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Question: Now where was the camp that they just took you to?

Answer: All we knew was that it was somewhere in Virginia and it had been a CCC camp.

Question: Ok.

Answer: Army barracks and when we go through the office they want to know who you are but you are not to tell them your name you have a nick name, yours is Bob, this other guy was Jack and that is the name you give them, nothing else. So when I got up there some noncom asked me what's your name and I said Bob Clark, get out of here, but they let me in anyway. They gave us khakis so we took off civilian clothes we were wearing khakis and that's what we wore all the time. And there was a whole group of men, probably I would guess 20-25 somewhere in that vicinity and they ranged from my age to at least one of them was much much older man I would judge in his 40's, quite a bit older, and we did all this to learn how to run a radio, de dah, de dah, and we crossed the creek on a single rope we did physical training. This guy came from somewhere in China and was showing us how to get in, he was a policeman from Shanghai, how to get into a room that had people with guns in it without getting killed, and then he taught us how to use a compass. I'm from Kansas and I'm used to seeing where John lives and where Pete lives no matter how far away and this was woods and we were learning to use a compass and one thing we did first test was go down here so far and verify where you're at and then come back to the same place. Managed that pretty good. Then there was a time limit put on it and then they got six of us together and we were to be trucked out yonder at night, it seems to me at night, and here's the little points on the compass to go here, here, and back to camp and they put me in charge. I've got five other guys and we started out. At first the woods had been cut you know so it was fairly easy go and then we ran into some bad country and you had to go around and still come back to your compass heading. And we got into a place where we'd almost made a circle, I thought, anyway, and it was pretty darn hard to figure out which way to go to get back on course. But there was something about the land that rang a bell with me and I said we're going to go that way and the older man, the one that was forty, said that was the wrong way, don't go that way, got to go here and I was in charge and I said we're going here and we did and we came to a house with a dog barking and had to detour around that and came inside the gate. This old guy never spoke to me afterwards. I thought it was remarkable for a Kansas boy. And there was a man there he was obviously Italian, a city man, and they called him Angie, Angelo, Angie was his nick name, we figured he was Angelo. And the guy Jack was a northeasterner. His vocabulary was from Boston. He would say to Angelo, Angie, Angie couldn't do anything physical, he couldn't climb the rope, he couldn't (inaudible), he just couldn't do those things, and he'd hold us up when we were in a group doing something. Jack would say, come on Angelo, you guinea bastard. And we survived that and went back to Washington D.C. back in a uniform, back to the office, and there was Jack in there, he was a second class stenographer, I think there is a name for it, not stenographer, but that's what he was. We were sitting there talking about what we had been doing, the door opened, and here come a full lieutenant, guess who, the little guinea bastard and he walked up to Jack and said hello Jack, how are you, and Jack stood up and said just fine sir. I saw Angie and I saw Jack after I got back from China. Him and his wife come down from the Boston area and we went out and had dinner with them one night. I didn't see him any time in China.

Question: So everybody went their separate ways?

Answer: I don't think anybody from that training camp, well I take that back, Jack went with me part of the way, we were together part of the way.

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Question: When they sent you to the camp did you have any idea what they were training you for or they just?

Answer: No idea, they wouldn't tell us where we were going or who we were going to report to because it was super secret. Admiral Miles, was the American officer responsible for this action, and he had been almost killed three different times so they didn't tell us anything we might leak to the bad guys.

Question: Where is your bride at this time and what does she know?

