MM: Mr. Danegger, when we were talking last time you had arrived in Okinawa. I thought maybe we could backtrack just a little bit to make sure that we have your initial impressions of Okinawa. You had arrived after a very, very long voyage, and many of you on that ship were extremely ill. You had lost 40 pounds, you told me. But by the time you arrived in Okinawa, do I remember correctly, the war was over?

AD: The war was over. It ended while we were at sea and I think I made the point, I'm quite sure I did, but I'll repeat it in case I missed it. It was very interesting to me and I remember it very well that there was no celebration, no cheering, nothing, on the ship.

I suppose nothing at Okinawa surprised me very much at first. It was a rather barren island and there was a horrendous amount of fighting there. It was obvious everywhere you looked. Naha was leveled. I don't think I'm exaggerating in my long-time memory. I don't think there was a building that was standing in the entire city. They had built some roads around the area, and at first we didn't see any people. And I have no idea what they did with the Japanese. I really had no reason
to contact them—maybe they talked with somebody else. But I didn't see, except for the rare person who was hiding in the caves, I didn't see any Japanese at all, and I never had reason to inquire as to what they were doing. We actually didn't work in Okinawa as such. It was a holding station until we went on to Korea. We found out very quickly that we were in fact going on to Korea.

I did experience while I was there, well, two things. I hope I'm not repeating myself. One is we were talking about the hunting of Japanese, which was a little bit like squirrel hunting, and you really had no feeling about it. I would feel very differently if the same thing had occurred in Europe. It was an awful thing to say and I think as I look back on it, it was like a sport, although I think I repeated also, no one was ever shot, to my knowledge. Now and then somebody would be found and brought in and that was the end of it. I don't know what happened to them.

I did while I was there, for a short time—I've been thinking about this so much I'm not sure I'm repeating—go out on an LST that had a large broadcasting system of the Japanese that were telling the other Japanese on the islands close by to surrender and they would come and get them and there was a fellow in the Navy that did this. But I saw nothing except that. That was the total there. Apparently it was a cleanup crew that came and picked up any prisoners that gave up. And apparently many didn't. They didn't believe anyone.
One thing that did impress me I didn't mention. When we arrived in Okinawa, there was a sign that had already rotted and fallen over with our company's name on it. They had planned that far ahead, and I never ceased to be amazed at the advanced planning that despite what we think of the military being inadequate sometimes, but in some places there was a tremendous amount of advance planning. The sign had been there for many, many months and you almost couldn't read it, but you could.

MM: Were the troops that were in Okinawa--I assume that you associated only with the military; you mentioned that the Japanese, the people weren't there.

AD: With a couple of exceptions.

MM: Were they combat veterans? Were those the troops that had fought the horrible campaign to take Okinawa?

AD: Yes. And I did talk about the flag we put up? They thought we were rookies from the United States? These were combat troops, and I think again it was simply a holding pool for most of them to go home. There was a big B29 air base there, I just remembered it, nothing else, and an enormous number of troops. But they were preparing in this case, they were preparing to invade Japan, and this was the jump-off place to go to Japan. So the island was virtually covered with people for that move, if it became necessary. And even the military itself, I can't believe they had any way of knowing that such
an invasion would not be necessary. But it looked at times as though the whole island was one big tent. It was just covered with tents.

While I was there--this is interesting--there was a typhoon that, had there been an invasion, this would have been a major destruction to that invasion. It virtually wiped out all of the standing tents in the entire island. It was a mess. There were freight ships that were sitting on dry land. And we took shelter in one of the same caves that the Japanese were hiding in. The Okinawans had the strange habit, which is really a pretty good one, very practical and certainly for poorer people. These caves apparently had a lot of lime in them and instead of burying their people, they put them in these caves until they had disintegrated and I expect they then took the bones home. I'm not sure, but there were a lot of skeletons in this cave. We'd seen so much of this that it didn't bother us any, but we did spend most of the typhoon time in there. We had it spotted for a second storm, just in case it came. But the sheet metal from some of the Quonset huts, for example, would fly around. There were several cases where they literally were going so fast they cut someone right in half and you'd see them stuck on the side of trees, and it was just a horrendous wind. It made it unpleasant, to say the least.

MM: That's interesting. You would think that advance planning would have taken that into consideration. It must have happened
in the Philippines.

AD: You would think so. But that would have been a major delay, I'm positive. They lost at least 20 airplanes in some manner that were just lost. I saw them upside down. It really was as though a bomb had gone off there.

MM: This was about September?

AD: I'm not sure but that's not a bad guess, September.

MM: What were the circumstances then of going to Korea? You said you knew almost right away that you were going to be assigned there.

AD: When you're in the military and they say, "Pack up," you pack up. And we were told we were going to be part of a small group to go to Korea, and in fact we were. I was with the very first group that went and I saw the first people landing. I was within the first half a dozen or so to land in Korea.

MM: Where was this landing?

AD: I don't know. I've thought about this and thought about it, and I really simply cannot remember the name of the place. It was not in the south. It was South Korea, I would judge, and I'm really stretching my memory, but it was one coast or the other and I think it was on the Yellow Sea side. There was no big ceremony, although there was some, and we were welcomed with open arms by the Koreans and they thought this was a great thing, our coming.

MM: Were these villages around a port or harbor of some sort?

AD: Oh, it was a harbor.
MM: A rather substantial town?

AD: The Yellow Sea side at least of Korea has an absolutely horrendous tide. I can't tell you what it was, but if I were to guess, 30 to 40 feet would be a good guess. All the ships that use those harbors are flat-bottomed because the water runs out of the harbor and the ships sit on the bottom and then can't move again of course until the tide comes back in. In fact, to deviate for just a moment, it became a court-martial offense to drive--it wasn't mud; it was a lot of sand--to drive on those flats. Every once in a while someone would get caught with the tide coming in ahead of them and they couldn't get back again. They would put you in jail there for not protecting your own life, but you could see the water. When the tide came in, it was like a river. Well, you can imagine 40 feet of tide. That's a lot of water coming in all at one time, if in fact that's what it was, but I think that's reasonable.

But at first, as I started to say, the Koreans were very, very outgoing and welcomed the Americans there. I had no reason to know my history at that time, but I think they were occupied at that time for about 40 years. And they saw this as new-found freedom. But the one thing that I think we mentioned before we started speaking that impressed me was somehow, I really can't imagine how it happened, but I had every impression that the Government of the United States and the military had simply forgotten about Korea, totally forgotten it. We simply did not realize that it was there and there were Japanese there. It never
entered into—I was talking about the previous planning—it never entered into any kind of planning at all. It was nonexistent, totally nonexistent. In all our plans to win, we had never thought about Korea, although it was fortified, which I think very few people know. It had coast artillery guns, several military airfields, some for training of the Japanese, inter-island.

