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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,960

The interview was held telephonically with Mr. Bruce D. Armand on Sunday, February 15,

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00:00:08,960 --> 00:00:13,000

1998 at 5 o'clock PM, Mountain Daylight Time.

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00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:18,400

Interviewer is W. A. Connors, a private researcher specializing in the history of Project S.I.

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00:00:18,400 --> 00:00:22,000

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00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:24,800

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00:00:24,800 --> 00:00:29,840

Albert B. D. Armand was a member of the Project S.I.N.E. team, which was located at Air Materials

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00:00:29,840 --> 00:00:34,980

Command's Intelligence Division, Wright-Batterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, from late

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00:00:34,980 --> 00:00:36,840

1947 until mid-1949.

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00:00:36,840 --> 00:00:42,840

He was co-author with Mr. Lawrence Trudner of the team's technical report entitled,

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00:00:42,840 --> 00:00:45,840

Unidentified Aerial Objects, Project S.I.N.E.

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00:00:45,840 --> 00:00:46,840

Hi, Bruce.

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00:00:46,840 --> 00:00:49,840

Thank you very much for taking time to reflect on your father's life.

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00:00:49,840 --> 00:00:51,840

Could you tell me a little about yourself?

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00:00:51,840 --> 00:00:54,840

Well, my name is Albert Bruce D. Armand.

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00:00:54,840 --> 00:01:01,840

I was born November 28, 1949, Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

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00:01:01,840 --> 00:01:07,840

I was premature and stayed in the hospital for two weeks.

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00:01:07,840 --> 00:01:15,840

Then I was adopted by Albert Bonnell D. Armand and Christine Bruce D. Armand, who lived in Dayton, Ohio.

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00:01:15,840 --> 00:01:17,840

They took me there.

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00:01:18,840 --> 00:01:22,840

To my recollection, I stayed there until 1952.

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00:01:22,840 --> 00:01:24,840

I could be off a little bit.

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00:01:24,840 --> 00:01:28,840

Then we moved to Alcahona, California.

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00:01:28,840 --> 00:01:32,840

We stayed there until I was in first grade.

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00:01:32,840 --> 00:01:36,840

I think that was 1956 or 1957.

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00:01:36,840 --> 00:01:40,840

We moved to Santa Barbara, California.

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00:01:40,840 --> 00:01:46,840

I stayed there until about 1970.

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00:01:46,840 --> 00:01:51,840

I moved to Northern California.

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00:01:51,840 --> 00:01:53,840

What do you do for a living now, Bruce?

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00:01:53,840 --> 00:01:58,840

Right now, I'm a drug and alcohol counselor at Bridge Counseling in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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00:01:58,840 --> 00:02:01,840

Sounds like a very interesting job.

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00:02:01,840 --> 00:02:04,840

It's pretty rewarding.

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00:02:04,840 --> 00:02:05,840

Sure it is.

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00:02:05,840 --> 00:02:09,840

Could you give me some insight into your father, who he was?

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00:02:09,840 --> 00:02:11,840

Any recollections about him?

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00:02:11,840 --> 00:02:13,840

What did he look like?

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00:02:13,840 --> 00:02:16,840

My father was about six feet two.

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00:02:16,840 --> 00:02:19,840

He weighed probably 240.

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00:02:19,840 --> 00:02:22,840

A big tall guy, real happy.

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00:02:22,840 --> 00:02:26,840

He was bald, just like I'll be in a few years.

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00:02:26,840 --> 00:02:30,840

He was extremely intelligent.

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00:02:30,840 --> 00:02:35,840

A lot of the times, I felt like he had to talk down to me.

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00:02:35,840 --> 00:02:41,840

He was a good guy, but he wasn't real touchy-feely.

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00:02:41,840 --> 00:02:45,840

I think he was more intellectual than he was emotional.

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00:02:45,840 --> 00:02:49,840

He was always regarded with his emotions.

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00:02:49,840 --> 00:02:54,840

He treated me very well, stood by me through lots of problems.

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00:02:54,840 --> 00:02:56,840

I was a drug addict for years.

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00:02:56,840 --> 00:03:02,840

He always hung right in there with me and tried his best to get me out of trouble.

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00:03:02,840 --> 00:03:05,840

Could you tell me where he was born?

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00:03:05,840 --> 00:03:08,840

Was he an American citizen or was he naturalized?

