

NORTH TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION
NUMBER
581

Interview with
CHARLES H. MILES, JR.
October 23, 1982

Place of Interview: Arlington, Texas

Interviewer: Dr. Marcello

Terms of Use: open

Approved: Charles Miles
(Signature)

Date: 23 OCT 1982

COPYRIGHT



1982

THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF NORTH TEXAS STATE
UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF DENTON

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording or by any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Coordinator of the Oral History Collection or the University Archivist, North Texas State University, Denton, Texas 76203

Oral History Collection

Charles H. Miles

Interviewer: Dr. Ronald E. Marcello

Place of Interview: Arlington, Texas

Date: October 23, 1982

Dr. Marcello: This is Ron Marcello interviewing Colonel Charles H. Miles for the North Texas State University Oral History Collection. The interview is taking place on October 23, 1982, in Arlington, Texas. I'm interviewing Colonel Miles in order to get his reminiscences and experiences and impressions while he was stationed at Hickam Field during the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor and the surrounding military installations on December 7, 1941.

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

Mr. Miles: I was born the 4th of April, 1910, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the age of ten, my parents moved to Winona, New Jersey, where I was attending a military prep school which I graduated from in 1927. In July of 1929, I entered the U.S. Military Academy and graduated in 1933 and went into the Infantry.

After serving there until 1939, I then transferred to the Finance Corps. My first station in the Finance Corps was

in the Presidio, San Francisco.

After being there a year, I volunteered for overseas service in Hawaii. I had served there before and enjoyed it very much, of course. But this time, instead of going to an Infantry post, I was stationed with the Air Corps, or rather the Army Air Corps, as they called it then, at Hickam Field.

Marcello: Let me back up a minute here. You mentioned that you transferred to the Finance Corps. Was the Finance Corps kind of a branch of the Army like the Signal Corps or one of the others,

Miles: Yes, it was. It was a branch of the Army just like the Infantry, Artillery, and so on and so forth,

Marcello: Why did you decide to transfer into the Finance Corps?

Miles: It seemed that most of the work I was being assigned to as an infantryman involved finance work, so I said, "Why not go all the way,"

Marcello: What kind of work would be involved there? Can you be more specific?

Miles: Yes. At that time, it was mostly confined to disbursing duties for the troops and the post--paying commercial accounts and things like that. Later on, in the Finance Corps, it became more of the true comptroller-type work,

Marcello: You mentioned that this was not the first time that you had been assigned in the Hawaiian Islands. You mentioned that you liked it very much when you had been there before. Why was that?

Miles: Well, I had served with the 19th Infantry at Schofield Barracks,

which is in the middle of the island, of course. We just enjoyed our two-year tour there very much.

Marcello: Were you married at the time that you went to the Hawaiian Islands?

Miles: Yes, I was married and had two daughters, age roughly five and two-and-a-half. We went over on the old transport Etolin, which was just a very small ship. It took about five days to get over there.

Marcello: What kind of provisions did the service make for dependents in those days?

Miles: We were very fortunate in getting brand new quarters at Hickam Field.

Marcello: Describe what those quarters were like.

Miles: Well, they were made of a coral-type brick--very substantial and very nice. We lived right next to the Pearl Harbor channel.

Marcello: How large were these quarters?

Miles: Two bedrooms, dining room, living room--the usual amenities.

Marcello: Where was it relative to where you worked there on Hickam?

Miles: Oh, about a short half-mile.

Marcello: Would you normally walk to work?

Miles: Yes.

Marcello: I have heard it said that the military at that time discouraged marriage, especially among the enlisted personnel. Was this basically true?

Miles: That was very true, yes.

Marcello: Why was that?

Miles: Well, there were very few facilities for the very junior enlisted man, But, of course, when you got to be a tech sergeant or master sergeant, there were very adequate quarters for those people.

Marcello: And, of course, I guess, considering the pay that those very junior enlisted men received, if they did get married that wife was going to have to find a job.

Miles: She certainly would, yes.

Marcello: You mentioned that also somewhere along in here, you transferred into the Army Air Corps.

Miles: No, the transfer was to the Army Finance Corps, but at that time, remember, it was the Army Air Corps, so we were supporting the Air Corps and all its facilities.

Marcello: So you were still actually in the United States Army.

Miles: Yes. And so was the Air Corps (chuckle).

Marcello: Describe the kind of work that you did here at...what was your particular function here at Hickam Field when you came here for the second time?