But they looked like airports that were usable in a military situation. But why we left that out, I've never understood at all. It was more evident, I suppose, when we tried to find interpreters, which we talked about earlier, I think, in that there wasn't an interpreter. And I think I did mention that they keep track of who speaks what languages as they go along, and they do a pretty good job of it, as best I could tell. But they couldn't find one single person in the entire United States Army who could speak Korean, or one they could trust. I don't know which it was. And very, very, very few Koreans spoke English. In fact, I spent a good deal of time with the only Korean I ever found who spoke English. He spoke pretty good English, too. And there weren't any others at all. So we used as interpreters/horribly difficult and—awkward isn't the word—untrustworthy way of communicating by using trusted Japanese who also spoke Korean. So if you wanted to say something to a Korean, you said it in English to the Japanese person who then interpreted it into Korean to the Korean person, and you couldn't find the right of day. By the time
you got the information, the time had already changed. But it was an extremely awkward situation, and I can't identify who those Japanese were. I was thinking about that. I really, I don't know where they came from or--they may have been Japanese-Americans. I really don't know but in general I do remember quite their English was good, sometimes just about perfect so they would have to have been there for a while though. There is an exception. Much to our surprise there were some missionaries in Korea, American missionaries, and apparently they had been there most of their entire lives. But I think traditionally the military did not use religious groups in any way at all. They certainly didn't in Germany. We didn't do it in Korea either.

MM: Would the missionaries have stayed there during the war?
AD: I think so.

MM: As in effect what, prisoners of the Japanese or under kind of house arrest?
AD: I have the feeling the Japanese did not--remember now, well, remember is the wrong word. There was never any fighting in Korea, of course, and the occupation of Korea was an occupation as we normally know countries in a great many ways. So there was no strong military rule or dictatorship that I could see. It was simply that the Japanese ran the country and had run it so long that it simply wasn't questioned, and I think that the
Japanese and the Koreans probably got along fairly well. That's the impression I had.

MM: When you were mentioning the problem of interpreting, would your trusted Japanese actually speak to a Korean in Japanese and get a response in Japanese rather than use Korean?

AD: I don't know.

MM: It occurred to me that that might have been going on as well. There were quite a few Japanese-Americans and young Americans trained in Japanese during the war, but they probably were used in Japan itself.

AD: Yes.

MM: They had great need for anyone and everybody who had some command of Japanese in Japan itself.

AD: Well, one person I spoke to was interesting, and he may well be alive and well. He was a little bit younger than I was, which means he was then 21. He was, and I never found out how he got this position, editor of the Pusan Democratic Times, and I have to back up on that. Perhaps he wasn't younger than I was, but he was very close to my age. He was married, and it just strikes me now when I say this, that would be awfully young to be editor of a newspaper. But he was one of the apparently very, very few Koreans that the Japanese, as we used to say, took under their wings. And he had a Ph.D.—that's right, he was 21 or 22—he had a Ph.D. and a commercial pilot's license. He got his Ph.D. in Japan and then was editor of the newspaper, well, it would only be a guess, but it might well be a proper guess, that the Japanese did this so they would have some control over the newspaper, a very nice person by any measure. And
I wish I had a recording like this of our conversation with him. I remember only a few things about him really. One is that he traveled with me because apparently he didn't have a car, and he liked photography, and I think very possibly didn't use photographs. I'm not sure. I have no way of knowing, but he showed me a lot of interesting things. And I continued my type of assignment work I was doing before, but I almost didn't have those assignments; I did them on my own, with occasional requests from the headquarters in Korea, but only occasionally. We were given assignments as loose as, "Photograph some of the industry that you find, but no more specific than that because they didn't know where we were and what we were doing and what was there. No one knew anything about Korea.

MM: Yes. I was curious as to why a combat photographer would be sent to Korea at that time.

AD: Well, there were only combat photographers. There weren't any others, so you were just a plain photographer obviously. And we continued living by our own means to a large extent. When we got hungry, we would find a military group somewhere and, if we wanted a regular meal, go and eat. Otherwise, we lived by our own wits, and we learned very quickly that you don't eat the food in Korea. I suppose the only thing I ate, we knew that eggs were fine. We would eat hard-boiled eggs, which were very common and easy to find, drink their sake, and that's about all.

Well anyhow, to go back to the Korean editor. When we were out sometimes, we'd get wet. We had tops but frequently
tops don't mean much on those jeeps. You still get wet. And he invited me to his home after I knew him perhaps a month or so, at least a month. But he was very conservative; he invited me to his home and we went through the thing of taking your shoes off which, when you have combat boots on, is quite a thing. Of course he just stepped out of his. Then it became a more regular thing and on quite a number of different occasions I went home with him. He always had a maid come out and bring us saki and he knew that hard-boiled eggs was all I would eat so we'd have saki and hard-boiled eggs and sit on the floor and talk. The only thing I wish I had had a tape recorder. But once I asked him if he was ever going to get married and he said, "Oh, I am married." It's the one clear thing I remember about him. He said, "The person who brings us the saki is my wife." But I suppose in the old Oriental tradition the wives were servants and I was never introduced. I was never introduced even after that, not once. That always struck me as a bit unusual since we had some sort of friendship going.

But through him I was able to go into some religious places with no problem at all, into the Buddhist temples that were there. They were in remarkably fine condition, beautifully kept up. And I was introduced to—who's in charge of the Buddhist temple?

MM: Head priest, I guess. An abbott maybe.

AD: And on one occasion, with everyone's, shall we say, blessing, actually photographed a Buddhist wedding in both motion pictures and still pictures. They must be somewhere. It was a very long
and involved ceremony with lots of conspicuously clean garments, as proper in its way as a wedding is in this country. The most interesting part of the whole ceremony, I remember, is when, for some symbolism, they killed a chicken on the ceremony. That one I'd never heard of. Well, I never heard of any of it, frankly, but I never heard of it since either. And when it was all finished, the groom and his buddies went home for a three-day drunk somewhere while the bride went home to Mother. And after all this was over, he then went to pick her up and they'd go about whatever they were going to do. But it's different. In fact, there was a good deal of toasting after the wedding. They were pretty well on their way by the time the wedding ceremony was over.

MM: How long was this into your stay in Korea?

