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Answer: After the war was over, it was funny. When the war ended, they still wouldn't let us out in the camp, what I call the special prisoners, the B-29 people, we had this marine kid in with us and there was a B-24 guy that was in with us but most of us were all B-29. But the war was over and they still kept us under guard, because we were war criminals and it wasn't until ten days or so after the war was over. I forget who was in the main camp, who the leader was, anyway they went to the camp colonel, a Japanese, he said hey, let's these guys out, why keep them under guard, the war is over. We're waiting for liberation, the B-29's were coming over and dropping food and we were still under guard. And so finally the camp colonel, commander, let us out and we could mingle and I found a kid from Spokane that was in there. He'd been in the Philippines, Sergeant Mix, and then I saw him here in Spokane, went out to his folks place and we had dinner and then I lost track of him and I've tried and tried and tried and I've never been able to find out what happened to that family. Even on the internet I've had people try to find Sergeant Mix but haven't been able to do it. Then I found a brother of the kid I used to fly with in the training command who was in camp, in fact he was in charge of the mess hall. Maybe I can be your helper, I'll do things for you, but we never got to know any of the people out a.. in the camp itself.

Question: You were still even in the second camp isolated?

Answer: We were isolated all the time. They didn't like us. I don't imagine they liked that fellow on Wake Island very well either although. They didn't like anybody.

Question: His experience was not good. He was one of those guys that was a happy person and actually I interviewed two people I can't think of the other gentlemen's name. But both describe the same experience in different ways and the other guy was a big Marine that they just beat on and beat on and for him it was the hardest thing he ever faced in his life and the ship they took them over on they would put the bucket down with the food and then use it for a bathroom.

Answer: Well I don't know how the people that came from the Philippines in those ships, how they ever survived that. I had a friend that I flew with in Texas before the war and he was in wing headquarters on Saipan and he was shot down. He was riding, didn't have a crew, just riding along, and I never knew it till after the war was over but we were on the hospital ship and he was tall, about six feet, four, big lantern jaw. And the Japanese just hated him, took a dislike to him, and treated him just terribly like they did with this marine and I found on the hospital ship. I can't remember how I found out he was there, roomed just a short distance from where I was on the hospital ship. I went into see him, he was in an oxygen tent, I hadn't known he was a prisoner. And he couldn't hardly talk but he recognized me and stuck his hand out and his wife was named Jean too and then he died. So he died saying you know, as soon as we get back to San Francisco why our Jeans will meet us and we're going out and what we're going to eat and just a few couple minutes later he just took his last breathe. And I couldn't figure out once they had him you know, and good doctors, and nurses, the wonderful care on those hospital ships, that they couldn't save him. He was just too far gone they just couldn't do it. Always.. a.. wondered you think they could have saved him, but they couldn't. So many.

Question: That adds more to the tragedy that he survived

Answer: Yeah, he survived and was liberated and then they couldn't do it. I think I was sicker after I got liberated than I was in camp. We'd overeat. They'd try to keep us on an easy diet you know, and we were on the hospital ship in a room with eight other guys. We had a bed, and a little headset with music playing and we didn't know about the atomic bomb at all until we got on the ship and then we read all about it. But they would come on to try

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and control our eating, but then we, this friend of mine from California, Menlo Park, we'd slip down with the ships crew and they'd see us coming and they'd get with their tin trays you know and load that with food you know.. and I'd be so sick. I'd eat and throw up and eat some more and. That's the thing maybe you've heard this before with other POW you've talked to, you could eat a great big meal just stuffed, but you're just as hungry you couldn't appease that hunger so you'd go and try to stuff some more. And that's why we were sick so much for awhile you know but then you level off but we put on weight pretty fast, wasn't very good weight, but I was about 90 pounds and we put on about 3 pounds a day I think as I remember eating. We'd get cartons of candy bars you know and just stuffing all the time you know.

Question: What did you weight before you were captured?

Answer: About 170.

Question: So you lost 80 pounds, almost half your weight?

Answer: Yeah, I was pretty skinny. We all were. You've seen pictures of these guys probably, nothing but ribs and bones and that's how we looked when we got out of solitary. Most of us early in the war went through those cells, in Tokyo, the Kempetai Prison, most of us and then later on they got more and more POWs they were put in these cells but they were maybe 7-8 people together in one of the cells but we were strictly locked up solitaire. But I didn't realize for a long time, just how many POWs they had. You know, you'd hear these raids and sometimes I got to feeling.. I hope somebody got shot down, not that I wanted them killed but I was so miserable I wanted somebody to share my misery with me. But during the fire raids the Kempetai had two prisons and I was in this one in Tokyo but then they moved me to another just a short distance away. That's where I was taken for execution and so I was on the edge of the fire raids. But they burned down so much of Tokyo and those fires were so hot that even when I was inside a building in a cage, no windows, at all, you could feel the glow, you could feel the heat, you could smell you know you can't believe a city burning like that.

