NORTH TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

NUMBER

212

Interview with

John J. Dubroff

May 18, 1974

Place of Interview: Austin, Texas

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello

Terms of Use: Open

Approved: John J. Dubroff

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Oral History Collection

John Dubroff

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello

Place of Interview: Austin, Texas   Date: May 19, 1974

Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing John Dubroff for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on May 19, 1974, in Austin, Texas. I am interviewing Mr. Dubroff in order to get his reminiscences and experiences and impressions while he was stationed at Schofield Barracks during the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Now Mr. Dubroff, to begin this interview would you very briefly give me a biographical sketch of yourself. In other words, tell me where you were born, when you were born, your education--things of that nature. Just be very brief and general.

Mr. Dubroff: I was born in Brooklyn, New York, on April 1, 1920. I went into the Army in 1939, in June, and got assigned to Hawaii.

Dr. Marcello: Why did you decide to enter the Army in 1939?

Dubroff: Well, for the simple reason that times there were tough, no jobs. Whatever they paid you an hour, I made more in the Army. They were paying me anywhere from twenty-five cents an hour to fifteen cents. I was working in a tie factory and working for a boss there. He was like a Simon Legree. He stood over me with a whip, and I was working underneath a twenty-five watt lamp looking at rainbow ties. And in them days the ties were highly colored, and he started hollering and he says, "Come on! Hurry up!" And I told him, "Now you can blow it out of your stack and swivel! I quit!" I decided to take a walk to the Bowery. Not to the Bowery, rather, but they had an aquarium down at the Battery.

There was these big signs: "Join the US Army--Travel--Adventure" and so forth. I went to the recruiter, and I said, "I'd like to join the Army." He says how old am I. And I told him. I said I was nineteen. And he says, "Alright, you'll have to get your parents' signature." I got the papers and I brought it home, and I said to my mother, "I'm going into the Army." And my mother said, "Well, I'm not going to sign it. I have to wait for your father to come home." When my father

came home, he hit the ceiling. He says, "You're not going into the Army if I can't support you, but you'll just have to stay. No, I don't want you in the Army." But my uncle said, "Let him go."

So I enlisted in the Army and went to Fort Slocum, New York. From there I went to the Brooklyn Army Terminal and embarked upon the USAT Republic, which was a troopship, and went through the Panama Canal to the Pacific and to Hawaii.

Marcello: This brings up a very interesting point. In those days, on a great many occasions, you would actually take your recruit training at your permanent station.

Dubroff: That's affirmative. Right. We were doing, what they call now, OJT. In other words, we were given our jobs and learning how to do right-face and left-face and a correct hand salute by the people there who you worked under. In other words, during your OJT training, they taught you how to march, and they taught you a proper hand salute and to recognize a noncommissioned officer from an officer. And I was assigned to the . . . at that time there was the 11th Signal Company up until the time when they formed the 24th and 25th Divisions,

and I was assigned to the 24th Signal up at Schofield Barracks.

Marcello: When did you arrive in the Hawaiian Islands?

Dubroff: I left June 6, 1939, and I arrived about . . . I might be one or two days off. I believe it was . . . well, no, let's put it this way. I went into the Army, and I left in July because we had to stay at the Brooklyn Army Terminal. You see, there was dissension with the Army Air Corps. The Army Air Corps had top priority because they were . . . the only way you could get into the Army Air Corps was by being a high school graduate. They had top priority, so I had to wait there for the next ship. I believe it was in July of '39 when I arrived there in Hawaii.

Marcello: And I assume you went directly to Schofield Barracks.

Dubroff: Right. I wound up, you know, in downtown Honolulu at the pier. And then from there we took, what they called there, the old "Pineapple Express," and had a . . . they said . . . see, actually I was infantry unassigned. Everybody who went into the Army was infantry unassigned or artillery. They chose certain people now to go

into the tank outfit, Quartermaster, Ordinance, and so forth. Well, I chose the Signal Corps, and I became a telephone lineman, you know, construction work. You work up on the poles where you strung W-10 wire for communications.

Marcello: Why did you decide to enter the Signal Corps?

Dubroff: Well, the reason why I decided to go into the Signal Corps was perhaps I would be able to learn a trade, you know, learn how to be a telephone lineman. I could have very well gotten into the infantry and be a ground pounder. But to me it seemed there like an excellent choice to learn something, so that's why I chose the Signal Corps.

