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Place of Interview: Amarillo, Texas

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald Marcello

Terms of Use: Open

Approved: Uell M. Carter

Date: 19 Sept. 1970

Oral History Collection

Mr. George Killian and Mr. Uell Carter

Interviewer: Dr. Ron Marcello

Place of Interview: Amarillo, Texas Date: September 19, 1970

Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing George Killian and Uell Carter for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on Saturday, September 19, 1970, in Amarillo, Texas. I'm interviewing Mr. Killian and Mr. Carter in order to get their reminiscences and impressions of their stay in the Japanese prisoner of war camps in the Second World War. Also present at the interview are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boynton and Mark Boynton. Let's start off the interview by asking each of you to give a brief biographical sketch of yourself. Let's start off with you, George, give a brief sketch of yourself.

Mr. Killian: Well, I was born in Amarillo in 1921, and I grew up north of town, out in Pleasant Valley . . . a community named Pleasant Valley. And I went to school at Pleasant Valley and Parks-mount, and at Amarillo High, and that's all the formal education I had. I graduated in 1939.

Dr. Marcello: When did you enter the Army?

Mr. Killian: I went into the National Guard in 1940, and I believe we were mobilized in 1941.

Carter: No, '40, '40. We were mobilized November of '40.

Killian: Right.

Marcello: Well, how about you? Would you give us a brief biographical sketch of yourself?

Carter: Well, I was also born in Amarillo, here in the city itself. I went to school at Parksmount, and that was my formal education other than Amarillo High School. I got a high school education and that was as far as I went in school. I think I enlisted in the National Guard in 1938. Then in November '40, why it was mobilized as part of the regular Army. We were stationed out there at the Fair Grounds here for about two or three months. And then we were taken to Camp Bowie, which is at Brownwood, Texas. And we went through a period with basic training which all units at that time were given. And then we found in the summer of '41, that evidence of war was so great, that rather than being a two week's camp (that was generally the extent of training), we spent about two and a half months in Louisiana toughening us for our trips to the Pacific or the tropical conditions.

Marcello: Why did you decide to enter the Army? Uell, you tell us first.

Carter: Well, I worked at Plains Chevrolet as a part-time employee, in, oh, about '38. And one of the master sergeants in the O. B. Battery (?) was a General Motors parts man, and I saw him possibly four or five times a week. And he just kept asking me to join this thing, there's lot of fun, and we'd have a beer

party once a month, (chuckle) and we'd get paid a $1.80, and . . . back in those times a dollar was more than a lot of people realize, so it was a monetary gain plus there was a lot of fellows that I actually knew. And the the fun part of going on a two weeks paid vacation was interesting to think about.

Marcello: George, why did you decide to enter?

Killian: I couldn't have been thinkin'. (Chuckle) You know. No, I went in about June of 1940, and of course at the time I went in I was a young man of nineteen with no dependents. It wasn't looking like they were going to enlist me in the service anyway. So I went in really, for the same reason mostly, I had friends in that outfit who influenced me to go in there instead of waiting to go along regular channels. At the time I was working at Amarillo Hotel.

Marcello: The official designation of your unit was the Second Battalion, 131st Field Artillery, Texas National Guard. Is that correct?

Carter: At the time it wasn't the Texas National Guard. See, when they mobilized it, it became a unit of the Federal Army.

Marcello: Right.

Carter: The United States Army. But as a National Guard unit that would be the correct designation. But, see, I think that George and I were in the same battery. We were in Battery E, Second Battalion, 131st Field Artillery. And what was that brigade?

Killian: Sixty-first.

Carter: Sixty-first Brigade of the 36th Division of the Third Army. That was the full legal designation of the branch of service.

Marcello: And your unit's primary function was artillery. Is that correct?

Carter: That's correct.

Marcello: As an artillery unit?

Carter: Yes.

Marcello: What particular function did you personally have in that unit?

Carter: I was an artificer.

Marcello: Do you want to explain what that is?

Carter: An artificer is a . . . it's exactly what it means, artificer is many trades. And I was supposedly a gun mechanic, machine mechanic, carpenter.

Marcello: Yeah. (Chuckle)

Carter: And then I helped the maintenance section with most of the motor vehicles.

Marcello: George, how about you, what was your specialization?

Killian: Well, I guess I had one. They designated me as a motor sergeant. I was in charge of the motor section of the battery, trucks, and vehicles.

Marcello: Now, the unit was mobilized, I believe it was on November 25, 1940. Is that correct?

Carter: That's correct.

Marcello: What was your first reaction to that mobilization? Uell?

Carter: Well, it was rather a shock, because I had just entered the taxi business, (laughter) and bought a couple of cars, and I had

$2,000 worth of vehicles that I had to dispose of immediately, and join these fellows. And I had just got to the point where I thought I was going to make some money, and now they were informing me I was going to make $60 a month.

Marcello: George, what was your initial reaction?

Killian: Well, I don't know. I really thought that it isn't going to be that long of a war when it started off at that time. And so I was thinkin', "Well, I'm going to have a ball, you know, like always." But, it was really cold as I remember it. Accommodations weren't that great, and pretty soon we were pretty sober about the whole thing. They were after training us pretty fast, and you might say they were hurrying us. And we could soon sense the seriousness of the situation.

Marcello: After the mobilization you were sent to Camp Bowie. Is that correct? Near Brownwood. Was there any particular type of training which you under went there that was preparing you for the Pacific?

Carter: Well, basically, as I told you previously, the long periods of time that they put us in Louisiana, the swamps, and the high humidity and heat, which you encounter down there would be climatizing you if anything. Of course, in the training battalion . . . every one of the units were basically a training battalion, because we weren't at full strength when we went to Brownwood. So, they inducted men, and they put them in our unit to bring it up to the complete complement. I think there

were supposed to be 105 men, and so many "non-coms," and so many officers, and so on. Well, they gave us thirteen weeks at that time of basic physical conditioning. To start off with we'd march a mile one day, and a mile and a half the next, and get to the point where you can put in 20 miles. Although people in the field artillery, we couldn't understand the damn road marches. (Laughter) It didn't enter our minds that we could be marching following these guns. We thought we was going to ride, you know. But anyway, they did let us do this walking for physical conditioning. And, of course, you went through all the basics of Army training--rife drill, calisthenics, which was an extension to the physical training, and then the various schools. They had the mechanics schools and gun schools. And since we were in the field artillery, we had an intense amount of drill with the field pieces. You'd go through dry runs of simulated fire, and you'd practice cleaning the guns, and taking them apart, and putting them back together. What they were trying to do was to familiarize you with what you were going to do if there was an actual combat condition. And basically that's the goal of any branch of the armed service. The soldiers are trained to do a particular job, do that job in combat. They don't worry too much about what's going on, they don't have . . . in other words, they just mechanically do the job that they were trained to do. And there's lots of discipline.

Marcello: George, what was your first reaction when you learned that you were going to the Philippines, or that the unit was going to the Philippines?

Killian: Well, I thought there was going to be some more good old garrison duty, you know.

Marcello: Manila is supposed to be a pretty nice place.

Killian: Yeah, we were looking forward to the trip, of course, being overseas. Especially the boat ride. (Chuckle)

Carter: However, did you think it was going to take forty-two days?

Killian: No. It was two months.

Marcello: It took you forty-two days from the time you left California, and you left from San Francisco.

Killian: Yes.

Marcello: I think it was November 21, 1941. I'm pretty sure that's the date.

Carter: Well, the only specific date I remember, we were in harbor at Pearl on November 30th. And now that's the date that I remember well.

Killian: I believe we did leave on the 21st though.

Marcello: When you were at Pearl Harbor did you personally see any preparations being undertaken there for an attack?

Carter: We were there two days. But that was the strangest thing to me in my mind. I thought about it many times since the war. We were granted short passes to town, I think, four-hour leaves or something like that, we weren't even getting days. We went up these docks and they had soldiers all over 'em, up on top of

the buildings, and other things. And then I learned later from history that all of that was dropped about the time that we left harbor.

Killian: Actually, they were under martial law and you couldn't do anything.

Carter: And they looked like they were ready for an attack in the morning, but then when the thing actually came, they relaxed all this precaution that they were taking at that time. We were met by an escort of these PT boats out there. Do you remember?

Killian: Good distance from Pearl Harbor.

Carter: Actually, when we left Pearl Harbor going on out into the Pacific to sea, probably toward Manila . . . our destination was PLUM, which was the Philippines, Luzon, Manila, and so on, you see. It was a code. Well, actually, we were, what, maybe six days out of Pearl when they bombed it. Our convoy just had one cruiser for protection, and they were given the instruction to make a huge circle, probably 300 miles in diameter, because you'd go up on the fantail at night, and look at the binnacle, it would indicate a different direction every time you went up there. So you surmised that you were just making a huge circle. And what they were doing was trying to decide what they were going to do. While in this circling and using time, they used up nearly all the fresh water that was on the ships. Well, they put us into the Fiji Islands, Suva, to take on fresh water.

And at that point, they got the communications straight and we headed for Brisbane.

Marcello: Before we get that far, what was your initial reactions when you had learned the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor? Here you were somewhere in the middle of the Pacific, and . . . how did you receive the news first of all?

Killian: It was no surprise really to us. That it happened this way was a surprise, but that it started, we were . . . actually we had been preparing for this for over a year. They had been conditioning us. And we were actually on alert from about the second day, wasn't it? From San Francisco . . .

Carter: Yes.

Killian: . . . and all them great movies we took with us, we didn't show a one, because you couldn't even strike a match above deck after sundown from the second day. So we were actually on a red alert two days out of San Francisco. So the fact the war started, with all the preparation around us all the time, there was no great surprise. But it does take about three days for something like that to soak in on you.

Marcello: I'm sure it does.

Killian: As a person it does. Of course, right away it didn't make our routine any different, because we were on red alert from the time we left. And like he said, we were actually diverted, I'm sure, although I'm not a navigator, it's pretty obvious the sun was coming up and going down over the bow some days. You

know, you must just be cruising around out there. Of course, history has recorded what we did as far as the course. And I believe we did have about a 300 mile circle out there for about ten days.

Marcello: Uell, what was your initial reaction when you heard the news about Pearl Harbor?

Carter: I really didn't believe it. (Chuckle) I didn't think the Japanese was that crazy. (Chuckle)

Marcello: Well, then apparently you were diverted from the original course for the Philippines, and you were sent to Brisbane in Australia. Is that correct?

Carter: That's correct.

Marcello: What did you all do when you got to Brisbane?

Killian: We marched out to Ascot which was a race track.

Carter: Oh, don't forget the best part.

Killian: And we had sheep, low and behold, for supper.

Carter: No, you still haven't got it. (Chuckle) We were the first American troops to ever land on Australia. So, they thought that, you know, all that marching we'd had back in training . . . would be a good time for us to get all these parts, and rifles, and junk, and clean the weapons, and polish shoes, and show them a real marching outfit. So, the actual distance from the dock to Ascot was about a mile. But the way we went was something like 7-1/2 miles, because we'd go up one street, and back down the next. You know, and all the flags waving, and

bands playing, and impressing them that the Americans were here.

Killian: Actually, they wanted those 500 people to look like 5,000 to the Australians, (chuckle) and I'll say they probably did at that point.

Carter: They thought we were the best unit we had over there.

Marcello: How long did you stay in Australia all together?

Carter: I don't know. (Chuckle) They had some problems there really. We were on this U.S.S. Republic, and we had to take all of our stuff off and put it into a warehouse. Well, in this process they noticed that on the top of this warehouse there was this access to the other side. The other side belonged to this Tiger Beer Company in Malaya. And it seemed that it was convenient for us to slip over there and get some of this Tiger Beer and sample it because we had never had anything like that. And time and things got kind of out of focus.

Killian: We must have been there ten days. (Chuckle)

Carter: I don't believe it was that long. (Chuckle) Three, four, five, or maybe a week.

Marcello: Did you all get any special training while you were there?

Carter: I just told you about the training.

Killian: _____. (Chuckle)

Marcello: No military training at all?

Killian: No, nothing military, actually, they . . .

Carter: Ah, we did discover the keys to the trucks was still in San

Francisco.

Killian: That's right. That's right.

Carter: All the trucks.

Killian: In those days, military vehicles had ignition keys like all the other vehicles. We had them all hanging on a nail in this barracks in San Francisco. It made it a little hard to move them sometimes.

Carter: They actually picked those keys up to keep us from driving to Manila.

Marcello: (Chuckle) When did you first find out that the unit was going to be diverted to Java?

Carter: We didn't. There were several things, really, that happened and all of this is scuttlebutt, is not factual. First, our captain was an electrical engineer, and there was need of a transmission line from Brisbane to Port Darwin. And at one point, they thought of keeping our unit in Australia because of the captain and to install this transmission line. Well, they had already put us on this Blue Fountain, which was about a Dutch combination passenger and cargo boat.

Marcello: What was the name of this boat?

Carter: The Blue Fountain.

Marcello: The Blue Fountain.

Carter: The Bleu Fontaine was the Dutch, but it means Blue Fountain. Well, everybody was so disappointed . . . in the fact that we heard this other rumor that we were going to the Philippines,

that it was convenient that the taxi drivers would come up beside the ship and take your watch and give 'em some money. And they'd go get you a bottle of whiskey, and bring it back. And then you'd trade back and forth. And so we laid in a tremendous store of whiskey there with what money we had, and we're celebrating this, you know, happy event. When they came along with the idea about the transmission line and they came up there to ask everyone to fall in, well, then very few of them were able to fall in. (Chuckle) They just fell out. (Chuckle) And this sort of made old Colonel Thorp angry, to say the least. And then he said they were keeping us on this thing. And they were needing ground people for the air corps that was going to move out of the Philippines to Java. So they sent our unit up there to act as a ground corps.

Marcello: But the unit, even though it was an artillery unit, was sent to Java in order to service airplanes. Is that correct?

Carter: That's correct.

Killian: Well, service to a point. We had many people, and we had lots of vehicles, and we were moving material more than servicing airplanes, although we did get down to servicing some of the airplanes, but their prime reason, you might think, was transportation really, because . . .

Marcello: Now . . .

Carter: . . . there wasn't any other thing we could do specifically for the aircraft, except take material to them. Of course we had

some of the experience in doing that.

Marcello: Now, where did you land in Java?

Carter: Surabaja. You'll find in Java, for example, there's two or three spellings of anyone, and also you will see two or three names for the same city.

Killian: It's been there so long; everybody names it twice. (Chuckle)

Carter: Yeah. The capital of Java is Batavia and what do they call it . . .

Killian: They call it Djakarta now.

Carter: Djakarta is what they call it now, and then the different people like the Chinese who have most of the market facilities . . . trade facilities on the island . . . they would spell it in a different way.

Marcello: Describe the place. Describe Surabaja. What was it like?

Killian: Well, it was a typical South Sea Island colonial city to me. It was just picturesque. Streetcars running down the middle, wide boulevards, lovely scenic green gardens with flowers, good-looking broads. (Laughter) Now it really looked like a paradise in that area.

Marcello: The Dutch presence was every where, I suppose.