Miles: I was the finance officer responsible for the pay of the troops, the civilians, and the commercial accounts.

Marcello: Is this basically how you came into contact with the people that I'm going to be interviewing here today?

Miles: Yes. We were a group of seventeen to twenty young men.

Marcello: Did this Finance Corps or this Finance Section here at Hickam have a particular designation?

Miles: Just the Finance Office, Hickam Field. We were located in the Headquarters Building, which was about a hundred yards from the airstrip.

Marcello: Let's talk a little bit about the social life of an officer here at Hickam Field in that pre-Pearl Harbor period. What would the social life be like for you and your wife? Describe it.

Miles: Of course, I went to Hickam Field by myself in April of 1941, while my wife and family went home to the East Coast to visit her parents. She joined me in August of 1941. Of course, the social life at that time was primarily activities involving the Officer's Club, dances, bridge games. Of course, we socialized with our fellow officers. In fact, the night before Pearl Harbor, we had been playing bridge until about midnight with some very good friends that lived right down the street.

Marcello: I understand that there was a lot of--I guess what we would call--formal entertaining that took place during the military during that period. Is that correct?

Miles: I would say real formal, and, of course, that becomes more so when you get up into the higher ranks, as far as formal entertaining. But there were just informal dances at the Officer's Club, plus going downtown to the various things that went on in Honolulu.

Marcello: For the most part, then, I gather that your social life did revolve around the Officer's Club there at Hickam.

Miles: Yes, it did.

Marcello: Was it a nice facility? Describe what the facility was like.

Miles: Of course, Hickam being a new post, it was a very new and modern facility--a delightful place to go both to eat and socialize. There was not the amount of alcoholic imbibement at all that you would read about. These fellows had to fly the next morning, and they were not about to risk their own life and the life of their crew by doing such foolish things.

Marcello: As one gets closer and closer to December 7, 1941, and as conditions between the United States and Japan continued to deteriorate, could you, in your position as Finance Officer, detect any changes in your routine?

Miles: Only to the extent that we knew that the next morning, which was December 7, that a flight of B-17's was arriving on its stopover on its way to the Philippines. That was the extent of any change in our regular routine.

Marcello: So in essence, then, it was business as usual right up until that day.

Miles: I wouldn't say business as usual because the rest of the island was on somewhat of a modified alert as protecting bridges and critical landmarks on the island.

Marcello: How did these alerts affect you in the Finance Office?

Miles: Not at all.

Marcello: So in other words, you and your group of men really weren't a part of any of these alerts.

Miles: No.

Marcello: You mentioned that when these alerts did occur, personnel would

be sent out to guard bridges and other structures of that nature. Why was this done?

Miles: I presume that the commanding general of the islands was told to do it from Washington. However, I would like to add a point. My wife and I had been at Schofield Barracks the day before, and as you come down the hill toward Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field, the whole damn fleet unfolded before your eyes, and it was lined up like a bunch of sitting ducks. I commented to my wife, "What a beautiful target!"

Marcello: Was it usual or unusual for basically the entire fleet to be in on a weekend like that? Now I know you were Army personnel and that you were not privy to that sort of information.

Miles: Well, you could see the damn thing, so it was usual.

Marcello: Getting back to the guarding of those bridges and so on and so forth that we were discussing awhile ago, is it also not true that there was a great deal of concern about the possibility of sabotage being committed by the Japanese who lived in the Hawaiian Islands?

Miles: That was the primary purpose of the guarding of them, but the Japanese were regarded as being very loyal American citizens. So we thought nothing of their racial characteristics at all.

Marcello: When you say they were regarded as loyal American citizens, are you referring to that period before the attack or after the attack when none of the sabotage ever really took place?

Miles: Both. Both. Both,

Marcello: When you and your fellow officers did socialize--and I'm sure from time to time there would be shop talk--did any of you discuss the possibility of Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor? Did the subject ever come up?

Miles: It never came up--never.

Marcello: Did the subject of war with Japan ever come up in your conversations?

Miles: No, no,

Marcello: Do you think, for the most part, this was perhaps because of the distance between Pearl Harbor and Japan among other things?

Miles: That was the primary reason--the isolation of the islands with respect to the size of the Pacific Ocean,

Marcello: In your own mind, when you thought of a typical Japanese during that pre-Pearl Harbor period, what kind of a person did you usually conjure up in your own mind? You must have had all sorts of contact with them there on the island,

Miles: I would say you would think most of them as the peasant-type--the laborer in the field, the cleaning woman. We were aware of the background of most of the Japanese that came over to the island as just being working persons--the peasant-type.