AD: Oh, a month or two or three, I don't know, but interesting. And yet all of this you become so--and I don't like to consider myself in these terms, but you become so hardened that you don't pay as much attention as you should and nothing surprises you, nothing surprises you. Perhaps there's one thing did. I said that we were welcomed with open arms at first and because we made this absolutely horrendous mistake about forgetting about Korea altogether, we decided that the way the occupation should work--of course this came into my total viewpoint from what I saw--is to send all the Japanese home. They'd occupied the place for 40 years, now go home. Well, when you stop and think about it, you're sending people home
who've been born there and could have been 40 years old, and there were people who were 60 and 70. I don't know how old they were. All those people were packed up and sent home and they could only carry with them—and this I can remember fairly well—take with them what they could carry. And I always re-member these old people were carrying horrendous bundles of mostly clothing and sometimes other things. And even the smallest children were carrying what they could carry. I suppose this was the most important thing in my memory of it. It was a very degrading situation for the Japanese because they were, unlike the Germans, were treated—they weren't treated cruelly, but they were treated in as harsh a way as they could be treated without being cruel. There was no sympathy at all for them. I don't think we gave them medical care or anything. We did, well, one of the degrading things, we somehow thought that the Japanese all had body lice and we deloused them all before we shipped them, sent them back to Japan. And the best you can say is that everyone was miserable. It was obvious. There were a lot of people crying and there were sick carried on stretchers who were badly distressed by the whole thing. But the whole action went apparently very quickly, and we in fact did clean out all the Japanese and we left the country stark, clean of talent, all kinds of talent. To my surprise, the exception were school teachers and I think they were Korean school teachers, not Japanese. But we took away the doctors,
we took away the railway engineers, the morticians, the people who knew how to make the power plants work, virtually all city services suddenly came to a grinding halt. You couldn't run the trains, and it was a horrible mistake by any measure at all.

The end result of all this is that all these people suddenly became aware of the fact that, "Now we're left and we can't make things work." And I think a few top engineers were put back in again, but that's in memory, very dim.

MM: When was this process of repatriation started? It couldn't have been under way when you arrived. You said you were among the first to get there.

AD: No, but it was under way very quickly, and I would place the time as October or November. It wasn't bitter cold yet which it can be in Korea sometimes. We were in Pusan. I was in Pusan most of the time and that is not nearly like the North. You have a very great temperature difference there. But it still wasn't very cold; I can remember that because when it got cold you always had that special problem in picture-taking. That's in my memory chain.

MM: And these were mainly civilians that you're talking about?

AD: Civilians.

MM: Japanese troops?

AD: I didn't see any troops. Now I think it was very possible that there simply were no troops there at all, that they had been called in to fight other places. The air bases we saw all looked as though they had not been used for quite a long time.
They weren't essential. There was some navy, not much, and I think we just told them to go home. I don't think there was any formal thing that we did.

MM: Were the Japanese shipped home in Japanese ships, any that might have been left after the war? Or in American ships, too?

AD: Japanese ships. Oh, there were some troops, and this is a funny story. I went to Japan with one of those troop ships of Japanese troops. It was a good picture story. It was my idea, and I think about it some times; I was young and foolish. But I went with several thousand Japanese, the only American on the ship. And I may have told you this, but I haven't told you on the tape, I think. I had a local military MP colonel and a photographer. You had to keep contact everywhere of all kinds of people, and told him what I wanted to do and that I was using the same sort of routine I'd used in Germany to make them responsible. I think I said in Germany I always told them—it wasn't true—the burgomeister that the Military Police and that he was knew where I was going to be responsible for me that evening, and it was insurance enough that I slept without worrying. But he told the captain and some of the crew of the ship that I was going to be going with them, making some photographs, and he wanted me to have freedom to move around. But if I wasn't on the ship when we docked in Japan that they would execute the entire crew, including the captain. They took very good care of me. I had no problem.

One of the things that impressed me, I always thought that the Japanese, improperly apparently, were very clean people and
I spent some time on the naval ships and on that other ship and they were very dirty, amazingly so. I was on a military destroyer, and it smelled. It smelled just simply from lack of decent housekeeping. I'd been on American destroyers and they certainly were comparable in the way they were equipped. But by American military and Navy standards, they were a mess, a total mess.

One of the things about this was funny. I wanted to make a movie. I did. It was a very short bit of film, as you can guess. Pusan Harbor was mined and we weren't sophisticated enough with our mine sweepers, or we didn't have them--I don't know which it was--to sweep this area. So we got destroyers to go back and forth until they'd kicked off all the mines they had to kick off. Some of them would blow up the first time around. Others you'd go 20 times, and this would keep everybody off guard. Americans use the same system. And we would have the Japanese go back and forth in their destroyers until they'd blow up. And it frightened these Japanese to death. I still think of this, these little fellows. I mean, that's the way I remembered it then and I have Japanese friends now and have great respect for them. But they had only an engineer and a captain. The captain would steer himself; not the boatswain but the captain. And he would go back and forth just knowing that the mine was going to come up and blow up. And in the entire operation only one person was hurt once and he fell on a ladder because he was in such a hurry to get out of the engine room. He broke his leg or something and they were right alongside
to pick him up. We did take care of him; it was not a cruel thing at all. But I waited and waited for two days until one of them blew up and sank. I had an interesting sequence of pictures sinking a Japanese destroyer in a harbor that had been mined by the Japanese. They had no way to deactivate the mines themselves apparently.

And as time went on—I want to put this in before I forget it—we had at one time—I'm trying to think of the cause of this. They were unloading a ship of supplies, including an awful lot of beer, which people had not had at all. It was all packed in sawdust, and I have to go back to that sawdust again. Oh, I know what it was. It was munitions, American munitions, not the Japanese munitions, dumped. And they would take the munitions out in the water and dump them and somehow it caught fire and exploded. And I remember reading about the atomic bomb or hearing about it. I'm sure I read about it; I must have read about it. And I thought another one had gone off; it was that big an explosion and there were windows blasted out in Pusan and all this. People started—they too had heard about the atomic bomb and they were afraid this might have happened. And it was a mild riot situation at the time, a potential riot situation. They never actually rioted. But there were some milder uprisings from time to time and in a situation like that, I would travel with a member of the Military Police who had a mounted machine gun on top of the jeep. It was welded onto the jeep. And I've thought many times, I've wondered whether that was a good thing or a bad one because we became a threat with the machine gun but then, without it,
I was unsure of myself. Nothing ever occurred at the time. It was a nervous situation on the outset.

Well, the funny thing that happened in all this is all this beer that came off was set afire but the sawdust started to burn and sawdust is almost like gasoline. You can't put the fire out once it starts. And all these thousands of cases of beer burned up. But anyhow--

MM: That's not the happy outcome of the wine story in Germany.

AD: No, the other extreme.

MM: The repatriation ship that you mentioned?

AD: That was repatriation of soldiers. I didn't go with the civilians at all.

MM: Was this when the winter started to come on or still fairly early?

AD: I think it was fairly early.

