

Interviewee: Stan Galbraith

Interviewer: Thomas Saylor

Date of interview: 30 April 2004

Location: dining room, Galbraith residence, St. Paul, Minnesota

Transcribed by: Linda Gerber, July 2004

Edited by: Thomas Saylor, January 2005

Stan Galbraith was born 30 September 1918 in Virginia, Minnesota, an Iron Range mining town. He grew up there, and graduated from Virginia High School in 1936.

Stan was drafted into the US Army in March 1941. After completing Basic Training he was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division, 2nd battalion, 131st Field Artillery, and sent to the Philippines, then to Java. Along with much of the rest of his unit, he was captured by the Japanese on 10 March 1942.

From March 1942 to August 1945, Stan was a POW of the Japanese. Early camps included the "Bicycle Camp," on Java. But for much of this time, he worked on the infamous Burma – Thailand Railroad. Conditions were terrible, and casualties high. Stan has specific memories of these years, and the people he encountered. VJ Day in August 1945 brought the end of Stan's time as a POW, after forty-two months.

After being returned to the United States and discharged in early 1946, Stan returned to the Iron Range and worked at several jobs. In the mid-1960s, he moved to Minneapolis and worked in retail sales until retiring in the mid-1980s. At the time of this interview (April 2004), Stan lived alone in a small apartment in St. Paul.

Interview Key:

T = Thomas Saylor

S = Stan Galbraith

[text] = words added by editor, either for clarification or explanation

(*) = words or phrase unclear**

NOTE: interview has been edited for clarity

Tape 1, Side A. Counter begins at 000.

T: Today is 30 April 2004, and this is an interview for the POW Oral History Project. My name is Thomas Saylor. Today I am speaking with Stan Galbraith of St. Paul, Minnesota. First, Mr. Galbraith, on the record, thanks very much for talking with me today.

S: You're welcome. Happy to be here.

T: Good. Let me put some information on the record. You were born on 30 September 1918 up on the Iron Range, in Virginia, Minnesota. Graduated from Virginia High School 1936, and you were drafted into the Army March of 1941. To complete your service record, you were finally discharged from the Army in February 1946. Once you were in the service you shipped over to the Philippines, and we're going to pick up the story then, because you were made a POW on Java, and that was 10 March 1942. Let me ask you, going back to Java March of 1942, can you recall the day that you were taken a POW?

S: The day, yes, that I became a POW, the Dutch surrendered the island on March 10.

T: Talk about your thoughts on that day, when it was apparent to you that you were going to be a POW. How were you taking that news?

S: Well, we already knew from being around and being bombed and everything that... We'd been retreated up into the higher part with the...the place was called Buttendorf in Java which had been kind of a resort place for the Dutch to get away from the heat and stuff because it was in the higher elevations. There was a river with a bridge, steel bridge, across it over a rapid ravine there. We set up one battalion with the seventy-five millimeter canons that we had at the time on this side of the...and the Japanese were on the other side. It was a rapid river and a deep one. Gorge there. They were exchanging fire over there with the Japanese. Then as they were outflanking us, the rest of the Dutch...we pulled back up further into Java up in the mountains in that part to higher elevation. We stayed there. We pulled away from where the ravine was and the reason we did was they were outflanking us by going down. We pulled back up to higher elevation again with the guns that we had. One firing battalion had gone to the other end of the island when the Japanese landed, started landing on 27 or 28 February of '42. They landed at three spots. So we sent one down to the southern...gone down to Surabaya on the southwestern corner there.

T: The day you were captured, did the capture come suddenly? Were you prepared for it or was it a surprise?

S: No. We were prepared for it.

T: So you knew ahead of time.

S: The Dutch, of course they told the officers. The officer in charge said they were surrendering the island. The captain of our particular...told us. We were near a tea plantation up in the mountains. He said the Dutch surrendered the island and most of you know pretty well that there isn't any shipping or anything available for us to try to get off the island. He told us the best thing to do is to stop. You're not going to get away in a boat because there isn't any left to accommodate us. They've been bombing us so long.

T: So it was clear to you then that you were going to be a prisoner.

S: Oh, yes.

T: The thought of being a prisoner, how did that concern you? Were you scared to death, or worried? Were you relieved the fighting was over? How did you internalize that?

S: Well, we were...being a lot younger of course, I think a lot of them were very optimistic. Oh, it will be a short time. Some of the real optimists. Like it will only be six months or a year or something.

T: Was Stan Galbraith one of those optimists, or were you...

S: Not that much of an optimist.

(1, A, 58)

T: What were you thinking?

S: I was about twenty-two at that time. Twenty-two, twenty-three. I and a buddy of mine said, this isn't going to be no year. They've [The Japanese have] taken too much ground. We better save what we can of our...to save our own butt. Not be too optimistic, and settle in for at least a year or two. As the time went on, of course naturally, it proved [him] correct.

T: Stan, what kind of image did you have in your mind of the Japanese? In other words, what had you learned about what kind of people they were before you were a POW?

S: I had an inkling because I knew what they had done over in China. You know, in that seven years they had been fighting in China. That's why I wasn't any too much of an optimist. I knew that they were hell on wheels going through China there.

T: So you had a certain amount of respect for the Japanese?

S: I had the respect that I wasn't going to confront them when I didn't have any weapons.

T: Do you remember the first up close encounter you had with the Japanese? When they actually came to get you as a POW?

S: Oh, the first real was when we were up there, part of the battalion there, and they had us...we had orders to put the trucks and stuff down in the lower...so they could...we had time enough to throw the breach blocks away from the seventy-fives [75mm guns], so they couldn't use them. There was a train there in Java. A train. And they had us there and they took us from there to Tgongproik, which was in Batavia at that time, right down on at the docks. There was a barbed wire holding pen.

T: That's the first place they took you, but by train.

S: Yes.

T: Now to back up a minute. Before you got on the train, the Japanese were first there in your face in a way.

S: Yes.

T: What was that like to see them suddenly and how did they treat you?

S: There was a lot of screaming and hollering as far as I'm concerned—which we weren't used to. There wasn't anybody at that time that was fluent in Japanese with us. They were giving orders. It sounded like a dog and cat fight when you don't know the language.

T: Were you searched right away? I mean did they frisk you or...

S: They had already...we'd laid the guns—we had some Springfield rifles from World War I that they'd broken out after the war started when we were at sea.

T: So you got rid of the weapons and stuff.

S: Yes. They got the weapons, and they already had the trucks and stuff.

T: Did they search your person, Stan?

S: I don't recall them going up and down. At that time they didn't take our mess kits away from us. There was kind of a knife in there.

T: Those were combat troops that captured you, weren't they?

S: Yes. Yes. Actually the combat troops were a hell of a lot better than the ones that we ran into on those train crews and the ones building the bridges and the commandants that they had, because a lot of them were screwups from the fighting further north with China and the rest. They couldn't cut the mustard and they had them in charge of prison camps.

(1, A, 105)

T: So you draw a distinction in treatment between the combat soldiers that captured you and those later on.

S: Oh, absolutely. Yes. And the real combat troops wouldn't pay any attention to us.

T: Interesting. So you went by rail from the point of capture to a holding facility at...where was it again?

S: Tgongpriok. It's in the dock area of what was Batavia at the time. Now it's Jakarta, Indonesia. We stayed in there for, it seems like it was about three weeks. Two to three weeks. Three weeks. From there we went out on work parties down to the docks unloading or loading sugar and rice and stuff.

T: So it was a holding facility, but you were also working there.

S: Oh, yes.

T: Now let's talk about Tgongpriok there at Batavia, present day Jakarta. You estimate you were there for several weeks?

S: Yes. Two to three weeks.

T: And you mentioned work details there.

S: Yes. The Japanese took us out unloading or loading rice and everything. Sugar. They were taking everything that they could take off the island and take it out to their troops or wherever. To the homeland.

T: So this stuff was going onto the ships.

S: Onto the ships. Yes. It was down at the loading or stacking it up in warehouses down back for the troops too. Where there was an office and stuff. Then on one

detail, being an island and they naturally down near the ocean, they had wide canals to carry the refuse from people and whatever. Sewage. I was on one of those. I was in one of those concrete...they were from here across that width (*motions eight feet, to end of wall*) wide down to the sea. It was concrete. A canal.

T: So six, eight feet wide?

S: Oh, yes. It had to be at least that wide. Maybe not quite. But rather than get in that muck up to your knees or waist you'd have to brace your legs on each side of the cement. Because it was in a V-shape. And from there you shoveled crap out of it up on top, keep the canal flowing. I think that's where I contracted acute amoebic dysentery.

(1, A, 143)

T: Working with feces, quite possibly.

S: Yes. You know you're down there...and their equipment was just...you got just terrible...you're shoveling...I was probably pretty lucky. Almost hit a Jap officer that had a sword with a shovel full...my neck would have been off (*laughing*).

T: The work details, did they change? I mean did you go on different details at different times?

S: Sometimes, yes. On that one I was on, the detail there, a couple times and on the others down on the docks handling big sacks of rice and sugar. Of course when the sugar was piled high and there was only one Jap or two, and there was from the front porch there to the kitchen high piled up high with sugar...after they got piled to take off the island and transport them into the ships, we had a little fun with the Japanese.

T: How so? What do you mean?

S: We'd pile them down on one end and they'd be kind of watching there. We'd be cutting a little hole, you know, and if you still had your canteen or whatever, then you put the sugar in your canteen. They'd run back and forth...they'd probably catch you afterwards, but you'd get a whack or two if they caught you.

