which is BAM...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I won't tell you the other...what the...what the letters stand...but they were incredible. We had a photo officer who died unfortunately in what they call synthetic trainer; that was a flight simulator...

Dwight Daniel: That's the old light trainer?

Mr. Barrett: No, beyond that even.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: She had gone in there and someone had thrown a cigarette butt into the waste disposal in one...in one of the restrooms; they died of smoke inhalation. Now she was so beautiful...I have a photograph of her at home that when we tried portraiture...because we also had to be portrait photographers...

Dwight Daniel: Right, that's what I thought.

Mr. Barrett: ...she...she was beautiful, absolutely beautiful; she was a captain; direct commission because of her experience in photography.

Dwight Daniel: Cool! So you're...what else did you did you do at Cherry Point? This sounds...I mean you got (unintelligible)?

Mr. Barrett: Well...well, we...we called it dive bombing duties.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: That...and then we went out and dive bombed cigarette butts; it was the cleanest base in the world...

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah!

Mr. Barrett: ...and we also went out and dug up stumps because we were making it into the largest Marine air station next to El Toro; they were...they were very much patterned...they had, at the time, almost the longest runways in the world...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...but you had to be very tricky to get from one parallel runway...I...I should say they were offset like this. There I flew in...let me think now...uh, these were combat...they were trained for combat. We had many air stations outlying throughout North Carolina and South Carolina, so that was my first experience flying in a PBJ which is a B-25...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: ...did not realize I was going to be flying in them...VMB which is Marine Bombing Squadron 611 in the Philippines.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So, then my records were so confused that I was...I don't think I was on flight pay at all...we called it flight skins.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: Well as PFC, I got five dollars a month extra for a year because Winchester paid that for the Marine Corps and I got five dollars when I was promoted to PFC, so I got sixty-one dollars. When I was promoted to Corporal, I then got

sixty-six base points, plus thirty-three dollars flight pay, plus five dollars, and I...I took out a savings bond back when I was a Private...

Dwight Daniel: Oh my gosh!

Mr. Barrett: ...of eighteen, seventy-five, so I...I had very little money to spend.

Dwight Daniel: I can understand! So now...so you...you're now back to your...the PBJ...

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: Right...then what'd you do? I mean was that the first time you'd been in a flight?

Mr. Barrett: Oh, no, no. I had...my first time flying was...I was eight years old; my dad had taken me to an air show and at the age of eight...I was nine that following October...I was in one of these cockpits that carried three people in the (unintelligible) ahead of us.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: I was hooked!

Dwight Daniel: It gotcha, okay!

Mr. Barrett: And I used to sweep out the hangar so I could get flights. And I had stick time, but I never landed one...I'd taken one off, but the airport owner...by the way, it's no longer an airport...he didn't want to take the chance unless we were paying for...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, right.

Mr. Barrett: ...because this is the Depression, who could...I couldn't afford that!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible) since I was a kid; I was only ten years old...

Dwight Daniel: Oh my god!

Mr. Barrett: ...nine years old, excuse me.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so on your PBJ...where'd you go? Okay you went from Cherry Point to...?

Mr. Barrett: Well, Cherry Point and then, uh, because I wanted to get to combat very foolishly...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I...I...for...well I...I had to fork out several training opportunities. One I was going to meet Dr. Land...the photo was very classified, (unintelligible) to go to Cambridge, Maryland to be introduced to Polaroid.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: But unfortunately I had...

Dwight Daniel: You turned that down, huh?!

Mr. Barrett: I turned it down.

Dwight Daniel: Ah geez!

Mr. Barrett: I turned down...camera repair at Bell and Howell in Chicago; I turned down camera repair at Folmer Graflex that I could repair speed graphics and so on.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: I just liked to get to combat; I was crazy!

Dwight Daniel: I under...

Mr. Barrett: I was seventeen years!

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: Well...also, when we got out here at Miramar...very dear friend of mine said, "Hey, I hear a Navigation School's open over in El Centro." I said, (unintelligible). Well I lived to regret that because he became the equivalent of a Gunnery Sergeant...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...which was one rank below...a Master Gunnery...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...instantly, when you graduate. And all aerial navigators to this day in the Marine Corps are enlisted men. They start out as Corporal.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So he...and he started out as a Corporal and he was promoted instantly and graduation from...from Corporal to Gunnery Sergeant. And I met him in China. I sent him a set of the new navigator wings for the Marine Corps...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and the only people that ever wear them were aer...enlisted aerial navigators in the Marine Corps.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: It's a very distinctive wing.

Dwight Daniel: Wow! So okay, you turned...you...you made all these mistakes, so where'd you finally wind up in?

Mr. Barrett: Well then because the...the divisions needed replacements...we were probably among the highest attrition rate on the com...combat cameraman.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, I didn't know that.

Mr. Barrett: Oh yeah, because your primary weapon was your...your motion picture camera and...and/or your handheld...

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and your still camera. Very few people had color.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, Genaust had color on...on Iwo Jima, but that was a rarity because he'd been a newspaper photographer.

Dwight Daniel: Right and he knew how to handle (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: So he knew how to handle it.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: We were...we were supposed to re-qualify with the weap...weapon, the M-1; I was an Expert Rifleman...I was also an Expert Bayonetist; we learned K-Bar; we learned how...and so on.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: We did that at Camp Elliott which is existent, but I don't know what they're using it for. Miramar was divided down the middle...

Dwight Daniel: Where is Camp Elliott?

Mr. Barrett: It's across the highway from what is now Marine Corps station Miramar...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...but at that time it was Kearney Mesa (sp?); there's nothing on the mesa...this is...this is Kearney Naval Air Station and Miramar Marine Corps Air Depot.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I don't know about that, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, the theater is still there; it was dedicated...Jack Carson...not Johnny...Jack Carson came down with the USO troop...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...to dedicate...and I went there with my...my son who retired as a captain from the Navy. I said, I said, "I was here as a Corporal in 1944." That's when I saw a movie with Betty or Lauren Bacall...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...uh, this is when she first became attracted to Humphrey Bogart.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: To Have and Have Not...just pucker up and blow!

Dwight Daniel: Cool! So, okay, so you went to Camp Elliott...

Mr. Barrett: Yes, well act...actually...

Dwight Daniel: How'd you swing that? How'd you...?

Mr. Barrett: Well we didn't get over there because we were doing those details again; we were picking up cigarette butts; we're learning hand-to-hand combat...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, a Marine Gunner at that time...Warrant Officers, you were bursting bombs versus ordinance shell...and that was his insignia, and he was teaching us – Kill or Be Killed!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: This is...unarmed combat; if you lost your weapon, how do you defend yourself?

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well again, we were...they would always call out names at the zero, six, five, zero muster, and they would disappear and they were on their way to Pendleton or ship right out of Broadway to Hawaii...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...or someplace else and join a division.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Barrett: And we had a pool of photographers...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Alright...one by the name of Mel Steinberg (sp?)...he said, "Why don't you stick with me?" Well Mel retired a PhD in Aeronautical Engineering from the Marine...

(end of tape 1, side A)

Mr. Barrett: The Marine Corps lost an opportunity.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, I didn't realize he was that good behind the camera.

Mr. Barrett: Oh yes, he was then a Navy Captain...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and he would do what they called special tours; he'd go on active duty to Viet Nam.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And this again was not for publicity; this was for the recording historically what we were doing...

Dwight Daniel: Right. Did not realize he was that good.

Mr. Barrett: ...realize he was with the Marines. So here he is a former Marine Platoon Sergeant...now he's a Navy Captain.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: And as I say...wonderful, wonderful man! He's very quiet now; he was a thirty-third degree Mason. I'm a...I'm a Master Mason myself.

Dwight Daniel: Holy!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Dwight Daniel: Did not know that about him.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so you're back at Miramar meeting all these stars again...

Mr. Barrett: Well yeah they...they were...and Les Brown. Les Brown was a Captain and his entire band enlisted.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Unlike Glenn Miller who enlisted by himself and became a Captain.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: Uh, Les Brown became a Captain. Now his son still puts the band on the road; Les Brown and His Band of Renown. Les is in his nineties...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and they come up to Redlands to the bowl and (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: I didn't realize he was still alive.

Mr. Barrett: He's still alive.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: And Kay Kyser, I met he and Ish Kabibble because that's when I was doing things in the ground photography.

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay!

Mr. Barrett: I have those photos at home.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: But anyway...

Dwight Daniel: So you're back at Miramar meeting all these people...

Mr. Barrett: Ah, they go dancing at Pacific Square; fifty cents to get in; no smoking; no drinking...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...no taking the girls out; all you could do is dance with them.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: That's all I wanted to do is dance! Well I went down to 4th and F; got a tattoo...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, gotta have one of those!

Mr. Barrett: ...but...but that was because Warrant Officer said...the...the Gunner...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...said, "You want your parents; your sweethearts; your...your wives to know that you're really KIA and not MIA..."

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ...so we carried pieces of paper...all out of the Civil War...in all of our pockets...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I have a tattoo that is my serial number; my enlistment date; my initials...USMC. Thanks goodness we never had to use it to identify me.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: And I was always...an interest...whenever I took a physical they said, "Why do you have that tattoo?" I said, "It's my ID card."

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: And of course it's forever and...and my wife and my offspring and my grandchildren are all use to it and they say, "Oh, Grandpa has his ID card on his left shoulder."

Dwight Daniel: Yeah! Did they ever...did the Marines start putting their (unintelligible)...uh, dog tags on their boots.

Mr. Barrett: Oh well they would put the globe; the anchor and the eagle...but no, I...I wasn't for that; I didn't have enough money.

Dwight Daniel: Got it! (laughter)

Mr. Barrett: Because I was putting my money in a war bond every month.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha. Now...so you got your tattoo, but you...you're still not in to combat; so how...how do we go from this to combat?

Mr. Barrett: Well what happened...San Diego, if you can only imagine...the mobs...

Dwight Daniel: Had to be a zoo!

Mr. Barrett: ...it was a zoo...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and it was a Marine and Navy time...the Army never did appear. The Hotel Grant was the headquarters of the officers.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Well, we'd fake it and we'd go in there because when I was at Pensacola we would take one of our shirts that didn't have any stripes on it and they thought we were naval aviation cadets.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: Okay...well that was a way to land the ladies; the other way was to go to church.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Because they figure you're a good...good Marine because you're in church.

Dwight Daniel: Good Marine.

Mr. Barrett: Well I always went to church, but people didn't understand Unitarianism and I was not about to proselytes anybody anyway.

Dwight Daniel: Right and you just wanted to meet the girls anyway. (laughter)

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, that's right! We...we were always in anticipation of going back to line company which is now called infantry.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And I forget how many times we went down to the foot of Broadway to stand by to load aboard a ship.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well finally we loaded on a ship and we stayed...I don't know...almost a week alongside...this is at the foot of Broadway...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...it's still existent, but they...they have ships that come in for open house.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: We were a single vessel, the SS Extavia. We went out through the groundswell...

Dwight Daniel: Do you remember how to spell that?

Mr. Barrett: E-x-t-a-v-i-a; it was a cattle carrier that they converted to a troop transport...

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: ...and we slept six high.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: And I...I very rarely would stay below deck although I was never seasick; I was only airsick. But I never saw so many people that became seasick, and I actually became ill because I went down to drink water – it was salt water!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: Well we...we single zigzagged; I became a shellback.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, yeah!

Mr. Barrett: We crossed the equator, but they didn't tell us where and we wanted to be the golden dragon; golden dragon was the international one hundred and eighth...(unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay, I didn't know that!

Mr. Barrett: That's right. But we don't know because my little card says *censored*.
(laughter) Well we ended up in New Guinea to offload the...the Army troops. We had the Navy armed guard, so we had civilians crewing the vessel; Navy armed guard; we had officers, Warrant Officers, Marine Gunners,

anybody...nobody knew where we were going. I figured well we're still going to go back to line company.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: We ended up at Finschhafen and Hollandia, but then we went to a place called the Admiralty Islands which was a British mandate!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: And that had just been secured the...the preceding fall, and we were on Los Negros rather than Manus.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And this is what they called the Repo Depot – that's where they gave us shots all over again.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: We had to keep the place clean; the only time I stood mess duty. So...the Mess Sergeant was very...very democratic; he let you choose what you wanted to be.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So I'm hanging back; I'm a Corporal because NCOs normally do not perform mess duty.

Dwight Daniel: Correct!

Mr. Barrett: Uh, by the way, if I had my dress blues and I had my NCO stripe down my pants.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, so he looked at me and he said, “Why are you hanging back?” I said, “I want the garbage detail.”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: They all looked at me and went *ahhh!* Well, I only worked...after the meal was over...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...we would...we would take the garbage cans and put them out back and we’d keep them covered...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...because of...you know, we didn’t want any varmints to get in it.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Once a day, usually in the morning, after breakfast we’d load them way up on this six by. Well I had the most incredible triceps and biceps because we’d lift those cans up; we didn’t have anything to...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay, right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and then we would drive down to the lagoon...

Dwight Daniel: ...and just...dump it in.

Mr. Barrett: ...but...no, we’d back the truck onto the barge...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: ...and then we would dump them in and it would wash out. And we had an auxiliary power unit and we’d wash them out with salt water.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And then we would take our shirts off...but because we were on Atabrine...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and we were pretty much yellowed up...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...we never did really get a...any kind of a...by the way...court-martial offense to get a sunburn.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, because they knew you...?

Mr. Barrett: You're destroy...no, you're destroying government property.

Dwight Daniel: I didn't know that!

Mr. Barrett: You're not combat ready.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, I did not realize that!

Mr. Barrett: So I was only...because I tanned more than burned...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I would only take my...we called them dungarees...(unintelligible)...I would take my dungaree jacket off and my green t-shirt...still had dog tags on...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...but I never did tan because of the Atabrine.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: We also ate salt tablets because we perspired so heavily.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well I don't...I don't know whether they ever do that now or not.

Dwight Daniel: No they don't; they have...well they do some but not like...I remember when you and I were both (unintelligible). I remember when I played baseball; they just brought all kinds of this out.

Mr. Barrett: Oh yeah, well you were like a salt lick!

Dwight Daniel: I...I'm not sure as an eight year old...although I do have high blood pressure.
(laughter)

Mr. Barrett: Well what happened we went through and we...we're getting...re-immunized; you got immunized every time you turned around.

Dwight Daniel: Right. Now what year was this anyway?

Mr. Barrett: This was...in February of 1945.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: Okay, so the Corpsman is reading my ID card on my left arm and he's got the needle in. Well the needle came out of the syringe and rather than pull the needle out of my arm he's trying to reconnect the syringe so I don't know how much of that juice I got!

Dwight Daniel: Oh great! Oh my god!

Mr. Barrett: But I'm fortunate; I never had malaria! I am a continuing platelet donor; I'm at twenty-five gallons.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: And many, many, many of my cohorts came down with malaria and oh that's bad...that's bad news!

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Well...and we're in malaria country. We're two degrees south of the equator...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: It's a hundred and eight...its two hundred, excuse me, one hundred and twenty miles due south of the equator...still don't know where we're going to go!

Dwight Daniel: Just moving garbage around!

Mr. Barrett: Just moving garbage around, and that was...and the mail was non-existent.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: When we left San Diego the mail stopped...

Dwight Daniel: I can understand that.

Mr. Barrett: ...even though we wrote. Well along comes a gunny bird...a R4D DC3 C47...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...with bucket seats, canvas bucket seat...no it had aluminum bucket seats!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: And we get on it; we still don't know where we're going. We go to Biak...these are all the exotic places on the north part of New Guinea...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and we ended up some place called Moret Field (sp?)...Moret Zamboanga (sp?)...where the monkeys have no tails and they really don't have tails.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, yeah. Okay, so...

Mr. Barrett: And we got there just after they...they made the beach. Well the Japanese didn't expect to invade there.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: They expected us to invade...if you know what Mindanao looks like...up at the shoulder...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...but over by Davao...and that's where they were.

Dwight Daniel: Oh so now you're...you're based...this is the Philippines then?

Mr. Barrett: No, we are MacArthur's Marines...I was one of the aviation Marines. There were three Marine aircraft groups and I'm now in the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: When I was at Cherry Point, I was in the Third Marine Aircraft Wing. There were only four Wings then and now. There were seven divisions but they never really got...some divisions up and running, so my chance...my chances of being a line company...

Dwight Daniel: Was getting slower and slower here...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Well they were slowing up; they were still taking us...

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: ...be...because our activities were tactical and strategic photography...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...along with ground photography. And that's where I got to meet David Davis Duncan...uh, his famous photograph...he was a photojournalist...a

Japanese lieutenant; educated at UCLA...gave himself up and he knew the war had been lost way back in Coral Sea and the...so on.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: But the division general said, "No!" Well there's a photograph of him...in the mid...looking out the...the waste window...the other B-25...PBJs are all dropping their bombs (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Now we had forward firing eight...

Dwight Daniel: You had the ten packs, right, the fifty caliber (unintelligible)...?

Mr. Barrett: ...right...in the nose and the wings; plus we had the seventy-five millimeter howitzer.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, oh you had the...you were in...

Mr. Barrett: When you fired that howitzer, I...I...

Dwight Daniel: The airplane stopped, I heard you!

Mr. Barrett: ...right, well as a aerial gunner...now I'm an aerial gunner.

Dwight Daniel: Geez!

Mr. Barrett: Now the wings that I have over here...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...are combat aircrew wings and they only way that...in the Navy...you ever...in Marine Corps you ever qualified you had to fly in combat...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...as opposed to these wings, my Air Force wings.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Now your hearing goes, but you...you never had to have flown combat.

Dwight Daniel: So how'd you finally get into combat then?

Mr. Barrett: Well because when I arrived there I was at headquarters...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and we were in the Photo Lab.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Now most of the squadrons, not all, had their own photo section, but when they...they were tasked on what they called a frag...a fragmentary order,...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...they would call and say, "We need a photographer."

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: So we were always volunteering because we wanted to see what was going on.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I...I flew I think twenty-five missions...I'm not sure.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: I...I was later decorated with the Air medal when I...when I was in China.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: I...you know...I...I wasn't aware of what was going on. I was a very good gunner because of my experience...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...now my records have to be corrected because they showed me...that I was in the USMCR which I wasn't.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I joined for four years on the 6th of December, 1943. I can't find the record for my combat aircrew wings...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I did not report...well I did! We got a chit whenever we got a battle wound.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And a chit was a little piece of paper, and you took it up to sick bay. Well some place between...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...the VMV611 and the other squadrons...because I was...slight wounds twice, but I never really wanted to report, because I thought...if I was wounded that they would not necessarily permit me to re-enlist.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I was...I was very young, I was very immature.

Dwight Daniel: Yep.

Mr. Barrett: Well anyway we're all set to invade Kyushu, the day after my nineteenth birthday...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ...on...on the first of November, and we're gearing up for that.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, so you're in that crew, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, now there are eight LSTs; a destroyer escort and an AK and we didn't know where we're going. We figured we...on our way to Japan...

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: ...either to invade or to occupy.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: We got to Okinawa and all of a sudden a storm blows up; I can't think of the name of it, but it was the worst typhoon in history of...(unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Oh you were in the middle of that?!

Mr. Barrett: Yes.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: The waves were over one hundred feet from the trough to the top.

Dwight Daniel: And now you were in an LST?

Mr. Barrett: LST...flat-bottomed scow; now I...I am...oh, by the way, I made Staff Sergeant...uh, made Sergeant in...on the 1st of August and I was the NCO in charge of the Photo Lab. And the mustang lieutenant that we had who a Guadalcanal veteran who was wounded and then he went through officer training at Quantico...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...said the reason he selected me...he watched me and he felt that I would probably become a potential or the leader.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: So I was already an NCO, but now I am...I am the youngest Sergeant in the...in the whole shebang.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, let's...let's talk about this LST.

Mr. Barrett: Oh, oh god!

Dwight Daniel: I mean that had to be the roller coaster...

Mr. Barrett: Ah, salt water...my...my dear friend was a baker as opposed to a cook.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And he said, "I'll give you two buckets of fresh water and you can put a steam line in it and that way you can stand on the fantail..."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ... "and you can take a sponge bath!"

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So that's...because he had to...because he handled food, they had to take sponge baths every day.

Dwight Daniel: Right, they had to be clean, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Well, we made cherry wine.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: And how we did that...I'm pouring off the...the cherry juice, and he said, "Save the juice, save the juice!" I said, "Why?" He said, "I'll tell you later." So I had it in these...these glass jugs...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...we punched holes in the top and we put yeast and sugar so they'd ferment in about two or three days.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Now we're in the middle of the typhoon and we had a Chaplain aboard...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and he was a Parson Chaplain so he didn't have to drink the wine everyday as a Catholic Priest would. So all we could do...would be...to serve sandwiches and coffee...

Dwight Daniel: I can understand that, yes.

Mr. Barrett: ...because of...of the ship...

Dwight Daniel: Right you can't...

Mr. Barrett: ...couldn't do it. So we spiked his coffee...

Dwight Daniel: Oh no!

Mr. Barrett: ...and as he's coming along...he came over to me and he said, "Young man I haven't had a cup of coffee like this since I was in Divinity school.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: And nobody knew what he was talking about except...his name is Alexander Boyco (sp?); he was of Russian heritage...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...his family came from Russia...he was from New Hampshire. Unfortunately I never did get to see Alexander after we left Tsing Tao...which by the way was a German concession city.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: That's why Tsing Tao beer is still marketed as Tsing Tao...Germans made the beer.

Dwight Daniel: I didn't know that, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah. And the Chinese, of course,...

Dwight Daniel: I mean I knew it was a German...I didn't know about the beer though...cool!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, and it's...it's still spelled T-s-i-n-g T-a-o...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...not Qingdao...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...which is the name of the city now.

Dwight Daniel: Cool, I never...

Mr. Barrett: In fact...almost made it back there but my wife and I both had challenges for health and we...we didn't get there.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, but this LST had to be the world's worst experience...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Ah, it was a flat-bottomed scow...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...it was loaded to the nines...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...on...on combat load. The Marine...

Dwight Daniel: Alright...combat load?

Mr. Barrett: The Marine Corps learned that lesson...

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: ...they had to reload all the vessels in New Zealand...the longshoremen were on strike!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: The person who was responsible for it later became a four-star General and his name was...Nath...it was Nathan Twining's brother, Merrill Twining. Nathan Twining was shot down as a two-star General; they found him later.

He later became not only the Chief of Staff of the Air Force...(unintelligible) excuse me, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. So here we had two four-star Generals; one's in the Marines and one's in the Air Force.

Dwight Daniel: So how did you guys survive on this LST? That...I mean...the first thing is it's flat and it's heavily loaded...now (unintelligible) combat loaded.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, and...and we supposedly had rations for a period of time only to get to Okinawa.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: So they had to load the vessel with the lighters; the lighters would come up. We were never allowed to get off the ship.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So that's how they're replenishing...the rations.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: Now there are about five hundred embarked Marines on this thing.

Dwight Daniel: Right, and there's no place to sleep.

Mr. Barrett: No place to sleep.

Dwight Daniel: 'Cause the Navy gets the bunks.

Mr. Barrett: That's right! We're...we're sleeping on the out..outside...of the combat...I mean we're sleeping in trucks...

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: ...I mean...yeah...people tell me how rough it is to go Boy Scout camping; I said when my son was...and he became an Eagle Scout...

Dwight Daniel: Right! He had no concept.

Mr. Barrett: ...I said, I said... “You had..., I said, “that was worse because I slept on the ground...I knew I forgot my ground cloth and my air mattress.”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I said, “No, I slept worse than this when I was in...in the Marine Corps.”

Dwight Daniel: Right. Now I have a close friend with the 36th Division at the museum I work with and I asked him because he was also combat load on LST...

Mr. Barrett: Oh wow!

Dwight Daniel: ...and the first question was, “Where do you sleep?” And people don’t realize that the bunks...

Mr. Barrett: You sleep in a six by six and a four by fours and the jeeps.

Dwight Daniel: Right! And he would sleep...they...they would put the tarps over the cargo because it would give you...like a little hammock affect.

Mr. Barrett: And that captured the fresh water; they all used it to bathe with not to drink!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Because we were ripe, oh god we were ripe!

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah, people don’t realize that.