They lost more in the fire raids than they did in the atomic bomb and yet it's the atomic bomb everybody wants to get excited about. I've talked to groups and they want me to admit it was a mistake to drop the atomic bomb, that Japan was licked and we didn't have to drop that and I disagree completely. That ended the war there is no doubt about it as far as I'm concerned. And if it'd come to an invasion we would never have been alive very long. In fact I've got an order that came from the Japanese high command, sent to all commandants of all prison camps around the world where they had.. or in the Pacific. And the order says in case of invasion all POWs will all be immediately killed. I take this sometimes talking to high school kids, and I read the chilling part. And it says, spelled out in here is how you get rid of the POWs is up to you, you can poison, you can burn, you can bayonet, you can shoot, you can behead, however you want to kill them you can.. but there must be no trace remaining of that POW. And this was discovered in the files after the war and I've got a copy, most of us have a copy of that thing and its very, cause I've used it in speeches around. And tell the high school kids, you know I could have been burned, beheaded, stabbed, poisoned, but there can be no trace left of me and it's a little sobering when you think that went out to every commandant of every prison camp. So if it had come to invasion, which I think what, November 1st if I remember we had the invasion set we would have been executed or killed some way or other and disposed of so we were pretty close. So don't tell me, these people that say we shouldn't have dropped the atomic bomb, it saved my life. And it stopped the war. There is no question about it. I don't think anybody can argue that other than the people that are so moral about dropping the bomb which can be argued but never the less it stopped the war. Invasion would have cost countless lives because they a.. they'd have Japanese had women

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and children. We saw women and kids drilling with sticks and you know following commands. Young girls, teenagers, and young kids and this is what our troops would be facing if they had come. In and you take a mean old Marine he is going to think twice about laying down fire against a good looking teenage Japanese lady but as soon as they throw a grenade at you then you're going to start killing and we found that in Viet Nam and in Korea and its going to happen.

Question: They already had the purple hearts cast and ready for the invasion because they knew the numbers that would be lost.

Answer: Oh did they really, you know it's was a bunch I'll bet.

Question: You gave an interesting statistic that a lot of people forget is in the bombing of Tokyo the numbers killed versus the number of people killed by the bomb. The bomb didn't really kill that many. It was a definitive answer. So you didn't hear about the bomb until after?

Answer: No we didn't know about it in camp. We had a feeling something was happening, a lot of the mean guards disappeared right at the end of the war. And the ones that were left were not too bad and they were we didn't want to retaliate so much. Of course, I didn't anyway, gees, the tail of the war ended and I came down with yellow jaundice my I was sick and I didn't care if the war ended or not at that time for awhile. It.. we didn't know until I got on the hospital ship then they were talking about the A bomb and we didn't know what the A bomb was at all. But we did know that something big was happening because we lost a lot of the guards.

Our number one guard we named "Horse Face" and everybody thought that as soon as the war was over let's get old "Horse Face" and just beat the crap out of him, but he disappeared. That "Horse Face" wasn't too bad.. he a.. he laid back my teeth with a rifle butt one day on my tongue, I pulled them out and anchored them down a little bit but they didn't stay and I got home and finally lost them. But its easy to break a rule you know I don't know what rule.. and to this day I don't know what.. I broke a rule that he would hit me in the mouth with his rifle butt. But well never saw Horse, well one of our guys saw "Horse Face" and I think he got five years, in a Sugamo Prison. And one of our fellows that went back to Japan in '48 he was a career, he was a sergeant, Sergeant Johnson, he's not alive, in fact he married a Japanese girl, he went back and went to Sugamo to see "Horse Face". Well "Horse Face" was pretty put out because he thought he was so good to us all the time and why am I here why am I in prison. He didn't speak much English but he did a little bit. He had been a gunner on a Grumman or a in China and a Grumman shot him down so he hated Grummans with a passion. Towards the end of the war, my friend Hap from California, on the honey bucket detail old "Horse Face" would get us on each end of the garden detail, "watch for Grumman!" and Hap would get out and take off and lay in the sunshine and he would doze and "Horse Face" so I'd get out in the sunshine and "Horse Face" would come over and just beat the hell out of me so I'd have to stand up there looking for Grumman. Ole Hap over there I could have killed him and tell him to this day I'm going to get him for that sometime and. He has gone back to Japan several times and sponsored education for some of the people. He met the Japanese pilot who shot him down, and helped some of the people come to the states here for education. In fact he was back just a couple of weeks ago, so he's been quite active in going back.

I don't know if in the other interviews you found dislike or hatred of the Japanese by ex POWs. Some of them do. This little friend, Nori from Yokohama, who has helped me found an Australian that wouldn't speak to her because she was Japanese but he finally came around. I never felt that way. After the war was over.. I was a little mad for awhile but you get over that and Hap has gone back and I've gone back about four times.. back to Japan. I like a..I

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get along fine with the Japanese people, of course, the people we meet had nothing to do with the war.

