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Question: You were in the Navy's camp going to Army's camp. Was Fukuoka the Navy camp?

Answer: No, just a very small contingent of Navy guys was in that first camp we were in and they were just kind of our, I guess,

Question: And that was a hydroelectric. Was that the hydroelectric...

Answer: Yeah.

Question: Have you been back to Japan since that time?

Answer: I've been back to Japan, but I haven't been up there. Been back there twice, and I got a long story to tell you about that when we get to the end here. So anyway, that's how I got this cut on the side of my cheek here. They would keep, oh, we were divided into different squads, so to speak. There was about 10 guys, 10 – 12 guys to a squad. And that squad would go do one thing at the dam. You were pouring concrete, or chipping the concrete to put some rocks in which was the reinforcing steel which they used to make another block. There was this.. this dam was being poured by different sections and blocks to do that, so that's what different squads would do. Then every, we'd rotate on down the line till we got all through different squads. One day they'd stay in camp, they'd clean the camp, and wire the bamboo, we didn't have any, so... Rogge and I took off and walked up to a nice little cove up there where the creek and stuff came running down through there and went to gather some bamboo and what have you which we brought back to where our barracks camp was, and they didn't like that. I said Gosh, we need it. What else're we gonna do, we don't have anything to work here with, what have you, and so they set us at Attention, and they started giving you this business (mimics being beaten), and that's how I got that on the side of my face. And so what we learned after they did that they started beatin' on you why, you took a fall and you said, get smart, don't stand there and try to be a tough guy with a small Japanese beatin' on you. Let him give you a sock and then fold. Just give up. Well that worked pretty well. Ok, then we get back to Fukuoka where we were hauling all this dirt out of there off the side of the hill and then out across this valley, filling for an air... putting about a three-foot fill across this valley across some old rice patties where they could put an airstrip on it. And we worked there for, what, about 10 months I guess it was, and then they moved us down to Nagasaki, and had us working in the shipyard. And that was a tough deal working the shipyard down there, and they had us doing steel caulking and riveting. And there's no, you had to use your lights, and all that was bare wire sticking out of the end of this extension cord you had for your light and just kind of hung it over the wire. It was DC current, so you didn't get too badly shocked, but uh, so and then there's water and stuff all around there. And they had us working down there. Walking back to camp one night I had my hands stuck in my pants like this for, keep them warm, well the guy didn't like that and he. All these fellows, they carried, kind of.. almost like a pick handle. Not a pick handle, but a, it wasn't tapered like a pick handle, but it was straight, about 3 feet long, and with a leather strap on it. And he reached in and he hit me on the wrist here. And I didn't think too much about it, but your circulation was so poor that it, the blood black and blue mark didn't disappear. Just started to get rotten. And it just swolled up in a great big lump up here. Fortunately, in that camp they had some Dutch people. They started mixing it up. We were all by ourselves in that first camp. Then when we got to Fukuoka, we got mixed up with English, Aussies and Dutch, and so forth, and then us. And we were the smaller part of it 'cause they kept some

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of the other guys and sent them off to a different camp, and so we were down to about 20 of us, and that was pretty much the way it was for the rest of the war and the last camp we were in. That group all stayed together, but I think they kept splitting us up, 'cause they didn't trust us, being American civilians they didn't trust us at all. Anyway, this thing got pretty bad and it was pretty smelly and this Dr. Fishwise, he was a Dutch doctor, and they were military and they were separate from us. And I forget how I got to him. But anyway, he said Gosh, we gotta get that out of there, so you're going to lose your hand. So what happened was that he had a guy sit on that hand, and a guy sit on my arm, and he just cut the thing out just like cutting out of a grapefruit, and kind of rubbed it a little bit. It bled a bit. He said, now go urinate on it! He said urinate on it every once in awhile. Well, they didn't have bandages and what have you, so we had to tear up rags whatever we could get and fortunately there was a steam vent outside of one of the buildings that were there in this shipyard so we could steam these rags and I could wrap that around and take it, and fortunately, I've still got a little scar but it healed up pretty well. I got a couple other spots down around my feet, and that's from dropping things on it, and getting stomped on. So anyway, then here again they kept different squads in from time to time, and we were working down in the shipyard, and we uhm, oh I know what I it was, there were some American officers there, and they said, came to us, about a dozen of us and said, There's some care packages down on the beach. Let's go get them. Well, they had access to do that, so we went with them, we brought all these care packages, and we gave them all out to everybody we, and then we got them out there before the Japanese knew what was going on. And that was the only supplies we ever got.

Question: Red Cross supplies from the States?