Killian: Oh, yeah. (Chuckle)

Marcello: Uell, what was your reaction to the place the first time you saw it?

Carter: Wasn't it dark? (Laughter)

Killian: Yeah, the next day when I saw it . . . did you go on a train or

did you get to stay over?

Carter: No, I went on a train. That's what I mean when I say it was dark.

Killian: I got to stay over. Enjoy all the goodies the next morning.

Carter: The Japs greeted us the next morning.

Killian No . . .

Carter: Was it the next morning?

Killian: No, you're confusing . . .

Carter: He asked specifically when we got there. Surabaja, you see, we were actually involved with this transportation of material for over two months. They had three bombardment groups at Malang where we were stationed. Actually, we were put up there in a new army camp that had never been . . . anyone else _____ _____. (Laughter) But the camp that had been built as a military installation and was . . . and they moved us . . . in fact, they were still finishing it. And it was interesting to us in that the native women over there do all the rock breaking, and the putting it on the ground. And then they have a fellow that comes along with a roller and rolls it. But the women actually get the rocks broke up and scattered out. That portion of it is what they do. They put a Dutch lieutenant with us as a liaison officer and interpreter. And they set up an elaborate guard . . .

Killian: When did you all get off the train? Where did that train go? I didn't go on a train. I stayed in Surabaja.

Carter: Well, see it went up to Malang and they brought those school busses or some kind of busses out there and they took . . . see this army camp was about 7 miles from the city of Malang. And the airport was out there. So the biggest project we had, of course, was that the airport was too small for the B-17 bombers. So we started in immediately. We'd go to the river and these natives would get in the river and get the rocks. There wasn't any gravel or anything, but they just get out in the water, and we'd load these trucks with rocks and bring them over there and just scatter them down through the rice patch, and we'd progressively lengthen the runway for the B-17 bombers. And those natives we paid them every night with quarter Let's see, didn't we give 'em a tag every morning and then every night they'd check this tag in and you had to have the money in cash. We had huge bags of quarters because we were working about 5,000 people?

Killian: We was paying them in . . .

Carter: In their money.

Killian: . . . in their money.

Carter: Twenty-five cents a day in their money. This was double time and a half. They worked for ten cents a day when we came in there and ruined it by starting to pay them twenty-five cents. (Chuckle)

Marcello: Did you have very much contact with the Dutch? I was thinking of from either a military or civilian standpoint.

Killian: Well, in the base, the Marine Base at Surabaja was where our supplies came in. And they were in charge, of course, of this whole area. And we worked with them there in bringing supplies to Malang which was some 60 miles away, right?

Carter: Yes.

Killian: And these were some GI trucks from the dock area of the air base there. And, of course, we were in contact with them at what they called the Marine Base. Actually, we would have called it a Navy Base, but for them it was the Surabaja Marine Base. In fact the whole area we operated from was under strict military control.

Marcello: Now were you operating under their command?

Killian: No, we were under direct command of General MacArthur.

Marcello: I see.

Killian: We had a few troubles with that. Language being what it was, we did have some problems along that area.

Carter: What they did, they used natives all the way to help us because . . . for example a truck driver would go from Malang down to Surabaja. Well then they would put these natives in there loading ammunition and then they would have to handle the material, and our people was just doing the driving. Now, of course, we knew what we wanted, but it was hard to tell them, and then those guys are small. And what we would do, naturally, like lifting a 112 pound box of ammunition, we'd just reach over and get it and put it in the truck. But there would be

two of them guys get it with a little contraption that they had. And when you had one of those 660 pound bombs, well we loaded lots of those, why two or three of us could manhandle one of them. Now it takes fifteen of them guys to get out there and handle that big bomb. But it was all by hand. There wasn't any machinery involved. They rolled the bombs down to the loading dock and loaded them on the trucks. We were using a 10 ton or 20 ton truck . . . big truck. They carried 20 tons . . . 40,000 pound bomb loads. Now, you'd get aggravated waiting on these little ole' guys to load those things.

Killian: Their whole economic system, of course, was built around using all them people, which they had some thirty odd million. And naturally we did have our trouble with it because we want the train and all the stuff, you know, we want to load these trucks and get on with it. They acted like they had all the time in the world. We knew better. They didn't. We didn't have the time; they didn't either. This was one of the biggest problems. Of course on the base itself, we used a few of these people, but when it got down to the nitty gritty, I think we did practically all the work ourselves.

Carter: Yeah, we did.

Killian: Because we could have never got all those bombs out if we had to wait on those people.

Carter: The biggest thing there was that this was taking place . . . the time element was in the monsoon season . . . raining like

crazy all the time. So first thing we had these big gasoline tanks on the trailer for the truck to pull out to the plane. Our basic function was to put the gas in them, clean the .50 caliber, and oil them, and load them with bombs, and it was under supervision. We even got to the point where they took some of those engines off and replaced them because they had good . . . their master sergeants or crew chiefs or whatever they were . . . knew what they were doing. And they could give instructions and all of us being semi-mechanically minded, and then, like specifically I was trained as a gun machanic. Well there was four other people that were trained that a way, I mean, could be able to completely disassemble a .50 caliber, and reassemble it. Well, it wasn't anything different than what we did all the time. Well the only problem that we ran into was not being familiar with . . . where you hook the oxygen bottle on to the bottle . . . we could get the thing up and clamped down if they would show how to get it up. Or if you weren't supposed to drive a detonator in the bomb . . . you were supposed to use a little arming stick and make sure that it went in easy. All these things would happen as you got tired. You're racking these bombs on the ground, rolling them, and they weigh 600 pounds, roll them up under a plane got a little dinky winch that you crank them up into the plane.

Well, after so much of it you get tired. We had what they called it an arming gig that you stuck in . . . each end

of this bomb. You had a shoulder and if it went to the shoulder easily, well then you put the detonator in and screwed on the arming cap. Well, this fellow had one that wouldn't go in, so he just beat it on in with his hand. Well, it sort of upset the sergeant and he pointed out that it might go off, you know, and they didn't know what to do with it. They had to drag it off out there 2 or 3 miles and hide it, and he didn't want it around their airplane anymore because they were thiolate of mercury detonator and were very sensitive. They came in a little box with felt, and he kept them cool, and stuck 'em in an ice box, so that they wouldn't get too hot and . . .

Killian: And actually they had safety fuses at that time, but somehow or other none of them were in our area. None of the bombs we were . . .

Carter: We were using Dutch bombs, see. We weren't using ours. That was a big thing, see they weighed . . . what . . . 220 kilos?

Killian: Yeah.

Marcello: Well, apparently, then this is perhaps indicative as to just how inadequately prepared the United States was for any sort of conflict, or any of the colonial powers for that matter. I suppose they didn't have too much there either.

Carter: No, the Dutch Army was ill-equipped. I imagine all of their equipment was in Holland, and that is one of the more disappointing things to us that . . . the Dutch didn't fight. And whether they were fully trained or fully equipped really

didn't make any difference. I know at one point . . . you know, you get to arguing back and forth, and we had a fellow that was making some real bad remarks about the armored trucks. He said those things weren't any good at all. And the Dutchman said that these thing's are real good, you get in there and can't shoot you. And so this guy had a Garand, didn't he?

Killian: Springfield.

Carter: Well, we had some who had the Garand and some the Springfield. But anyway he took an armor-piercing bullet--.30 caliber would fit anything we had--and he just shot into this thing. Well, the bullet pierced the side of the vehicle all right, but this Dutchman's tin hat was sitting on the seat, and the bullet went all the way through this guy's tin hat and out the other side. Well, then you couldn't get the Dutchman back in there. (Laughter) But it did show that they didn't have the equipment that was necessary to fight the kind of war that we got into.

Marcello: How long had you been there when the Japanese landed?

Carter: About two months.

Marcello: You had been there two months. What was your initial reaction when you found out that the Japanese had landed?

Carter: Well, going back to. . . . We were in Malang, and the Air Corps knew that all this invasion was taking place. That there was 100 ships coming in on the northwest end of the island, and so many coming down the center of the island, and

they suggested that we go with them to Australia or India and continue as ground corps. Well, at that point they sent a General Barnes from Australia to Java to give us a little pep talk.

Killian: To pass out the medals.

Carter: Yeah. And he said that . . . to boost the morale of the allied people on Java it would be necessary for the American troops that are there to stay, and, you know, make a show of trying to . . . fight this thing a little bit, and all in all I was in with a fine unit, but it was expendable in the sight of what we could do maybe to make ourselves worthwhile. To even make it more complicated, they built this battalion which contained about 700 men into two or three parts and our Battery E was one which had four American .75's. They moved us down to a peninsula . . . to cover this peninsula and they moved the remaining portion of the battalion up to Batavia. Now, the peninsula was at Surabaja. And if my memory serves me right they landed about 92,000 men at Surabaja and about 105,000 up at Batavia, so we had a real going thing with 105 Americans out there and about 5,500 English and Australians?

Killian: Uh-huh.

Carter: What was it? Thousands and thousands and thousands . . .

Killian: There wouldn't have been over . . . I doubt if there was 10,000 people in our combat unit.

Carter: But we did make an extraordinary stand out there for a few days.

Marcello: Describe your initial contact with the Japanese.

Carter: Well, in the firing of battery, all the observations were made by officers using optical instruments, and the guys like I was . . . well, I guess the initial contact was when we were eating dinner there (chuckle), and they started just shooting the devil out of our mess cans . . . (chuckle) and they were hitting this zoo at the edge of the city. They had a big zoo.

Killian: That . . . that's actually the first personal contact with them.

Carter: Yeah.

Killian: We had thrown a few rounds at them, but we could never see where they went. Everybody . . .

Marcello: You people in the artillery unit were behind the lines actually.

Carter: Well supposedly . . .

Killian: If you . . .

Carter: Yeah. That line business was sort of mobile, but this day . . . well, we fired some in the night at 'em, and the next morning why we were running back and forth from the kitchen which was about three miles from where the guns were in this zoo. And so when I came in for lunch, well, the Japanese evidently had flanked us down this river . . .

Killian: I think they were hungry also. (Chuckle)

Carter: . . . well, they might have smelled our cooking, but anyway

they started firing on us with machine guns, and man, I mean the bark's flying off the trees, and everything. Everybody had their shoes off and leggings so we had to gather all that stuff up and we had, you know, two Bren gun carriers that was made by the British army. Well, we got into one of those and started out of there, and some guy . . . Who was it? Oh . . . oh . . . Cross _____ ammunition expert (chuckle) and they were trying to get some guy with a lot of nerves to go up there, and take him a bunch of ammunition and pack it firmly on to his back. "Well, here I am, I don't need the ammunition, I've abandoned that post." (Chuckle) You know the . . . those two ammunition trucks were sittin' out there, and they wanted to go out there and git' those, and some guys was afraid they might blow up if they went to foolin' with 'em; suggested that we just leave 'em for a temporary measure. But we pulled out and went back around to a point where we could see where all this was taking place, and our battery actually started firing on these machine gun nests in there, see, and destroyed them, but it was a rather hectic meeting, to say the least, don't you think?

Killian: First time, yeah.

Carter: Twenty or thirty minutes worth of it.

Killian: Actually, I think I got my first taste of it at the rubber plant. Do you recall the rubber plant?

Carter: Yeah.

Killian: Well, I took that motorcycle out--road test it--you know. (Chuckle) And we got all this security out there, you know, and I'd keep looking around, looking for it, and I thought, "Well, it sure is well hiden." And I passed about three Japs walking up the ditch going the other way, and then I turned around and come back, reported to two or three of the enlisted personnel, that they'd better not sleep that night, 'cause all this security they had out there just didn't look that secure to me. (Chuckle) They were thanking us at that time, but of course, it was a disorganized effort by everybody.

Carter: Well, I thought you was on that detail that went to town that night.

Killian: No. No. No. (Chuckle)

Carter: . . . motorcycle brigade, _____.

Killian: Oh, I might have been.

Carter: I thought you tested them at night. (Chuckle) Wouldn't let us come back in our camp. (Chuckle)

Killian: Well, this was in broad daylight. I saw those guys creeping along, and I thought, "What are they creeping along for, everybody knows they're there," you know, and I looked at 'em, and "they sure are small," and then, "They sure do look dirty," and then I turned the old Harley around and headed back, because "They sure do look like the enemy," (chuckle) which they were. They were so surprised that I don't think they ever . . . they knew, of course, what it was that rode by 'em, but I don't

think they ever recovered either. (Chuckle) I rode right through 'em, and turned around, and went back, scared me to death, tell you that.

Marcello: Describe the events which led up to your capture. Uell, you want to start us off?

Killian: Yeah, let Uell. He was in an organized outfit, I wasn't. We was split again, at about this time, Uell and I. We were in the same unit, but they done split the battalion.

Carter: What they did, of course, they were trying to, by having Americans observed in different areas, making an appearance to the Japanese that there was a large force of American people there down on that end of the island.

So, actually what caused the beginning of our end, was the Dutch. (Chuckle) We would have our guns in place, and during the night . . . well, according to theory, the infantry is out in front of the artillery . . . well, in the night they'd move their infantry right out behind us you know, where . . . they felt a little better being in the rear. (Chuckle)

Marcello: Behind the big guns?

Carter: Yeah, we made a lot more noise than they did, but it was so unnerving that you'd be within two or three hundred yards of the enemy with a bunch of heavy guns that was hard to move, and so every morning we'd get up with the thought that we was gonna have to move, and get back up there and dig some four foot holes, and put 'em in 'em, and we complained bitterly to

the captain that we'd like for him to make an arrangement to keep the infantry out in front of us, you know, and he would spend most of his time at general headquarters there in Surabaja, complaining with the Dutch that the methods of operation out there was a little bit sloppy, that he thought that the infantry and machine gun companies oughta' to be ahead of the artillery. In fact, it was because of the Dutch that the Japanese flanked us on our left. And there was a river that ran across one out into the ocean. And there were a bunch of palatial brick homes built on that river, and the Japanese started moving into these brick houses. Well, these guns had enough capacity that one shell could destroy one of these houses, and I don't know, we fired a whole day at these houses, but as soon as a bunch of Japanese would go into the house, why we'd put a round, maybe two rounds, into the house and destroy whatever personnel was in the houses. And then we had a machine gun company, or a group of six people in our unit that either operated machine guns and automatic rifles, and this Sergeant Fujita was a fellow that I'd like you to talk to. He was in charge of this machine section.

Carter: And we were responsible for what was our right flank. In other words, there would be six automatic rifles out there, maybe two .50 calibers, or maybe a .30 caliber--machine guns--

_____ so we wouldn't get surrounded. This river was sort of minor Siegfried Line. They had pill

boxes built down there out of concrete, about . . . oh, every mile or so, they'd have one of these things that was probably about as big as this room. There wasn't any armament in them. You just supplied your own armaments, but they did have those things along the river. We usually sat up on top of them.

Killian: We met our first Amboinese, which are native troops there. They were in the Dutch Army. They were from Amboina, and they were professional soldiers, and at least, that's the first time I seen 'em, any real close contact with 'em, and they were what we would class as jungle troops. They carried very light armament, and they depended more on their knives and small carbines than anything else. They were jungle fighters. They were all along that river.