Mr. Barrett: The only way you could wash your clothes...you got a line...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...you threw the clothes off in...

Dwight Daniel: In the wat...into the ocean.

Mr. Barrett: ...in the ocean and it...and it beat them up...and it turned them salty.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: And that meant you were a Salty Marine because you had washed your herringbone twill dungarees in the Pacific or the China Sea.

Dwight Daniel: Yep! People don't realize that.

Mr. Barrett: They don't know that.

Dwight Daniel: And he...he volunteered for air guard duty.

Mr. Barrett: Wow!

Dwight Daniel: And the reason being he said, "If... 'cause one, it got me off of other duty; I got to base look for aircraft, and because I was, at night, they let me eat in the mess hall and it wasn't crowded...so I got the good food."

Mr. Barrett: Well...well that's the good part.

Dwight Daniel: And I thought...you know that's the reason he's a Sergeant man!

Mr. Barrett: That's the reason...(unintelligible). (laughter) Well you...you've done a parallel thing to...to what I experienced.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: Also...

Dwight Daniel: On this LST...I mean...that typhoon was vicious...

Mr. Barrett: Oh it...it was the worst time for...in the history of the Pacific...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I read...I read about it in Elliott Morrison's...

Dwight Daniel: Yes.

Mr. Barrett: ...history, and that's when I found out the name of it and I found out the dates that it blew.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: And there were, I forget, over two hundred vessel that had been sunk...

Dwight Daniel: Some ridiculous sum, yeah!

Mr. Barrett: off of...Okinawa. It dragged the anchor from one side of the bay...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...the eye came and it dragged...there was total destruction!

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: That just happened to...(unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: I'm surprised the LST survived; I mean...whoever was commanding that thing...

Mr. Barrett: We were the only one that did not spring plates!

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Absolute...this...this JG...I don't know how he...he didn't sleep...

Dwight Daniel: I can under...yeah!

Mr. Barrett: ...he did not sleep because he...he...not that he didn't trust the Quartermasters, but *he had knowledge of the sea*; he was like staring ahead...

Dwight Daniel: I wonder where that guy came from?

Mr. Barrett: ...he was like Sterling Haden, he knew the sea...he grew up in the sea.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And he knew how...not to...not to breach...

Dwight Daniel: Okay, right.

Mr. Barrett: ...but he would head *direct*...I said, "Oh my god we...we're going to be swamped!" No we wouldn't...

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: ...we'd ride up like this and we'd go like this and then...

Dwight Daniel: Go down.

Mr. Barrett: ...like a roller coaster.

Dwight Daniel: I'm surprised.

Mr. Barrett: And we had enough momentum to start carrying...and he's doing this as the eye is going...oh, this fellow was a *supurb!*...

Dwight Daniel: Do you remember his name?

Mr. Barrett: No.

Dwight Daniel: This...this guy, I hope he got something for this.

Mr. Barrett: Well I doubt it simply because he was our chauffeur.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah...but I mean...

Mr. Barrett: No, I don't know...I...I...

Dwight Daniel: If he didn't spring plates...

Mr. Barrett: He didn't spring plates.

Dwight Daniel: That's a miracle!

Mr. Barrett: We...I don't remem...

Dwight Daniel: To me if this guy didn't get some kind of award, they...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: I don't...I don't recall how many officers...whether we even had officers on...on the vessel because we were always under the command of non-commissioned officers.

Dwight Daniel: Correct, correct!

Mr. Barrett: I never saw an officer...because...

Dwight Daniel: Well, you weren't supposed to be there for days upon days...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Well that's...no, this was going to be a quick trip to Okinawa...

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: ...they changed our orders...fifty-three thousand of us went to China...from Shanghai, (unintelligible), Tsing Tao, Khan Sin (sp?), and Peking. We ended up in Tsing Tao because there's an airfield there.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And I'm still a Marine after...after...thirty-two...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and we still had the air group commander by the name of Thomas G. Inners (sp?)...nicknamed...

Dwight Daniel: Now you're...okay, let's go back...you're going back on the LSTs...

Mr. Barrett: Okay...well...alright.

Dwight Daniel: You...you're on the LST and you...you were going to go directly to China or you were going to go (unintelligible)...?

Mr. Barrett: No, no, we went to Okinawa first.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: Because we didn't know whether we were going to go and be occupation force...

Dwight Daniel: That's what I thought, okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...in...in Japan.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...which it was. The first occupation forces were a combination of Army and Marines.

Dwight Daniel: Yes, yes.

Mr. Barrett: And there was a...this is, oh, this is *very* scary because there were a lot of Japanese that were unwilling to recognize the surrender!

Dwight Daniel: Yes, yes...I've...I've talked to...

Mr. Barrett: Well you know that more than I.

Dwight Daniel: I've talked to a lot of Marines that were in that initial one...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Dwight Daniel: ...and they were...they were told to be respectful...

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: ...they couldn't be...appear...a hundred percent aggressive...

Mr. Barrett: Oh no, you're...

Dwight Daniel: ...but they were told to have full combat loads.

Mr. Barrett: We didn't have them.

Dwight Daniel: Oh my god!

Mr. Barrett: Now what happened...we...we beached and offloaded the next day...

Dwight Daniel: Now this is in China?

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And of course the tidal changes are...are very high there...sort of like Inchon...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...which is almost directly across the Yellow Sea.

Dwight Daniel: Now this is...this is after the war has ended, right?

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: But before the surrender had been accepted.

Dwight Daniel: Oh! You're kidding.

Mr. Barrett: Oh no! See...the Japanese had not surrendered in China!

Dwight Daniel: Ah! Oh okay.

Mr. Barrett: They had only surrendered in Japan.

Dwight Daniel: So when did you land?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, early October.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Now...now what happened...and now I revert to being a ground
photographer...

Dwight Daniel: Correct.

Mr. Barrett: ...because I'm the NCO in charge of the Photo Lab.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: I was a Sergeant but I was promoted...backdated to the 18th of August as a
Platoon Sergeant/Staff Sergeant.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: So again, I'm the youngest senior NCO in the...not only the air group, but the
entire air wing!

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: Well, just a...a tidbit...we ended up at this Japanese airfield and there were no
quarters, so we lived in the headquarters building.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And there was a tower...we...we...it was like a penthouse, and no one knew we were there except the First Sergeant...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...because they had to know where we were in case they had an accident...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...which we had...we lost a whole flight of nine aircraft that flew into a mountain.

Dwight Daniel: Oh my god!

Mr. Barrett: This is IFR...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...they were patrolling the...we called it IFR...I for roads, railroads and rivers...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ...because they were trying to keep them away from the Communists.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And the Communists kept blowing them up.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: We were in combat...after World War II!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, people don't know that.

Mr. Barrett: And people wounded. Now whether they ever got the Purple Heart or not, I don't know because the Marine Corps was very uptight on who qualified for Purple Heart.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah. And not only important that is...we were trying...at that...even at that time trying to portray the Russians as our good...good buddies.

Mr. Barrett: And they were...they were trying to get to the Japanese to resurrect World War II...

Dwight Daniel: Yes, yes.

Mr. Barrett: ...and the worst thing that we ever did was to let them south of the Yalu.

Dwight Daniel: Yes.

Mr. Barrett: We not only let them south of the Yalu...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...uh, MacArthur was going to do three things. He wanted to invade the Philippines...

Dwight Daniel: Correct.

Mr. Barrett: ...and that was...the only reason he was able to do it...he went personally to FDR...

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: ...he...he overrode Marshall.

Dwight Daniel: Yep.

Mr. Barrett: Then he wanted to go to the Dutch or the Netherlands East Indies...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...to restore the Dutch...in power.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: ...he wanted to go to French Indo China to restore the French...the world would be totally different had he done that.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: Because what happened...the Indonesians as it then became...threw the Dutch out.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: Well, they were ill-equipped to...the only people that operated anything mechanized were the people that were working for the Dutch.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Now I have a very...a man who works on my car who was born in Batavia which is Jakarta...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...his father was a farrier. Well a farrier not only made and shod horses, but he made ornamental ironwork.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: He went back after World War II...that's why Mark was born there.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: And he said, "This is a Muslim country; they don't like Christians."

Dwight Daniel: I understand that.

Mr. Barrett: By the way, we lost almost as many Marines to the Muslims in Zamboanga as we did from combat.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: They would cut their throats so they could go see Allah.

Dwight Daniel: I didn't know that.

Mr. Barrett: This is the first terrorist activity...

Dwight Daniel: I did not know that.

Mr. Barrett: ...we did call it terrorism at the time; we didn't know what to call it because we didn't know what was killing the Marines. We thought they were Japanese.

Dwight Daniel: Huh!

Mr. Barrett: It wasn't; it was the Muslims.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Here...we're freeing them from the Japanese and they're killing us!

Dwight Daniel: Didn't make sense. I knew you (unintelligible)...

Mr. Barrett: I...Islam is a wonderful religion...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...because I have tapes on it; I've studied religion. As a young man I...I studied religion in Boston. I was a member of what they call The Young People's Religious Union which is...there was no religious test to be in; you could be any faith; you can even be a non-believer. It was...it was...to try and get young people to talk to each other; we were not trying to proselyte anybody...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...people didn't understand that.

Dwight Daniel: Right...strange.

Mr. Barrett: This is not...not like the CY...oh, wait...

Dwight Daniel: Okay what...what did you call IFR again?

Mr. Barrett: I follow roads, railroads and rivers.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: It actually means Instrument Flight Rules.

Dwight Daniel: No, I know what it means, okay. Was it...(unintelligible)...?

Mr. Barrett: But...but what we would is we would fly low and slow...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and they would shoot the devil out of us!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I mean the airplanes would come back...now we're flying in Curtiss L Divers, TBMs, and TBFs.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: We would have more bullet...and also the Little Grasshopper.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: We were coming back with so many holes in that, and they said, "Where you been?!" "We went down to see what was happening on the road...or the railroad...or the river."

Dwight Daniel: Japanese shooting or just...?

Mr. Barrett: Or the Communists because they didn't want us around.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: We were in Communist territory at the airfield.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: They would stop their part of the war to let us pass through the checkpoint...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I didn't see anything so crazy in my life; it was like Checkpoint Charlie!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Now I was never there, but there was a space between the Nationalist forces in town and the Communist forces out at the airfield.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: By the way, a...a segue. I'm up on an assignment to Peking. I coned myself into the Officers hotel which was the Hotel Dewagonlei (sp?); I come out and this young lad who came with me to be my assistant...we're discussing what we're going to be doing.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well because we weren't looking for the local prostitutes, this very tall, extremely tall Chinese man...with an Irish brogue...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...says, "It's such a pleasure to be treated..."...he learned his English from a Jesuit priest who was from Ireland!

Dwight Daniel: No kidding.

Mr. Barrett: He showed us all over for two days...he showed us Peking like we never saw it!

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: It...we went down for a Peking Roast Duck dinner and because they were servants, they were not allowed to eat in the cubicle with us...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...but I said, "No, they're going to eat because we're going to pay for their food." They brought the live ducks in...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...then they plucked them...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...after they...cut the head off.

Dwight Daniel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Then they brought them back and then we chose the duck that was going to be our duck.

Dwight Daniel: Whoa.

Mr. Barrett: We ate twenty some odd courses; we were there for a whole day!

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: I've never had a meal like that except when I was in Bangkok...years later when I was with Republic Aircraft.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Here I was a young Marine Staff Sergeant eating *true* Peking Roast Duck dinner.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: And I...I mean...(unintelligible)...I didn't know what I was eating, so I would open the curtain and I would ask my ricksha man and he'd say, "Occidentals; westerners have trouble with that."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I didn't eat a balut (sp?) because I just...I couldn't stomach it.

Dwight Daniel: I don't know...what's a balut?

Mr. Barrett: A balut may be a thousand years old; it's a...it's a embryo of a chick...

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah...yeah!

Mr. Barrett: ...and it's ferment...oh, I mean oh, oh...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, that...that didn't turn me on either.

Mr. Barrett: No, it didn't turn me on at all. The Filipinos...the Tagalog...they loved them!

Dwight Daniel: I...I have a hard time with that.

Mr. Barrett: I had a hard time with it. Anyway...

Dwight Daniel: I still can't get Kimchi in...at the grocery store.

Mr. Barrett: Oh, I ate Kimchi when I was in Korea.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, but see...I can't handle that.

Mr. Barrett: I had cabbage with...with...hamburger meat.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: It was...you got to...I ate also when I was in Bangkok I ate...oh I can't think of the name of the fruit...Durian!

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: Spells worse than stuffed cabbage, but once you taste it...

Dwight Daniel: It's good stuff.

Mr. Barrett: And the...it neutralizes the odor.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, no...I...I have a friend that has a Korean wife or when I used to work for him in New York.

Mr. Barrett: Oh wow!

Dwight Daniel: And they'd go in the backyard and bury that stuff...

Mr. Barrett: Oh it smells!

Dwight Daniel: ...and, you know, it...she'd keep it for months...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Dwight Daniel: ...and then I'd come over and she'd say...and he'd say, "Oh we got a treat today; she's," and she's in the backyard, you know...unburying it....

Mr. Barrett: Yeah.

Dwight Daniel: ...digging it up. And I'm going...I don't need this treat! I mean...

Mr. Barrett: Well when...when I was with Republic Aircraft, my first trip to Seoul I told our consultant I'd been. Young Dong Po (sp?) is an Air Force Captain, and he said, "Oh, I suppose you hate Shimchee...Kimchi." And I said, "Oh, I love it!" He said he couldn't believe it so he took me out for a special Kimchi meal that he paid for, and he said...he said, "You know Occidental to you westerners..."

Dwight Daniel: Can't handle this.

Mr. Barrett: ...you can't handle that."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well, later I had medical problems, but had nothing to do with that.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Okay.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, you're...you're back in China with the world's greatest meal and everybody's shooting at you...

Mr. Barrett: Okay, well let's go back to the surrender.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, I get a call and they said, “Colonel Ennis (sp?) wants you to take him to the race track. And I said, “Well that’s strange; I had my own jeep; I had my own camera...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I was the only going to cover the...the thing...Lemuel Shepherd who was then a two-star general...he was the 6th Division Commander; the head Aviation general...I can’t remember his name right now...Roy...Roy Geiger was the Third Phib Corps, he...

(end of tape 1, side B)

Dwight Daniel: This is an oral history interview of Lawrence A. Barrett, a retired Colonel both in World War II and Korean War; he was born 31 October, 1926. The interviewer is myself, Dwight D. Daniel, an oral history volunteer with the National Museum of the Pacific War located in Fredericksburg, Texas. Today is 11 November, 2005 and this interview is taking place at March Reserve Air Force Base, California. And this interview is in support of the Center for Pacific War Studies which is the archive for the preservation of historical information of the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Parks and Wildlife. This is tape 2, side A.
Just say something here; I want to test it.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, let’s go back to Zamboanga.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, let’s go back to Zamboanga which I couldn’t spell if my life depended on it!

Mr. Barrett: Okay, Z-a-m-b-o-a-n-g-a; they have...

Dwight Daniel: Okay, Z-a-m...

Mr. Barrett: Okay, Zambo...Z-a-m-b-o-a-n-g-a, Zamboanga...very historic city down at the...put the elephant's head on the main part of Mindanao and this is the trunk, and it's down at the bottom of the trunk.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: Our photo shack as we called it which is a series of double-tented tents where the temperature...oh, it was just incredible! The only way we...could control it...

Dwight Daniel: Had to be horrible, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: We had to use ice; ice water to keep the temperature down to twenty degrees Centigrade, sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: And that's when I met David...David Douglas Duncan who presented...a few years ago all of his material; he wrote something like twenty some odd books and it's at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dwight Daniel: Right, yeah!

Mr. Barrett: We met...our air group commander, Thomas G. Ennis, we called him Lantern Jaw...our photo shack was near the transportation compound and the brig, and it was a very active brig because we had some bad boys...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I'll tell you what...missed a chance of getting to meet William Manchester, but he was an incredible Marine himself! Uh, when...I think it was the fourth photo...Army was...they were shipping out and I got a call

from this officer and he said, "Can you use any photo chemicals, paper, film and so on?" I said, "Sure!"

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So I...I went over to the motor pool and I said to this six-striper that I knew; he was a career...uh, peace-time Marine, I said, "I'd like to borrow a forty-foot trailer." And he said, "I'm going to drive it. Where we going?" I said, "On the other side of the...the field." So there were all kinds of...what I thought was Army Air Corps but turned out Army Air Force...went over and...they were throwing all this stuff away...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: ...they were throwing all this stuff away; they were throwing away airplanes, engines and so on.

Dwight Daniel: Right. Now this is...after the war or is this...?

Mr. Barrett: No, no, this is...well yes, this is before we knew we were going to go to...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...uh, China via...

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: ...Okinawa.

Dwight Daniel: But these guys knew they were going home then?

Mr. Barrett: They knew they were going home.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: So they had some Filipino workers that they had paid...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...who loaded up this forty-foot trailer.

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: Now I never took any photos of it unfortunately, but it was...it was almost as high as this Quonset hut with paper, chemicals...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Oh yeah. I had more comb (sp?) showers we called it; more personal equipment than I had that belonged to the Marine Corps.

Dwight Daniel: Good lord!

Mr. Barrett: We boxed it up and we put shipping numbers on it...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...so it loaded on the LST to come with us to China.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: Oh yeah!

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: Now we got to China...it fills the Photo Lab!

Dwight Daniel: I can understand that!

Mr. Barrett: And we overflowed into a warehouse, and we used the Photo Lab that the Japanese had but they had taken all of their equipment out, so we had all our own equipment. Uh, that's where I have a photo that I didn't bring...after I'd been awarded the Medal of Honor and the Captain who had to red-line me...off the promotion list because of a real comedy of errors. I was with some white Russians...and anyway...I ended up not being promoted.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: I was on my way...I was on my way to being a Master Gunnery Sergeant as the NCO of the Photo Lab.

Dwight Daniel: Ooh!

Mr. Barrett: And had I re-enlisted I probably would have been a Master Gunnery Sergeant...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: ...because the demobilization was so rapid that they were losing all the expertise.

Dwight Daniel: Right, and they...they realized that all of a sudden.

Mr. Barrett: And so...and so we had to freeze...and the only way they could freeze these people was to promote them.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Because they said, "I'm going home."

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: I said, "I'll stay here."

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: So I would have stayed in China, but this Master Gunnery Sergeant...said something untoward to me, so I told him where he could take his horse and himself...

Dwight Daniel: Oh no!

Mr. Barrett: ...and I'd already re-enlisted for six years.

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay, so (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Well our Lieutenant said, “If I ever see you...you don’t have a college education and you’re not an officer...you’re in trouble!” Well I didn’t know what NAPS meant, so I had taken the GED...I only had a year and a half of high school.

Dwight Daniel: That’s what I thought, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: I was a little bit weak in math and sciences, but I passed the GED.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Okay. It was good enough to qualify me for NAPS but I didn’t know what NAPS was.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But it was not good enough because the Commonwealth of Massachusetts required that you had classroom time, so I never got my diploma.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Well...I didn’t know what NAPS was and that was the last time I’d ever ask the question.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So the Lieutenant said, “What are you going to do?” I said, “Well...sir, because you’ve advised me tactfully to do otherwise, I have cancelled my re-enlistment.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well the re-enlistment was you got a flight back to the closest Marine or Naval Aviation...where you lived...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: then your ninety day, non-countable leave started.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Then you pick any place in the world.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: One of the lads...ah, who did re-enlist went to the South Pole with Admiral Byrd.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding! So you turned down a lot then?

Mr. Barrett: Oh I did; oh I had *no idea!* Oh I had...the only reason I never married is I did not want my family...my...my parents and later my wife to suffer because a. I was KIA, or MIA or a POW.

Dwight Daniel: Right! Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: So I...that's why I never married until I was twenty-six.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And I...I told this RCF Flight Lieutenant...and we made a pact...we're not going to get married till we're thirty-two.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And then I met my wife! And I saw her across the terminal at Washington National and I told him, I said, "There's my wife!"

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: He said, "You haven't met her!" I said, "Ah, that's a detail!"

Dwight Daniel: When...when was this?

Mr. Barrett: 1951.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay. Now what...what did NAP stand for?

Mr. Barrett: Naval Academy Preparatory School. It had been moved down to Bainbridge which is named after...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...okay, you...you know that...

Dwight Daniel: I know Bainbridge, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: You know that's up by...by (Unintelligible)...up by Port Deposit.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Well it's non-existent now; it's a...it's an educational facility.

Dwight Daniel: No they closed it down, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Well when I was there...oh, god it was...it was a naval training center...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Basic...basic training like Newport and Farragut.

Dwight Daniel: So you turned down NAPS?

Mr. Barrett: Didn't know what it was.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: So I'm...(unintelligible)...and I'm a prisoner at large...

Dwight Daniel: Man! Oh!

Mr. Barrett: ...and that's another...that's another story. But persons at large are staff NCOs...didn't go to the brig.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: I still...I still have liberty cards, so I'd go downtown to all these boogy...boogy-woogy places and...

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: ...and...and Balmer; and that's how I learned how to pronounce it...it wasn't Baltimore, it was Balmer!

Dwight Daniel: Yes, yeah, I know that. (Unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: And H. L. Mencken and all that and so I really got to know crab cakes and oh...wonderful, wonderful stuff! Well anyway...

Dwight Daniel: So we're...we're back in..let's...let's go back when you did this (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Oh, we have to go all the way back to Zamboanga.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, 'cause...

Mr. Barrett: I...I left out too many things.

Dwight Daniel: You...you have miss...I can't believe you turned down NAPS and everything else!

Mr. Barrett: And everything else! Oh god, I was...I was unaware of what was going on. Okay we're aboard the ship...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...we beach it; the...the locals...the indigenous personnel...they just don't know what we are because the only Marines they ever saw were in dress blues.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And here we are in herringbone twill...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...green undershirts, helmets, the whole bit! No ammo!

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: No, I'm not!

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: So...

Dwight Daniel: Was that command decision or just stupidity?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, both.

Dwight Daniel: Oh god!

Mr. Barrett: A little bit of not knowing what the Japanese had...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Okay. Because I was a photographer and I was roaming around the city taking photos of ...like the...the local Catholic church, and the local Russian thing...and so forth...and we had POW...civilian POWs that had been at the Shantung [s/b Shandong] Peninsula...I mean Shandong compound...there was a book written and I don't have the book but I would like to get it because these were civilians including United States citizens that were interned during World War II...on what was the Shandong Peninsula. And this...the name of the silk...I forget now what they called that particular peninsula.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: I kind of met some very interesting people. I got to meet the representative of the German government; he was not a Nazi.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: He was a banker; his name was Vlskamp which means he was from V-l-s-k-a-m-p. He had then a surviving son, Nicholas (sp?)...and the reason he was

named Nicholas...his wife...Vlskamp's wife was a much younger woman,
white Russian.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Nicholas was born in China as was his sister, Margo...

Dwight Daniel: Wow, cool!

Mr. Barrett: ...(unintelligible) because of the French influence. The older son and the
older daughter were both killed at Stalingrad.

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: Now I had a picture and I don't know where it is...that I was standing outside
of his chauffeur-driven car that had the swastika...

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: ...which, of course, is the Indian symbol backwards.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But he was no more a Nazi than Erich Hartmann, and I had a chance to be his
escort.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, we'll talk about Erich Hartmann in a minute.

Mr. Barrett: Oh wonderful...three hundred and fifty-two victories...most...most of them
Russian.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And I was his personal escort for three weeks.

Dwight Daniel: Are you serious? When...when was that?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, 1970. Got to know him very...very (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: We'll talk about that...

Mr. Barrett: He...he just passed away a few years ago.

Dwight Daniel: I know that. I...I wanted to meet that man.

Mr. Barrett: Ah! I have...I have autographed photographs.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Oh no.

Dwight Daniel: That's one person I...I desperately wanted to meet because he...yeah, he was shot down a bunch of times but you know...you don't...

Mr. Barrett: Oh eight times!

Dwight Daniel: ...you don't...you don't get three hundred and fifty-two victories (unintelligible)...he's good!

Mr. Barrett: That's right, and Steinhauf (sp?) told him...he said...Stein... "Erich, you're going to (unintelligible)...you're never going to be a general because you're loose cannon."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So that's the reason he never became a general.