MM: You don't know what part of Japan you went to or where these soldiers were taken?

AD: I think it was the closest part to Korea. I think they were simply just put off the ship. I have no real idea what happened after that because a plane picked me up and brought me back again.

MM: I see. Did anything special happen on this ship? Were you able to speak to anyone? Were you the only American on the ship?

AD: I was the only American and I don't think anyone spoke English. As I remember, there was no English spoken, and you become very proficient with sign language. And of course, as you know, I've
traveled an enormous amount since then and I would have no hesita-
tion to go to Siberia although I speak not one word of Russian.

MM: Were these very young troops that were being repatriated back to
Japan?

AD: Ne. In fact, as I think about it, they were older. Again, my memory's very dim but if I were to guess, they were the older contingents of Japanese forces. And I'm left with the impression that the Japanese never really worried very much about Korea, although they should have because if we were going to attack the mainland Japan, well, that was/logical step-off point. And I think, from my weak knowledge of geography there that it's a good deal closer than Okinawa. But again, it was just passed by.

I did photograph some of the fortifications there. There were coast artillery guns, for example, and the troops simply walked off and left them. They left plates on the table. Just boom, they were gone. There was nothing disturbed at all. I think I told you another time we found a military training field and two of us had some flying experience. And none of us could figure out how to make the fuel combination. They mixed alcohol and ether, no, alcohol and castor oil. I think that's it, or ether and castor oil. I should have that in my memory but it was a mixture anyhow. And we mixed what we thought was about right—I studied chemistry once—and we fired up a plane and we got it to run quite well. In fact, we ran one for about half an hour just to see how the mixture would work and it didn't seem to overheat. But all the instruments were in Japanese and we didn't speak any. You have to be a little bit crazy, I suppose, to do
a lot of things, and we flew it up. We ran it up and down the field for a while and both of us took it off about six or eight feet, never far enough so that we couldn't get back down again while we were on the same runway strip. And we gave that up, I don't know why. I think both of us lost our nerve flying around at all, just up and down the same air strip.

MM: I still have a question or two about this experience on the trip, repatriation ship.

AD: It was only one night.

MM: Just one night? What is it, about 120 miles if you went from Pusan?

AD: It's not far.

MM: Maybe it was to Fukuoka or some place, I would guess, as a near point. What was the mood among these troops? Could you tell at all? Were they somewhat upset or grim or happy, exhilarated maybe to be going back to Japan?

AD: Oh, no, no. I had no feeling. There wasn't either. You put our troops on a ship and they would sing or play the guitar or something, and you didn't see this at all. I'm not sure that that was traditional for someone who had been in the army anyhow.

MM: And you were picked up immediately and taken back to Korea? So you didn't happen to observe how these soldiers were greeted on shore or who, whether it was army people who greeted them or--

AD: That's part of the story I'm missing.

MM: How many troops in your area would you guess? You said that we made or seemed to have made no plans for Korea. Was the American military presence very visible?

AD: Very formidable, very formidable. If I had to pull a wild figure
out and that's all it is, southern Korea did not have perhaps as few as 1,000 troops. But I did find one post that was far away from anything; I never quite figured out what they were doing there, but it was two or three companies, a small group. In fact there's a funny story in that, too.

I went to make movies. Somebody was getting a high-level decoration and this was a routine I had to go through/ passing papers and shaking hands in a university. And you pack up all this motion picture equipment, and I had someone fly me there. They were apparently on the radio with them and told them where I was going to land. And the pilot took me to the wrong airfield, and I waited and waited as you do in that type situation. You're self-sufficient and you always carry something to eat. It got dark and I got out my sleeping bag and slept all night. The Koreans were still friendly at this time. And the next morning I stopped a person with an oxcart who was able to communicate where I wanted to go. I had a map, and he was pointing in the direction where it was and gave me a ride. I rode on the oxcart about half a day with all my equipment, finally got there and they went to the wrong airport, of course, didn't know where I was. I unpacked everything and you have lots and lots of equipment. The camera itself is only about this big and I forgot it after all that.

Well anyhow, it was interesting in the fact that we were then very open with the Koreans and this situation I started to allude to several times now deteriorated very rapidly. And perhaps the strongest thing I can say about our whole relationship there is
that, I mean, I never experienced anything quite so strongly. The Koreans became extremely unhappy with the Americans and in the extreme, and the word was everywhere. And the Koreans, when I drove into town, all of them, including the smallest children, would turn their back on me. And that's a very devastating thing to experience. Remember now I was 21 years old, 22. They'd all just simply turn around wherever they were, and you have to experience it. Saying it is one thing and experiencing it is something else again.

MM: Was this because they suspected you of just replacing the Japanese as occupiers? Or they were angry that the country was not being run properly?

AD: My own reasoning was that we botched the whole business up, and we did.

MM: Only paying attention to their freedom.

AD: They were right. We botched it very badly. And as I remember, we started bringing the Japanese back to fix up some of this botching but as you can well imagine, you have a whole new set of problems again for at first you throw them out and then you ask them to come back again, and I'm sure their coming back was a temporary arrangement. But you can't teach a person to be a medical doctor in six weeks or six months, even in some cases six years. So we made a mess of the whole business.

Despite this, my friend in the newspaper, for example, and I stayed friends. And the problem seemed to be less in the cities than in the country. I don't know why, but perhaps the city
people could pull themselves together enough to make it all work. And the individual farmers stayed reasonably friendly. Farmers are always friendly, it seems, wherever else you go. They stayed that way and we were very free and let us photograph some farms, which we did, and some businesses kept working.

Oh, one of them is interesting in all this. I had a fairly high-level request from somewhere. They wanted motion pictures and still pictures of a local house of ill repute, and that was an education in itself. As you might expect, the best I can remember it, everyone was very friendly, very cordial. I was even offered the services of the house, on the house, to speak. I let that one go. In fact, everyone was warned about the sixteen things you could catch if you did that sort of thing. Apparently the warnings were sufficient to keep people alive. Oh, and I remember, too, they very proudly wanted everyone to see that they all had health certificates from a local doctor.

Well, Korean homes themselves, I think are in strong contrast over the very dirty conditions in the Japanese military but very clean homes and clean Korean people. In fact, they prided themselves on their cleanliness, and this house that I was photographing, that was spotless, in beautiful condition and decorated about the way you might imagine a place like that in very extreme colors. It was meant to be an experience, I suppose, and I suppose it was.

But another time I photographed a noodle factory and the interesting thing there was—well, we've always been somewhat planetary conscious here. They dried the noodles out in the sun, hung them
on sticks and dried them in the sun. It seemed strange. But they had what looked like a fairly efficient kind of factory except for that noodle drying. I don't know what they did on rainy days. They weren't covered; they were out in the open.