Marcello: What did Schofield Barracks look like? Describe it from a physical standpoint.

Dubroff: Well, at that time we lived in wooden barracks right next to a pineapple field, and they were building new barracks to house . . . see, actually the 11th Signal Company and the 11th Tank Company and the Quartermaster and the Ordinance was all in one regiment called the staff regiment, and they built barracks there for us, so we'd all be quartered there together.

But Schofield Barracks itself was a beautiful post, beautiful buildings. It had . . . you name it and they had it. Everything was convenient. The latrine was on each floor. Plenty of shower space. Plenty of space between bunks and so forth. Nice big lockers. Very convenient. I believe that we had the nicest barracks there was.

Marcello: This was a fairly new barracks, was it not?

Dubroff: Right. We moved in there into the brand new barracks, whereas the infantry had the old barracks, see. The 35th, the 27th, the 19th, and the 21st had all of the old barracks. But we moved in there into the brand new barracks.

Marcello: I gather this was a relatively large post. There were . . . well, how many people would you estimate were at Schofield altogether?

Dubroff: Well, they had the 3rd Engineers, and they had the 21st Regiment, the 27th, the 35th, the 19th. They had the pack train outfit. Oh, I'd say, between 15,000 to 20,000. Just offhand, I really don't remember because the divisions were much more smaller down there than they are now.

Marcello: How would you describe the training that you received there at Schofield Barracks in those pre-war days? How would you evaluate it?

Dubroff: Oh, I think it was a very good training. I think the Army today would never compare to the Army before the war and during the war because we had discipline, we had *esprit de corps*, and we were proud of the organization that we were in. Today you see soldiers with long hair and sideburns. In them days you were clean-cut and had to present a good appearance. Even when you went on leave and went downtown, you were outstanding. They knew you were a soldier by the way you were dressed. You didn't go dressed there in jeans. Everybody down there had what they called a aloha shirt, sharkskin pants, sharkskin suits. Everybody dressed there presentably. There wasn't a soldier stationed there in Hawaii that dressed sloppily, even in uniform. Our uniforms had to be tailor-made, properly cut to fit your build. In other words, nothing was baggy or loose. We were very neatly attired there, but the people in Honolulu didn't look up to us. They were worried more about tourists. They wanted tourists. They weren't too much interested in the GI's.

Marcello: I would gather, also, that in those pre-war days there was plenty of time to get thorough training. In other words, there was no sense of urgency. There were no deadlines. There was nothing of this nature.

Dubroff: No. Well, I was a pole lineman, and I started out learning how to climb a twenty-foot pole, learning how to climb it and how to string wire. Then they taught us how to go and climb up a thirty to a forty-foot creosote pole and then put up these towers, these metal-type towers there that were for air-to-ground systems. But they taught us in such a way that a man had to be a dummy not to be able to catch on to the methods of their operations. It was very interesting there. It was not like today where they'll harass you, get you up now at four o'clock in the morning, and put you to drills and all of that. No, in them days everybody now had a job to do. The noncommissioned officers were fair. They knew their job. In other words, a noncommissioned officer did not get his rank in two years. A sergeant now--a staff sergeant is what I'm talking about--had to be there anywhere between

thirteen to fifteen years in the Army because he had to know his job in order to get his rate.

Marcello: This is an important point, I think, to get into the record. The noncoms in those days had many years of service.

Dubroff: Right. They had a lot of service. You know, my first sergeant that I had there, James Coyne, was a veteran of World War I, and he was a good first sergeant. In them days there was no such a thing as walking up and saying, "My grandmother is getting pregnant. I want a pass." There was no such a thing. You walked up to the first sergeant and you said, "Sergeant, I hit the crap game for eighty dollars. I want a three-day pass." He'd say, "Okay, go see the CQ." In them days three days were considered Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday because Saturday and Sunday didn't count. There was no hassle for leaves. You were able to take a leave, and they would give you thirty days. They would give you a truck, and usually about three or four men would get together and get a six-man squad tent to go out on the beach. They'd have a truck and

a telephone for communication in case something happened, and they would really live it up there for thirty days. There was no hassle. When they gave you thirty days, they marked it up for more time because if your leave time fell there on a holiday, on a Saturday and Sunday, it didn't count. So actually they had more than thirty days. You had close to about thirty-five or thirty-six days.