Answer: I don't know whether it was Red Cross or not, but it was a care package. It had some candy bars in it and it had some little kind of cereal stuff in it, some cookies and crackers, and some tobacco and some cigarettes and some candy and it was, god it delightful. Just delicious. And to back up on a story. The only thing we did get out of those care packages at first was model tobacco. You know, in a package. We didn't smoke the tobacco, we figured out that you could take and chew some of that tobacco and it would kill the worms. So we'd, in other words, I'd give you my bowl of rice tonight and you'd give me your bowl of rice tomorrow night, and in the meantime, when they gave you, you'd chew this tobacco and swallow the juice and it made you sicker than a dog, but you really passed the worms. Worms didn't like it either. By God, we passed worms and it sure helped. So that's the only thing we got out of those packages. But then we got the whole packages down in Nagasaki and about that time it was getting the latter part of summer time. That was June, and they were going to transfer us out of there, but anyway, in the meantime, the, um, we knew the air.. carrier based aircraft were flying in and out of there so we'd run back in these big caves they had back in there. They had whole machine shops in those caves, and so we knew that if the U.S. military was going to do anything, the Japanese were pretty well dug in over there, so it would have been real tough to get them out of there.

Question: Had you heard from your parents at all?

Answer: No.

Question: Had they heard from you?

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Answer: Yes.

Question: How did they hear, did they...

Answer: You had those telegram things that were sittin' on the...

Question: And that's all they heard.

Answer: That's all they heard. I wrote 22 of those and 2 of them got through.

Question: And that was how many years after?

Answer: It was two years after I was taken prisoner and I don't know when they got those. I think there might be a date on those up there, but by word of mouth they, two years before they heard that I was taken prisoner.

Question: So did they, when you got back did your Mom ever talk to you about that time? Not knowing?

Answer: Not really. They were just so happy to see me that..

Question: But that telegram was probably a treasured item that your Mom received.

Answer: Oh, poor mother. She was home alone, 'cause Dad was in the military and such. I think, it wasn't in the interview, but I think I told you earlier that Dad has connections with the Naval Reserve and he was in some outfit. I don't know exactly what it was. He never did tell me, but it was some kind of an intelligence operation, at Pier 91 in Seattle, and I found this out after I got home that after the war broke out that he was called to duty over there to be in it, and they knew who the subversives were and they fired them all and a short time later they'd, orders came from D.C., Washington, D.C., Install all those people you fired and give them back give them back pay. Dad said Boy, this stinks, I can't take this anymore, so at the tender age of 50, he decided he was going to be a diver, so he went back and took a diving school back in New York, qualified as a diver, and was a salvage officer in the Pacific all during the war. So he went on, and he's got the...

Question: So who were the subversives that they got rid of?

Answer: I don't know.

Question: Was it just people that weren't. It was military people, though.

Answer: I don't know if it was civilians or what they were, but in other words, they were known to be either Commies or some type of thing, but that I don't know. I wasn't privy to that.

Question: So your Dad, in point of principle, decided that he was going to do something else.

Answer: He decided he was going to do something else, and so he ended up. They finally kicked him out of the Navy as a Rear Admiral. So I met him in Honolulu, and we came back with another whole story. So anyway, then after my birthday,

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which was in June, and they moved us up to, um, Yawata which was a coal mining town, and I was working in the coal mines, and Boy, I didn't like that at all. That was just awful, and fortunately, the squad that I was in. Well we were down to about 20 guys of the original 250 now. Fortunately, that group of us, Americans, and then we were mixed up, here again, Aussies, English, Dutch, and so forth, in that camp. That was a big camp, pretty good sized camp. There must have been a couple thousand guys in that camp. And they put us to work digging what they said was an air raid shelter. Well, I think it was a place for them to hide their stuff or whatever they wanted to do. It was close to a railroad yard because of the coal mine there and all the coal out of the railroad cars, and as I look back on it, this probably was one of their things. We dug a big tunnel way back underneath. That was our job fortunately. Which was fine. We didn't have to go down in that doggone coal mine, which was, Oh, that was miserable down there.

Question: Are you claustrophobic?

Answer: Oh, Lord, Yes.

Question: Were you before you got to go...

Answer: Well, a little bit. I mean, as a kid we were. They had me doing everything down there. When you're the boss's son, you have to take the brunt of whatever the crew will dish out to you. I was waxing a water tank and I got into that tank back there and you crawl through those kind of batter holes and what have you. And I got stuck in there, and ever since that time I didn't like to be confined to anything. It was scary, it was claustrophobic, ok. I got out of that tank and, boy, I never wanted to go back into a small hole anymore.

Question: What was that like? What was the coal mine like?

Answer: I don't know really, just awful. Confined little old thing lowered you down and you didn't know whether. It was rickety as all get out and it was just and you shovel the coal in this little cart and. I was only in there two days, Thank God. That was the end of that one.

Question: So you only had 20 people left out of over 200 people?

Answer: Yeah. 250 of us. But they weren't dead, but they kept breaking our group up for some reason or other.

Question: So there wasn't much to eat. You're a pretty good-sized guy. What did you weight about that time?

Answer: I weighed 120 pounds the day the war was over. And we, of course, it was summertime and we were kind of gaining a little bit but not very much. But we weren't losing any.