Dwight Daniel: Right. Well also the other thing...they couldn't afford to promote this guy out...I mean...

Mr. Barrett: That's right; he was a POW in solitary confinement for ten years; the only reason that he lived is because his capture was...he could have taken his crew chief and flown anyplace!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But he stayed; that's what you call loyalty of an officer to his enlisted men.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah. I mean you read about how he flew...he was *really* good!

Mr. Barrett: Ah, incred...! He was...he was a natural-born aviator...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...he was like Chuck Yeager who could see so many distances away.

Dwight Daniel: Yep! There...there are very few what I call pilots that are real pilots.

Mr. Barrett: Well he...he and I went to Sausalito...

Dwight Daniel: Ah man!

Mr. Barrett: ...and because I didn't want to go see Old Calcutta; I've seen too many nude people in my life anyway.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I'd photographed them in the nude as a photographer. And he said...and that's the story about Hamilton...then Hamilton Air Force Base...he said, "What are you going to do?" I said, "I don't know; I don't know this area." He said, "We're going to go to Sausalito," he said, "but don't tell them; they think I'm a hippie!"

Dwight Daniel: Okay. (laughter)

Mr. Barrett: So he walks in; speaks better English than I do and they said, "Hey Erich, where you been?!" He said, "Oh, I was down in that...that parade; they're going to have a gay parade in San Francisco."

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: Well anyway, these people don't know...

Dwight Daniel: ...who he is.

Mr. Barrett: ...who's having dinner with this other person whose in civilian clothes and actually bussing...

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: ...he said, "No, no, no...you'll blow my cover and they will *hate* me...they will hate me."

Dwight Daniel: Right. Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: Now he flew in a Lufthansa...Luftwaffe airplane that was half and half...

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: ...and he represented the German government to contractors.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: Steinhilber trusted him there, but he didn't trust him in the air because he was a loose cannon...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...and...and he would never be a general; he told him that.

Dwight Daniel: There are...there are very few pilot...pilots...

Mr. Barrett: That's right.

Dwight Daniel: ...that get promoted.

Mr. Barrett: Well Galland (sp?) was...you know, Galland was Galland, but he was not...none of the...

Dwight Daniel: Lindbergh's not a guy that was...just a natural (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: No, ah, I...I had the...you know people don't understand...they have to read his autobiography.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: And if they haven't read that...then they have no business talking about Lindbergh.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Do you know that Schwarzkopf's father started the SAVAK?

Dwight Daniel: I didn't know that.

Mr. Barrett: He was a West Point graduate who was at the...the trial...in effect trying to protect Lindbergh...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and he was the superintendent of state police; he was a major general.

Dwight Daniel: I did not know that!

Mr. Barrett: He was mobilized...I don't know what he did during WWII, but his young son and he went to Tehran...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...he started SAVAK.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: That was after we...we killed most of...most of them.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And we installed the Shah in the one thousand year peacock throne.

Dwight Daniel: Oh right.

Mr. Barrett: Come on! Come on; that was the CIA! So when...when Schwarzkopf went to Desert Storm...that's why he was well accepted because he had been in Tehran.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah, yeah!

Mr. Barrett: Big mistake! The Marshall of the Iraqi military comes and says... "Oh, there's another request we have."

Dwight Daniel: A mistake with the helicopters...yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, and Schwarzkopf did...I mean I hate to say it, but that was not very smart.

Dwight Daniel: I have never understood that. I mean...(unintelligible)...

Mr. Barrett: He didn't listen to his advisors. His advisors said, "They're gunships General!"

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: "They're going to go kill Curds; what is there that you don't understand?"

Dwight Daniel: I don't...I don't understand...

Mr. Barrett: They flew under the no-fly zone; they're still doing it.

Dwight Daniel: The...the thing that bothered me was that he...he did everything brilliant...

Mr. Barrett: Up to then.

Dwight Daniel: ...up to then, but he also listened to his advisors so I don't understand what happened.

Mr. Barrett: ...but he...but then he didn't; he could not convince...he could not convince...not Crowlin (sp?), but Colin Powell and he could not convince Chaney...not Chaney...and he couldn't convince Bush that unlike Eisenhower's...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...decision not to go to Berlin...had they gone...they killed the Republican guards...

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Barrett: ...all they had to do was to find *which* one was the *real* one and either capture him or shoot and kill him and we wouldn't be going through what we're going...what we're going through right now!

Dwight Daniel: I know, I know.

Mr. Barrett: Bush the second...now don't you tell me that we're over there to free the Iraqis.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I know.

Mr. Barrett: Don't you believe that for one minute! Of course I'm subject to UCMJ, so I can't tell you all my thoughts.

Dwight Daniel: I understand. Okay, let's...let's go back this...

Mr. Barrett: Alright, now we're in Zamboanga.

Dwight Daniel: Uh we're in Zamboanga, and this is interesting...keep going now.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, and I'd made this arrangement and I have all this photo equipment...no...no equipment but photo chemicals, paper, film and so forth. We off-load in Tsing-Tao; we take it out to the airfield and I put it in a warehouse. Now as they started to change the 6th Division, the 3rd Marine Brigade... Lemuel Shepherd, by the way, was the Division Commander and then he became the Brigade Commander. I would get calls from...like the Officers Club and a particular Regiment...was Major Standing (sp?), and he said, "I understand you've got photo equipment." I said, "Yeah."

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: "What you got?" "Well we've got sparkling brandy, uh, we have champagne, we have this, we have that." 'Cause the rock gut was killing the Marines.

Dwight Daniel: Oh I understand that.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, so I had so many cases of beer...

Dwight Daniel: Oh no...

Mr. Barrett: ...so much champagne...the General came into our quarters and it was covered by camouflage (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And he said, "What's that?" And I said, "Enlisted men's grog." Didn't ask another question. He said, "What...what are those lines that are going out through the window?" And I said, "Sir, we had to find a way to cool the sparking..." And he said, "I don't want to hear about it." He never said a word; he didn't even tell...the...whatever the Command Sergeant Major...he didn't tell anybody.

Dwight Daniel: Right, wow!

Mr. Barrett: That was between that Brigadier General and this Staff Sergeant...this Platoon Sergeant.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding; that's cool!

Mr. Barrett: Well, we...we took...we spread the wealth because there was no hard beverage served to enlisted men at any time.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: You could get beer.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: But Tsing Tao beer, was, is, which was from the German brew masters...incredible!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But anyway I...

Dwight Daniel: Okay, we're...we're back into...let's go back to the Philippines. I keep getting you back to the Philippines here.

Mr. Barrett: Oh, okay.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, you got all this equipment...then where'd you go?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, we did combat load...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...because we don't know what we're really going to do. We're headed for Okinawa we find out.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: We were getting briefings...I don't know how they transferred these intelligence people among...uh, probably was the (unintelligence)...

Dwight Daniel: Probably, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...and...and they came...that's the first time that I'd ever been included in a briefing as to what we were going to do and why.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, they said...they didn't call it a weapon...uh, I forget what they called it, but there'd been this incredible in two cities in Japan, so we're not going to go to Kyushu.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And I think that was Operation Olympic.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: And we were going to be...that was going to wipe out the Marine Corps.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Then...and the 1st of March, 1946...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...we were being re-converted...now we're a line company.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: So we're now being issued line company weapons. Well I always had a forty-five and a...a carbine.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Not only that but my friendly Garand.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: So I've got a Garand...I...I mean I'm an...I'm an arsenal; I'm a one-man arsenal! (laughter) Okay, we...we get...we beach, oh, we had the typhoon...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: This...this skipper, this JG was incredible...we didn't spring any plates; we were the only one that didn't...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, we were talking about that...that's impressive!

Mr. Barrett: ...and...and when we beached...when we beached...and I can't remember the exact location...there in Tsing Tao...all the...the locals are out, the indigenous people...they didn't recognize us because we didn't have dress blues on.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, you were saying that, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: So then we got out and we're in Communist territory at the airfield. We have to have guards...of our guards to protect us from the Communists.

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: Thank god it was a walled facility!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So they could control who came in. Later my friend who went to the Aerial Navigation School who is now a Gunnery Sergeant...he was a Tech Sergeant, but he was a Gunnery Sergeant...he flew in a Curtiss Commando, and he said, "See, I told you...you should have come with me!" And he said, "You only got four stripes; I got five."

Dwight Daniel: Oh man, that's...that's rubbing it in!

Mr. Barrett: And then a very dear friend of mine...who was flying one of the Grasshoppers took his crew chief up and he said, "Oh, they're sending (unintelligible) at us." No it wasn't; it was the Chinese Communists that are trying to get themselves a victory trying to shoot down this Grasshopper.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: His name was Jack Mimnaw (sp?). Jack and I later worked for Charlie Kaman; that's when I flew Marine, Navy and Coast Guard helicopters.

Dwight Daniel: Wow. Now...okay could...can...on this one here...let's talk about this now. You had figured out what is going to happen.

Mr. Barrett: Well...

Dwight Daniel: You're...you're basically looking at something for about...what was it here?

Mr. Barrett: Well we got there in October...first part of October.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well what happened, we...we just sort of...we're flying the roads, railroads and rivers to keep communications...lines of communication open; we're trying to...by the way, George Marshall came. Ritameyer (sp?) couldn't handle it; Bridge Marshall (sp?) couldn't handle it; Patrick Hurley went home; he was a Congressman from Oklahoma who was also a two-star General. He said he was going to go over and settle it. Stillwell couldn't settle it.

Dwight Daniel: Oh okay.

Mr. Barrett: There was no settling...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...the long march. Evans Carlson (sp?), Carlson's Raiders, he couldn't even have made it...and but, he was highly suspect by the way.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: His Executive Officer was the son of the President who received the Navy Cross...Carlson's Raiders.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: Oh they made some...oh, they...they left men on Maken Island.

Dwight Daniel: They left lots of men, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Ah, bad! But...but that's where he didn't have a buddy system.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Didn't have a buddy system.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And they found that those...those Marines were probably...*horribly, horribly* tortured.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: They found their remains later.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, they found...they found them what...about five or six years ago?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, oh...okay.

Dwight Daniel: How did you get to Cadet Pilot Training though?

Mr. Barrett: Well, okay...now you're jumping ahead of me, but I want you...get you back to Tsing Tao.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: I get a call and I'm also to go down and take photos at the racetrack of the surrender. This is where the Japanese symbolically are giving up their sumari swords...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ... Samurai swords.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, Representative Lemuel Shepherd and I can't remember the two-star...from the air wing, but anyway, uh, Colonel Ennis said, "What are you doing here?" And I said, "Well they told me to report here." And he said, "Well I don't know any Pat." Well Pat Bare (sp?) was a Corporal Naval Aviation pilot...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Okay. Well we're...we're...I've got a side on; I've got my Garand; I've got my carbine...because...

Dwight Daniel: (Unintelligible)...camera.

Mr. Barrett: And...and I said, "Colonel, do you know that these Japanese are carrying bandoliers; they can lock and load?"

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: And he said, "Oh yes," he said, "Well I spoke with General Shepherd and he's called somebody"...we call it a Come to Jesus meeting - you will...you will turn in your weapons...you will turn in your swords...you will have nothing!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Because...the war's over...you're going back to six hundred and fifty thousand...they thought they owned China!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: The Rape of Nanking.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: My friends don't know anything about that, but I have studied what they did all the way up the muck...the...the...

Dwight Daniel: Well (unintelligible) wrote the book is Josh Hopkins...that was for a PhD dissertation.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, well (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: You read that and...

Mr. Barrett: Ah yeah, well I went all the way to Mukden.

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay!

Mr. Barrett: The Russians stripped the factories...

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Barrett: They took all the machinery back...

Dwight Daniel: We...we can about some of that stuff.

Mr. Barrett: Oh yeah, ah yeah.

Dwight Daniel: So at Tsing Tao then where did you...I'm still...yeah, I can't get you back into the flying part (unintelligible)...

Mr. Barrett: Oh, okay, well at Tsing Tao because again I'm at headquarters...when the squadron didn't have a photographer or a gunner...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...they call us. So we're fly...we're flying these patrol missions...

Dwight Daniel: You're flying a whole bunch of stuff, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...but there's no record because my flight...my...my brown aviator's flight record's...gone.

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay!

Mr. Barrett: Now on the back of my...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...on...and you have to use your glasses because I didn't bring my full-size one...this is...I paid fifty cents for this at Bainbridge. And I got out on Memorial Day 1946...and it's wrong because I was a Marine and the regular Marines...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, that's okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...and the regular Marines...not in the...I was not in the Reserve.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: So I have to get a correction on my records.

Dwight Daniel: Honorable Discharge; I like it!

Mr. Barrett: Now you read on the back...maybe I can read it...

Dwight Daniel: Oh there's the whole record!

Mr. Barrett: Oh there's my whole record.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man! You went all out; didn't you?!

Mr. Barrett: Okay...said, "Participated," the dates are wrong...

Dwight Daniel: Right, yeah they...

Mr. Barrett: ...referring to L.A. Morrison...with one T...the...the fighting was not over on the 4th of July in...in Zamboanga...we're still getting people killed.

Dwight Daniel: But look at this stuff! Not many people still have them...like...a lot of people did that; my mother did one. I don't know where my mother did hers though.

Mr. Barrett: Well they did this through the Exchange.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, but I...I don't know where hers is...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: They took...oh...oh, well they took that and they also took one that was five by seven...both sides of it. And they did not photograph a ninety-eight which was the equivalent of a Gabby (sp?) 214.

Dwight Daniel: Yep, yep! Amazing!

Mr. Barrett: But this...uh 98 told everything you ever did...

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: ...because I worked in a foundry...

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: And what did you want to do? I didn't want to go back to work in a foundry...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: ...which I did. I wanted to go to college.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, so what happened...

Dwight Daniel: People don't do that today...I actually did mine 'cause when I was in the Reserves...technically...as ROTC you get...you get a discharge from the active duty, so I actually did mine (unintelligible)...

Mr. Barrett: Well the thing that happened here, they did not do a good job laminating; it buckled. It says here...military...all they use is aerial photographer; they don't list gunner; they don't list all these other things because they didn't have a...have a record.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: My friend who an aerial navigator refuses discharge until they put aerial navigator on it. Okay.

Dwight Daniel: But don't feel bad, my mother...and you know this but a lot of people don't...is that my mother was active duty...

Mr. Barrett: Okay.

Dwight Daniel: as a WAC...

Mr. Barrett: Okay.

Dwight Daniel: ...and when she got pregnant...the policy in that...in that era was you had to get out.

Mr. Barrett: I was witness to what we had become because I was a Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force under Robert Siemens (sp?)...

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: ...and that's another story...but what has happened...well anyway...but that's as different story.

Dwight Daniel: But my mother...and also she didn't get an honorable discharge...

Mr. Barrett: Because she...(unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: ...she got a medical discharge...

Mr. Barrett: That's right...because she was pregnant.

Dwight Daniel: And what's the...you only get a medical discharge if you have some strange disease or something like that, and that bothered my mother...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, well she needs a correction of records.

Dwight Daniel: Well a whole bunch of people...this was...I think in the 70s...

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: ...I think early '70s...because my mother died in '73...

Mr. Barrett: Okay.

Dwight Daniel: ...a whole bunch of women got together and petitioned Congress and said this is stupid.

Mr. Barrett: Got to correct the records.

Dwight Daniel: And Congress finally passed a law that said pregnancy is not a disease.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, well let...let...

Dwight Daniel: And so I...my mother...this was just before she died...that was the best thing she got...she got her honorable discharge...’cause that bothered my mother for twenty some years.

Mr. Barrett: Well let me segue for just a moment. There was a JAG female officer at Systems Command at Andrews who was divorced; had a son who was under the guardianship of her parents in Tennessee. There was a New Year’s...uh excuse me, a Christmas party at the JAG...the...the top JAG who knew Siemens and Siemens was a guest. Here’s a secretary...MIT professor...I only knew this after the fact...well what happened...the...the Major went up to the Colonel and said, “I’ve got to go because my son is with the babysitter...the babysitter.” And he said, “Oh I assume your parents still have guardianship.” And she said, “No.” He said, “I want to see you on Monday.” Well Siemens heard this and he said, “What’s going on?” So the Colonel said, “She’s not permitted to have dependents.”

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: He said, “What?!”

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: “She can’t get cause in her actions if she is a single mother.”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So he said to the...to the Major, he said, “I want you to...”...I...I’ll put it in our language... “to write me a study and come in and brief me.” Wow! That meant that the JAG had to go to the four-star at Andrews and say, “This Major has been directed by the Secretary of the Air Force,” which meant he then had

to go to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force to explain what was happening.

This happened at at...at a party in his home. Okay, she shows up and

Siemens says, "That's going to be changed."

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: That's just like George Brown (sp?) changed the law that did not permit...other than pilots to command organizations of the Air Force; that's against the law. He said, "We'll accept the navigators."

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And...okay...

Dwight Daniel: There were...there were a lot of stupid things that took them a...it took a lot of years to realize a woman is okay, I guess.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, well let me...let me move ahead on that and then we'll get back to China.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Now I'm an Air Force Colonel and at the Secretariat. I had been...I'd also been at the Air Staff and I was the...I called it facetiously...the...the parochial commissar to Charles Gabriel who was a Colonel...

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: ...and later became the Chief of Staff.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: And then later became an ROCC (unintelligible) in high school...

Dwight Daniel: I have friends that are on the staff and they do Congressional briefings.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, well what I had to do was to protect them from the political (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Yes, yep!

Mr. Barrett: ...regardless of reserve of (unintelligible)...under Title Ten, all four volumes, of what...the military has changed now...but that wasn't what the military law was.

Dwight Daniel: Absolutely.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, now my boss called me in and he said,...this...this happened...he...he was an intell...so he had all kinds of sources and he was a Duty Assistant Secretary of the Air Force and he said, "This was reported to me," he said, "What's the impact?" I said, "Well, the reason I came back on active duty...I'm a believer in universal military training." They did away with selective service. Now they don't know the Morrill Act which...which was...that's why we had ROTC mandatory in State universities because that was part of the whole deal; now you don't have to. No they've thrown us off the campuses.

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, alright. So he said, "What's the up shod?" I said, "We will have a lack of deployment capability not only of the active force, but also the Guard and Reserve."

Dwight Daniel: Correct, correct.

Mr. Barrett: Then he said, “Oh my god!” So he went to the Assistant Secretary and said, “You got to go back and tell Dr. Siemens...”...Siemens by the way, hired him!

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay!

Mr. Barrett: Okay, but I won’t tell you how he got fired because it’s so political hot and it cost me my career.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I can (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible), that’s why I’m wearing eagles and not stars.

Dwight Daniel: I can understand that.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, so...

Dwight Daniel: Now when you get to a certain level, it’s politics.

Mr. Barrett: Well, it’s total politics, and don’t tell me otherwise. Well, anyway...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I...I retired as a Lieutenant Colonel because I didn’t want...as a reservist...I didn’t want to work seven-day work weeks.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, I...I...

Dwight Daniel: ...(unintelligible) my bird.

Mr. Barrett: Alright I have been...I used to say I’ve been in reserve from the day I went in the Corps until now; I’m still reservist.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: So I...I can wear all kinds of hourglasses. I found out that...these...these thirty years are misleading! I...I have been a reservist, I thought, since 1943!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: I wasn’t; I was a regular for...for the first two and a half I was USMC..

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I became a reservist in August of 1946, and there's the story of why I would have been in Inchon as a combat cameraman.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I was already mobilized.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: I was a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force.

Dwight Daniel: I was trying to figure out...you still haven't gotten pilot trained yet, you know.

Mr. Barrett: No we hadn't gotten there because that's another chapter. Well anyway to finish up the story...now in 1983 I'm instructing...after I left Republic Aircraft...I have ROTC...Aerospace Science...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and we're at MCAS, El Toro which supported us incredibly.

Dwight Daniel: Oh I didn't...cool!

Mr. Barrett: And I won't go through the details except...I had a young Captain who tells me, he said, "You know...you're...you're senior in the Marine Corps than the Colonel I worked for and he was an enlisted man when you were." I said, "What's his serial number?" He said, "It begins with one million." I said, "Ah, he's a boot!"

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He said, "What's yours?" I said, "556278."

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: And mine was only...a packet...assigned to Boston. There were people had a lower serial number that went in after me but they...they became a volunteer...some...some other Marine Corps district. Well anyway, we're driving around and I have to use the language he used...we drive to where I think is the child care center...I've never seen so many children in my life!
(recording momentarily interrupted).

(end of tape 2, side B)

Dwight Daniel: ...(unintelligible). Interviewer Dwight Daniel.

Mr. Barrett: Well (unintelligible); I don't subscribe to it as Baker.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, yeah, I understand.

Mr. Barrett: But I was in 50 Easy. That was...(unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: So we're back to the Marine Corps Bastards here...

Mr. Barrett: Yes...Marine Corps Bastards. And I said, "Explain yourself, Captain Baxter." He said, "Unfortunately they are the illegitimate children of the enlisted...female Marines who don't know who the fathers are."

Dwight Daniel: Nah!

Mr. Barrett: And I said, "I was not any part of, but I was a spectator, when that all changed." Matter of fact when Krulak, the younger, became the Commandant of the Marine Corps he picked the best qualified person he had to become the three-star for personnel and manpower; her name was M-e-t-t-e-r. Now when she was selected to Brigadier...her husband retired as a Colonel...their two children came to the pin-on ceremony. There is a story that you just said...that would be a medical discharge...now it's almost as though we're

encouraging the officers, warrant officers and enlisted men and women to have children and I'm against that.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: But it almost cost Commandant Mundy his commandancy (sp?) because he...he just made a statement, he said, "You should be an E-4 in four years before you get married."

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, now that...that is...you can't say that in this day of political correctness.

Mr. Barrett: No, this is...that's (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Even in the Reserves, as company commanders, the bottom line is young troops...particularly with deployment.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, we can't do it; we can't do it.

Dwight Daniel: You cannot be married; it's too much pressure on (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Well I finished ICAP...the Industrial College of the armed forces...

Dwight Daniel: But I don't say that either when I...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Well you can't; it's not politically correct. Well I finished ICAP because I couldn't go in residence...and that's another long story.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But I did go to National War College to...to three defense (unintelligible) seminars - two when I was not on active duty and I ended up as...I'm trying to think what they called them...I had the discussion group. I was a Major...I had Brigadier Generals...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...that were in my discussion group.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding, cool!

Mr. Barrett: And they said, "How come you know so much?" I said...there's a Marine Corps Colonel who was standing at the back of the room...I said, "Because you're looking at a Marine Corps Platoon Sergeant."

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: "What do you mean?" I said, "The brand here...in 1943...but it's been way before I enlisted in the Marine Corps," I said, "I may be an Air Force Major..."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ... "but I understand what...even my counterparts in the leadership of the United States Air Force will never understand..."

Dwight Daniel: Right...what...what the ground troops (unintelligible)...

Mr. Barrett: "I'm a rifleman first...the Marines are colorblind." And...and...the then Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps...wow, did he take on a hostile audience. This person got up and nearly...you know who they are because the Governor of Arizona was one of them one time.

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Barrett: Okay.

Dwight Daniel: You got to be careful in (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: And this is non-attribution; uh, it was unclassified, but anyway he rose up...he stood up...and he said, "General," he said, "when is Frank Petersen going to get a star?" I sat enough; he turned beet red! He said, "Let me tell you

something and let me tell everybody here...start out with...every Marine's a rifleman. I went through the same thing that every enlisted man went through. Every officer grew his commission whether from the Academy,"...by the way, they're all Reserve officers nowadays.

Dwight Daniel: Oh I didn't know that.

Mr. Barrett: That's right; the Congress directed there will be no more regular officers; they have to earn it.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Starting all of...got to be augmented...is going back to almost 1900.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: LeJeune, by the way, was a past midshipman before he went into the Marine Corps.

Dwight Daniel: That's right; I remember that now.

Mr. Barrett: So...the question was...Frank Petersen. Frank Petersen was a black Colonel; he was also an Aviator.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Now when he graduated from Flying School at Corpus Christi, they said, "What should we do with Cadet Peterson?" They said, "Commission him and award him his wings." Well what they were asking was...he's a black, what should we do with him?