T: Now you came down with acute amoebic dysentery. Describe the symptoms from that from your perspective.

S: You're running for a toilet hole all the time and your stomach is griping like you wouldn't believe. Like you were giving birth to something. And you were, because out would come a little mucus. The mucus is the lining of your stomach being eaten out with the rush of the blood and stuff in there and the dysentery. Of course after running maybe fifteen or twenty times at least during the day with those gripes and

the rest and a fever on top of it up in the 103, 104 degrees or so, it didn't take long to weaken you. You'd go and gripe and out it would come. You'd think at first that it looked like egg yolks. The white of them, only tinged with blood. But it wasn't. It was the lining of your stomach. At that time we had our own medic, and they took care of you. But they didn't know a lot about amoebic dysentery that you get in Asia. I didn't have to work at that time, because I was too weak to work after a week of that.

T: So it sounds like this amoebic dysentery got you pretty quickly.

S: It's a good thing I got it where I did.

T: What do you mean by that? It sounds like a terrible thing to have, yet you say it was a good thing that you got here.

S: Because they still had a little medicine, see? They moved our group, the main group, out of the camp, out of Tangangpriok, and put them up just out of the city of Batavia in what was called the Bicycle Camp. It was a Dutch Army Camp.

T: And you didn't go to Bicycle Camp then.

S: Not at that time. No. They took me out on a stretcher, our people. The Japs...I can't remember who helped me over to the Dutch, to a hospital. I called it the Dutch Schoolhouse, but I don't know what it was. But there was a Dutch doctor there. Right in Batavia, or right on the outskirts. Right in the city part.

T: Now were you with other Americans here, Stan, or are you kind of alone among other kinds of people now?

(1, A, 204)

S: In that place there, the only other American in there was a sailor off the USS *Houston* [US cruiser, sunk March 1942] that had contracted tuberculosis or whatever. His name was...I can't recall. I think it was Felix something. He died there after I had left. Because he didn't get out of there.

T: So you're about the only American here.

S: Right, at that time. I only stayed in there about, *(pauses three seconds)* oh, I don't know. The Dutch gave me a couple injections. I used to know the name of it. I probably have it someplace, but I've forgotten what it was. I think there was a little hydrochloric acid or something. There was something in it that killed most of the amoebas.

T: Did your health improve?

S: Oh, yes. It kept improving it. You could almost feel every day that you were getting better, because it stopped the running and stopped the bleeding. You know, gradually. And the rest of it. I think I was there about three weeks. Three or four weeks. Then I was able to take my gear and carry it. Two Jap soldiers—we marched to the Bicycle Camp, which was a couple of miles.

T: So you went to the Bicycle Camp, but later than the other fellows.

S: Yes. It was probably three to four weeks.

T: When you got to the Bicycle Camp, describe what that place looked like from your perspective.

S: Oh, it was an area quite unlike... When you first walked in the gate, there was barbed wire around on the outside. There was a Japanese headquarters or guard place where there was always at least eight to ten soldiers. Then you walked in down the camp, and on the right there would be lodging for the soldiers, on both the right side and the left side of it. One side, two or three, was a battalion of us, and on the other side, across from us which was fenced off, but you could talk through it, were the Australians that had been captured and the sailors off the *Perth* and the soldiers that had been on the ground.

T: So it had Americans in one compound and Australians in another.

S: Yes. Well, it's actually the same camp, with a fence between. But we could get in between, you know, get around each one. There was access. We could go over to the others. After they were in the camp there, the Bicycle Camp, the food was very decent, because we still had some money. The officers. And we could buy...

T: What was your rank at this time?

S: At that time I had been, I was a PFC, a private first class.

T: Talk about the conditions here. Did you have barracks or tents, or what were you sleeping in?

S: Yes. There was a lot of cement. I can't remember what I think we had on them for the mattress at that time. I didn't think I'd ever forget, but I guess I have. What we slept on. I think it was a pallet or what it was. Wood.

T: Inside a building.

S: Yes. Mostly cement. And the toilet facility was cement. A lot of it was just a hole in there at ground level that you squatted over or whatever.

(1, A, 273)

T: So that's something new for an American coming over here used to an American kind of toilet facility. Here's a hole in the ground.

S: Yes. Well, in that Bicycle Camp that's where we first saw them. When we walked out by the Bicycle Camp. One of the guys said, "What's that hole for?" I said, "When you've got to go crap, that's where you go. You bend down." That's what it was. And the shower was there. And the water, when you had it. Because right across from us at the Bicycle Camp, which was a little higher, up off of Surabaya, there was an Air Corps, the 19th... It was one of the main landing facilities down from Batavia, which was one of the bigger ones.

T: You mentioned the food at Bicycle Camp was a little better.

S: Oh, yes. Because the officers still had some money, and the Japanese allowed us to have some merchants bring in like beans or red beans or whatever. Some rice. There was decent portions.

T: So you bought from the locals in a sense.

S: Yes. The locals. We were doing our own cooking in the camp. And the Australians across from us. And things were quite good. And in that camp we even arranged for the time we were there to have a few boxing matches with the Aussies, and we played a little volleyball or whatever. A few boxing exhibitions. There were some pretty good fighters.

T: So the conditions here were certainly better than you encountered later on too.

S: Oh, yes!! That was a picnic compared to what we ran into.

T: Did you have work details at the Bicycle Camp?

S: Yes. Like I said, I worked. They'd take out some for cleaning up sewers or going down to the docks and loading stuff.

T: Was that at the Bicycle Camp or Tangangpriok?

S: That was at both.

T: Okay. Let's talk about the Japanese. You had combat soldiers capture you. What kind of people are you running into as Japanese at Bicycle Camp or Tangangpriok?

S: Most of those at that time that you would run into were regular troops. I don't think...well, they were probably combat troops. But the real combat troops that I saw were further up when we were up along the river up in Thailand. Later on. Some of them still had their small horses that they used in coming across from

where they landed over in Vietnam and came across country and down through Malaysia on those horses to attack Singapore.

T: Let's talk about the ship from Java from Singapore. Which ship was it?

S: The *Dainichi Maru*. It was four or five days on the ship. I would say it was five days. [NOTE: The *Dainichi Maru* sailed from Java to Singapore on 11 October 1942, on a journey that took three days. See Michno, *Death on the Hellships*, p. 310].

T: How many of you got on the ship?

S: There were Americans, and there were Australians on there...and others. The Americans in the group I was with, there was probably, (*counting*) I think in ours, in the one hold we were in, and it wasn't much of a room, there were four or five hundred. You couldn't lay down. I don't remember on the ship if...the guys I knew, there wasn't any that died on the ship.

(1, A, 351)

T: So you remember being packed into a hold on the *Dainichi Maru*.

S: Yes. It was stinking. It was actually a collier in England years back in World War I, and they had been sold and used it as a collier over there, and then it eventually was sold to the Japanese. They had transported troops on it and their horses and god knows what.

They crammed us down in there and all you had was...you were lucky if you had a place to squat, sit down in. There wasn't room for you to lay down or anything. Then they'd send buckets of rice down a couple times a day. And the facilities, as far as that goes, was a wooden crate up over the side. And they didn't allow you up there very much.

End of Tape 1, Side A. Side B begins at counter 377.

T: So on the *Dainichi Maru* the only facilities were up above deck?

S: Yes. On the deck. So you had to go up from the hold.

T: I'm guessing not all the guys made it. Yes, you were lucky if you got up there in time to get over the side and stand in this box over the side and get rid of the crap. You were lucky if you didn't get it on yourself first.

T: I'm trying to visualize what it was like to be hanging over the side of a ship in a wooden box. Tell me about that.

S: Oh, it was a stinking ship to begin with. Every smell in the world. The rice would come down in the old bucket, and you're lucky if they sent down a pail of water once a day, too. We were damn glad to get off that ship, I'll tell you.

T: Did you still have any of your personal belongings, like your mess kit and stuff with you?

S: Yes, sir. Like I told you, when we surrendered I knew that we were going to be in that sucker for a while. I kept every piece of equipment that I could keep.

T: So in a sense, your foresight really helped you in a specific way.

S: Yes. I gave a pair of shoes and a pair of pants, good ones, to one of the sailors that had nothing. He's dead now. But [he] got off the ship, the *Houston*. We were in camp at the Bicycle Camp. He was about my size. I'm not sure, I might have given him a blanket, too, because I had two, and they were going to have to take that blanket away from me.

T: You had some stuff with you.

S: Yes. It saved my ass.

T: And I take it not everybody thought to take stuff with them.

(1, B, 401)

S: No. Some of them yes, did. But there were some that got rid of some of it, and would cut their long khakis off at the knees because of stifling heat. I was smart enough to know that if I was going in the jungle I wanted anything that I could to protect me. I had a pair of shorts, but I never cut any uniform up or traded it. After we got up along the [River] Kwai where the natives were along and wanted to buy something from you or had a few bananas, you could sneak if there was a big party. No way in hell. I'd go hungry.

T: So you kept your stuff.

S: Yes. I kept everything I could. When I got back after, I could still put practically a full uniform on and had my mess kit.

T: After August 1945 you still had that stuff?

S: You betcha. I made up my mind I was going to die before I'd give it up.

T: Let me ask you, Stan, about stuff and people. Think about whether it's Java or Singapore or on the railroads, the whole time you were a POW, what was the importance of having friends? I mean close friends.

S: That was very important.

T: In what ways?

S: After that, when things got tough if you didn't have somebody to kind of...if you really got sick...a good buddy or something...that was...*(trails off)* A lot of guys died from not having one.