Answer: She doesn't know anything except I'm in Washington D.C. and after I got through with the training they said I could have seven days leave so I called her and told her to meet me in Colby, Kansas. I had a few days off and we'd at least get to shake hands and then she is on her own. She was working in a bank and she took time off and they were perfectly willing to do that and got a train ride back to Oakley which is 30 miles away. And there is no transport between the two towns and my brother was there. One of my brothers was a soldier, and my step father.. my mother and step father lived on a farm, and they had gasoline for their working equipment and he had an old model. I think it was from my family, my mother had that old model, no it couldn't have been. They had an old model T, model A, and didn't have enough gas to get to Oakley and back. So my brother and I were walking down town the day we were supposed to go, the day Betty's train was coming, and Joe saw Mr. Warner, who was on the rationing board, we didn't know that and he said "Mr. Warner it's a damned shame my daughter can't" (Tape Stopped)

Well this guy Mr. Warner was on the rationing board, and he said you just go get it. So he called somebody. So we got together, we went over to Oakley and got her and we stayed there in Colby a couple days and then we went out and spent a night with my mother and step father on the farm. They didn't have running water or electricity, so it's not the most pleasant place in the world to take your new bride. But we spent our week and that kind of stuff, took her back to Oakley and she took off, and I took off for Washington DC.

And then shortly after that, very shortly, I was assigned in a group to go to China. So they were going to put me on a train to Washington DC, Chicago, no.. anyway we ended up in Texas and then over to California. And I called Betty, and told her if she could get down to California, Long Beach, California, I'll meet her when the bus comes in and we'll go and stay with Mrs. Worshem, and Mrs. Worshem was the one I met through Jack Carver, and I called her and she said that's fine. So I went on a troop train from Washington DC, train was packed with soldiers and sailors, that's all. Got into Long beach and got over to Mrs. Worshem's, and the next morning was when Betty was due. Well she didn't come almost all day. And finally I'm standing down where the bus will come in from Los Angeles and Long Beach and there's a guy selling newspapers and he couldn't sell any, and finally he held one up and he says Errol Flynn rapes Shirley Temple, he got a lot of attention but he didn't sell any papers. These important things is what stand out in your memory.

We got to go to Mrs. Worshem's and spend the night and I took off the next morning I went aboard that troop transport and was gone and Betty

Question: You didn't see Betty?

Answer: We spent the night at Mrs Worshem's and Mrs. Worshem said it was ok, she could stay until she had to go home. So she stayed a few days and in the process she met Jack Carver, his ship was in and she got to see him. And I went this troop transport was a captured Italian luxury liner converted to troop transport. Had a great big dancehall, 30 foot ceiling in it and packed with soldiers. And in order to make it a little more livable for us few sailors they gave us jobs with the crew. I was assigned to one of the divisions. So me and a guy named Jerry Hillman, and I didn't like him, all the time in Washington DC, we fought

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about everything we could talk about and he didn't like me either. Cause he was a USNR United States Navy Reserve, and I was a sailor and we'd fight about that. And we were assigned to the same group, bed by bed, bunk by bunk, worked together, and pretty soon we were playing cribbage, we were good friends ever since. And on board was an officer by the name of Pocket, Major Pocket, he was a soldier but he was in our group for some reason and he fell in love with one of the army nurses onboard the ship and they got married on the ship. And the captain in charge of the ship was ex-captain of the ship USS Wyoming, and he was a known drunk, so it was alright with him. He let them get married and they took his room and spent the night and that was it.

The ship went into New Zealand, we had four days off in Wellington, New Zealand, cabs were burning charcoal, taxi cabs. And then we went over to Australia across the Tasmanian Straights. We were all by ourselves, this troop ship, 2000 sailors.. soldiers I mean plus the crew and we spent 2-3 days in Australia and in order for me to go ashore, in New Zealand to go ashore, I had to be a cop.. MP, what do you call them, MP?

Question: Yeah.

Answer: Military Police, yeah. I was a military police one night and shore patrol, that's what the navy calls it. A friend of mine was shore patrol and they put him in jail, local jail and I was on the street. So when we got back to the ship we were telling each other what we'd seen and done. New Zealand's was a little bit different in America, no matter what, even if they did speak English. He said there was an island battle that the marines just finished and they sent a bunch of them to New Zealand for rest and relaxation, and they brought one into the jail, drunker than a lord, put him in a cell and after while this guy went back to see what the hell was going on and he'd taken off his coat and crapped on it. "I don't like New Zealand and I want to shit on the best part of it". So anyways we got to Australia I got a day off, time to go ashore and they wouldn't let me go at first because I hadn't had a haircut. This was approaching may, must have been late April, and we'd been at sea since the third of March and I looked pretty bad. And this Jack was aboard ship and that's how I got off. He come up and diverted the attention of the guy, the shore patrol guy on the ship and I just walked off, so we got to go ashore at least and have a meal.