Carter: Well, there's one bunch of natives who went up there in a sword charge. You know, you hear about bayonet charges, but these nuts all had swords. I don't know what cranked 'em off, but (chuckle) they took off across this terrain and run out to the river and went up the other side and did a considerable amount of damage.

Killian: That . . . night that was . . . I was thinking about in particular was the night the Japs were probing us on the left side across the river. They met these native troops who moved in there with them right along the edge of the water, and they was people probably 5'5" to 5'7" tall, and they'd weigh about 165-175 pounds--there're pretty stocky. All of these GI's,

they shot everything that moved in that river, boy, they wasn't gonna look at it. They were just gonna' sink it, and let it go on out with the tide, and these dang heathens, they wanted . . . they said, "Wait Joe," "Wait Joe," you know, they wanted to climb over the sandbags so they could stick that knife in 'em, and shove 'em back out in the river and they wouldn't know they were over there, see, and they didn't have to fire a round that way. This was their mode of operation which was very distasteful to us.

Carter: What eventually happened, of course, a field artillery unit in action can do a tremendous amount of damage to whatever they are firing at. But they kept flanking us and they got to the point where they controlled the water supply for the town. And the Dutch asked us to relinquish our positions so that they would allow the people in the town to have water. It was a critical thing because . . . at that point the Dutch said they were going to capitulate the island. So all the rumors that the American troops had had up to that point were that the Japanese didn't take prisoners. So we began . . . a group down there . . . and talked about what we were going to do. And our captain released us. I didn't even know anything about the articles of war, but there is one article in there that if the situation is great enough, they can say everyone for himself, do the best you can, and take care of yourself--"we no longer can." So he gave us this command. Well, we all went out and

sat up in the truck and thought about it. And we decided it was a bad situation. If he couldn't do anything for you, well, what could you do for yourself. There wasn't any aircraft or anything available, so we all went over to the dock area with the thought of "Maybe there was some kind of a ship over there that we can take or command and get the heck out of here," you know--just that bad. So . . . first off, we destroyed all of our equipment and just run our trucks off in the ocean.

Well, then we went up there and they had what was a Dutch minesweeper, very small diesal-powered boat. I guess it was about 70-80 feet long, something like that anyway. There were two or three Dutchmen on it, so we just took charge of it, and they said that if we'd let them they would take us over to a small island in the harbor of Surabaja about three or four miles across there.

Well, in this process, of course, we were going to take this boat to Australia, and we got over there to Moderia, and we told these Dutchmen, "Now this is it. We are going to take this thing, and we are going to Australia." And they said, "Well, you can't. There's no water on it, no food." So we start out with a finding party to see what we can come up with in the way of rations and containers for water and what not. And we didn't have very good <u>foresight</u>. We left some of these Dutchmen in charge of the machine gun up on top of this thing. And in this process of searching, a little old Japanese dive

bomber came by and sank our boat. This Dutchman thought . . . the best thing to do was just to jump over the side and not to shoot at that Jap and leave him alone. And he just dove over the side and swam for the bank, and of course he made a real easy target.

Some of the guys tried for the south end of the island in a sailing boat, but they didn't make--with adverse wind conditions and what not. How long were they gone? About three months? And then they blew right back up to the bay . . .

Killian: . . . to the bay or something like that.

Carter: . . . but they made a long water haul for nothing, and it became evident that we were in a situation where we couldn't get out of it, so we went from one end of Moderia to the other on a little railroad. Actually Moderia was a salt mine country . . .

Marcello: Do you know how that's spelled?

Carter: M-O-D-E-R-I-A. And this railroad carried any salt products up to where they put it on a ship and shipped it out. Well, we were all down at the end of this railroad and had this train and everything, and the captain came down and said, "Now, look this is what's happened. The Dutch have surrendered to the Japanese, and we have this choice. We can either get in this train with the Dutchmen and go back to the main quarters in the village and see what happens, or we can hide out here in the bushes and fight it out . . . which we need to decide." So he

said, "What they want us to do is to put all of our arms in the boxcar in the front of the train and then us get in the packing cars in the back of the train." So we talked about it all night, and there wasn't any real thing you could do about it, I mean, this little old island was 30 miles long and about 8 or 10 miles wide. There wasn't much of a place to hide, so we decided we would go with them and see what happened. We made sort of a plan that we would lay all of our rifles in front of this boxcar by the door, and then we took out the trigger or receiver group and put it in our pockets of these Browning Automatic Rifles and laid them down with the ammunition and everything out on top of them. So I took my raincoat and just laid it over my arm and filled my pockets with hand grenades, so that we would have a little bit of diversion if they started to shoot us, we'd give them a little run for their money when we got up there.

Well, we went down there on the train and . . . oh . . . it was about ten o'clock in the morning, I guess, when we got down to where these Japanese were at. Well, this one little old Jap kid got up on the train, and that's what he looked like, he was younger than I was, and I was probably 19 . . . 18 or 19, but . . . and, you know, he didn't look like anything scary to me. But this Japanese officer sitting out in the yard, well, he came unglued when this thing came up. He jumped up yelling and I thought, "Here it is." I thought I would get

me a hand grenade, and I was going to give him one of them. All his problem was that the Dutch had put a guard on top of the boxcar. We didn't realize it, but they had a man sitting up there with a rifle watching this boxcar pull up . . . rifles and ammunition and what not, and he was a little bit alarmed about that. He thought this guy was getting ready to cut loose at them, and they finally got him down.

And they just took us out of this train and put us over there in the army camp. And all them army camps in Java have a fence or a wall around them. That's just automatic, the way they build them. So they didn't have to erect any fence and they just moved us in there. So we all started climbing trees and looking for our bunch, you know, to come in on the next boat. We didn't think it was going to be very long of a process. In fact, we still . . . I had an automatic pistol and several guys had different types of arms. We had all these hand grenades.

Marcello: You were still expecting to be shot or killed.

Carter: Well, we didn't know what they were going to do. And then, too, we thought . . . we heard these rumors that the Japanese had our bunch up in there. That there were thousands of Americans that were going to land immediately, you know, so we weren't really concerned. We figured, "well, it would be a few days here 'til our bunch gets things straightened out, and so we were just having a lark. A lark usually is when the food ran

out at the camp. (Chuckle) So we found we had a really serious problem. The Japanese had overlooked giving us any rations, and whatever was in the camp was eaten up. Well then it became . . . I think we stayed over there thirty days, and then they moved us to the island proper in Java.

Marcello: George, were you in on all this also or were your circumstances a little bit different?

Killian: A little different. Yeah, what's different about yours? (Chuckle) Dates were rather confusing, but I think we parted around the sixth of March, didn't we?

Carter: Something like that.

Killian: . . . fifth or sixth of March of '42. And I don't know just exactly what was coming . . . we had one roadblock still set with two anti-tank guns, two 3" guns on it. As I recall when we went down . . . I went with the group to the harbor where ya'll left, but I changed clothes and went back. So we took trucks there to transport 'em and went back to the guns where they was thirty people, I believe, one officer, twenty-nine other enlisted men who were still on the guns. What we were doing, I really don't know, I mean, as far as objective was concerned. We were definitely holding that road coming up from the east end of that peninsula. I recall changing clothes, because it was very difficult to think in terms of crossing this city--which is actually, more or less open, what we would call an open city--in uniform because we had so much

authority around there all of a sudden, it seemed that everybody with a uniform on had lots of authority. I recall the destruction of the trucks, and I took over a '37 Ford Sedan that was sittin' there. It belonged to a Dutch Marine officer. I believe, captain in the Dutch Marines. I got some white clothes which was the mode of the day there in the tropics--these white suits--and I went back to Lt. Allen and the group about the time they took off. Of course, we left there right away, and I don't know how long we stayed on those guns, but they were spiked and destroyed, and the instruments was thrown in the river. We were right at that bridge, Uell. Then we went up town. We were all in civilian clothes at this time. We really didn't have any place to go, and we were just waiting, and we had all changed clothes 'cause it was . . . just . . . this is hard probably to understand to you--this change of clothes, but we were all still armed, but the Dutch people were . . . the whole organization was actually in a panic. This is very difficult for people who never observed, to see people panic . . . there was really a panic on 'em, and in this city there was probably about 250,000 white European people, not counting the natives. This was a large city and there's quite a bit of hulabaloo going on, I'll guarantee you, but everybody who was in uniform was directing somebody to do something else, you know. So I can see that this is probably the main reason we changed clothes. We didn't want to be hampered by all of

this authority. We had been released, and if there was something to do, we were going to do it.

As it turned out, we didn't do anything, but we could've done nothing, if we'd stayed in uniform. Every block we would have been run off the road by Dutch army personnel. And apprehended actually. We would have been held captive by the Dutch. They were quite convinced in the ranks that the Japanese had nothing at all against the Dutch people. It was all against the American people, which to us was a very foolhearted thing to believe. We had no thought about it, really, but we thought they were all the same to the Japs, just like the Japs were all the same to us. We didn't care whether they came from Mongolia or where they came from.

Carter: Well actually, they kept telling us even, you know, at this point they said, "Now you guys just go over there and take it easy, 'cause we're all gonna go back out there and it'll be like it was in peace time." The Dutch actually believed that they were gonna be returned to their civilian occupations, and that they were gonna go merrily on their way. They did not realize, or would not believe that they were gonna be taken prisoners just like . . . they'd proposed for us. So their idea was to put a few Americans, a few Australians and English in a concentration camp, and satisfy the Japanese with that, and then everyone else would be released to go on . . . they just . . .

Killian: Yeah, this is their philosophy.

Carter: We couldn't get that over to them. We said, "Now, look you nuts, you're gonna be right next door to me, and whatever it is, its not gonna be . . . cushy and plush like you think, but they are going to take charge of you."

Marcello: You haven't mentioned anything about the British up to this time. What were your opinions of the British?

Carter: Oh, . . . Actually, what contact we had with the British prior to being a prisoner-of-war was very little. They moved the antiaircraft groups up there--Malang--to help us protect our planes, and I believe there was four guns. They were, about what 40 mm., both of them?

Killian: Yeah, 40 mm., something like that.

Carter: Anyway they were the . . . not as large guns as we had . . . but it was a rather effective antiaircraft gun . . .

Killian: For low flying aircraft . . . which is what we were actually being harrassed by more than anything else.

Carter: We were . . . of course hadn't been in combat, and thought those guys rather foolish to set up there on their guns and fire at an airplane just because it was coming by. We liked a hole in the ground, because that's the way we were trained. We'd fire the machine gun out of the gun pit without any concern, but to sit out there in one of those guns . . . in broad daylight, well, we thought those guys was a little bit crazy. But, I guess, you know, it wasn't a whole lot more

dangerous than what we were involved in. I didn't see anything that they did that was miraculous. They didn't shoot anybody down.

Killian: They had trouble with their timers, too. All of our timed fuses were unreliable.

Carter: Sometimes they'd go off before they came out of the barrel.

Killian: Sometimes they'd go off about fifty yards out there, and sometimes they'd travel for thirty minutes, and they'd never go off, you know. (Chuckle) I suppose it was the heat. I'm sure we didn't have a bad lot of ammunition (sarcasm).

Carter: But the things . . . one of them bunch of shells were so sensitive when, that if it was raining, when you shot one of 'em off with a raindrop. If it hit a raindrop up there, it was gone. Well, this was rather nerve-racking, you know. We complained bitterly to these . . . durn British that they was shootin' us rather than the Japs because our position was all along out there with theirs, and these durn things would go off too quick, why, they just showered the ground with these metal fragments. But that's the only involvement we had with the English, which was, very short-lived, because they weren't up there but four or five days. Now if they had some fighter pilots up at Batavia, but not where we were at. In our own air group, we had a fighter squadron that was very rapidly destroyed in what combat we had there in the beginning of . . .

Killian: See, the air seige started almost simultaneously with us

moving into Java. We were under air attack actually from Port Moresby all the way up. We were under Japanese air attack. And we were discussing operations at our air base with reference to Japanese fighters and bomber attacks which were daily occurrences for us, with the British that . . . they had antiaircraft people moved in there.

Marcello: Describe what your original prisoner-of-war compound was like. What exactly took place? And after you had been captured, of course, you were all put in this compound. Had the units been scattered at this time, or were you still together yet?

Carter: No. It was broken in three parts. In other words, see there's twenty-nine or thirty people that George talked about that came out of the initial group of Battery E, which contained 105 men, and the remainder of the 100, in other words, what would it be . . . 75 men . . . we were at Madura, and . . . we were stationed in this one camp, which was an army camp that . . . as I pointed out, all of their army camps had their fences. All they had to do was establish a guard at the front and they had the thing contained.

Marcello: What were living conditions like at this camp?

Carter: Well, it would be less than desirable as far as an army camp. In the beginning they didn't do anything to us. The first thirty days we were just there, they knew we were there, and we had some amusing incidents with 'em. One of 'em, that I

remember was that we had this Japanese private who found one of our hand grenades. And so he came up, pulled the pin, and shoved it to us. And we didn't want to talk to him. We thought it would be better to visit down the street, (chuckle) but, he still wanted to talk to us, and he chased us all over the camp; we were running pretty hard by then, and, so finally, we decided what to do was to git' it away from 'im. There was a cistern in the camp, and just drop it down the cistern. Of course, it removed all the water out of that cistern when it went off. Well, this guy was a little aggetated, and frightened, to say the least, and he didn't come back into camp for several days after that. They left us entirely alone. They didn't . . . want any part of the bunch . . .

Marcello: In other words, they really didn't seem to make any great effort to disarm you at this time?

Carter: No. No.

Marcello: You say you had weapons and hand grenades?

Carter: They hadn't even checked us, or anything. When we . . . were asked to . . . they was gonna move us to this from Madura to Java why, they . . . well, they decided to take our radio at that time. They didn't want us to have a radio any more. A few items that they chanced upon, well, they took 'em, but it wasn't a very thorough search, because we still had our pistols, hand grenades, and things of that nature.

We went over to this island, to the main island of Java,

and they made us a prison camp by taking one of the warehouses on the dock and just putting a fence across the dock. Well, took care of this warehouse, and the water was on three sides with a fence down on one side.

Well, they at that point began to try to get a little bit of work out of us. They wanted us to load ships . . . various things like that. Ah . . . now the first working party we went on, they required us to load some zinc bars that weighed about 65 or 70 pounds. You were supposed to take it up and put it in a cargo net, and they raised it up, and dropped it down in the hold. Well, we were all pretty clumsy. We'd fall and drop it in the ocean, and it would make them pretty mad, but we did that consistently.

Marcello: Did they retaliate in any way?

Carter: No, just really made them mad. They didn't . . .at that time they didn't hardly bother us.

Marcello: Why do you think they were so lax?