But I find they are starting to rewrite history a little bit and it kind of concerns me. In some of the things they're talking about in their history books is not what happened. And I was interested when this movie Pearl Harbor came out.. and I thought that was a terrible movie. I like the computer generation attack on Pearl Harbor. That was pretty interesting but all the rest of that movie was such a bunch of nonsense that I've ever heard. Well it hit Japan of course and I e-mailed Nori and asked her about it and she didn't like it and all her friends didn't like it but what they were interested in was the Doolittle raid and I was so surprised, that's all she wanted to know about. She wanted me to get books on the Doolittle raid if I could find them. And what did I know about them. Well, I had a couple of friends on that Doolittle raid and a.. we know it pretty well but Japan is rewriting history a little bit on the Doolittle raid on their treatment of the people they got, they beheaded some and executed some. But they bombed school yards and churches and all this sort of thing but they didn't do much damage at all except put fear into the Japanese that we hit them but I was surprised at the intense interest they were showing in the Doolittle raid where the Pearl Harbor movie they could care less.

But Nori in fact.. we were over there in January and Nori when she came brought four Japanese men with her that wanted to interview me about the fire raids, and the immorality of the fire raids, and why would America and is America going to apologize. And so Nori was the interpreter of these other, these three Japanese men, one spilled a beer all over his lap when we were having dinner and they thought that was uproariously funny but I kept a straight face. But they were wanting America to apologize for those fire raids and of course, I'm not going to apologize for the fire raids you're crazy. But the inhumanity of it?, and I well jeez.. the inhumanity of all war you know. But America is not going to apologize and I said, when are you going to pay me for my work? Well, that was another subject so they got off of that.

Question: So when you asked them about from your perspective when are they going to pay you for your work, they just changed the subject?

Answer: Nah.. they a.. nobody got paid, there wasn't any money. In fact we did get.. they came in one day and gave us a few ten yen notes which were worthless and I think I have one in my file. And after the war these things were no good anyway well they weren't worth anything then but they said well yes we paid you.

I think I got equivalent of twenty cents work for five months work in the garden. But anyway they dismiss this sort of talk but they think we should apologize for the firing not the atomic bomb, but these fire raids, of course that is what these people were over to talk about. They left the next day and went to Pearl Harbor and we've seen a lot of Japanese at Pearl Harbor. You been through? And really the Japanese people are very respectful when they're out at that memorial but this is just another incidence where I can see they are starting to rewrite history a little bit. And now Nori Nagasawa is her name, she had living as close as she did to the prisoners had no idea that the treatment, in fact I mentioned one day that I exercise.. they use to get us up once in awhile and exercise you know and Tiso. And so Nori said now when you exercise did they have music and you were in the parade ground and they had music and you could do all this. And I says no I got up on my freezing cell and tried to shuffle a little bit with some Japanese shouting at me all the time, and if I didn't shuffle right they'd come in with a kendo club so. Well she didn't understand any of this and she was living there. But that's why she has suddenly gotten interested and in fact I just got an e-mail from Nori and she is coming to a POW symposium in San Antonio, Texas, later this month. She went to Australia to see the Australian that hated the Japanese so much and he came back and visited her in Japan then so some of the people have suddenly gotten interested and just why I don't know. It took them a long long time.

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Question: See my understanding is that in Japan they don't teach World War II.

Answer: That's true. The history books are not complete on this at all, and one reason I enjoyed going back and talking with some of the people. I went to Tokyo Ito Museum and when I went back they got from me, all my recipes and a little diary I'd hidden all the time, and my crew picture, and the only thing I got back from Japan were my boots.. shoes, not low cut, but those shoes and they wanted those. And I'd made little cigarette holders out of bamboo when we were out at the prison camp cause when we get little butts and when you get a butt about that big you put it in a cigarette holder so. You've heard all those stories, but anyway they wanted all those. I found a little mirror outside one day, a little cracked piece about like that, and so I had that and I found a little magnifying glass like in a small flashlight. Well a lot of times we'd find a butt and to light a cigarette, we didn't have any matches, if the sun was shining we'd use that little, well I had that, and I sent it over packaged it up and Jean and I went into this Ito Tokyo Museum which is a huge museum, a couple of city blocks you know and 4-5 stories high, beautiful museum. And one corner World War II, and we walk in there and there is my crew picture and a case with a light and my boots in there, standing next to it my crew picture and all these little memorabilia that I had plus all my recipes and all there in a glass case and I just couldn't believe it. But what was interesting right next to it World War II they had a lot of pictures of the fire bomb.. uh dead bodies, stacks of Japanese bodies in the streets you know charred and the building charred and I wondered about Japanese people, which there were quite a few of them in there.. would see that.. walk on down and see my crew picture.. if they'd say you know "good I hope you died". But I didn't see any of that at all they just were interested. I wondered, I stood beside that crew picture and I wondered at some of the Japanese students and they would say hey hey but none did you know. They didn't recognize me but they kept that display in there for two years then they finally packaged it all up and sent it home to me. So I've got it back, my shoes, my magnifying glass, all my recipes, little cigarette holders, but to walk into a museum like that and to see.. just cold that display it was a shocker.