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00:03:08,840 --> 00:03:10,840

He was naturalized.

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00:03:10,840 --> 00:03:17,840

He was born in Nova Scotia and I don't really know what city or what town or what farm he was born on.

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00:03:17,840 --> 00:03:20,840

His father's name was George DeArmond.

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00:03:20,840 --> 00:03:24,840

His mother's name, I'm sorry, I don't remember it.

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00:03:24,840 --> 00:03:27,840

I would have to look it up.

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00:03:27,840 --> 00:03:40,840

They moved to Canton, Massachusetts where his father was a maintenance engineer or some kind of engineer for a factory, I believe.

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00:03:40,840 --> 00:03:43,840

It's real sketchy.

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00:03:43,840 --> 00:03:46,840

He grew up there.

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00:03:46,840 --> 00:03:55,840

I believe he was, and I'm guessing at this, in junior high or maybe high school.

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00:03:55,840 --> 00:04:00,840

I know that he graduated from Canton High School in 1926.

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00:04:00,840 --> 00:04:02,840

Did he attend college?

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00:04:02,840 --> 00:04:10,840

He attended MIT and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering in June of 1930.

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00:04:10,840 --> 00:04:14,840

What did he like to do when he wasn't working?

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00:04:14,840 --> 00:04:26,840

Well, he liked to fly actually and he has a commercial pilot's license, but I'm not sure whatever developed on that.

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00:04:26,840 --> 00:04:29,840

Possibly my mother didn't like him flying, I'm not sure.

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00:04:29,840 --> 00:04:35,840

He found his little card that said he had a commercial pilot's license today.

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00:04:35,840 --> 00:04:37,840

Did you ever fly with him?

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00:04:37,840 --> 00:04:47,840

I did, but I was very, very young and there may have been some sort of incident that I don't know about that stopped him from flying.

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00:04:47,840 --> 00:04:49,840

Maybe it was, your mom.

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00:04:49,840 --> 00:04:51,840

Yeah.

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00:04:51,840 --> 00:04:54,840

What did he like to do besides flying?

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00:04:54,840 --> 00:04:58,840

Well, he really liked working in the yard.

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00:04:58,840 --> 00:05:06,840

When we lived in Alcajon, he put in a swimming pool and he pretty much did the whole thing.

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00:05:06,840 --> 00:05:15,840

When we lived in Santa Barbara, he was always, every weekend he was out there working in the yard and planting trees and doing all kinds of stuff.

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00:05:15,840 --> 00:05:19,840

He liked going to the beach, he liked swimming in the ocean.

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00:05:19,840 --> 00:05:21,840

Oh, so he was an avid swimmer.

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00:05:21,840 --> 00:05:23,840

Yes.

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00:05:24,840 --> 00:05:27,840

He always took us on pretty nice vacations.

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00:05:27,840 --> 00:05:37,840

I mean, we went to Mexico and Hawaii and all over the western United States, almost all the national parks.

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00:05:37,840 --> 00:05:39,840

He was pretty active outdoors.

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00:05:39,840 --> 00:05:52,840

However, he was pretty nine to five Monday through Friday and that would go on for months and then we'd have a two week vacation in the middle of summer.

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00:05:52,840 --> 00:05:56,840

Your father, from what I had, you know, there was a question I wanted to ask.

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00:05:56,840 --> 00:05:57,840

Okay.

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00:05:57,840 --> 00:05:58,840

What color were his eyes?

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00:05:58,840 --> 00:05:59,840

His eyes were blue.

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00:05:59,840 --> 00:06:01,840

His hair was red.

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00:06:01,840 --> 00:06:02,840

Red.

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00:06:02,840 --> 00:06:09,840

When he was younger and I believe he had the nickname red.

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00:06:09,840 --> 00:06:11,840

I was adopted when he was 40 years old.

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00:06:11,840 --> 00:06:15,840

He was bald and had gray hair at that point.

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00:06:15,840 --> 00:06:21,840

So I just know that he had red hair because I had heard stories and I think he told me that his name was red.

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00:06:21,840 --> 00:06:25,840

Did he ever mention a person's name by the name of Red Honaker?

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00:06:25,840 --> 00:06:27,840

Not to my knowledge.

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00:06:27,840 --> 00:06:29,840

Not to your knowledge.

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00:06:29,840 --> 00:06:34,840

Your father was in the Army Air Force during World War II, from what I understand.

