

Unknown Oral History Interview

BRUCE PETTY: First can you tell me what your father's name was?

MALE SPEAKER: My father is [Benni Ing?].

BP: [Beneet Een?]?

M1: Beneet -- no, San [Nicholas?] --

(break in audio)

BP: And what did he do for a living? What kind of work did he do?

M1: My father?

BP: Yes.

M1: My father, when he was on Angaur Island, he just was...

There was a native there. They work on the company. He's just like a boss. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

BP: So he was there with Gregorio Sablan? (inaudible) Gregorio Cabrera.

M1: Right.

BP: He was on Angaur.

M1: Right, he was on Angaur.

BP: Did you know him then?

M1: I know him.

BP: Were you born in Angaur?

M1: I was born in Angaur.

BP: How long did you live there, till what age?

M1: I was born December 12, 1917.

BP: In Angaur. And when did you leave?

M1: I leave Angaur in 14 years, come back to Saipan for 4 years, and went back to Angaur again.

BP: Why did you come back to Saipan?

M1: I just want to visit my family, parents.

BP: How long did your father work in Angaur?

M1: I don't know how long, because he was working in Germany, come back to Saipan, and after the Japanese take over Angaur, they went back again. The same work that he did (inaudible).

BP: How long did your family stay in Angaur? Till end of the war? Did they come back to Saipan before the war?

M1: No, they just stayed in Angaur. Then they went back to [Herisnawa?], our island. It's a big island in Palau.

BP: Babeldaob?

M1: Babeldaob. So he was there. He was working on the aluminum company, where they pick aluminum. Just (inaudible) bauxite mine (inaudible) take it back to the (inaudible) the company. And they took my father and my mother there.

BP: What year was this that you moved to Babeldaob?

M1: I was there for almost three or four years before the war.

BP: And you were there throughout the war? Your family was in Palau?

M1: Yeah. After the war, they still was in Palau. I just came to Saipan before my father and family come back here.

BP: What year did you come back to Saipan?

M1: After the... From a... I think a prisoner (inaudible).

BP: POW camp?

M1: Yeah, POW camp in in [North Bay?], then send me back to Japan.

BP: They sent you to Japan?

M1: They sent me back to Japan.

BP: Why? They thought you were Japanese?

M1: No. They know I'm a Saipan native. But still I was together with the Japanese.

BP: How long were you in Japan before you came back to Saipan?

M1: Almost three months, close to three months. I came back to Saipan.

BP: What year was that?

M1: 1946 I came back to Saipan.

BP: That's after they closed Camp Susupe?

M1: Yeah, after the Camp Susupe is still...

BP: Still open?

M1: Open. But those Japanese that was in the Camp Susupe that was already sent to Japan before (inaudible) from Saipan in [Brihana?].

(break in audio)

BP: What's your mother's name?

M1: Consuela.

BP: Did your father marry your mother in Saipan or Angaur?

M1: No, not in Saipan.

BP: During the German times?

M1: Yeah.

BP: Okay. Basically you only spent about four years in Saipan then until after the war.

M1: Right.

BP: What do you remember? When you came back at the age of 14, what do you remember about Saipan?

M1: The Japanese time? That's only my on the book there because the time I stayed in Saipan for four years, I was in Tanapag. I stayed with my brother and sister house. I stay in Tanapag for four years.

BP: What was her name?

M1: Maria San Nicholas Sablan. I stayed with the family. I stayed in Tanapag together and stayed in Garapan for four years. Then I went back to Angaur.

BP: Did you go to school while you were in Tanapag or did you work?

M1: No, no.

BP: You worked?

M1: No, I didn't work.

BP: Just relaxed?

M1: When I was in Garapan, I was work for the Japanese, where they make not news but all of those kind of paper.

BP: Make paper? Paper factory?

M1: Yeah.

BP: So you lived in Tanapag and then you worked in Garapan for a few years?

M1: No. From Tanapag, I went back to stay in Garapan and I worked there.

BP: What made you decide to go back to Angaur?

M1: Because still my father and my mother is still there.

BP: But you stayed here for four years.

M1: In Saipan.

BP: What do you remember about those four years, anything significant? Did you have any special friends?

M1: One of my brothers was here, too, at that time. One of my sisters, we went together. So about that time I was (inaudible) back to Angaur again.

BP: All of you? Okay.

M1: But only my brother just stayed in Saipan because he's
(inaudible).

(break in audio)

BP: When you left here, you went directly back to Angaur? You
didn't go anyplace else?

M1: (inaudible). I was (inaudible) Angaur. After that, I
didn't work for the company in Angaur. Just only my father
and my brother. First is my brother went to work on that
aluminum company.

BP: Was that a mine? A bauxite mine?

M1: Right, bauxite mine.

BP: So when you went back to Palau, you were 18 years old?

M1: Yeah.

BP: And you started working in the bauxite mine, too, or no?

M1: Yeah. I started work there. I still was 18 years old when
I lived in Angaur. After that, when I was 19 years old, I
was work for the (inaudible) one of their store in Angaur.
That store was make the boat to try to give those
(inaudible).

BP: So you were working in a shipyard where they made boats?

M1: No, no. They hire some Japanese to make the sailboat to
put an engine on that one to just go around to the island
in Palau to buy the coconut, make coconut, copra. Make
copra to Angaur and Peleliu. As soon as we get so many

done, we sent to the [Numbo?] in Palau. Then in Numbo,
they send the copra to Japan. And they sell it in Japan.

(break in audio)

BP: Sister Antonetta, her name was [Kimiko Nishikawa?]. She
was Sister Antonietta of the Mercedarian Sisters.

M1: Uh-huh.

(break in audio)

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

M1: My sister. One of my sisters.

BP: What was her name?

M1: Francisca. After that it was husband die in Nagoya, Japan.

BP: So she was living in Japan?

M1: She was in Japan for long. Raised two kids. They were
born in Japan.

BP: And she was living in Japan when her husband died?

M1: Yeah. My sister was. Husband died in Nagoya. So they
came back to Palau.

BP: What was her Japanese husband's name, the last name?

M1: [Sutiyana Kitaknae Tisaku?].

(break in audio)

BP: So you had one sister, Francisca, and she was married to a
Japanese. And he died in Nagoya before the war.

M1: Husband.

BP: And she came back to Palau.

M1: She came back to Palau.

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

M1: No.

BP: Did you know any Koreans?

M1: Yes. From my father's side family was one named
(inaudible).

BP: This is (inaudible)?

M1: Yeah.

BP: You're related to him?

M1: Yeah. His wife is my cousin.

BP: I interviewed them. He's your cousin? Very interesting.

M1: (inaudible).

BP: What do you remember about -- did you know any Koreans in
Palau?

M1: Francisca's father. He was (inaudible), a small island in
Palau, aluminum company.

BP: Francisca's father was in Palau?

M1: (inaudible).

BP: I thought he was up in the northern islands, Pagan?

M1: No. He came to Palau, too.

BP: This is before the war?

M1: Before the war.

BP: And then did he leave Palau to come back here?

M1: I don't know because after he leave Palau, I don't know.

BP: What do you remember about the Koreans in Palau? Were they laborers? Or did you know them very well?

M1: Just only that one (inaudible) in the company. I don't know.

BP: Were you the only person in your family to serve in the Japanese military?

M1: Yes, only me.

BP: Tell me about that. You enlisted voluntarily in the Japanese Navy?

M1: Yeah. Enlisted voluntary because at that time it's really -- the island is, even how much money you have, you cannot buy the food because they didn't save any rice for us.

BP: So you joined the Navy to eat?