Carter: They wasn't lax. It's just that they . . . sort of like two strange dogs, you know, afraid to touch each other, didn't know exactly what was going to happen. I know on this zinc thing, we were walking this gang plank up on the dock up to the deck of this ship and as the morning wore on, we got thirsty and I noticed this huge barrel sitting out at the end where the hold was. I tried to get my canteen into it and drink it. Well, it turned out to be saki. Well, you haven't had anything until

you drink a full canteen full of saki on a hot day. It has a real super charging effect and I told everybody in our group about it. It was pretty good, you know, and they ought to try a little bit of it. Well, it got where we couldn't walk that day, and we couldn't even crawl. They got pretty mad then and there, but they didn't know what to do with us because it was real responsibility. They'd let us get tight, and we'd spoiled the deal, and we hadn't loaded any zinc. And so they took us out there in the shade and left us out there all day in the shade trying to keep us away from that barrel. And along, I guess, about five or six o'clock, we got to where we could walk, and they took us back to camp.

And we had another fiasco with rice. They were going to have us load rice. And, of course, we were looking for the barrel when we went out there to load this rice. And everyone of those ships had it. It's just a matter of getting into it, you know. You'd get up there and unload the rice and you just get where you couldn't carry rice and anything else. But it was pretty funny.

Really we had a "didn't make a durn" kind of attitude anyway. Well, what was going to happen? We still didn't know whether they were going to shoot us. I know this point they decided one day to put us all in a big room, and they were going to make us write for days here, and they thought in all this writing that we'd divulge some military secret. So we

sat there and wrote and wrote. Well, if you didn't write, they'd come along and give you a lick with . . . they had a bamboo stick, you know, but the main thing was for you to write. It didn't make any difference what you were writing as long as you write. So when they took all this garbage up there, and they'd really think they were going to find out how many troops we had in Australia or some big military secret, but they didn't find out anything.

I know it cured me of volunteering at this camp. One day they said, "Does anybody want to go swimming?" Well, that didn't sound bad, you know. So a bunch of us volunteered, and they put us in one of these Japanese landing barges. Those things was 130 feet long and 40 or 50 feet wide.

Killian: They were cargo barges, really.

Carter: And we went out in the ocean, just went and went and went. Of course, we couldn't see. We would just feel the motions. We were down in the bottom of it. After ahile we got out in the ocean, and they made us climb a ladder up on this ship. I think it was three or four miles back to the bank. (Chuckle) We got to thinking, "Well, man, if they are going to make us swim this far, we've had it." But what the deal was, they had brought this ship loaded with barrels of fuel oil and gasoline or something, and they could pitch it over in the ocean and it would float, but they needed a method of propulsion to get it to the bank. So that was us. (Chuckle) And so you swam one

of those barrels to the bank. Well, this takes several hours to swim those barrels to the bank. Of course, they'd support you, but that was our swimming party.

Killian: But this channel and everything from the harbor is full of mines that are no longer captive. In other words they had released all the captive mines in the channel and everything and they're floating in and out with the tide and this is the reason they don't take the ship up and unload it. It hasn't been cleared yet.

Carter: Well, then too, we sunk those ships out there in the middle of the channel.

Killian: Well, even some of those small ones would have had tough going among those mine banks. They hadn't cleared it yet.

Marcello: What were the living conditions like in this compound?

Carter: On the dock it was terrible because a sheet iron building at 130° inside would get real hot, and that's about what the average temperature was in Surabaja on a given day unless you had a cloud cover or something. It'd get up to 120, 125, or 130, and it'd just flat melt you in this thing.

Marcello: What was your physical condition at this particular time?

Carter: I was actually in pretty good physical condition. At the time I was taken prisoner I weighed 205 pounds. And at that time--that would be about two months after we'd taken prisoner--I still probably weighed up better than 190 pounds. It wasn't that bad at that point.

Marcello: George, were you still in pretty good shape at this time also?

Killian: Oh, great shape at the time he's talking about. (Chuckle)

Marcello: What were you doing at this time?

Carter: What were you doing, George? (Chuckle)

Killian: Oh . . . still free-lancing . . . we hadn't been captured. We had met up with this group and . . .

Marcello: Just a minute here. How long had you all been captured?

Carter: Well, I was actually a prisoner of war three months, wasn't it, before you all came?

Killian: Yeah.

Marcello: You had three months more freedom up to this time then?

Killian: Yes. Actually, we reported back to this Lt. Allen, who was in charge of our group that stayed behind here. And the next morning we were turned over to the Japanese people by the Dutch personnel, and we were marched down to the big building . . . you know, where the Municipal Building was?

Carter: Yeah.

Killian: We were marched down there and this night we spent, we didn't even have room to lay down in this building where these Japs kept us the first night. And this all happened about the time we went to Madura which would have been about the eighth of March. The next day they moved us down to register . . . put us in the Jaarmarkt. Well, this was when Ike and I left. We were walking down the boulevard there going toward the Jaarmarkt and, Jaarmarkt . . .

Marcello: Well . . . how did . . . the . . .

Killian: . . . is a prison.

Carter: The Jaarmarkt just means fairgrounds.

Killian: But, the part we are talking about was a penitentiary.

Carter: Yeah . . .

Killian: Colonial penitentiary . . . compound. That's where they were taking us to intern us.

Marcello: What was it like?

Killian: Well, it was like any other penitentiary that was designed by colonialists for the colony. It was very crude even at its very best. It didn't have any facilities that we would have called decent, even before the Japs took it over. We left there. Ike and I were sitting there resting, and the Jap guards kinda got busy buying something off of the street venders, and he says, "I think its time for us to leave, I didn't like the accommodations last night." This place where we stayed, we couldn't even lay down, it was so crowded in there. There wasn't enough room for the people to lay down. They just sat up all night. So we just got up and left, and we had wandered around just about three months before we got sent for --told us to come back in.

We were with this lieutenant, Uell, which we were talking about, the liaison officer was with us.

Carter: Oh.

Killian: . . . this Dutch liaison officer was with us because he told us

not to walk off, that we would get shot in the back. I said, "I don't think so." I said, "I'd just as soon not stay here." And that's when we left.

Carter: Well, actually what caused you all to come in was the radio broadcast.

Killian: Right.

Carter: But . . . they were gonna start in on the Americans that was already in prison camps and shoot some of 'em unless these guys were gonna turn themselves in, and you came into _____ at that time . . .

Killian: That was Jaarmarkt.

Carter: Jaarmarkt? Well, see, the one I was in was called the _____ which was dock in the native language. Well, the Jaarmarkt is a fairground . . .

I was moved from the dock at the high school, and George was moved from the fairgrounds to the high school. And that's the first time we came together after the capitulation of Java.

Marcello: Now, in the meantime when he was running around, you were working on the docks, is that right?

Carter: That's right.

Marcello: Then they transferred you from there to the high school?

Carter: Yes, and that's when we got together. There was one interesting thing that happened while we were working on the docks. (Chuckle) . . .

Killian: More than that. (Chuckle)

Carter: The beginning of the brutality of the Japanese to us, and I was one of the first ones that had a taste of it. This small Japanese came into the camp, and we, of course couldn't understand him. He went on and on, and then he come up and he just slapped me. Well, I'd boxed a lot in the Army, and on the reflex, I just popped him back. Well, it knocked him completely out from under his tin hat, and he was just out cold. So, I thought it was pretty amusing, you know. He laid out there for about fifteen minutes in the sun. Finally, he come to, and he jumped up grabbed his hat and his gun and run back around the corner, and I thought, "Boy, you really cured him," you know. In a little bit, they come back around there--hundreds of 'em. And all the prisoners were asked to fall in in nationalities, and so on, you know, and this little guy comes along and he looks at everybody, and he goes right by me, you know. I thought, "Now, I've got it made. He didn't even recognize me." And so he goes up and down and up and down and does that about four or five times, and finally he came back by maybe the fifth time, and he did recognize me. And they set on me like a bunch of dogs, and they dragged me out into the street, and as George pointed out, these streets were boulevards. They had a grass section between two double lanes with street lights--big street lights. Well, they thought it was real funny. They just put my hands behind me and put enough tension on them where if I was standing completely as high as I could stand, my

arms were just tight. If I slacked, well, it would be like a hammer lock. I didn't have a shirt on. I just had a pair of shorts, and it was real hot there, and, of course, I wasn't tanned. They hung a sign up there which must have said, "Throw a rock." Because every Jap that come down that street, stopped and hunted a rock and flung it at me. And some of them were pretty good shots, and especially when you couldn't do much dodging, and the more you tried to dodge, the more they put pressure on your arms. Well, they left me there from, say, mid-morning, all that day, all that night, all the next day until it got dark. And by that time our captain had made some kind of a deal . . . it was strange then that the camp commander wasn't in charge of the guards. He was in charge of the camp, and he was a Mongolian. He wasn't even a Japanese, but he was a Mongolian captain in the Japanese army, and he rescinded the sentence, whatever they decided to do with me. Of course, I never did know, but they came out and got me. But, boy, I mean I was sunburned to a fare-you-well, and hadn't had a drink of water in a couple of days, and we'd began at that point to realize that it was serious business.

If you had any . . . cross with them, and it . . . it just seemed like from that point on, it progressively got worse.

Marcello: How long had you been a prisoner by this time?

Carter: About two months.

Marcello: About two months. Then it was from this point then that they moved you to the high school?

Carter: No, we were down there about four or five months on the docks, I don't know.

Marcello: I see.

Carter: One other thing that happened while we were on the docks. They worked at night because they were afraid of our planes bombing this thing during the daytime. So they had us down there, and we were unloading a ship, and it was just a bundle of supplies, it could have held . . . you know, just bundles, and so we were cursing the situation, and the guards in particular. And I called one of 'em a pretty good name, and he came up and went in and just cut loose on me. And he said, "Just so you'll know," he said, "I have a doctor's degree from the University of Southern California." He said, "I understand perfectly what you were talking about," and then went on his way. It was, you know, quite a shock to us that a guy who was that well educated . . . he was a sergeant in the Japanese Army, and we ran into it several times. Some of 'em had degrees from the University of Washington, but as a general rule, the ones with higher education or education in the states, weren't, other than maybe a sergeant, they weren't any of the officers, ever. The only officer that we ran into the whole time was Captain Sony later on in the prison camp. He was a Professor of English at the University of Singapore.

Marcello: Is that S-O-N-Y?

Killian: The same family, actually. He had a title. This was the same people we're talking about, as you are when we talk about the electronics people.

Carter: I was in twenty-one different camps for various periods of time, and actually when George and I went to the high school then we went from the high school back to Jaarmarkt and then to Jaarmarkt . . . No, let's see, I went to Jaarmarkt, and then we went to high school, that's the way it was.

Killian: That's the way it worked. See, because I didn't go back to the Jaarmarkt.

Carter: Yeah, and then you were sent with a group. They were always afraid of having too many Americans in a group together. Every-time they'd git very many of us together, they'd split us, and that's when you went to the Bicycle Camp.

Killian: That's right, in Batavia which is Jakarta.

Carter: Well, I went to Bandung. Did you go with me?

Killian: I went to Batavia.

Carter: Well, it was a little later . . .

Killian: It had been September '42 we're talking about right now.

Carter: Well, I didn't go to Batavia because . . . well we were . . .

Killian: We went to Batavia, though. When we left _____ we went to Batavia straight from there.

Carter: Yeah, well I . . .

Killian: You could have meant September or October of '42. We went to

"Cycle" Camp--called it Bicycle Camp.

Carter: Well, evidently, they were trying to get up a work contingent to ship overseas when they shipped these troops to Batavia, but I didn't go for some reason. There was about thirty-nine of us that were left of the Americans. Now there . . . in this camp, . . . these camps would generally have about 5,000 men in 'em . . . 5,500 something like that. Now, the Jaarmarkt was just sort of a holding camp. There wasn't any work parties out of it, it wasn't nothing, it just . . . you're just out there . . . there wasn't anybody worked out of that camp. But when we got back to the high school, some of the craziest things happened there.

Marcello: Why did they send you to this high school to begin with?

Carter: Well, it was just a . . .

Killian: It was a "make-do" prison camp, that's all.

Carter: Well, they just . . . around this school, they didn't even have any bathing facilities, or drinking water, cooking . . . in fact, that's where the English started losing men at the rate of one a day.

Killian: That's right.

Carter: For over a year now, they lost a man a day from dysentery. And that was the beginning of the grand part of the prison camp. In fact, the natives . . . there was two of 'em, and they went to this . . . they had a native fortune teller, and, boy, they really believed in this black magic and white magic out there

in the island. Well, they asked this old boy, they said, "Now when would be a good time to leave?" So, he gets his crystal ball out, looks in it, and decides that the first night of the full moon--and the full moon in the tropics (you can read your notes there)--it's that bright. "That'll be the night that you guys ought to take off." And we told 'em, said, "Man, that's crazy. If you're gonna run off, well, wait 'til its raining and dark and sneak out of here." But these two nuts were believing this fortune teller, so they took off there one night and out of the camp they went. Well, they couldn't get across the road that was out in front of the camp. The guards got 'em and they brought 'em back to camp, and they give 'em a pretty good lickin' there to start with, and then they decided, well, they'd just make an example of 'em. They built a little pen. It was about 5 feet square and about 3 feet high made out of hog wire. You couldn't . . . of course, they couldn't stand. They just threw their food in on the ground, and every Jap that went by, he would grind his cigarette out on their arm, on their back, and generally they made their life pretty miserable there. For about three months they kept 'em in that little pen, and, you know, pointing to us to follow their ways, you know, that we shouldn't be so foolish to try to escape.

But the biggest thing for us to have tried to escape were ending up with three strikes . . . major strikes against us. First, it was 1,700 miles by water to the nearest point that we

could hope to be successful in an escape. Second, is a white person in the tropics under a . . . Japanese rule. You'd be sort of be hard to hide. You take most of us running 6 foot, a couple of hundred pounds and the natives is a 130 or 140 pounds, and besides this, you sort of stand out as a momument when you start walking around. And then too, we hadn't had this opportunity to try to get away when we weren't contained and we weren't successful. So we thought of it in those points . . . it was just nearly impossible.

Marcello: Did the Japanese probably offer any bounties to the natives for information about escapes? In other words the natives, I assume, weren't loyal to anybody.

Killian: That's right.

Carter: No . . . I don't know whether there were any bounties offered. It is possible it was.

Killian: Yes . . . there definitely was a reward offered for information to pick up anyone who wasn't registered with them at the time they started this . . .

Boynton: Where was Colonel Thorpe at this time?

Carter: He was at Batavia, always. I mean, see, when they split the battalion into three parts, or actually two parts, they sent "E" battery down to the docks there at Surabaja to set up with these guys on the peninsula. Well, the other three firing batteries and the service battery went to Batavia which was the capital of Java.

That's where Jack Moss and his group was. They went strictly into the . . . oh, I don't know--Jack, he didn't do like the rest of them. When they turned you lose everybody catches as catch can. You do what you wanted to. In fact, one of the most interesting things I saw was a movie a few years ago about Lifeboats in Java or something with James Stewart in it. And he was transporting a bunch of medical . . . you know . . . casualties onto a ship that was going to leave Java. And we were aware of that . . . I mean . . . we knew that people were being taken out of the hospital and taken to the ship, but we weren't . . . in fact, Jack, I think, tried to go up there and get on that darn ship. He wasn't crippled enough.