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00:06:34,840 --> 00:06:36,840

Could you tell me what his rank was?

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00:06:36,840 --> 00:06:42,840

He was in the Army Air Corps and he would always tell me it was called the Army Air Corps back then.

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00:06:42,840 --> 00:06:50,840

And he went in as an officer, I believe, in World War II.

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00:06:50,840 --> 00:07:06,840

According to documentation I found recently he was a captain, I believe, at the end of the war and then he was promoted to a lieutenant colonel and his final rank was full colonel.

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00:07:06,840 --> 00:07:15,840

I know from research that your father was involved with Colonel Howard McCoy during the project Paperclip.

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00:07:15,840 --> 00:07:18,840

And did he ever talk to you about Paperclip?

100

00:07:18,840 --> 00:07:20,840

My father never talked to me about it.

101

00:07:20,840 --> 00:07:23,840

My mother did after he passed away.

102

00:07:23,840 --> 00:07:35,840

She indicated to me that he had with a group of other officers gotten Warner von Braun out of Germany at the end of World War II and some other rocket scientists.

103

00:07:35,840 --> 00:07:43,840

I don't have names on them but I know I was highly impressed when I heard that he had something to do with getting von Braun out.

104

00:07:43,840 --> 00:07:45,840

Have you ever heard of the term Project Lusty?

105

00:07:45,840 --> 00:07:47,840

I never have heard of that.

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00:07:47,840 --> 00:07:48,840

You never heard of that?

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00:07:48,840 --> 00:07:49,840

No.

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00:07:49,840 --> 00:07:55,840

When you were at Dayton, Ohio and that, did you ever go with your father to his workplace?

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00:07:55,840 --> 00:07:59,840

I have no recollection of it.

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00:07:59,840 --> 00:08:05,840

There's only one recollection of Dayton, Ohio that I remember and I fell down the stairs.

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00:08:05,840 --> 00:08:12,840

And I'm not sure that I remember it or that it was told to me enough times that I created a memory of it.

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00:08:12,840 --> 00:08:16,840

You fell down the stairs, could you elaborate on that a little bit?

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00:08:16,840 --> 00:08:24,840

I was really young and I pretty much walked in my sleep when for years I've since stopped.

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00:08:24,840 --> 00:08:29,840

I got up and took the header down the stairs.

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00:08:29,840 --> 00:08:35,840

Oh wow. I used to walk in my sleep and one time my father told me that I ended up a head first in a waste basket.

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00:08:35,840 --> 00:08:39,840

All they could do was hear me but they could never find me for about an hour.

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00:08:39,840 --> 00:08:45,840

So I guess maybe we both walked that same bath in the middle of the night on many occasions.

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00:08:45,840 --> 00:08:49,840

Did your father ever talk to you about his work on Project Signed?

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00:08:49,840 --> 00:08:51,840

He never brought it up.

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00:08:51,840 --> 00:08:57,840

I had a cousin that was trying to think how much older than me.

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00:08:57,840 --> 00:09:01,840

Probably 15 years older than me or somewhere in there.

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00:09:01,840 --> 00:09:08,840

In the mid-60s, he said, let's ask your dad about the Air Force Blue Book.

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00:09:08,840 --> 00:09:13,840

And I had some recollection of it but nothing really concrete.

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00:09:13,840 --> 00:09:15,840

And I said, sure, I'll ask him.

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00:09:15,840 --> 00:09:17,840

So I went up and asked him.

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00:09:17,840 --> 00:09:23,840

I said, look, you're a scientist. You're an intellectual man.

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00:09:23,840 --> 00:09:29,840

Tell me about Flying Saucers and tell me about this Blue Book project.

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00:09:29,840 --> 00:09:31,840

Was it all a cover-up?

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00:09:31,840 --> 00:09:36,840

And he turned to me and he said in the year 2025 that material will be declassified

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00:09:36,840 --> 00:09:39,840

and I'll gladly tell you the whole story.

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00:09:39,840 --> 00:09:42,840

Which I replied, I won't even be around in 2025.

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00:09:42,840 --> 00:09:44,840

So tell me now.

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00:09:44,840 --> 00:09:49,840

And he just kept saying it'll be declassified in the year 2025.

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00:09:49,840 --> 00:09:56,840

So I take it your father was really kind of closed-lipped on what he did while he was in the Navy.