M1: No. My (inaudible) maybe I can make more money again. I don't know who's going to win the war.

BP: So what year was this that you?

M1: When they first bomb in Palau.

BP: They first bombed Palau?

M1: Yeah. They bomb Palau.

BP: 1943 maybe or '44?

M1: 1943. I think 1943. They bombed. The American (inaudible) already. Palau bombed for two days, from the morning at six o'clock to six o'clock at night. They started bombing.

BP: How long before the invasion of Peleliu was this? Was this one year, two years, three years?

M1: Before?

BP: Peleliu, yeah.

M1: Before I joined to the?

BP: No. The Americans invaded Peleliu and Angaur in 1945. You said the first time they bombed them was 1944, '43, '42?

M1: '43. I didn't remember that, but already bombed Angaur, Peleliu and Palau.

BP: And that was before the invasion, though, several years?

M1: Yeah.

BP: So did they ask for volunteers?

M1: Yeah. I think it's a Lieutenant from New Guinea came to Palau. They need boats that are (inaudible), the boat to take the (inaudible) for us for maybe transportation or something. That time they looking for people who want to join them.

BP: To go? And you enlisted with some other Chamorros?

M1: Yeah.

BP: Do you remember the names of some of the other Chamorros?

M1: All my companions was die already.

BP: They died? Did they survive the war?

M1: After the war. They came from Borneo. They came back here.

BP: Do you remember the names of any of them?

M1: Bienvenido and Carlos.

BP: You volunteered for the Japanese Navy to serve on this wooden fishing boat, basically, wasn't it? Or a diving boat?

M1: Yes, diving boat.

BP: Tell me what happened after that. You enlisted and what happened?

M1: From [Garasmel?] --

BP: Garasmel. Where's Garasmel?

M1: Right above. From that place, I hear that is somebody who one of the from Palau. (inaudible) people who work on the boat. I went there to try to ask, see if we can get (inaudible). When I go there, since I was Lieutenant in Japanese -- I think it's a Marine.

BP: You're either a Marine or a sailor.

M1: Marine. Maybe Marine or something. It was (inaudible). We called that (inaudible). Navy but still on the land. (inaudible) diving. So they accepted me.

BP: So you asked to join and they said yes?

M1: Yeah.

BP: Do you remember his name, the Lieutenant?

M1: I forgot.

BP: What happened after this? You joined.

M1: I joined. I was (inaudible), but then about a night we was in the Malakal in Palau.

BP: You left Palau that same day?

M1: Same day. By night, I left (inaudible) to (inaudible) to (inaudible). From (inaudible), we meet (inaudible) and next day they put us on the boat. We was on the Malakal (inaudible) that next morning.

BP: So you enlisted one day and the next day you were already on a boat and you were leaving for the Malakal?

M1: No. We just ride down to the -- we just walk down there and then we got to the boat. We have a boat. We stay on the boat. (inaudible) when we want to leave Palau. But first bomb when they came. Americans came to bomb Palau.

BP: Then you left?

M1: Three days. Three days continue. After that, maybe three or four more days that we finally left. We left Palau.

BP: So the bombing of Palau, though, that was mostly ships bombing airplanes?

M1: We don't have the airplane. They bombed us (inaudible) another shipping (inaudible) because they already -- that's before they go to Pearl Harbor? I think they bombed Pearl Harbor already. I think they already bomb.

BP: The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor December 1941. It was 1943 before the Americans could come in and bomb Palau.

M1: That's the time when we leave. Already there's many ships in Palau. American. There was one (inaudible), except the Red Cross ship, it was (inaudible) anything. Even one bullet it doesn't (inaudible). I guess up to four days in Palau. (inaudible) food on our boat or every four boat (inaudible) and we left Palau. We stopped by Angaur for one night. After the next morning, we left Angaur. Four days and four night, finally we get close to Togo Bay Island.

BP: How do you spell?

M1: In Babeldaob.

BP: What did she say when you told her you were going to join the Japanese Navy?

M1: She doesn't say nothing because I just say I'm going to try to look (inaudible), get lucky.

BP: How many children did your mother?

M1: Altogether 17. Five died. After that time, it was 12.

BP: Five died during the war?

M1: Before the war.

BP: So you were four days from Angaur to [Togo?] Bay Island. How long did you stay there?

M1: Four days and four nights.

BP: The Japanese had a base there?

M1: They have not a base but a couple military was there. A couple of soldiers, there was. Just a couple of soldiers. It's a small island. There was a couple. When we reach the island, I was 18.

BP: So American submarine sunk in your [Poko?] Bay Island?

M1: Yeah. Closer to Poko Island. They sank our ship there.

BP: You said they sunk you with their deck gums? They came up and fired?

M1: They came above the --

BP: And you were one of how many ships?

M1: Four.

BP: And one survived?

M1: One, that's right.

BP: So you're 18 hours in the water. Who saved you?

M1: Just myself. We swimming till the next morning to the one that doesn't sink. So we swimming and swimming until we get to that. (inaudible) early in the morning (inaudible). So we started swimming (inaudible).

BP: You had a lifejacket?

M1: No.

BP: Swimming like that for 18 hours?

M1: I was on a piece of wood.

BP: No sharks?

M1: Between the (inaudible) and between the (inaudible) --

BP: They started coming? Did anybody get bitten?

M1: No.

BP: They didn't attack?

M1: They didn't attack because (inaudible) boat that was altogether 50 people. Half were people that survive.

BP: In the water? They died in the water?

M1: (inaudible) some that was still in the boat. When the boat was fired, (inaudible).

BP: They were killed. So there were 50 people altogether. Half of them died. So there were 25 that survived?

M1: Right.

BP: Did the sharks eat any of the dead people?

M1: No, because night (inaudible) started to (inaudible). It was already dark, so we don't know. (inaudible) that night. So next morning when we saw that boat, the one that doesn't sunk, so we started swimming there. (inaudible) already far from us. (inaudible) shark coming.

BP: While you were swimming to the boat, sharks were circling you?

M1: Yeah, circling us.

BP: But they didn't attack?

M1: No. Twelve-foot shark.

BP: So what happened? Now you were rescued?

M1: The rescue, I was lucky on that day because I already learned with the machine, the engine. (inaudible) on that boat that was (inaudible).

BP: He was killed?

M1: He got killed on that. (inaudible). So when we get there, we bring him out on the (inaudible) and put steel on the leg and throw him over into the water.

BP: The dead engineer?

M1: This engineer.

BP: They put weights around his legs and dropped him over the side?

M1: Yeah. Then I'm the one that fixed the engine to try to make run. (inaudible) air compressor that doesn't (inaudible), so there's only little air (inaudible) on the engine. I got no air to start it on, anything. I used two guys to get the (inaudible) moving and started the engine. Then we went to almost four hours after I fix the engine to make the run. We start the boat and it runs the boat and (inaudible) air compressor. Next standby we're still waiting for any report that comes. When we're waiting, there was four guys that came again, two Japanese and two Chamorro. The two Chamorro got (inaudible).

BP: What were their names?

M1: David [Borha?] and Enrique (inaudible).

BP: David Borha?

M1: Enrique (inaudible).

BP: Enrique Borha? Okay.

M1: Yeah. That's two brothers that were (inaudible) with the Japanese, two Japanese. Then the next day I run the boat and we reach the Togo Bay Island.

BP: How many people did you pick up out of the water altogether?

M1: We pick up four after our (inaudible) four. (inaudible) except the engineer was died on the boat. There was 25.

BP: And you all were in the boat?

M1: Twenty-four because the other ones, I think they found him in 40 days, up to 40 days they found him (inaudible).