Question: And when you were working in Nagasaki in the shipyard, you were actually doing regular old-fashioned riveting, huh?

Answer: Oh, gosh, yes. It was kind of interesting, too. The ships we were building, they were about the size of our liberty ships, what have you, and I'm sure they were some of those scrap ships they'd taken over there before the war, those

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old triple expansion steam engines they had around there were ones they took out of those ships and were putting in those ships, and we'd cook the rivets, just really cook the heck out of them, so when you put them in there and riveted them together, they cooled off they were kind of lose, because they were cooked so hard. I mean, you, when you make a rivet you make it with some kind of slack in it so it is, you can rivet it, and I don't know how much slack they put in it, but evidently, the rivets were. We had to go around and caulk them, you know. Brrrrrrrrr, and try to seal that cause they had water tests and they'd put water in it to see if they were going to leak, and they did and, oh, that was. They splashed at you. And we had no goggles, no anything, we got a.. oh I got a little burr in my eye one time. And the same doctor that took my wrist department finally got it out of my eye. I was miserable there for about a week trying to see because the sharp thing was stuck in my over here, and he finally got some kind of a little metal thing or something, got a hold of it and pulled it out.

Question: There was no. I take it there was no penicillin given to prisoners, no painkillers, no...

Answer: No, they had some over there, but they didn't give us any penicillin. What was that powder they finally made?

Question: Sulfa?

Answer: No, well, kind of like a sulfa, but they put some of that on my foot where I'd dropped one of these riveting guns and hit my foot down there and it didn't want to heal either down here and it kept coming up and it kept opening up a little bit and swelling up. Finally got, yeah, sulfa. Got some sulfa and put it on there and that stopped it.

Question: Did the guards...when they decided they wanted to beat someone, you pretty much just took it and, I mean, that was, if you resisted at all it was worse, wasn't it?

Answer: Oh, gosh, yes.

Question: Was that pretty common every day for people?

Answer: No, no it wasn't common every day at all. It wasn't that bad. But on the other hand, you figure, ok, you're a POW and you just gotta of grit your teeth and hang on. And that's all you can do.

Question: Was there every, did you ever get, was there ever any act of kindness from the Japanese, like in the shipyard?

Answer: Get any what?

Question: Was there any Japanese that ever showed you kindness while you were over there?

Answer: No, this Goldie Akasawa Was about the only one that really got, I got fairly close to. No, they were, um, the civilians, we worked around them, 'cause they had to work a couple of days a week doing various things, put their time in, and we didn't have any trouble with those people at all. We could talk to them, and that's

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where we kind of got our news, and we kind of put it together like a jigsaw puzzle, and looking back on it, we had pretty good news. At the time we didn't know, but looking back, why, we pretty kept track of what was going on, you know. And we'd ask them, ok, what happened today or something? Did you bomb San Francisco? Oh, yeah, bomb San Francisco?, oh yes bakudan tason which means bombed a lot. Anyway, I said, How about New York. Oh, Yes, we bombed New York. And, did you bomb Kotex Oh, bomb Kotex How about Tampax Oh, Tampax, bomb, bomb, bomb. How about Bull Durham So then we'd like of put things together as to what we'd heard. They didn't know about these other things, but that's where we'd ask. So we knew they were kidding us a couple of times, but on the other hand what that squad heard when they came back in and those people heard when they came back, so in the evening we'd sit around and discuss this.

Question: Did anybody ever build a radio in camp?

Answer: No. No, we didn't have that kind of facilities.

Question: Did you have new prisoners coming and going?

Answer: No, we were the new guys. They kept moving us around. We were the new ones.

Question: When you went on this ship going over there, did anybody, did everybody make it to Japan?

Answer: Oh, yeah, we all made it to Japan.

Question: The, um, Nagasaki, now you weren't in Nagasaki in the end. You moved on from Nagasaki, is that true?

Answer: Yeah, we were half way between Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It's 120 miles between Nagasaki and Hiroshima and we were just exactly half way between.

Question: Pretty lucky, huh?

Answer: Well, uh, we'd have been alright in Nagasaki, 'cause we found out later that some of the prisoners that were still working around the shipyard down there, that they were.. 'cause we were on an island out in the middle of the Nagasaki Bay and the bomb went off kind of in a, I guess the way, the best way to describe it is, ok, take the Puyallup Valley out here. If you move those hills on either side, that's about where they dropped it was an industrial area, and so the bomb hit it and it went that way! It didn't go that way and spread out. It went straight up, so the guys on the island at Nagasaki were all right. The town is what, town and industrial area is what got hit.

Question: Did the, was there anything you talked about daily in camp. Is there something that was on your mind all the time?

Answer: About what?

Question: Was there anything that was on your mind all the time when you were...

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Answer: Food.

Question: Food? What did you, talk about it, or dream about it, or?

Answer: Oh, God, yeah. We, matter of fact, I've got a little book back there with all these crazy ideas we thought about cooking up when we got home. Some of them were very outlandish. Amazing what you can dream of when you're hungry.