But, you know, all these things just all happening real fast. We were required to blow up our planes . . . that were, that they might get some good out of them or . . . and . . . as George pointed out. They were always wanting you to do something. In fact, we were going back and forth from where the captain was to our old observation point where our first lieutenants and officers of the guns were, and these darn Dutchmen would try to stop us, you know. They were just leaving the front. And I got so mad at them one day there _____ that I told a buddy, "We'll just cut down on them with that '.50' and we'll just cut them up." I said, "I'm tired of it--them stopping me, jumping out in front of us. I'm going to run over him if he don't get out of the

way." I said, "I haven't got time to fool with him." I said, "We're not leaving anything, and if you get yourself back up there where you belong, why it would be better." And the only Dutchman I ever saw that got shot was that one that got shot all the way across with a machine gun, and he run about three or four miles after they shot him and he still wasn't . . . you know . . . he was still going, he wasn't hurt, but I *think he had four machine gun bullets right straight through his chest plum through to the other side. There were big old* bloody places on his shirt, but it didn't hardly slow him down . . . he wasn't . . . I saw him later in prison camp. That he was shot completely through four times. He was sure strong as a horse because he was still running. But . . . you know . . . they was always making accusations that we were deserting or doing something out of order . . . when there never was any order to it.

Killian: We never did do anything out of order. I'll guarantee you that.

Carter: Your Dutch general, he'd say, "Well, what shall I do?" And I think Captain Dodson sitting up there with him helped him as much as anything to hold what organization there was.

Marcello: I'm sure.

Killian: You've got to visualize that when you are thinking in terms of an organized, military unit--and we actually were in a pretty *good military unit of the day--but these people were never*

organized like this. In their hayday they had no organization that would have compared to our little old outfit there. And then, most of the people in the island except a few professional soldiers who were actually used as a security thing were reserve officers. They had a real fine uniform and a dang good looking hat . . . you know, and they walked down the boulevard but . . . they didn't know a damn thing about fighting the war. And they never had been taught. This is the type people he's talking about, see?

Carter: Well it's just like one night a few . . .

Killian: They hadn't even had a National Guard Meeting night. (Chuckle) All they did was pass out the . . . the . . .

Carter: Medals . . .

Killian: . . . the medals and the hats and the uniforms, man, and they've got a reserve outfit. Well, they numbered some twenty-thirty thousand people. You couldn't have found a soldier in the lot of them, you know. They knew nothing.

Marcello: How long were you in Java altogether?

Carter: I was there forty-two months.

Marcello: You were on Java the whole time. You never left Java at all?

Carter: No. The only time that . . .later on when they wanted us to leave the island, I refused. And they sent me to a prison camp. That's when we went over there to that _____ that regular prison. Some of us did, course, we didn't really know what we were doing at the time. As I told you I learned

not to volunteer. (Chuckle)

And when we . . . when George left the high school and went to Batavia, well, I was sent from the high school to Bandung. Well, they was on a train . . . we had a lot of fun out of these guards all the time. They was pretty stupid, and we'd get them to do things we wanted by endangering their lives. And you can do that by stealing their gun. If they lost their gun, they were killed on the spot right then, no argument. If you don't have your gun . . .

Marcello: No Court Martial . . .

Carter: . . . they'd just shoot you . . .

Killian: They shot 'em.

Carter: So we learned that a little early in the game, and we'd just steal this darn rifle and hide it. Well, then we'd put it on him; we'd help him find the gun if he'd do what we wanted him to do. Well boy, they'd get right with it, now then whatever you tell them, why they'd help you.

The first instance that we had was when they had us working on the air field extending the runway. And we were doing it . . . we had a little stick and you carried two little baskets of dirt on this stick, you know. And it's real good *for your shoulder muscles. They make them strong. And so we* didn't like the idea of working on the runway anyway, so . . . but, the Japanese, they're methodic. If you can do something and line it up and make it look pretty, they like it. So they

had a . . . we's gonna have to put a fill in a ditch. So we just took and laid all these rocks in nice neat rows so that the water would still run through there. And they liked the idea; that was real good thinking on our part. Well, then we put sand on that and then they went up there, and they rolled it, put a hard top on it. Well, of course in Java it rains a lot. It rains up there and washes the rocks and the sand out. It makes sort of like a big dip in the street there where these bombers come in. Well the first day they come in they tore up twelve of them. (Chuckle) They'd hit the thing, bounce, and run off out there sideways, and tear their tail off, and they'd run into one another. Boy theywas doing a terrible thing out there. And we was all out there and we thought it was sort of funny, you know, but we were trying not to laugh, because of the seriousness of the conditions there. They might take it out of our hide.

Marcello: What other acts of sabotage stick out in your mind that were used by Americans?

Carter: Oh . . . Maybe tightening the cylinder bead bolts too tight on the trucks, and when it started it would blow their head off. The biggest thingthat we done to them that hurt them the worse . . . the carborators had a metering rod on the carborator. Of course, all of us were mechanics. We took that metering rod out. Well, then the thing would be like running with half choke or third choke at least, and it would

just destroy the gas mileage. They would get down to two or three miles to the gallon, and we would throw these things away. The easiest thing is just reach in there and get that metering rod, you know, and be on your way, and they wouldn't realize that they had lost the most important part out of the carborator. But that was one of them.

Killian: Most of their motor vehicles was actually designed or stolen right off of about anywhere from '35 models or '39 model Fords. And most of us at that time were fairly familiar with . . .

Carter: Ford vehicle and Chevrolet . . .

Killian: They had one that was just exactly like a Chevy and one just exactly like a Ford, but none of them . . . I never met one that was any newer than a '38 model.

Carter: I don't think so but . . .

Killian: '33 to '38 was more in line.

Carter: Once you got to the Chevy and could get the metering rod you had him. Just file the plugs and make them run harder . . . and before they could realize what had happened to them . . . they had run them a long time because, see, they would start to run okay. It would idle perfectly because it would be idling on the idle side of the carborator, but when they put on the power, well, then they just used a tremendous amount of gas. Of course, they would just keep pushing down on the throttle trying to equalize the air and gas and they never could. The truck would run a little bit better . . . you know . . . but it

would really be using gas.

Marcello: George, what were some of the tricks that your people pulled?

Killian: I don't know. We didn't work for them that much. In a sense, we could not get ahold of their equipment too often.

Carter: Oh, we'd mess up them batteries.

Killian: Oh, yeah. We really had a battery deal.

Carter: _____. He dropped a 10 gallon bucket of acid on the floor and splashed us with it. We all ran out the door and dove in the creek, canal. And this guard, of course, he was running to find his rifle. He thought we had all tried to run off . . . you know . . .

Killian: We were working in salvage metal, and they were scraping and rebuilding batteries in this particular section, but the plan had actually been a G.M. _____ plan, originally, and these Japs were using it for nothing better than scrap metal which is mostly what they did. They scanned the whole country and took all the metal there was and this was a metal scraping operation primarily, although they built some batteries there, I believe.

Carter: We were supposed to build some batteries but never got to it.

Killian: I dropped a jar of acid off the back of a truck on the concrete. It was about seven and a half gallons, I imagine.

Marcello: Were there any individual Japanese soldiers or officers who stick out in your mind that you would like to talk about?

Killian: In this particular place there was one called "Mad Pete." What

his name was I don't know.

Marcello: How did he get that name?

Killian: From being absolutely insane.

Marcello: What were some of the things he did?

Killian: Oh, the things he didn't do. He threw things a great deal . . . tire tools . . . and he was in charge of the fire truck that we left the hot wire on and burned the coil up, and it was the last one on the island. We destroyed that fire truck. He destroyed some of our skin.

The best one he pulled on me and a couple of my buddies was he had this jeep . . . you know . . . with those non-flat tires on it, and he couldn't get them off the wheels--you can't hardly. These tires are bullet proof. They don't have any air in them. They're solid. I guess they make them on the wheel. I don't know. I've never seen one off. (Chuckle) He got us out there because we were Americans and he know we know how to take those tires off those jeep wheels. We worked for two or three days, I guess. And you can't take them off; they're molded on, but he didn't know that, and he knocked us around pretty good. He was actually a little bit mentally disturbed. That's the reason we called him "Mad Pete."

Carter: Oh, they had names for several of them at the Jaarmarkt. There was one they called . . . "The Bull." He was about 225 pounds.

Killian: He was a wrestler. A Japanese wrestler.

Carter: Yeah, he liked to practice on us because we were the only ones large enough. He would teach us karate, and stuff. Of course, we didn't know much about it, but we learned fast.

Killian: We came in there the first day, Ike and I came in there. These other guys were in there, you know, Pete, Allan, all those other . . . all these guys were there at the Jaarmarkt. About twenty something American prisoners, and they were the only ones there, and they dumped old Ike and I in there to interrogate us for two days, and they had rice and beans that night. Well, Ike and I had been eating fairly well, and we said, "Well, we don't want any of this." And right off we know we don't want any of that rice and beans. We could eat rice and beans, but these had weevils in them and they were awful. And they said, "Well, pretty soon you're gonna be eating these rice and beans." I remember that. Laying there hungry all night, but I wasn't hungry enough to eat that rice and beans. Boy, in a few weeks we were hungry enough.

Carter: What's that Jew's name that I fixed that cat for? Told him it was fried chicken. He was always sitting around the barracks saying, "Man, I would like to have a plate of fried chicken." So I finally got up with him on it. We would tell him to shut-up about it because we weren't eating very good but he kept on. So this old cat kept coming through there, and one of us caught it and took it down there and cooked it

in coconut oil. And then I sent . . . I don't remember who I sent to the barracks from the kitchen, but I told them to go down there and tell him to sneak up here and not to let anyone see him, and I would give him some fried chicken. (Chuckle) So he come sneaking up there, and I give him this old cat. I chopped it up a little bit, and he eat it down real quick, you know, and I said, "Don't tell anybody about this or you will get me in trouble with everybody in the damn camp." Then I told another guy after he had already went back, "Now run down there and holler and say, 'Now look man, don't eat that darn cat. Uell's calling it chicken.'" And man, that guy was so sick after he had eaten that cat. But he was already cured. He never said anything about chicken anymore.

Marcello: Were there ever very many attempts at suicide at any of these camps?

Carter: Only one that I know of. You know the Australian that was over there . . .

Killian: Yeah. Uh-huh.

Carter: . . . he was the only one that I . . . he cut his wrist. And he was crazy, as crazy as everything.

Killian: He took a Jap guard . . .actually he was a corporal in charge of the counting of the prisoners. He just took him by the neck and held him up and shook him. Oh, man he was a strong man.

Carter: Yeah, he was a big 'ole guy . . . he just . . .

Killian: What he lacked mentally, he made up for it physically.

Carter: But he'd follow the guards' line. Well, the Japanese are afraid of a crazy person. It has something to do with their complex. But he'd get in step with the guard on patrol at night . . . be right, be right behind him, you know, just walking. Well, you know, this guard, he'd hear them steps get faster and faster . . . well then he'd be in a dead run for the guard house. He'd want to get back where he belonged. He didn't want to have this 'ole boy . . . They'd just be a streak of fire as they'd make for the guard camp, you know. And then they'd catch him and put him in a pen. They'd make a . . . what did they have over there at that back of that kitchen? They made this cage that they put him in, but they couldn't keep him in it. He'd get away. And, he'd come back with us, you know, and he'd get away. You know, he wasn't mad at us. I know when he got away the first time is when he came . . . that guard come along, that corporal come along counting in the morning. He come up and done that-a-way to him and he _____ his head (chuckle) and run him up like that and just . . .

Killian: _____ in the face 'cause he had to look up at him, seeing that 'ole _____ was going like that and he knows he's crazy too 'cause he don't want people talking about it.

Carter: Well, he liked to kill that guy before we could get him loose.

He had him down on the ground . . . just . . .

Killian: . . . beating . . .

Carter: . . . beating

Killian: . . . his head down . . .

Carter: . . . his head in the ground a little bit there you know, and we's . . .

Killian: Two others were standing there with rifles looking at him, you know. They didn't shoot him. Wonder they didn't go ahead and shoot us all. Some of them would have panicked and shot everybody in the camp.

Carter: . . . No, they wouldn't. I don't think they had any bullets. (Chuckle)

Killian: That's right, some of them were weird, we found that out.

Marcello: What were the medical facilities like in these camps?

Carter: They was pretty poor. (Chuckle)

Killian: Yeah, we had adequate provisions in most camps I was in, but no medicine. That country was full of doctors. And they were all in . . .

Carter: Well, the doctor we had was a maternity doctor. What'd they call them, an obstetrician?

Killian: Uh-huh . . .

Carter: Well, when I had that abscess in my leg, well . . . well, a great big 'ole Dutchman . . .

Killian: Nah' he wasn't one of our people.

Carter: . . . but after we got . . .

Killian: Doc' Burroughs . . . was the only doctor . . .

Carter: Doctor Burroughs . . .

Killian: . . . doctor I ever had . . . but with the _____ there was some others. And Lumpkin was one of them. But . . . without . . .

Carter: The English had some real good doctors. They had one, a Dr. Tierney, that was a _____ specialist which in England is the equivalent of Mayo Clinic, or something like that _____. He was a real good surgeon. I saw him perform some rather intricate surgery without any equipment. I know this one native had a big tumor come under his jaw. And he took a Schick razor blade and . . . they had something that sprayed the skin that just sprayed on there, and he lanced this thing and took it out. And it was . . . oh, larger than a hen egg. But they were real competent. They just didn't have anything to work with. And just like Burroughs there. We called him "Butcher Burroughs" because he was so crude. He'd treat these tropical ulcers . . . he just sharpened a spoon. He'd just reach over there and just dig it out. And that was it. There wasn't no pain killer; he'd just run through it quick, hurrying. But that's all he could do. And just like when he . . . this . . . you know that guy from Dallas? Well he operated on his stomach, and he had an ulcerated stomach. And he give him . . . he had just enough ether to put him out. He

said, "Now what's going to happen when he comes to is the shock's going to be so great it's going to knock him back out." But he took his stomach out and he just laid it on a piece of glass there and cut the ulcers out, and he put it back in there and sewed it all up. And put it back in order. The guy is alive in Dallas now. He had bleeding ulcers, and he would have been dead. It was a horrible shock . . . there was four of us holding him . . . just flat holding him down on the table so he couldn't wiggle while the doctor cut him up and sewed him back together.

Marcello: What were the most common diseases among the prisoners?

Carter: Well, dysentery was the most prevalent and most dangerous. They had amoebic and bacillary dysentery which is . . . either one of them is fatal without treatment. Well, the treatment is real simple if you can get it. Sulfur tablets can cure it, but to get them was something else. There were various ways of getting them medicine. The biggest way . . . the Japanese soldier is supposed to use the Japanese cat house . . . he's not supposed to go out on the town. He gets a pass once a month to go to the cat house. Well, when he came up with venereal disease, well, he was treated and then put in a work camp for so long. Well, they all dreaded this work camp, but they would come to the prison doctor with this problem, and our prison doctor would tell them that it was going to take a thousand sulfur tablets to cure it when in essence it would

take a hundred or whatever . . . it was a small percentage, but the Jap didn't have any choice other than to come up with a thousand tablets which our doctors could use in treating the amoebic or bacillary dysentery, but they would also treat this guard and not let him get turned over to the Japanese authorities at their inspections. And that was one way that they got medicine that was necessary.