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: Well he went all the way through the Marine Corps...oh, sup...sup...he spoke American English; he could speak street language if he had to.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But people at El Toro...he had called for a pick up to go down to the flight line. This staff car kept going past him...so he stood in the road. And the driver said, "Out of the way, N_____."

Dwight Daniel: Oh my god!

Mr. Barrett: Now that n_____ just happened to be a Major.

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: Whoa!

Dwight Daniel: That didn't go over too big!

Mr. Barrett: Those stripes disappeared the next day.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well anyway when I met Frank Petersen he's a three-star General. He has written a book called Into the...Into the Tiger's Jaw. He retired...he was in command of all Marine Corps (unintelligible) and military education at Quantico, and that's not a gimme.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I know that!

Mr. Barrett: Because that was also commanded by a Commandant who took a reduction from four-stars to three-stars because he didn't have enough time to retire as a four-star; that's never happened!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Can you imagine a four-star General now taking a reduction to three-star...to serve his country?

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.... no way, no way. Now this...

Mr. Barrett: Matter of fact...when Harry Truman who was adversely influence by Eisenhower...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I know that.

Mr. Barrett: ...and Marshall...(unintelligible) left the father...there was a discussion group of three people – (unintelligible), Kurlock (sp?), and I can't remember...they were the ones that put all the paperwork together for Alexander Archer Vandegrift, and Vandergrift tried to educate the President...Forrestal (sp?) who unfortunately in his death is still suspect. He was offshore as the SecNav and really became the first Secretary of the National Military Establishment which was the Secretary of Defense. He said, "There's been a Marine Corps for five hundred years," he said that to General Smith...that...they did a disservice...it was H. M Smith, but what they called him I won't even put on this tape.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, Eisenhower, J. Lawton Collins were leaning on Marshall who leaned on the President to eliminate the Marine Corps. "One infantry is enough...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...one air force is enough.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: I don't want to talk...oh, don't get me started about that General of the Army who should never have been the President!

Dwight Daniel: I know.

Mr. Barrett: It was his brother that they were going to put as the President...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...of Columbia.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: The only reason that a...that a Democrat President brought him back is because of his popularity...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and he made him the...the head of the military part of NATO.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He didn't know whether he was Democratic or Republican...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I...because I own property in Connecticut...the way they got to him was to have a bull roast for him...up (unintelligible) property of the (unintelligible) family tower...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and then he decided...what's to the dismay of the Republicans because they wanted Robert Taft.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I understand that.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, enough of the politics.

Dwight Daniel: But Eisenhower couldn't lose, I mean...I don't care if he ran as a Congressman (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, but you know what he did? He made them write from the Attorney General's office the fact that he would be restored as a General of the Army when he left his Presidency.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah.

Mr. Barrett: You know why? He was on full-paid allowances.

Dwight Daniel: Oh that's right.

Mr. Barrett: They never retired.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah he never retired.

Mr. Barrett: So he retired as the President; he retired as a five-star General; he never paid any taxes on any books that he ever wrote! Have you ever been at his place at Gettysburg?

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: He couldn't afford that! He bartered for it...like the kitchen cabinet that bought the place for Reagan!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Nancy tried to sell that place back to the State of California for eight million dollars! Now they've made it into a Republican boy's camp.

Dwight Daniel: I know that. Let...let's get back.

Mr. Barrett: Ah, okay, where are...where are we?

Dwight Daniel: We're...we're back in the late '40s. You've somehow got of the Marines and into pilot training.

Mr. Barrett: Okay what happen...what happened...I went down to take a series of written exams...at the behest of my Lieutenant and my Captain, Captain Grissey

(sp?)...and he was around when he red-lined me for five stripes. That was very unfortunate but I was trying to protect one of my men. We had a going away party at the Edgewater Beach Hotel for General, excuse me, Colonel Ennis who became a two-star General who was going back stateside. He took with him two of my best, closest friends to become clerks at headquarters Marine Corps...because the Inspector came in and he couldn't get out...the records were so incredible.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So they went back to headquarters Marine Corps. (Unintelligible sentence.)

Dwight Daniel: Wow.

Mr. Barrett: They wouldn't even promote him; they just tried to demobilize him quickly.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: So he went back...they didn't call the (unintelligible) back.

Dwight Daniel: Right. So somehow...let's...let's get you out of the Marines and into the Air Force.

Mr. Barrett: Well anyway...ah, oh, okay I have to have...

Dwight Daniel: You're wearing the wrong color of uniform (unintelligible)...

Mr. Barrett: Okay, alright well those are all stories of...and that's when I was flying helicopters for Kaman Aircraft and I was flying Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard helicopters. I also flew Army helicopters. But what happened...I...I got out on Memorial Day...I was a prisoner at large and I won't go into to that...and all I can say is I've always worn my ribbons

because I've never been chewed like I was chewed by that Marine Colonel who was going to give me General...General Court-Martial.

Dwight Daniel: On Memorial Day of what year?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, this is Memorial Day, 1946. And he looked up and down the table because he was having Captain's Mass so he could convene a General Court-Martial.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And he looked at these younger officers and he said, "You have just heard leadership by example." And he said, "If we could give him a good conduct medal, we would but he didn't have three years."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He said, "I can't award him anything else because he's leaving today; he won't re-enlist." Because he said...that they were then told he would court-martial him if he thought it would (laughter). I found out then that it was the prep school.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well, I wasn't about to reverse it 'cause then I would have had to serve another year on active duty before I went to the prep school the following year.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: I didn't have a high school education.

Dwight Daniel: I remember that, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, I went back to work in the foundry.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Because I was an expert draftsman, I was then hired into the Engineering Department and they said, “Well we’re going to make an Engineering...we’re going to send you to MIT.”

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: So I’m in high school; I’ve taken two years of high school in one.

Dwight Daniel: Great!

Mr. Barrett: My sister who was the salutatorian was...always my...well I was always told, “Why can’t you do as well as your sister?” Okay, well, of course that made we rebel; that made me run away; made me do a lot of other things which are absolutely childish.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, well I graduated...I couldn’t graduate with honors because I had such a low GPA as a freshman. But he advanced me and...and said that I was...I finished my sophomore year which I hadn’t.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: So I graduated and he gave me credit for basic training; he gave credit for photo school; gave me credit for being an NCO. He was a Sergeant in The Great War.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, so...

Mr. Barrett: I outranked him. (laughter) But anyway, I got my diploma. So I said, “Well I’m going to stay here; I...I want a leave of absence,” and he said, “No.” I said, “Well, okay I’ll leave and I’ll go to school (unintelligible) Photography

in New York and I became a portrait photographer. I really wanted to go to work for Karsch...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Oh yeah, I really wanted to go to work for Karsch but he...the only fellow that got the job was another...fellow Hebrew who volunteered to work for nothing, and Karsch says, "No!" "If you're going to be up here and be a hot ball puncher, I'll pay you."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: By the way, the most famous portrait of Churchill was taken (unintelligible) Karsch and (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: They had...they had the bulb behind him. Well I couldn't get a...I couldn't become a stringer for National Geographic, and I tried Harrison and Ewing...all these other companies and they just weren't hiring. So I answered an ad and I went to work for OSS (sp?) Measure who had designed a particular way in which I...you would take portraits...(unintelligible) department store photography which is non-existent nowadays...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and...and I ended up traveling as far west as Oklahoma City; I had the studio at Kansas City; I got to meet Bess and Margaret Truman.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: This was in the summer of '48. My...my closest friend was the band manager for Stan Kenton; so I'd...that's another story about when I was down at

Miramar and I went to the Palladium and Boots Mazuli (sp?) was the lead alto, and also how I got to meet this...Bill Esqueen (sp?) down at...in San Diego...because my...my...because I'd been...anyway my...my grandfather was a police officer.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: Well anyway, okay where am I?

Dwight Daniel: You...you were hired at the department store; you've travelled around; we still can't get you into the Air Force.

Mr. Barrett: Okay I met what I thought was an Air Corps fighter pilot.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: He says, "No, we have our own air force," this was in '48.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Long story short...I became an Aviation Cadet in August of 1949, but I was still a Marine Corps Staff Sergeant in the Reserves.

Dwight Daniel: That's what I was wondering. How could you...how could you do both of them?

Mr. Barrett: Because as a regular enlisted man...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...you could also be a Reservist.

Dwight Daniel: I knew...

Mr. Barrett: That the (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: ROTC candidates...ROTC members in a college programs now can also be in a participating regular reserves.

Dwight Daniel: That's true, but I thought that was recent. That was...

Mr. Barrett: Oh no, no; that's always been the law.

Dwight Daniel: I didn't know that, okay.

Mr. Barrett: That's always been the law.

Dwight Daniel: So that's how you could do that.

Mr. Barrett: So, okay, so I went to Waco which was then changed to Connally. Because I'd been a Marine NCO, I carried the United States flag when Stu Symington came down and changed the name from Waco to Connally. Alright, it's now an FAA...it's a junior college...community college where they do FAA work on airplanes.

Dwight Daniel: You mean at...Waco, Texas?

Mr. Barrett: Waco, Texas.

Dwight Daniel: Huh, okay.

Mr. Barrett: You have to go there sometime...wonderful! I took basic there...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...I saw a helicopters and I said, "Oh, I want to fly one of those or I want to be a parachute person which I wanted to be; I also wanted to be a parachute [person] when I was in the Marine Corps. I then went...I...I soloed in a T-6 which I used to ride in the back end of as an SNJ. Then I went to Reese which was...I forgot how many years they were advanced fighter; I really wanted to fly fighters.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But I couldn't get to F-51 School and I didn't get to Jet School...until later.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: I became jet qualified later.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: But I never did get to fly 51s because that...they needed the airplanes to qualify people that are career.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right!

Mr. Barrett: Okay, now...Omar Bradley came through and this is at...he made his five stars in 1950, by the way...

Dwight Daniel: That's right!

Mr. Barrett: That's right; special act of Congress.

Dwight Daniel: Special act of Congress.

Mr. Barrett: That's right.

Dwight Daniel: He was the last of the World War II (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: The last...the last of the World War II and...and he'd been the head of the VA; he'd been head of the American Red Cross and everything else...okay. So in the code he said, "No honors." Well he ripped the strip off that wing commander because he made all these cadets stand out there in the hot sun.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Bradley came down off the airplane and boy he chewed him out!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He's...he's nose to nose with him; nobody else can hear it...'cause we were denied open post...

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: ...which we had to come back to standing ranks on the ramp.

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: Well our...our class was a composite class because they closed down the 51 school so we had two sections in TBJs (unintelligible). Because I guess I was a pretty good aviator...I was the lead B-25.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible) solo. I'm flying as an officer now because I've been an officer since three o'clock that morning.

Dwight Daniel: Okay (laughter)...

Mr. Barrett: We were all officers because we had all taken the oath of office, so we are now officers...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...flying at our own graduation. By the way, the principle speaker was the publisher of the local newspaper and they reversed the print of the outstanding graduates who became regular Air Force officers.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I never heard whatever happened about that.

Dwight Daniel: Oh.

Mr. Barrett: Well I thought I was going to fly P-38s...'cause I ended up in Smyrna, Tennessee and I saw...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ... (unintelligible) tailed airplane.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Wrong! It was a C-82.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: It was the forerunner of the C-119.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: They had... even had tracks on these things to make them (unintelligible) capable... which it never worked out. I ended up then flying 122 which they only made about...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: ... twelve of, and then they made the 122. Mike Strukoff (sp?)... the first 123 flew jet powered.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible)... power... the engines right out here. Well anyway I ended up... now I'm in Troop Carrier... Trash Carrier is what we called it.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: The first person in that was a Major by the name of Gordon Blood; he retired... he lives in Austin; he just lost a leg because of bad knee surgery. He retired as a two-star General. He'd been a Marine.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: In the 1930s.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: In Repo Reserve in Washington D.C. Well that's the story of how I became involved in Black Ops...but I didn't get to that.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: So I was going to go to Jump School. Well the priority was helicopters...pilots required more than (unintelligible) air control, so I went to (unintelligible); I thought I was in Rescue; I wasn't.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: When I get to Yong Dong Po, I find out Rescue doesn't want to talk to us.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: So I get in a jeep with my then Captain commander by the name of Frank Westerman (sp?); we drive in the 5th Air Force. Who do I bump into but a...a fellow who had a room in the BOQ where I was in Smyrna...he said, "Oh...(unintelligible)"...Frank...Francis...hugged me; he said, "What do you hear?" I said, "We're trying to find...to find out what we're doing." He said, "Got the answer," he said, "do you know Gordo Blood is the," he's a spot colonel...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and he's running the General Operations Center. So we go in, he says, "Hey, how you doing?!" He remembered me from this interview that I had when I was a Second Lieutenant; that's a different story.

Dwight Daniel: Right, no kidding!

Mr. Barrett: He said, “Why you hear?” I said, “We’re trying to find out what we’re doing.” So we sat down... Westy and I cost him a cycle of promotion to Major by the way...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...so in comes the Director of Intelligence. The one-star Director of Operations and Blood leave the room because they’re not clearance enough to hear what’s going on.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: We worked for the DIA, the Director of Intelligence.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: Now we can’t find out his name and...and Blood has been searching his records; we know who the Deputy was, his name is Edwin Stern (sp?) who got to be a one-star.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And we flew him on combat missions enough that he got an air medal.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding.

Mr. Barrett: He didn’t have any awards and decorations, so he flew with us. We flew covert and clandestine instrument flight rules at night over North Korea, and I can’t tell you what we did because I’ve never been debriefed.

Dwight Daniel: Man, cool!

Mr. Barrett: We were stationed at times on Ch'o do which is out...almost level with Pyonyang (sp?) in the (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, that’s (unintelligible), right?

Mr. Barrett: That's right. We were under fire constantly. I didn't realize...that all counted for combat.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: I didn't know that.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, you didn't combat pay for this?

Mr. Barrett: No!

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Nobody ever told us!

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: The farthest north we ever flew was to the Yalu to China...at night...on instruments fifty feet off the water.

Dwight Daniel: I'm impressed!

Mr. Barrett: I didn't do it; my Commander did. He got a Silver Star; you know what his co-pilot got?

Dwight Daniel: What... nothing?

Mr. Barrett: Atta boy.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, that's true.

Mr. Barrett: And the guy in the belly...Atta boy! They were trying to find a wing commander from the Royal Air Force who had been shot down two weeks earlier.

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: Of course, he never survived.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Alright. I...I (unintelligible) at least six pickups, but because we were not in our wing which was in the Philippines...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...we were...we were orphans!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Okay. Arnie Anahope (sp?) who headed Special Forces, Air Commandos, he was the Captain flying fixed wing on the other side of K-60 and I was the Captain...Spot Captain flying helicopters...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...doing the same thing. I...I finally connected with him years later when he was a retired Brigadier General in Bangkok...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I'm now working for Republic Aircraft.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: Okay. I flew sixty-three missions there, but actually flew more because we didn't record them all.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I don't know how many combat missions because I found out now that I can go back and correct those records.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Now I was awarded...on paper...some place...the Silver Star twice.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Guess what? When I got back to Seward Air Force Base, Marvin McNichol (sp?) said, "How come you're a First Lieutenant?" And I said, "It's a long story, but I got busted for bad behavior." No, I wasn't so sarcastic. I said I was a Spot Captain.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: By the way, Gordo Blood went from Colonel back to Lieutenant Colonel, and he tried to explain to his friends that he was a Spot Colonel...the only one, by the way.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So he's pinning it on and he's talking to me and he said, "Is this right?" and said, "No, sir," I said, "I...I was supposed to get the Silver Star and (unintelligible) Aircraft Commander."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And so, by the way, I was wounded on that one but I never reported it because I thought adversely I would never be able to...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I got hit and...and it screwed up a tooth and they had to extract the tooth.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: That was another one, so I had...actually four Purple Heart awards...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...that I don't have. So anyway...because I did not have enough total time to become an Instructor Pilot...I won't tell you the name of the other person, but

I was very close personal friends with him and he zinged me for my Officer's Effectiveness Report.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He didn't even know I'd been an NCO in the Marine Corps.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Well anyway, he'd been a POW and I treated him accordingly...with all due respect. He later retired as a Major...and that's another story. Well, I was picked, and I don't even know who picked me to be interviewed by the National Tennessean...for the Sunday supplement.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I have all kinds of photographs at home that they took in our quarters.

Dwight Daniel: Now this is over in Korea, right?

Mr. Barrett: No, this is in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: I was *forced* to move into temporary housing.

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: I was paying eighty dollars a month for a first home in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I had to give up my quarter's allowance...oh well, I paid it separately; my electrical bill I had to make a loan from Edwin Spidel (sp?)...

Dwight Daniel: Man!

Mr. Barrett: ...and (unintelligible) and I wrote to him because my wife, when she came back from Europe, served as a secretary. She was actually to (unintelligible) School of Design at Brown University.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And Pappy...I called him Pappy...I said, "Pappy, my parents down have the money; my...my in-laws don't have the money; I'll pay you back, but I need three hundred dollars because I don't want to be a bad-debt officer.

Dwight Daniel: Right, so how...why were you forced to move back?

Mr. Barrett: Because the Group Commander said, "It behooves you to move into area housing."

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And it's going to show on your Fitness Report.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Well it did! I was...I was not a compliant person. Well anyway, that cost me a lot!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: We had two children at the time and Don Cravens (sp?) was the...he rode along with me; I had him on a gunner's belt. He had to sign all the releases to go; we flew all over Nashville; we flew over Fort (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: Stones River where they had a big battle...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...all...very historic! Lindbergh landed an airplane there.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...in 1927, etcetera, etcetera. So this...this article...I just had this done and...and it's for my kids.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: It didn't come out too good, so we're going to have to do it again. And if you notice...that's why I'm deaf. We did not wear ear protectors.

Dwight Daniel: Right, in helicopters...yeah!

Mr. Barrett: And in the B-25s and PBJs (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, nobody did.

Mr. Barrett: ...but we...these are airmen that we loaded up and we gave them M...M1s...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...we were off-loading them because...it tells about how we're going to evacuate all the people from the Pentagon. The first helicopter flight...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, no kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...the first helicopter flight onto the White House lawn was by...a fellow by the name of Barrett...Joe Barrett; he flew Eisenhower. The mission was lost that very day because...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...because Draper said, "We'll never buy a bigger helicopter." The Marine Corps already had presidentially qualified the HUS.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Now I went to work for Sikorsky; Sikorsky dropped the ball. They just lost the competition against an internationally manufactured helicopter that's going to fly the President of this United States!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I know that.

Mr. Barrett: Wrong!

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Barrett: Wrong, but anyway, I came back...I was told that I was...I was selected for the second most highest personnel priority...and I don't trust personnel people because I could have kept my Spot Captaincy if I went to the Philippines.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Our Wing Commander was shot down in China; they were POWs as (unintelligible) until August of 1955.

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, bad news, bad news! I...I never got to meet him, but I got to meet his...Aircraft Commander who had been a POW in World War II, by the way. This is at a reunion...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...get-together of these covert and clandestine people. William Blatty was one of the intels and he wrote The Exorcist when he was going to Intel School at Georgetown.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: Guy works with (unintelligible); we never had the benefit of that. We didn't know what we were doing until we got to K-16 (laughter). Then we started flying these missions; we couldn't tell the Rescue people what we were doing.

Dwight Daniel: Right. (laughter)

Mr. Barrett: What we did rescue mission when they couldn't do them. Now the mission that I went in and...and was nominated for one Silver Star...they gave...quote, unquote... "for meritorious achievement." *We're under fire!*

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: The...and we didn't have any big daddy that could write up the Awards and Declaration Citation. So I got a DFC for Meritorious Achievement...*wrong!* They now issue V for valor. Okay, the other DFC...*wrong!*...that was a Silver Star nomination...*wrong!*...that's the one that came through and McNichols said, "I don't understand it," he said, "you've been nominated for the Silver Star twice...what happened?" And I said, "Sir, we didn't have any daddy. We...we're not part of the Rescue; we're not part of the 6167th, so we didn't have an Awards and Declarations Officer." We didn't have anybody...I met this young Second Lieutenant Navigator who had everything from a Distinguished Service Cross on down.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Now he was flying covert and clandestine fixed-wing missions.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And...and I said to him...we were on our R&R...I said, “Cutch (sp?), you don’t have the Medal of Honor yet!” He said, “Well they can’t figure out how to give it to me.”

Dwight Daniel: ‘Cause they can’t write it up because he a covert mission.

Mr. Barrett: He...he is the Awards and Decorations Officer for the 6167th. He wrote himself up for every single award and decoration in the United States and the United States Army...

Dwight Daniel: I like it.

Mr. Barrett: Well of course he went on to great things because it looked like he was a hero; he wasn’t...he was good with a pen!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: We used to call that P-51 target because you could...you could falsify anything with a pencil. And you could always erase it because then people wouldn’t remember what it was. But unlike what’s going on in the Administration right...right now...which...which is a sad state of affairs. I heard Michael Josephson (sp?) saying three thousand people are undergoing an ethics presentation – *wrong!*...a lawyer is giving them the presentation. They don’t have an ethics PhD in Psychology telling them what they...should have known before they ever went there.

Dwight Daniel: I understand that.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, and by the way, Cheney...not Chaney is really running it. He ran it when he was the SecDef.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah!

Mr. Barrett: And he...he busted the Chief of Staff of the Air Force because he took his airplane and speckled trout and didn't go non-attribution, so they published the battle plan in the Washington Post. He was the Chief of Staff in ninety days. But the Secretary liked him, he kept him on active duty till he got a pay raise the following January. I knew him when he was a Colonel...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...because I was selling A-10s that the...that the United States State Department would *not* let us sell because of depleting uranium ammunition. I said, "Don't sell them the ammunition!"

Dwight Daniel: Right! Sell them the planes.

Mr. Barrett: When I went to work for Republic Aircraft a twenty-four UE squadron with two spares were selling on a ten-year logistics package for under five million a copy.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: When I resigned to become an aerospace science instructor, they were over eleven million dollars a copy.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: It was due to the State Department. It got so bad that Republic Aircraft went out of business and they sold the business...Fairchild sold the business to some German company.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: I buy high and sold low.

Dwight Daniel: So why were they...why was the State Department forced to price up?

Mr. Barrett: They would not give us a export license for the aircraft.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, okay.

Mr. Barrett: The Shah of Iran...the Shah of Iran wanted a group. It would have been no...the Iraqi, Iran war would have stopped what's going on in the Mid-East right now.

Dwight Daniel: Right, 'cause they would have shot up everything to begin with, yeah!

Mr. Barrett: The A-10 came into its own at Desert Storm.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: It started destroying tanks and then shot down airplanes.

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: It's still being used...as an incredible close-air support that the United States Air Force didn't want; it's an Army mission...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I know that.

Mr. Barrett: ...just like the intercontinental ballistic missile are an Army mission.

Dwight Daniel: I know; I know.

Mr. Barrett: See we...we were...we carried people and we were fighters. And if you'd talk to Erich Hartmann...if you were not a fighter interceptor pilot, you're not a pilot.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, so I was not a pilot because I was...I was jet-qualified...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I was one of the last that was multi-engine, single-engine, gas-turbine which was PT Bird, helicopters...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: I flew Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard helicopters. I only have one set of wings because no one has ever recommended me for Naval Aviator wings; they're Army Aviator wings.

Dwight Daniel: That's not bad!

Mr. Barrett: But these wings are combat wings; these are not.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, it's hard to get those nowadays; it's...it's almost impossible to get...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: But I've seen a few enlisted Marines wearing them and I said, "Where'd you get that?!" Well the first ones got it in...in the desert war in '91, and the others are now occasionally flying helicopters...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...and...and they qualify for it. The three stars signify...and it's lost to my memory...different things that you did. I OJT'd; I did not go to Gunnery School at Banana River which was Patrick Air Force Base.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: I...I learned my gunnery in the squadrons which was a hard way to do it, but as an Expert Rifleman I knew how to field strip flexible thirties...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...fifty calibers because I had to...because if you fired them...you cleaned them!

Dwight Daniel: You cleaned them, right.

Mr. Barrett: I was a tail gunner on PBJs; I was a waist gunner on PBJs; I was the turret gunner...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...doesn't show on my records!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Any information...any information...insufficient (unintelligible) due to incomplete records...that's on the back of my discharge.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah I know!