Question: Where they favorite meals you wanted, or...

Answer: Oh, yeah. Everybody was coming up with. That was the worst thing you could do was talk about it because that just made you hungrier. We'd try to talk about something else, but food was the main thing that was on your mind.

Question: So what was the main thing that you really wanted, was at the top of your list that you wanted?

Answer: You mean, in the line of food or clothes, or?

Question: Yeah, food.

Answer: Oh, I don't know. Just anything. Good food.

Question: Yeah, we've heard from a couple of different POWs. One guy was waffles and syrup. Butter, waffles and syrup.

Answer: Yeah, something sweet sounded pretty good, too.

Question: And on the, um, if you, clothing also was short, wasn't it?

Answer: Oh, gosh, yes. In that first camp we were in with those cement bags, we took the inner things and we'd, if you had a little T-shirt which we, hung onto that as best you could hang onto it, we'd slide a cement bag over it and then put whatever clothes we had on, and put that on over the thing so you could keep warm in there, 'cause we had ice on the top of the barrels with a little water on them in the wintertime. And, so we had trouble keeping warm. That was the big problem was keeping warm. Then them had these doggone tabis to wear and they weren't big enough for us. Your heel kinda hung out of them, and they got pretty callous and your heels got real callous in the back end.

Question: That's the clogs, the Japanese clogs.

Answer: Yeah, Right. Tabis or clogs, tabis I guess you call them. But then we took the string that was in these cement bags and we'd take that string apart so you could make thread out of it and we had patches on top of patches on top of patches to hold your clothes together.

Question: You're pretty ingenious in camp.

Answer: It's amazing what you can come up with when you have to.

Question: Did you find ways to get more food, or...Did you ever find ways that you could get more food?

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Answer: No.

Question: You couldn't trade for food

Answer: No. I did trade. I had a gold crown come out one time and I traded that for a hard-boiled egg and that was the best egg I'd ever eaten.

Question: Who did you trade that with?

Answer: Oh, one of the civilians we were working around. Guess he had it in his lunch bucket or something.

Question: Sort of amazing to think back at that, huh?

Answer: Right. Oh, gosh, yes.

Question: And that was probably the only egg...was that the only egg you saw over there?

Answer: That was the only egg I saw, right?

Question: You probably still remember how good it tasted, huh?

Answer: Oh, gosh, yes.

Question: So did the civilians that you dealt with in the shipyard. Did you work alongside them?

Answer: No, not in the shipyard, but in the Fukuoka area when we were out in the middle of the field there, there were civilians out working on, even women and what, they were out there working around the....

Question: Were they, was there any anger that you were killing Japanese, were bombing them?

Answer: No.

Question: When did you see B-29s coming over? Do you remember when you started seeing...

Answer: Well, you didn't see them, 'cause they were so doggone high. The only reason we knew...we didn't even know what a B-29 was. Didn't have the foggiest what a B-29 was. But the Japanese said the Ni Jyo Kyu which is 29. Ni Jyo Kyu dame dame, which was no good, and so they were telling them they were bombing this and bombing that sort of thing, but as I say, we didn't know what a B-29 was. Didn't have the foggiest idea what it was.

Question: So you're unofficial comparing of gossip around, you sort of figured out what was going on in the world.

Answer: Right.

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Question: Were you aware of how close the Americans were getting to the...

Answer: Not until we saw those little aircraft based planes in June of '45. Then we said, well, they gotta pretty close, or can't be too far away.

Question: Pretty excited at seeing that?

Answer: Oh, yeah Very excited at seeing that.

Question: What did the...By then in the camp had things changed? The Japanese treat you the same?

Answer: No, just the same. Didn't change.

Question: Never changed for the whole time, huh?

Answer: No. It was all pretty much the same all the way. Only trouble was that the, some of the so-called guards or honchos was the best way to put it, they weren't, I guess they were ex-military people, but they were the ones who were back from being out in the war and back convalescing so to speak and they had them walking around taking care of...they didn't have guns, but they had these clubs, you know. They knew we couldn't do anything, so. But they were kind of tough, they were pretty bitter.

Question: So they sort of took things out on you, then.

Answer: Oh, once in awhile, a little bit.

Question: Were you treated any differently than military prisoners?

Answer: I think so. I think they respected the military prisoner much more than they did the so-called civilian prisoner, because they had originally we found out later that they thought we were a bunch of so-called prisoners out there working on Wake Island. In other words, guys who had been in a prison like McNeil Island, Alcatraz, somehow they were under the impression that that's what we were out there, and like I said, I think I'd rather been a military prisoner than a civilian prisoner.

Question: The didn't quite understand who you were or what you were doing then, huh?