That was one of the things that was always in the prison camps. The Americans were always Americans. They were for each other as much as possible. The Dutchman was for . . . each Dutchman that represented himself. He was selfish, and he tried to do it all on his own, and whatever situation he got into or he could make advantage of he would do it that way. The English, they didn't care for anybody either. And we had it pretty good even at . . . by being a cooperative group we could get things done. For instance, we could buy things on the black market that the other people didn't have much luck with. You know, when I run that coffee thing there in that one camp, I could buy coffee from this Jap guard. Well, I wasn't fraternizing with the enemy. I would buy as much coffee as this guy would sell me. Well, then I'd make a barrel of it, and sell it for ten cents a cup. You can make money that-a-way. Of course, you've got the only coffee there is; there is no . . . you either buy it or you don't have any. Well, they would get

pretty sore about it, but still they bought it. Well then we would turn around and buy eggs with it. Eggs cost you a dollar a piece. You know, you would have to sell ten cups of coffee to come up with an egg.

Marcello: You were buying your products from the civilians. Is that correct?

Carter: No, from the Japs.

Marcello: The Japanese.

Carter: The Japs were making a tremendous profit. In other words he would sell me coffee, oh, for ten dollars a kilo that he was buying for maybe twenty cents a kilo. In other words he was marking up a hundred times at least.

And you'd get into scrapes. One night there we was having a little transaction. I give this nut another thousand Japanese dollars . . . Java dollars for these eggs. And then the Jap captain comes stumbling along there about the time we were getting ready to move out, and he didn't think that was the thing we ought to be doing. So he just stepped in that bucket of eggs . . . bushel basket. He just stomps them. He was real mad, and so he knocks the fire out of this guard and myself. Then he decides his shoes are real dirty so we get to lick them things real clean, polish them, and get them back into real good shape and all that other good things. And then he . . . we made a mess there on the ground, and we had to clean all that up and haul it off. He took all the money and

all the coffee. And then he give us another licking just to remind us that that wasn't the thing that he wanted done.

Mrs. Boynton: Where did you get this money to do this with?

Carter: Sell the coffee that I bought from the guy to start with.

Marcello: Where did you get your money to start with?

Carter: We got paid ten cents a day for working if we worked, but we had a little money, some of us, when we were taken prisoner . . . most of us. I sat on the back of the train throwing mine away because I didn't think it was going to be any good.

Killian: In working out in the community on work days that is, there was always contact with the people out there, and this black market, we worked it to death. We would go out naked and come back fully dressed and everything like that . . . in the matter of picking up two or three hundred dollars in money that he is talking about maybe in one day. This was the capital we operated on.

Carter: We'd steal the Japanese laundry off the lines. They would go wash their clothes and hang them on lines. Well, we would run back up there and get them off. The only problem was . . . I had it happen to me. I was selling this guy all these clothes, see, and he was going to go sell them on the black market, and make a lot of money. Well, he got to looking, and they got tags on them. Well, they was his, and it really made him mad. Boy, he couldn't understand that he . . . make a mistake like that. I didn't mean to steal his clothes and

try to sell them back to him. But now I wish I knew how to read Japanese.

Things like that happened. Just like one time . . . the Marines . . . the Japanese Marines were the elite troops, and they liked to rub us if they could. So they come in and got about thirty of us one time and sent us out to work to clean their quarters. You know . . . wash the floors, mop them. So their old colonel or whatever their highest ranking officer was had a liquor closet. Well, you know, I'm always looking for something, and I found this liquor closet. Well, you can put a fifth of whiskey under each arm, you know, let it hang under your arms.

Marcello: That's after you had lost so much weight. Your clothing just kinda hung on you anyhow.

Carter: Well, then one down each britches leg, so everybody had four quarts of whiskey when we left. So that made a pretty good dent in his liquor closet, and we took about 80 quarts out of there, you know. So we took it in our barracks and got up to where the stringers on the rafters that they fasten the top. We would just take a string and go around it and tie the bottles by the neck, up in the corner right up next to the roof. We had them all lined up in there. Of course, it would be a little harder to find in the morning. But, boy, low and behold the next day they come in there and they was plum mad that somebody had made a slight withdrawal down there

in the Marine barracks in the liquor locker, and they knew it was us, so they just had us move it out to the parade ground . . . everybody . . . they went to the barracks and turned it upside down and they didn't find a thing. Oh, they found some bullets from somebody's gun. That upset them a little bit.

Killian: We had a little hard time explaining why we had ammunition and didn't have anything to shoot it in.

Carter: We had the guns but they were over there . . .

Killian: They were somewhere else.

Carter: But it upset them that they couldn't find that liquor. They tried that two or three times to come back and get it. They never did find it. It was hidden pretty good.

Marcello: What were the barracks themselves like?

Carter: Well the cycle camp where this incident occurred was a regular army camp. Most of these places that we were contained in were regular army camps or prisons that was used by the Dutch to imprison the natives. Now we built some camps. We just went out there, and they built the camps first, and that was us. Then we started out with bamboo and _____ which is a type of palm leaf. And then you split this bamboo to make walls and the _____ makes the roof--make a regular native hut . . . grass ropes and the whole deal. When we built this camp there was . . . oh . . . about five thousand people. Well, then we went over there and there was a

thousand men working three months clearing a section of jungle, just a square mile of jungle, just pure jungle. We had these big old trees. They're similar to our cottonwood trees in their size. They are as big as 26 feet at the bottom. We cut them down and cut it up into fire wood. Little pieces, regular fire wood, and then you would dig the roots out of the ground. You would have a hole that you could put the house in where you could dig up the tree, and then we covered it all back up. Well when we got that all cleared, all this jungle brush, trees everything, then we leveled it into terraces. All this with picks and shovels by hand. And we was walking seven miles out there and seven miles back every day. To make it . . . you know . . . more interesting.

Killian: This is the farm.

Carter: You would get up at three o'clock in the morning and work until noon because it was too hot to work in the afternoon. You couldn't do it. So we got that thing all terraced and then we went to the river and dug a canal three miles by hand. The work at the river was necessary so we could water this thing. Then we started out growing vegetables. The Japanese are real good on botany and growing different types of food. We didn't know what it was all about, so every nationality gets to pick what kind of plant they want to raise. So we're real clever, and we pick sweet potatoes because we know we aren't going to be messing with those things like if you grow green

beans. You are going to be picking them or spinach or something like that. You're going to be working on that thing, cucumbers. So we just . . . we told the Jap we wanted sweet potatoes. Well, there's an art to sweet potatoes. Sometimes they don't make, but we got the prettiest vines you ever seen. There would be twenty of us sitting over there in this big patch of vines picking out any weeds or little pieces of grass, but no sweet potatoes. We would dig around down there, and so the Japs knew we had a hex on that thing some way or another. And this head Jap gardener was over there. He was going to make those sweet potatoes come up too. He never did, but all this food that we raised in this garden we had visions of eating it, but they gave it to the European women and children that were contained in a prison camp in Batavia. Well, after we found out where it was going, we weren't so put out by it. You could actually see cucumbers grow over night. Those things would be an inch or two longer in the morning. And they grew spinach we called King Kong. It was a real coarse kind of green--like mustard greens, and that stuff would really grow. And they would plant those things, and they would grow real fast and real nice . . . you know . . .

Killian: And the pigs did real well on the potatoe vines, but the people never did eat any potatoes.

Carter: No, we never did get any potatoes.

Marcello: This is essentially how you did supplement your diet then?

Carter: No, we didn't get any of it. They fed us. Our rations were based on what the first front line Japanese soldier was receiving that day. And if they were in the Guadalcanal and our bunch was cut off from supplies that's the way we were treated. We wondered for years why there would be all this food around us and we couldn't have any of it. And finally old Colonel _____ made this big speech and he said, "Now, you are treated exactly like our front line soldier." In other words, if he is not getting anything or if they're shooting camp or if _____, well, then that's what you're going to get. But they based it on whatever the Japanese soldier received in the front line, and at times it was nothing.

Marcello: Did you find that the treatment got worse as the tide of the war turned and the Japanese realized that they were being defeated?

Carter: No, it was basically . . . what it reminds you of is a bunch of kids playing soldier without any control. In other words, their officers didn't give a darn what they did to us. One time I started to get into a truck, and I never did now what was the reason, but this guard just jammed me on top of the head with his rifle. Those things have got a steel plate on them, and it just knocked me cold as ice. And no explanation was necessary. So when somebody decided he ought to get

pitched out of the truck one day and hit his head on the curb, why, I was willing to watch him. It wasn't too bad. Of course, 50 or 60 miles per hour in traffic is a lot different than getting hit with a rifle, but he was pretty mean.

Marcello: I assume you all were more or less keeping a tally sheet that you were going to have some scores to settle if and when you were liberated.

Carter: Everyone had that maybe a time or two. Really I didn't blame the Japanese soldier because he wasn't treated much better than I was. The guy that I would like to have got was the Colonel _____. Sony specifically never did pick on the Americans. He hated the English, and he gave them a terrible time. He would beat them with his sword, club, anything, but as far as the tipsy-turvy thing now this "Bamboo Murray" that was out at the farm; he had been down at the farm.

Killian: "Bamboo Murray?"

Carter: That may have been his name, we don't know, but that's what we called him because he always ran around with a bamboo stick about so big around and 8 foot long.

Marcello: How do you spell his last name?

Carter: Well, it would be an English Murray, because it wasn't his real . . .

Killian: We gathered from . . . what I thought of it was, "It may have M-A-R-I or M-A-U-R-I." I suspect that the man's name was Mari,

but I don't know. I've never seen it written down either.

Carter: I know one time our bunch . . .

Killian: He was a sergeant major in the Japanese prison forces. That's about like a light colonel, I tell you for sure. He carried a lot of weight.

Carter: We were at this farm camp and . . . of course every morning and every night they had this roll call. You count how many was there. So this morning we just slept, Americans do. And this morning the sun was shining in the camp, you know, and the sun got so . . . "We must have had roll call by now." And the sun's up pretty high, and so one old guy decides to go look out the door, and, man, there was our spot down there just as vacant as it could be, and this old guy was standing down there with his bamboo stick stabbing the ground. And he was talking to this Australian wing commander, and he said, "Well, are they all gone?" And, of course, the old Australian wing commander didn't know what had happened to us. We might have been gone. So we made a feeble effort to tell everybody to wake up and run down there and fall in . . . you know . . . and he thought it was funny. It was just one of those things. He could have taken it serious, but he just died laughing about it. He would run up and down and get way down close to the ground. He was a real heavy built fellow, but not very tall. And he would run down the row and count . . . you know . . . and then just die laughing. He said, "They're all

here." And he could have just as easily beat us all to death, you know, because we weren't there.

Killian: Most of the guys like that didn't make any pretense in counting the people. They went through it because it was regulations. If they really had a serious count, it would take all night. They would never get within five of the same number every time they did it. And these people like he was talking about they go along like _____ going all the way down, but they ain't counting nothing. They ain't writing down nothing. They go back up to the orderly room, and they write down whatever number was there yesterday. People came, people died. They couldn't care less. These type soldiers, Japanese, they just went through the motion.

Carter: Well, you know when they had that big count over there at the high school and there were three or four of us was on sick call. We were supposed to be sick in the barracks. And we were in this room. And the English was in charge of cleaning. The English can mess up anything. It doesn't make any difference what they are doing. So they came through there counting, and this old English wing commander says, "Hey, ya'll are supposed to be up at the hospital." So, man, we all hotfooted up to the hospital. (Chuckle) There was three of us. Anyway, we got up there at the hospital, and this English doctor says, "Now look, ya'll are supposed to be down at the barracks." And man, we get back down to the barracks, and by

then they've got machine guns all over the assembly ground out there. It got pretty serious. It's about four hours worth of counting and they was three or four short, you know. And we was laying up there in the bed taking it easy. (Chuckle) Everybody else out there in the sun, you know. And here they come back around, this little ole' Jap guard and this English wing commander. Man, they come in that room where we was at one, two, three, you know, this little song, that's the ones that's missing, you know. But man, they went into orbit. Well, we had these (chuckle) bamboo sticks that hold up our mosquito nets. Well, he yanked one off of there and he went to work on me with it, and this big ole' colored man was running around behind me, you know. He didn't want any of that. (Chuckle) He took it pretty serious. And, this ole' wing commander, I said, "Well, look, you nut, you told me to go to the hospital." And he said, "Well, I made a mistake." And I said, "Well, you'd better make another one and get that guy off of me. (Chuckle) He's bothering me!" (Chuckle) I was catching it on the arms and hands, you know. He was swinging it pretty serious. Every once in a while he'd miss, you know. He'd quit running.

Marcello: How did you supplement your food? Obviously you weren't getting very much. You must have been scrounging that like you were other things.

Carter: The black market was the only place if you did scrounge. At

different camps it's always a different situation. At the 'Cycle camp where he and I were most of the time, there was one Jap guard there for a long time. They'd be just like you--go back to Japan to visit your grandmother. You're an American citizen. You were born here and raised here, although you were Japanese ancestry. Well, this guy went back to Japan and they just grabbed him and put him in the army. Well, that would be just like you or I being socked into their army. He didn't appreciate it at all. But there wasn't anything he could do about it. But he did retaliate by making it as nice as he could for us. If we could get him money, well, he would get us anything that money could buy. And he did that for several years. Tobacco, we could buy tobacco. And that ole' Jew guy . . . and sell these . . . and make these cigarettes, and we made cigarette machines where you could roll them and clip 'em and trim 'em and sell them for ten cents apiece. Well, they didn't have any choice; they bought them from us or they didn't get any. Cost you about ten dollars, and you can make several thousand cigarettes out of it. And we'd make 'em little ones, and middle size, and big ones, you know. And we . . .

Killian: Or kingsize with . . .

Carter: Yeah. We'd charge them an extra price for the difference in size. (Chuckle) But what . . . and then, too, this coffee racket was the best racket that was there, though. Because

there wasn't no way they could get any hot water. We had the hot water in the kitchen, and nobody else couldn't get any. So we had 'em. If they wanted coffee, if they wanted tea, other than what was their rations, well, they had to buy it from us.

Marcello: I can't understand what you mean. You say they had to buy it. I mean, they had the guns. Seems to me they could have just come in and got it.

Carter: No! No! The prisoners, not the Japs. Yeah the prisoners.

Marcello: I see.

Carter: Yeah. See we've got 5,000 captive Americans. In other words, we have 5,000 guys up there. And they just made ten cents a day or . . . these Dutchmen were the ones we was working on because they brought their bankroll with them when they came into the camp.

Killian: They were all these civilian soldiers we was talking about. Everyone of them got thrown in just like they was military persons, but none of them had never been in the army. But we were full of . . . this camp was full of civilians.

Carter: We were about the only military personnel there.

Killian: The British and the Australians were . . .

Carter: Ah . . .

Killian: The Dutchmen that were there were civilians.

Carter: . . . the . . .

Killian: They interned every one of them. No matter what age.