Mr. Barrett: Well I'm going to have a Come to Jesus Meeting when I send in my Request for Correction of Records to the Secretary of the Navy. But anyway, I ended up on recruiting. I left the Air Force and became a test pilot for KAME...

(end of tape 2, side B)

Dwight Daniel: This is an oral history interview of Lawrence A. Barrett, World War II and Korean War veteran who retired as a full Colonel; he was born 31 October, 1926. The interviewer is myself, Dwight D. Daniel, an oral history volunteer at the National Museum of the Pacific War located in Fredericksburg, Texas. Today is 11 November, 2005 and this interview is taking place at March Air Reserve Base, California. This interview is in support of the Center for Pacific War Studies which is the archive for the preservation of historical information of the National Museum of the Pacific War. This is tape 3, side A.

Why don't you say something and let's make sure this is working.

Mr. Barrett: Good morning, Dwight.

Dwight Daniel: Okay last time we were talking about you, you're a gunnery OJT at Banana River which is Patrick Air Force Base, and I was looking at some little write up you gave me...you were at the Inchon Invasion Day?

Mr. Barrett: No.

Dwight Daniel: Oh, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, to answer the first part...we were to go to Banana River, however, because of not having an assignment out of Cherry Point the Marines got back on the train at Pensacola and went directly to Cherry Point. We did not go to Banana River.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Many of our successive...uh, should say...the classes ahead of us and the class behind us for some reason or another two of those were able to go to Banana River which was the formal gunnery training. My gunnery training was on the job in the back end of the PBJ, tail gunner, waist gunner, turret gunner. Also in the back seat of SBDs, you either had a twin thirty...I don't think we had fifties yet, yeah those were twin thirties and on the PBJ those were fifties.

Dwight Daniel: They still flying SBGs...SBDs?

Mr. Barrett: SBDs.

Dwight Daniel: They were still flying the Dauntless?

Mr. Barrett: The Dauntless was flying...Barrett Truman (unintelligible)...he and his father rebuilt one which (unintelligible). There are...

Dwight Daniel: No, but I mean...

Mr. Barrett: I'm sorry...

Dwight Daniel: Where were you flying in those?

Mr. Barrett: Oh, I'm sorry, in Zamboanga.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah. This...this...those would go out and take low level obliques.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: What...what we were trying to do is penetrate under the foliage and see what the Japanese were doing (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Oh my god!

Mr. Barrett: On the 30th of May of 1945 they shot down the Squadron Commander of (unintelligible) 611.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, I missed the reunion in August because I was in the hospital, but the remains were recovered and is in a mass grave at Arlington National. His name is S-a-r-a-s; he was from New England. He was stationed at a regular time at what was Chay (sp?) Field at Squantum Naval Air Station. I don't believe he ever went to South Weymouth but they moved the name from Squantum to South Weymouth and politically...normally it's not in favor, so that's why (unintelligible) closed all the bases.

Dwight Daniel: Now out of curiosity when you flew those mission in Rabaul...and this is jumping back a little bit...did you...did you get a lot of flack?

Mr. Barrett: Yes.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, that's what I thought.

Mr. Barrett: I have artwork done by one of the crew members who is now in (unintelligible), North Carolina and I had them framed and if I'd thought about it, I would have brought them. It showed return from a mission at Rabaul...(unintelligible)...it's not the photograph. You...you could see the airfield, you can see where the various aircraft were, the P-38s there, the B-24s...those are from the Army...uh, I've got too many things; I've got to narrow it down to answer your questions.

Dwight Daniel: The question for...how...how many...when did you fly these missions?

Mr. Barrett: Alright (unintelligible) I believe the 9th or 10th of April...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...we...(unintelligible) hit the deck running simply because...and I say we because I think there were two others or three others...either with me or in quick secession. They had a shortfall of people...they were now allowing people to go home for emergencies in the family...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and that's what caused the rate...the rank structure to go down so that as a Corporal I was a non...non-commissioned officer in charge of the Photo Lab.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And that's when I met Douglas...David Douglas Duncan; he was a First Lieutenant and I was a Corporal. I believe he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Reserve. He was one of Stieking's (sp?) men.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And his priority to travel was only outranked by Nimitz and (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Hum! Now out of curiosity when you did these missions...Rabaul...did you have a camera with you or you just...?

Mr. Barrett: Yes.

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay, so you're doing both.

Mr. Barrett: Right. Again as an air crewman, I carried a forty-five...sometimes I had a shoulder holster...sometimes I had a web belt holster. We also carried carbines...and I think at that time we could go semi-automatic with them. And we would nor...normally strap four...five...excuse me, three ammo packs, so we didn't have to mess around...in the event we were shot down.

Dwight Daniel: Okay. Did...what kind of...do you remember any kind...did you get any really good pictures or any really...

Mr. Barrett: We got some good ones, but again, you know the cobbler's children have no shoes.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I left...I never made copies for myself.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, oh...did...did you discover anything that was...like the Japanese were trying to hide that nobody else knew about?

Mr. Barrett: Well what would happen...that was...rechi-techi (sp?), tactical recon people would then study the photos. Only if they were having difficulty seeing into the shadow there would they call upon us...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: ...we...we really never knew. I was...

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Barrett: ...really...we were the messenger.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay gotcha! Gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: We took the photo; we processed it. Sometimes they wanted to do a wet reading off of a negative and...boy, I had my hats off to those people because they had to think in reverse!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: This was black and white; now you've got to...you've got to think of what's under there. (Unintelligible) shadows were all...the light part, and they would try to...they could target off of wet negatives.

Dwight Daniel: Wow, wow!

Mr. Barrett: And the fragmentary order would go down to the SBD...and Corsairs...(unintelligible)...Mag-12 was all Corsairs. I don't know the squadron designations there; I do have a list at home of the SBD; SB2C, TBM squadrons because we were composite groups. The Air Corps used to have that before World War II, but then they became single-aircraft minded. Now the Air Force is looking to do composite. Matter of fact, if you are rotary-wing pilot you no longer...you can't fly fixed wing...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and vice versa.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: If you are a gas-turbine pilot...jet engine, you can't fly other aircraft.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well I flew them all.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: I was jet qualified as well as multi-engine, single-engine and helicopters.

Dwight Daniel: Okay. Uh, you said you started in about April...Rabaul...how long did you fly into those areas?

Mr. Barrett: Alright, the...the back of my discharge says the 4th of July, 1945. I think that only coincides with...that was going to be the original independence day to become the Republic of the Philippines.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: What happened...I mentioned to you about...god, I always reverse his name...the great historian from Harvard that went on active duty as a Commander and he retired as a Rear Admiral; he wrote the history of the Navy in World War II.

Dwight Daniel: Allison Morrison (sp?).

Mr. Barrett: Yes, yes, yes! My hero.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Now his saw it from a perspective on the inside out as he called it (momentary interruption of taping) ...told that to Frank Knox and FDR, but he unfortunately was not permitted to see a lot of the things; there was always that distrust and Sheiken (sp?) was the same way. You know Sheiken had his cameramen all over (unintelligible) but they did not necessarily allow him free reign.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: It was...it was different than now being vetted with the troops, and they have far more range of action than (unintelligible) had in World War II and in Vietnam.

Dwight Daniel: Yep! Okay, now let's jump ahead a little bit. You...see now when you were in Korea were you a pilot at that time?

Mr. Barrett: Yes, I...

Dwight Daniel: Okay, I'm trying to remember the interview...there...there's been a break in the interview...that's why.

Mr. Barrett: Right, well what happened...I get...I get off of active duty from the Marine Corps; I join the Reserve; I was flying in the back seat of the...I think they had a few SBDs left...but primarily it was FNJ, the T-6. They would fly from Squantum down to Floyd Bennett which is the naval air station, Brooklyn; it's now closed. I don't know what...what's going on down there. Squantum is now upscale housing.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, they all are now...just about, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: They're very valuable property; it's just like the Presidio.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so...I'm just reading your note here...okay, then you became multi-engine aircraft Commander from about '58 to '69. What...what kind of work did you do there?

Mr. Barrett: Alright, what had happened...I got off of active duty as a Reserve officer; I participated in what was called Little Red School House, and that was to...to keep the viability of the Reserve forces in the...the Air Force. I don't know

about the other services. And what I was looking for was an assignment to a flying unit. I...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay. What was Little Red...Red School House? I haven't heard that term before.

Mr. Barrett: Little Red School House...they were Reserve Training Centers for most of the...the larger cities throughout the United States. As an example, Providence, Rhode Island; their Reserve Center was adjacent to the Recruiting Headquarters which used to be a shipyard called Fields Point, One Washington Avenue, and that was all inclusive...everybody was One Washington Avenue. I got off of active duty there and I was batching it in Windsor, Connecticut and the Reserve Center there split time between the Connecticut State Armory building and another facility that was federal property...as are the armories, you know. They...they co-locate state and federal funding; ninety percent federal funding, by the way. I attended a few meetings and I was very discouraged.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Most of these people were World War II people. Just a...a sub-note, I met this person who had commission braid on his uniform jacket and he had one stripe.

Dwight Daniel: Hmm!

Mr. Barrett: So I went to the Lieutenant Colonel PhD who...who was the Center Commander and I said, "Colonel McBride, who is that person?" He said, "Well, he's been in and out of the service since The Great War."

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: “He doesn’t have enough time for retirement.” Well he knew all of the management...and I say management and leadership of the Air Service, the Air Corps, the Army Air Corps, the Army Air Force and because he was an industrialist, they said, “Well, we can’t retire him because he’s over sixty years of age, so he come in here to enlist as an E-2.”

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Now this is a Brigadier General waving one stripe. I got to meet he and his wife; what a wonderful, wonderful man! He told me stories about The Great War; he was an Aviator in World War I, for god’s sake!

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: And he was an Aviator World War II, but he never maintained his reserve status.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: When he would get off of active duty, he would go do what he was doing in his business.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Barrett: Sort of like Jimmie Doolittle.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Jimmie Doolittle get off and went to work for Shell.

Dwight Daniel: You ever know if this guy ever retired?

Mr. Barrett: He actually finally retired as a Brigadier; Jimmie Doolittle retired as a three-star General. However, both he and...oh god, they were both (unintelligible) excuse me, to General...that was four stars that were allowed increase in pay.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: Oh, I'm trying to think of a name...oh, he was brilliant. He was an attorney; he had 8th Air Force; he was half (unintelligible); strong right hand. I met him once when I was in D.C. I'll think of it, but anyway the both of them were promoted to four stars along with...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...(unintelligible) Davis, Jr. Again no pay increase and this is by, excuse the expression, Clinton. His staff recog...this is interesting that members of his staff...I have no idea who did it...recognized these people as military leaders and so that made Jimmie Doolittle was the highest ranking Reserve officer to ever serve in the United States military; but he retired as a three-star General...as a Reservist because he was never re-augmented into the...the regular Air Force. But people were very unhappy with him because of the Doolittle board where conversation was going to be non-operative.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: And that always amazed me because he was a (unintelligible) also.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And I met him; a remarkable person.

Dwight Daniel: Yes!

Mr. Barrett: The Amazing Mr. Doolittle, the book by Quentin Reynolds, that...that's required reading.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, now its...I'm reading here from '58-'69 you said you were a helicopter test pilot. Was that at the Kaman Aircraft?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, that's pronounced Kuh-man.

Dwight Daniel: Kaman, okay.

Mr. Barrett: That's Charles Huron Kaman who started the company December of '45.

Dwight Daniel: Okay. And that's when you were a Reserve officer so you weren't on active duty then?

Mr. Barrett: No, I was not on active duty, how...however, because this was a change of aircraft the Squadron, the 337th, was moving from then Mitchell Air Force Base to a non-Air Force Base which was Bradley Field, Connecticut...one of the first in the Reserve (unintelligible) structure not to be on a military installation. Now there were guard facilities there which later they took over the Reserve facility (unintelligible) to Westover and they progressed from 119s to 124s to C-5s. I don't know what they are flying now but Westover Air Force Base is similar to March Air Reserve Base. However, not only did they keep the commissary and the exchange alive; they kept the gas station. And I don't understand why that didn't happen here because I was in Reserve Force Management, and one Brigadier General who commanded March...I think he looked at the structure and said, "No, I don't want that." And that's why the cadre area, the containment area is so zig-zag. Now you lived in a containment area...you're staying at the March Inn.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: That used to be called the...the Half-hour Officers Club.

Dwight Daniel: Right, still is there.

Mr. Barrett: I hate it!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, there's nobody ever goes there.

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible) consolidated...excuse the expression; civilians caused the downfall of the social life the United States military.

Dwight Daniel: Right. As far as I can see, there's nothing in there.

Mr. Barrett: There's nothing...because people don't go.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I always was a paid up member of an NCO club in the Marine Corps. I was...I had (unintelligible) when I was a Cadet in Waco; I was on the Board of Governors...and that used to get me out of fourth-class duties; I didn't have to be in a brace and so (unintelligible)...outside of the club. I don't know how I became...that was a luck...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...how my classmates elected me, I think because they found out that I'd been a Platoon Sergeant in the Marine Corps.

Dwight Daniel: Now let's...question for you though; what was it like being a test pilot?

Mr. Barrett: Well my...my interview with Bill Murray (sp?) who was a vice president for Flight Test and...and questions and answers about where're you fly...well the first...when I flew was an Army helicopter which was an A-20...uh, excuse me, an H-23. The Bell H-13; the Sikorsky H-5; the Sikorsky H-19...the A

model, the B model; the H-21...A model, B model which was (unintelligible) became (unintelligible). (Unintelligible) all I ever had were...were battle damage actions; no control of that, was being fired at. Then they were doing high altitude controllability tests and this was Al Newton who later unfortunately died trying to set a speed record with another helicopter. Al was a non-military pilot; he had learned like Bob Gimoen (sp?)...he never went to test pilot school. Al never went to helicopter school. He (unintelligible) as a duster pilot...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...he was...we used to say he had a needle ball and air speed built into his forehead. This individual was the most incredible natural aviator I ever flew with; same way with Bill Murray. Bill was a fighter pilot who got out of the Navy and taught himself how to fly helicopters. (Unintelligible) taught himself how to fly.

Dwight Daniel: Wow! What...what was it like to flying...doing test (unintelligible)?

Mr. Barrett: Oh it was incredible! We went up to...over...over...well twelve thousand feet with no parachutes!

Dwight Daniel: Great!

Mr. Barrett: And I looked at him and I said, "This is...this is experimental test flight?" And he said, "Yes." I said, "Excuse me, Al, I hate to ask you this," he said, "Don't worry," he said, "the falling won't hurt us; it'll just be the sudden stop at the bottom!"

Dwight Daniel: Right, the old joke! What...what aircraft were you flying?

Mr. Barrett: We were flying what was then a Marine Corps HLK, Navy HUK and it was going to become the H-43A.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: And...and what was happening...they'd gotten a write up by the test pilots out of Edwards saying there was not enough controllability. So they added four tails. I wish I'd brought that photograph. They were not movable...tail structures; these were just stabilizers.

Dwight Daniel: Right, they were kind of like...

Mr. Barrett: Right.

Dwight Daniel: Well we'll have to describe for the tape...

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible) to keep it...

Dwight Daniel: I'll get a picture for the...yeah...

Mr. Barrett: ...because the helicopter had a tendency to wander.

Dwight Daniel: Oh it did?

Mr. Barrett: It was a...it was a (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And it had neutral torque.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: So you had...I had...I flew neutral torque of a sort in the H-21. I was in tandem...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...for (unintelligible)...you also had...this was a V-22...this...this...horizontally disposed.

Dwight Daniel: Right, so this thing was neutral?

Mr. Barrett: It was neu...neutral torque.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding?!

Mr. Barrett: You could take...

Dwight Daniel: I didn't realize that!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, you could take off your feet on the floor and we used to do this when I demonstrated the aircraft to my Air Force counterparts...(unintelligible) was (unintelligible) high altitude and high elevation.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Well he took me to twelve thousand feet...this was in the winter time, so we're actually...(unintelligible) altitude much higher.

Dwight Daniel: Much higher, yeah!

Mr. Barrett: Much higher. I...I...well I don't recall the temperature...but this was in February...fifty-eight was snow on the ground! I had come over from where I lived just south of Providence, Rhode Island. This was Bloomfield, Connecticut. There was a naval plant facility that was under the Bureau of Aeronautics representative at Hamilton Stand and Pratt and Whitney (sp?); it was a Navy plant in other words. So test pilots were all accepted...acceptance test pilots are all Navy pilots.

Dwight Daniel: Hmm, right.

Mr. Barrett: And that's how I got to know some very interesting people.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, well anyway we would go up and he would do full-pedal deflection opposite cyclic, full-up collective.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding, wow!

Mr. Barrett: Wow! I sat there and I said, "Al, I have never done a...", he said, "Have you ever flown backwards in a helicopter?" I said, "Oh yeah," I said, "I...I used to set..." this was called flight demonstration techniques; we did it because General Whelan (sp?) wanted to demonstrate tactical air command against strategic air command. While I was never...I never did this in front of any of the leadership because after all, I was reduced from a Captain to a First Lieutenant for the spot promotion; I didn't want to be reduced permanently. I would fly full (unintelligible) deflection...not full up collective and try to dance the rudders to go as fast as I could backwards in an H-19B model.

Dwight Daniel: Good lord!

Mr. Barrett: Now the H-21B was different because you could do full aft cyclic and rotate it up onto the main gear...then you could tap the brakes and you could walk it around...

Dwight Daniel: Walk backwards; yeah I've seen that before.

Mr. Barrett: ...and then I would walk it around.

Dwight Daniel: Oh cool!

Mr. Barrett: Now I wouldn't do this at the Base where anybody could see me...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...but I would go out because...that photograph I showed you...I was the flight demonstration pilot for the H-21.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: And...and finally my Squadron Commander said, "Why are they always asking for you?" I said, "Major Farr (sp?), I don't have the foggiest clue." Well I had the foggiest clue because I would make the helicopter dance on the main gear...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...then I would put it up on the nose gear...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...hold forward stick; hold up collective...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...and run it around on the nose gear.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: No.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: Oh, well, you know the fighter pilots would look at you and say, "Wow!" Well I had a friend who later died as a civilian helicopter pilot had a standing challenge at Williams Air Force Base that he would take off and beat any jet to ten thousand feet. This was in...

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...this was in the late 1950s. His name was Walt McKnee (sp?). As a Captain, he set the still standing altitude record for that class of helicopter under FAI...Federation...okay, anyway...FAI from Paris, France. Well Walt would sit there; the jet pilot, excuse me, the...the fixed wing pilot would

sit...he'd be sitting right at the end of the runway...so then there's the countdown...and Walt would do full up collective and start climbing at the best climb air speed; he would beat them to ten thousand feet every single time!

Dwight Daniel: Wow! I'm just amazed though you could actually get it to walk on the gear.

Mr. Barrett: Oh yes. Well Walt was famous within himself; he took Barry Goldwater on an (unintelligible) Earth mission. And Barry being an aviator unfortunately didn't pay attention because Walt was talking to him. They came over the south rim of the Grand Canyon and he went full down all...full out of the (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Well your stomach goes right up to your teeth!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And Goldwater looked at him and he said, "Wow! I've never done that in any airplane!" He said, "Well this...this is not an airplane; this is a helicopter." And it was (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Now what other kind of...test...now like the H-43A...that...that was not...that never got into production...

Mr. Barrett: Yes it did.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, I didn't realize it.

Mr. Barrett: What got into production was the interim local based rescue aircraft for the Air Force before the H-43B model.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, now I flew the same model that was actually an HOK built as an A model; I think I mentioned that to you...I left...I left Bloomfield, Connecticut about three thirty on a Friday morning and I was at Peterson Field, Colorado before sunset on Saturday. Now I also experienced weather patterns that I had...I'd been on the Great Plains wind project in 1953 right after I came back from Korea and that was incredible because we would fly up to five thousand feet without the auto...auto lights trying to maintain zero ground speed...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...dropping...and the Crew Chief would drop this device to every five hundred feet...a smoke puff would go off.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: The wind direction velocity...we would pull off and we would get...I got an education on what happens in the atmosphere over (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Phew! Well, what were they doing that for?

Mr. Barrett: They were...they had archeologists from the University of (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...they were trying to return them...the structure...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, the wind.

Mr. Barrett: ...the wind dimension structure of the atmosphere.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: Now I'm sure that some place that study was conducted under...the staff at the Bedford...(unintelligible) Air Force Base. And I'm sure some place in the Air Force archives this is Great...Great Plains winds project. We had

archeologists there; it was just incredible! We lived in a hotel in a O'Neill, Nebraska not too far from Norfolk which was, of course, Johnny Carson's home. What an education there! I was the Pilot in Command; I had a Captain with me who was so...oh god! I didn't trust him to start the airplane...uh, the helicopter!

Dwight Daniel: Great!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, I was not an instructor pilot...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...because I didn't have... "enough total time," and "I was only a First Lieutenant."

Dwight Daniel: Wow! So how...I was going to ask you, a civilian, versus...?

Mr. Barrett: I wasn't civilian then; I was a First Lieutenant.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay, okay.

Mr. Barrett: I was doing test work that was not...test of the aircraft...it was certainly testing the...the strength capability of an H-19B model.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha, whoa!

Mr. Barrett: The reason we were there...someone at Sikorsky...where they were repairing blades had scored the rotor blade with a...with a...razor blade.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: They had a catastrophic failure at five thousand feet...

Dwight Daniel: Whoo!

Mr. Barrett: ...through...through a roadway.

Dwight Daniel: Whoo!

Mr. Barrett: And they had no parachutes on.

Dwight Daniel: Whooh!

Mr. Barrett: I had no parachute on.

Dwight Daniel: Was that sabotage or...?

Mr. Barrett: No this was a woman trying to neaten up a piece of masking tape on rotor blade.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding?! Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: I...I showed some friends of mine flying with me...(unintelligible)...when we were Reserve pilots; the individual didn't realize that when you scored a...across a piece of metal – it could be titanium; it could be anything...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...you can imagine if a propeller these were the panel versions they called them on 119...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...if it came apart in the air...uh, the only person that got out...because he was able to run the length of the cargo department was the Crew Chief. The...the pilot stayed trying to maintain...they were in the weather...over Pennsylvania...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...my friend, Bill Garrin (sp?) never made it. He...he was in the airplane when it crashed.

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: And it took a long time for the accident investigators out of Norton...

Dwight Daniel: Right, to figure it out.

Mr. Barrett: ...what...threw the whole engine right off the airplane...it was so out of balance.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: But anyway...back to Al Newton; he took me on several of these test flights.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: So in effect, I was a...an experimental test pilot.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: Fortunately I never applied for...and I told Bob Gilliland (sp?) I...I would like to have him sponsor me (unintelligible) Society of Test Pilots. Anyhow, I...I then reverted to a Production Test Pilot which is extremely interesting because of the ergonomics and mechanics of the Synchropter...was so totally different than anything I'd ever flown that I would fly the bla...fly the helicopter without control.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: With no (unintelligible) flaps on the blades.

Dwight Daniel: I didn't know that!

Mr. Barrett: And you...you just sit there with...didn't do any good to put your hands on the controls because nothing was connected...

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: ...on the cycle. There was all...and nothing was (unintelligible)...in other words, I would engage the rotor...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...with the throttle...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and then I had to run it up to maximum RPM to make sure these blades were in balance.

Dwight Daniel: Ah! So it aut...goes automatic balancer then?

Mr. Barrett: No, no, this was...this was strictly cut and...cut and fix.

Dwight Daniel: Oh!

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible)...this is the still air of four o'clock in the morning.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Then you'd shut down the...we then (unintelligible) flaps which would (unintelligible) up the (unintelligible) flaps...

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay!

Mr. Barrett: ...put those on...now you had full control, collective sockets and so on.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, so you tested this without any control at first?

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: Now...now the Mechanic...the Ground Mechanic would have...there was rubber...there was a piece of rubber...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and you'd put white...you'd put (unintelligible) chalk on the tip of the blade and then you would speed it up and it would have different RPM settings, so that you would see what is the blade doing.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And this put the balance...you...you never did this with a (unintelligible) or Sikorsky or Hiller or Bell. The command (unintelligible) had to be turned. But when it was turned...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...I learned it on top of Pikes Peak.