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00:09:56,840 --> 00:09:57,840

Absolutely.

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00:09:57,840 --> 00:10:05,840

Closed-lipped on what he did because he had top security clearance and he was really ethical.

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00:10:05,840 --> 00:10:08,840

I mean, he wouldn't cross that line.

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00:10:08,840 --> 00:10:12,840

So and to tell you the truth, I never saw my father drunk.

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00:10:12,840 --> 00:10:17,840

I saw him drink wine occasionally at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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00:10:17,840 --> 00:10:22,840

He just was pretty close to the chest about top secret stuff.

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00:10:22,840 --> 00:10:26,840

Did he ever have any of his coworkers over to the house that you can remember?

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00:10:26,840 --> 00:10:28,840

No, it's a matter of fact.

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00:10:28,840 --> 00:10:36,840

I don't remember anybody coming over that wasn't related to people from the church that he attended.

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00:10:36,840 --> 00:10:42,840

But I never saw professional coworkers or anything like that.

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00:10:42,840 --> 00:10:44,840

And what was your religion, was he?

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00:10:44,840 --> 00:10:45,840

Presbyterian.

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00:10:45,840 --> 00:10:46,840

He was a Presbyterian.

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00:10:46,840 --> 00:10:53,840

And he was a deacon and he was a religious man.

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00:10:53,840 --> 00:10:55,840

He had high morals.

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00:10:56,840 --> 00:10:59,840

And he got stuck with a real wild kid, let me tell you.

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00:10:59,840 --> 00:11:06,840

What was your impressions when you were talking to your father about Project Sign and Project Blue Book?

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00:11:06,840 --> 00:11:13,840

And did you ever get the feeling where he leaned as far as belief in unidentified fine objects?

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00:11:13,840 --> 00:11:16,840

Well, this would just be my impressions.

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00:11:16,840 --> 00:11:23,840

I would say that by his response that I believe that he believed in them.

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00:11:24,840 --> 00:11:28,840

But again, he never told me anything other than it was classified.

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00:11:28,840 --> 00:11:31,840

He would tell me the whole story in 2025.

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00:11:33,840 --> 00:11:35,840

Certainly he was...

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00:11:35,840 --> 00:11:39,840

It just seemed to me that he believed in them.

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00:11:42,840 --> 00:11:50,840

Did he ever mention a book or actually a treatise that was called an Estimate of the Situation?

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00:11:50,840 --> 00:11:53,840

Or did he ever use that term?

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00:11:53,840 --> 00:11:55,840

I never heard that at all.

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00:11:55,840 --> 00:12:01,840

The only conversation we ever had was the one that I've described on that whole thing.

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00:12:01,840 --> 00:12:04,840

And I didn't even know that there was a project called Sign.

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00:12:04,840 --> 00:12:06,840

All I knew about was the Blue Book.

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00:12:06,840 --> 00:12:13,840

Well, I did send you a copy of Project Sign several days ago, so you should be getting it very soon.

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00:12:13,840 --> 00:12:23,840

As far as your father obviously was very intelligent and probably very prolific as far as writing goes, did he ever write any books?

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00:12:23,840 --> 00:12:30,840

I heard that he wrote two books on aeronautical engineering is what he told me.

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00:12:30,840 --> 00:12:33,840

When I heard that he wrote them, I immediately went and asked him about,

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00:12:33,840 --> 00:12:35,840

hey, where's these books? I want to see them.

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00:12:35,840 --> 00:12:42,840

And he indicated that the publisher had, and I'll put this in modern terms, ripped them off.

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00:12:42,840 --> 00:12:46,840

And I said, well, but don't you even have a copy of them? I'd like to see them.

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00:12:46,840 --> 00:12:49,840

And he pretty much just downplayed the whole thing.

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00:12:49,840 --> 00:12:52,840

He didn't want to talk about it, and he didn't.

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00:12:52,840 --> 00:12:55,840

And when he didn't want to talk about something, he wouldn't.

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00:12:55,840 --> 00:12:59,840

Again, the very closed-lipped individual.

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00:12:59,840 --> 00:13:07,840

And after he left, right, Patterson, and after he left the service, did he have any other jobs?

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00:13:07,840 --> 00:13:14,840

Well, he, according to some documents that I found recently, he worked for Ryan Aeronautical.

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00:13:14,840 --> 00:13:20,840

Well, actually, first he worked for Volte, and that was in the 30s.