Answer: No, well when they interrogated us when they took over Wake Island in the beginning they, you know, what did you do and what have you, and I said, Well, I'm going to college. How come you can run a tug? I said, well, most of the kids in the United States can drive a car or run a tug or run a caterpillar, fly airplanes. I mean, we're pretty well diversified. As a matter of fact, they had some old outboards that came aboard at Wake Island and we put them on the dock there and fixed them and repaired them for them. 'Cause as kids we knew how to do that. Well, I was 22 when I was out there, but I was pretty adept at doing machine work and taking things apart and fixing machinery. Well, we had to do it when we're running the tugs out there. You had to change valves, you had to change the nozzles on the tugs on the old diesel engines and so forth, so we knew how to do things.

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Question: To get back to something we talked about before, the friends of yours that did die on Wake Island that are buried at the Punchbowl, did they leave families back home? Were they married?

Answer: I assume so. I'm not sure.

Question: Did their parents ever come to you and ask you what happened?

Answer: I had a couple of inquiries, but I couldn't answer their questions, per se.

Question: They died after you left the island?

Answer: Oh, yeah.

Question: There were a couple of friends, young guys I know they didn't have any family, 'cause they were bus boys in the galley up there in the dining room area, and a couple of those guys didn't have any family. Tom McGinnis, the other skipper, he didn't have any family. He was a bachelor guy, older fellow. He just lived aboard that doggone tug.

Question: Did ...the um, is that something that you could ever forgive the Japanese for? What they did to your friends?

Answer: Well, what can you do? You gotta, I've gotta go back, way back when...let's get off of the prisoner things. I want to finish that up, then I'll jump over to getting back to that. So this last camp in Yawata we were in, we dug this air raid shelter and so forth, and then one day it was my turn to go over to get some kind of a light to come back so we could have a little smoke. We jury-rigged how you could have a little smoke, pass a cigarette around it. So anyway, and they were talking down around the rice pots where they'd cook these big buckets of rice. Anyway, Pat Aki who was a friend of mine, said he heard the honchos talking that morning as they entered this air raid shelter we were building, and said they were talking something about the war being over. So when I went down there the guys were all jabber jabber jabber to bring this light back to get a smoke and I said, Something's going on. I mean something's happening here, and about 3 o'clock in the afternoon they called us off and sent us back to camp. Well, camp was right there. We were just working right in the corner of the camp digging this shelter, and they brought us in and that evening the camp commander come up and said, From this day forward the war is now over and you will be confined here till U.S. people come and liberate you and so forth. And that was about it. So we were all joyously were sitting around there chit-chatting and saying, Hey, the war's over, hurray, hurray! And the next morning we looked out there and down around where the guardhouse was and they had several little bond fires going. They were burning all the records. Burned all the records. Well, a couple days later the Air Force came in and flew over and dropped a whole bunch of pamphlets on us and said that supplies would be dropped on us tomorrow and such and such a time or some such thing and one side was in Japanese and one side was in English. And they said any Japanese caught with any of these supplies would be prosecuted, so they pretty much left them alone. And they came over and the only time we really used the air raid shelter was when they started dropping these supplies on us. 'Cause they were just a.. they put a bunch of canned goods and all kinds of stuff in these 50-gallon drops, which I guess just fit in the bomb base, and so when they dropped them they came lose out of the

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parachutes. The parachutes wouldn't hold them and they zap! So we had to duck for cover. Anyway, then we had a problem. The English and the Dutch went out and surrounded wherever these drops came in and wouldn't let us get in there. Well, they finally hauled all the stuff into camp and there was more than enough stuff for everybody. You couldn't carry that stuff. So we kind of lined up like a buffet-style and walked through the barracks area there and oh, we had all kinds of stuff. Everything from candy bars to cigarettes to corned beef to dehydrated potatoes, and so forth. So, anyway, to then we got it in and we got their officers together and lined their crews up and said, ok, this is how we're going to do it. We're just going to divide up and everybody's going to have the same here. I just want to step out and talk to my wife. Ok, let's see where were we.

Question: You had decided how the supplies were going to...