T: Did you have a good buddy yourself?

S: Oh, yes.

T: Who were your friends?

S: My closest one up there was Buster Homer Spann.

T: Buster Homer Spann?

S: Yes. His name was Buster. His middle name was, I'm sure, Homer. H. And the last name was Spann. I didn't know him until way after. He was heavysset. About that wide across the shoulders. *(holds hands several feet apart)* He was about six-foot. He and I were buddies, and he was about my age, which was a year older or so than some of the guys. We buddied up and he and I, we carried all our equipment on bamboo...

T: Where'd you meet Buster?

S: I got to first really know him in the...I didn't really know him until I met him in the Bicycle Camp. Because he was in another—he wasn't in D Battery with me. He drove a truck and I drove truck. He liked to gamble. I liked to gamble if I had any money *(chuckles)*. You might say we've been around the horn a little bit before. When we were out I had been tending bar down in Michigan and he was a little older, and I found out I didn't know him until I had known him. He never told me he'd killed a man in the ring. He was a boxer.

T: Where was he from?

S: He was from Texas.

T: Now think about the time you were a POW. How can you help each other on a daily basis?

S: Oh, well, you know, when a guy's down like where we got in certain places where...if you could make contact....like along the River Kwai there. In the camp there like at Tarsau where it was more or less something of a hospital and you had a

little more leeway because most of the guys were so sick, you could get some duck eggs or something from trade with the natives. He was in a position that he used to help me when I got up there, because of the big size... Besides having a little dysentery that had broken out before down in Singapore. I had the eggs in me, yet I found out later. The first big thing that happened, diphtheria.

T: How could you and Buster help each other? I mean whether it was single or...

S: He'd share. If he could get two eggs, I got one of them.

T: Was it expected that if you had stuff you'd help him out?

S: Oh, sure. Yes. And we buddied up. We had to march all the way from Ban Pong after the railroad there up to our first camp up at Tarsau, and we carried all our gear on a bamboo pole between the two of us. That means mosquito nets, food, everything. And neither one of us would give...wouldn't trade anything for just a couple bananas.

T: So you kept your...did you have your shoes the whole time?

S: Yes.

T: And Buster too?

S: Well, sure. When they outfitted us, when they pulled us out of the maneuvers in Louisiana, the end of September or whenever it was, to outfit us to go over... See, they just pulled us out of the Army maneuvers down there because we'd been a crack battalion. They gave me two pair of brand new ones, besides the pair I had on my feet.

T: So later then, you still had your shoes?

S: Yes. I gave that sailor one pair of shoes. I made my mind up I'm not going to walk on thorns and those rocks and crap up there in the jungle and everything else. I want a pair of shoes on my feet.

T: Now let me ask you something. Certain things are valuable. Shoes—

S: Yes.

T: Mess kits, food.

S: Yes.

T: And we've got people who are without stuff.

S: Yes.

T: How much of a problem from your perspective was people stealing from each other?

S: Oh, not too much. I'll tell you one thing though. I saw one of the quietest fights in a prison camp, between two Australians. Us guys were laying there on bamboo— keeps you up out of the mud; build it up the side. [There was a] fight over a piece of dried fish that had been dried for a week or two. [You know, if you had a little piece of dried fish even...with the rice. It would be something else besides the rice.]

The one stole the other's food. The one that stole it, his name was Rod Thompson. Australian. And he was a bully. And the sick guy, his name was Marsh, and he saw him take the piece of dried fish that he'd been saving for his buddy [Doug Waters], who was a miner over in Australia. [Marsh was] a slender guy, but all muscle.

T: He saw him steal the fish.

(1, B, 483)

S: Yes. So when they came in from the work party, because Marsh couldn't walk, then he'd seen Thompson take it. Thompson was...he was about six-foot, and he had some fat on him. Doug Waters was the other Australian. He was all muscle. He was a big man, but all muscle. You know, if you had a little piece of dried fish even...with the rice, it would be something else besides the rice. Doug said to Marsh, he says, "Where's my piece of the dried fish that I..." Because they happened to get a hold of a piece. They had shared it. He says, "Thompson took it." And Thompson is sitting right next to him. Like from here to that wall across [about ten feet].

T: No more than ten feet.

S: There was an aisle between us. Thompson said, "Oh, no. He's lying. He ate it."

T: Marsh and Waters were buddies, right?

S: Marsh and Doug Waters, yes. Doug says to Thompson, "Marsh don't lie. You're the liar." And Thompson says, "What are you going to do?" Thompson showed them. He [Waters] beat the shit out of him. Waters beat up Thompson. He beat him real good. And he was smart, see? He had a little belly. He didn't march. Try to get him much in the face at first. He worked on his heart and his gut.

T: So they were punching each other.

S: Oh, yes. And there was at least ten of us [in that hut] that couldn't work. Not a sound outside of...they kept hitting each other. Because we didn't want the Japs outside to hear, because they'd beat everybody up if they came in.

T: Really?

S: Yes. The huts that we built ourselves...we built our own stuff with bamboo...

T: In Thailand. Was an incident like that, of stealing and the kind of retribution, was that out of the ordinary or did stealing happen?

S: It happened, but it wasn't rampant. There were guys, there were a few that they'd steal from another guy, but not too many. If they got caught, you didn't run to an officer and turn them in. Somebody beat the shit out of them.

T: So it was settled among guys.

S: Yes.

T: Does that mean that you could leave your stuff laying there?

S: Oh, no! There was a few. Like, I lost a watch when I was first sick with amoebic dysentery, in Tangangpriok. I lost my Hamilton High School graduation gift. But I still got one. A second one.

T: But someone took the one you had.

S: Yes. And I wasn't sure, I think it was either an English...I'm sure it wasn't the medic that we had there that was taking care of me. But I had the fever and the rest, and I didn't even know it was gone until I came out of it. But I told the one guard, "If you're around when I get back on my feet you and I are going to have a little talk." It was gone.

(1, B, 530)

T: Yes. Stan, did you have one close friend, or did you have more than one person in a group?

S: I had Spann after I went up there, but I had close friends when we were training.

T: I mean as a POW. You mentioned Spann as the person you really hung out with, but was there a group of three or four of you or just the two of you?

S: Oh, yes. In Singapore there was Kwhitey. Kwhitey was a mess sergeant. Jack Wisdom, the first sergeant.

T: Also people you could depend on in other words?

S: Jack was a guy...Wisdom was a guy...he was dead now. I don't like to talk about him. He was a mean bastard.

T: As a POW?

S: No. Before the POW. He had a mean streak.

T: Was he a mean guy as a POW, which is our interest?

S: He wasn't to me, no. Never. But I know a younger guy in that that screwed up. He had him court-martialed.

T: Let me ask you this: you were a POW of the Japanese for more than three years. How hard was it to keep a sense of optimism in everyday life that this was going to have an end some day?

S: Well, you had to make up your mind that you didn't dwell on the fact that you weren't going to make it. You had to set the...come hell or high weather you were going to be there. At the end.

T: Okay, Stan, how did you do that for yourself?

S: I guess part of it was the fact that when I grew up, it was tough. I didn't have an extra buck to throw away. What I had, half of it, when I was making, pedaling papers, my mother got most of it and I got a little for a candy bar or something. The rest of it, thirty dollars a month—working about fifteen hours a day, sixteen hours a day and doing two men's work—my mother got most of it.

T: So you think that growing up in tough conditions on the Iron Range made it easier in some ways, this POW stuff?

S: As far as I'm concerned, yes. Because I wasn't used to having everything that I wanted. There's lots of times that I know my mother would never take the last piece of anything. Although I would purposely, when I got older, insisted that she take it.

T: Just your mom and the kids at home, wasn't it?

S: Yes. My older sister then and the other two, three were gone. I don't like to speak ill of the dead, but my oldest brother didn't...he was sixteen and a half years older and twenty pounds heavier than me and not fat, he never pulled his end of the weight when we were working together. I did most of his work.

T: He was quite a bit older than you.

S: Yes. Sixteen and a half years. He was shooting off his mouth and I happened to walk in as he did. That he'd paid for...my mother died for the part of the...we had

the family plot from the time my dad was there and the monument there. But he was shooting off. He had had a few drinks. He'd paid for the burying and I happened to walk in. Well, that was settled then.

(1, B, 584)

T: So you had not the best of relations with your older brother then.

S: Well, no. I respected him some, but after the war there he used to get a few drinks and he'd just be horsing around but he'd want to, "Want to fight?" He was forty pounds heavier than me and the doctors told me, be careful because your liver and your spleen are enlarged.

T: Let's come back to after the war in a few minutes. So you would say you maintained a sense of optimism or determination that you were going to get through it somehow.

S: Yes. Yes. I just...Spann was the same way. We always found a little something funny about the Japanese that we could laugh about (*chuckles*).

T: Even in the horrible conditions that we read about, you found things to laugh about on a daily basis?

S: Not every day, but you tried to.

T: Were you, by nature, were you a fairly optimistic or upbeat person?

S: Yes, I would say so.

T: Spann too?

S: Yes. And we were the kind that...you know, you called a spade a spade, and if it's a spade, it isn't a nice shovel (*chuckles*).

T: As far as being optimistic or staying determined, how much would you say that religion or faith played a role for you? Or did it?

S: I think ninety-eight percent was your own mind.

T: So your own determination?

S: Right.

T: I hear you saying that religion or faith wasn't really a factor.