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00:13:20,840 --> 00:13:22,840

You know what he did there?

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00:13:22,840 --> 00:13:28,840

He was a structural engineer or something like that.

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00:13:28,840 --> 00:13:35,840

Hold on, let me look in this book and I can give you the exact term.

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00:13:35,840 --> 00:13:41,840

And I know that in the 30s, he was involved in the Lend-Lease program with Russia,

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00:13:41,840 --> 00:13:46,840

and I'm not sure what aircraft designation Volte had,

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00:13:46,840 --> 00:13:55,840

but apparently those planes were the ones that they lent least to Russia in the 30s.

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00:13:55,840 --> 00:14:02,840

He worked for Taneer, Northrop, Volte aircraft companies, 1935 to 1941,

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00:14:02,840 --> 00:14:07,840

stress analyst and structural engineer, chief of stress at Volte.

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00:14:07,840 --> 00:14:13,840

Then he was outright Patterson Air Force base from 1948 to 1951,

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00:14:13,840 --> 00:14:17,840

civilian capacity with Air Technical Intelligence Center.

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00:14:17,840 --> 00:14:24,840

Then, oops, I made a mistake here, Ryan Aeronautical from 46 to 48,

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00:14:24,840 --> 00:14:27,840

and then he was called to write Patterson.

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00:14:27,840 --> 00:14:30,840

Does it say who called him to write Patterson?

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00:14:30,840 --> 00:14:33,840

I don't have that in this book at any rate.

193

00:14:33,840 --> 00:14:37,840

In the documents that I'm going to send you, I'm sure you can find that.

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00:14:37,840 --> 00:14:43,840

Okay. You say that there's a lot of travel orders and things.

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00:14:43,840 --> 00:14:50,840

There's telegrams and lots of stuff.

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00:14:50,840 --> 00:14:57,840

It doesn't make a lot of sense to me because I don't understand military wording very well.

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00:14:57,840 --> 00:14:59,840

You know, all the jargon.

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00:14:59,840 --> 00:15:09,840

During the transition year from 1947 into 1948 when the Army Air Corps was changing over to the United States Air Force,

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00:15:09,840 --> 00:15:16,840

a lot of documents in that took a little time to get all the jargon and things kind of standardized.

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00:15:16,840 --> 00:15:22,840

That's why sometimes it's real difficult to understand basically what some of the jargon means.

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00:15:22,840 --> 00:15:25,840

Well, what it says on this document I'm looking at right now.

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00:15:25,840 --> 00:15:30,840

I am presently holding a Mobilization Assignment with the Air Materiel Command.

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00:15:30,840 --> 00:15:42,840

It is Air Tech Intelligence Officer Intel Department, H-A-M-C-W-P-A-F-B, date 9 Ohio.

204

00:15:42,840 --> 00:15:51,840

My Mobilization Assignment number is Order Number 170 DTD 13 June 1949.

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00:15:51,840 --> 00:15:55,840

Well, those documents will be pretty interesting to see.

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00:15:55,840 --> 00:15:56,840

Yeah.

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00:15:56,840 --> 00:16:01,840

After he left right Patterson, did he go anywhere else?

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00:16:01,840 --> 00:16:09,840

He went back to Ryan Aeronautical in San Diego, California and he stayed with them until,

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00:16:09,840 --> 00:16:13,840

I believe it was either 1956 or 57.

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00:16:13,840 --> 00:16:21,840

And then we moved to Santa Barbara where he got a job at Tempo Technical Military Planning Operation

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00:16:21,840 --> 00:16:23,840

as a division of General Electric.

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00:16:23,840 --> 00:16:34,840

And from what I know of that time, he worked on stress analysis for and guidance for the Polaris missile,

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00:16:34,840 --> 00:16:38,840

for he did a lot of work with the Apollo capsule.

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00:16:38,840 --> 00:16:44,840

I assume he did some work with Mercury and Gemini, but I don't remember saying that.

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00:16:44,840 --> 00:16:50,840

And he worked there until 1971 or two.

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00:16:50,840 --> 00:16:58,840

There was a dive in the aerospace industry and he didn't technically get laid off,

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00:16:58,840 --> 00:17:06,840

but he sort of worked for Tempo and he also did consulting work where he went back to Southern California somewhere.

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00:17:06,840 --> 00:17:10,840

I'm not sure where because at that point I wasn't living with him.