Question: It brings up, and this is the thing that we worked a little bit too, just the position, the different views of, in fact last week we interviewed a gentlemen, Dr. Wehner, who was in the Hitler youth, and at the end of the war fought with the Germans and had to be de-natzified and everything like that but his perspective, a couple of interesting things, one when we talk about the Treaty of Versailles, he talks about the dictate of Versailles, but he also gave his perspective of what he would do, of how Hitler came and promised jobs and the economy was bad and all that and he said I went to fight for my country, now he doesn't like Hitler, I mean he didn't like Hitler, so you got to see here is your view of the war and here is the Japanese view, here are the pictures, do you think there is a message World War II leaves for generations to come that you and I will never meet, I mean is there something the history books are leaving out that we'll need the future generations to know?

Question: Oh I suppose so. It would be hard to pin point anything because so many things, so many stories, like we're talking here are going to be lost, soon as we are dead. And World War II people are going at a pretty fast clip, I think 1500 a day, or a 1000, or whatever it is, a bunch, and one day we're not going to be around to tell these stories and that's one reason we go around talking to the kids about it.

But a history book can only give the surface of actions that went on, they can talk about the Battle of the Bulge but certainly to the guy that was in the Battle of the Bulge and the stories he got of the freezing and the snow and the blizzards and the or the marines coming out of Chosin Reservoir in Korea, one of the worst retreats we had of people dying of freezing and the frostbite, it was a terrible incident, but you can read.. but how can you tell what its like really, you can't, in fact its hard for me to a.. talking to tell what its like to be so hungry, cause I'm not hungry, I know I was starving to death but how can you explain it or so cold, I

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was so cold that winter in that summer flying suit and bare feet in the cell and the cell was not heated. It was a very bitter cold winter and the snow all over the place outside and we had a window at the end of the corridor and the wind blowing right the snow would come in and blow down and one time. My hands had all been burned, and they got pretty badly infected and they came in one day with a bucket of water and an old dirty rag and said wash the floor of my cell, well you had to break the skim of ice on the bucket it was so cold and I wasn't about to take that dirty rag with my burned hands. So I made a big show of washing, I didn't have any water on the rag and pretty soon I spilled a little water where the door to my cell was about that big and right beside it was a little hole where they put the food bucket and there were seven wooden bars in front. And so I made a big show of cleaning that cell and I put that thing out again but I never touched that water it was cold and.

I but they did show in my interrogations my hands were just so bad that they a.. they got a doctor which surprised me because a lot of people just they just let them die but they got me out of the cell and a doctor and nurse and this doctor could just speak a little English not very much but he was very gentle and take all this bad skin off with the tweezers and he was very gentle but this nurse she was mean, God she hated me, and she was jabbing that thing, she really hurt, and the doctor called her down and really gave her what for and so she was a little more gentle but boy, she looked at me and if you ever saw hatred in anyone's eyes she had it, maybe she'd lost her family, I don't know. The doctor he tried to talk to me about Japanese giving of life and I don't know what it was all about, the Japanese giving of life and he was so gentle and then they put a lot of disinfectant on my hands and wrapped them up with bandages but by golly they got well and I took the bandages off, cut strips, and tied the sleeves of my flying suit around my legs to keep the cold out but my hands were kind of fiery red for about two years and they finally got better. But he was, I hope he survived the war, very gentle man, but what I wish for that nurse, I would not wish on anyone. She was mean.

Question: So there are the two extremes. There is the humanity and then there it sounds like there is some inhumanity for whatever the reason is, some of the guards, like you said, you didn't know what the rules were but you knew you broke some rule.

Answer: Uh huh. Well, the guards we had, I would not say they were Rhode's Scholars at all. Most of them were young kids and well I don't know I would not class them as very high intellect at all and some of them would just ignore you and some would aggravate you greatly especially if you were down in the cells in Tokyo in the Kempetai. I had a guard ask me if I wanted, they had rice balls, if I wanted it, no English, of course. I wanted it, he'd motion and I'd put my hand out of this little hole and I did so he smashed my fingers with my rifle butt and knocked off about four fingernails for no reason at all.

They used to at night time, you'd get in your blankets and have your head toward the bars and they had a long bamboo pole in this one prison. They'd stick it through the bars all night and they'd keep jabbing you in the face and jab you and keep you awake all night long with that bamboo. Oh, they used to put their cigarettes out on my face if they were smoking during interrogation. And things like take you out of your cell to go into the interrogation room, the doors were lower, I was 6'1", blindfolded and they'd put a bayonet in your back and you have to run a pretty good clip towards that open door and you know its there and you try to duck but you generally cut it above the eyes and knock you flat, things like that that some of the guards would not pay attention to at all.