Dwight Daniel: Man!

Mr. Barrett: Had a cup of coffee with the Custodian and they sent a T-Bird looking for us.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, because they...they're civilians; we...we didn't check in with the tower.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And then we found out I had...I had to check through three agencies to get permission to land. I did that and then I called them back a couple of hours later and said, "It was wonderful; I had coffee with the Custodian,"...they knew his name...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and that's at the Broadmoor (sp?) Hotel and some other aeronautic authority because you just couldn't land on top of Pikes Peak without their permission.

Dwight Daniel: I didn't realize that. When...when was that?

Mr. Barrett: Uh, that was in October of 1958 and it was snow on top of the...

Dwight Daniel: Great!

Mr. Barrett: ...did not snow down at Peak Field.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: I never forgave Al because he came out and relieved me...(unintelligible) for home...that was the good part...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: but he took the helicopter from there to Stead Air Force Base up through all those mountain passes...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...and that...and that could be air time because you don't have to find a flight commander...we're civilians...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...we're not accountable...only to then CAA. Well then they sent me back up, a commercial air, and Stead Air Force Base at that time, very interesting...high elevation...it was the best training base that you could ever have for helicopters.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: Also it was the Survival Training School for the armed forces...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...which included the CIA and so on. Therein is another story, but I won't bore...bore you with that. Now I would sit there as a civilian pilot...but I knew all the pilots because I'd flown with them in Korea.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I knew how to tune the helicopter with trim and friction...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I would roll on (unintelligible) reciprocating engine; I would roll on the throttle and then I would put my feet on the floor and my hands on my lap and I would use the call position on the button...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and it would sit there and...and they're trying to grab the controls and I said, "No, no, no!" The best way to climb from a helicopter is at forty-five knots. The helicopter would come up; wouldn't stop for the hover; go up to forty-five knots and we'd just climb, climb, climb...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: No.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: Well they came back; you could not take your hands off...

(end of tape 3, side A)

Mr. Barrett: ...and it was hot, they...

Dwight Daniel: This is tape 3, side B of the oral history interview of Lawrence A. Barrett.
Interviewer Dwight D. Daniel.

Now I have a question for you on H-43A...that's kind of cool stuff. Uh, I didn't realize about the climb being forty-five knots.

Mr. Barrett: That was best climb.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, I did not know that.

Mr. Barrett: Best climb for fuel consumption; rate of climb and air speed. In the helicopters there's a phenomenon called a Dead Man's Curve. This was a function of density altitude...then altitude...uh excuse me, altitude/elevation

above the ground and forward velocity. Now...and you would look at that in the back of the Dash One handbook, and if you were in the Dead Man zone...normally, if you had an engine failure, you could not auto-rotate and recover.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: I did Dead Man Zone...actual auto-rotations demonstrations at Stead Air Force Base and it just frightened my...my colleagues...

Dwight Daniel: I can understand that!

Mr. Barrett: ...because they thought they were going to...we were going to finish and I would make an actual power-off, touchdown auto-rotation vertically.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: No roll, in other words I would stop in a hover...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...stop in a hover for about two seconds; pull up the rest of the collective and then touchdown.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: And we had what they called bear paws...

Dwight Daniel: Man that's cool!

Mr. Barrett: ...on...on the landing gear so we could land on tundra and swamp...(unintelligible)...un-amphibian.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: But therein is another story. I took a...the density altitude was well above twelve thousand feet.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: A hunter had been shot a few weekends earlier and I was asked would I put the aircraft on strip alert and I said, "Certainly!" Well this was a Saturday afternoon and I'm having lunch at the Officers Club and in came this Instructor Pilot and he said, "We just had a shooting, a hunter, up in,"...I can't remember where it was...but with my GPS in my automobile I could tell you. We went up there and I did a low, slow air speed reconnaissance...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I looked and I said, "Oh boy!" And his name was Ishinaga (sp?), and I said, "Ish,"...

Dwight Daniel: Now this was Alaska or Canada?

Mr. Barrett: No, no, this...this is Stead Air Force Base...

Dwight Daniel: Oh okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...the difference in the elevations...

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...that you could have...this kind of flora...fauna...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...extremely high evergreen trees and a very lush meadow...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...that was a swamp, and I said, "Well what was he doing up here?" And he said, "He was hunting deer, but..." ...he...he had his license and everything. I said, "Oh, okay." So we came back around; I made another pass and I came back around and made a no-hover landing...

Dwight Daniel: Ohh, cool!

Mr. Barrett: ...and he said, "Oh!" And I said, "What's the matter?" And he said, "How we going to get the helicopter out of here?" I said, "We're going to take it off." He said, "You going to hover?" I said, "No, I'm going to make a jump take off." He said, "Well how you going to get these bear paws up out of the..."...the water was now over all four gears.

Dwight Daniel: Right. Well that's what I was wondering.

Mr. Barrett: So the suction would have used so much power to break loose...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...so I said, "No I'm going to use the technique that Al Newton had shown me"...that I...that I had demonstrated earlier to the Marines...that summer down at Tussen (sp?) with their HOK.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Now here I am in an H-43 which is really an HOK...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and it's heavier because of the tail system. We're heavy because I now have the Instructor Pilot and a Crew Chief who didn't belong there; he was a Medic and we're at...over twelve thousand feet of density...

Dwight Daniel: So how you going to do this now? This is got to hear!

Mr. Barrett: Well I got to demonstrate this because there are pilots there from Air Training Command who are doing an evaluation; I didn't know it.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: I didn't know that I was being evaluated...not by the test pilots from Edwards, but from the operational pilots in Training Command.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I knew them; I'd flown in combat with them.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well, I said, "Okay," I said, "Ish, I...I'm going to talk to you; I'll put it on a hot mike and leave it on hot mike...and that way I won't have to squeeze the trigger."

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: And I said, "Please don't...don't smoke." See he had been smoking, so I said, "Don't smoke!"

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: And at that time I didn't smoke either. I gave up smoking back in '55. Flight Surg...Flight Surgeon scared the devil out of me!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, let's go back to this take off. This I got to hear.

Mr. Barrett: Well anyway...again, neutral...uh, pedals...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...but I had my feet just with my tippy toes on the pedal...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...because I was trying to plot my...my air speed for leaving this place...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and highest trees were right ahead of me and that's what I aimed for.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: The highest trees because they came along the side of the bubble. Now if I had a tail rotor or if I'd had a regular rotor, I'd of had trouble!

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Barrett: I would have...I would have been chopping the top of all the trees and we would not have made it out of there.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, cool!

Mr. Barrett: Alright, so I then lifted up...light on the oleos...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and kept bouncing it until all of a sudden...

Dwight Daniel: Oh okay!

Mr. Barrett: ...the bear paws are now out of the water.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Barrett: I danced a little bit trying to find another piece of tundra that I could...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I couldn't find it, so what I did was sort of a downward collective, up and full throttle and a little bit of forward cyclic...so I went like this (demonstrates motion)...

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: ...and I'm heading right for the...the tallest evergreen trees!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: And he's like this!

Dwight Daniel: I can understand.

Mr. Barrett: And he says, “We’re going to crash; we’re going to crash!” The tree hit the bubble...and went around us.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: Well we had scratches on the side of the aircraft; no big deal. My...my Crew Chief, Ed...Ed Kelliher fixed them...Red Kelliher...

Dwight Daniel: Amazing!

Mr. Barrett: ...(unintelligible) Schnieder (sp?) then took out a Danny Thomas cigar; he lit it and he said,...and he was...he had...they were both *pale*...

Dwight Daniel: I can understand that!

Mr. Barrett: ...he...he almost became...became nauseous. He said, “I’ve never been so frightened in my life!” He said, “How often do you do that?” And I said, “Whenever anybody from Air Training Command says to me, ‘Can we land.’” I said, “Now go find me another hilltop to land on.”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He said, “Why?” I said, “Because I was landing at fourteen thousand,”...or whatever it is at Pikes Peak...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...(unintelligible) one of the...I think Mount Whitney’s the highest peak...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and at one time I knew the elevation at Pikes Peak and it’s not far behind it. And he said, “I didn’t know it had this altitude capability.” And I said, “Well, not only that, the downwash forces the flames of a crashed aircraft so that it parts it...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and the...the aluminum suited...and by the way they were using asbestos gloves...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: No, no...at that time...no, excuse me, no, no...to go in to recov...and they actually used this at Willington, North Carolina when a 123 support aircraft for a Thunderbird crashed and burned on the runway!

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: And because it has an internal one-piece main spa (sp?) and that's where the dehigital (sp?) is...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...that rotated this way and crushed the...uh...

Dwight Daniel: The cabin?

Mr. Barrett: ...the cabin.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Now the pilot's name was John, but they called him Jack Armstrong...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...he didn't even get an Atta boy...

Dwight Daniel: Huh!

Mr. Barrett: Didn't get an achievement; didn't get a...to me it's...to serve...it's a Distinguished Flying Cross because that was an aerial achievement that no other pilot ever did with any helicopter in peace time...actually it was the Airmen's Medal...

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible)...matter of fact, he left the Air Force shortly after that.

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: Not only...well he was very disillusioned; he said, "I don't understand why the Air Force a) never awarded the Medal of Honor to a living recipient in the Korean War.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Finally two helicopter pilots received it; Fleming (sp?) and Jerry Young (sp?); I knew Jerry Young quite well. Jerry got it and he refused it, by the way.

Dwight Daniel: Oh I didn't know that.

Mr. Barrett: Yes. It...it took several Generals to convince him that LBJ was going to pin it on him in the Garden at the Dedication of the Medal of Honor Hall in the Pentagon – he was the Air Force representative.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And he said, "No, I don't deserve it. If I get the Medal of Honor, everybody on my crew gets it."

Dwight Daniel: Right, they don't do that.

Mr. Barrett: This is like...that...the one with the...the China Marine...uh, oh he played the part of this intelligence Lieutenant Colonel who had been shot down...

Dwight Daniel: Gene Hackman.

Mr. Barrett: Yes! Gene Hackman is...is China Marine, by the way.

Dwight Daniel: I didn't know that.

Mr. Barrett: Oh yeah.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: He played the part as that Lieutenant Colonel, Iceal Hamilton, or...anyway...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...he...he invaded because he would call out (unintelligible) of golf courses throughout the Air Force.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Now he didn't get anything.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I know he didn't, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: There was a fellow who picked him up...I think that's the Medal of Honor...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I can't remember.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, it was...I think a Navy pilot picked him up. I think we have to *really* review why we have awards and decorations. And there was a wonderful General who wanted to be the Chief of Staff; he didn't make it, but Charles Gabriel did. The one thing that he would do is he would give a speech...this is at the air staff, "Why do we have awards,"...and he would go back to the legionnaires...

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...and the legionnaires would have these *large* medals...

Dwight Daniel: Yes.

Mr. Barrett: ...and that was like a magnet for the attacking opposing forces because that's where the emperor or the head legionnaire was...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ...and that's the history of awards and decorations. But the Air Force and again this is...I'm speaking or myself...does not do a good job at all. They finally recognized V for valor.

Dwight Daniel: But the Marines do a better job.

Mr. Barrett: Oh absolutely!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, they're trained better in how to write the...the...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Well not only that...but it...it's just like an Officer's Effectiveness Report or an Airman's Performance Report...you don't get promoted. The person that gets promoted rendered the report on you.

Dwight Daniel: Right, that's right!

Mr. Barrett: That's right, and interestingly...oh, that was another thing that concerned the people going back on active duty, and I'll just segue for a moment. I was a Lieutenant Colonel; I had five active duty regular Majors working for me and I guaranteed them that I'd get...not all of them, but I'd get some of them promoted to Brigadier General...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...at least and it was up to them after they made (unintelligible)...(recording interrupted momentarily).

Mr. Barrett: I'll just finish that segue.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, go ahead.

Mr. Barrett: Finishing that segue...because the air staff was the same as a major command, I had access to the command records on each of these individuals. I went up there; I knew the personnel clerk and she allowed me to read them, so I made

notes. And then I went down and I had lunch individually in the dining room which...if you've ever been to the Pentagon...you can have a nice quiet corner. And I assured each one of them that I had been rated more times than they would ever be rated because in industry my...my pay raise was based on my...my *merit* raise was based on my...my report and I always succeeded in getting a merit increase with the...the two companies I worked for – Kaman Aircraft and Sikorsky. And I said also I could be fired.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: 'Cause...there was no union in Kaman and I was not in any...there was no white collar union at Sikorsky. Well the one fellow's name was Edsel Field and I looked at his record; this was a young man that went from a high school education that he was requested by Kent State to stay there to get his Doctorate in Business Administration. But he said, "No, I've got to go; I have to serve in Vietnam simply because I...you know, I...I'm here in the Air Force not to be a student but to be a...a combat pilot.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He flew 123s; he came back and that's when I met him.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: He was so bright that I would say to them individually, "When you go to this meeting, I don't want to go because I don't have time but you are representing the Chief of Air Force Reserve,"...at that time was a two-star General...he is now a three-star General. And we would discuss things like the use of a range for the F105; we also discussed the National Command Authorities and how it

fit into the mobilization of the Reserve forces. Call and recall only applies to the Militia and the National Guard.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And...but that word is used...like decimate...it...it...incorrectly and improperly used. Well Ed Field got to be so capable that I replied upon him disproportionately to the other four. I counseled one of them; I said, "If you don't lose weight, you're never going to make Colonel,"... 'cause he'd been...but they were all promoted to Lieutenant Colonel while I was still Lieutenant Colonel. And I said, "Remember, I write your Fitness Report. You're...oh yeah...and that's what's going to get your promoted; nothing else."

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: Well I have to say with great pride that Ed Field ended up as a Brigadier General.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: Now he retired early and I don't know why. He was the...the Wing Commander of the Tactical Airlift Wing at Pope Air Force Base. And he had another assignment after that, but I understand that his high level of morals which he and I shared caused him his early retirement as a Brigadier because it was a General who wanted him to do something and he said, "No, I won't." And he said, "Then I think you'd better retire."

Dwight Daniel: Now let...let's talk about some more...any...any other cool stuff about...test pilots.

Mr. Barrett: Oh wow! Okay...

Dwight Daniel: I mean you got the thing to dance which is unreal!

Mr. Barrett: Okay, well Al would loop the helicopter.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: No, I'm serious.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: Because...because it was a semi-rigid teetering type of blade system very similar to the Bell and Hiller, but they were made...they were a composite blade; they were not metal blades.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: They were...they were a composite of fiberglass; high quality wood...and of course, I would never tell the people I was flying with...that we were flying with wooden blades.

Dwight Daniel: Right; I didn't realize they wood.

Mr. Barrett: And...and when it came apart...and I can tell you that story. When I...when I was flying a then Colonel who later became a three-star General, my cohort was making rolling full auto rotations. Well he made a rolling full auto rotation into a gun butt.

Dwight Daniel: Oh!

Mr. Barrett: So...what happened...the gear went down into the nose wheel of the depression part and tore the blades apart.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Well I mean...that unglued people because there was wood flying all over Langley Air Force Base.

Dwight Daniel: Right, wow!

Mr. Barrett: Well we tried to keep it quiet; they...they got a commercial flatbed truck to...to put that good old make-believe H-43A and take it back up to Bloomfield. Well all they did was put on a new set of blades.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Now they could have...the...the wiser thing would have been to fly a set of blades down...

Dwight Daniel: down...

Mr. Barrett: ...*at night*...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...put the new blades on...we were both experienced production test pilots so we could make the (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Well it unfortunately caused a lot of grief for the company and for us individually as pilots because people would say, "Those blades are made of wood." I'd say, "No they're not." "But...oh, but...you can..." I said, "Look, they rotate; they rotate." Ground fire...and this was proven with the H-9...H-43B...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...in combat; they took so much battle damage. They would take more battle damage than any other helicopter flying in Vietnam! And in Thailand!

Dwight Daniel: Right! (Unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: And then we get battle dam...believe me, they got battle damage because they flew into Laos where they weren't supposed to be.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And I've got some other segues on that...but it has nothing to do with me directly. It's not hearsay because I know the people...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...who flew for Air America...who flew for the CIA.

Dwight Daniel: Now anything thing else happen when you...as a production test flight pilot?

Mr. Barrett: Uh okay...

Dwight Daniel: I know we've been to Pike's Peak already!

Mr. Barrett: Alright, well let me tell you a segue here. I had a very dear friend who was an Armenian who was the most incredible sales manager, salesman who ended up representing Dayton Tires and he also had a Harley Davidson distributors...also a distributor of a...I'll get it in just minute...chauffeur-driven limos; he also had a London cab. He ended up with over fifty people working for him in his tires, batteries, and accessories. His name is Leo...Leon Karian (sp?). Now Leon bought a tri-pacer...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...and because he was a very smart business man, it became a business airplane for Franklin Office Supply.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So I said, “Why don’t you come on over and you’ll be a...you’ll be a com...a colonel in the Armenian air force and I’ll get you a flight in the helicopter.”

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Well he came and he landed at the facility and the vice-president who knew me very well, he said, “Who’s coming in?” I said, “A colonel from the Armenian air force.” And he said, “I didn’t know they had an air force.” I said, “Ah, Bill, they have all kinds of things; they even have a navy.”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So he (unintelligible) navy, but anyway he said, “Alright, I’ll believe you because I trust you. What do you want to do?” I said, “I want you to take him on the most god-awful demonstration,” I said, “do everything including a loop!”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He said, “Oh, I don’t dare do that because Charlie would be unhappy.”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He turned that helicopter inside out! He even banged the tail!

Dwight Daniel: You’re kidding!

Mr. Barrett: No, this was an HO...HUK going to the Navy.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: No problem, because nobody was around and saw it, so they checked it; they replaced the tail with another one...they (unintelligible)...detachment points. But Leon got out of that helicopter and he said, “You do that?!” And I said,

“Yeah, we also loop it!” He said, “Oh my god, I’m going to get out of here!”
He landed in an incredible crosswind...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: This was a private pilot; he knew how to do it.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Gear down on the up wind side because this was a wind out of the north and the runway was east-west.

Dwight Daniel: Right . Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Well of course it didn’t make any difference to the helicopters because we never landed airplanes.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: But he landed his airplane on this grass strip out in the tobacco country in Bloomfield, Connecticut.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: And to this day whenever I...I talk to him, he’ll say, “You going to take me on a helicopter flight?” I said, “Leon, I don’t fly helicopters anymore,” I said, “They promoted me beyond that.”

Dwight Daniel: Now where was the factory?

Mr. Barrett: The factory was in Bloomfield, Connecticut; it was a Naval facility and...

Dwight Daniel: Okay, that’s what I thought. So how’d you get to Pike’s Peak with one of these things then?

Mr. Barrett: Well that was the...the make-believe H-20...uh, H-43A that we were flying to...a...(unintelligible)...as an example, Air Defense Command, I flew Jared

Crab (sp?)...well, I flew all of the Generals and if they looked like they could handle it, I flew in the co-pilot seat. They didn't realize they were flying in the pilot seat because they were in the right seat and they didn't know that this was the first pilot. I said, "Hey I don't have any brakes."

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: "Why am I over here?" I said, "Because I want you to see how the rescue hoist is going to work because it's on the..."

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay so you're not just ferrying people around then when you...?

Mr. Barrett: I was giving them orientation flights.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha.

Mr. Barrett: But I went beyond...beyond what I was supposed to do.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Barrett: We went out and made several practice recoveries and the Crew Chief...and by the way, he was not covered by insurance to ride on that rescue hoist.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: So we would do this much in violation of the company policies. The Air Force never knew I was doing it; they'd have scalped me because all we were supposed to do was give these people and orientation flight. But having been there and done that I said, "That's not going to impress them; I have to show them the capability."

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And I would do power off; hovering out of rotation.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And they, not being helicopter pilots, were...were awestruck.

Dwight Daniel: I understand that; I'd be awestruck, too!

Mr. Barrett: They said, "My god, I didn't helicopters can do that!" I said, "No Air Force helicopter can do this." I said, "Only a Kaman Synchropter can do that."

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay.

Mr. Barrett: And then I would have to tell them about Hanna Reitsch who set all the world's records in the Sports Palace in Berlin in 1936 and I also said she was the only civilian who got the...the Iron Cross. I said, "But...she was not a Nazi; she was...she was a test pilot."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: She flew in the Buzzbomb.

Dwight Daniel: Yep, I know that.

Mr. Barrett: (Unintelligible sentence.) And you...you know this from history.

Dwight Daniel: Right, but a lot of people don't.

Mr. Barrett: That's right.

Dwight Daniel: She was the first one in real helicopter...yeah.

Mr. Barrett: She was the number one...she was the number one (unintelligible) girl.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: I was a Table Captain for Kaman Aircraft when Dwight Eisenhower was President. My wife, by the way, took a picture...much against the Secret Service... Hanna Reitsch was our guest.

Dwight Daniel: Oh cool!

Mr. Barrett: And...and Hanna now, of course this was about 1959...she was quite ambivalent about how she should behave and talk with people because after all they would brand her all...

Dwight Daniel: ...of the Nazis, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...these (unintelligible) things because she went in to try to rescue Hitler.

Dwight Daniel: Right! I know that, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And...he refused to come as did the field marshall that she brought in. I said, "She's an incredible aviator!" I...I'm not talking about her politics; it's just like Erich Hartmann...

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: ...and incredible aviator...not a Nazi by the way!

Dwight Daniel: Right, yeah, no...

Mr. Barrett: Okay, so Hanna is sitting there absolutely quiet; my wife leans over to her and speaks to her in German. Ah!...she brightened up and joined the party!

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Well, Charlie found out about this and he said, "You never told me that your wife...?" I said, "Well she can speak, read and write (unintelligible), German, and so on." He said, "How come?" I said, "Because she was there from 1938 to 1946."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Another segue; he bought a shepherd because he raised German shepherds for the...called Fidelco...that was for the sightless people, and also for police work and he'd purchased this beautiful animal in...in Germany. Now

(unintelligible) just come back from Seattle; she had twenty pounds of dried, incredible salmon. So I said, "Who would like some?" Charlie said, "Oh I love it!" I said, "Fine; we'll bring some over to your home." He said, "Well leave it outside." I said, "I don't want to do that..."

Dwight Daniel: Bad idea!

Mr. Barrett: ...bad idea! Well he had a study this big because he was a guitarist and this is where he made his recordings.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well Irey (sp?) was the name of this...I think it was Irey or Elsa...Elsa was the name of the dog. (Growl sound)...biggest, absolutely biggest shepherd I've ever seen; beautiful shepherd.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: My wife...my wife walks in and said, "Ah megesa (sp?)!" The dog's tail starts going...hadn't heard German in two weeks!

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Well the next thing...and she put the...the salmon container in the refrigerator. Well Charlie...we call him Charlie, even though he's the Chief Executive Officer...he said, "How did you get in the house?" I said, "CIA escorted us." I mean...I...I knew him well...personally and later he...he designated me as his personal representative to the Command and Rescue Service in Orlando. I had an office for two years. The worst mistake I ever made is I left Kaman Aircraft to go with Sun Life of Canada.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I probably would have...well anyway...they would have been my only employer; I left all those retirements behind.

Dwight Daniel: Because they bought up by Boeing, didn't they?

Mr. Barrett: No, no, no; it's a billion dollar corporation now.

Dwight Daniel: They still make helicopters?

Mr. Barrett: Yes!

Dwight Daniel: I didn't know that.

Mr. Barrett: They make the K-Max which is...if you go in and do logging...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...they do inspection repair. I ran stuff on the Seasprite...

Dwight Daniel: I didn't realize that.

Mr. Barrett: ...for the HU2K.

Dwight Daniel: I thought they...I thought sold the helicopter division.

Mr. Barrett: Oh no, they were (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: ...(unintelligible) okay, I didn't know that.

Mr. Barrett: And he can't...he can't speak anything other than Navy.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, I did not realize that!

Mr. Barrett: That's why it's still a Navy facility.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, okay, did not realize that.

Mr. Barrett: He has bought out...he makes Ovation guitar; sheet music...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...Kaman...oh, just incredible things!

Dwight Daniel: Okay, did not know that.