Well, as time went on, this ill feeling--there are always some men in the military, any military anywhere on earth, who are out finding local girls, a subject we were on just a moment ago. And they did and they frequently got into the black market, as there always is. And after the initial move by the Americans, the hostility of the Koreans became very evident. And there were still lots of, I suppose, Japanese swords around. And their method simply of showing their unhappiness was to chop people up, and they would chop them up into pieces that were really quite small and they would do that with the bones. And they did that all over and in quite substantial numbers. And to the best of my knowledge, and I asked someone about this, this was never recorded in papers in this country at all. It was simply a part of news that was totally ignored. But it got to be so that you were foolish if you didn't have a weapon somewhere with you. I personally felt in more danger toward the end in Korea than I felt in Germany during anything but combat. We never felt that the Germans were going to do anything, but here some Koreans were fanatical enough they were doing in their share of Americans and frequently they were done in by sword and really violent death, even they were photographed, standard procedure to make a record, and there were lots of them. And it made you fear for your own life, too. You didn't know who was doing what to whom.
MM: These were officers and regular enlisted men?
AD: Anyone, that's all. It didn't make any difference.
MM: How long did it take for this change of attitude?

END SIDE I, BEGIN SIDE II

MM: I was asking you how long it took for this change of attitude to take place?
AD: A very short time. It was three or four months but it was never—somehow there was this mixture of bitterness and ordinary life which seemed quite satisfactory. I have trouble putting one category into the other one. Too much time has passed.

MM: Do you have any other recollections about these Japanese civilians who were earlier repatriated? You said they just could carry very few things with them. Did you see them lined up marching in to the harbor or marching to their ships? In long treks?
AD: Oh, yes, I saw them go onto the ships.

MM: A substantial number of Japanese?
AD: Substantial numbers, thousands, at least low thousands. But I think that most of them were sent to Pusan as being closer to the place they were going.

MM: An embarkation point?
AD: I suppose I may have seen great numbers of them and, as I said or something before, they sprayed sulphur powder on the men, women and children, anything. They just put a hose down their front side, another one down their back side and very disagreeable for them and very disagreeable to me, too. And they were moved very quickly. You'd they were loaded up and see several hundred of them up here and away they went
Oh, among other things though, again as part of this degrad-
attitude, we took virtually all of their money and anything that
looked like a weapon, even remotely so. Now I never saw or heard
of a body search being made or even a luggage search. Neverthe-
less, they were told to give up and perhaps we knew enough at the
time to know that you tell them and they would do it. I knew of
no violence or physical handling of people at all, not any rec-
collection of it. But we collected all the money, all the Japanese
money. And we stored it in a round, oh, several times the size
of this office, and they would collect it in dufflebags and dump
it in—shake it out like shaking leaves out of a trash bag in
your yard. And the humor again that comes into this—there's
always some. If there isn't some, you make it. This one was—
we were convinced that one person with us, he was telling a true
story, that his family were missionaries in Japan. And he had
heard from them, not in quite a long time but had some reason—
apparently he did have reason to show us through the American
military that they were alive and I think had some communication.
And he said, "I just wish there was something I could do for them."
So we did something for them. We, through some pretense or other,
got in the money room and filled a dufflebag with money, absolutely
filled tight with money. And I can't make any guess at all as
It to what was in there because we didn't count it./ was like putting
leaves back in that bag again or shaking them out. We just did
it the other way, filled it all up, put a big military lock on it
and sent it to someone in the military very close to his parents
and said that it was things that he wanted them to have. We
found out later in fact that they did get the money. No one
was counting anyhow. It was never accounted for by anyone.

You also had your selection of Japanese swords, too, that
we picked up. I have one at home today for whatever. Another
one that I think of, in the process of all this I became, well,
let's say I was befriended out of necessity, in part, by the main
situation. But if I remember it was the managing editor, foreign
type, of the San Francisco Chronicle had signed on as a purser
on a food ship which would indicate, now that I think about it,
that there were troops somewhere because he had a whole shipload
of food. He had a whole shipload of beer, too. But I had very
little to do with military during that time. I was with civilians.

But he wanted this, and we apparently were not allowing re-
porters in. I never met one.

MM: I was just going to ask you that.

AD: I met lots of reporters in Europe from time to time, and we would
help each other but in this case, apparently he wasn't let into
Korea but by being a purser on a food ship, the food ships were
refrigerator ships and they would anchor or dock until the food
was gone. You see, they were a floating refrigerator. And he
said he would trade me a place to stay and food in exchange for
my letting him ride with me. Why, it was great. He was good
company, I was traveling alone, and he was a very bright fellow,
and in fact we did this. He picked the stories. He knew where
they were anyhow and he would write the stories that I would make
photographs of. I didn't give him my photographs though. They were processed in Seoul. In fact I'd only occasionally see them. But he too I remember was somewhat disturbed by this and I suppose if I were doing some research on this, the San Francisco Chronicle might be a place to look during that time. I knew that he did a story on me, just the life of a photographer in Korea, and I did give him some photographs of that, I think. I haven't thought about that one in years but it was in the magazine section or something like that. But it would be about—the time frame was very narrow there and his reporting might be there.

MM: Around in November or December?
AD: Yes. I left I would have guessed January or February, no later than that. I was trying to think how I got back. Oh, I came back by ship.

MM: What other kinds of American civilians would be in Korea at that point?
AD: I didn't see any.

MM: Red Cross, anything like that?
AD: I didn't see any at all. I think the whole thing was such a bewildering situation that in the headquarters, they had a special headquarters. But I never really got a feeling what they were doing, unlike all the other places where I knew what was going on at headquarters. I didn't there.

MM: Was that General Hodges? Was General Hodges the commanding general in Korea at that time?
AD: Gee, I hadn't even thought about that name but I think you're right. And we got acquainted with one brigadier general whom I
don't know any more, but there was an interesting change in military attitude at that time, too. Because the war was suddenly over, there was a great relaxation among the officer and enlisted man relationship because the general officers, many of them, were not West Point trained or career military people. They had moved up in rank very quickly. I remember one fellow I was with would always greet a general by slapping him on the back and say, "How are you?" Well, you just don't do that; you didn't do it during the war and you didn't do it very long after the war. At that time you could manage it with no trouble at all.

There was a lot of flexibility. At times I've thought of that champagne and nurses in Okinawa. Well there people simply forgot about rank and you picked your friends and went on from there. You tend to think about the funny things, I think, and forget about the others.