Then the ship went back to sea going to Bombay and one night in the middle of the night, spot lights came on and they were on about thirty seconds or less and then off. What had happened there was a report of light somewhere and the captain says well turn on the spotlights, and here we are a troop ship with a three inch gun and 2000 victims but he was probably drunk, but the officer on the deck had them turned right back off. And we finally got to Bombay and our officers gave us their bars to wear on our shirt collars cause we're dressed in khakis we're not dressed as sailors and the reason was you can't go into a public place and get served as an enlisted man because the coolies... there are places the enlisted men could go and it was a nice place but English officers didn't associate with English sailors, or enlisted personnel. So we had these so we could go in officer's bar. We went in one about four of us and a waiter came and served us and he was a coolie.. a servant man and he took our order and when he brought it back he said when you men have finished your drink please leave you're not allowed here, but he didn't make a fuss over it. So we did. And we took a train... I don't know how much detail you want.. and driving around Bombay I saw the public laundry place, the place was a quarter of a block wide and half a block long, of tubs a place to stand by, looked like bath tubs, and the public came down there and washed their clothes, and water was flowing through there. And right next to that place was a series of.. some buildings.. a series of rooms that had wood bar doors, just round bars in the doors, and I asked the driver of the cab what is that, he said those are whore houses. And they can come and go but they had to have light and air I presume.

To leave we went aboard a train and I was in a car with.. I think four of us and two or four English or Indian, high ranking Indian people, and they had a bathroom and a shower and the

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bunks made into beds so we had a lot of comfort. We go down the railroad and we come to a village and there is a depot, and on the depot is a bunch of circles, brown circles on the wall. What in the heck is that anyway. None of us could figure it out, so when we stopped at the next depot I hopped off went over there and looked and it was cow manure, they made it into patties and put it on there and when it dried it was ready for fire. And we got to Calcutta.. we thought Bombay was poor, but Calcutta you couldn't believe that.. how desperate those people are. Men sleeping on the street. Women sleeping on the street menstruating. Blood all over. The English had feeding stations, and we'd been by one where there was probably a half a block or more of people. And they squat, they're notorious squatters because they don't have anything to sit on. One would squat, and the next one would squat right between their knees, they're that close together. And they had a little basket, and the English would give them rice and some other grain, that's what they (inaudible).

