

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** So then we went to Clovis. And one of the things that he got into there ... he had a habit of taxiing the airplane too fast on the ground and not slowing down to make a right [Chuckle] turn, or a left turn. It felt like he was driving a motorcycle instead of a four engine bomber. And then, he would stop all of a sudden. And he damaged the brakes on a couple of airplanes. And this one day we did that. And we pulled up in front of the headquarters, and he came roaring up there and then stomped on the brakes. And the expander tubes in the brakes ruptured. The crew chief came up and looked up, shook his head and said something to the pilot. And the pilot was still sitting in his seat, and he stuck his head out the window and chewed the crew chief out. And later that day, we saw our pilot walking up and down the tarmac with a rifle on his shoulder and a pack of rocks on his back. So, evidently there was some ranking officer in there that had seen what happened. So, that's just, you know, more ... things that went on.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Isn't it surprising, that that guy didn't get washed out of pilot school?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** Yeah. The story I heard was that, he had gotten his commission in the ROTC in college. And that his father was supposedly a two-star General. So, he had some pull somewhere. Anyway, he could fly the airplane OK, but it was just his personality - he was just a great big, over grown brat.

Then, Clovis was our last training base. They gave us six days travel time to get from Clovis to Topeka, Kansas for [our] port of embarkation. And I showed up just at the last minute; I had gone home and took my time. But, the only way to make it back to Topeka was to fly. So, I went to the city airport to catch a plane to Topeka. And [Chuckle] the guy at the desk said, "And so you think about when do you want to leave." And I said, "Right now." He says, "Well, you can't, there's a war on; you can't [Chuckle] walk up and get a ticket and get on a plane right then." I said, "Well, Ok. I don't care; I'll probably just go get bumped off anyway." He said, "Where are you going; Port of embarkation?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Do you have anything to prove that?" I said, "Yeah, I got my orders in my pocket." He said, "Let me see 'em." I showed 'em to him and he said, "Oh, you got the highest priority there is!" [Laugh]

The plane by then was already loaded and started taxiing out to take off. And he called it back. Pretty soon there was some little short, fat man got off madder than hell and they put me on. And that's how I managed to [Chuckle] to get back in time to keep from getting my stripes taken away. Right after me, the guys that came in late lost their rank, because they weren't back on schedule.