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00:17:10,840 --> 00:17:19,840

I was living in Northern California, so I just know that he was pretty shattered that the aerospace industry took a dive like that.

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00:17:19,840 --> 00:17:27,840

And he was close enough to retirement that he wanted to stay working, but he sort of did consulting work for a while.

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00:17:27,840 --> 00:17:33,840

Basically he did a lot of temporary duty at various places like Cape Canaveral.

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00:17:33,840 --> 00:17:35,840

He went there quite frequently.

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00:17:35,840 --> 00:17:43,840

He used to fly to Albuquerque a lot and I'm not sure where he ended up. I would assume White Sands.

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00:17:43,840 --> 00:17:52,840

I know that when I watched TV shows one time, we saw something on Albert Goddard.

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00:17:52,840 --> 00:17:54,840

He was very interested in that.

226

00:17:55,840 --> 00:18:05,840

I know that when we saw things on Ryan had a vertical takeoff and landing vehicle that they made in the, I believe, mid-50s.

227

00:18:05,840 --> 00:18:13,840

And it was on the 20th century show and I watched that with him and he identified the people that were in the film.

228

00:18:13,840 --> 00:18:14,840

Oh wow.

229

00:18:14,840 --> 00:18:16,840

So he knew who they were.

230

00:18:16,840 --> 00:18:17,840

Again, I...

231

00:18:17,840 --> 00:18:20,840

And obviously, he worked closely with them.

232

00:18:20,840 --> 00:18:21,840

Yeah.

233

00:18:21,840 --> 00:18:23,840

Was he ever on television?

234

00:18:23,840 --> 00:18:28,840

I know. He may have been who knows. I have no idea.

235

00:18:28,840 --> 00:18:31,840

I don't remember seeing him on television.

236

00:18:31,840 --> 00:18:40,840

Did you ever go with him when he went temporary duty to Cape Canaveral or out to California?

237

00:18:40,840 --> 00:18:47,840

Well, you know, when you say temporary duty, he was a civilian, but he was also the colonel in charge of the Air Force Reserve.

238

00:18:48,840 --> 00:18:52,840

So it was... I don't know if you'd really call it temporary duty.

239

00:18:52,840 --> 00:18:55,840

I think it was just business trips.

240

00:18:55,840 --> 00:18:58,840

He went there from Tempo.

241

00:18:58,840 --> 00:19:02,840

And, you know, maybe he was...

242

00:19:02,840 --> 00:19:05,840

Maybe Tempo was the cover for the military.

243

00:19:05,840 --> 00:19:08,840

I don't know. It's called a technical military planning operation.

244

00:19:08,840 --> 00:19:13,840

I assumed he was a civilian contractor for them.

245

00:19:13,840 --> 00:19:19,840

I never got to go with him. I wanted to go because I wanted to go to Florida, and he wouldn't take me.

246

00:19:19,840 --> 00:19:21,840

Did he ever give you a reason why?

247

00:19:21,840 --> 00:19:23,840

I was in school, he said.

248

00:19:23,840 --> 00:19:24,840

Oh, you were in school.

249

00:19:24,840 --> 00:19:27,840

He really didn't want to be bothered with trying to watch me.

250

00:19:27,840 --> 00:19:31,840

I was pretty wild, and it would have just caused him a lot of grief, I'm sure.

251

00:19:31,840 --> 00:19:34,840

In hindsight, I can see that now.

252

00:19:34,840 --> 00:19:39,840

Could you tell me a little bit about how your father died or when he retired and how he died?

253

00:19:39,840 --> 00:19:44,840

He retired, I believe in 1971. It may have been 1972.

254

00:19:44,840 --> 00:19:49,840

He moved from Santa Barbara to California, which was...

255

00:19:49,840 --> 00:19:54,840

I lived a few miles up the hill from Sonora in a place called Cedar Ridge.

256

00:19:54,840 --> 00:20:00,840

And he moved there because my sister lived in Oakdale, which was about 35 miles from there.

257

00:20:00,840 --> 00:20:06,840

And my mother, or my adoptive parents, I call them my mother and father because they were.

258

00:20:06,840 --> 00:20:07,840

Well, I think that's...

259

00:20:07,840 --> 00:20:08,840

Right.

260

00:20:08,840 --> 00:20:13,840

They moved there and they bought a house.