We ate in a big hotel, this was a foreign hotel, and they took good care of us, good food. There's some pictures of us, we stayed in a building that must be three stories high. And had been made into a dormitory type storage. We stayed in them and you could go down and take a pedi-cab.. a rickshaw to go to the hotel. I did that one time but I couldn't handle that, so I would take a taxi, if I needed to.. I would take a taxi. But they, we got up on top.. and there's some pictures of us showing off our guns, sub.. submachines. Uh.(whisper inaudible). And if you look at that picture, I've got hair obviously I needed a hair cut. They put us onboard a train that took us out of the city for a ways, then we got off the train and got on a side wheel boat on the Brahma Pultra river, and it took us up stream. And now there was about twenty of us, and two were probably Chinese Doctors who had been trained in the United States and were coming home to China, spoke English and pretty reasonable type of guys. And right of the side-wheeler to another train and then we had to stop and change trains cause this was a normal train and the next one was narrow gauge rails so they changed the rails.. or the train. So now we're in coolie class, just a bench along the sides and a bench in the middle, and the bathroom was a hole in the floor and the faucet was knee high, you'd turn it on and run water. And we were desperate for a cup of coffee. We stopped in a lumber area at one time and I went up to the engineer with my cup, you know that cup that service people have. And had him run me a cup of hot water and went back and stirred coffee in it, and drank that and ughh.. boiler compound in it from that damn engine, ,y stomach just about turned raw, but I didn't die. And we got to an airforce base in.. I should have remembered that base. And that is where we were going to catch the plane to fly the "Hump" into Kunming. And while we were there.. we had to wait of course..while we were there, General Stillwell came through. And what he was doing was checking on the condition of his soldiers. And when he saw us sailors, he asked us who we were and we told him we were navy, he just couldn't.. just couldn't believe it, "What the hell are you doing out here in the wilderness". One day, I don't know how long we stayed there.. it must have been a couple of weeks. One day a soldier came in there and said " hey any of you guys want to take an airplane ride, we have a mission to go over here and dump supplies to a camp over here, a camp of Chinese in the jungle". "Sure I'll go", and we got up into plane.. and they had taken the door off.. back where the passengers got on.. it was gone.. and there were supplies in there packed in bags in there with parachutes. And the pilot flew over 'til he saw a signal on the ground, a white signal.. some kind of a signal that he recognized, and he told us to get ready.. then he'd fly over there and get low, and we'd push out whatever we had time for. Do a big loop and come back and do it again. Then about four loops we unloaded the plane.. I mean we'd push it right out of the door and then lean against the door, talk about nuts. And we were up in the Himalayas, talk about mountains. And they said, okay time to go. There were eight of us that got aboard that airplane. I don't remember what type, some kind of transport.. a C-25, D-25, something like that, and it took off and the pilot said, can't go any higher.. I heard him radio back to base.. we're over so far away from base.. seventeen thousand.. seventeen hundred feet, can't go any higher. And they other end they just ranted and raved and told him to come back to base. Then as we landed, started to get out of the

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plane and here comes a jeep with a warrant officer in charge, and he started cussing that pilot. "God damn we just overhauled that and I flew it myself.. get back in all of you guys get back in. was going to take us back and show him. We wouldn't to get back into that faulty plane take another ride up into the mountains, see if we could get higher than seventeen hundred feet. So he looks a little chagrined, and anyway they got us another plane. And when we got up to the level required to get us over, I began to get sick to my stomach. I had eaten before we went aboard which was a mistake. I told the radioman that I was beginning to get sick and asked him what I should do, and he said take my oxygen and gave me his mask. The crew had oxygen, so I used his oxygen for about five minutes maybe, settled myself down and I was alright. I don't know how high we went, but it was pretty darn high. Now I use oxygen.. And we landed in Kunming, and Kunming was a big airbase. A lot of soldiers a lot of airmen. They put us in a barracks and we hadn't been in the barracks a half an hour.. here comes a soldier and says.. you guys want to show you something, this is China now, it's not America. We went out oh.. hundred yards away from the barracks and there were three four Chinese laying there dead with bullet holes in them. And the reason was that had gotten caught stealing tools from the airbase and they were caught and they were killed right then. So he was warning us, don't do anything stupid. And I was selected with three others and two officers to take a convoy of two, I believe it was two trucks of supplies overland to Chunking. One of them was Lt. Collville, the other was General Jensen. And I don't remember the sailors names. We had a driver and an interpreter to go with us. And we got out of town a little ways and the truck broke down, these drivers said yey-yey-yey-yey-yey-yey, we have to go back down. So the good one towed the other one back to town. The officers did something, they gave us better trucks. We had to spend the night in the barracks, so six of us went into this barracks.. beds in a row . And the Lt.. Collville said we ought to clean our guns, we all had forty-fives. And Lt. Jensen had a forty-five and a thirty-eight revolver, so we.. I don't know how much you know about forty-fives but you kick out the cartridge case and you cock it and lock it open then clean it and pull the trigger then it would snap shut, then you put the cartridge case in. Click click click click , bang bang bang bang.. And Jensen cleaned his forty-five a then he cleaned his thirty-eight loaded it back up and pulled the trigger.. right down over the head of us, shot right over the heads of us. And here come two Chinese soldiers on a dead run. Course we didn't have anyway to communicate with them, but we said we're alright.. inhow inhow, that's okay. Then the next day we got on the road and away we went. We got up into.. somewhere outside of Kunming.. quite a ways, probably two days and there was a big waterfall in the river.. beautiful waterfall. Stopped at a Chinese place where there was food, and used there tea, chop sticks and rice, and then our own rations that we were carrying. And the interpreter, when Lt. Collville wanted to pay them.. the interpreter said don't pay them, just give them the cans, empty cans. That's worth more than money anytime, these people don't know white peoples (inaudible), and about that time here comes a woman, white woman. And she was a Swede, spoke English, and she was there as a health giver to people in that neighborhood. We talked with her awhile till we got to know something about her, and then Lt. Collville said "what do we have that we can give you that would be beneficial to you?". She said, "American toilet tissue". Cause that's just like burlap bags, theirs is. We went on from there and we ran into some, this was at the tail end of the day, we wanted to go to the next town. We were talking to some Chinese troops, through our interpreter of course. And the interpreter said, "they said don't go tonight, don't go when it's dark. Wait til tomorrow morning.. wait at this village". The reason is there were bandits out there, they don't even stay out, they go back to their barracks. So we did that. Then we came to a city, and they had a hotel.. nice clean the beds were clean.. the food was foreign.. and they uh.. the cooks had the people who had done that had been trained in Europe.. they were Chinese trained and the food was good. So we enjoyed the heck out of that for a twenty-four hour period. The four of us sailors went walking down the street and there was fireworks, you could buy fireworks.. and we'd put them to a cigarette, a thousand Chinese following us of course. Then went up stairs to a café and had tea and we'd throw a