BP: He was alive still?

M1: He was alive. He was in the boat, but the boat was swept (inaudible) for almost three months in the hospital. When I went (inaudible) down to Palau and go to -- I come up from the Togo Island on Palau and go back to Sarong in (inaudible).

BP: So you went all the way to Toco Bay Island. Then you caught another boat back to Palau?

M1: Yeah.

BP: The one that you fixed?

M1: No, the other boat that came from Palau to be the
(inaudible) again. We got on that one and go back to
Palau.

BP: What kind of boat was that, a destroyer?

M1: No, not destroyer. That was a big tuna boat, fishing boat.

BP: So then you went back to Palau?

M1: We went back to Palau, then started ride on the -- we rode
on the destroyer. Destroyer (inaudible).

BP: Where was MacArthur's forces? MacArthur was advancing.
You know General Douglas MacArthur?

M1: General MacArthur was (inaudible). I think the Solomon
Islands.

BP: He was coming here and then he was in (inaudible).

M1: From (inaudible) go to Borneo.

BP: First MacArthur came --

M1: I was (inaudible) from Sarong. From Sarong and New Guinea
there was (inaudible) bomb, the Japanese airplane.

BP: They would go bomb?

M1: They would bomb Solomon Island. Then it's very lucky
(inaudible) because we always count how many planes go
past. We are three months in New Guinea. It was within
that heavy (inaudible). How many planes would come.
Luckily they come by one or two.

BP: Out of 50?

M1: Out of 50.

BP: Lucky if one or two came down?

M1: At the time it's very (inaudible) Solomon is really (inaudible). Then from there on the destroyer again. They come to (inaudible). They took us from there, from New Guinea, took us to Ambon Island. We went there for another seven days.

BP: Let me ask you a question here. When you were in Borneo or Ambon, were you ever bombed by American planes?

M1: No.

BP: Never?

M1: Never.

BP: Go ahead. You're in Ambon.

M1: When we went to Ambon, from Ambon, one week there. Then we went to Sulawesi, Makassar Island. We went there two nights there, two days, two nights, and we went back to Balikpapan in Borneo. We went there and next day they sent us back to [Sunasuna?]. Submarine (inaudible) three (inaudible) on that base.

BP: That's in Borneo?

M1: Borneo. You go there and you (inaudible) stay in Sunasuna or (inaudible) once again. Then they send us back to submarine that take us in Japanese (inaudible).

BP: Submarine headquarters?

M1: No. The headquarters. The submarine (inaudible).

BP: Military headquarters?

M1: (inaudible). Only two of us that went from Palau
(inaudible) send back to the Pelican Island.

BP: Where's that?

M1: That's in Borneo. A separate island to there, the big
island. We have another (inaudible) there. From Pelican
Island I think somewhere else. We stayed. There was no
bombing.

BP: No bombings yet?

M1: No.

BP: Did you ever get sick, malaria or any other tropical
diseases?

M1: No. I never get sick. No malaria from (inaudible)
malaria. I stayed there for almost ten months. No
bombing. No American bombing. After that, (inaudible).

BP: (inaudible)?

M1: Japanese was there. (inaudible) on this island.

BP: The Australians were working for General MacArthur.
(inaudible).

M1: They got the (inaudible) there. (inaudible), air base
there. From (inaudible) was this bombing (inaudible),
leaving the Pelican.

BP: So you get bombed there?

M1: We were bombed there every day. (inaudible) almost ten months there, they started bombing. They come at day. It doesn't come at night. Sometimes this would come at day and come at night (inaudible). The Japanese started to make the airbase there. When they started work on the roadways, when they come in, they (inaudible). They're just waiting until they finish the airbase. They're already completely (inaudible) come and started bombing the airbase.

BP: They waited till the airbase was finished?

M1: Yeah.

BP: What were you doing during this time? Were you working on the airbase?

M1: No. I just work on the machines. We got train there, diesel train. Normally diesel, gasoline engine train. That's how (inaudible) and put in the warehouse. They use train to move around. I work on the train.

BP: Did you ever see any American planes shot down?

M1: Only one. In the Pelican, only one.

BP: What happened to the pilot?

M1: Died.

BP: In the crash?

M1: Yeah. (inaudible).

BP: Was that a big bomber?

M1: Two-engine.

BP: Was it a two-engine bomber?

M1: Two-engine bomber.

BP: B-25?

M1: Yeah. Not (inaudible).

BP: B-25.

M1: I think B-24, that's more (inaudible).

BP: What happened? You were there for ten months, you said.

M1: I started (inaudible) bombed that. One day they
(inaudible) from that. They pulled (inaudible) what day,
what time, what month, what day, what time they're going to
come in to bomb the island. They told us. (inaudible) the
Japanese (inaudible).

BP: They don't want anybody to see it at night.

M1: They (inaudible). They came in on that day, because I
still remember that because I saw that paper and they throw
that. They can bomb us day and night (inaudible). After
that, (inaudible). I went (inaudible) not really close. I
just worked there. (inaudible). When they get close to
the (inaudible) siren (inaudible). We run to the
(inaudible).

BP: (inaudible)?

M1: Yeah. I run in there and I stay. I got hit in the head
with some of the things (inaudible). I go out. I was

standing in front of that place. I looked at one of the lieutenant that passed by. I saw them (inaudible). That airplane was the enemy or (inaudible) stand by to go (inaudible)?

BP: They invaded the island?

M1: Yeah.

BP: These are Australian troops, you say?

M1: Australian troops (inaudible). They already come to (inaudible) early in the morning.

BP: That early?

M1: Eight o'clock already they show (inaudible). The plane was passed by and I guess (inaudible) anything. We went back to room and get all the stuff we need. We started to go to the jungle.

BP: Then what happened? Did you hide in the jungle for a long time?

M1: Three months.

BP: How did you live? Did you live off stuff that grows in the jungle?

M1: (inaudible). They have (inaudible).

BP: Very religious?

M1: (inaudible).

BP: Were you with Japanese or just Chamorros?

M1: We're with Japanese.

BP: Did you end up fighting?

M1: Only two Chamorros.

BP: Did you end up fighting the Australians or did you
(inaudible) them?

M1: No. Before I was joined on the one (inaudible) we're
supposed to go back to (inaudible).

BP: Go back to what?

M1: Go back to (inaudible) the enemy. (inaudible) are very
lucky because in our group there was (inaudible) around
face and one of (inaudible). They come first (inaudible).
Three are the full and the other three are mixed race or in
between. So when something happened (inaudible). When we
started (inaudible) so the three of them, there was --

BP: There's 50 people between each group? Two and then three
and then two?

M1: Yeah. When they were (inaudible), they come to the
(inaudible) machine gun. There was (inaudible) waiting
there. When they showed the tear gas machinegun, they
didn't get the machine gun from (inaudible) me and the
other one. We just (inaudible). The three of us
completely (inaudible).

BP: They were Japanese?

M1: Three Japanese. So me and the other Japanese, he was
moving on the ground. I told him we would go back. I

begin to start to shoot at (inaudible) with a gun again.

Then, after they stopped (inaudible) three of us on the --

BP: The next three. What happened after that?

M1: After that, we go back because Gabalan, they tried to (inaudible) what happened. They could not get together because when you hear something (inaudible). They go back again to the headquarters and (inaudible).

BP: So you stayed in the jungle some more? For how much longer?

M1: Three months.

BP: What happened after three months?