S: No. No. I'm not a very religious man, I'll tell you frankly. But I respect anybody and I respect...if they live up to what is practiced. But I don't expect the Lord to pull me out of any mess.

T: So the situation you were in as a POW was something that Stan Galbraith was going to get himself out of or not.

S: Yes. I either knew I was, and my friends around me, we were going to get out or... Getting down and praying or expecting it every day wasn't going to make a damn bit of difference.

T: Now at the same time you must have seen guys who were religious, who were counting on that.

S: Oh, yes. Most of them didn't...maybe to some point. A few would go a little nuts, like one guy, he thought because his brother was in the Air Corps he was going to fly in and get him. He'd have that dream (*sarcastically*). He knew better.

T: You were different places, did the subject of escape ever come up for you? I mean, let's face it, sometimes POWs think about that.

S: Everybody thought about it.

T: Seriously thought about it?

S: Well, not seriously. I mean, like the friends of mine...now, where in the hell are we going to go? We're a white man in Asia. The Japs got the natives there where there's a price on your head. Where you going to go? Not knowing the country. Because there were prisoners that had, like English or Australian, that knew that country more from working up there or being out on plantations up there that tried it. I don't know of any that made it. There might have been. And the few, the number that tried, mostly didn't. There were a few of them beheaded.

(1, B, 645)

T: So in a sense you knew that you were stuck.

S: Yes. I knew I was stuck. Knew it from guys from the Air Corps there that we were putting ammunition aboard and keeping the field clear for them and the oil and stuff. Told us before the Japs landed, we're going to pull out of here and go back to Australia. He didn't tell me because I wasn't there. I was in the truck. Be over there that night and get aboard.

T: In other words, you're on your own.

S: Yes. They were going back to Australia. But I wouldn't have gone anyhow.

T: Okay. Escape wasn't a realistic option.

S: Not a bit.

T: So you're stuck these places. How much were you aware of how the war was going?

S: We always, although it was late, had a headquarters battery where they had the radio guys. They kept one going.

T: While you were a POW?

S: Yes. They'd keep certain parts and every guy, every time they moved it. In fact, when they made one move they put it in a Jap officer's gear that one of the guys had to carry so they wouldn't search it (*chuckles*).

T: Now you weren't part of this radio stuff, but other people were.

S: No. Yes. That gal's father (*points to picture of woman, on sideboard*).

T: The woman in the picture there.

S: Yes. She just retired. She's a full captain in the Navy. Sarah. Her dad, he was part of it.

T: Did you get news about what was going on, second hand news?

S: Yes. We got second hand. A lot of it was second hand. We didn't get it until later. Then we also had a Buddhist monk. They were all over you know with the begging bowls. See, what happened was that the English...

T: The news you got from these Buddhist monks, they were apparently getting the news from the British or something...

S: Oh, sure.

T: Do you feel that you were really kept up to date as far as how the course of the war was going?

S: Sometimes we were maybe a couple weeks or something. I was going to tell you that Picklin was in on it. The sergeant. On the radio. They kept part of it going. In fact, they came close to getting caught. They had the wire down and the Japs walked in. How he missed it, I don't know. He wouldn't still be alive. He's still alive. Frank. They'd carry part of it. Then they would have to...you know, the battery was the hard part.

T: But they carried these pieces. Different guys.

S: Yes. And they had somebody that worked around the Japs in the motor pool. Stole a battery for them. They didn't let everything out that they knew right away to the troops, because they didn't want them to make too much.

T: So people like you got things second hand or later.

S: Second hand. That's right.

(1, B, 703)

T: So it was still possible to know that after a while that the Allies were doing better and finally winning the war.

S: Oh, yes. The big things happened. Like, see, down in Texas every year on 15 August we have a reunion—what's left of us. That's the day—the fifteenth was the date we knew we were free men. Over there.

T: So that's when you got the news.

S: Officially. We knew the day before, unofficially. We could tell by the way they acted...they were using Koreans that they'd picked up. Under Jap NCOs and officers. They were pushing off. They were running, the Koreans were. In fact, one of them came out—we used to call him Big Joe because he was a big man. Koreans aren't as a rule too big. But he was a good six footer, and he was always okay?

T: He was concerned about his, about what was going to happen to him.

S: Yes. Because they knew that some of the Japs were going to get picked up by Americans when they came in. Because there wasn't any Americans around there. But we heard about it. On the fourteenth when they dropped the second one [atomic bomb]. We heard from one of the Buddhist monks or something. Passed the word. We knew something was happening because that morning—

End of Tape 1. Tape 2, Side A begins at counter 000.

T: So let me ask you, Stan, how did you find out from the Japanese on August 15?

S: On 14 August they had fallen us out at Nackem Nai where we were. They had fallen us out as usual to go to work at dawn breaking, and we had just started out and we had a couple three kilometers to walk carrying rice and stuff to some Japanese in some further hill country there. We just started back and had only walked for about maybe thirty minutes or forty-five minutes on the trail and a Japanese on a bicycle came up on the path and told the guards to send us back to

camp. The Japanese guards told us to go back in a rush. This had never been heard of. So we knew something and someone had...one of these monks had passed the word before when the first one [atomic bomb] was dropped. It had infiltrated down into the camp that a big bomb had been dropped. That day we said, it isn't too long now.

T: You weren't completely surprised, I hear you saying, when you got the word that the war was over.

S: No. We knew something was...then on the fourteenth they dropped on OSS man. At that time it was OSS. Secret Service. Dropped him in. Dropped him in by plane. He probably contacted some of the monks. Led him to this camp where we were. He passed the word. Because he didn't want to stay too long. He passed the word not to do anything foolish, just to sit tight and they'd get more word to us. But not to do anything foolish as far as the Japs were concerned. Because there was, in Thailand, there was at least fifty thousand troops.

T: So you knew quickly that it was over and that you should sit tight, basically.

(2, A, 27)

S: Yes. That's what we did. Then they sent unarmed planes down from up in India. Probably from Dum Dum airport. Sent unarmed planes down. American planes. When they got to the northern part of Thailand the Japanese colonel there or general in charge of the whole thing, he decided he was going to open fire on them.

T: Let's talk about the time you worked on the railway in Burma and Thailand. From your own accounts this is from around early 1943 until the end of the war in August of 1945. So for a period of a little more than two years, Stan, you were at different locations along this railway.

S: Yes. I got off the railway at Ban Pong and then I marched with a group of Americans, not too many, and Australians and some English and we went up to Tarsau.

T: That looks like about thirty miles or forty miles on the...or fifty miles perhaps on the map. *(both look at map of the area, on table)*

S: Yes. It's got to be that.

T: So you marched. You weren't taken by train.

S: No. No. The train ended right here, *(points)*, at Ban Pong. As far as we were concerned. Then we marched along there. At that time they had men starting, English and Americans, some of the Americans, starting from this end *(points at Rangoon)*.

T: From the Rangoon end.

S: Yes. And they were working from this way up (*points at Bangkok*).

T: From the Bangkok end. So you started working on the Bangkok side, going up.

S: Yes. Where I first actually worked on the railroad was at Tarsau. Where most of our battalion got it was at the...down here close (*pointing at railway line, on map*) I can't see it. The Japanese beat [men] to death.

T: Let me ask about the various jobs you did while you worked on the railroad over this period of two years. What are some of the jobs that you worked on?

S: Oh, the most stuff that I worked on up and down there was, you were shoveling muck. Making embankments with the old, what they called chunk hoes. Piece of metal like that on the bamboo.

T: Like a shovel?

S: Yes. Only more like...not like a shovel, like a wide hoe. As far as the shovels were concerned, outside of an exception, you didn't see a decent shovel. Those chunk hoes, you pulled the mud out, but then you had...a lot of times it was metal like that, and you put them on bamboo sacks. Not on the bamboo, but on a grain sack or something and we'd carry them between men. On a pole. On a bamboo pole. Up and do so many meters a day.

T: So working with chunk hoes. Really physical labor of clearing out—

S: Yes. And clearing. Doing that. Cutting teak. They used teak. Cut with, cut some of them down with the most ungodly saws. That's heavy stuff. And have to carry it out.

At one point up along here they'd used a few Asian elephants. Asian elephant is a small one hump. If his handler doesn't want to push him, the elephant won't move. He won't lift too much.

(2, A, 75)

T: And the elephants were to move the wood?

S: Yes. In certain areas. But a lot of them, if it got too heavy they just refused. They'd run in another, two Americans or captives.

T: Instead of the elephant?

S: Yes (*laughing*).

T: Did you work on pile driving at all?

S: Yes. Right out in the water.

T: What was that like? Talk about that job.

S: When they were building the bridges on the River Kwai, the one on this side is the metal one. They bombed that original one. The wood one, the original one, is about two or three hundred yards further up actually, on the... And the other one is on the Khwae Noi. The first one [bridge], the bamboo one, I worked on that one when I first went up. Out in the river. They had you out there, and they had a pile driver. Steel or big heavy piece of lead or something, and they had the prisoners down in the water up to here (*motions with hand to waist*).

T: Up to your waist.

S: Oh, yes. You'd pull on it. He'd count in unison in Japanese. Usually *ichi, ni, san*, and you'd pull on a rope and lift it up and then let it pile down into the...and you'd keep at that until you'd get the pilings down deep enough.

T: So a number of you were pulling on a number of ropes?

S: Oh, yes, sure. The rope.

T: So this thing was hooked onto a rope, onto ropes, and it would be driven down into the water.

S: I gave a book to a friend of mine just yesterday that was here. A new one. A Dutchman that was over there as a young guy. In Java. He got together with an engineer from India. He either did some of the drawings or a lot of them about our labor up there.