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firework off the balcony.. here come those two Chinese soldiers.. "Stop that". We didn't speak Chinese, but we understood the language.

But the funniest thing was, we got top a to at the border of a county or state, and we had to be inspected by their guards, their border guards.. and they were nasty to us, and got up into the trucks and started jerking things around and then Lt., Lt. Jensen got up there and he was looking at the crowd, there was always a crowd. And there was a white haired Chinese man with some nice whiskers, and they usually didn't have whiskers. And he said, "well there's the most distinguished looking man I've seen since I've been in China". And the man said "thank you, I used to live in Ohio". Those guards got out of the trucks and left us alone, and away we went. Jensen when he drove.. we took turns driving the truck.. the drivers didn't always do it. We went to a village and he would.. he hated the Chinese, he'd move that truck over to the edge of the road to interfere with their traffic, and there was a coolie pulling a rickshaw and he got so close to that guy and tipped over.. the guy had junk and tipped over the rickshaw.. threw him (gesture)..I hated that bastard from then on. We finally got Chunking, and the Yangtze River, just across the border, just across the river. And the two doctors, they were with us. They were our interpreters, they had bags and they weren't about to carry them, they were going to have the coolies carry them.. they were working, they were dock worker type people you know. I saw three of them.. you know what a yo-yo pole is?, they carry a load on their shoulders. Three of them had rigged up their poles some way and were carrying a fifty-five gallon drum of gasoline, and they were.. two of them were these big suckers. They were big tall and thick bodies. The Doctors went this way and here they come, two of them came over to do it because they wanted the money, and they got into a fight and one of them kuhhhh-wump.. knocked that other guy just flying. And we asked how come they were so different from the other Chinese, and they told us they were from the North. They ate wheat, they didn't eat rice. And we took the sampan across the river and went up to the camp. We were there, this was the third day of July, 1943.. and one of the junior officers came to me, maybes he's my officer and said Clark, you got to get a haircut.. tonight. I had been there twenty-four hours. But the next day was the Fourth of July and they had a big celebration that night. And the Chinese that came, one of them was a general, I sat about two places from him at the table. Drink like a fish, that drunken officer just threw up on the table and went right back to drinking. I've got to quit.. I've got to stop (Tape Stopped)

Question: When you headed off to China, you did all this training, and this top secret stuff, you buy this suit and get all this training. When did they, did they tell you what their plan was for you, or did they?