M1: After three months, they caught us. They caught (inaudible) at that time. We have a (inaudible) by the jungle to (inaudible) from that day. Before that day, that night, there was the other (inaudible) behind the hospital in (inaudible). They (inaudible) the hospital. So they just shoot. (inaudible) some people and they just shoot it and just leave it. After they shoot, just leave it. (inaudible).

BP: Your friends came to mark the Australians (inaudible), where they had a hospital?

M1: Yeah.

BP: And the Australians saw them?

M1: They saw them.

BP: And they killed them?

M1: They killed them. Not (inaudible). After they (inaudible) out there. That night, (inaudible). (inaudible) almost died. Maybe somebody would go up to (inaudible). By the time they came up again to see us on the (inaudible) go again.

BP: You ran away into the jungle again?

M1: We ran off into the jungle.

BP: Did you surrender after three months or no?

M1: After three months, they are (inaudible).

BP: How did they catch you?

M1: It was one afternoon we cooked the rice. We hid already. After we hid already, you know about (inaudible). So I started (inaudible) shoot us. There's three officers got close to that prison (inaudible).

BP: They saw you smoking the rice?

M1: Fire smoke. After we hid (inaudible). So three officers (inaudible).

BP: Three Australians?

M1: Three Australian officers. So they shoot the gun. So we ran away. About the time when (inaudible) hide in there. I jump (inaudible), jump down there. As soon as I jump down there, there's a (inaudible) sound, "Aye, come on." (inaudible) there was three officers waiting (inaudible).

BP: They didn't shoot you, though.

M1: They didn't shoot me. (inaudible) say, "Come on."
(inaudible) get closer. He says, "Are you Japanese?" I
say, "No."

BP: You understood English?

M1: I understand a little bit at that time. (inaudible). I
said, "No, I'm not Japanese. I'm Chamorro." He said,
"What's Chamorro?" I said, "Saipan." They don't know what
Saipan. They go, "What's Saipan?" I said, "My island is
(inaudible)." He say, "(inaudible) any Japanese
(inaudible)?" I say, "No."

BP: What happened to the other Japanese?

M1: They ran away. Anyway, they don't have a gun. They ran
away. I don't (inaudible) at that time.

BP: You told them what?

M1: I told them, "Just only one. And I'm the one, myself."

BP: That's when you surrendered. What did they do with you?

M1: I just follow him. So I follow him. They didn't say
they're going to put me on the base. Just follow him. The
last officer when they got to (inaudible), he say, "Okay.
You (inaudible)" two puff cigarette from Lucky Strike and
they give me match. I say, "Thank you, sir." I go away to
the plan before (inaudible) Indonesia.

BP: Indonesian camp?

M1: Indonesian camp.

BP: They had a camp for Indonesians?

M1: Yeah, they had a camp for Indonesians there because after the war there was (inaudible). Indonesia was, too. So I go in there. (inaudible) how you get there, in Indonesia there's an (inaudible) say, "Okay. You just wait down there. I'll call up headquarters see what we're going to do." So, can you call headquarters (inaudible) say, "Okay." (inaudible) Japanese were (inaudible). So when I went, there was 13 Japanese before me. They put us together. (inaudible) khaki shorts and everything to change into. They give us one loaf of bread they cut by half and one (inaudible). They give us that food and we ate. (inaudible) Japanese they told me what they're going to do with us. I say, "So what are you going to do? You mean they're going to kill us? What's going to happen?" (inaudible) to tell us because (inaudible) knew what they were going to do for us.

BP: (inaudible).

M1: They just looked at me and says, "(inaudible)."

BP: They thought you had the answer?

M1: I answer them. (inaudible) says, "Okay." (inaudible).

BP: But there were only 15 Japanese (inaudible)?

M1: Yeah.

BP: Did you think you were going to be killed?

M1: (inaudible). When we went to the headquarters after that, (inaudible) investigate everyone, one by one.

BP: Interrogation?

M1: Yeah. I went (inaudible). I'm the 237 out of (inaudible) all the Japanese was in Pelican (inaudible), 237.

BP: Out of how many original Japanese?

M1: Almost 4,000.

BP: The rest were killed?

M1: Some were killed, some (inaudible).

BP: There were others who surrendered later.

M1: Yeah, because there was (inaudible). After they caught me in, I guess around five days after they caught me there, (inaudible).

BP: They didn't (inaudible)?

M1: (inaudible) Japanese surrender.

BP: They dropped the atomic bomb August 6th. I think the Japanese surrendered a week or two later. It was obvious then the war was over.

M1: (inaudible) five days. (inaudible) of five days. Still put me on the (inaudible) Pelican. Then from Pelican to Morotai 10 months.

BP: 10 months there? Why so long?

M1: I don't know.

BP: What were the conditions like there?

M1: I guess because when I was in Morotai I heard that American guys give 200 ship to Japanese to use to remove all the people from the (inaudible) islands.

BP: It was just a question of shipping. It'd take that long before they'd get the ships in.

M1: That's right.

BP: Were you treated well during that time?

M1: In Morotai? Yeah. They treated us well.

BP: Plenty of food? No mistreatment?

M1: No. (inaudible) because the (inaudible) was there they have (inaudible) Japanese (inaudible) 600 India (inaudible).

BP: Soldiers from India?

M1: Soldiers from India.

BP: They were guarding?

M1: The Japanese hired 600 sailors from India. They called it blood-working because out of 600, they had to work 40 days (inaudible) from the war. But everyone got sick (inaudible).

BP: Who did?

M1: The Japanese.

BP: They killed who?

M1: They killed the Indian soldiers in Borneo.

BP: They had 600 captured Indian soldiers and they killed all of them?

M1: After they finished there were just only 60 left.

BP: They used the Indian soldiers as labor? And you say they chopped their heads off?

M1: They chopped their heads off.

BP: So when they couldn't work anymore, they chopped their heads off.

M1: Yeah.

BP: What happened to the Japanese who were responsible for that?

M1: Not all Japanese, but from Taiwan, from Formosa people.

BP: They were working for the Japanese?

M1: They were with the Japanese. Some Japanese soldier's people. So I was in Morotai when they killed those and the Taiwanese. Out of 100 Taiwanese, those were under the Japanese regime. So before we get on (inaudible) investigate one of those people, they just went south.

BP: The Australians? Or the Indian soldiers?

M1: No, the Australian soldiers they killed.

BP: They took all those soldiers in Taiwan?

M1: Taiwan. But Taiwan was (inaudible).

BP: And they killed them.

M1: They killed them after the investigation.

BP: These were Taiwanese; these were Chinese from Taiwan. But they were loyal to Japan.

M1: Yeah.

BP: And they were actually involved in decapitating Indian soldiers.

M1: Yeah.

BP: And so out of 600 Indian soldiers, only 60 survived.

M1: Yeah.

BP: And you saw the execution?

M1: No, after the soldiers were (inaudible). Those people, they came there. The Taiwanese, they came there. They investigate. After police investigation, they told us because we was in the valley. So we (inaudible).

(break in audio)

BP: But they were going to kill all of them.

M1: I think they were going to kill out of them. Out of the 600, (inaudible).

BP: So you were there 10 months. Anything else of significance happen during the 10 months?

M1: After 10 months, finally one ship leave to [Germana?].

(inaudible) there was Japanese from this base, and us from Morotai. They put together one ship with 4,000 people on a trip to Japan.

BP: This is Morotai here, you said? Where's Halmahera?

M1: Halmaharah is this one.

BP: That's the big one there, okay. And Morotai.

M1: That's Morotai.

BP: So you were 4,000 people on one ship.

M1: One ship.

BP: How long did it take you to get to Japan?

M1: Five days.

BP: Anybody die during the five?