Marcello: Generally speaking, how did the regualr liberty run there at Schofield Barracks in these pre-World War II days?

Dubroff: Okay, there was standard procedure that before you were able to go on a pass you must stand retreat after five o'clock. Like my first sergeant used to tell us, "From five o'clock in the morning till five o'clock at night your ass belongs to me. From five o'clock at night till five in the morning, your time is your own." On Wednesday afternoon he used to call what they called "fatigue duty." That was on Wednesday afternoon. That was to take your equipment and get it ready for Saturday morning inspection. When they

said 0900 hours for inspection, that's exactly what they meant there. They didn't mean 0855 or 0905. At 0900 hours, you "broke starch" because in Hawaii you had khakis, and they were pretty well-starched up. So if the inspection was at 0900 hours, you made up your bed, you rolled up your mosquito netting, and then you "broke starch" just five minutes prior to the inspection. You were looked over by your platoon sergeant, and you fell in rank, and at 0900 hours the company commander, the first sergeant, the CO, would come by and inspect us.

Now if you got gigged, you never asked any questions why. You reported to the first sergeant in fatigues, and you went on kitchen police. You replaced somebody else. Today it's considered harassment, you know. It's unconstitutional. In them days you replaced somebody else. Because I know. Many an inspection there I used to work in the kitchen because there was always something wrong. But I give credit there to my old ex-first sergeant for making me into the soldier that I was.

Marcello: So, again, what sort of leave would you normally receive if you got through the inspections and everything of this nature?

Dubroff: Alright, the inspection was usually over about ten o'clock, and then you went and got your pass, and you didn't have to be back until 0500 hours on Monday morning.

Marcello: In other words, it was pretty easy if you kept your nose clean . . . it was pretty easy to get a weekend pass?

Dubroff: Oh, yes, you got your pass the minute the inspection was over. There was no kissing anybody's butt for a pass or if some sergeant wanted you for some detail. You got a pass if you didn't have any guard details or any KP. You got your pass.

Marcello: Normally, how many people or . . . let me put it to you this way. Normally, what percentage of the personnel would be off the base on a weekend?

Dubroff: Normally? Well, at that time, up until before we got the thirty dollars a month . . . the basic pay for a private was twenty-one dollars plus what they took out for the old soldiers' home and the barber shop and whatnot. Well, the first thing you done on payday was to run to the PX and get a carton of "tailor-made's," which was regular cigarettes, and then a carton of Bull Durham so you'd have enough cigarettes, and then you'd buy your toilet articles, and then you put in . . .

I used to put in two dollars a month in the old soldiers' deposit. The old saying is, "out of sight, out of mind" or "what you don't see, you don't miss."

And then you headed for downtown Honolulu. My first place down there would be the Black Cat Cafe, which is now no more. They made it into a parking lot. It was right across the street from the YMCA. I'd drink my belly full of whiskey sours and go over to the Hula House there because once a month a soldier would get his "fixed-up job" and then he was happy. On the fifteenth of the month you got maybe a five-dollar canteen book, and that was used to go to the movies, or else you'd sell it for three dollars and go to Wahiawa and get yourself a "fixed-up job" for two dollars.

Marcello: Now where did you go?

Dubroff: Wahiawa, which is right outside of Schofield Barracks.

Marcello: Generally speaking, did you really only make it to town on payday because you didn't have that much money?

Dubroff: Right. Generally speaking, that's why we were called "payday soldiers," once a month, see? That's the only way you could go into town, see, unless you were lucky

on the fifteenth of the month when they used to have big crap games at Hickam Field. This big airplane hangar there that the Japanese bombed makes Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada, look sick for gambling. They had anywhere from colonels on down there. Thousands of dollars were changing hands, and they used to play on the weekends. They used to play from Saturday up until Monday morning (chuckle).

Marcello: So generally speaking, even though you may have had liberty every weekend, you usually could only make it into Honolulu one time because of the little amount of money that you had.

Dubroff: Yes, one time or maybe twice. The rest of the time you went . . . we had a lot of activity at Schofield Barracks. We had football games that would make the Dallas Cowboys look sick and baseball games that would make professionals look sick. I mean, they were outstanding ballplayers. We also had boxing and all kinds of activity down there to interest you. Whereas today, if they got any matches like that, all the GI's now put on their hippie wigs and go downtown and smoke pot.