But while I was there, from all the jeep riding, I got a kidney problem and I had a swelling that was like kidney stones and they still weren't sure what it was. But on Christmas Eve, I remember, and that's a bad time to be sick in the military because no one will take care of you. And I was taken to the hospital, we lived very close to the hospital and some of the nurses I knew, in the process of a cure a tube is put into your kidney which has to stay open. Otherwise you could die, literally. And here I am 21 years old or 22 years old and my friends, the nurses, come by and make sure that everything was dripping all the time.
It was a very embarrassing time, very embarrassing.

So that does make some sense; now I have a time frame. It was two or three weeks after that that I left Korea because I had a lot of trouble traveling because my normal functions weren't working the way they should. It took several days before they became normal again. And it was interesting, too, because we were so few in number that we were being discharged at a rate somewhat in proportion to how long you'd been in, also in proportion to their ability to replace you. And there were so few of us that I represented the entire--most of the groups leaving worked as entire units and I was the entire unit and got in all kinds of trouble because no one would believe that I was the whole company. And we left there; we went by train. I can't remember who was running the trains. They had a lot of trouble with the Korean trains. If you rode on a train from time to time, if the military was using the train, you would take turns guarding the engineer to make sure that he would keep on going because they would stop and visit. I remember one particular one; he would always stop in this town and visit his girlfriend for a couple of hours and let the train sit there steaming away. We broke that up but we had to do it at gunpoint. So we didn't have too much respect for the Koreans. It was hard to distinguish, although we could, we learned to distinguish the difference between Japanese-Koreans and there were a few Chinese. I don't know where they came from, but they were conspicuously different, and some Russians, too.
MM: Were the Japanese-Koreans, they were permitted to stay? They were considered Koreans?

AD: Japanese and Koreans.

MM: Oh, I thought you said Japanese-Koreans.

AD: No, Japanese and Koreans, most of them from these marriages, of course. At one time we lived in a house, shortly after we got there, where there was someone who we thought was a Japanese-Korean or perhaps the other way around but anyhow, she was not repatriated back to Japan, a lovely girl who—and we treated her like a sister; that's the best way of describing it. But she took care of the house for us and did some cooking for us, too, and we played some Japanese games together and other things, although we didn't speak each other's language. And all this time, as I say, she was treated as a sister, not as a servant, nothing else. And I think she washed our clothes for us. No, she sent them out. We had our clothes beaten on the rocks with stone, other stones. Had our clothes beaten with stones; beaten by a stone on other stones. Let's straighten it. And I was very impressed, too—there are a lot of bits and pieces in this thing I know, it's not very organized. The Koreans themselves wore a lot of white, white silk I think it was, and absolutely spotless. And considering all the dust and dirt and things in the streets, we always were amazed at how white they were able to keep their clothing. Even people in the fields would be wearing white if they weren't dressed in total farm clothes. That's one of the other unusual impressions I had.
The number of older people, older Koreans, doing very, very heavy work. They would carry straw in these baskets/hay, whatever, that made them look very small. They had huge, enormous piles and they would walk them to market and there were many, many miles that they would walk. It was the only way to travel, either that or oxcart. I never remember seeing a vehicle, a powered vehicle. I can't recollect ever seeing one.

Oh, another interesting thing that happened; it's interesting how all this comes back to you. Again, we were free agents moving around by ourselves very often, and in the early times when we could move very freely, we traveled, of course, by jeep. But the people, nice as they were, had total disregard for vehicles. They simply wouldn't move; they'd walk in the middle of the street, and if a vehicle came up behind them, they wouldn't even move. The one thing they feared, and I never remember seeing one, but maybe the Japanese had them, but I never saw a tank. But they feared tanks, and somehow we managed to get—and I have no idea how we did this thing; I never saw any heavy equipment at all—get a tank siren and put it inside of the jeep, and that way we could move. Again, it shows very little regard for the people, but horns didn't mean a thing to them. With the tank siren they would jump, a horrendous thing. And in the early times when people were very friendly, we'd be greeted in the town by what I assume were town officials, people of some importance and we were told—we had a little bit of indoctrination. One of the things
we were told was to never refuse a gift, and a typical gift were chickens which we were afraid to eat, frankly. But we'd get live chickens and they were tied up by their feet, and we would take them and put them in the back of the jeep so they could squawk and jump around and make a mess. We always kept them because we were told that was the proper thing to do, and we gave them to people when we were some distance away. I hope the word never got back to the others.

MM: One thing you mentioned in passing was the atomic bomb. When the bomb was dropped, you were on your way to Okinawa?

AD: Yes.

MM: I'm curious as to how someone like yourself off in Korea, reading, I suppose, only what? Stars and Stripes and maybe--

AD: That's all.

MM: That was it, I guess. What was your understanding of the bomb and its power?

AD: It wasn't that startling, strangely. I don't remember its being a startling thing at all. We were just thankful the whole thing was over. You see, we had no publications at all on that ship, nothing, absolutely nothing. We were totally out of touch, so that there was a void there. I saw in the southernmost city that was bombed in Japan--

MM: That's when you were with the repatriation--

AD: I was on the outskirts of that at one time and I don't know why I flew there and made a few photographs, and I won't think there was any restriction on moving around despite the fact today they say that all that radiation got to you. It didn't get to me.
MM: But you flew over to Hiroshima?

AD: I was on the ground, and I made a few photographs for the record. I don't know why I even made them. It must have been photographed many times before. You don't think of what someone else is doing. You assume that you're the only one and most of the time you're right, in fact. But in this case of the day would dictate. I'm sure that had been photographed hundreds of times by then. Had there been a lot of radiation in fact, it would have disturbed the film. I know that today; I didn't know it then. But it didn't at all, so I don't know what the level of radiation is. When the blast goes off, I don't know which goes further, the radiation or the radioactivity, the effects of just the air blast.

MM: Once you did get to Korea, how were you and the other troops kept informed of what was going on in the world? Was it strictly Stars and Stripes? Or did you have some overseas editions of Time or Newsweek?

AD: Oh, no. It was Stars and Stripes exclusively and then only on rare occasions. There was very little communication. We did get mail but we weren't sent publications at all. There was a void there.

MM: That's a long time before the Far Eastern Network station was set up for the troops in English.

AD: Oh, yes. There was nothing of that nature. Virtually everything was word of mouth and you reached the point where you started to discount some of it, of course. You don't have to believe what you hear. And the whole military structure becomes so informal except for your personal mail. They make big efforts to get those to you. It was a superb job, it just always amazed me. When I
went from--to back up--I mentioned a little bit, when I went from Europe to Panama, mail was waiting for all of us in Panama and these were troops that were arbitrarily picked out, not big organizations and they still felt the mail was important enough to fly it to get there ahead of us. You have to give the mail a lot of points, and I always did.