M1: Only one of malaria, maybe. (inaudible)

BP: What happened to you when you arrived in Japan?

M1: (inaudible) in Japan (inaudible) [Panabre?].

BP: That's a town near where?

M1: [Lakayana?].

BP: Where is that?

M1: From Yokohama, it's 24 hours by the train.

BP: That's north or south?

M1: I think south.

BP: That's where they put you?

M1: Yeah, they put me there. After that, the next day they gave us 300 yen, each one. (inaudible) place to go. So when the time for me to go back to Saipan, there's no ship in sight, no transportation yet to go back to Saipan. So they told me to stay in the barracks (inaudible) Tokyo. That was in Tokyo. So they told me to work in the

(inaudible). They gave me telephone (inaudible) and what they were going to do for me. So I stayed for another week. No answer. So after that second (inaudible) they call me again and said, "Okay, come out and meet you. We're leaving from Panabre to [Kuriyana?]." So I stayed in Kuriyana another two or three months. Then they sent me by ship.

BP: What did you do during that two or three months?

M1: (inaudible) Walked around anywhere (inaudible). I don't pay anything for food. They give us food. You came there and gave to us some money. I guess (inaudible) because when I was (inaudible) they didn't give us all the money. And I was New Guinea or in some place, Borneo...

BP: So they put you on a ship back to Saipan?

M1: Yeah.

BP: And the Japanese never paid you while you were --

M1: No.

BP: Did you ever try to get the money from them?

M1: Tried to.

BP: What did you think when you saw Saipan? What did you think of Saipan when you arrived?

M1: I was surprised. When I come to Saipan, there was no green island and no (inaudible).

BP: No trees?

M1: No trees.

BP: What happened then? Where did you go? Did you go to Camp Susupe when you arrived?

M1: Yeah. When I was returned 21 days, I was staying (inaudible) waiting because I see this (inaudible).

BP: So you were on a ship?

M1: I was staying on the ship.

BP: For 21 days?

M1: Twenty-one days.

BP: Because you couldn't get ashore?

M1: Eleven days. Eleven days on the ship.

BP: Eleven days on the ship, right here (inaudible), because there were so many ships that you couldn't get in.

M1: You could not get in because (inaudible). They'd line up. They was in and out.

BP: What were they doing? This was after the war, right? Nineteen forty-six?

M1: Forty-six is (inaudible) from Japan they come here and get a boat and go back, because (inaudible) Japan (inaudible) American. So we see that's bringing the boat from Saipan to Japan.

BP: When you finally got off the ship, where did you go? Did you find your family?

M1: Yeah, of course. I just found my brother.

BP: Where was he?

M1: He was on the police.

BP: He was on the police force?

M1: Yes, policeman.

BP: What was his name again?

M1: Jose Sablan.

BP: He was on the police force with [Borho?] Cabrera, then?

M1: Borho was just watching the prisoners.

BP: He was just on prison duty.

M1: My brother was (inaudible).

BP: Where did you live then? You lived with your brother?

M1: I living with my sister, because one of my sister live in Susupe already, (inaudible).

BP: She was in [Ya?]?

M1: She was in Ya at that time. Her husband was (inaudible).

BP: On Ya? He was killed by a bomb?

M1: By a bomb.

BP: Is she still alive?

M1: She is. She still lives in (inaudible).

BP: So you were staying in Camp Susupe with your sister. In Camp Susupe or in a house?

M1: In a house already. It was open already. Those Japanese was on the end of the police station. That place, all the Japanese (inaudible).

BP: Where the police station was, by the Toyota (inaudible).

M1: Yeah.

BP: How did you make a living after that? Or did you? What kind of work?

M1: The primary is when I land on (inaudible) the hospital (inaudible). After they give us the go, I just (inaudible). Then next day they put me (inaudible). So I went in the CA mechanic. I was the mechanic shop (inaudible) islands, shorts (inaudible). The (inaudible) was mechanic shop, a jeep shop, (inaudible). I work on that place.

BP: How many years did you do that?

M1: My job (inaudible). I started (inaudible) back to (inaudible). At that time, (inaudible) island (inaudible) because many places use a generator, (inaudible) generator. It was (inaudible) generator. So I running (inaudible).

BP: When did your family in Palau return?

M1: It was (inaudible) because I was still with my sister. Then my parents after one months or after two months they came back here.

BP: So you had a big family reunion? What did your mother say when she saw you were still alive?

M1: It was (inaudible). (laughs)

BP: Were there any other family members killed during the war?

M1: No.

BP: How did they survive on Palau during all this time?

M1: (inaudible) my father and my mother, there some people (inaudible). They just ran away. The Japanese come, they ran away from Palau to get the American (inaudible).

BP: Oh, they went to be with the Americans.

M1: Yeah. So by the time (inaudible) family (inaudible) every day and night. No sleep. They keep on investigation of those people that was run away from them.

BP: Oh, the Japanese were investigating the Chamorros.

M1: Yeah.

BP: And they investigated your mother and father?

M1: Mother and father.

BP: What did they do to those people?

M1: If they saw any contact from American or those people they was helping around --

BP: How many Chamorros went to (inaudible)?

M1: Some went to (inaudible).

BP: Did they execute any Chamorros?

M1: One of my sister was in (inaudible) when those American came there. So they got (inaudible) try to make contact with (inaudible) somewhere they was in Palau. But (inaudible) run away and get to the (inaudible).

BP: So in other words, they took boats out to the American ships. And then they went --

M1: On the ship.

BP: What did the Japanese do to the other Chamorros?

M1: They try to get investigation to try to kill them.

BP: Did they kill them?

M1: No.

BP: No one was killed.

M1: No.

BP: Then they came back.

M1: They came back to Saipan.

(break in audio)

M1: (inaudible)

BP: You just saw yourself as Chamorros, not a Japanese. I'm just curious, in terms of thinking in the future, what do you think will happen to Saipan if American ever leaves?

M1: It's very good right now.

BP: But if America says, "We're leaving the Pacific. We're moving everything back to Hawaii and California," do you think the Japanese or the Chinese will come and take over the Marianas? Do you ever think about that?

M1: I think so. I don't know. I think Japanese will try to.

BP: They will try to come back and take the island? What do you think? Or you don't think about that?

M1: I don't think about that.

(break in audio)

BP: You said you worked for the Yamato Trading Company in Angaur.

M1: Angaur. Yamato (inaudible) because that's individual.

BP: That was a private store owned by Japanese?

M1: Private store, by Japanese.

BP: You worked there how long?

M1: Almost three years, I did.

BP: What years were that?

M1: I (inaudible).

BP: About two years?

M1: Two years. Some time. Three years.

BP: Do you remember how much they paid you? Was it the same thing?

M1: That was very cheap. I forgot about. Maybe that's 15 yen a month, like that.

BP: And how much would they pay the Japanese for doing the same job? If a Japanese was doing your job, how much would they pay him?

M1: There's actually no Japanese work on the store, because if there was Japanese work there they just work at the company (inaudible) government.

BP: They do mostly government jobs.

M1: Government jobs there.

(break in audio)

BP: You say when you volunteered to work for the Japanese navy you thought you would make more money. That's why you took the job?

M1: No, not actually for the money at that time. In (inaudible) aluminum company I was with, we made good money on that pay. Sometime actually we receive more than 300 yen.

BP: A month?

M1: A month.

BP: So why did you leave that to work for the Japanese navy?

M1: Because in [Pelagras?], even if you have the money you cannot buy the good (inaudible).

BP: So you thought if you worked for the navy you would get more food or clothing?

M1: No, food is no problem because I just single, so I don't have a problem for the food. I just try to get out in [Pelagra?] because I know (inaudible) the job at that time.