In them days it was a company tradition that if one man from your company was on a boxing team and he was fighting, the whole company would turn out in strength, including the company commander, and it wasn't forced. You enjoyed it because it was prestige to see your man representing your regiment.

Many a GI now would remember the fight between Lowenstein and Taylor. Taylor was from the 35th Regiment, and Lowenstein was from the Artillery. It was a grudge fight. Taylor said, "I'm going to knock him out in the first round." He was a playboy downtown, you see. Lowenstein trained for that fight, and that was considered the greatest of the century because Lowenstein hit him with everything except the ring post and flattened Taylor that quick.

But the activity . . . you had everything that you needed for your welfare--swimming, fishing. You just couldn't beat it. Your job activity kept you busy because you were always doing something. It isn't like today now in the Army where you sit around in the barracks and twiddle their thumbs. You were always doing something.

Marcello: As the country got closer to war and as diplomatic relations with Japan worsened, what sort of maneuvers or alerts did you participate in?

Dubroff: Well, we had practice alerts where we used to go out to our secondary areas, but we never went to the immediate area because that was secret. They didn't want us to go to that area except in case of an actual attack. Now our place down there was Ewa Beach, a soldier's beach, and there we would set up our communications to the different outfits that were in the field at the time. Now whenever the 35th or the 27th would go out in the field, men were assigned to set up the communications for them, lay out the field wire. They set up the switchboards.

Marcello: How often would these alerts occur? I'm referring to those in the days immediately prior to Pearl Harbor.

Dubroff: Well, they would maybe come about once . . . well, like in my unit, they would come about one every four months or so. See, the infantry would go out on their own little training tests without the use of communications. The infantry was always out. They were always doing some sort of exercises because I used to see them. I

had friends that were 27th Regiment, and they'd be gone maybe about once or twice a month playing soldier out there in the field.

Marcello: As one gets closer and closer to December 7, 1941, did the frequency of these alerts increase any?

Dubroff: Yes. We started getting pretty well close there to the alerts. We had an alert in October, 1941, where we went out to our secondary position and set it up, and we were out there on the beach for about three days, and then they called us back in, and they said, "You're going back to garrison duty," just like it was . . . as if it was nothing. But in the wind there was rumors because the Japanese were advancing in China and all of that, and then there was that incident that happened in '37 with the _Panay_, and we knew that something was going to be. And the Air Corps . . . they was enlarging and getting more planes in at Hickam and Wheeler and increasing the working people up there, the civilians, to enlarge the field.

Marcello: When did you have your last alert prior to Pearl Harbor?

Dubroff: Well, we had our last alert, if I remember correctly, in November. That was to go out to the water tower and to the gasoline area--to pull guard duty on that--and sit out there for about six days to a week.

Marcello: And then the alerts stopped after November.

Dubroff: And then the alerts stopped.

Marcello: I would assume that the reason the alerts stopped was because if they continued to keep you on alert all of the time and nothing happened, I'm sure that that could be detrimental to morale.

Dubroff: Yes, well, you'd be stale. You'd be stale. I think that we were proficiently trained, but I personally think that you could overtrain troops. We weren't overtrained. We were trained there, and we knew our jobs.

Marcello: Did the thought of Pearl Harbor or the Hawaiian Islands being attacked ever enter your mind?

Dubroff: No, it never entered my mind. I never thought that they would have the gumption to attack Pearl Harbor because we were pretty well-defended. We had Fort Ruger, Fort DeRussy, Fort Kamehameha. We had the big six-inch and the twelve-inch guns on Diamond Head. We doubted very seriously that an invasion could come about.

Marcello: Did you have very many Japanese civilians who worked on the base there at the Schofield?

Dubroff: Well, there were Japanese. I mean, as you know, Hawaii, as they say, is the crossroads of the world. They've got a mixture of . . . they've got blacks marrying into Japanese and Japanese married into Chinese. Actually you couldn't tell. But one place that I know was against the United States was a beer joint in Kole Kole Pass called Charlie Hasbe's Place.

Marcello: Charlie Hasbe's Place?

Dubroff: Yes. It was right there by the 11th Tank Company. They knew damn well that this guy had a receiving and transmitting set.

Marcello: He was a Japanese?

Dubroff: Yes, he was a Japanese, old Charlie Hasbe. He was Japanese, and I know damn well that he had closed communications with the Japanese Government.