Marcello: What rank were you at this particular time?

Miles: I was a captain.

Marcello: Talk a little bit about some of the men that were serving under you in the Finance Office. That's kind of a wide-open question...

Miles: It surely is. Well, they were a group of hard-working, dedicated men that liked to do a good job and were proud of their work--extremely proud of their work.

Marcello: As you look back upon that particular group of men and the pre-Pearl Harbor Army in general, how would you describe the morale of the personnel?

Miles: I would describe it as excellent because they were able to have a good time on their off-duty period,

Marcello: Also, is it not true that at this time virtually everybody was a volunteer, and they were there because they wanted to be there?

Miles: That was quite true, although Selective Service had just started not too long before that. But these were all volunteers.

Marcello: How did Selective Service affect your job there in the Finance Office?

Miles: Not in any way at all.

Marcello: You were not getting too many of the selectees at that time?

Miles: At that time yet, no.

Marcello: You mentioned awhile ago that these individuals were a highly competent group of personnel. I would assume that to work in the Finance Section, you simply didn't pull somebody out of the ranks and say, "You're going to be in the Finance Section,"

Miles: No, but later on, during the war, that was true,

Marcello: But the point is, during that pre-Pearl Harbor period, you could kind of pick and choose whom you wanted to work there,

Miles: Yes,

Marcello: Okay, I think this brings us up to that weekend of December 7, and, of course, I think we need to go into this particular period in a great deal of detail. Describe what your routine was on Saturday, December 6, 1941.

Miles: Well, as I said before, we had been up to Schofield Barracks. I can't recall the reason we went there, but we were just enjoying the islands, as it were. Our two daughters were there, and they were old enough to enjoy it. It was nothing unusual. We played bridge the night before with this couple from down the street.

Marcello: So you spent most of the day on Saturday more or less touring the islands?

Miles: That's true. That's about it.

Marcello: And then on Saturday evening, you mentioned that you played bridge,

Miles: We played bridge at our house.

Marcello: How long did you play bridge before things broke up?

Miles: Oh, about...before midnight, slightly. I don't recall what hour. We weren't late "stayer-uppers."

Marcello: What kind of plans did you have for the next day?

Miles: Well, our usual Sunday morning plans were to get the youngsters off to Sunday School. We ourselves were not churchgoers, at that time, which has changed considerably since that time, but that was the idea. It just so happened that the place the children

were going to go to Sunday School was hit and burned, so it was very fortunate that we did not send them to Sunday School that morning because it was interrupted by the activities of the morning, anyway.

Marcello: Okay, this brings us into that morning of December 7, 1941, and, once more, let's go into as much detail as you possibly can here. Again, I'll let you set the scene as we drift into that morning.

Miles: Of course, ten minutes of eight is about the usual time for getting up. We were still a little drowsy when there was a heck of a lot of noise and racket and banging around. I said to my wife, "The goddamn Navy is at it again!" But just at that time, I happened to look out our second-story bedroom window, and there were no trees at the time at Hickam Field. Right before my very eyes, at the same level, was a very low-flying Japanese airplane heading toward the Hawaiian Air Depot.

Marcello: You mentioned awhile ago that you thought the Navy was at it again. What did you mean by that?

Miles: Well, just making a racket, any type of noise.

Marcello: Is it not true that one of the favorite Navy games would be to buzz the planes or the field occasionally?

Miles: Not too often. They pretty much observed the ground rules of not buzzing the field. Of course, our own airfield was about three hundred yards away from us, and you could always hear the planes taking off, but you became used to it. It's

like living next to an elevated train in New York City, You just paid no attention to it, But the banging was a little different,

Marcello: Okay, you mentioned that you hear these noises, and you go to the window to see what was going on, and you see this Japanese plane. Describe the approach of this Japanese plane. Describe its activities,

Miles: Well, as far as I was concerned, it went by so fast there's not much activity to describe, except that it was heading for the Hawaiian Air Depot, which was right down the street,

Marcello: And how low was this Japanese plane flying?

Miles: About twenty feet off the ground, They couldn't fly that low today because around the house that we lived in--we have since revisited--there are very, very tall trees,

Marcello: Did you recognize that it was a Japanese plane at that time?

Miles: Oh, yes, yes, By the insignia mainly,

Marcello: Okay, what happens at that point? What is your reaction, and what do you do?