T: What other jobs did you do, the time you were there?

S: Oh, I was working on the water detail at Tarsau after I got out of the hospital with this diphtheria or something. Whatever it was at that time. Incidentally, there was a Flying Tiger [fighter pilot] in the diphtheria tent with me. He was alive two years ago. I don't know if he still is. His name is Charles Mott. He was with the Flying Tigers. He was shot down this side of the...over the Hump. He and I were in that...he laid there and didn't do anything, didn't even talk too much, because he didn't have much medicine and the doctors told us, "Just lay quiet. Don't move any more than you can." They had a little medicine. We both got well.

T: I'm wondering, how was your health when you were up there in Burma and Thailand?

S: How was my health?

T: Yes. I mean, obviously the conditions were poor there but did you suffer from certain things, diseases?

S: Mostly the dysentery. I got fingers like...that's all healed (*shows back of hand to interviewer*). On my fingers there, that's from, that's scar tissue now. I couldn't, until two years ago I couldn't bend it anymore, but I kept stretching it. New skin has grown in. But that was eaten down to the bone. That was from something that you got out in the jungle. And this thing was like that.

(2, A, 123)

T: So your fingers got all swollen?

S: Oh, my god. That's the reason they looked like that. It opened up like a petal, see? When it first got infected and after I came off the work details, I put it in hot water. I would boil a can and put my fingers in as much as I could to get it to...Englishman took a knife, and that deep one there—

T: You're describing for the tape here. You have a long, like a slice or scar on your fourth finger.

S: He made a, he got a lot of pus out of that one. But he didn't get the pocket, so five, six days later—I kept working too—and I put this in water, in hot water. As hot as I could stand. This one opened up like petals on a flower. And I got, I knew immediately when that burst open and I got that...that felt better, because one of the doctors said they were going to cut my fingers off.

T: So you had doctors, but you had no medicine, I take it?

S: Very little. None. The Japanese gave us nothing.

T: There was a worry you might lose your fingers there.

S: Yes. That's what he told me. The red parts were getting up here. I said, "No, we're not going to lose them."

T: So you had your dysentery...also came back. Is that right?

S: Yes. It came back a couple times. I had cysts in there. Down in my stomach. After [the war], when I got in Walter Reed [Hospital after the war], that was just a matter of de-worming me twice.

T: Let me move on to bugs, because worms and...were worms and bugs part of your everyday life?

S: Oh, yes. Yes. In fact (*chuckling*) yes...the trench holes over in the monsoon season and even before that in Asia, they would have us dig a slit trench for the feces. And we'd lay bamboo across it, and they'd be about six feet deep. Well, when they got all that water running in and all the guys and a few different ones around the camp, you didn't want to fall in that. If someone wasn't there, if you weren't strong enough, you were a goner.

T: You could literally drown in that?

S: Sure. And all it would be standing on would be a piece of bamboo about that...hard to balance ourselves. You watch yourself pretty carefully on those things. The feces and stuff would be running in the real monsoon season. When the monsoon's over...it's monsoons—it's not a little rain. This guy [in the picture here,] Prunty, the one that's ninety-one years old, he kept track of how many days it rained continually. I've forgotten exactly what it was, but you would never believe it.

T: Talk about the rains. Because here we are, from Minnesota. It's a different type of rain you're seeing.

(2, A, 169)

S: Oh, it starts to rain and it rains night and day. All day. It hardly lets up at all when the monsoons [come] out of the Himalayas. You know that every year practically, even now, that they wash out a couple three thousand people. Indians. On that Bay of Bengal. Getting down on that side from the water. That just gets swept away.

T: Stan, how do you work in conditions like that?

S: Not very easily, I'll tell you.

T: The work didn't stop though, right?

S: No. We kept going through it. I forget how many meters they first started us out in that before the monsoon started. We were building that railroad.

T: How many meters per day, you mean.

S: Yes. Three meters or something or whatever. And that's hard. Without real shovels, and building those embankments. That was through virgin jungle. And water and the rest. When it first started up it was so much, I think it was three and a half meters or whatever it was for each party of guys. They'd hurry too much. Get it done. We were in halfway decent shape [early on]. Then we could go back to camp, which might be a mile, mile and a quarter or whatever it was. And it was in dry

weather, so it wasn't so....we better [not work] so damn fast. Let's not get home at four thirty. Stretch it off. And of course, as soon as they saw, after a week or so of us getting through in that time, they upped it. They increased it [the daily work requirement], and when they increased it, that's when the monsoons were starting. They [monsoons] run for four, five months.

T: How did the monsoon affect your everyday life as a worker?

S: It was terrible, because over there, of course, it was solid rain, you know. You'd go to work in the rain. You'd come home in the rain. The rain, half of it was pouring in on you. And the water...we'd be in bamboo racks. We built them up about that far (*motions with hands about three off the ground*). It would be running outside, practically underneath you.

T: So everything you had must have been wet all the time.

S: Wet all the time. Yes. So it was a blessing when it finally stopped. I think it was eighty some days, or ninety. Prunty counted that it rained practically constantly. I've forgotten how many inches—it was well over three hundred, I think.

T: Let's move on to food. What kind of food was supplied for you when you were working in Burma and Thailand?

S: Mainly rice. When we were still in Java the rice was clean and we had other things. Beans, red beans and stuff. But once it got up along the, after Singapore, up along the river, a lot of it was spoiled rice. Gravel in it, and some worms.

T: So the quality was much lower.

S: Yes. Or maybe dead ones in it. Of course the Japs were getting...their troops were getting stretched out at that time, too. So they weren't going to give us the... At first, you know, when we started getting that—after the Bicycle Camp—getting that bad rice with worms, [we were a] little fussy. That didn't last long.

T: So you just learned to eat what's there.

(2, A, 236)

S: (*laughing*) Yes. Eat it or forget it!

T: So fussy didn't last long.

S: Naturally you wouldn't take a little pebble or something and break a tooth on it. But a little dead worm, a small one, that's just a little protein.

T: You kept a sense of humor with you, it sounds like. Now were you getting other food from the locals or things you could grow or find yourself or not?

S: We learned watching some of the natives and that up there that there's a few greens that grew along that you could be safe, if you could get them before the natives. Cooking them. Boiling them and eating them. They did that. Certain camps were much better than others.

T: Along the railroad.

S: Yes. Like Tarsau. The food was pretty good, because it was halfway in between, and it wasn't getting stretched. They could reach it from down below. So it wasn't great. There were a lot of sick guys in there. Because it was a camp really for guys that were half dead. Most of them.

At Tarsau they opened up a little place there. You could call it a canteen. It was a little hut there. It had a couple of Englishmen, and Spann got in. As an American he got in because there weren't that many of us. Originally they got up there, there was about twelve of us. He got into that. He could get a couple duck eggs and he had a few bucks left or he'd trade or steal them. I don't know how he got them, but he got them and he'd always save me one.

T: Were things like cigarettes available?

S: Not really. After the cigarettes really ran out, while we were up there before waiting for the Japs...

T: Before you were captured, you mean.

S: Just before we were captured, just after we knew we were going to be, we retreated up there and at Buttensdorf there was a dump. English stuff that had been intended for the English in Singapore. Got word of it. One of the guys got us a six by six and got down there, and the Dutch were going to blow it up so the Japs didn't get it. He said, "You can't do that yet. Not until we get some booze and cigarettes."

T: But that stuff obviously was gone by the time you got to Burma.

S: As far as buying after that stuff ran out, the natives make a tobacco but it's not cured.

T: Were you a smoker in those days?

S: Oh, yes. I started when I was old. When I was about twelve (*laughs*).

T: So you did without cigarettes in Burma and Thailand, obviously.

S: Yes. We smoked over there with this coarse stuff. But the first time I got the coarse stuff...I don't know. Somebody had some cigarette papers. That was in the early part. I took it and I (*inhaling and exhaling sounds*)...I thought somebody had put two daggers right down into my lungs.

T: And you were a smoker, too.

S: Yes. My god yes—I smoked Camels.

T: But this tobacco was especially strong.

(2, A, 305)

S: Oh, my god. It was nothing but raw. So we got smart in a hurry. We'd just put water, or what we called tea, they usually made a kettle, a big kettle, every day. It was real weak tea. And just wet it with some of that that we got to drink and dry it. It was a little better. But it wasn't great.

T: I see. Let me talk about the Japanese with you. What kind of guards do you recall from the time when you were working on the railway? Specific Japanese that you dealt with.

S: I'll tell you: a lot depended on the [Japanese] officer and the NCOs.

T: At particular camps.

S: That's right. Some were halfway decent. Just halfway. And the others were (*whispers*) bastards.

T: So it really ran the gamut. I hear you saying good and bad.

S: Yes. No camps were good. I mean, if you did something wrong, you never knew, they'd go from being calm...they'd stand out there and holler and scream and holler until the guards and all were... Honest to god, you'd think they were raving maniacs. And then they'd take it out on us.

T: Did you personally experience being beaten or attacked physically by the Japanese?

S: Oh, I had quite a number of pokes taken at me, but I was pretty agile when I was younger. I still am. I learned to roll with them.

T: What do you mean? What would they take a poke at you for? Give me an example.

S: If you're doing something wrong, or if you didn't bow to them. They didn't like our bows at first, because the first ones were just kind of a token. You better get down a little bit. About three inches or so.

T: So bowing was important.