Marcello: How do you know that?

Dubroff: Well, the minute the attack started, they came in and raided that place, and they got all of the equipment out of there.

Marcello: Did this Hasbe have a cafe or a beer joint of some sort over there?

Dubroff: Well, it was a cafe, you know, like a little nightclub. He sold beer, whiskey, and whatnot.

Marcello: And, of course, the GI's would come in and talk rather loosely, and he would be able to pick up all sorts of information.

Dubroff: Oh, yes. Well, you know, they would say, "I'm going out there on maneuvers," or "We're going out here," or "We're getting these new-type planes." You know how GI's talk. Like this one. You've heard of Johnny Lockard, didn't you? Well, okay, he was assigned there to this Signal Corps aircraft warning system, and he was the one now--it isn't proven--he's the one that gave the first actual alert there even before the destroyer . . . it was the Shaw, I believe it was, that gave the alert. Either one notified headquarters that these planes were coming over, but the lieutenant said, "Those planes are coming from California and going to Nichols Field, and you better get off of there. You've got to have a commissioned officer. You're not authorized. All you're up there for is just to pull interior guard duty." "But," he said, "they're coming." He said, "If you don't get off the telephone, you're going to get court martialed." But what happened was that after the

actual attack started, I understand, that lieutenant got a good ass-chewing, and then Lockard made second lieutenant out of it (chuckle).

Marcello: Did you ever discuss with any of your buddies the possibility of these Japanese committing sabotage or fifth columnist activities of any sort?

Dubroff: Well, let's put it this way. Up at Fort Shafter, as you're going up there to the hills, you could overlook Pearl Harbor. You could see all them ships, and there was a big sign, "No pictures will be taken while the fleet's in." I seen this Japanese there taking pictures, and I reported it to my company commander, and he said, "You better mind your own business. It's none of your affair." In other words, if a civilian wants to take it, it's their business.

Marcello: When did you witness this, and when did you report it?

Dubroff: Well, I reported that, oh, around July or August of 1941, and the fleet was all in Battleship Row. It was a beautiful sight there, especially at nighttime. In the daytime, for anybody who's going to send pictures of how Pearl Harbor was laid out, that was the spot there because you could actually see the channel, the inlet, just about everything.

Marcello: And this was very close to Fort Shafter.

Dubroff: Well, Fort Shafter overlooked Pearl Harbor. Those people there could have been spies taking pictures and sending them to the Japanese Government, and that would have been that.

Marcello: Okay, this more or less brings us up to the days immediately prior to Pearl Harbor. What I would like you to do at this point is to discuss in as much detail as you can your routine on Saturday, December 6, 1941.

Dubroff: Well, on December 6, 1941, I got a phone call for me to come downtown Honolulu, but I didn't have no money (laughter).

Marcello: This was the week after payday, right?

Dubroff: Yes, and I had just about blown everything. I had maybe a dollar or two or something there like that, or I could have went to the Shylock and got five dollars and paid back six. I said, "Well, I'll stay in the barracks. I'll just stay there." That Saturday night, Charlie Hasbe gave a free party. While I was there for close to three years, I never had a free drink, and he was giving out free drinks and whatnot. And from what I understand from the GI's that were in downtown Honolulu, the Japanese were telling them, "Now you

better watch out. This is going to be our day," you know, things there like that, you know, that something there was going to brew.

Marcello: How far was this Charlie Hasbe's from Schofield Barracks itself?

Dubroff: It was right there at Schofield, right by Kole Kole Pass.

Marcello: So you had gone to this party at Charlie Hasbe's on Saturday night?

Dubroff: No, I didn't go. I stood in the barracks.

Marcello: I see.

Dubroff: I laid down and, you know, was just playing around there shooting pool, and about nine or ten o'clock I went down to the . . . you know, they've got a beer hall--nickel beer, nickel frankfurters. I went down and had a couple of beers and a couple of frankfurters, and I hit the rack, oh, about eleven o'clock or so, something like that.

And next thing I know, here comes the first sergeant running up the steps, "Alert! Everybody up! Japanese attacking Pearl Harbor!"

Marcello: This is the next morning?

Dubroff: The next morning, December 7.

Marcello: Generally speaking, I gather that men drifted back into Schofield during the night. What was usually the condition of the men that drifted back into Schofield from town or what have you?