Answer: Oh, the supplies. So we divided the supplies up and what have you, and that worked out fine, and the guys found out that they could get out of camp and they just kind of left. We were millionaires. You could buy anything you want with all the supplies you had. Particularly the candy bars and cigarettes, and so they just kind of disappeared. And nobody came through to tell us You can do this and you can do that, what have you, and oh, I guess about a week, 10 days went by so I was helping Bruce Eddie, who was a military male nurse, and we had about 60 stretcher cases in camp there with various in sundry aches and pains and ailments and what have you, and so I stuck around. We were pretty good friends and I stuck around with him. I'd lost my good friend Rogge. We were close buddies together for...and we got separated other places, and so I stuck around for awhile to help him swab out and take care of these stretcher cases and finally the only thing we could do was we talked the railroad guys coming in to bring some coal cars down, the sides dropped down on them. We just took all those cases, put them on these coal cars, closed the thing up and gave the motorman, or chief engineer on the train, took them down to Nagasaki and turned them over to the Red Cross. And they said, well, you gotta. I said, no, we gotta go back. So we got back to camp and stayed over night and gathered a bunch of stuff which we wanted and what have you, and we took some of our old clothes and all that stuff and just threw those and we gave the honcho that we had for a long time. He was an ex-Merchant Mariner, and he understood us pretty well, and he wanted to take us over to someplace to see the girls what have you. We said, no, we don't need any of that. So we gave him a lot of this dehydrated potatoes and corned beef and all that kind of stuff and candy bars and cigarettes and I traded him for a watch. We hadn't had any watches, so I got a watch, so I could tell what time it was. Then we finally turned ourselves in, went down to Nagasaki. One of the most beautiful things I've even seen in my life was a great big American flag hanging out there and I said, God, here we are. I get choked up when I do that. But it was, just amazing. I mean, the reaction you got when you saw the American flag. God you knew you were all set. So they put us on a CVE going to Okinawa and sitting up on the top deck, met an old friend of mine lives over in Port Orchard, George Salisbury. Hadn't seen him since high school. Here we're out in the middle of the Pacific, for gosh sakes. So then we were taken over to the Philippines, and I was there for about a week, 10 days, and then another friend, Bud Jonas. We grew up together on Day Island. We still get together and we go to lunch about twice a month. And so anyway, he was in the Navy and somehow or other he saw my name on a list and came over and looked me up in the 29th Replacement District, and he thought he was going to see emaciated old Drew Foss, and I'd put on I don't know how many pounds at that point because we'd inhale any kind of food we could get in us. We were still so full like you're full after

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Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner type, but we still had hunger pangs. You couldn't get any more in you, but you were still hungry. And so there, get this story, get back home, um, I, we tried to get hold of Dad. He said, I'd seen your Dad in Pearl Harbor in Honolulu. He said I'm not just sure how to get in touch with him, so we went to the Red Cross. I'd say, try to get some things, messages back to Commander Foss in Pearl Harbor area, but we never got through to anybody. And his friend was the port captain in Manila Bay, and he saw my name on a list to be headed back to U.S. on the USS Trian, so he wired Dad and told him I was on the USS Triumph. I didn't know this. This is all unbeknownst to me. So we got back to. Well, not only that. Let me tell the story about on this doggone ship. We got treated almost as bad on that ship as we did in prison camp, for God Sakes. They wanted us to swab down the latrines and do when you were sitting on the front of the bridge there and the order come, ok, form a line aft of the bridge on the port side to go to chow, and of course, we were sitting right where they would go down the hatch right in front of the bridge, so we get up and start to go down, they said, No, Captain said.. orders are, ok, form a line on the port side of the bridge, I said, we're sittin' right here, for God sakes, come on. This little guy gets out his gun. He says. Now wait a minute son, what do you think you're doing? He said, You gotta get around. He said, Look I'll throw you in the brig. I said Throw us in the goddamn brig if you want to, but we can go home standing on our head. We've been in a prison camp for almost 4 years now get the hell out of our road. We're going down to eat. And by God, they finally gave up on that department. But anyway, so get into Pearl Harbor area and this officer climbs up over the bulwarks there, came out of the pilot boat, and I, god that looks like my Dad. I'd never seen him in uniform, and I kept looking and, that must be, ah, that can't be him. He hadn't the foggiest I'd be on this boat, that's ridiculous. So anyway, finally I thought, I'd better check this out. It sure looks like him. Cap on, his scrambled eggs on, uniform and all this business, and I thought Oh, Lord. Anyway I finally jumped off the hatch and lit on his back and we, you know. Ok, we reminisced and hugged and squeezed, doggone it was great. So then he said, how would you like to get off of here and go home with me. I'm going to go home in about a couple of weeks. I said, anything to get off of this old tub. I said, this place is as bad as being in prison camp, and related the story to him about how deep the bunks were down below and they wouldn't let you come up at night. It was stuffy and hot down below and you couldn't sit out on deck and, well, anyway. To make a long story short, he said, Stand by one, and he said I'll get back to you in about a half an hour. So next thing I know.. Foss, report to sickbay. I thought what the hell, sick bay. I went down to sickbay and they said ok, well you gotta have a physical. I said, I don't have to have a physical. Why? Well, because that's the orders. I said, Ok. Give me a physical. So he says what's your rank, what's your number. I said, I don't have any. He says, everybody has to have a number and a rank. I said, I'm sorry. I don't have any. I said I'm a civilian. He said all the civilians are long gone, all the military are long gone, can't be. I said, that's what it is. Anyway, make this story short, the only way my father could get me off of that ship, they declared me as a mental case and after bring in prison for 4 years I wasn't capable of going back and being able to withstand the rigors and the problems of the civilian life, and/or the problems of the city and so forth. And that's how he got me off the ship. So I said, Ok, what do I do now? Then this doctor up at Aiea said, Oh, I don't think you need anything. When your Dad gets ready to go, just get on the ship and go back with him. Don't have to worry about it. I said, Ok, thanks for getting me off this ship. I said, Well, I know there are 6 guys that live in Honolulu that are on that ship. So I'm back aboard the ship getting these guys off, then they thought I really was nuts, getting back aboard the ship. So anyway, we did. I stayed with Dad on the...and then we finally came back together on the

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Takanis Bay you can see the pictures up there. We came back together. Got back here on November 7, 1945.