Miles: Well, I got my children downstairs behind a very large, heavy sofa and covered the area with a mattress. Then I went up and put on my clothes and went down to the office, which was about a five-minute walk away. Of course, at that moment there was a fair lull in the action, so I was in no immediate danger walking to the office or anything like that.

Marcello: So from the time you saw that initial Japanese plane until the

time you got to your office, approximately how much time had elapsed?

Miles: Oh, as a rough guess, thirty minutes because I was more concerned at the time of taking care of the family than...

Marcello: So I assume, then, by the time you got to the office, that first attack was virtually over.

Miles: It was. It was completely over, yes.

Marcello: Describe what you saw during your walk or run from your house to the office.

Miles: Well, of course, I could see that the Hawaiian Air Depot was in flames, and the area where the post breakfast was served was in pretty much of a shambles. But there was no immediate damage around all of the quarters on the post except for pock-mark holes in a few of the buildings,

But miraculously there were no dependents that were injured that morning. It was miraculous because there was a lot of shrapnel falling from the exploded antiaircraft shells and all of that.

Later on in the day, when I got home, my family had disappeared. I assumed that they had gone to Honolulu, which later on they telephoned me and told me where they were.

Marcello: What were your final instructions to your wife when you left to go to the office?

Miles: Stay right there where the youngsters would be safe.

Marcello: What kind of a reaction or emotions were your wife and youngsters

exhibiting during this thing?

Miles: Well, they were surprisingly calm. That's what usually happens during a situation like that. They were not hysterical. The effect, later on, on our youngest daughter, who was just almost three, was when she was back in the States. She'd would hear an airplane, and she would be terrified. But not then.

Marcello: Okay, so you go over to your office. What's happening over there when you arrive?

Miles: Well, they were all busy trying to get some weapons out of whatever place they could get them, of course. The group that I was with was just armed with handguns, so that would be no reasonable effect. But it was reasonably calm.

Marcello: Was most everybody there when you arrived?

Miles: Oh, yes, they were there.

Marcello: What instructions could you give them, since you were essentially in charge here?

Miles: The only thing I was in charge of was this group of seventeen men because it was up to the post commander to take care of that. They instituted a command post in one of the quarters on the post away from the headquarters because that was an obvious landmark for any future attacks. So they set up their headquarters in an officer's quarters. My men were posted as guards and assistants in setting up communications there.

Marcello: So basically then, when you initially arrived over at your office, you were simply standing by and awaiting further orders?

Miles: That is correct, yes,

Marcello: In the meantime, has the second wave come over?

Miles: That had come over, yes, but that was minimal compared to the first wave,

Marcello: The second wave consisted of what kind of planes primarily? High-level bombers?

Miles: No, they were all low-level bombers--all of them. There weren't any high-levels because the carriers that Japanese used at that time would only launch single-engine planes,

Marcello: Okay, you mentioned that somewhere along in here, you and your men do get small arms. You mentioned these were handguns,

Miles: Yes,

Marcello: Where did you get them?

Miles: They were in the office. They were in the office. Most of them had their own weapons in their barracks, too,

Marcello: Oh, so you did not have to go to any particular armory or any of that sort of thing to get your weapons?

Miles: No. There wasn't anything to fire at, anyway, by that time,

Marcello: Approximately how long were you there at the office before you got some specific orders as to what you were to do?

Miles: About thirty minutes,

Marcello: What did you do during that period of time? What did you talk about?

Miles: (Chuckle) We were talking about the surprise of the whole damn thing, really. I have no recall specifically of what the hell

we talked about, except mostly cussing.

Marcello: At this time, would you perhaps say that there was a certain amount of confusion among you and your men because you didn't know yet what you were supposed to be doing?

Miles: That's right, It was one of those "hurry-up-and-wait" periods.

Marcello: So finally orders do come down, You received a telephone call or just a messenger?

Miles: Just a matter of verbal communications within the building.

Marcello: Then what happens at that point?

Miles: That's when they moved out to this one set of officer's quarters to set up sort of a command post.

Marcello: What were you personally doing?

Miles: Well, I was also helping with the communications, which I had been in when I was in the Infantry, a communications officer.

Marcello: I would assume that, being in the Finance Section, there must have been some pretty important...now again, not top secret, but pretty important documents and papers and records and things like that where you were located.

Miles: In the building, yes, but not where we were. Of course, they had very adequate lock safes in the building, so there was no concern about that.