261

00:20:13,840 --> 00:20:21,840

I didn't notice a lot of shift in his awareness and what was going on,

262

00:20:21,840 --> 00:20:30,840

but towards the end of the 70s, we thought that Sonilla was setting in,

263

00:20:30,840 --> 00:20:33,840

because he would forget stuff.

264

00:20:33,840 --> 00:20:37,840

And it was pretty gradual.

265

00:20:37,840 --> 00:20:42,840

And by 1980, when he died, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

266

00:20:42,840 --> 00:20:49,840

So he may have been diagnosed, in fact, in the late 70s with it.

267

00:20:49,840 --> 00:20:52,840

He was pretty scattered at the end.

268

00:20:52,840 --> 00:20:57,840

He would put the wrong shoe on the wrong foot and he would wander off and just start walking.

269

00:20:57,840 --> 00:21:01,840

It was pretty frightening for my mother and pretty frightening for me, too.

270

00:21:01,840 --> 00:21:06,840

I didn't have a lot of contact, even though I lived close by.

271

00:21:06,840 --> 00:21:09,840

I was pretty wild and didn't...

272

00:21:09,840 --> 00:21:13,840

I would see him maybe once every month or so.

273

00:21:13,840 --> 00:21:21,840

And I was going to school in Merced, so I was driving 90 miles one way to school all the time.

274

00:21:21,840 --> 00:21:25,840

And I would just stop by occasionally.

275

00:21:25,840 --> 00:21:34,840

I did notice that his awareness level and his cognitive ability had diminished rapidly.

276

00:21:34,840 --> 00:21:38,840

And I have to admit, I was pretty scared of the whole thing.

277

00:21:38,840 --> 00:21:43,840

And I limited my contact, which is regrettable.

278

00:21:43,840 --> 00:21:46,840

Well, I'm very understandable also.

279

00:21:46,840 --> 00:21:57,840

I was wondering, we were going to get together sometime in June for a videotaped interview.

280

00:21:57,840 --> 00:21:59,840

I'm looking forward to it.

281

00:21:59,840 --> 00:22:01,840

And you're looking forward to it, and so am I.

282

00:22:01,840 --> 00:22:05,840

And I'm looking forward to the materials that you're going to be sending.

283

00:22:05,840 --> 00:22:08,840

You said that you had some 16mm film.

284

00:22:08,840 --> 00:22:13,840

16mm film, and it is...

285

00:22:13,840 --> 00:22:19,840

The reel that I will send is stuff from Dayton, Ohio.

286

00:22:19,840 --> 00:22:23,840

So you'll be able to see what he looked like during that time.

287

00:22:23,840 --> 00:22:27,840

I don't know that the other stuff that I have, it's home movies.

288

00:22:27,840 --> 00:22:33,840

And it goes from the time my sister was born until the mid-70s, I think,

289

00:22:33,840 --> 00:22:37,840

or maybe even further than that, I'm not sure.

290

00:22:37,840 --> 00:22:42,840

On the home movies, were there any parties with military people?

291

00:22:42,840 --> 00:22:45,840

Absolutely not.

292

00:22:45,840 --> 00:22:49,840

I don't ever remember seeing any military people in our home ever.

293

00:22:49,840 --> 00:22:55,840

It's almost as if when he was at home, he was at home.

294

00:22:55,840 --> 00:23:05,840

Every Thursday night, he went and did his Air Force Reserve thing for a couple hours in Santa Barbara.

295

00:23:05,840 --> 00:23:09,840

It was a reserve officer, so it was...

296

00:23:09,840 --> 00:23:12,840

I have no clue what they did.

297

00:23:12,840 --> 00:23:16,840

I doubt they sat around and drank and told war stories, but maybe, I don't know.

298

00:23:16,840 --> 00:23:22,840

I'm almost 100% positive my father didn't sit around and drink with anybody,

299

00:23:22,840 --> 00:23:25,840

because I just never saw him do that.

300

00:23:25,840 --> 00:23:27,840

Was he a member of any other organizations?

301

00:23:27,840 --> 00:23:30,840

Was he an elk or a mousse?

302

00:23:30,840 --> 00:23:32,840

No.

303

00:23:32,840 --> 00:23:38,840

He was a church in his work, and that pretty much covered it.

304

00:23:38,840 --> 00:23:44,840

Is there anything that you would like to ask me?