Question: Where did you come back to? San Francisco? Seattle?

Answer: No, Seattle, came right into Seattle.

Question: So when was the first time you saw your Mom?

Answer: That night.

Question: She wait in Tacoma for you?

Answer: No. She came over along side the ship and brought over a quart of milk. And my overcoat. It was delightful. Just delightful. I had a quart of milk and an overcoat. It was November. Temperature was a little cool. So, anyway that's how I got home. Then I was going to get back. You asked me a question about friendship and Japanese.

Question: Yeah, about what happened. Can you forgive them for all that?

Answer: Oh, I don't know I can forgive them for all that, but on the other hand, I don't hold an awful lot of animosity toward the Japanese. Since that time, I've been back here, I was asked to join the Seattle Japan-American Society, and I was on their board for a while and I was on the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, and then in '55 they had a tour to Japan. Pacific Coast Mayors and Chamber of Commerce tour of Japan, and Dad said, well, do you want to go? I said, Sure, I'd like to go, so we represented...and this Habino I was talking about, he kept up correspondence with them even after the war, and was Admiral Habino and we'd sent Christmas cards over with a picture of the family. So when we arrived in Narita Airport in Japan, I guess it was written up or something that this tour was coming. It was something new they were starting. Every other year they were going to come here and every other year we were going to go there. And so this little Japanese lady was pulling on my coat sleeves walking along the tarmac area there, and I forget what was going on. Finally she pulled this thing out of her purse, and showed me this picture of our family, and she said, I know you. So Mrs. Habino, the Admiral I guess has passed away since that time and she invited out to her house. I said Well, we're on the tour and if I get time when we get back to Tokyo well, we'll look you up, and which we did and had a very nice tete a tete so to speak at her house out there, and it was fine and dandy. Matter of fact, it was very enjoyable. And then on that same tour, the Counsel General here in Seattle, his mother-in-law was Madam Araki And she had a nice place over there, and when we were on this tour they took us out to her house, took this whole contingent out to her house, and she had hamburgers for us out there. So I was on that tour. So...I don't have any real animosities, but I think I've done my duty, and I don't love the Japanese, but I don't hate them either and I've got some very dear friends who were here, John and Suzy Fukiyama, and they were Nisei People and unfortunately put in prison camp and they were just as good Americans as I am, and he was Assistant Dean of Students at the University of Washington, so, but they put them in prison camp here in the states.

Question: We interviewed quite a few Nisei that were interred. They are pretty gracious about it actually, surprising.

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Answer: I think that was a bad situation, so you say, do I have any animosity toward the Japanese, well, how can I when I had some dear friends that are Japanese that, as a matter of fact on that same tour I was just telling you about, Suzy was along with us and we were down at Kyoto, and we were out to the some friends house, he was a folk scholar or something. We were out there for dinner. He said we'll drive you back to the hotel. I said, Oh, we got Suzy. It would be kind of fun to take the bus or something and go back, and so as we walked down and it was kind of a 7-11 store there, a little hole in the wall, and I said, Let's get some mandarin oranges and stuff to take back to the hotel, Suzy. Sure, walked in and in her best Japanese she asked for this, that and the other thing and the price and so forth. And the guy says, what part of the states do you come from? Just about crushed poor Suzy 'cause she thought her Japanese was going to be very good. So anyway, it's come see, come saw, you've gotta get along and that's the trouble with the whole darned world right at the moment. Nobody gets along with anybody. Nobody can understand anybody or why they think like they think and what have you. Now they have to do it with guns, so anyway.

Question: Sort of unavoidable you think that we're going to have conflict?

Answer: Pardon?

Question: You think it's unavoidable that we will have conflict in the future?

Answer: I think it's unavoidable that we're going to have conflict. It's been thus since the world began, for gosh sakes. It's been political wars, religious wars, been going on ever since the world started, for goodness sakes, so...

Question: Do you think there's any great, there's any real important lesson that should be passed on from World War II to people?

Answer: I think the lesson is that for God sakes, you gotta get along. You gotta understand the other side, look at this road rage we got on our highways. What are people thinking. I can't imagine why people get that way. I'm gonna get you, we're not at war but there's a war on the highway for gosh sakes. People somehow or another we gotta get this feeling business about don't step on my toes. I got all my rights, I'm gonna do what I want when I want and how I want, regardless of what you think. Even your neighbors you get PO'd at, so...I don't know how you're going to get over that, but...

Question: Did you know that the atomic bomb had been dropped when it was dropped?