BP: The work was going to become more difficult?

M1: They make hard something. We went from six o'clock until six o'clock at night.

BP: Was that because of the war, or was it always that way?

M1: Oh, yeah, because of war.

BP: Because of the war. And you thought if you were in the navy you would have life easier?

M1: That's what I figured, (inaudible) more easy.

BP: So you were working how many hours a day for the aluminum company?

M1: More than eight hours a day. Six o'clock in the morning until we finished all the (inaudible), the aluminum they bring from the jungle. Put it down in the place to (inaudible).

BP: You have to speak louder. But basically you were working until what time at night? Six in the morning until what time?

M1: To six o'clock at night.

BP: So about 12 hours a day, you were working. But you made good salary.

M1: We made good salary.

BP: And you had plenty to eat.

M1: The food was just local.

BP: Were you allowed to eat rice or Japanese food?

M1: No, at that time there was no more rice getting to the (inaudible) because the (inaudible) people.

BP: Would the Japanese have rice?

M1: They'd still have rice from Japan on that time, but just (inaudible).

BP: Speak louder.

M1: Not sell it to the natives anymore.

BP: But before 1942 or 1943 they would sell rice to the natives?

M1: They sell rice to us.

BP: And the natives liked rice?

M1: Yeah, they like rice, those people.

BP: This is about 1943 we're talking about now?

M1: Yeah.

BP: And they would not give rice to the natives.

M1: Yeah, they didn't sell for us anymore.

BP: So you could only eat native foods.

M1: Yeah.

BP: But you had plenty of money.

M1: Yes.

BP: But you couldn't buy anything.

M1: You couldn't buy anything.

BP: And then when you went into the Japanese navy you thought you would not have to work so hard.

M1: Yeah, that's it, because I used to be mechanic in running some engine for that boat that took the aluminum.

BP: And you thought that would be easier than working in the aluminum company.

M1: Yes.

BP: You did this interview in 1991 with Mr. Kamisawa. You said you returned to Saipan at the age of 14 and you stayed there for two years. When I interviewed you, you said four years. So was it two years?

M1: I guess two years.

BP: It was just two years.

M1: First time when I got out from my schooling (inaudible) was four years.

BP: You stayed four years. You said two years in your other interview.

M1: I think that was mistake on that one.

BP: It was four years.

M1: Four years.

BP: You mentioned [Izanu?] Suzuki.

M1: Suzukisan.

BP: You worked with him at Palau.

M1: Yeah, because we work on the aluminum factory. Actually, Suzuki is young, my age at that time. We worked on the company store.

BP: And you were good friends.

M1: My good friend.

BP: You said that he died recently.

M1: Right. When I came back to Saipan, that time I left Saipan and went to Guam, when I was in Guam --

BP: You were in Guam after Saipan?

M1: Yeah. When I was in Guam, Suzuki was (inaudible) at that time. I met him on there.

BP: You met him in Guam?

M1: I met him in Guam.

BP: Even though he worked in Palau.

M1: Yeah.

BP: What was he doing in Guam?

M1: He just tourist. He was going with a tourist.

BP: That was what year? You were 16.

M1: No, the time they came to Guam is around '67, '63 or '67. After the war.

BP: So during the war you lost contact with him?

M1: I lost contact.

BP: And you saw him again in 1967. How did you meet him?

M1: He was (inaudible) when they came to Guam. They ask somebody or there was a note from somebody, was I leaving or not? So he went tourist to Guam and (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) over there.

BP: To look for you. Did you know he was coming?

M1: Yeah.

BP: So you made contact by mail?

M1: I leave the telephone number and they contact me. By the time they came to airport, I went there and pick them up

then. Went to the house and sent to the airport again. He went to Palau. Then by the time I come back, I went to the airport. And then (inaudible) my house and went to go back to (inaudible).

BP: So you lived in Guam for a while back in the 1960s.

M1: Twenty years I lived in Guam.

BP: Did he ever tell you what happened to him after you left Palau?

M1: I told him every story.

BP: But did he tell you what happened to him?

M1: No.

BP: He never told you?

M1: What happened to him when I live in Palau.

BP: Speak closer to this microphone.

M1: After that, when I went to Japan, I met him in Japan again.

BP: What year was that?

M1: When I operate my eyes. It was 1980-something.

BP: So you maintained contact over the years. You lost contact from 1943 until 1967; is that correct?

M1: Nineteen forty-three to sixty-seven.

BP: You say you saw him for the first time again in Guam in 1967 or '65.

M1: Yeah, '67 or '65. Something like that. Then when I went to Japanese to operate my eye, I met him again because he

knew when from somebody. One of my friends contact him and says I was in Japan that time.

BP: So between 1967 and 1984 you didn't see each other.

M1: No.

BP: Did you write letters?

M1: No.

BP: You said there was a Lieutenant J.G. who came from Papua, New Guinea. And he was looking for some locals to work as sailors on these wooden dive boats. His name was [Wada?]? Lieutenant J.G. Wada?

M1: I don't know that's a (inaudible) or (inaudible) that one.

BP: In the interview, it said Wada. You don't remember?

M1: The one that came from New Guinea?

BP: This Lieutenant who recruited you, we're assuming it's Lieutenant J.G. Wada. Did he go with you on those four fishing boats to Tobi [Yaga]??

M1: The time that we left there?

BP: The first time you left Palau for Tobi, and then the submarine sank you, was he on one of the boats with you?

M1: Yeah.

BP: He was.

M1: He was on the, I guess, Tokyo Maru. Yeah, he was on the same boat I was. Same as me.

BP: Did he survive the attack?

M1: I don't know, because by the time the submarine was -- they shoot us twice, just only between on that boat, basic training two masts. On top of the engine room, it was two bullet. It was hit just part by center of the boat to front of the other boat on the side.

BP: So the shell went completely through your boat without exploding.

M1: No, just the top of the engine room.

BP: And out the other side?

M1: And the other boat on the other side saw bullet holes down on the front of the other boat.

BP: In the water.

M1: In the water. Then I saw that in the submarine. At that time, the Lieutenant says, "Everybody, the next speed," where the boat could just run away. But when I turned around, I saw the submarine. There was three of them, and they were closer to us. But on my boat there was engineer, there was a (inaudible) make speed for the boat. The vibration of the boat just dropped dead (inaudible).

BP: It died.

M1: The engine just died.

BP: Because he tried to make it go too fast.

M1: There's two [Yapis?] with me on that boat, too. I tell them to throw a piece of wood onto the ocean. Then we jump to.

BP: Before they fired the second shot.

M1: Before that, right.

BP: And the Lieutenant was still on the boat when they fired?

M1: He was stay.

BP: And you never saw him again?

M1: I never saw him again.

BP: Were there any women on the boat?

M1: Nothing else (inaudible) except two Japanese with a different (inaudible). But our captain on the boat was surviving. He survived it. But all the rest...

M1: Were there any women on this boat?

BP: Four.

M1: Come closer; speak closer.

BP: There's four women, wife or girls, the captain of the boat.

M1: So the wives of the captains of each boat. They had their wives with them.

BP: They had their wives with them. What happened to them?

M1: Those died, too.

BP: They died, too. Never saw them again.

M1: No one I saw. They tried to go too sudden. After we got to New Guinea, they tried to (inaudible) go back to Japan. They want to sail from there back to Japan.

BP: You said there were eight of you in Palau who enlisted to go on these boats.

M1: Uh-huh.

BP: You were civilian employees of the Japanese navy?

M1: Yeah.