Dubroff: Well, you know, slightly inebriated, and, you know, just feeling no pain, and everybody was in a joyful mood, but nobody knew what was going on.

Marcello: Now Sunday was always a day of leisure, was it not?

Dubroff: Right.

Marcello: Unless you had duty.

Dubroff: Right. On Sunday, if you went down for breakfast . . . breakfast was served from seven to eight. You know, you got up, and if you wanted to you could eat breakfast, and if you didn't, you just laid in bed. It was your time.

Marcello: I've heard it said that perhaps on a Sunday there wouldn't be anymore than maybe around 250 to 300 men that actually had duty. Everybody else had a day of leisure.

Dubroff: Yes, well, the only type of duty that you had there on a weekend was interior guard duty, kitchen police, or charge of quarters, and the charges of quarters was usually a noncommissioned officer.

Marcello: Okay, so you were suddenly awakened on a Sunday morning. Pick up the story from that point.

Dubroff: Okay, I was still in a daze, and I put on my pants and run out, and first sergeant said, "The company is going to fall in, and we're going out to our regular positions."

Marcello: In the meantime, are bombs falling or are you being strafed or things of this nature?

Dubroff: No, the planes were coming over. They hit the 35th Regiment, and they flew over ours there. We could hear them because Wheeler Field was only eight miles away. Not even that. Well, I'd say about eight to seven miles, but you could hear the bombings and whatnot. And they sent me up to what they called Gunsight Pass with a EE-8A telephone.

Marcello: With what kind of a telephone?

Dubroff: EE-8A. That's a field telephone. I was to see if any planes or paratroopers were coming down. I sat up there and I seen the smoke, and it was havoc with fires from a distance, and I couldn't tell whether it was Ford Island or Kaneohe Bay or Hickam Field, but it was a lot of havoc. From what I gathered, there was just people running around as if they were chickens with their heads cut off. You know, nobody knew what was going

on, and the infantry was getting prepared to move downtown and the other . . . like the 27th and 35th was supposed to protect the upper part of Hawaii and the . . .

Marcello: These are the 27th and 35th Regiments?

Dubroff: Right, and 19th and 21st are supposed to go down to the beach. Or it might be vice versa. I don't remember. They were embarking and . . . there was just nothing there but a regular holocaust. I was scared. I'd only seen movies, but who would ever think the real thing would happen. The fire and the bombings was enough to give you conniptions.

Marcello: How long did it take you to get to this observation post from the time that you were awakened by the sergeant?

Dubroff: Well, let's put it this way. We went up there with the old three-quarter ton trucks, and it took me, oh, I'd say a little less than thirty minutes. Not even that long.

Marcello: How many men were with you?

Dubroff: There were two of us. They wouldn't let you go by yourself (chuckle).

Marcello: How far were you from the base, that is, how far were you from Schofield Barracks?

Dubroff: Oh, I'd say . . . well, let's see, Gunsight Pass was, I'd say, about ten or eleven miles, something like that.

Marcello: And I gather that you had a birdseye view of all the action that was taking place.

Dubroff: Yes, we could see what was going on. We could see the planes and whatnot. But I'd sure like to have seen what happened down in Wheeler Field. But I seen it after the action, on the ninth.

Marcello: Did you come under any direct fire as you proceeded by truck from Schofield Barracks up to Gunsight Pass?

Dubroff: No, all I saw was the shooting, see? I believe some of them were down there from the 27th and had their rifles, and they were shooting at the planes that was coming in there for the strafing run there, but we were in the trucks and we just made it.

Marcello: In other words, most of the actual bombing and attacking that took place at Schofield Barracks occurred after you had gotten into your truck and had headed up that way.

Dubroff: Yes, you see, they hit Kaneohe Bay, Wheeler Field, Hickam Field--all the major installations. See, they didn't want to bomb Schofield because that's for the barracks, and you know that the enemy loves to have installations like that that are not touched because if they had an invasion force and came in, they'd have barracks. So they didn't want to touch that. All they done there was . . . they strafed. They strafed the mess hall, but Wheeler Field and Hiskam Field really got the bulk of the bombing. They bombed the runways and the mess halls, you know. It was just precision-type bombing. That's why those pictures that were taken . . . that's the way they were able to get an accurate picture of what to bomb.

Marcello: You mean from these pictures that these Japanese civilians were taking?