Answer When I got to Chunking I was told that a bunch of these people were weather men. They were going to make weather reports for the South Seas, there were a bunch of them fighting down there. And there were, we were supposed to go train Chinese troops, I had a thirty member group that I was training in weapons, explosives and how-to. And we were supposed to go with to damage something that the Japanese needed. I never did do that. I only know one guy that I knew who did that. Apparently there were some later ones that did. They came later. That was the point, I showed them TNT, Plastic D.. was like clay.. stuff like that.

Question: They went off and..

Answer: Yeah, they'd just disappear, I wouldn't know where they went. And I went from one camp, I had to get from Chunking to my camp. That took me through the, that took me through the airfield.

Question: With the Flying Tigers?

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Answer: The flying Tigers were, they had two airports.. Pinying and whatever the other one was. Went through there and I was bombed, we were bombed. Each of the four days that we were in one of them. They tended to bomb the town and then the airfield, and we would go down river. One time a soldier took me and another guy into a temple. The walls were eight foot rock so we were fine, but it took all day, and when they sounded the alert we went out to the edge of the barracks ground.. there was a hole there and we climbed into the hole. When we came that guy said where did you guys go. We said "well there was a hole in the ground and we climbed in". He said that hole in the ground is where they bombed the airfield, that was a bomb crater you knot heads. But they bombed that place four times, that's where I saw them shoot down a plane. And then went on down almost to Canton on the train.. some of us on the train some of us on the trucks. And we gathered together and started back to South Anhui Province. And that was a pretty tough journey by truck, because we were now in Japanese areas, we didn't get much help. We got to camp One which was my camp, and it was over a hill about 5 miles or 5 lees.. Chinese miles I think, and there was a campground built in a temple. Buddhist temple, and there were rooms that monks had used and the temple was there one story high, and they had built rooms for us besides that so we had a place to eat. And there was a wall, a six foot wall around it. And that's were we would get our company to train. They would come live right close to us, there was a general in the vicinity. For the first few months we didn't have anything to do, and we bitched like the dickens. And they, well we set up a radio station when we got there. They had one but we put up one with three towers so it would be effective. Admiral, Admiral Miles heard we were ion trouble and my boss now was Marine Major Masters. And he had two gunnery sergeants that were responsible for the enlisted personnel.. Lt. Collville was there and Jensen didn't come with us thank god. No medical personnel, had a Corpsman named Art Deagan from Chicago, he was there. And we would get those people in, give them the weapons, show them how to use the explosives and they would just disappear. And one time I had a crew with one guy that had a birthmark there size of my hand on his neck. And before I left I was transferred down to Camp Six, me and Major Masters didn't get along. And I saw that guy down there on another training group. And my suspicion was that that was a communist group and they were getting their weapons over there and coming here and getting those. And the reason that I didn't get along with Masters is we got a bunch of new people in and they built us a new dormitory dining area building, and we all ate in the same mess officers and men. And before the marines had came to that group.. there was a bunch of us.. thirty or more who were singers.. sang duets.. er a quartet. One of the officers got a telegram that he was a new father, so some of the guys sang him a little ditty. He just set there, he didn't like it at all. So they sang him another one which wasn't as cute, and the senior officer in there told the gunnery Sargent.. "tell those guys to leave the dining hall". So he come over and the sarge, gunney we called him.. Weigh, Weigh Holland was his name. Weigh Holland, he come over and said you guys you're getting in trouble. So they got out and I got out to, I got up and left. When Masters heard that.. it pissed him off.. And he's going to give us a general court martial.. all five of us, but the gunnery sergeant talked him out of that.. you want to take them to captains mast well do that, don't court martial them for something stupid. So we got mast ands he give us five days bread and water.. and in order to do it we had to be alone, so he kicked officers out of there quarters and we got to be in their quarters. And go with out food, no way. The Chinese cookie she'd get the house boy, take this up to those guys. We always got to eat, every night we always got something. Poor Masters.
(End of Tape)