BP: Was there a special --

M1: Civilian employees, like...

BP: Civil service?

M1: Like a civil service (inaudible).

BP: What did the Japanese call it? Did they have a special name?

M1: [Bunjoku?].

BP: Let's go back a little bit. When you left Palau on the dive boats, there were eight of you. Were you all Chamorro or was it some Palauans and some Chamorro?

M1: There's five Chamorros and three Yapis.

BP: You were the crew. Did all eight survive sinking by the submarine?

M1: All eight survived.

BP: And then you returned to Palau on a tuna boat.

M1: Yeah, tuna boat.

BP: Then you went back to New Guinea on a warship. Did those other Chamorros and Yapis return with you?

M1: They did.

BP: They stayed together the whole time. When that American submarine sank you, how close was it? Could you actually see people on the deck?

M1: Yeah, I see people on the deck. When they get closer to our boat, I was in between submarine and water already.

BP: Did they see you in the water?

M1: I don't know because it was dark, around six o'clock in the evening. Just I hear they said, "Goddamn Japanese. (inaudible) son of a gun." And then that boat was blown up.

BP: So you could see the Americans on the submarine, and you could actually hear them say, "Goddamn Japanese."

M1: I heard that.

BP: What kind of weapons did you have on the boat? Did you try to shoot at the American submarine?

M1: No, just (inaudible).

BP: Handguns?

M1: Handgun. Maybe five guns. But we cannot use the guns.

BP: But they were small arms, like rifles?

M1: Just Japanese [QQ-99?] mortar.

(break in audio)

M1: But we didn't use any. No one shot.

BP: Nobody shot. I heard that they gave you a Japanese name.

M1: Yeah, [Minami Desutavu?].

BP: Did you have that name in Palau before?

M1: No, just when we entered the ship. We went to the boat.
The Lieutenant give us the name.

BP: Why did they give you a Japanese name?

M1: Because that's more easy to call us.

BP: Easier to call you, rather than remember your... After the submarine attack, when you got to the one boat that was still afloat, was there enough food and water for everybody?

M1: Every one has six months' food.

BP: You had six months of food on it. And there was enough water?

M1: There's enough water, too. The time they left the boat on the side, the one that doesn't sunk, around the side, around the sea level, one pulled up and there's a big hole on that. So when they shipped that, all that water come inside from the bottom of the tank, just only around 10 inches deep from the top there, old holes. So old water, they came out to the (inaudible).

BP: So in the water tank on the boat, you had only 10 inches of water left.

M1: Yeah, on this other boat.

BP: You said there was 50 people on four boats; 25 survived. The 25th one you found out about later. You said he was adrift for 40 days. And then he washed up on Halmahera Island. When did you find out about that?

M1: When I go back to Borneo.

BP: Who told you there that this had happened?

M1: The company was stay there, they tell us it's one of the people, he lost. That people, they found him at Halmahera.

BP: What happened to him after Halmahera?

M1: I think they send back to a different company.

BP: He was a civilian or military?

M1: He was civilian, too. Was a Korean guy.

BP: From the time that you were sunk, how long before you reached Tobi Island?

M1: That's four days.

BP: How long were you on Tobi before you returned to Palau?

M1: Twenty-seven days.

BP: What did you do for those 27 days?

M1: We just stayed in Tobi. That place everyone really didn't drink. They didn't have no water there.

BP: No water?

M1: No water. They give us (inaudible) bring the coconut glass every day. Every day I was drinking coconut. Every day.

BP: How did the Japanese get along with the natives at Tobi?

M1: We don't know actually what they doing there, because just few Japanese soldiers there.

BP: Were there problems with women? There were some women on the island.

M1: (inaudible) all just old ladies.

BP: The others had left?

M1: Yes. They left to Palau (inaudible) someplace (inaudible).

BP: You were drifting. You were out there for four days before you got to Tobi. Tobi Island is just a very small island. How did you find it?

(break in audio)

BP: You said something about the captain of the boat?

M1: So that captain, they took the small boat. They ride on that boat and drove it with one more Japanese. And they (inaudible) any other captain. So when they see a star in the night, they know the places to be.

BP: Just by looking at the stars? You'd find Tobi Island?

M1: Yeah, there's no compass. So they just look by night. Then at night, they just let the boat go. Went to Tobi Island on the next day, I guess.

BP: So was the captain on the small boat separate from the big boat?

M1: Separate. They took the small boat here. They'd be pulling one small boat, every boat there. So they took that boat. And they went to Tobi Island on the next day. So when they left on the boat, I went there. When I went there, I tried to make run the engine, everything, so we were there for around three or four days. Then the one captain on that boat is still alive. So that captain is just looking at the starry night. After they make that run and we went for that last four guys that came to the boat, they told me to make run the boat. Then two hours we run, we saw the Tobi Island.

BP: So there were two people on a little boat who got there before you.

M1: Yeah, they got before us.

BP: And then there was a captain on your ship that by looking at the stars knew to go that way, too. And you found it after only two hours.

M1: Yeah, we found the island two hours when I run it.

BP: When you went to Borneo, you went to Sarong?

M1: No. New Guinea?

BP: Yeah, New Guinea.

M1: New Ganache is Sarong, the Sarong Island.

BP: And you were there for how long, in Sarong?

M1: We was in the Sarong. The next day we was running to Kasim Island in New Guinea.

BP: You were on Kasim for how long?

M1: Three months.

BP: And you did what kind of work there?

M1: Nothing. Nothing to (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).
Every day was running. We had plane, the sighting was gone, and we run to the jungle.

BP: You were bombed every day?

M1: No, not bombed. Just passed by the plane. There was a Japanese plane that was pass by on top of us.

BP: So the Japanese planes would go over.

M1: Yeah. But we didn't know because just only when they heard the sound of the plane, they...

BP: Everybody runs. What was at Kasim to make it so important for the Japanese?

M1: I don't know what they were trying to do there.

BP: There was nothing there?

M1: Nothing. I don't see anything (inaudible) there. So three months. Then I ride on this destroyer, the *Aoba*.

BP: You said that planes went off to bomb the Solomon Islands.

M1: That's from Sarong.

BP: Oh, they went from Sarong to -- but the Solomon Islands, that was secured in 1942 or '43. Are you sure they were bombing the Solomons? They tell you that?

M1: The time we was there, every day the plane pass by there on top of us. Their plane was go to bomb the Solomon Island.

BP: Somebody told you that? You knew that for sure?

M1: Yeah, somebody told me.

BP: Biak was invaded on June of 1944. Where were you in June 1944? Biak was invaded almost the same day that the Marines invaded Saipan. Biak was a small island in Papua New Guinea; do you know where that is?

(break in audio)

BP: When you went to Sarong from Palau, in your other story it says you were on a cruiser called the *Aoba*; is that correct? That was a cruiser or a destroyer?

M1: Destroyer.

BP: Where were you when you heard about the invasion of Saipan? Or did you?

M1: I was in Sanga-Sanga in Borneo.

BP: That means you were in Sanga-Sanga when Biak was invaded, because Biak and Saipan were invaded the same time. Nimitz was in charge of the invasion of Saipan; MacArthur was in charge of Biak. So you were in Sanga-Sanga.

M1: I was in Sanga-Sanga at that time.

BP: You said there was one other Chamorros with you on Pelican?

M1: Yeah.

BP: What was his name, again?

M1: Bienvenidos Regis.

(break in audio)

BP: In your other interview it said that when the Australians landed you were actually asked to fight. The Japanese soldiers gave you guns?

M1: No. They not give me the gun. Only hand grenade.