We had one English speaking guard that was very kind very gentle but he didn't pay much attention to us, but he never did anything bad to me. Oh I had names for all of them and of course "Horse Face", we had little.. we called him "Baby Dumpling" and I found out some prisoners ahead of me called him "Kewpie doll". Same guy, we called him baby dumpling and he used to take us out to the gardens and he would have his gun you know.. and he would prop his gun up against the tree or have one of us hold it while he sat down with a little book, oh Jesus a little tiny guy.. but if an officer came out from the camp why he'd get up and grab

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his gun and he would slap our faces you know just raising hell with us. And then after the officer left I'd go (Grins nods head mimicking Kewpie Doll) he didn't want to do that, then sit down and give us his gun. Well we had a lot of fun with incidents like this it gave us a lot of amusement.. a lot of humor and we never had any feelings against "Kewpie Doll" at all but "Horse Face" we uhm.. we didn't like "Horse Face" very well. So I can see how he got five years.

Question: It's interesting cause you start talking names and that's one thing the history books often don't put to this. There is a gentlemen over on Bainbridge Island, a Japanese family that was interred, and he said the reason he started going and talking to schools was because he wanted to put names with these pictures because it just said Japanese girl gets on boat, Japanese man does this and when you think of names from World War II do you remember crewmembers names and people that stick out in your mind or does it all just go away?

Question: Well, no I remember good friends, my crew members and people I flew with way back before the war and I.. but they get lost. I had a good friend that was killed in The Flying Tigers from Grants Pass, Oregon, they're naming a street for him down there and having a big ceremony for Johnny Hampshire. And so they wrote up and wanted all the information I had and he was a good friend in the cadets and we never saw much of each other after we graduated. He went in the fighters and I went into instructing and advanced flying school but he was killed. But some of these close friends, even though I haven't seen them in sixty years, stick in my mind very closely. The names come and go, oh I remember old so and so and the next day I can't remember who it was I was thinking of. Close wartime friends, funny when I went back to Korea, I was flying B-29's out of Okinawa, I was in the 2nd airforce wing, headquarters are Barksdale And I'd always been here in Spokane or SAC headquarters or 15th airforce, and the short when I was over flying missions then I don't remember hardly any of those people I flew with but all these others I go back so many years I do, I don't know why I never made any close friends while I was in during the Korean War because I was in a different wing I was never in that part of the country. Barksdale Field is a long ways away from Fairchild where I was stationed. Well I, it's hard to sometimes recall a name with a face and of course, I'm 84, I'm having a hard time recalling a lot of things that I used to so things are not so easy anymore.

Question: Did you find, I've heard some people say that they kept a separation because you never knew what might happen to whoever is next to you and things like that, so there was this wall people put up. Did you feel like that?

Answer: No I never did, even when, both times, in Korea and World War II, no, made good friends and I never tried to put up any kind of a separation knowing I didn't want to get too close to this fellow cause he might be dead tomorrow. Never felt that at all. I just you know it can happen and we knew people were going to get hurt but never thought it'd be me, for one, never had that kind of a feeling at all.

Question: We had two different pilots told two different stories, one pilot said it got to the point, the first time one of his first missions some of his crew members got killed and he got back and it was real hard for him, after that when he landed, he got out of the plane right away and never looked back, he didn't want to know, and then the other one said, I think it might have been Gill said you know, the first time we came out and one of my buddies didn't come back I went out and cried, after that I couldn't cry after that.

Answer: No I never felt that, I had a good friend in B-29 training, kid named Erin and we got to Saipan, we'd already made one mission when he came in with his crew and he was in

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the same Quonset hut that we were... his crew and mine. And the footlockers were all in uh.., he got there just in time for the second Tokyo run. And I'd led the first mission and the second mission I was leading the third element on the leader like three planes, three planes, three planes, stacked like this. And I was leading this left element and he was on my wing, so we flew all the way up... you go in real loose formation until you get close to Japan and then you tighten up and go to altitude and he was on my wing and we did a bombing run and then coming back generally split up and everybody goes back separately so don't have a crowded traffic pattern when you get back to Saipan.. because you're always low on gas and you don't want to go around because of crowded somebody ahead of you. But he pulled off to or I pulled off to one side and I pulled in on his wing just to fly formation for awhile and so I flew on his wing for about two hours and then gradually I started to pull away and I was on his right wing, Iwo Jima is off here.. where they had Japanese fighters. But we had to dog leg around Iwo and I was on inside of him anyway and we gradually, for another two hours, I could see the glint of his wings you know when the sun would hit him. And finally we got too far apart and he never showed up, no trace, no radio trace, nothing, he just disappeared from the face of the earth.

We wondered if Japanese fighters had come out, but I was on the inside and. But anyway.. I felt when I went into the hut that night and saw the footlockers not even unpacked.. and a good friend and now he is obviously lost.. and I think seeing the empty barracks and footlockers is what got to me. But I would not have felt like that fellow that didn't want any association. No I felt a great loss, but not that I would not have a friendship or not try to make a friendship, that wouldn't occur to me. But that kind of grabbed me when I think of all the things, seeing the footlockers, they aren't even unpacked yet.. and there a whole crew was lost and to this day we don't know what happened to him.