S: Yes, that was, sure. Or if they thought you were loafing, which we did as much as we could, you got away with some of it. You managed the work to do. You got smart to carry just so much of a load and just keep moving and not sit down or anything.

T: So you had to learn to be slow, but not noticeably slow.

S: Yes. I learned how to shovel, and you would think I was shoveling like hell, and I'm not. I'm just taking it easy.

T: So you learn how to not attract attention to yourself doing that.

S: Oh, yes. Attention is the last thing you wanted.

T: So you wanted to blend in.

S: Yes, that's right. Just keep moving when you'd see them and keep... *(trails off)*

T: Talk about a Japanese guard that you remember specifically.

S: There was this one...a Korean.

End of Tape 2, Side A. Side B begins at counter 378.

T: What about a good guard that you remember? A good Japanese guard.

S: I think there was one interpreter, but I wasn't particularly around him very much.

T: Talk about a guard you were around. That you remember. Korean or Japanese. One that was good.

S: There was one of them. I don't remember his name. We were up cutting timber there for the railroad that they make the timber for. Cutting it down. The heavy teak. He asked me if I had [ever been to] Hollywood. Of course, he wasn't making us work at the time, he was taking it easy. I said, "You bet I was in Hollywood. I was a movie actor for a while there." *(laughing)* I don't know. He told us about the... The reason I became a movie actor is, he told us about the airplane that Japan had made that would fly straight up in the air and stay there until the world moved around it.

T: The Japanese guard told you this?

S: Yes. He'd say bomb, bomb, Chicago, all gone. Bomb, bomb, New York, all gone. And of course we couldn't resist it. Some wise guy back there said, "Bomb, bomb, bullshit. Bomb, bomb, bullshit. All done." Couldn't understand why we all broke out, and the interpreter back at camp, he told him what 'bomb, bomb, bullshit' was. So there was no more bomb, bomb, bullshit (*laughing*).

T: Here's an exchange between a Japanese guard and you prisoners that was not unfriendly in a way.

S: Yes. Yes.

T: Were there other occasions like that, Stan?

S: Oh, sure. Sure. You know, some of them had a few pictures. Once in a while, when it was easy, they would have a picture of one of their kids or something. We didn't have anything to show anybody—you were lucky if you had a pair of pants and a pair of shoes, like I always kept.

T: So sometimes you saw the guards had a human side.

S: Yes.

T: On the other hand there were guards who were negative as well.

S: That's right. But, like I say, it was all from the acting colonel or...it all went down. If he was a strict, it all went down and eventually wound up with us.

T: Talk about a bad guard you remember that impacted you.

S: Oh, I learned in a hurry which ones were the worst. So I was smart enough, being sick a hell of a lot, that I didn't go out of the way to do anything wrong. I didn't suck up to them. Never did to any guard. Never. I just stayed away from them if I could. Which I could most of the time. And when I was working, I worked, and when I was sick there were things that they weren't going to come close. Like the diphtheria. They wouldn't come near you. That was heaven. They wouldn't come near you.

T: Was it possible to avoid the work details? Did you or other guys try to get out of them or was it kind of just...

S: Oh, the only way you really got out of them was being too...you couldn't go or something. I never goldbricked. If I was well, I worked.

I was separated from, outside of the main body. I didn't get back together with about sixty or seventy of them until I came back down from the railroad and over Nackum Nai. There were sixty or seventy Americans. After Kanchanaburi. That was the biggest group I'd been in since I'd been in Singapore.

T: What's the most difficult location for you along the railway? You worked a number of places. What one sticks out in your mind as being the toughest?

(2, B, 433)

S: Oh! *(pauses seven seconds)* Well, Kanchanaburi. Kanchanaburi wasn't too bad. Chim Kai just across the river. Here's Nackum...that's the last one I was in *(looking at area map, and pointing)*. Anywhere from here up, from north of Tarsau. Up here was the roughest going.

T: And there were different jungle camps there?

S: Yes, sure. Most of them we all made. They started from this way, these English. Up in Rangoon. Up in Burma. Then working from this way too, from Ban Pong. The reason they wanted to get that railroad through, so that they could get supplies...

T: Do you remember seeing Allied planes coming over?

S: You bet. I could have hit one with a slingshot.

T: So low it was flying?

S: Yes. [American B-]24 or [B-]25 coming right down.

T: And you could see these planes.

S: Yes. There is the workhorse of the war in the Pacific.

T: Talk about a time when you saw those planes coming, and how you experienced that.

S: Oh, Jesus! It felt good. You knew they knew, and they knew that you were down there. Because one of these guys threw a gum package out of the plane. Just about forty or fifty yards from the bridge and there was an open clearing and they came right down, and I swear with a good slingshot I could have hit them.

T: Now they were also bombing.

S: Yes. They'd already dropped one.

T: How close was the bombing to where you were personally? I mean, were you in danger of being bombed by these planes?

S: Oh, I personally wasn't; I was, oh, from here across the road. Fifty meters. But that guy was right down on top of me. I could, like I said, hit him. He came down. He'd already dropped one. He was coming down. They brought them in. And of

course at that time, they knew there were prisoners down there. We had two brothers, I think they were both killed in bombing. The Wilson boys, Tom and Ed.

T: So you had prisoners around you killed by bombs sometimes.

S: Yes. They were further up here when the one got killed. There was probably a couple English got killed in that. And Aussies. Australians. Because we were mixed together. There were a number of Dutch prisoners, too. The biggest number was English. Well, you know, they captured sixty-five thousand. Malaysia and Singapore.

(2, B, 469)

T: On the whole, Stan, what was the most difficult aspect of your POW experience? What really made it the most difficult for you?

S: The most difficult was getting to kowtow to them.

T: And why was that difficult?

S: You don't like to be hollered at and jerked around and not knowing when you're going to get out. That was probably the most difficult.

T: Of not knowing how long the whole thing was going to last.

S: Yes. As I told you before, I settled in. I knew it wasn't going to be in a year or a year and a half.

T: But then it got to be longer than that. Was there a time when you too began to feel like, is this ever going to end?

S: No. The good thing was about every time you begin to wonder, something good would happen. Like, they'd take another island. You'd hear something good. You'd say, they're getting here.

T: So I hear you saying that getting the news and knowing what was going on outside of your little world was very important.

S: Oh, absolutely. Yes. As far as writing letters, forget about it. My mother didn't hear from [me], didn't know where I was for three years. And most of the guys that were with us...because the only way...that's how we came to get that name, the Lost Battalion?

T: Stan, you know, you've talked about tough times. Ultimately you survived. One out of three, approximately, didn't.

S: Yes.

T: When you look at it, how do you explain why you survived and other guys didn't?

S: I'll tell you. When the going was tough there, if you didn't make up your mind, if you gave up, you were a goner.

T: So for you it was determination?

S: Yes. And like I say, had a buddy around that slipped you something when you were down and out. Eggs or a little extra rice or anything.

T: So friends. And determination.

S: Yes.

T: How about luck?

S: To me I have always thought there isn't too much in luck. You make your own damn luck.

T: So you look more at yourself and how you helped yourself as opposed to how luck or chance did it for you.

S: Yes, that's right. I know you've got to be in the right place at the right time, but I think you can aggravate a lot of that stuff by not being too smart.

T: So you would put luck...and you earlier put faith or religion also in a much lower category for why you survived.

S: Oh, you gotta believe in something.

(2, B, 509)

T: When you got back in the States, Stan, when was it, October 1945?

S: Yes, it was October. I got back there, and then I had a rest and recuperation leave at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

T: You were first at Walter Reed Hospital and then at Hot Springs.

S: Yes. After Walter Reed I went up to Sparta, Wisconsin, and there I had to stop and I got a partial pay, and the guy there he said that he saw the gold stripes on my arm. He says, "You've got to stay here." I said, "What?" Staff sergeant. He said, "You have to stay here and be discharged." I said, "Mister, you better get a couple MPs." He

said, "Why?" I said, "I'm not staying here. I want three, four hundred dollars and I'm going home."

T: Back to Virginia [Minnesota].

S: Yes.

T: Now from Sparta did you get back to Virginia to see your mom and your—

S: Yes. Sure.

T: Let me ask about that. You haven't see your mom or your brothers and sisters for three, four years.

S: Well, for at least that, because I was three and a half, almost four years there and I had already been in Michigan for a year before that.

T: Do you remember when you first saw your mom again?

S: Yes.

T: Talk about that.

S: When I first saw her I had stopped from Sparta. When I came home I had to stop in Duluth and I didn't know it but they...a second cousin, Al Kimball, he had the Northern Abstract Company. He owned it. His wife, her name for the paper over in Minneapolis was Marge's Column or something. They had heard from up in Virginia, because my brother heard it and my mother had got a message from me from Calcutta from the hospital, that I was coming. That eventually I was coming. That's the first they knew for all those years. Anyhow, Al got to stop and see them. I stopped overnight in Duluth when I was coming home, and the Marine, John Richards, a captain in the Marines who I grew up with, he happened to see it in the paper. It was in the Duluth paper. Because they took a picture. When I got there they had a paper shoot. Because I didn't want any part of it. But my cousin and his wife wanted me to go over to the...they had a girl, Marta, she was in the ninth grade...and talk to them, to the school class. And you know what I told them?

T: This was right when you were back?

S: Yes. At the same time, that morning I got a message from John Richards and his wife, Peggy, who he married and they had a little boy. "I saw you in the paper he said. When you coming home?" I said, "I'm in Duluth. I'm going home with you." He said, "Good." He knew where I was, because the address... I said, "What time you going to pick me up?" He said, "I'll be there in two hours."