BP: They gave you a hand grenade. What were you supposed to do with a hand grenade?

M1: They just for if we saw any enemy we just throw the grenade.

BP: Did you ever throw the hand grenade?

M1: No, I didn't throw it.

BP: Did you get close to the fighting before you hid in the jungle?

M1: Yeah, sometimes get close to the fighting.

BP: What area of the island? Were you near buildings or airstrips?

M1: No, in jungle.

BP: You were in the jungle during the fighting.

(break in audio)

BP: When you went back to Palau from Saipan -- I want to just get the sequence of jobs you had. You worked for the Yamato company first, or did you work in Angaur?

M1: Yamato company.

BP: That was in Angaur?

M1: Angaur.

BP: You worked there for two years?

M1: Two years.

BP: And then you worked for who? Louder.

M1: From the other Palauan (inaudible) money. That Palauan was just from Peleliu, that guy.

BP: What was his name?

M1: [Nira Devemel?].

(break in audio)

BP: He was a wealthy man? This Mr. [Ara?] Devemel, he was a wealthy man?

M1: He's a guy that's got money. But before, sometime, they go to Japan and they learn how to make the business. Then they build a store in Angaur.

BP: He built a store. What kind of work did you do for him in Angaur?

M1: Same thing. I work in Yamato. I go out to see the customer to (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) them some stuff.

BP: Like a salesman.

M1: Right.

BP: You worked for him for how long?

M1: That's the one I worked for him almost five years. After that is the one that buy the sailboat in the Angaur island to make the (inaudible) for the engine to make the boat.

BP: He built the boat, and that was to go and collect copra from the different islands.

M1: Right, yeah.

BP: And that's where you learned how to work on ships' engines?

M1: Right.

BP: So that was your education.

M1: That's only one month's stay. The mechanic there, they was convince me to help run the engines. Just only one month we run around all over Palau. Then after we come back, they just give us my (inaudible).

BP: So one month and you knew how to run an engine.

M1: And I knew how to run the engine already.

BP: And you did that for five years. And then after five years you left to work for the aluminum company.

M1: Yeah.

BP: That was Nanyo Aluminum?

M1: Nanyo Aluminum Company.

BP: Why did you do that? Was it because it paid more?

M1: Good pay.

BP: Very good money.

M1: Very good money.

BP: But you were working 12 hours a day.

M1: That's only the time that they get close to the war.

BP: Before that was an eight-hour day?

M1: Eight hours a day.

BP: And then as the war got closer you were working more like
12 hours a day. Six days a week? Seven days a week?

M1: Seven days a week. Actually Sunday work.

BP: So you become a civilian member of the Japanese navy to
have an easier life and work on engines again.

M1: Yeah.

BP: What about the conditions on the POW boat? You were on a
ship with 4,000 men going from Morotai to Japan. What were
the conditions? You got plenty to eat and drink?

M1: The food is (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) because all
the people that was on the ship.

BP: They had plenty of food.

M1: They had plenty of food.

BP: Were there armed guards? Were there people with guns
watching you?

M1: No, no.

BP: They trusted you, then.

M1: They trust.

BP: Because the war was over, and they figured the Japanese were not going to cause trouble.

M1: Right. No, nothing got on that.

BP: Your sister from Ya, she came back to Saipan before you. What was her first name?

M1: Soledad Sablan Cepeda. She was married already. So we was together in Palau.

BP: You were?

M1: We was together. And before the war, we went to Ya (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

BP: Why did her husband go to Ya? He had a job there?

M1: No, one of the friend, they offer him land there.

BP: Do you guys still have any contact with Japanese friends from before the war? Do you still have Japanese friends?

M1: No.

BP: How did you get involved in the Japanese stragglers on Anatahan?

M1: That time was when I work on the government here.

BP: You were working for the government. Doing what, though? What kind of job were you doing for the government?

M1: In Ya? In Saipan?

BP: Yeah.

M1: I was still a mechanic.

BP: That was the navy?

M1: Yes, navy. Then Commander Johnson, he tried to maybe -- because there are some Japanese here. They are stay in Saipan after the war.

BP: They stayed here after the war because they were married to Chamorros?

M1: Yeah. They were married to Chamorros. So Commander Johnson tried to look for somebody to --

BP: Speak louder.

M1: They tried to look somebody for can run the engine to go to Anatahan.

BP: What kind of boat was it?

M1: It's a two-cylinder boat with (inaudible).

BP: Was it a fishing boat?

M1: Fishing boat. So they look around. So they found me; I can run the boat. Then because two days and two night I didn't sleep, I make (inaudible) here. And we leave here evening. And the next morning we (inaudible) Anatahan. So we (inaudible) and we run from the back. We tried to circle around the island. By the time we reached only five Japanese.

BP: So five Japanese?

M1: Five Japanese was there. Everybody, they call out, "That boat, they put a Japanese flag on it." But they call out;

they never stop. They just keep running and run back to the jungle.

BP: They ran back to the jungle.

M1: Yeah. Then we go down to the place there used to be people that stay in Anatahan before. We take their other boat and take everybody, their five Japanese who came from Saipan. We unload the stuff there, food, drink. And they went there. Then we give one more round, the boat. And then finally this side of Anatahan we saw one Japanese again. When we saw that, tried to catch him. But this, too...

BP: They ran back inside.

M1: They ran back to the jungle. Then we went back to the place we left the 35 Japanese left there.

BP: You went back to the beach, where you left, and the Japanese were still there?

M1: Yeah, they're still there. We saw them. They (inaudible) the boat and go out. I showed that five are still down there. And then only we saw one guy, one that came out. That's the one that's [Kazako?], the woman.

BP: But when you dropped the supplies off and then circled the island, while you were circling the island, the Japanese from Saipan stayed on the beach?

M1: Yeah.

BP: They did, to see if anybody would come.

M1: Yeah.

BP: And so Kazako was the one who came home. She decided to come back.

M1: Then they bring to the ship one of the Japanese from Saipan. They around in that place and showed us some place there they haven't seen them. But no people. I think there was (inaudible). So when they bring Kazako to the ship, they took (inaudible) Commander Johnson (inaudible) where they saw it. And then Commander Johnson says, "Okay. So you go back to there and bring the other Japanese back to the ship." Then tell the other captain to tell me to run the engine.

BP: The captain told Kazako to go back and get the Japanese?

M1: The Japanese that bring Kazako back to the ship. When they bring them back to the ship, the other Japanese that Commander Johnson (inaudible). So they told to the Japanese again, "Okay, so you go to there are other boat, and bring the other Japanese back to the ship." So I rev the thing, I just make the engine start to running again. And soon everybody come and just (inaudible).

BP: So you didn't try to get the other Japanese.

M1: No, we didn't try to get the other Japanese.

BP: When the rest of them finally did surrender, were you there? They surrendered, what, a year later?

M1: After later they are surrender. No, no one (inaudible) because that's I think a Marine from Guam. They went there, too.

BP: What can you tell me about Kazako, the girl? Did she talk to you at all?

M1: Yeah. He told me on the ship. He always told me about her. That's why they had to come out, because still they said there was still --

BP: That's what Kazako told you.

M1: Kazako told me about that.

BP: She decided it was time to leave.

M1: Because at that time there was (inaudible) bomb here. They saw that he held (inaudible). He held a bomb.

BP: Oh, when they were bombing for bombing practice.

M1: No, bombing practice. They was burning. They burned as all.

BP: Oh, burned the bombs here in Saipan. They'd hear the explosions.

M1: They heard that explosion. So they says, "Oh, there was still fight." (laughs) That's why they're scared to come out.

(Beginning of Second Interview)