When I get up in the sky I'm going to ask that, I'm going to find out, hey Erin what happened to you?

Question: And that is the picture again that we hear that's where people would know a lot of times you come back to the barracks and you'd see what bunks were empty and ?

Answer: Well, generally, when people come back they divide up your effects, but that happened a lot. I'd gotten into a dice game the night before I was shot down and I won about five hundred dollars and was lucky enough the mission next day kept me out of a poker game I would have lost five hundred dollars but that money all came home. My wife got it, she got about everything. My box of cigars didn't make it but then that was all right, didn't do me any good. But it happened a lot. People.. crew not make it, but you take a place like Polesti Where they lost sixty-some B-24's over the target you know. You go home you have a barracks filled with stuff you know.. so people grab this and that, articles of clothing, others artifacts they might have of home or whatever, it happened.

Question: In England I hear it's the blankets, they wanted the blankets. One guy told about coming back and they thought he was shot down and gone and he got back and his blankets were gone and he got a little bit upset.

Question: Well, that could be important. That second prison I went to in Kempetai, when I was under the Kempetai It was the same little bare cell like I'd just gotten out of in the prison where I went out for the firing squad. But in the corner of that prison they had storage of blankets, about eighteen blankets, all folded up nicely. Well, we were allowed four blankets, oh it was cold. So when I looked at those blankets, and when no one was looking I went over and took about five of those blankets and then I started to feel for the first time since I'd been shot down, I started to feel a little warmth you know. And a guard got suspicious so they came on in and they counted the blankets I had and of course I had a bunch, and they gave me a good beating and I had to put all the blankets in the corner. As

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soon as their back was turned, I went and got the blankets again. And so this went on now, so why in the world didn't they take the blankets and get them out of there, but they didn't they just left them there and every time I could I'd take some... they'd come in and knock me around and put them back, take them again.. but I never could understand that Japanese mentality.

And I had one time out when we were working in the garden there was a.. a young teenage girl a couple of times, she wore a yellow sweater. And I.. she walked on the side (inaudible) of it. The whole area was burned down and very few buildings standing, just rubble. And our job was to clean out the rubble, get down to bare ground and get down to where we could plant gardens. But this girl she had such a.. kinda a shy smile, not one.. not flirtatious but sort of a smile of sympathy, "I know you're a long way from home and what you're going through" and we remembered that. And one day "Horse Face" saw her, he went over and slapped her around awhile, so she never came back but I mentioned this to Nori from Yokohama. She went back and announced it in her church, so they and got the newspaper and tried to find the gal in the yellow sweater. And they made quite a search around there and when my wife and I went back to Japan about four years ago we met the minister in the church where they first started the congregation looking for the girl in the yellow sweater. But they never found her. So whether she was my imagination, well the other fellows remembered her too but who knows fifty years later what could have happened to her but I always remembered her because she radiated a little sympathy, understanding.. of course she got her face slapped for it, there's "Horse Face", when we needed him he was there.

Question: You talked about here is your poor bride at home who thought you passed away, you come back, did you have to not reinvent, but rediscover each other or the thankfulness that you're alive overrides everything?

Answer: Well it, I got to send her a wire from the ship through the Red Cross, and it was kind of an odd incident that happened. I went down to Guam and I was in hospital in Guam for awhile and then on to Letterman General in San Francisco. And I was in the hospital down there at Letterman General, and while we were there they let every POW have a phone call home. So and I wasn't sure where Jean was but I figured she might be with her sister and that was the only number I had in Seattle so I put it off because I didn't want any bad news. My brother was flying B-25's in the Pacific, he'd been shot down but got back the same day he was shot down but I didn't know that. I didn't know if my parents were alive, or where they were, didn't know anything and I was afraid of bad news. Jean might have gotten married again, you know, it happened to one of our guys got home and his wife had married his uncle of all things. One guy got home and his wife died just two days before the war was over so these things happened but I didn't want any bad news. So I was finally dialing the phone and it was starting to ring and my friend Hap, my benjo hauling buddy, wrapped on the door and said I found an ice cream parlor down here. They make the best milkshakes and marshmallow Sundays you ever saw. So I hung up just like that and away we go and so we had a few milkshakes. It was a feeling, I couldn't bring myself to call. Well of course I did call and got Jean. Everything was fine. My brother was in Japan on occupation duty at the time. My folks were fine. She was fine. She hadn't gotten married. She found a job. She quit. So then I was put in Baxter General Hospital here in Spokane. It's where the vet's hospital is out here. So I was in there about three months and she came on up and we got a little apartment. They let me out on weekends. Everything went back to normal real fast just. I never had any.. didn't fight the war at nights much. And my main trouble I had a one year old boy when I left and now he was two and he didn't like me at all so he was a handful and I didn't know and he didn't know me and it took awhile to get the family adjusted there but he wanted no part of me. He didn't know what a father was.