T: Did you talk to that school class?

S: Absolutely not.

T: So they asked you, and you said no.

(2, B, 568)

S: Oh, boy. I wouldn't. Not at that time.

T: Why not?

S: I didn't want to.

T: Why not?

S: I didn't want to expose it up there in front of the kids. Even today I don't, well, outside of the...they know where I've been now. The great nieces and that. Their mothers want them...

T: Why didn't you want to tell them about it then?

S: Well, at the first time, I was going to tell you, I had a little suspicion about the United States Army.

T: What do you mean?

S: The first thing...I've still got it here. When we landed in Washington, D.C., after coming over there, you know the first thing? When we got into the hospital [at Walter Reed], they had us sign.

T: Sign what?

S: That we wouldn't talk about anything that's happened in Japan and in prison camp.

T: They made you sign that?

S: I've got the document. I've got it. I showed those guys out at...I think some of them from the Philippines thought I was bullshitting. I showed them the original ones out there. So here it is.

T: Why'd they make you sign that, do you think?

S: Because they sacrificed us. And they wouldn't admit it. Down to...[Our Lost] Battalion was ninety-nine percent, outside of me and Gussie and five guys from Chicago and Wisconsin, they were all Texans. They didn't want to know that they

just put us up there after they were already... They knew it was done. Because they were already on Guadalcanal and already attacking...

T: So did you not talk to that school class in Duluth because you weren't supposed to, or you didn't want to?

S: I didn't want to really at that time. I wanted to get home and see my mother. I hadn't seen my second cousin...I hadn't seen him for...I think once.

T: So it wasn't a close friend anyway.

S: No. I knew what he was doing. He was just exploiting me, and Marge wanted, his wife had a column in the...I don't know if they called it the Minneapolis what, the paper over there at the time. Every week. No, I didn't want that. I wanted to get the hell out.

T: When you got home to see your mom, talk about the first time you saw your mom.

S: John picked me up that night, and of course I had to stop...and he insisted, because his dad had been like a father to me from the time I was four. I had to visit for an hour or so. Then I got home. She was happy to see me. I was happy to be home. Any my sister was still alive, Lillian, and the other still sister was still alive down in Michigan.

(2, B, 608)

T: What did your mom say to you when she saw you the first time?

S: She told me she was the only one in the family or in the friends outside of my two best friends that thought I'd get back.

T: How hard had that been for your mom when you were missing like that?

S: Oh, it was hard on her. She always told me, though, she knew if anybody was coming home, I was.

T: She told you that?

S: Yes. She just had faith that I'd make it.

T: How much did your mom ask you about your POW experience when you saw her?

S: Oh, she didn't push it. She let me talk about what I wanted to talk about.

T: Did you want to talk about it with your mom?

S: I didn't press it. Not with any of the... *(trails off)* I'll tell you. After signing that thing and seeing the way they didn't give her the twenty-one bucks I'd been sending home...

T: They hadn't given her the allotments?

S: Not until a senator or somebody, they got a hold of him in Minnesota here. After a year and a half or two years of giving her some... No, they weren't giving her the twenty-one bucks they were taking out of my pay all the time. You know, I sent that home when I was making thirty. I would actually send it home. Thirty. Then when I was getting thirty-six dollars when I got PFC. The reason I was driving truck is I could drive truck and it was six bucks more and it got me off of KP.

T: So it was all about money, wasn't it?

S: Yes. And I had insurance taken out of that too. About three and a half bucks or so. So I was really rich.

T: Thirty-six bucks a month. Now when you were home there in Virginia with your mom, how long did you stay that time? Did you see people, friends that you knew from Virginia from before you went in the service?

S: Oh, yes. Some of them, a cousin or something that I hadn't seen for five years, [that were] kids [when I left and] had grown to young ladies. I would have to watch myself.

T: When you saw friends or relatives around Virginia, people who knew Stan Galbraith, did they ask about your POW experience? Because they knew you had been a POW.

S: Yes. Some of the guys were, you know, real close with me. I'd tell them.

T: What did you tell them?

S: My two buddies. I'd tell them just like it was.

T: You told them details. If they'd ask you a question, you'd answer it?

S: Yes. I didn't want to spread it around too much, because I had to go before a judge up there who I didn't tell about my experiences. And I didn't say too much. And I wasn't going to tell him too much, because I didn't trust him.

(2, B, 662)

T: So what I hear you saying is you didn't tell everything, but you didn't deny anything either.

S: No. I glossed it over. Especially with that judge that they had appointed to interview me.

T: Interview about what?

S: If it had been old Judge Carey—

T: So you got a notice in the mail that says, come down to the courthouse. They want to talk to you about your POW experience?

S: I might have a copy here yet.

T: And what kind of questions...this is a judge doing the interviewing now?

S: Yes. He had his stenographer there.

T: And what was he asking you?

S: He was asking me how I was treated. How they treated me. All this and that, and then after signing that thing—

T: At Walter Reed.

S: The first thing after I got inside and the other guys too. I wasn't about to say anything too derogatory and get those jackasses to pull me back in.

T: Was it explained to you why this judge was asking you all these questions?

S: I don't know. I think it had something to do...as part of any pay was concerned. Or disability.

T: Okay, so they were checking, in a sense documenting, your experiences as a POW that you had. They knew you had but they didn't know exactly what it was.

S: I glossed over it very much, because I didn't trust them.

T: How long did you talk to this judge? Was it a short interview, longer one?

S: I made it as short as possible. I think it was about maybe thirty, forty minutes. I think I got a copy of it someplace.

T: Did you ever get a copy of the interview?

S: I think I got a copy. I'll have to look through. I've got a lot of stuff. But I didn't trust the bastard.

T: It's a strange thing to be interviewed by a judge, in your hometown there. Right up in the Virginia courthouse?

S: Yes. If it had been the old judge...

T: This is a new judge you didn't know.

S: He was an attorney too.

T: You didn't know the guy.

(2, B, 702)

S: No. Old Judge Carey or his son who was a lawyer, I'd have told them anything.

T: You signed that document at Walter Reed saying you wouldn't talk about it, and then they have a judge interviewing you while you're still in uniform. So you're still a serviceman.

S: And then you wonder why I have come to the conclusion that they didn't want us to know, most of the public to know, that they'd sacrificed...

T: That's interesting. Moving on: you had some rest and relaxation at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

S: Oh, yes. You could say it was that, but actually it was one big party. We'd been split up, us guys. Some of them wound up in the Philippines, some were over in China.

T: But they were all POWs there [in Hot Springs].

S: Yes. Nothing but POWs and guys out of the battalion and sailors and Marines. Because the government got [us] together there. They wanted to be nice to us.

T: Did they do medical tests on you or things like this?

S: Oh, yes. They had, in Hot Springs they had, they took over the two hotels there. The biggest one, I've forgotten the name of it. One we were quartered in and the other one, if you had any dental work or you needed a doctor. I did. I had an impacted wisdom tooth taken out down there that had been bothering me for years. I got a kick out of them. He was pulling and pulling, and I was sweating, and it was a hot day. He said, "What are you sweating for?" I said, "It's my mouth you're working in." And he even had the guy from next door after about fifteen, twenty minutes of pulling me. They couldn't, he had it all loose, you know. Just the roots around there.

I thought sure in hell he was going to break my jaw. I said, "Get the other guy too and pull." They got it out finally.

T: So physically they are taking care of your mouth and whatever else ailed you.

S: Yes.

T: What about things like counseling or psychological help? What were they providing?

S: Oh, I'll tell you what they did. They ran us through a number...was it there? Yes. Questionnaires. You know what half the guys did?

T: What?

S: They didn't finish it too much.

End of Tape 2. Tape 3, Side A begins at counter 000.

T: Let me ask about this psychological test. Did you have any kind of an interview with a counselor or a psychologist who actually talked to you about your experiences as a POW?

S: Not that I recall until the VA.

T: But not at Hot Springs. Not before you were discharged in any case.

S: Not to my knowledge, nope. The dentist and I had a time (*laughs*). I made a date with his nurse for that evening when he was next door with his buddy laughing that he couldn't get it out.

T: You moved in on the nurse while he was next door?

S: Well, sure. She moved on me (*laughing*). And I didn't resist, you know. I was over at her place. Later that evening, early evening, she was living there and there was a knock at the door. I said, "Who's that?" She said, "That's the dentist." I said, "Oh!" She said, "Don't worry. I'll get rid of him." (*laughs*)

T: It sounds like you had a pretty good time at Hot Springs there.

S: Oh, yes. Yes, it was just...they fed us good. They had German prisoners.

T: POWs?

S: Yes. They were feeding us. They didn't slam nothing down in front of us. One was a little rough, but they learned in a hurry that he shouldn't throw down this stuff.

T: Were you guys all Pacific Theater POWs here?

S: Yes. Everyone that was there.

T: So nobody from Europe. No POWs of the Germans here.

S: No. The only thing from Europe there were those German prisoners.

T: No Americans who had been POWs over there.

S: No. No. See, they flew us...they got us in from the West Coast, wherever we were. From home. Two weeks. I didn't get out of there until two and half weeks, because I missed a plane.

T: I want to move ahead, because you were discharged in February 1946. You got out of the service.

S: February of '46. Right.

T: How tough was the adjustment for you back to civilian life after your POW experience, Stan?

S: The adjustment probably as far as me, is getting back and working. Of course, that was my fault. Not my fault, but I had kind of promised myself just about a year's vacation without doing any damn work.

T: Did it work out that way?