Dubroff: Right, these pictures that the Japanese there were taking. That's why they were able to piece everything together and get an actual photograph to know what to hit. Like the gentleman that was here from the Dobbin was saying about the Utah, well, they really made a booboo on that day. They used a couple of "tin fishes" which cost more than the Utah (chuckle).

Marcello: What sort of emotions did you have when you saw all of this destruction and damage taking place below you while you were viewing it from up at Gunsight Pass?

Dubroff: Well, I was just saying to myself, "What the hell are them bastards doing? What are they trying to do, kill us?" You know, there was hatred in my heart because I had friends . . . you know, I went out there to see them on the _Arizona_, and I got a couple of pictures, and there they are--down in the drink. And I was crying because when I heard about the _Arizona_ getting a direct hit like that and 1,300 bodies laying there, and my friends, you know. They were . . . it just galled me. I just wanted to go out and just grab a rifle and just kill every goddamned Jap there that was on the island. I wanted to go into Wahiawa there, and to every damn thing there looked like a "slope," I wanted to go and hang them and all because that was a sneaky and a thieving-bad thing to do. To me they were a bunch of son-of-a-bitches. When people like that who are supposed to be our friends treated us so nice, talking peace and whatnot, and turn right around and just give us there a shot in the back there like that . . .

Marcello: How long did you stay out at Gunsight Pass altogether?

Dubroff: Well, I stayed there for two days, and then they come up there and relieved me. Then I went back to the barracks, and then we started getting ready because they figured now there was going to be an invasion because they had two attacks. One now there . . . the second one was just reconnaissance planes, you know, just checking to see what damage there they had done. But after that, we got pretty well-prepared, and the Japanese never come back anymore.

Marcello: I gather that in the immediate aftermath of the attack there were all sorts of rumors floating around.

Dubroff: Oh, yes, there was rumors, you know, like they were going to come, they've already got an invasions force coming. But we had . . . our guns there were ready. Our big guns there were ready, and any ship that come close there within range of those twelve and sixteen-inchers would have been blown up, even without the Navy. We would have massacred them. They would never stand a chance.

Marcello: I'm sure that during the days and nights immediately following the attack there were also a lot of trigger-happy soldiers around.

Dubroff: Oh, yes. Well, downtown now they had a curfew. Nobody was out at night. They had military police patrolling the streets. At Schofield Barracks everybody had to be in the barracks. Of course, any slight movement and you would have had it.

Marcello: In other words, for your own self-protection it was best to stay inside the barracks.

Dubroff: Oh, I hope to tell you! Oh, yes, I stood there in them barracks, and everybody was on edge, and some of us there went up on the roof, and we got our weapons and were just waiting, you know.

Marcello: What sort of blackout measures were taken at Schofield in the aftermath of the attack?

Dubroff: Well, they had blackouts. They went on immediate blackout.

Marcello: Did you have to put curtains across the windows and things of this nature?

Dubroff: No, we didn't have no curtains. We just blacked out the barracks. The way the barracks was now, they were able now . . . well, actually . . . well, I don't remember now whether they had something there to cover up the windows at night, you know, but everything had to be blacked out.

Marcello: Looking at it in hindsight, how do you feel that the Japanese were able to pull off this attack?

Dubroff: Well, it's like I said before--that they were preparing for it. While they were talking peace in Washington, they were getting ready to slap the hell out of us. They figured that one knockout blow would destroy the Pacific Fleet, and then they could take over Hawaii and then jump from Hawaii to San Francisco. They'd be in like Flynn.

Marcello: At the time of the attack or in the immediate aftermath of the attack, did you blame any individuals for what happened, of did you try to find any scapegoats or anything of this nature?

Dubroff: No, I don't believe that Kimmel and Short should have been the scapegoats. They were following orders, and I believe there was a foul-up somewhere in the Pentagon. I mean, they knew about it. General Marshall knew about it, but I believe that they wanted this war. That's my personal belief. That was the only way to get us out of the rut because we were in a rut there before the war.

Marcello: You're referring to the depression?

Dubroff: Right, and that was the only way to bring prosperity because, you know, when the war started everybody was building ships and planes and tanks, and everybody was making all kinds of money, and people were working for the war effort. People were making more money than they thought they were making. So actually, that took us out of the rut there, and I believe that our honorable, late President had to have something to do with it.