I was trying to think of some of the other impressions I had of Pusan. Pusan was a--today I've seen photographs of it, a big, bustling city. But at that time it was pretty well broken down and not too large, as I remember. But what I should point out, too, there was absolutely no military damage whatsoever in Korea and I think that should be on the public record. But we did see at one time, we were invited to see some Korean dancers. One of the things that impressed me was in the theatre the seats were all so small we couldn't sit down. They were not very comfortable. You did sit on them but barely.

I'm trying to think of some of the other people that I saw. I think I'm beginning to run out of--oh, I was in North Korea when we met--am I right on this? Did we meet the Russians there, too? I think we did. The line wasn't very firm North and South.

MM: Yes.

AD: That must be a new line.

MM: Yes, drawn in great haste.

AD: And I think it was Russians we saw. We saw a fair number of what we called, and I remember, White Russians because Russians are, as we all know, in all colors, too. But it was a strange thing to see them down there living in Korea. Not in large numbers, but
here and there, it was just very strange to see any White Caucasian person, and they all spoke Korean. None spoke English, and I have no idea what they were doing, none whatsoever.

Oh, another interesting thing. Everywhere in the world, it would seem, there are orphanages and there was never any—the same as the religious groups too, I suppose, never any harsh feeling at all against Americans in the orphanages. In fact, we would go out of our way to help take care of them. We had to eat C-ration but with those we'd get cookies, loosely called "cookies" and hard candy which we'd save for the orphans. And we would regularly go around and anyone that had any, we'd ask for them to take them to the orphanage. We were shown around there and they lived a quite reasonable life, well organized and.

Well, another time—well, they did not suffer any real shortages nor apparently did the people. The people were, within the limits, I think well taken care of. And then they were following exactly the same tradition that the Japanese had followed and I think they were getting a little nervous about it now where the elder in the family ran the family and the entire family lived together. I always remember the older people with these hats that are made of hair they would wear with their white gowns and sit on the front porch. They had retired and you could tell how wealthy a man was by how big his hat was. I don't know where the hair came from, but they were interesting and always very nice looking and kind acting. And there was never any hostility there either. The hostility was spotty.
is the best way I can describe it, I suppose, and there are bad elements, too, in every area.

Oh, another memory has come back to me. I remember I made photographs of prisoners being taken away.

MM: Regular convicts?

AD: These were Korean convicts and they were chained together and moved about with baskets over their heads. And they were a strange looking sight. That's the total of my memory of that thing, but I do remember the baskets over their heads and the fact that they were moved in a group. And I think the Koreans, they were armed all the way. It's the only time I can think of, the only memory of any arms anywhere there.

The schools there seemed to be uncommonly well organized. One school I photographed all the children wore uniforms. I don't think it was a religious school. And apparently they were quite disciplined. For children I can remember there would be no appearance of a teacher ever having to tell them what to do. And, oh, they would have, the whole school would come out and do exercises, for example. I think perhaps the Japanese still do this. But the schools themselves, unlike, from what I've heard, the Chinese schools, were heated and by any measure, quite respectable. In fact, I lived—and why this schoolhouse was empty, I can't remember, but I lived in a schoolhouse for a while, just two of us. And there was no heat there, but they weren't going to heat the whole school, I'm sure, just for one room and we had plenty of blankets. We had problems—we didn't see many rodents. The country was reasonably clean but there was a rat in there and it
would come and wake us up by jumping on us at night, jumping on our sleeping bags, and it got to be a nuisance. We thought we had a nice place to live; by many standards we did. So we knew how to stop a rat; we got a big Navy flashlight and a machine gun, literally. The rat came, we shone a light on him and shot him with the machine gun. One little detail we forgot. When you shoot a rat with a machine gun, there's rat all over half the room, and the next day we had to move out. But we never worried about, we never thought about that sort of thing. It was you and the rat and he was gonna go so we could sleep.

Another time, to show you how discipline goes, and this was a funny one, too. It started to get cold near the end, and they were very short of stoves again because we must have thought about occupying Japan. We never thought about occupying Korea, and we had all kinds of strange choices from time to time. But we couldn't get a stove. Everything we tried we couldn't make it. So we decided that it was just too uncomfortable to be without a stove and we would even write our own orders to go places. We wrote orders to fly to Seoul, which we did, and had a plan ahead of time. We knew what day we were going and the officers were having some big party somewhere. So while they were off at their officers' club or whatever having a party, we went to the officers' quarters, tent, and we knew they had a stove, would have to have in any of these tents. We brought a crate with us, too. We took the stove, stovepipe, the plate to go under it, everything. There was a thing to wire it to hold the stovepipe up. We packed it up in this crate and marked it "Photographic Film, Do
Not Open" and shipped the whole thing by air back to Pusan again. I don't know what that film cost the military, but we didn't think about that. It's too late for them to prosecute now.

MM: Well, Seoul, so you did get up to that part of Korea?

AD: Oh, yes, I was in Seoul quite frequently and Seoul was interesting, too, in that it had very, very few buildings more than two or three stories high. It was an enormous country town. and That's the best way I can describe it. Dirt streets, farm work going on on the corners, wheat being threshed the way they did by beating it and then throwing the wheat up in the air so the husks would blow away. But it was a very large townlike place. It was like some of the towns I visited when I was in Turkey, the country towns, in fact quite similar in some ways. Again, when I was there, I guess it was before there was any bitter feelings between the Koreans and the Japanese, occasionally there we would notice some women didn't want to be photographed. I've seen this in other countries. They were suspicious of the camera, but only some. And then most others were very open and they'd just go ahead and go about their business. They weren't really conscious of you. It was not pleasure or displeasure at all, no sign of any feeling. In fact, there was very little sign of feeling anywhere. We never saw, for example, Koreans begging. They were not hungry. I was told about black market. I wasn't aware of it at all. There was nothing for sale that I knew about. I don't remember anyone buying anything, and I brought no souvenirs back. People tend to collect those things in Korea, nothing at all.
Oh, another interesting thing: it all comes back after a while. What is garlic cabbage or bean?

MM: Akimshi.

AD: Akimshi? Well, we would always say, and I believe it, that you could smell a Korean kimshi if he was downwind from you, 100 yards away. But my clothes when I--I remember this now. When I came home, that garlic odor was in my clothes to the extent that when I came home, the first thing my mother did was pick up my duffel bag and put it on the back porch. The odor apparently was just tremendous, and we had become so accustomed to it, we didn't notice it. We didn't eat it either, by the way. I did try, with some reluctance, I remember, from the gentleman from the San Francisco Chronicle who was great on trying foods, and he'd been everywhere, apparently, and he would try anything anywhere. I never had his nerve but from time to time he would convince me to eat some things, and I had pickled octopus I remember, among other things. And he said the fish was always fresh and I'd trust him. He'd eat at open roadside stands with dust and dirt, some kind of fish, and it meant nothing to him. But he would stop many times at these places and buy something to eat. I wouldn't get near them.

