

Hale Burge: In school we didn't learn how to trouble shoot all they taught us was the airplane engine is made out of this and that. We had a book, we had to make our own tech order after every eight hour day ... six hour class had to work till midnight making a tech order so it was understandable for people to read and see what they'd taught us in school. And I thought it was a waste of time because they should have taught us how to trouble shoot and fix airplanes. So I did learn that and I worked on the F-86D [North American Sabre], F-89 [Northrup Scorpion], F-100 [North American Super Sabre] and B-66 bomber [Destroyer] – Douglas bomber, twin engine airplane.

And in North Africa, I had a flight of F-100s that I worked with over there and I saw many of them crash. And one good pilot -- he was a wonderful young pilot – he was about five miles out over the Mediterranean Sea and he ... the J-57 [Pratt & Whitney jet engine] engine had an oil pump problem and this day he was running with his wing man and his engine quit so he bailed out and landed in the water. And the wing man flew around a little bit and he had to go because he was running out of gas. And the rescue people had all the SA-16 [Grumman Albatross] amphibian tore down so they couldn't get out there for a half hour or so and when they did they couldn't find this guy at all. He had supposed to have been in his life raft but they never did find him. So that was another sickening thing.

I get tired of hearing about these small plane crashes that people do things and get excited and they don't know what to do in an emergency and get themselves killed. So many times it's so unnecessary.

I do hope this will be enough for you and if there's any other questions you would like to ask me, just send me a letter and I'll try to do what I can. I'm putting this on my own tape because I couldn't get yours to function to suit me so I'm sending it all back this way.



*Hale Burge, airplane mechanic and flight engineer,
age 86.*