Carter: At one time you asked about the sabotage. One of the biggest sabotages we did to the Japanese is at one time they decided for political reasons they'd make us . . . get speeches together, you know, and write letters home and all that kind of stuff. So we had a lieutenant that was put in charge of the radio broadcast in Java. So everyday, everything we saw on the island, if there were ships in the harbor, we told him. Well, then he had a code. And if we wrote a letter . . . and we didn't say "Dear Mom," or "Dear Sweetheart." We'd write this letter like he told us to. It didn't make much sense, but it did have some kind of a bearing on . . .

Marcello: Is there about . . .

Killian: _____.

Carter: But all of a sudden some day you'd find that we'd have a big air raid out there in the harbor because we said there were twenty-five ships in the harbor two days ago. And those messages got through right up nearly until the end of the war. They never did discover that this guy was the one that was sending the messages, although they had him down there in the radio station theirself. And he just sent them in the old code that was in use at the time he was taken prisoner.

Killian: He was a fighter pilot.

Carter: And that was the most serious thing that they were involved with, and they didn't realize that they were the ones that were actually doing it.

Marcello: Did they at any time ever display you to the local population, you know, more or less as a type of propaganda gesture. You know, here we are, Asians, and we have defeated the white man.

Carter: No, there weren't enough of us to make it a thing worthwhile. But really they were concerned with what we were going to do to them. I never did understand it, but they were dreadfully afraid that we were going to do something to them. And even though they would have us down to twenty-five or fifty, they were always concerned and always very alert.

Now, you know that Japanese that hung himself in our barracks. Now, that was a suicide the other way. He come down there and hung himself in one of the rafters. Well, the next morning here this nut's hanging there and dead. It is sort of an embarrassing thing to say the least, you know, when you try to explain why you got the guard hanging there.

Killian: How come you hung the guard last night?

Carter: But old Sony . . . that was the only time I give him credit for being an intelligent man. He reasoned that the soldier had committed suicide, that we didn't have the audacity to hang him. But he used it for propaganda. _____. But anyway from then on every time the guard detail changed periodically. All the people would be changed, but the camp commander would be the same. So, he would call in this new Japanese guard detail, then have us come up there and, fall in and say, "Now this is the bunch that hung the other guard. You

want to watch them. They're dangerous." Of course, all these guards would stand there with their eyes popping out that we had the audacity to just hang one of them right out of the bunch. And then they weren't very friendly, you know. They were always a little bit edgy. He did that purposely for that reason. When I talked him out of that bayonet for opening coconuts, he didn't like that either. They didn't think I ought to have the bayonet. Plus, I was about to break the handle on his head.

Marcello: Do you want to go into this story? I've found it pretty interesting myself.

Carter: Well, it was a working detail that this Captain Sony . . . I don't know what we went to do, but anyway. . .

Killian: Frequently, we never did what we went to do. You can bet on that.

Carter: . . . we was going down the road, and these coconut trees were short ones. Normally these things are 90 to 100 feet high, and we weren't able to climb one of them. But these were low ones so we got to talking to him, and I asked him, "Well, let us climb that tree there and get some of them coconuts loose." He said, "All right. I'll let you have these coconuts." So we got up there and got a bunch of them, but darn, coconuts are pretty hard to get open. They got this big tough hide on it, and we weren't having any luck. So I asked him, "Why don't you get that guard there to let me have his bayonet, and

I can get them off with that." So he give me the bayonet. And the old guard didn't want me to have the bayonet to start with, but Sony told him, you know. I was beating and mashing with that old thing and the old handle was about to fly off. And it made the guard more nervous. If I tore up that thing, then it would be hard to explain. So, I don't know . . . we opened a few of them, but we didn't get very many of them opened. You need a pretty heavy machete to work on these things.

Oh, that was some of the things that some of . . . it's just like that deal when we'd steal their rifle, you know. Ordinarily, if a guard was conscious of the fact that he had some people out there he ought to be watching, he wouldn't lay his rifle down. But as soon as they'd lay it down, we'd get it. (Chuckle) And then we'd use for a tool to get what we wanted. When we made the trip from Surabaja to Bandung, well, they had us on this train all day and all night. They wouldn't give us anything to eat or anything to drink. Well . . . this ole' guard got sleepy and careless, and we got his rifle. And . . . they stopped in a little ole' railroad town--I don't even know what it was. But it was night, so we aroused this guy and said, "The sergeant is coming!" And . . . boy, you know, (chuckle) . . . you know, no rifle, you know. And, boy, he just turned white. And he said, "Well, what's the matter," you know. Well, he'd lost his rifle. (Chuckle) And,

man, that's bad, we'll see you. (Chuckle) We's all plinking at him with our fingers like he was getting shot, and, man, he was about to have a fit. And so he wanted us to help him look for it. And we said, "Well, we can't help you. We're too weak and hungry. We can't work, can't look for it." And we's pointing out there. They had these little ole' guys with carts that vended fruit and ice cold pop and what not, you know. And . . . milk. We said for some of that we'd help him go looking, you know. And he said, "Man, you can have the whole cart." (Chuckle) And . . . so we had one bunch get down there and get the cart, and we paid the guy for what he had. And we was buying bananas and everything, you know, that he had, and the rest of us, we's helping this guy look, you know. And we had it hid up over the top of his seat, but just about the right instant, we found it, you know, and give it to him. And . . . the guards and the sergeant came through.

Killian: (Chuckle)

Carter: And . . . this guy's got his rifle, you know, holding it with both hands now. He won't be careless any more. But he thought we'd done him such a favor that every time we stopped from now on, well, he'd whistle this bunch up and give us cold drinks or whatever they had on these carts.

But we never took anything from the natives. We always paid them for whatever we got. Some of the prices that they'd charge us was real exorbitant, and some of them would actually

offer it as a gift when we'd pay them, because they were having just a hard of time as we were. In reality, it wasn't easy for them either.

Killian: I said, actually, in the 'Cycle camp area, we didn't get involved working so much for the Japanese. We used to go clean up their barracks, like he's talking about. We used to do the yard work. But there were no major projects of military importance in our work area when we were inside of camp--that I knew of. Do you know of any?

Carter: Well, the docks, when you get down and work on . . .

Killian: Yeah, but we were camped at the docks when I worked there . . .

Carter: You were?

Killian: . . . we lived there.

Carter: Well, we lived up at the 'Cycle camp, you know. And they'd take us out there and . . . only thing, talking about working there, we had one interesting deal. That ole' Sony had a garden, and we had to weed it and take care of it. Well, they happened to move a bunch of Japanese nurses over there, you know, across that creek. And we's all over there, and they'd decide they'd go swimming. Well, they didn't have bathing suits, and it was a real entertaining affair. We was all supposed to be picking these weeds and watching this swimming party. Man, that made him mad. He got awful hostile about it. And he cussed these Japanese women out, and 'course they all went squeeling and running for the house. They didn't realize

they'd put on quite a show that they had. Then he whipped all of us, and he thought we was real bad for sitting there and watching them, and we thought it was just part of the action, you know, and we's supposed to see all of this.

Marcello: For our record at least, what ever happened to Captain Sony anyhow?

Carter: The natives that were, as George pointed out, that were from Ambon disliked Sony tremendously. And whether it was some of the dislike or . . . they used to carry some round steel balls or iron balls with them, three of them in a sack. And he took those balls from them, and it really upset these guys, and in fact they were . . . they must have been their marker or something, I don't know what they used them for. But they thought enough of them that it was life itself to them. And as a revenge for stealing these balls, they tied Sony to the railroad track the minute the war was . . . in the point where our troops were taking over, and the Japanese troops were releasing the hold on the island. And he was killed.

Killian: This was another critical area, really, for law and order, in the area we were in.

Carter: Yeah.

Killian: This was a breakdown time for almost everything.

Carter: Actually, the natives that were on Java at that time elected to try to gain their freedom from the Dutch.

Killian: At this particular time.

Carter: We were required by our government to go in there and try to maintain order. Also we were in charge of unloading the Red Cross supplies for the women and children that had been prisoners of war and maintain what order the . . . They brought Gurka troops from India that actually did the guard duty that was required over the Japanese. Well, they didn't let us guard them. They kept us apart from them.

Marcello: What sort of self-discipline did the Americans maintain among themselves, that is, did they govern themselves in any way within the camp?

Carter: Well, they got . . .

Marcello: . . . let's say to guard against stealing from one another or things of that nature.

Carter: Just hit him! (Chuckle) Actually as long as our captain was with us, we would more or less go to him for a decision on anything like that. Actually, if you caught some guy stealing from you, well, the best cure was just to hit his hand. You know, there wasn't a lot of fights. I had two or three fights with the English, but that was over making me walk in the dirt or something. . . .

On this farm party . . . when we'd line up to come back, it was always dusty. And so we'd always wait until the English lined up, and then we'd run over there and line up in front of them, so we'd be the bunch that would lead this party out. Well, it would make 'em sore. And we never did understand why

they would get so mad, 'cause we'd be first. In fact, this one day this guy got real mad about it, and he offered to thrash me if I'd just oblige him. Well, I did and I let him try. And, you know, they can't fight much better than they can talk. (Chuckle) In fact I had to whip two of them. There was one of his friends decided his friend had done such a sorry job, that he's going to improve on it, and I just give him one too.

Mostly the English regimented themselves with army discipline. They never did break down. They always kow-towed around. And they were real disappointed in us because we more or less kept a loose discipline among ourselves, and we listened to what officers told us, but we didn't pay any attention to what anyone else said. And I know when we were at the camp where the Jap guard beat me up so bad, why, the Dutch was always trying to horn in and run things. They got mad at me because I was bringing a little bit of foodstuff out of the kitchen at night, and I was feeding George and this Australian that I thought was in bad shape.

Killian: We had beenpractically mutilated. I never did know why I was beat up.

Marcello: Would you care to talk about this incident?

Killian: As much as I know. I really don't know why they picked on me at that particular time.

Carter: Well, the reason, you know, they had us standing at attention, and then they made us close our eyes. Well, have you ever

tried to stand at attention with your eyes closed? You get to weaving. Well, George was one of the big weavers, so they just knocked the fire out of him and knocked him on out and just stomped him when they got through and just beat him into the ground because he couldn't stand up very straight and that really _____.

Marcello: What were some of their favorite modes of torture or punishment?

Carter: They liked to tie these bamboo things with your arms behind you like this, through here, and they would fix it so you couldn't kneel and you couldn't stand. This was a real favorite of theirs. And you could hang there in that position for a while until you felt like rigor mortis had already set in.

Killian: I forget how long they had me up there.

Carter: Was you in on that deal where Captain Smith came in, you know . . . and they always use to make us give them eyes right or eyes left either going in or out of the camp ground. So instead of old Smith saying eyes right, he said, "Look at the little yellow S.O.B.s on the left," see, and we went on in. Well, of course, there was one of the little yellow S.O.B.s knew what we were talking about. And he had us all come back and put us down there on that gravel on our knees.

Killian: I was there.

Carter: Boy, your old knees sure did pain after . . . it was just like death.

Killian: In time, of course, you become numb, and you don't feel any of this. I mean hours--I'm talking about hours later, of course.

You don't . . . just like I don't know how long I was at the guard house that day because I was beat so bad that I don't recall . . . never did have any recall of the times. I know I was. . . .

Carter: You started in the morning, and you didn't get back over there until dark.

Killian: Yeah. But I was several weeks getting over that beating, and I had no broken bones that anybody found, so you know how badly I was beaten. And as a matter of fact it probably saved my life because I didn't go on that shipment either. I was on a work party where the group of Americans that went. There was forty-four I believe that went and thirty-four of them was killed.

Mrs. Boynton: By whom?

Killian: Our forces sunk the ship. The United States Navy shot them in the water when they was trying to swim away from the ship that was sinking, but that was the work party that I was on, and I didn't make it on account of getting beat up. So I was too beat up to go, you know, so I stayed at back, and we went back to 'Cycle camp. We were at an embarkation camp he's talking about there, an old labor camp where they used to conscript labor to work on the islands around Java, in the oil fields and all that stuff. And we must have found out at this time--and probably right now--this island is still the jewel of the area. In other words we had good facilities, transportation, everything. Civilization came to Java a long time before it did

Borneo or Sumatra, and it has never made it there yet, I don't imagine. So this is an area where they did recruit people and take them to these other places to work, and we were in this old labor camp when this happened, and we were waiting this troop shipment. These people were going out on work parties . . . were being shipped overseas.

Marcello: What were some of the other types or forms of punishment which you witnessed, perhaps that didn't happen to you personally, but which you witnessed them dealing out to somebody else.

Carter: Well, the water torture that they gave our flyers shot down over Java was something that we were aware of. We didn't actually witness it because it was done in an area away from where the prisoners were kept, but they filled these guys with water and then stomped them.

Killian: And beat them up--pouring water in them until they just bloat. Bloat really. And then they wait until they get real swelled out with water by force feeding. Of course, this was very uncomfortable even without the beating.

Carter: And then they had this electric shocking device that they put these pilots in it and hit them with electricity repeatedly trying to make them confess to some war crime or to give them information pertinent to the war effort that was being performed.

Killian: To sign any one of those papers was to die the day you did it, too, because if they can get your name on that paper, they

shoot you because the war is over for you. You already confessed. No matter what it was they would shoot.

Marcello: What sort of a paper was this?

Killian: I never really did have one of them read to me. But to them it was a legal way of putting you to death for a war crime or for espionage or for spying or for anything they wanted to write in there. And if any of these guys ever broke down and signed one of these papers, they did execute them. And you were never to do this. You know it was one thing . . .

Marcello: Did you ever have very many prisoners who just gave up? You know, who just said I can't take it any more. That's it.

Carter: Oh, the English did. They lost a lot of men that way, especially when they had this amoebic dysentery. And they wouldn't take care . . . bodily care or anything. And I would say that's giving up--just lay in the bed and not get up to feed yourself and try to clean yourself up or anything. And, of course, that is a terrible way to have to die. But I don't know how many men died there in the hospital in Surabaja that way. And the fact it got up to fifteen and twenty a day that were dying with dysentery because everyone around you would be contaminated with the flies and what not and the mess. In fact we went over there one time and actually forced them, everyone over there, to clean the place up. We was gonna beat the hell out of 'em if they didn't get the place cleaned up. And we made them clean it up. And it sort of alleviated the

products. But they weren't interested in anything . . . but money they wanted. They wanted wealth and they thought this was wealth, you know.

Marcello: Did you ever receive much information from the outside? By that I'm speaking of newspapers or perhaps any letters or anything of that sort?

Carter: Well, the biggest source of information for our bunch was . . . we had a fellow who worked for Sperry Gyroscope Company. He had been a lieutenant in the Navy and had had an accident and lost his foot. And he was sent over to the Pacific specifically to work on the lower turrets on the B-17. And he had a radio unit built into that artificial limb. And, of course, we had radio information from that unit. And I often thought, and I would have liked to known . . . I believe that guy was either G-2 or something else besides just a darn . . . he was a radio mechanic.

Killian: He was mixing with that type of people, it was obvious. We made every major effort . . .

Carter: We heard of every major front that was open. And we listened to BBC on the average of two or three times a week, out of Calcutta and what was going on. Whatever our bunch was putting out, whether it was propaganda or actual fact.