Fishing was a substantial industry and many towns were just simply fishing villages. The Koreans are apparently very fond of fish, no problem. And there are quite a number of islands apparently down between Pusan and Japan, quite a string of them, and I visited those from time to time. And these too, they were not unlike some of the villages and the towns off the coast of England
in appearance, little tiny communities of combination fishermen and farmers that had been there a long time. During the war the Japanese didn't even go there. They just bypassed that all. Why again, we never considered those in the occupation of Japan is a mystery to me. It may have been they were so close to Japan it was unwise to fortify them before the fact because the Japanese could fly there very easily and it would just make it too dangerous. I'd never thought of it quite that way which may have been the reason we didn't go to Korea, too and consider it a jumping-off place because the Japanese could fly there and fly home again.

MM: You mentioned--what was it--in talking about Europe and the comparison between the conditions in Europe and the conditions in Okinawa and the conditions in Japan, that you've been back many, many times subsequently to Europe.

AD: Yes, two dozen, three dozen times.

MM: Have you ever been back to Korea?

AD: No. In that and I don't think it's necessarily part of the tape, I would always travel—I never paid my way to Europe and I would travel either one of three ways. I would take tour groups to Europe, usually college students, not exclusively at all though, at first bicycle trips and then I would organize my own groups and we went on camping and mountain-climbing trips. Then I would occasionally speculate, make photographs that I would sell back in this country. I would do it without any advance market, which is a pretty risky way to do it. But I never once failed to pay for my trip. I didn't make a lot of money, but I didn't lose any
money in the process. And I've always tried to figure out some way to do this to Japan or Korea. Otherwise I've never had a desire to--

MM: You haven't been to Japan then either?

AD: No, except for the few hours I was there, and that's all.

MM: You only know then through mass media what a bustling economy both the Koreans and the Japanese have?

AD: That's all I know, nothing else. I'm curious enough, sure, I would like to go. But to go back to Korea, I never had a strong desire to do this. I have a good friend who visits there frequently and I hear a lot about it from him. I don't see it but I hear about it and its very strong economy. He's a director of the World Bank. But I would be interested sometime in reading about the transition from the time I was there to the things we got into to today. I never really felt--I was never too comfortable there. That may be a factor.

And one point I want to make because I thought about this. I think perhaps our treatment of the Japanese to some extent, certainly the Koreans but only some--to me they received no harsh treatment from us except for our stupidity and that was pretty harsh though. It might well be that that same feeling that we had in segregation in this country might have carried over into our feelings for the Japanese. You could identify a Japanese by looking at them and you could identify a black by looking at them or a latino or whatever. There may be some correlation there; I'm not sure because we've always--when I grew up in Delaware, Delaware was the Deep South originally. And
blacks were always looked down upon. There was no succeeding black that I ever knew or heard of. That's why most of them go in the military. And perhaps the same feeling was with the Japanese. We didn't--when we see people like you, you trust them, as we did in Germany. You'd take a man prisoner one day and he's your cook the next in the dining room. And usually there were guns around and no one would worry. A prisoner's a prisoner and you take them on good faith and they accept it. But you wouldn't dream of doing that with a Japanese. I don't think it was ever thought of. I never remember in Okinawa, there must have been Japanese somewhere, but there were no Japanese merchants anywhere. I didn't see them. They were simply locked up, off in the prison camps. We had a very low opinion of the Japanese where we did not have necessarily of the Europeans.

MM: The same as you felt for the Koreans?
AD: We tried to this through our propaganda but, well, we tried and with some success.

MM: And you felt the same unease in Korea?
AD: In Korea you get away from that sort of thing with Japanese, but we of course had experienced no fighting with the Japanese. We were in a kind of naive situation nor were we indoctrinated about the Japanese at all because we were in Europe. And I suppose we would have gotten some in Okinawa had there not been an end to the war, but it was never suggested nor was it on the ship.
fact, we didn't do anything on that ship.

MM: That's really a very fascinating point and I think would be a good way to end the taping.

AD: Appearances, I'm appearance conscious, of course. A photographer that isn't isn't a photographer. But I thought of that after I last talked, and I think there is a connection that might be valid.

MM: It's very interesting making comparisons between fighting the Germans and turning around.

AD: Oh, another interesting fact and I've just about, I've used up my memory now. I never remember, and I thought of this afterwards, I never remember speaking to a Korean or a Japanese with the single exception of that newspaper editor in any authority. There was a total absence, apparent absence of government. They must have been there somewhere but I didn't see them. I don't remember ever seeing a police officer. Perhaps they were all Japanese, too, I don't know. But you were free to move about and there was no one in the middle at all. And everywhere in Europe there was always someone in charge in any country and even in Germany, after a place was taken, the civilians were never taken, that is captured and put in prison camps. And there always seemed to be a burgomeister and some sense of order and someone in charge. We would see museums occasionally in Europe and there were still people there to run them and take care of them and try to keep you from taking them. They were nervous, of course. That didn't seem to exist there at all. For example, I was talking about
photographing a noodle factory. I never remember anyone being in charge. There must have been, there had to be someone, but there was no authority possibly because you couldn't speak with them anyhow. They couldn't speak with you and maybe they threw their hands up, I don't know.

It was also very different from Europe in that in Korea there were no real things of value that would cause the kind of soldier that we don't like to think about Americans to take. There was no furniture except for that one house we stayed in that had—and there we slept on the floor the way the Koreans did on the mats. And we respected their house; we always took our shoes off before we went in. And there was a girl that kept a fire in the stove to keep the floors warm. They had rice paper walled partitions which I'm sure were never damaged. Well, the two weren't comparable in that sort of thing. You had a lot less respect for German things but there in combat there was an entirely different feeling about money and things of value and not of value.

I may have told you this back a bit; it was interesting. One place we used Dresden china and rather than wash them—we couldn't wash them anyhow; there wasn't any water. When we finished eating, we threw the plate out the window, that was the end of it. I shudder about that some days. Unless you have some questions, I think—

MM: No, I think that it raised very, very fascinating things in my mind that I have to now do some work on it.
AD: I hope I mentioned Stilwell. I'm reasonably sure, I thought about that.

MM: Oh, yes, you are right. There was a Stilwell. I didn't realize it was the Stilwell.

AD: I think it was Old Vinegar Joe. I'm reasonably sure.

MM: I meant to look in a couple of volumes that I have on Stilwell. I haven't done it myself yet. But I do want to thank you very, very much.

END OF INTERVIEW