Mr. Barrett: Kaman Nuclear...at...uh, Colorado Springs was the first structure on this...Garden of the Gods Road. Well Ken Ashton (sp?) who was the number two man in the Manhattan Project was our vice president.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: He was trying to get tax abatement and so forth from...the city fathers of Colorado Springs. He went one step too far; he said, "Let's change the name of the road from Garden of the Gods to Kaman." And they said, "That's enough!" (laughter) So for twenty years, they paid no taxes.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: I couldn't find the building.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: There were so many contractors...and by the way, I...I gained a new disrespect for military people and one just died...an...an Air Force three-star who like the...went from Brigadier General...Major General...Lieutenant General...and I'll say this...General Motors, General Electric, etc...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...for nothing! These people were paid six figures...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I can name them right from the top...bottom down...four-star Generals that I knew very well. There's one-star Generals...there's Colonels...and the only reason I never went back there's a fellow by your name that I...I'll tell you that...off tape.

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Okay.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so...what was it like...what else did you do as a test pilot for these guys?

Mr. Barrett: Flew sideways as fast as we could.

Dwight Daniel: Why?

Mr. Barrett: Just...

Dwight Daniel: To make...?

Mr. Barrett: No, to make sure of controllability...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, no kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...because a crosswind...is probably...as opposed to a downwind is probably the most dangerous thing you can encounter particularly in mountain flying.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well when I was flying at Tussen with the Marines in the HOK...which does not have the same amount of controllability as the H-43A...

Dwight Daniel: Oh, I didn't know that. I thought they were basically the same model.

Mr. Barrett: No, this is why I said...we did that four-tail configuration...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...that was that test flight that I did at twelve thousand feet.

Dwight Daniel: So they never put the four-tail back on the other one?

Mr. Barrett: No, I...

Dwight Daniel: I did not know that.

Mr. Barrett: No, it was only on the H-43A model...

Dwight Daniel: Did not know that.

Mr. Barrett: ...was carried over to the H-43B model...gave you better controllability.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Well, what I would do is I would come in to make a...what we called a RAL...a rough area landing. Now unfortunately these aviators were fixed wing aviators who had just gone through helicopter school at Ellison and they couldn't even spell helicopter!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: And they had flown Sikorskys and Bells and they had never seen a Synchropter.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well the reason that I was there...Charlie called the Squadron Commander and said, "If I send a person out there to help you, will you use him?" He said, "Only if he has permission to fly." Well I had a letter from the Bureau of the Naval...Bureau of Aeronautics that permitted me to fly any airplane in the fleet made by Kaman Aircraft. That's why I feel I...I'm eligible for Naval Aviator Wings.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: I...I told the Major, Bob Warren, who'd been the dog robber for (unintelligible)...why he never made BG, I...I don't know. I said, "I'll do whatever you want me to do." And he said, "Well, will you fly alert if we have a rescue?" I said, "Absolutely!" I would crank up the helicopter in that blimp hangar...when the wind was too strong and I didn't want it to bang on the stops, and I said, "Would you get permission for me to..." he said, "No,

they will never give us permission.” I said, “Well okay, I’ll accept...I’ll accept all responsibility.” So I start the engine and engage the rotors enough that I could taxi out under full control. Those old...those Marines just stood there and said, “He’s crazy!” I said, “No, I’m not...not crazy I just don’t like the...the teetering of the rotor system to bang against the (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Stops, yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Right, bang against the stops. Well I came back and I told Ray Penio (sp?) who was the ExO...who by the way had just come there from Defense Attaché in London, England. We used standard...standardization evaluation in the Air Force; the Navy and the Marine Corps didn’t use it at that time. And I said, “You’ve got accidents looking for places to happen.” He said, “What do you mean?” I said, “These people should not be permitted to fly...solo!” And (unintelligible)...solo. I said, “He is going to crash a helicopter.” I made the mistake of showing him power chop; hovering auto rotations. I made the mistake of showing him how to recover around a dead man’s curve.

Dwight Daniel: And he tried it by himself.

Mr. Barrett: He tried it by himself; he did a vertical zero air speed auto rotation...an absolute no, no! As a test pilot I knew how to get of it; he didn’t.

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay.

Mr. Barrett: He crashed and burned; fortunately the aircraft did not catch fire. This was an auxiliary field which is now a shopping center overlooking Newport Beach.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, Newport, California. It was inside of Paul Manse's (sp?) museum. Of course Paul was still alive because they had not made...made the...the Flight of the...

Dwight Daniel: ...the Phoenix.

Mr. Barrett: Phoenix.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: He was killed...

Dwight Daniel: Right...

Mr. Barrett: ...trying to fly a cobbled up...anyway you know the story...

Dwight Daniel: ...third...third time through the third pass.

Mr. Barrett: That's right. And this was...Stewart, who was an incredible aviator, and...and it was a sad, sad way for a person to meet his death.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But anyway, I was now back in Bloomfield. And I get a personal telephone call from the squad commander. He said, "Uh, so and so, so and so." I said, "Well I told Major Penio." The major never told him.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Well, unfortunately...bad tidings; he got a bad fitness report...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...because he did not divulge what I had divulged to him...but I didn't mean not to tell the squadron commander.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: To me...I should have gone to the squadron commander because he class 26...he totally destroyed an HOK for absolutely no reason!

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: Stupidity! He was a good FEA (sp?) pilot which is an F-86, but he should have never been allowed to go to helicopter school...as most of those pilots. That's when I bumped into one of my former photo school playmates who became a colonel... Rensselaer, PhD...aeronautical engineering degree...who commanded the O&R or the (unintelligible) facility at Cherry Point. He now lives in Melbourne, Florida; he's a retired Marine Corps colonel, naval aviation; his name is Mel Steinberg (sp?)...Melvin Steinberg. I used to date and dance with his wife who he married; she was a Navy nurse; she was from Mendon, Massachusetts...I was from Hopedale, Massachusetts.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

Mr. Barrett: And we met them last year when we were traveling down to...Melbourne. We were visiting some friends. This man was a retired Air Force officer; he was in charge of the ground support equipment for the launching of the shuttles.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: And all I can say is they don't have enough ground support equipment.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah. Let me get back to...

Mr. Barrett: Okay.

Dwight Daniel: Now...you guys said you looped this thing?

Mr. Barrett: Yes.

Dwight Daniel: Now, if...if I remember correctly, the first helicopter that got credit for looping was either Sikorsky or Boeing...I think it was a Boeing.

Mr. Barrett: No, it was a Sikorsky, and the test pilot...I'll...I'll think of it in just a minute...uh, he at...at the time was the chief test pilot at Sikorsky; this was a Marine helicopter...I can't think of the designation now...

Dwight Daniel: But...did you guys...I thought you...it sounds like you guys beat him?

Mr. Barrett: Oh yes! Oh...Al...Al Newton and Bill Murray were the first...to my knowledge, to ever loop a helicopter.

Dwight Daniel: How...how come you guys...like...didn't get credit for it?

Mr. Barrett: Well because we didn't...we didn't have a good press corp.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay.

(end of tape 3, side B)

Mr. Barrett: ...well Al did so many...oh, I'm sorry.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, this is an oral history interview of Lawrence A. Barrett, World War II, Korean War veteran; retired as a Colonel in the Air Force. He was born 31 October, 1926. The interviewer is myself, Dwight D. Daniel, an oral history volunteer at the National Museum of the Pacific War located in Fredericksburg, Texas. Today is 11 November...uh, today is actually 12 November, 2005 and this interview is taking place at March Air Reserve Base, California. This interview is in support of the Pacific War Studies which is the archive for the preservation of historical information of the National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, Texas. This is tape 4, side A.

Now we're talking about looping a helicopter where the other guy's got credit for it just because you didn't have any film of it or didn't have the PR...that's too bad.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, well Al also looped a...a tip-powered...I'm trying to think of what you call it...god...it's like the buzzbomb...what is that jet called? You can only ignite it when you have a certain forward velocity...

Dwight Daniel: Ramjet.

Mr. Barrett: ...ramjet.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Okay. Charlie was the first company to ever marry the gas turbine with the helicopter...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...this was an HTK. He was the first to ever...have a...a small ramjet; the first one was Howard Hughes. And I don't know whether that was a ramjet or not but...they only made one.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And that was so typical of Hughes; they only made one because this behemoth was so large it could pick up this...this...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...this building that we're in right now! I would be great for loading and off-loading container ships if you could ever get close enough but...

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: ...the...the rotor span was so incredible and it would go (*wosh, wosh sound*).

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, and it flew down there at the facility in El Segundo just north of LAX. That was before MacDonald bought out Hughes and moved everything to Arizona.

Dwight Daniel: But...how did you loop this helicopter though? Let's talk about it; I mean...

Mr. Barrett: Alright, okay...how...how do you loop a helicopter? First thing is you have to have air speed.

Dwight Daniel: Absolutely!

Mr. Barrett: Then you have to have one G; you can go to neutral G, but you never want...never want a negative G because you'll fall out!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And you'll probably do structural damage...not only to the helicopter blade system...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...we call it the rotating system. Well it...it happened quite inadvertently. The first time it happened was flying through the Pali...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...on the island of Oahu with an HOK from Kaneohe going over to...

Dwight Daniel: No kidding.

Mr. Barrett: ...uh, Hickam...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...going over to Rodgers...the commercial field. Now what had happened...they were coming back through the Pali...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...now I flew there but they would not even approach the Pali with a CH3B and I told you I flew that one also...that was on a very covert mission for the Air Force.

Dwight Daniel: Uh-huh.

Mr. Barrett: Anyway, they hit the Pali and I guess the winds were excessive...in excess of a hundred miles...uh, a hundred knots...

Dwight Daniel: Phew!

Mr. Barrett: ...all of a sudden he's on his back!

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: No I'm serious!

Dwight Daniel: So that's how he did it!

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, it was inadvertent. Well, no problem because being a very...oh, he was a natural-born aviator...trained, but natural born...that he recovered simply by the manipulation of the collective pitch, the throttle...because it was a reciprocating engine helicopter and the cyclic stick.

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: And he said, "Wow, I'm going to do that again!" (laughter) So he got on the side of the Pali... Kaneohe as you know is on the north side of the island...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and of course you couldn't see the helicopter because it was painted...sort of a bluish color...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...so he tried loops!

Dwight Daniel: No kidding!

Mr. Barrett: And...and he discovered the...the optimum air speed in which...to achieve it through a dive...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and the manipulation of the collective and cyclic sticks...no problem! He had one G all the way around. I tried to do a barrel roll in a B-25 in Greece and the...we...we were all set...we were inverted...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and the mechanic who was the (unintelligible) was asleep; we were aviation cadets...came unglued.

Dwight Daniel: Alright.

Mr. Barrett: Well, we dished out, but...but we still had control because we were doing a barrel roll which you can do very easily in a B-25.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: We were inverted and the...I should have continued it. Now I didn't...I had not flown...this...I was an aviation cadet, I wasn't even an aviator in the Air Force yet...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I wasn't even a regular pilot.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: But I knew aerodynamics enough that if you had air speed and altitude and lots of power...that's what we did...we went up to about ten thousand

feet...the elevation at Reese was about thirty-three hundred above the...we came down...got the air speed...and I'm up here and that's when the crew chief came out and...so I dished out...it was sort of uncontrolled but I came out like this...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...no stall...plenty of air speed and I said, "Are you going to report us?" He said, "Oh god, no!" He said, "I'm not supposed to let you people do that!"

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: See, he was asleep.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, yeah, I understand.

Mr. Barrett: And we're not using the headset.

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay.

Mr. Barrett: We're talking back and forth... "Is he asleep yet?" "Yeah, he's asleep."
"Okay, now we can do it!"

Dwight Daniel: Now we can do it. (laughter)

Mr. Barrett: Well anyway...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: ...Al then discovered...to do that so he came back; he discussed it with Bill Murray who was a chief test pilot and he said, "Yes, of course we can loop it; my god all we need is altitude and air speed."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And of course with density altitude in the summer...excuse me, in the winter time in Connecticut...that...that was good, thick, heavy air...

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah, you had good flight weather!

Mr. Barrett: ...yeah, you...you would be below sea level...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...for density altitude. Well he...Bill Murray and Al would go up and practice these loops and then they told Charlie about it. Well Charlie unfortunately would not be able to testify to it nowadays, and I hope Bill Murray is still alive because if...if we want to get in touch with him, we'll call him. He (unintelligible) in...oh boy, Hartland...I can't think of where he lives now...it's quite a distance from Bloomfield...naval aviator who taught himself how to be a test pilot.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Al Newton, a civilian pilot who taught himself how to be a test pilot. The person who ended up as the vice president of flight operations was a marine aviator by the name of Al Ashley who taught himself how to be a test pilot. You know...I...I'm in that league; these people were all members of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots who never went through a test pilot school or test pilot training.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: So I asked Bob (unintelligible), "Who...who taught you?" He said, "(unintelligible)," ...never went to a test school.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: So he and Kelly Johnson used to sit down on Monday morning for fifteen minutes and discuss what he was going to do first with the U tube...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and then with the SR-71. The Air Force never flew the aircraft (unintelligible) capability. And what Kelly said to Bob was, "They're the customer..."

Dwight Daniel: Right, whatever they want.

Mr. Barrett: ...whatever they want. They flew 3.2 mach but he said they could do better than that.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah.

Mr. Barrett: But it was all classified.

Dwight Daniel: Right nobody knows they'll...they'll push that bird to.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, now...my classmate Pat Halloran (sp?) who failed to make major general...commander...here's the chief of staff here at 15th Air Force before he retired...Pat now lives out in Colorado Springs. I knew his brother, Father Jerome...Jerry Halloran (sp?) and I told Pat at a reunion a year ago that he could have been a director of a particular organization at about \$35,000 a year; he said, "Oh my god, I didn't know that; I'm going to call him back!" I said, "Well call him, but you're too old."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He said, "What do you mean?" I said, "They won't...they won't let you on the board...yet there was a nine...Art Linkletter is the member of so many boards and he's over ninety years old..."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I protested to vote for my organizations. I said, "You won't elect me because I am going to be eighty next year?!"

Dwight Daniel: ...but here's Art Linkletter...

Mr. Barrett: "Get a life! He's more than ten years my senior." And Pat...Pat who is younger than I is not eligible because he's too old!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I never heard anything so ridiculous in my life!

Dwight Daniel: When'd these guys loop this helicopter?

Mr. Barrett: Oh golly, that would have been...let's see I was hired in March of '58. The HOK...HOK and the HTK had been in...SCK (sp?) was too easy to fly so they never...no longer used it...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...at Pensacola. Oh golly, that had to be in the early '50s.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Oh no. This was way...

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: ...this was way...this was way before Sikorsky test pilots looped the one down there and I'm trying to think of his name.

Dwight Daniel: Well see...that...that's too bad they didn't use the PR because that was a big sales pitch for (unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: Oh right, and then Sikorsky later with Brian Glam (sp?) and Bob Guay (sp?)...Brian being a test pilot; Guay being a marine lieutenant colonel

representing the Bureau of Aeronautics...(unintelligible)...Bureau of Naval Weapons...for what reason I can't remember, but they took an H...CH-53...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I forget the altitude and the air speed...they successively looped it six times without stopping.

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: Well I used to show that sixteen millimeter...because then I was representing Sikorsky...and I won't tell you why they didn't hire me back and I won't tell you who he was, but the man had no morals, no morals. And he...he got United Aircraft and...and Sikorsky in deep trouble in the mid-east because of his lack of morality. And I understand that very much because I had been the international marketing manager for Republic and I refused to use grease money.

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah. Because (unintelligible) you got to do that.

Mr. Barrett: And...and it cost me my retirement. And I'm subject to UCMJ because I'm a retired reserve colonel.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, in...in the Middle East though that's considered normal.

Mr. Barrett: Well that's the way he did, but I...I wouldn't do that. I...I lost several contract opportunities in Bangkok...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, that's hard.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I knew the chief of staff of the Royal Thai Air Force and he said it right in plain English, "You pay me X dollars..."

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah!

Mr. Barrett: "...and I will do such and such." And I said, "(Unintelligible) and I can't do that." He said, "Well they did it for the admiral and he's got a gold studded Rolex." I said, "The Italians can do anything." What they did was rebuilt a...a destroyer...that was a United States destroyer that they sold because of this grease money...they sold it to the Royal Thai navy.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: There was so much...many...(unintelligible) passed hand...they're all millionaires; they're all graft every one of them.

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Barrett: The only one that didn't have graft, uh...I dealt with a consultant; his name is Roger de Santo de Baron (sp?), and he introduced me to this individual...and by the way, you could not bring in two-way radios. I brought in a two...two, two-way radios that I bought at Radio Shack.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well, this young man had so much power that they stopped me before I got through Passport Control and Immigration Control...but I hand carried them; I didn't put them in my luggage...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...because I probably would have had to go through a search.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: My bags were taken out...I don't know how they got it, but they got into the chauffeur-driven vehicle out in front of the terminal. The chauffeur used to own a Benz...Mercedes-Benz skull ring...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...which he sold for what he bought it for. He came here to go through four years college. I said, "Why are you a chauffeur?" Well I'm trying to think of the term that the older son inherits it all...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...alright...his father died...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...his mother...let me get it straight now...his mother married this indiv...this other person who had a son who was younger than he...(unintelligible) illegally stole the business from him and to make...the only way he could make a living here was as chauffeur because he could speak and even write English and he was my chauffeur when I got to Bangkok.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: And he had a photograph; it's got the skull ring. I said, "My god, where is it?" He said, "Oh I sold it." It was the car he had for four years when he went to the university here in California.

Dwight Daniel: Wow, wow!

Mr. Barrett: And I forget his name. But anyway, and I got a new view on the non-aggression act pact that the Thais signed with the Japanese and I even took my...my number one son...I have two sons. When he was a naval...oral maxillofacial surgeon I took him to the River Kwai so that he could see what the Japanese did; I have no love for the Japanese.

Dwight Daniel: Right, yeah. A question for you...

Mr. Barrett: Yes?

Dwight Daniel: You were a marketing rep for Sikorsky for awhile...

Mr. Barrett: Yes, what had happened...

Dwight Daniel: ...did you fly for them or just a marketing rep?

Mr. Barrett: I flew, uh back channel.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And...and I say that simply because having been paid on the payroll with no extra pay...I only got seventy-five hundred dollars a year...

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: ...at Kaman.

Dwight Daniel: Oh I didn't know that.

Mr. Barrett: No, no, because I was not a real test pilot, see? I was... quote...running the check out program for...I was a factory trained...I was a supervisor in the field service department. I was what they called a service operation (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay, I can understand you leaving then.

Mr. Barrett: Well I...I saw no future for me.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Because the test pilots would bid on the flights and...and receive these very fine (unintelligible) and they also received much more pay than I did.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: But I didn't know this until I went to a meeting one time and I heard them talking salaries. My god, they were making three times what I was making!

Dwight Daniel: Right, you decided maybe I need to...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: So I decided maybe I need to go someplace else, so that's when I went with Sun Life...and that was a big mistake.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Then, very fortunately, uh it came at an (unintelligible) time they needed somebody at Sikorsky in marketing. I owe that job to a man who is no longer alive; he should have been a general; his name was Theodor P. Tatum...he was *Mister Rescue*. He kept every commander of rescue out of trouble. He commanded so many units that required a brigadier general...in...in the Air Force, you know, as your wing commander is a brigadier general slot. He commanded the wing at McChord; he commanded an entire command which was Photo Mapping but it became Geodetic Air Mapping...that was a brigadier general...that was at Forbes Air Force Base in Topeka and I said, I called him Ted because I knew him when he was a major and I was a captain. And people said, "He's colonel to them." I said, "He's still (unintelligible)," and I said, "We were going to name our son after him, but we named our son Todd." And because he was born on Monday, to us he's Todd Christopher.

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay!

Mr. Barrett: But...but (unintelligible) is named after Theodor P. Tatum, Ted Tatum.

Dwight Daniel: Gotcha!

Mr. Barrett: Ted died, quite sadly, of lung cancer and many other complications, and his wife, Beverly...a sweetheart...just died.

Dwight Daniel: Okay, so you didn't...you didn't do that much flying for Sikorsky then?

Mr. Barrett: No, what...what I would do is...I would go to the different bases...okay, they moved the H3 simulator to main side at Eglin...

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Uh, I'll name names now...Baylor Haynes (sp?) later became a colonel and I'll tell you why he didn't get to be a general...was the first golly green...

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay.

Mr. Barrett: ...and he...he came to me and he said, "Hey, Larry,"...they called me Lorenzo, "Hey Lorenzo, uh, we getting a vibration, uh (unintelligible) high freq...coming back through the pedals." And I said, "Well it's got to be a tail rotor. Medium frequency would be one of the transmissions...probably the intermediate transmission back at the tail...a low one for one would be the main rotor."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So I said, "You know basic aeronautics...we learned that at helicopter school." And he said, "Oh, (unintelligible)." I said, "Have you checked it?" And he said, "How." I said, "Well I'm not supposed to tell you that because I used to do this at Kaman...we jury-rigged a...a device with strip rubber that...and we coated the tail rotor blades with chalk. We held this horizontally to see what that blade was doing..."

Dwight Daniel: Oh...(unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: It was wandering all over the place.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well it was going to be a structural failure.

Dwight Daniel: Uh-hum.

Mr. Barrett: Not a design failure; not a pilot failure...it probably...had they flown it over the gulf, they...they would have crashed into the gulf as they did with an H-53...they never knew what the problem was. And by the way, I was deeply involved in air refueling concept...and now what is practical...and by the way...Vertal (sp?) copied it and they now air refuel the (unintelligible) up. It got all started with the...with the CH-3 at Cherry Point where they flew after, and I missed the flight at...Patterson because the pilot felt that I would be...I said, "Look, I can fly as a reserve officer; I won't involve Sikorsky at all." And that was proximity; they found out that the helicopter was drafted behind a 130...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...it had actually had a power reduction.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, then they brought a...a larger basket...right out here in El..El (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...Sach and Fletcher (sp?)...so that it would fly up where they needed it. Okay, they go down to Cherry Point and they have this jury-rigged big basket from Sach and Fletcher...and this is December, I think, of 1965. And by the way, I met Bob Warrenton (sp?); he's now colonel on the staff of...there at Cherry Point which is right across from where I lived as a corporal in the Marine Corps in 1944 and as a platoon sergeant in 1947. Take

off...voila!...the...the probe was off the nose of the 130; they plugged into this KC Marine Corps 130. The concept is now proven!

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: Now they got to go back and...and I'll share with you later the challenges I had with this person who has a name like yours. The mechanical engineers then came up with a device that was on the right hand side because that's where the pilot sits that he could track it...and it goes out...not beyond the (unintelligible)...plane. Now that means you've got to be very careful in rough weather that when you engage the...the basket...then you fly up.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Because you have disengagement then the basket will fly down; it won't into the rotor.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: And they think that what...think that what happened to the...to the HH-53...had to do something with an intersection...it was a night...they're refueling over the Gulf of Mexico in the weather.

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: Wow!

Dwight Daniel: That's heavy duty!

Mr. Barrett: That's heavy duty!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: But anyway, they never recovered...to...to the best of my knowledge, I was a civilian at the time, so I was not involved in flight safety...which I ended up

my active duty. By the way, I...I'm not a career military man 'cause I just barely made twenty years in thirty-five years, but I've been wearing my uniform one way or another since 1943. You saw me in uniform when I came in here.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Its now 2005 and I still fit that uniform.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah I saw that. So the uh,...so what else did you do for the...the in-flight fuel (unintelligible)?

Mr. Barrett: What I did...we...we went out...off of main side at Eglin and I rode along on my pink ID card as reserve major. And a fellow by the name of Larry Butera (sp?) was the pilot; he late...later received the Legion of Merit for what he did on deploying H-53s to Southeast Asia...by the way, by air refueling...quite contrary to what the engineers wanted us to do...

Dwight Daniel: Right...haul them over.

Mr. Barrett: ...yeah, well, plus they wanted to put all the...they wanted to have the 130 fly behind the helicopter and refuel that way. Oh...(unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: (Unintelligible).

Mr. Barrett: You know what a helicopter is? It...it...well it's like a horse and a camel.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: A camel is a horse designed by engineers.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well anyway, Larry and I took the chopper out and he put me in the right seat which is the pilot and command seat; he said, "Have you flown this before?"