Marcello: Okay, so what happens, then, when you get over to the command post? What's taking place over there?

Miles: Well, there was immediate concern for the B-17 bombers that were arriving in the States. That was their immediate concern. Of

course, we learned very quickly that they had landed safely on the island in very odd places such as the sugar plantation in Kahuku on the north shore.

Marcello: Did you notice any of these B-17's coming into Hickam Field? Did you observe any of them coming in?

Miles: No, I did not observe any of them.

Marcello: What sort of other activity or concerns were taking place over there at the command post?

Miles: I can't recall. I can't recall.

Marcello: By the time you get over there, is chaos kind of disappearing, and is order beginning to take over?

Miles: Oh, yes. See, most of the junior officers that were involved were taking off with their airplanes--those that could get them off the ground.

Marcello: Do you to some extent experience a helpless feeling under these circumstances?

Miles: Very, Very. Very. You don't have any dry runs for an experience like that.

Marcello: There's really nothing you can do. You have nothing but small arms, like you say.

Miles: Yes.

Marcello: And would you say this was...if you had an emotion at this point, would it be one more...obviously, more of frustration than it would be of fear or anything of that nature?

Miles: More frustration and anger,

Marcello: Yes, anger seems to be,...

Miles: Predominant,

Marcello: ...,a reaction that almost everybody has at one point during this thing.

Miles: Yes, this is true.

Marcello: What kind of anger? Describe your,...

Miles: It was frustration and anger, really. It was a combination of both. There wasn't a goddamned thing you could do about it.

Marcello: When do you begin thinking about your family again? Maybe you always were thinking about them during this whole activity.

Miles: More so after about an hour, about an hour.

Marcello: Did you try and contact your house at this time?

Miles: Yes, of course. But they had left. Our next door neighbor took them downtown to her sister's home. She was a civilian living in Honolulu. Of course, I didn't know that until later on during the day.

Marcello: How did you finally find out where your family was located?

Miles: They called me. They called me.

Marcello: Describe what took place that afternoon and that evening.

Miles: That afternoon everyone was trying to assess what the hell happened on the base. That evening was a matter of posting guards around the command post. There was no indiscriminate firing at these imaginary objects that people are thinking about. There was no concern about...even though they do mention an occasional thinking of parachutes going to land or anything like

that, It was a very calm night. Very quiet, too.

Marcello: What were some of these rumors that you personally heard?

Miles: We heard no rumors. We weren't in that business of spreading rumors either.

Marcello: Were you possibly expecting a Japanese invasion?

Miles: We were concerned, yes. It was more of a concern than a rumor.

Marcello: I guess, considering what had happened that day, you certainly had to be concerned about something.

Miles: Well, I knew what the ground rules were for the troops at Schofield Barracks. They would be out in the positions in the field because when I had served there before, those were the alert measures that were taken.

Marcello: Did you get much sleep that night?

Miles: I don't recall sleeping that night at all. I really don't, no.

Marcello: Did you return home, or did you stay there?

Miles: No, I stayed around the command post. It was not until the next night that I returned home along with several of my men from the office because the barracks had been clobbered to a small degree. I had four or five men down with me in my quarters. That's when I first learned to drink coffee without cream and sugar because we soon ran out of cream and sugar (chuckle).

Marcello: How long was it before you saw your family again?

Miles: It was about three days. I can't specifically remember.

Marcello: What were you doing in the meantime? Let's say in that three-day period after the attack?

Miles: Business as usual,

Marcello: In other words, you went back over to the Finance Office?

Miles: Yes,

Marcello: What kind of activity were you doing?

Miles: Well, it was preparing payrolls and processing all this stuff.

Marcello: It almost sounds like a typical bureaucratic operation (chuckle).

Miles: That it was, because the troops needed to be paid (chuckle).

Marcello: When would payday have occurred?

Miles: They had shifted the paydays to slightly after the first of the month. That had happened before this period. The payday would be around the 5th of January...I mean...yes, it was January.

Marcello: Yes. By December 7, they would have received their December pay.

Miles: Yes. They should have, anyway.

Marcello: Describe the damage that you observed there at Hickam Field in the aftermath of the attack.

Miles: Well, they wrecked the airplanes on the flight line. They damaged the mess hall, the Hawaiian Air Depot. Fortunately, they didn't know where the gasoline tanks were to supply the field, so they didn't hit those. They were underground in a very judicious place--under the baseball diamond. So that's why...they weren't about to bomb a baseball field (chuckle).