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Question: He lost a whole year of your life?

Answer: Yeah, and he was getting aware of things you know and so I had a year out of his life but this happens oh my how many thousands of people came home and had to get acquainted with their families. When I got back on active duty I was stationed down in Tucson, Davis-Monthan Field in Tucson, and my brother came back and he was at Tucson so we rented housing together. And he had a boy just a year older than mine of course he had been overseas for a long time too so he was going through the same charge, but these two kids together got us thrown out of one house by turning the hose on the furniture inside to clean them, and they filled my tank up with fine Arizona sand, my gas tank. They thought that was doing me a favor, little things like that you know. GRRRR. No it didn't take us long. Jean and I had known each other since high school days so we got back into a family unit pretty fast.

Question: When your son grew up did he ask about any of your World War II experiences?

Answer: Oh, not too much, not when he was small, he wasn't too interested as he got older, then he volunteered for the army in about '62. In fact he flunked out of school and college and he was kind of humiliated so immediately joined the army and he went to Germany and he was in mechanized, he was in tanks. And when he came back three years in Germany, he went back to school, got good grades and never had any problem at all, then since we had military life to share, he was much more interested, and now I've got a grandson in pilots training Shepherd Field in Texas and he wants to be a fighter pilot and he is very interested. He was always writing "hey grandpa we're doing formation work now, now when you did formation work, what was your positions and how did you", and so he is very interested. He is a fighter pilot mentality. He knows it all. He tolerates his commander because he is a colonel, so he will tolerate him but he doesn't know very much, I says, Joe, this fellow probably has about 500 hours combat time in Viet Nam, you'd better listen to him. He knows that, but I have a good relationship with him because of the military. But the other grandson is a 1st lieutenant at Fort Lewis in the Army so they.. because of that are much more interested in my past military experience and when they got their commissions at Washington State at "Wazoo", I got to swear them in separately. And they asked me to do that and I was privileged to go down and swear them in. And my grandson, Joe, the one in fighter pilot training, you know I'm in a suit coat and tie and after I swear him in he says "grandpa I'm going to salute you" and I damned near cried and he stood back and gave me a snappy salute which isn't really done to someone in civilian clothes, but I just about cried. But anyway we have a good relationship but my daughter wasn't born until I came home and she wasn't much interested in my past at all as far as military. She knew I'd been a fighter pilot and a prisoner and all that but it didn't mean much to her.

Question: When you get together with veterans, prisoner of war groups, what do you guys talk about?

Answer: Well, we talk some of, now when I talk with the friend I was with, we discuss the old days. I go to a POW meeting in Spokane we don't discuss the old days, we got German POWs', Japanese POWs', and I didn't know them before I got into the association together, so we don't talk about war stories very much and friends I was in the service with we see occasionally, not war stories, we don't talk much but my friend in California we talk about the honey bucket days quite often and going back to Japan and what he has done with the Japanese, we discuss that quite a bit. But, I think you get past the war story stage.. especially if you didn't know the people during the war or the camps they were in. And I've got a good friend, he was a German POW and he was flying B-24's and he farms. You might

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know the town of St. John, and you probably know that, so he farms St. John, but we used to compare a lot of times and talk about his camp, my camp, but he was a crop duster so we talk about flying a lot but now you know everybody has heard all of our stories I guess so you don't go over them.

Question: I was just with a Pearl Harbor survivor last week and he said when they get together they talk about everything but the war. It's they want to move forward and enjoy life.

Answer: Yeah, you go on to other things, but I don't suppose he ever forgets it?

Question: No, and that's another thing he said after we talked to him, I'll go home tonight and I'll have some nightmares.

Answer: Just like talking with you here, you're a good interviewer because you bring up things I haven't thought of in a long long time, because you mention something and it recalls something. I probably have said some stories to you that I haven't thought of in years.

Question: See I wasn't a good historian because all they taught me was names and dates and they go in one ear and out the other but if you start talking about people and events, now all of a sudden it's personal to me. I understand it more and so I can understand the bigger picture by understanding the smaller picture. What was the individual doing? To hear so many vets what were you doing? We were just doing our job. But then to hear what their job was and to think, could I face that, or what? When this project first started one of the arguments schools had was well we aren't behind this because the veterans just want to glorify war. I've interviewed, I think you'll be tape 198 or 199, and I have not heard one veteran tell me war was beautiful or glorious or anything like that but I do hear it was a job we had to do and there is a time you have to stand for what you believe in but they also say I was doing for my country what that person was doing for their country and its good to hear that you don't hold animosity towards, and this is one thing I ask people when you went to war were you against a person, a government, a dictator, who did you think you were fighting against?