S: No. Well, about nine months of it.

T: So nine months. And when you say doing nothing, what were you doing? How did you spend your time?

S: I had a lot of friends to run around with.

T: Up in Virginia again now, weren't you?

S: Yes. Then I drove a truck for a little while. Gravel. Not for the mine, but hauling for the mining company. I made myself a promise that I wasn't going to stay in those mines for years, because in those days they didn't have all the big shovels like they've got now.

T: It was hard work on the Range, wasn't it?

S: And the women. I passed up taking, listening to them, because they didn't think I was, that I was in shape enough to go out. They taught me, and going inside was easier. So I went with J.C. Penney Company.

T: How long did you work on the Range?

S: I worked up there all told until I came down here [to the Twin Cities] in 1967.

T: So you worked twenty years up on the Range?

S: Just about. I got to be assistant manager with the J.C. Penney Company after five and a half years.

(3, A, 40)

T: Up on the Range, there?

S: Yes.

T: So you didn't work in the mines very long up on the Range?

S: No. I just drove truck for two months in the summer, something like that. A guy had owned the truck and had a gravel place. He was a younger friend of mine.

T: Your promise to do nothing for a year—you said you did nothing for about nine months.

S: Yes. More or less.

T: When you say doing nothing, how did you fill your time?

S: Hang out. Went out fishing. A lot of fishing up there. Guys would, you worked in the day, and there's one of them, he'd have the lunch packed and at five o'clock when I got off work or five thirty, in the car and fifteen miles we were out to the lake.

T: When you came back, how much did you start drinking?

S: I'll tell you, I did more than my share. Or at least, for a bigger man. I got his share too (*laughs*).

T: So when you got out of the service...were you a man who drank before [you went in the service]?

S: Oh, sure. I was working in the bar down there before I went in. In Michigan. The man that owned it who was a golfing buddy of one of my first cousins, he fired two guys because they were stealing him blind. He told me after I had been with him six months, he put more in the bank than he had two years with them. We'd have a couple nips after it was over. I and the guys I ran around with, we were used to having a little nip now and then, when we were out of high school.

T: So when you got back from the service, would you say you were drinking more heavily though than you were before?

S: Well, probably, yes. Maybe a little. Yes. A little bit more, because every friend that you had that knew that you liked, wanted to have a drink with you.

T: When you saw friends, and you're out of the service now, how much did your friends ask you about, how many would ask about you being a POW?

S: Those guys would ask, but they wouldn't press it. You'd tell them what you want to, and they'd be satisfied with it. My real buddies, they were like my mother that said that she was the only one that...I said no. Jim Carey and Johnny and Bill—they never gave up. They said I was up probably shooting craps with the natives (*laughs*). Just kidding.

T: Was your mom ever curious to know more as time went by, or was she happy to forget about it?

S: I think she was happy to forget [about it]...and I kept her that way.

(3, A, 73)

T: What do you mean? How did you do that?

S: Oh, I just didn't... Well, if she asked me something, I'd answer. I wouldn't embellish it and tell them I got half beaten to death or something where I was, because I managed, outside of the illness, I managed to stay away from that, smart enough in most instances to back off.

T: You worked for J.C. Penney for a lot of years, up on the Range and down here in the Twin Cities.

S: I worked five and a half years for them. Then I worked for a private Jewish...

T: Was it Juster's you worked for?

S: Yes. After. I went over to Juster's in '67. Not '66, '67. I went over and walked in and talked to one of the vice presidents and it was in the fall. All the guys were out buying.

T: Let me ask you: why after all those years did you leave the Iron Range?

S: I kind of made myself a present—that I didn't want to go in the mines. And I didn't want to listen to my mother and my sisters hollering about going out on the railroad, so I thought I would get inside. I'd work for J.C. Penney. Nice and easy. And out of the weather and stuff. In Virginia. Then after a year and a half there, two years there, they asked me if I would go to Eveleth and be assistant manager there.

T: [Eveleth is] close to Virginia. Real close.

S: Yes. Five miles. So I did.

T: One thing I'm curious about is how much you experienced dreams or nightmares after your POW experience.

S: I'll tell you. It wasn't too long after. I was always, at first...edgy. You know, if somebody quick...I was alert for that. There was a number of years after that that I dreamt that I could fly. Every night I would get that same...but I didn't spread my arms. I just...off I'd go. Don't know where I was going. I would wake up, and I would wake up laughing.

T: Did you have any dreams or nightmares that were about your POW experience?

S: Oh, not great experiences. But I found out that any noises that I wasn't used to, I'd be up and alert.

T: So when you were sleeping, if you heard something it would wake you up?

S: Oh, yes. The fact is, this has been a proven fact that even today anybody that spent that long in a prison camp is usually more aware of his surroundings and the people around him and the noises than the average person.

T: Do you think that's true for you, too?

S: Well, yes. Well, I get up a lot. But I know, after living here, noises. If there's something that I...I'm up.

T: Something out of the ordinary, you mean.

S: Yes. Not that I'm frightened or anything. It's just that...

T: You hear it.

(3, A, 117)

S: It's a noise that...a door or whatever that should be locked...

T: Are you a lighter sleeper than you were before the war, you think? Did you come out of it a lighter sleeper?

S: I'm still a good sleeper. But unusual noises will wake me up. As I get a little older, I think I get a little lazy. If I hear the phone ring, the hell with it. I have an answering machine.

T: So I hear you saying that you don't, you didn't have experiences with dreams and nightmares about your POW experience.

S: I might have had a few, but I don't remember. The one that I really remember because I used to get a kick out of it was the one where I could fly.

T: But it wasn't about your POW experience.

S: No. I think where that came from...there was a guy, a corporal, with us that had a brother, an older brother that was a pilot. He'd say that his brother was going to fly in and break him out.

T: You told me about that guy, right. The guy who, he had this impression that he was going to get airlifted out or something.

S: Airlifted out, yes. I think that's what stuck in my crop and where I got that thing. Because I knew better than that.

T: Stan, on another subject, have you found it easy to talk about your POW experience since 1945?

S: It's much easier now.

T: And why is that, do you think?

S: I don't know. I think it's...just with the age that you learn to put it in a certain perspective.

T: We've had a pretty open discussion here today. Was there a time in the past when I might have asked you for an interview and you might have said no?

S: Yes, it's very possible. And it's very possible, a number of years back, if you asked me to talk to some little kids, seven, eighth grade or so, I wouldn't go.

T: Why not?

S: I didn't think that at that age that they should be subjected to something, telling by a stranger.

T: Do you find it easier to talk about the POW experience now that you did ten, twenty years ago?

S: Yes. And I still don't outside of, with the guys, I don't push it.

T: When you get together with other ex-POWs of the Japanese, is it easier with them?

S: Yes. Oh, sure. You can say what you want with them.

T: How about with ex-POWs of the Germans? I mean you were both POWs. Is that a shared experience or are you...is it too different?

S: *(laughing)* There's one that got, he kind of got out of my skin with the ones that meet out at the VA there. Kline.

T: John Kline.

S: Yes. Honest to god, I listened to him for two years *(sarcastic tone)*. God, he had it. Three months. I didn't say too much. We're going out behind over on the right, and his wife was alongside him on the other side, and he came up behind me. He patted me on the butt and says, "That's how we pushed them along." And he never had it out of his mouth. I spun; I had my hand right here up...

T: On his neck.

(3, A, 163)

S: Yes. And this one here. And put him up against the wall. And I said, "This is the way we did it in the Pacific."

T: So it bothered you to hear a guy who was a POW for several months of the Germans compare his experience to yours, talk about how bad he had it?

S: Jesus! It was constant. And this Marine off of Wake, he got a kick. He was out there having dialysis.

T: Irv Silverlieb.

S: Yes, Irv. I said, "Irv, I put him right up against the wall right outside there in about two seconds. I didn't hit him." He knew he'd been put over there.

T: How long ago did this happen?

S: A month or so ago.

T: Just recently, then.

S: Yes.

T: Now you've been going to the VA, to that group, for a while. The Engdahl group.

S: Yes. Yes. About three months—three years I mean. Two years.

T: How would you describe how the Engdahl group has helped you as an ex-POW? Has that group been beneficial for you? Going to that group?

S: It's been beneficial to the extent that I have a little companionship with some guys that know where you've been, and what you've been, and they know you're not bull...

T: You think other people think you are full of bull, people who don't have that POW experience?

S: No. No. I think I'm a pretty excellent judge of some people. You know, after tending bar for a few years. And a salesman. I know before, or I sense it, what they're thinking or what they're... And if they think I'm full of bull, I have no qualms about telling them, "This is the goddamn truth and nothing but the truth." And of course, I won't talk to anybody about that unless they know I'm telling...I've got proof to back it up.

T: Yes. The last question I have for you is this: how do you think that your years as a POW of the Japanese changed you, or changed your life?

S: Oh, I don't know. I think it changed...I can't change that. I was so busy making a career for myself after, in the clothing business and everything, that what I really miss is that I haven't been a married man these last years with kids. But if you keep it to yourself...I've got a neighbor here.

(3, A, 204)

T: Friend of yours?

S: Yes. Crabby old ladies. They give me a pain in the...and the young ones do too, if they complain all the time.

T: So in a sense you seem to keep a pretty light spirit about yourself by not complaining about things?

S: I don't believe in it. It just makes you feel worse. Somebody said, don't you ever...the doctor says don't you...I said, I exercise for five minutes and...forget about it.

(conversation continues briefly on unrelated subjects)

END OF INTERVIEW