“Of course I’ve flown it before, yeah...I...I’m a command pilot, you know that.” So we went out and we did things with that H-3 that he had never done and I had never done because I had hadn’t flown it! But I didn’t tell him that.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: But a helicopter is a helicopter.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And having flown the H-19, the Hiller and the Bell...that’s a tail rotor helicopter; they’re all the same; it’s just a little bit bigger.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Well what we did was to increase...slowly...altitude and speed. And then we would dive it...

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: ...to exceed the speed that you would get with full power, full collective, and so on.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And this thing is *buzzing*! And I said, “Larry, we’re going to lose the tail rotor; *there’s something wrong back there.*”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So then we slowed down...very gingerly came back to main side and that’s when we did the (unintelligible) tracking. Again, this...boy, if anybody had ever found out, I’d of been fired; they’d have been court-martialed...but anyway they saved the helicopter and they saved lives because there was something *mechanically wrong* starting at the...the transition of the mid-case

going up to the...there's another transmission there. This is why you lose horsepower in a single-rotor...tail rotor helicopter. You've got all these changes of direction.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right!

Mr. Barrett: Synchropter...you're plugged into the transmission...

Dwight Daniel: Right, you don't have a problem.

Mr. Barrett: That's even better than a Vertal or...a horizontally disposed...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...so you're getting as much horsepower out of that turbine engine as you can possibly develop. As a matter of fact, you had to de-rate it.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And what de-rating gives you, as you know, you maintain sea level power particularly on a cold day. You can go, as an example, on top of Pike's Peak, you can go to Mount Whitney and you're still developing power not exceeding the dynamic capability of the transmission. Those are things that you don't tell operational pilots about because like the pilot I checked out in the H-43A, he did a zero air speed, auto rotation...but thank Christ he kicked it out at the last minute and made a touchdown auto rotate...because he didn't have any power. He'd chopped the throttle!

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay!

Mr. Barrett: But I demonstrated it to him; that was the last time I ever did that...to an operational pilot.

Dwight Daniel: Demonstrate anything...

Mr. Barrett: Well when he got back to Laredo, they had H-43B models; guess what? They had a power failure because of the confidence that this young man had gained from flying with me in an H-43A model. He made a rolling landing, on the gear...not the nose gear...of an H-19B model; he did not drag the tail and slowed down and he (unintelligible).

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: He didn't even get an Atta boy for saving that helicopter.

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: Now what it was...engine failure; it blew a cylinder.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: And that happened...oh, more often than not. Sikorsky was not responsible for it; these were the miserable engines that were furnished as government...government-furnished equipment!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And we were always blowing jugs because you develop five hundred horsepower from a five cylinder engine.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: That's a hundred horsepower from each cylinder!

Dwight Daniel: Geez!

Mr. Barrett: Oh, I...I got another story about...

Dwight Daniel: What else did you do on the aero-refuel...getting back to that?

Mr. Barrett: Okay, we brought that from...let's call it...on paper to a proximity flight to a...let's call it a Y test...a field test with a company (unintelligible)

airplane...(unintelligible) Sikorsky, it was not a...an Air Force...if it had crashed that was Sikorsky...

Dwight Daniel: Sikorsky, so also...

Mr. Barrett: ...Sikorsky test pilots. They wouldn't even permit the Air Force project pilot from assistant program office to ride in the aircraft.

Dwight Daniel: I can understand that.

Mr. Barrett: Because they didn't for him...they didn't want to be responsible for his death. The Marine Corps signed all kinds of waivers so they could use KC-130...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...and this at Cherry Point...

Dwight Daniel: Whoa!

Mr. Barrett: ...and then we sent a telegram back just like the Wright brothers did...then their flight at Kitty Hawk... "Mission successful, transferred fuel." Well what it was...was a dummy...uh, nozzle that sprayed fuel all over the windshield. (laughter) So that was it, and from that point on, they then designed at Sikorsky the boom which is a retractable boom...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...on the starboard on the right hand side of the aircraft and that's history. The next flight that I arranged back channel with this Colonel Haynes who was then, I think, a lieutenant colonel. Because I was the go between we convince headquarters Air Force and Rescue and MAC to fly non-stop air refuel from Naval Air Station Brooklyn to Libeauje (sp?) in 1967.

Dwight Daniel: You're kidding!

Mr. Barrett: Did it with two helicopters. I have the diplomas and I should have brought them with them.

Dwight Daniel: I remember that!

Mr. Barrett: Alright...I...I have those diplomas.

Dwight Daniel: You said it was 1967, right?

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, May 1967. You know why I wasn't there?

Dwight Daniel: Why?

Mr. Barrett: Because the chairman of the board at United Aircraft said too many people were going to Libeauje.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: I had already bought a car in Wolfsburg; my wife had to go pick it up because she speaks German.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: She flew by herself; I had to pay for it. The company didn't pay for anything. I was going to take vacation and go pick up the car and take my vacation. I've never been to Europe except...I never left the facility...I was at Rhein-Main once and I spent twenty-four hours in Amsterdam, but I slept most of the time because I was...my clock was on...Bangkok time and I was on my way to my son's graduation from Georgetown (unintelligible). You know he...he was a Navy scholarship student; that was 1981.

Dwight Daniel: Now Libeauje, you mean the Paris Air Show, right?

Mr. Barrett: That's right.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Now who showed up and who was in the background...Leo Sikorsky.

Dwight Daniel: I remember this.

Mr. Barrett: He...he had his cap on.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah...he had...

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, he and I would wear caps. He used to work for (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: ...but then he's standing in the crowd.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: There was a two-star by the name of O'Sal (sp?), and I got to know him...he turned around and said, "Oh, Mr. Sikorsky!" He never told anybody he was coming! He had his secretary make reservations...see, he was on contract. He was so proud of the fact...he signed a contract every single year. So I listened to these people...oh, by the way, there's an upheaval in the overpayment of executives...it was in the LA Times yesterday in the business...these people have to be brought to the bar or the stockholders...they spend too much of the stockholders' money.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And this person that did not hire me back at Sikorsky was the worst of the worst. He was written up in a book that told how bad we behaved in the Mid East. Now if I had ever done that when I worked for Republic Aircraft, I would have lost my military retirement pay...

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: ...I could have been court-martialed. Ah, he's the chairman of the board (unintelligible)...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...well anyway.

Dwight Daniel: So you missed Libeauje...

Mr. Barrett: Yes, I didn't go. My wife went but she...

Dwight Daniel: That's too bad.

Mr. Barrett: ...yeah. My wife then visited...

Dwight Daniel: 'Cause I remember that was a big thing...those two helicopters getting over there.

Mr. Barrett: Oh yeah, oh yeah! And this was Herb...Herb Zinder (sp?) and a fellow by the name of M-a-u-r-a-s...not Morris, but...M-a-u-r-e-s...or r-a-s. One was a coonie from New Orleans. Herb was...he was a gentleman's gentleman with a...

Dwight Daniel: ...a little mustache.

Mr. Barrett: ...little thin, black mustache.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: Lady's man. Now what happened...because they flew this...I then contacted my cohorts at Rescue and I said, "Why don't you have them come to the plant?" I was never visible because I...I was concerned that people would...would say conflict of interest.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And sure enough I...I got the management...invited them and the Air Force said fine...and the entire air crews and their wives all came to Sikorsky.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: Now one of them was a favorite friend of mine; he was a flight surgeon by the name of Buckley (sp?)...segue; he was working at Bexar...B-e-x-a-r in San Antonio...they did this on exchange of surgeons and they were doing caesarean C-sections on women. Well they would cut and slash and he said, "That's no way to treat these women." He said, "We have to make the smallest possible entry to get the child's head out."

Dwight Daniel: Right, and no more...

Mr. Barrett: And they had a contest...from then on out...

Dwight Daniel: Ah, who could make the smallest...

Mr. Barrett: ...who could make the smallest hole and get the child out.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, that's cool! Now let me...because we're going to run out a little bit of time here.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, yeah.

Dwight Daniel: I notice here that from December...29 December, 1969 to 30 November, '78 you were a multi-engine aircraft commander.

Mr. Barrett: Alright, what happened...

Dwight Daniel: Were you on flight status or...?

Mr. Barrett: Yes I was.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: I...I was still on flight status...now is my other capacity as a reservist.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Went from the Little Red School House...I tried to get into the International Guard, but I didn't have a thousand hours of F-100 time, and that's what they needed...

Dwight Daniel: That's what they needed.

Mr. Barrett: ...to be in the Connecticut International Guard. They now have A-10s by the way. I then went into C-119s and I'd just been hired at Kaman and because I was exempt...it almost cost me my job because I had to go for two weeks of ground school for 130. I told Les Morris who was Igor's first test pilot...and he was my then boss...I said, "I will come to work," ...I was...my family was still in Rhode Island...I said, "I will work every night; I will work eight hours every day." He said, "You can't do that," he said, "Because I have to pay you...oh, so you're here," he says, "You walk in I pay you for eight hours." I said, "Less, I've got to learn Kaman. I will come in here and I will be here for eight hours; I will come in early in the morning..."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ... "then I'll go to Bradley; I'll go to his school; I'll get out as soon as I can get out and I'll come back here," and they gave me a key.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: And I worked...more than eight hours...every day that I went to ground school for 119. I later became a select aircraft commander which meant I had a clearance to fly nuclear weapons; I had a top secret special intelligence clearance; I did not have a special compartmented intelligence clearance.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And of course, there are...oh, there are intelligence clearances beyond that...cosmic and so on, but I never had a need to know.

Dwight Daniel: So...so where did you fly these birds?

Mr. Barrett: We flew these out of Bradley Field, Connecticut...

Dwight Daniel: Okay, you flew...?

Mr. Barrett: We flew overseas; we flew overseas because we'd fly to Newfoundland.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And we would fly out over the Atlantic Ocean so that our navigators could get...practice on Moran (sp?).

Dwight Daniel: Ah okay, right!

Mr. Barrett: And we had combat crew integrity.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: That's why I...I...on the ribbons I had on...my uniform, I have...trying to think of what they call it...its...combat crew award...and I see people that wear oak leaf clusters and I say, "Well, I don't know what the prior...I don't know what the eligibility criteria now but I'm sure I'm eligible for it because I continued to fly those until...uh, Charlie Kaman had an office opened in Orlando, Florida and I was a one-man person there. I wouldn't take the job until I had a particular secretary...she was the secretary to the vice-president.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: And he said, "Do you know how much we're going to have to pay her?" I said, "I don't care, but I'm not going down there by myself!" 'Cause I not

only maintained the office...I traveled and I went to every single base they had...Kaman helicopters!

Dwight Daniel: Ah, okay!

Mr. Barrett: This was the behind the scenes...hold-handing and I would fly the helicopters to show to people...

Dwight Daniel: Right, right.

Mr. Barrett: ...how they could fly it. Joe Young...crashed in a helicopter at Cheyenne. Unfortunately it was not the problem of the mechanics of the Air Force, it was the tech reference at Sikorsky.

Dwight Daniel: Oh god!

Mr. Barrett: He installed a bolt upside down.

Dwight Daniel: Oh man!

Mr. Barrett: And when they did the safety it...and when the nut up the bolt fell out.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, that happens.

Mr. Barrett: If it had...had been installed properly...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, it may have...yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...Jerry, thank goodness, was always (unintelligible)...he went on later to be awarded the Medal of Honor; he's no longer alive...wonderful, wonderful person. He, by the way, was an aviation cadet graduate who had been in the Navy. The Air Force has given up the best program they ever had which was aviation cadet; they gave up the best ranks they ever had which were warrant officers. The jobs that the E-8s and E-9s now is not anywhere near what the Navy warrant officers...

Dwight Daniel: I know that.

Mr. Barrett: ...and limited duty officers...years...in the Marine Corps and...well, the Army as well. We're the only service that *does not* have warrant officers!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I know.

Mr. Barrett: Which is foolish!

Dwight Daniel: What else did you do when you were flying the C-119s? I mean was this just practice (unintelligible) or did you do anything else?

Mr. Barrett: Okay, how did I...how did I get to be a mobilization augmenties (unintelligible) flying...uh, first C-47s and then Convairs...the T-29...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...which was SAC airplanes, by the way. I was going to make a briefing on the status of the situation to General Joe Cunningham and Colonel Ted Tatum, as commander, vice commander of Rescue because this was part of my responsibility to keep them on what was going on. And Charlie would always call me and say, "Are you doing the job? Are you...?" "Yes, I am," I'd tell him what I said, and I also had a...a Twix machine in...in my office and that's why Helen was my incredible secretary because she would man that Twix machine...a TWX...you know...tele...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah, I know.

Mr. Barrett: nowadays you'd use a fax machine.

Dwight Daniel: I understand.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, and uh, I said to Vonice (sp?) Taylor, I said, "Vonice, would you please tell the General...I...I can't stick around 'cause I've got to take a trip. I

got...I'm on my way back up to a meeting at Kaman on Monday,"...this is Friday. So, the General interrupts his executive staff meeting and says, "Motor in here." So I motored in and I said, "Yes, sir?" He said, "Why you going back up there?" I said, "Well I got to pick up a 4360 engine down at McGuire and take it up to Loring. He said, "Well is Kaman in the air log business?" Tatum is sitting there with a big smile on his face; he said, "He's an Air Force Reservist; he flies the 119s at Bradley." He says, "At Bradley?!" "P.Y.,"...he looked at P.Y. Ridge (sp?)... "P.Y.," he said, "Do we have billetes (sp?) "Oh yes, sir," he said, "we have all these billets as mobilization, augmenties that are on flying status."

Dwight Daniel: Right, okay.

Mr. Barrett: He said, "I want them here." Well, okay...then in March of 19...let me think now...that would have been March of 1962. I also had a conditional relation...because I thought I was going to go with the International Guard...and that was only fifty-six months, by the way.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I became a captain on the staff at Rescue.

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: Well, to make sure there's no conflict of interest I could never work on anything that had anything to do with helicopters.

Dwight Daniel: Yeah!

Mr. Barrett: So I did the bed down of the interim replacement...this is the HC-97...I did all these (unintelligible). "This is a waste of talent; let's put him in the Op

Center.” So I became the most qualified...ops controller...as the non-active duty reserve officer, and I was challenged by the Inspector General because they said you had to have a top secret clearance.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: I got a top secret clearance; I even had a top secret S.I. He said, “You’re not supposed to have that.” I said, “Well I got to get on the KY-9 in that sound proof booth to talk to the people in Southeast Asia.”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: I said, “I can’t do my job.” I then trained the new controllers coming in...

Dwight Daniel: Oh great!

Mr. Barrett: ...both...first in Orlando and then at Scott when they...when they had this...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...they don’t have that center anymore. Okay, now I am in the process of deciding whether to stay with Kaman Aircraft; I very foolishly said, “No, I’m going to move on.” So I left a retirement behind; I never vested it. Uh, Ed Ottman (sp?) who was the executive vice president called Ted Gustafson (sp) who is the marketing manager and said, “We have a fellow...I think you ought to interview him.” Then he said, “Then you call me back.” So I went down and they interviewed me and my cohort was Stu Greg (sp?) who had been a 51 pilot who was shot down over...in Europe and he was the one that unfortunately went to Libeauje when I didn’t.

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: He...he was an innocent bystander because the decision was made at (unintelligible) United Aircraft. And they could not go against the chairman of the board; that's why I didn't go to Libeauje

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: And Stu was not involved as I was; he didn't know any of the people. I was the one that set this up with...with Rescue.

Dwight Daniel: Right, right!

Mr. Barrett: So he had very little to do with it. And then they said, "Igor Sikorsky...Igor Ivanovich Sikorsky...wonderful, wonderful man; I represented him. He'd take a speech that I can make a copy of...Dwight, and I'll give it to you...this is the first reunion of the Jolly Green Giants...

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: ...down at Eglin Air Force Base NCO club.

Dwight Daniel: Now let's...because we're going to start to run out of time...

Mr. Barrett: Okay, alright, yeah.

Dwight Daniel: I want to jump ahead here from '78 to...

Mr. Barrett: Okay, I...

Dwight Daniel: ...2005, you were a...or I guess from 1980-82...

Mr. Barrett: Okay, what happened...I...I made a briefing...Allison C. Brooks (sp?), by the way is retired and lives in Sequim, Washington. I was on a training period...which I...I got permission to...to do these, both with the company and the...the JAG to make sure there would be no conflict of interest. So I would do the twenty-four hour...night time head of the operations center...

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: ...at Scott. Well they then had a battle staff with the glass behind it...

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: ...and there's a white-haired gentleman there with Allison Brooks; I found out later it was Dr. Ted Morris, a real M.D., a pediatrician who was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force Reserve Affairs Training and Education. Well I gave the standard briefing, excuse me, I...I gave the briefing of the day then I gave the G-ware stand-up briefing all about rescue service...like to do this; I didn't even have to look at the briefing papers. So they're talking and I can't hear them because they're behind the glass. I go behind; I change out of my 1505s into civilian clothes. Now I'm taller than the both of them; Allison Brooks grabs me by the arm and he said, "Ted, he's one of your guys." I didn't know what he was talking about. He said, "I'm Dr. Ted Morris; I'm the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force...I want to talk to you." And I said, "Oookay...what did I do?" He said, "I want to talk to you." He said, "Do you ever get to the Pentagon?" I said, "Oh, I get down to Washington from time to time." And he said, "Here's my card; stop into my office."

Dwight Daniel: Cool!

Mr. Barrett: It was up on the fifth floor. Little did I know that later in...in my activity, I'd be in that very same office; I would serve under his replacement...his successor I should say. I adopted Jim Gilligan who was a doctor of forestry. So, I then...oh, I got an Atta boy! Finally...finally...this lieutenant colonel said...oh, by the way...I was accelerated promotion to major; it cost...it cost a

tech sergeant an assignment; he almost got court-martialed because he was supposed to have nomin...put this paperwork in two years before. So I would of really been accelerated promotion from captain to major. So I was promoted to major on what they called the unit vacancy which was an accelerated promotion. Then I...I told...Ted Morris, I said, "I...I can't come aboard," I said, "you know if you mob...mobilize me involuntary, yes, I'm there." I said, "But I...I'm now at a salary level and I have a family...I...I can't do it as a major on flying status." And I said, "I can't even do it as a lieutenant colonel on flying status." (laughter) Well he had no control over it, but the Senate then permitted unit vacancies to...include the mobilization and augmentees and (unintelligible) number of years.

Dwight Daniel: Right, I remember that!

Mr. Barrett: Okay, well then in...in goes my file and I get a telephone call...back channel...and all the person said was, "You don't have to take out the garbage."

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: That was code to me that I'd been selected to lieutenant colonel.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: Now...I went in and I spoke with my counterpart and he said, "Boy, we need you *right now* in the Pentagon! I mean *now*...not tomorrow." Well I had so much loyalty to Sikorsky that I said, "No, I can't do that; I've got to give them sufficient notice to...to have a successor."

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: You know what my successor ended up? He's the Adjutant General of the State of Missouri; he's a two-star general!

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: Because I turned down an assignment to run a Sikorsky office in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dwight Daniel: Great.

Mr. Barrett: Now I don't say that I would be the same thing, but...he, by the way, was an...an academy graduate and I was the task master. And I told Stu, I said, "We have to make him do a staff study." And he said, "Why?" And I said, "Well, if he's going to replace me, I want to know that he knows what I know."

Dwight Daniel: Right!

Mr. Barrett: He didn't!

Dwight Daniel: Uh, when was this; what year?

Mr. Barrett: This was in the summer of 1969.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: The fellow who travelled with me was the son of the chairman of the board of United Fruit.

Dwight Daniel: Okay.

Mr. Barrett: And his name is Blitz Fox; his real name is Byron. Blitz is the venture capitalist who lives in Mill Valley who has an office in the financial district in Wash...uh, in San Francisco. He was an intern. We went to management; he was at Harvard Business School. He did his calculations on an E6B.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: He had a home that his father bought for him in Concord. He told his father that the company was going to be taken over because it was a cash-rich cow. They had...they fell apart. And...and his father...his father is also named Byron. He called him and he said, "Blitz,"...he was born on the 1st of September, 1939...that's why he was called Blitz.

Dwight Daniel: Ah, ah!

Mr. Barrett: Blitzkrieg.

Dwight Daniel: Ah!

Mr. Barrett: So the father apologized. He said, "Blitz, you're right." And he said, "What do you mean, dad?" He said, "They just fired me."

Dwight Daniel: Yep!

Mr. Barrett: They had so much money in United Fruit that whoever took it over paid for the takeover with the money...well, anyway...that's another story! And...and Blitz I knew through Golly Greens.

Dwight Daniel: Let me...let me...because we...at 10:00 o'clock I've got another guy coming in.

Mr. Barrett: Yeah, right, right. Well anyway, I was mobilized...

Dwight Daniel: Yep.

Mr. Barrett: ...and I was flying not a Convair, excuse me, not a T-29 but a Convair.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: This is the airplane that was the staff airplane for the Chief of Air Force Reserve; he also had...a C-121 that was a four-star general's airplane.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: When he...when he went overseas they flew the 121. I didn't fly in that one, but I had...saw the check out in the 121 back at Otis when I was a recruiting officer. But I...I moved very, very smoothly from a T-29; flew SAC T-29s out of McCoy Air Force Base that now I'm flying a Convair at Andrews Air Force Base to fly Chief of Air Force Reserve. The last flight I made I flew the Chief of Air Force Reserve, at that time, Major General Pete Homer Lewis from Texas...Eagle Pass, Texas and my two-star...one of the Patilla (sp?) twins, and I flew them from Andrews down for the...the change of command...tactical air command from Momyer to Dixon. That was a disgraceful display of hatred. They turned their backs on each other on the reviewing stand...

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: ...and Momyer couldn't get off the stand fast enough because on Monday I'm in the Pentagon...he's now a paid consultant as a four...four-star general! (laughter) So because he was a retired regular officer they couldn't pay...he was making far more money as a consultant...

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah!

Mr. Barrett: ...than he was as a four-star general on flight status!

Dwight Daniel: Yeah.

Mr. Barrett: Well, anyway the alli...the crockigator as we called him...Robert Dixon...who later hired me at Republic Aircraft...and I wouldn't tell him how

he knew me. And I said, “If I...if I have to tell you then you don’t want me to work for you.”

Dwight Daniel: You don’t want me to work!

Mr. Barrett: And he said, “Thank God, I like your chutzpah, you’re hired!” And I became the International Marketing Manager for the Far East and I got a five thousand dollar signing bonus.

Dwight Daniel: Well...now, did you get any flight time in the A-10 or just...?

Mr. Barrett: No, no. I...I...unfortunately there was only one two-seater and it was out here at Edwards.

Dwight Daniel: That’s what I thought.

Mr. Barrett: Okay, now to get back...I’m on...I’m on active duty; that’s my last flight. I...I used to fly General Lewis around, and they...they called it *No Skeletons in the Closet* interview because there had been such...oh, man!...they took a man off the one-star list when we got all the way to the Senate and Stennis’ administrative assistant said, “There’s no way that that man’s going to be a brigadier general.”

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: So he was taken off and...and he left as a colonel. Wow, did that teach me about the politics of what’s going on in our government!

Dwight Daniel: Oh yeah, the politics are bad.

Mr. Barrett: Right, so we flew Pete Lewis around so he could interview every single reserve general and ask them a question, “Is there anything that you have not told my predecessor, Tom Marsbanks (sp?) or me? Tell me about your

personal life.” Several had to resign for conflict of interest. Well unfortunately it became conflict of interest because of his successor. I cannot stand the man; he was not a real aviator; he was a service pilot who came in. He...he never flew combat in World War II; he was a flight officer; he became a lieutenant simply because the Air Force created itself in 1947.

Dwight Daniel: Right.

Mr. Barrett: He was then mobilized and he went to Korea; he flew B-26s...but I think he only flew them because he had to fly them because he was there. He was a multi-millionaire; he pays himself ten million dollars a year in his home construction business.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: Uh, he caused the...the resignation of my deputy assistant secretary and I was standing by the same bush.

Dwight Daniel: Wow!

Mr. Barrett: That’s why...there...there was a plan to legally put me into (unintelligible) officer position which would have promoted me to a brigadier general.

Dwight Daniel: Correct.

Mr. Barrett: He said, “There’s no way that we’ll ever do that.”

(end of tape 4, side A)

(end of interview)

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