Answer: Well I think, now I wanted to fight against the Japanese for some reason more than the Germans. As much as I hated Hitler.. much more than I did Hirohito or anybody in Japan. But I felt more of a hatred toward Japan. If I'm going to fight I want to fight Japan. Besides I thought it was out in the Pacific and I thought I'd be on some little island and dancing girls. Well, I sure saw a lot of them alright. But in fact when Jean and I went back to Japan four years ago we met through our friend Nori, the widow of the guy that shot me down, set me on fire. He was a Japanese fighter pilot, quite well known. And after he survived the war, he came back to the US in the 50's and got jet training down at Luke Field in Arizona to go back and teach jet flying to the Japanese defense force and was killed in a crash. Well I met his widow and she had a scrap book with things about him and Jean had a scrap book filled. There were both of us in uniform. Him in Japanese and here I was in class A USA and he talks about this fight we were in.. because we shot him down too.. and he talks about this in his diary and that is how Nori found her. And he talks about how he got shot down and that he got to crash land and got out alright but the lady I thought it was a touching thing. When we left her my wife and the lady hugged each other. And just think you know, way back then.. there was her husband, this young gung ho guy out there fighting these fighters.. and Jean, her husband out there gung ho in our B-29 and they were both living opposite sides, but going through the same thing. But they hugged each other and I really thought it was a touching moment. She couldn't speak any English, but didn't have to really.

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But I.. other than a.. a short time.. I couldn't understand the crazy Japanese like on those blankets you know, and.. but going out to the firing squad.. it just.. it happened!. So I didn't come home bitter on things like that. I used to be bitter on uh... god they could have given us a little more food.. but they didn't have an awful lot you know. The Japanese ate nothing but rice anyway but jeez just give us a little more than you are doing, gee you could have done that. But the beatings I uh.. it sounds kind of crazy, but you can stand having a guard whopping you around with that damned kendo club and thinking about a stack of pancakes at the same time.

On my flying suit they had a logo the airforce stars and bars you know, just in the suit. I had a guard that just hated that. He took a great dislike and he came into my cell all the time with a kendo club and just beat on that thing on my arm until it was paralyzed, I couldn't use it, it was all swollen up, puffed up. Everytime he was on duty until he got transferred out he'd come in a beat.. just pound pound on that. I could have killed him. A guard came in one day for no reason and kicked me in a jaw. I was sitting in my seat in position and he just came in and kicked me in the jaw and kinda got it off center, and I couldn't chew, and it got puffed up like that and no reason but so if I wanted to come home with hatred that kind of action would have done it. It really didn't. It just, it's what happens and I happened to be there and somebody else wasn't there... the fates of war. I didn't waste any time on hatred.

Question: I think it might have been Sandy Sanderson that said you know, cause he was one that has the same kind of view that I did, it was war, its dying moved on. He said the one thing though, the Japanese didn't treat their soldiers any better than their prisoners.

Answer: Yeah, we saw, they'd slap their soldiers around like, slapping meant nothing to the Japanese and the kendo club was another matter. But slapping, they were always slapping their people like "Horse Face" slapped that little girl in the yellow sweater. One guy came by one day and dropped his cigarette where we were working and walked on, but "Horse Face" happened to see it. And he slapped the guy around too and he was just trying to do a nice thing for us and we kind of bowed and Arigatoo (Inaudible Japanese) to him, so he knew we were grateful. But he got slapped around for it so that military regime in Japan they were weird. Those soldiers, I was interrogated by two naval officers and they had graduated from the University of Washington, so we had a pretty good time. About all they wanted to know was can you still buy chocolates? I aw gees you can buy chocolates everyplace, they give them away, and they'd kind of slather, and I take it they really liked chocolates when they were at the University of Washington. But they were very supercilious, very snotty, super they asked well why don't your navy come out and fight? And I said probably because you got nothing left for them to fight. Well I thought I was going to get the kendo club but they just kind of laughed a little bit you know. That's about all it was. We visited a little bit at the University but I wonder how many people got caught back there that had been in the states and just before the war had gone back to visit family a lot of them did get put into the army knowing English very well they'd have a place for them but a lot more Japanese can speak English than Americans can speak Japanese and I don't know in Germany. I suppose we had a lot of POWs that could speak German. I spoke German in high school and college but no Japanese. A lot of Japanese could speak a little English. And they knew a lot of our movie stars and I told a group of them once that I had been in Hollywood and had been married to Betty Grabel for a short time. And they looked me either like this guy is number one crazy or hey he was married to a movie star.

I don't know which one it was but they told me my wife had been killed in an auto accident they heard through the Red Cross. She had been killed, my son was ok, but she had been killed, well so what do you believe, I really didn't believe but you wonder until I get that first phone call, maybe she had been killed I didn't know. But they had a lot of stories. They told us about a Japanese fighter pilot knocking down a B-29 with a rice ball. He was out of ammunition so he flew up alongside the 39 and got his rice ball out of his lunch box and threw

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it and it so frightened the pilot and the guy spun in on the 39. That was great. Brave Japanese pilot. They took me out one time, out of my cell I think to Atsugi Airport across Tokyo someplace where they had a B-17 and they wanted

End of tape