Killian: In a matter of days we received a San Francisco broadcast in English, too, there in 'Cycle camp from the same receiver. We had no transmitter, of course.

Carter: They hunted that thing, though, for two and a half years. They knew it existed, but they never did find it.

Killian: They even knew the group it was in. They used to bail us out at two o'clock in the morning and stand there while they hunted for that radio. This is the camp-aid troops. This is not our guards. This is . . . actually that is army intelligence people.

Carter: Yeah, people from outside the camp would come in there and try to find it.

Killian: Come in there after it. They called them camp-aid troops. Now they were actually police, elite police force of the Imperial Japanese Government.

Carter: Well, the floors out there are tile in these barracks, about six . . .

Killian: For the main reason the maggots and everything would eat them up if they weren't.

Carter: But this fellow, he took the tile up, put that radio down in that floor, and then he had in the mortor groove he had a deal where he could stick like a throttle knob down in there and turn this thing on and off with it in two or three places of volume and plug his earphone in. The hardest thing, of course, to hide, was the earphones. And that was a real problem all the time to keep them hidden. In the 'Cycle camp the latrines had septic tanks, and they came in there periodically and pumped them out. Well at the time the unit capitulated, they went

into those septic tanks and put machine guns, rifles, pistols and everything else up under the top. They put them in water-proof coverings. And all this was stored in those . . . septic tanks, and we did it at that time with the thought . . . well, maybe if our bunch lands on the island we can get this stuff out and create a big ruckus here in the back row . . . why it will help, you know, to liberate us. And then, too, we might need them to keep them from running in there and shooting us if they thought we's, you know, to the point of getting away or making an escape . . . or be liberated. But there was so many things that the guys did . . . all of them . . . we didn't lose many people at the camps there in Java, because everyone sort of worked together. And I feel that a lot of people up on the peninsula, they lost their lives because they wouldn't cooperate or try to work together. It's just like . . . it would have been easy . . . there were several of us that was messing with this black market . . . to have claimed it all for yourselves. But we had guys that we . . . well, one of us thought he had tuberculosis and . . . I can't remember his name. Anyway . . . sure he had a little better deal because . . .and we were that-a-way with all of it. We'd get out on these working parties why . . . speaking of the working parties, we used to have to go out to a place called the market place. And what it was is where they assemble all the vegetables and foodstuff for the Japanese army for division

for the different units. Well we made a big thing out of it. They had a . . . like eggs and seafood, shrimp, and muscles and stuff like that. Well, we'd eat these things raw. Well, they'd just . . . to the Japanese, it's just like going out to the carnival and see a guy swallow a sword as to see a guy swallow a raw egg. They just couldn't . . . man, they'd draw up, gritting their teeth, and you know, just like they'd seen a terrible freak. Well the only reason we did it was for the food value that was in it. Now I don't care nothing about no raw muscle or, you know, anything like that, but I would eat them. And . . . 'course you were the main star when you'd stand up there and eat half a dozen raw eggs or a bunch of these darn muscles and just hold on and hope you didn't lose them (chuckle) until they started dissolving. But our group would divide this thing to where some different people were going out there every-day, and we'd tell them about this deal" "Now go up there and go to looking at those eggs and the muscles and stuff and tell them that you will eat them raw." The whole group could get in on this thing and get some extra food. And . . . but at the same time we was providing the Japanese with some major entertaining feature there. I don't know. But . . . 'course we ate and that was the fine point in it.

Killian: Well, it was amusing to us there. We had officers there from the Navy and from the Air Corps and from the Army at this time--different ones. But it's interesting to know which

officers in this situation come out. We had a little ole' J. G. (Lieutenant Junior Grade) out of the reserves from New York and I can't think of his name, but he was a Jew boy. You know what I'm talking about. He organized a canteen in 'Cycle camp. But he was practically a genius, you know. But in the Navy he was the lowest breed of critter, you know. But in that prison camp, he really did a lot of good, but not only _____ people but the officers as well. And he just stood out like a . . . you know, a real prize possession, and we were real glad to have him in other words. And he was a natural born leader and he was natural . . . he could trade with those heathens just like they could. I wish I could remember the ensign's name. He was actually an ensign, he wasn't a JG. He got promoted to JG finally after three years. (Chuckle) He was an ensign. You know what I'm talking about. He had huge feet.

Carter: No, I can't . . .

Killian: And he looked like he was deformed when he was walking. But he was really a dandy, and . . . he organized this cooperative buying effort outside to resell inside and the whole group took the profit, see. He was really a dandy. And it really surprised me that the strongest ones, you'd think, would be the best and sometimes they're not. One of the finest senior officers we ever had was Lieutenant Commander Donavan, and he was an executive-administrative type of career Navy man. But actually in this situation it was actually one of his finest hours . . .

Carter: He was the one that . . . _____.

Killian: . . . hours as far as natural ability and personnel effort was concerned. And he wasn't the type you would pick . . . he wasn't the big star fullback for the Navy like we had one guy in there that was, you know.

Marcello: I suppose that in a situation such as the one you were in, it really did bring out the best . . .

Killian: It did . . .

Marcello: . . . and the worse in them.

Killian: . . . and the very worse, yeah. The very worse in men came out all the time there. Sometimes I think men fought just for diversion, you know. I mean physical combat. One with the other or with another group, whichever was more popular.

Carter: We liked to sic the English on the Australians. (Chuckle) We used to live between them, and we could go over there and get a good thing going with all of us telling them what the English had said over there about them, you know. And they'd move through our camp in force, you know, and tear up that English outfit. We'd sit there and cheer them on, you know, and then go back and sympathize with the English. But they . . .

Killian: These were things we did to pass the time. And also to pass the time, we stayed up and worked out things to do for ourselves as well as for our country.

Carter: And you speak of discipline. We had one matter of discipline where we felt like that one of the Australians turn-coated to

the Japanese. And they killed him. Simple. And the Australians did it theirselves, and no one knows what . . .

Killian: No one . . .

Carter: . . . he just come up dead.

Killian: He just turned up dead. And he was a big buddy of the camp commandant.

Carter: We had a heck of a time trying to explain how that guy died. He went into heart attacks and everything else, but this Jap was very interested in what happened to him.

Killian: Which proved to us they had something going. Which we all suspected anyway.

Marcello: Was there any evidence of collaboration by any American troops?

Carter: No.

Killian: I don't remember one incident. No one ever suspected anyone of our group to ever collaborate--be they Merchant Marine or civilians or Marines or Sailors. We had all kinds.

Carter: We used the Japanese for the simple reason to get through. Now, thinking in terms of collaboration, I don't think that would be a point because we didn't give them anything but money. We didn't give them any information ever. The only thing we tried to get from them, of course, was information that we could pass on. And our working parties were rather successful at various times with this type of operation.

Carter: The Japanese, as I tried to say several times before, they distrusted us. They thought we were getting ready to blow them

up. I mean that . . . they didn't want any . . . they would work with the natives, the English. The English and the Japanese were buddies. They, as a normal rule, got along the best, other than with Sony. Now, Sony, he didn't like the English because he had been in Singapore, and they had looked down on him when he was a professor there in the university. And he had an animosity built up against them before he ever met any of them. The Australians, we got along better with them because they were more our type of people.

Killian: They weren't too far removed from the frontier either really. This is the type people that we felt adjusted to more rigorous routine than the other people, because we weren't that far removed from them, I don't believe. And so were the Australians. They could chop wood all day long right along with everybody and did. Some of these other people, they just didn't fit our pattern of what was necessary to be done at this particular time anywhere. They never did. I don't know whether they didn't want to or they simply could not. But they didn't fit in. The Australians did. They called themselves the bush men, you know. They were able to accomplish these things.

Marcello: George, you were telling us about the contacts that the POW's had with the underground.

Killian: Well, we were satisfied that the group we worked with in 'Cycle camp had definite contacts. We never met any to know personally.

But this one flight lieutenant of the British Air Force . . . actually, he had been interned as a flight lieutenant but later turned out to be a general . . . brigadier general in the British Army. And he worked in the intelligence in Hong Kong before the Japanese. And he was evidently a prime figure in there in our particular camp because he seems to have known all the time what was going on. And he was in charge really because when the war ended he was the senior officer there. I didn't know that . . .

Carter: I thought Donovan . . .

Killian: Donovan was our senior officer but that general was the senior allied officer in the camp and . . .

Carter: . . . Well, that Japanese bought that sword in there and give it to Donovan, though, when he surrendered.

Killian: That's right. That's right, he did.

Carter: He come in there in a car . . .

Killian: He surrendered to the Americans and Donovan was the senior officer. The senior allied officer there's . . . name was I believe was Blackwell.

Carter: Yeah, I . . .

Killian: _____ British flight lieutenant, and he had a real fine organization going for him in 'Cycle camp. Of course, he was a man fifty years old.

Marcello: This is something we haven't talked about--the final . . . oh what should we say . . . describe the scene or situation that

took place when the surrender did take place, when the camp was turned over to the Allies what sort of a procedure took place?

Killian: Well, _____ took place. That was a ceremony. And that's all there was far as I . . .

Carter: Well, first off there was a plane came over. The Japanese told us maybe like the day the thing started taking place, and they had a bunch jump out in a parachute. You know, that major, he came down there.

Killian: _____ people down there.

Carter: Well . . . then they started giving us assignments. They give us all those tommy guns, and we went out there and took charge of that woman's camp. We took charge of the hospital. And then they brought that British heavy cruiser in there with thoseGurka troops. And this was all happening very quickly, within a day or two or so of each other. And then the English Gurkas came ashore and took charge of the town, and the Japanese prison camps, they set those up and put them in them. All but the Japanese civilians who was still loose downtown, you know. We went down there, and we was having big parties with everybody at the bars . . . Japanese, us, and these darn natives was having this uprising on the side.

Killian: Wasn't the city technically still open.

Carter: No, it was controlled by the Gurkas. You know, they set up those people down there . . . down town all . . . there were Gurkas all over the city.

Killian: Yeah, that's right.

Carter: And they put us . . . the American group, you know . . . that wac lieutenant come in there, and she was in charge of getting the supplies out there to the women and children. Well, then they put us out there to keep those natives out of those camps. And we would stand there . . . most of us spoke a little _____ . . . enough to tell them we were American soldiers. And, of course, they identified us with freedom, and they wouldn't, you know, cause us any trouble. Now and then they would have torches and be throwing rocks at the city and . . .

Killian: Occasionally one would have an old-type weapon.

Carter: But it was a real . . . it looked like a riot rather than a revolution. It more than resembled a riot.

Killian: It was really a disorganized riot instead of a revolution.

Carter: . . . because there would be . . . oh I don't know . . . what the women's camp . . . it was just like you had taken twenty city blocks and put a fence around it. The houses that were contained in that area they weren't . . . wasn't a camp so to speak. It was just a group of houses. And they would have, maybe if it was a five room house, they would have five families in it. The boys when they got about sixteen they took them out of the camp. But the women and girls were left in the camp. But the younger boys, you know, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 years old they left those boys in the camp. They didn't try to

take those out. We had that and then that hospital out there. And then you know when we left the farm camp they took a bunch of Dutch women and girls out there. And they were farming that vegetable thing that we had set up. And we would carry foodstuff out there to them. And we had a guard detail set up out there to protect those people from the natives. But all of this . . . in the interim they had this American major that was processing our forms. He had some American Wacs or Waves or something with him?

Killian: Waves.

Carter: But no military people, I mean as far as soldiers, American soldiers, there weren't any.

Killian: They didn't bring any in there. There was some Dutch military personnel that come in with the British.

Carter: But we were actually doing all the . . . looked like to me the important part we were doing. And we were trying to get vehicles to run to move supplies with . . . fighting with the natives on the side.

Killian: The supplies were coming in by barge. And the first were dropped, was air dropped. And then they came in by barge because they couldn't navigate this channel, either.

Carter: First we had the K-rations up there.

Killian: Yeah. The general breakdown started with us . . . you talk about conditions leading up to the surrender and end of the war. I suppose that we began to notice it especially, the

breakdown in the Japanese command, in the spring of '45, wasn't it?

Carter: _____.

Killian: Because I had a . . .

Carter: . . . it was actually . . .

Killian: . . . because I . . .

Carter: . . . they actually came in and told us about the atom bomb. You know, they'd go through this "one plane, one city destroyed." Well, we thought they was off their rocker. And . . . told them that, "boy, that's whats gonna happen here. Just look for it in the next day or two." (Chuckle) Well, man, those guys are just . . . came apart, you know. We'd say well . . . and thenwe's having a reconnaissance plane over a lot then. Our planes were coming over real high. We'd look up there, you know, "Now this is it. (Chuckle) This is it," you know. Man, those guys was trying to dig 'em a hole in a concrete floor. (Chuckle) In fact, one of those Jap colonels came in there and told me that his family was all wiped out in this thing in Hiroshima. They were specifically trying to get information from us.

Killian: All we knew about it was really something, too. We could help them a lot, for we'd never seen one either. (Chuckle)

Carter: Oh . . . (chuckle) . . . oh we'd help 'em all we could imagine, you know. But especially, it was interesting when you'd tell them that they just about to drop one on them. And they'd say,

"Well, what about you guys?" And we'd say, "Well, they've already told us. General Barnes told us in the beginning that we were expendable and that was forty-two months ago."

Killian: That Japanese dynasty, we called it, there in Java began to deteriorate about '44. We noticed it in going and coming. Not only were their numbers drawing less, but their control and their actual operation of it was deteriorating. And they were trying to keep us in a very restricted area, too, at this particular time. And we suspected that they had lost complete control of the civilian population, which was a fact. They had . . . by the spring of '45, . . . at least we were noticing that our food had improved and our conditions steadily improved. From that time on, I gained weight from about the spring of '45, right on because of the extra food that we were getting and also the treatment wasn't as bad. And we was practically shut out out there, as far as working was concerned, you know, in this camp, at the 'Cycle camp. We weren't worked. We didn't work.

Marcello: This brings up a very interesting question. How would you compare your physical condition at the end of your stay with what it had been when you were first taken prisoner?

Killian: Well . . .

Marcello: Let's say weight-wise first of all.

Killian: . . . I weighed about 185 when they captured me.

Marcello: And how much when you were liberated?

Killian: About 130, 132. I had been down to about a 118, I believe. My lowest. I weighed 145 when I came home, first time, which was several months afterward.

Carter: Well, that was one of the dirtiest tricks the army pulled on us. I weighed 205 pounds when I was taken prisoner. I was released at 145 pounds. When I got to Calcutta, India, they asked me ten million questions. And one of them was what did you weigh when you was taken prisoner and what do you weigh now? And this kind doctor said, "Now, Mr. Carter, when you gain back to 175 pounds, I'll let you go home. And you'll stay here until you get to 175." Half the weight you had lost you had to regain before you could leave.

Killian: Really, I believe this was important, gaining that weight. I think more than anything else, they wanted to have a real good look at us before they turned us loose on anybody. (Chuckle) We really joked about this. And we joked about a lot of things that they did to us. But we were really far out, and . . . they really didn't know just how far we were out.