Answer: Yes. We, they told us that Americans are dame, which means bad. They were using gas, kill thousands of people, using gas. We said, No, they're not using gas, but something else is going on. We got something else we don't know anything about. But we didn't know it was an atomic bomb but we knew there was a big blast. That's all we knew. But it was a good thing they did that. Otherwise we'd have had a real massacre between Japanese and Americans and English and what have you. There'd have been a real...I showed you that pamphlet I got out there that says what the plans were to invade Japan, and it is just absolutely preposterous. Just fantastic what we would have had to go through.

Question: So you don't think they would have given up.

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Answer: No. 'cause they were arming all civilians, they were teaching the kids and they had all these holes dug and as I look back, now, this cave thing we were digging for an air raid I'm sure they were going to use that for some kind of thing 'cause it was fairly close to an airport and right next to the railroad. Railroad ran right through there, so. Looking back, I don't think it was dug for an air raid shelter for us or them. It was dug for someplace to either hide things or have a manufacturing thing and there's. It was documented they've got old workshops, airplane factories and stuff dug in in the hills over there.

Question: When these Japanese were saying that we're bad and that we're using gas, do you think the atomic bomb was a good or bad thing?

Answer: Did what?

Question: You know, when the Japanese, their reaction saying that we were bad and that we were using gas and that we killed thousands of people. That came right after the bomb was dropped did it?

Answer: Oh, yeah. They were telling us that

Question: Did they know it was over? Did they know that they had lost the war?

Answer: I don't think so. Not at that point. Not until it was announced.

Question: Did you have a clue that salvation had finally come for you?

Answer: Well, we weren't sure just how it was going to react, but as it turned out, as I said the camp commander said ok, from this day forward, the war is now over with, and you'll be confined here until the Americans come and liberate you, till you're liberated.

Question: So when you go to a ball game or see the American flag, it's a pretty powerful thing for you.

Answer: damn right. I've got a flag hanging right out there and I fly it every day very proudly, and every place I've ever lived I've always had a flagpole. And these guys that want to burn the flag I could burn them. So here we go again. Start a conflict.

Question: What was the worst day in World War II for you?

Answer: I think the worst days was the week we spent on that tanker down in that hole when we couldn't all lay down together where it was hotter than hell and you could have given up on that trip. I could've practically. I thought this is just.

Question: Did you think about giving up?

Answer: Not really. But as I say, you know. You asked me what's the worst, well that was the worst I could think of was that heat and that suffering we did down in that hole. That's really the only suff....well, we did suffer some other things and we were cold, when we got to Sasebo and all that, but that was real torture. That was real torture being down in that hole.

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Question: What was the best day of the war?

Answer: The day the war was over!

Question: Did, was there something you thought about that kept you going?

Answer: Oh, yeah. Homeland and by God, I'm going to get there. They generally get you out and you'd sort of bow toward the sun in the morning and so forth and these guys didn't know we were bowing toward our homeland and we can say our own little prayer. We're not bowing for you, we're bowing for us.

Question: Did they have you bow, were you bowing to the emperor?

Answer: No, we didn't bow to the emperor.

Question: But that's something you did in the morning with you at the camp? You said Bow toward the sun?

Answer: Well, that's when they lined you up and counted you off in the morning to send you out to work and they said, Ok, bow to the thing there. That's when we thought about it.

Question: Did the other skipper that didn't make it, what did he look like? Do you remember?

Answer: Oh, it would be pretty hard to describe him. I don't know why you want to know that.

Question: I'm just curious what people's memories are of people.

Answer: You're gonna have to unhook this thing pretty quick because I'm going to have to go to the bathroom.

Question: ok. We're just about done, actually. I'd like to clarify something. You said you were half way between Nagasaki and Hiroshima in camp when the bomb went off?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Did you hear them or see the explosion.

Answer: No. You're 60 miles away.

Question: They weren't that big that you could see them?

Answer: Oh, gosh, no. When we left Nagasaki the only thing we recognized was the kind of marquee of stuff that was over the top of the railroad station down there, but other than that, why, we didn't see much. Only time I saw anything was on that trip I was telling you about when we went back in '55, we were down in Hiroshima and I've got pictures of the Chamber of Commerce building and shows the framework up there where the bomb went off right down there.

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Question: I have one other question real quick. The Justine Foss, what happened to it?

Answer: I don't know. I was back on Wake Island 40 years later and when the wife and I went back through there to, and um, our POW people had a convention in Honolulu and we make arrangements to get Hawaiian Airlines to charter one of their planes to fly out to Wake Island and spend a couple of nights and I was with the Assistant Commander of the island and we drove all over the island and couldn't get out on the lagoon...didn't have any boats out there anymore, and we couldn't find any evidence of the Justine at all.

Question: Did you have dreams about your time during the war afterwards? Did you dream about it when you...

Answer: Not really.

Question: Did the, has Foss ever named another tug Justine Foss?

Answer: Oh, yes.

Question: Is that common?

Answer: It looks just like that one over there.

Question: Is that common?

Answer: Oh, sure, yeah. That's no problem.

Question: Well, thank you very much.

Answer: ok, you're very welcome.