Marcello: It must have been rather sickening to see all those airplanes destroyed.

Miles: It was, that and the personnel that were injured and killed, yes.

Marcello: Describe the reunion with your family that, as you mentioned,

took place about three days after the attack.

Miles: Well, of course, it was very emotional. I was happy to see them.,,finding out how they had made out and where they had been. Of course, I didn't know where they had been. At first, they had been taken down to the Oahu Country Club for that first day. Then they went to this home up in Manoa Valley.

Marcello: Did you go to them, or did they come to you when you met them after those three days?

Miles: I went down to them. I still had my car, and that was not damaged, of course, at all.

Marcello: What kind of instructions were civilians being given...let's say dependents. What were dependents going to be doing in the aftermath of this attack?

Miles: Well, they were being warned to be ready to be evacuated to the mainland, which the first gang left on Christmas Day.

Marcello: Is this when your wife and children left?

Miles: No, they left on the 30th or 31st of January by Pan American clipper. Whichever came first was how they were going to go. Of course, that was at my own expense to send them home, and they went by clipper. If they went by Army transport, of course, it would not have been.

Marcello: Why did you decide to send them by Pan American clipper as opposed to Army transport?

Miles: Well, their name had not come up, and so I was ready to send them home.

Marcello: I don't know why I'm even mentioning this in the interview, but that Pan American clipper must have been a rather interesting plane.

Miles: It was. It was very bare. They cleaned out all the luxury appointments. It took them about eighteen hours to fly back, whereas, you know how long it takes now--about five hours by jet.

Marcello: Yes, we have to realize that this was 1941, and I've heard several personnel tell me that one of the big thrills was simply to go down and watch the Pan American clipper come in.

Miles: And to take off, both, yes. At that time it was a very huge plane--we thought,

Marcello: How often would it come in? Once a week, perhaps?

Miles: Two or three times a week. See, they had several of them. I think they only took about eighteen or twenty people--not very many because most of it was a mail load, I presume,

Marcello: I assume that also immediately following the attack, there were blackout conditions,

Miles: ~~Immediately~~, immediately.

Marcello: What did you have to do to your car, for example?

Miles: Well, the headlights were painted with a small, ..with a blue-colored paint. There was just a small opening in the middle.

Marcello: About the size of a half-dollar, perhaps?

Miles: That's exactly, yes. We soon got used to driving in the dark.

Marcello: Did you drive around or move around very much at night if you

could avoid it?

Miles: No, no, no. There was no place to go, anyway,

Marcello: Is it safe to say that the Army that you had known in that pre-Pearl Harbor period was about a bygone era, perhaps?

Miles: That passed very quickly, yes, into a totally new environment. Of course, the family came back and stayed on the base. There were slit trenches dug as a precautionary measure, and there were a lot of midnight alerts in which they had to get out of bed and go into these holes in the ground.

Marcello: Did you have to prepare your home and so on in compliance with these blackout conditions?

Miles: Oh, yes, It was a black material, yes. Usually, there was very little light used after dark, anyway.

Marcello: What did you do during this period, that is, how did it affect your home life and your social life?

Miles: Well, the social life ceased to exist. About all you could do was listen to a radio. There was no TV, of course, in those days. We went to bed early and got up early (chuckle),

Marcello: How long did you remain on the Hawaiian Islands after the attack?

Miles: Well, I was transferred to the 25th Division at Schofield Barracks as Finance Officer. I left with the division in November of 1942.

Marcello: Where did the 25th go?

Miles: Guadalcanal.

Marcello: And, of course, that's an entirely different story.

Miles: That's a new story. One of my co-workers at Hickam Field-- I think you have him on your interview list--a fellow by the name of Gage, went with me. He served with me all during the war.

Marcello: Well, that's probably a good place to end this interview,

Miles: That's about it, I think.

Marcello: It's in a way a very frustrating place to end it because some of you guys have a lot of very interesting stories after Pearl Harbor, but we're dealing only with Pearl Harbor,

Miles: Yes, I know you are restricting it, which I think is fine because you are writing history of World War II and the Pacific if you kept on going.

Marcello: Well, I want to thank you very much Colonel Miles...

Miles: Well, it's been my pleasure talking to you.

Marcello: ...for having taken time to...

Miles: I think you are very objective, too, in the way you present your questions. You know what the hell you are doing, and that's what I like about it.

Marcello: Well, thank you very much. I appreciate that.