305

00:23:44,840 --> 00:23:51,840

Well, I'm just really very interested in all this, and I'm so gratified that somebody's doing this work,

306

00:23:51,840 --> 00:23:56,840

because I get to find out more about him, because he was pretty closed-lipped about stuff.

307

00:23:56,840 --> 00:24:05,840

And this will be an opportunity for me to find out about stuff that he couldn't talk about to me.

308

00:24:05,840 --> 00:24:10,840

And it's like the Operation Paperclip.

309

00:24:10,840 --> 00:24:16,840

I don't think that that was classified, but it's not something he would discuss with his family.

310

00:24:16,840 --> 00:24:24,840

He pretty much kept his professional life and military life away from us.

311

00:24:24,840 --> 00:24:32,840

You mentioned in an earlier phone call that there was a scrapbook that was kept on the Project Paperclip.

312

00:24:32,840 --> 00:24:35,840

And I'm looking for that even as we speak.

313

00:24:35,840 --> 00:24:38,840

Well, actually, I'm not actually looking through any boxes.

314

00:24:38,840 --> 00:24:40,840

I still have a couple more boxes to go through.

315

00:24:40,840 --> 00:24:48,840

My mother showed it to me when he died, and I gotta tell you, I put it in a box and never really looked at it.

316

00:24:48,840 --> 00:24:51,840

So I'd like to be able to say I know all about it, but I really don't.

317

00:24:51,840 --> 00:24:53,840

Not at this point anyway.

318

00:24:53,840 --> 00:24:57,840

I'm really hoping that I'll come across that because it had...

319

00:24:57,840 --> 00:25:02,840

Well, they were newspaper articles, so it'll...

320

00:25:02,840 --> 00:25:06,840

I don't know what it's gonna show me, but something I'm sure.

321

00:25:06,840 --> 00:25:14,840

Going back to your father being in the military, do you have any recollection of any medals or anything that he might have won?

322

00:25:14,840 --> 00:25:18,840

Yeah. As a matter of fact, I do.

323

00:25:18,840 --> 00:25:21,840

He had a bronze star.

324

00:25:21,840 --> 00:25:30,840

He had... gosh, I got this... this is digging way back because I used to play with him when I was a little kid.

325

00:25:30,840 --> 00:25:37,840

I think I still have some of the ribbons, so maybe you can identify them by what colors they are.

326

00:25:37,840 --> 00:25:42,840

There was a bronze star, I know, and then there was two or three other ones.

327

00:25:42,840 --> 00:25:46,840

And I don't really know.

328

00:25:46,840 --> 00:25:52,840

Did he ever talk to you about when he was in the service, where exactly he was stationed and at?

329

00:25:52,840 --> 00:25:55,840

Very minimal.

330

00:25:55,840 --> 00:26:05,840

He was with a group of guys that went around in a C-47, and I'm not sure what they did, but I imagine they were intelligence officers.

331

00:26:05,840 --> 00:26:08,840

He talked about being in India.

332

00:26:08,840 --> 00:26:18,840

I know he was in Burma. I know recently, by looking in a photo album of him and these guys, that they were in China.

333

00:26:18,840 --> 00:26:25,840

And I really haven't gotten deep into the photo album, but I'm gonna send that off to you and hopefully you can identify who these guys were.

334

00:26:25,840 --> 00:26:29,840

We're gonna sure give it a good dry.

335

00:26:29,840 --> 00:26:33,840

He told me little anecdotal stories about India and things.

336

00:26:33,840 --> 00:26:40,840

He told me one at any rate that you want me to go into that.

337

00:26:40,840 --> 00:26:41,840

Sure.

338

00:26:41,840 --> 00:26:50,840

Well, in the late 60s I had some desire to go to India and he thought that that was a pretty screwball idea.

339

00:26:50,840 --> 00:27:01,840

And he tried to dissuade me by telling me it was a third-world country that I didn't even have a clue about and that living conditions there were pretty tough.

340

00:27:01,840 --> 00:27:10,840

The story he told me was him and his officer friends were out for the evening and they returned to the space wherever it was.

341

00:27:10,840 --> 00:27:24,840

And they had a Sikh guard as a security person at the gate and this man was sitting on the ground and this was pretty uncharacteristic for a Sikh because they're pretty professional in their service.

342

00:27:24,840 --> 00:27:38,840

And they walked up to him and they asked him why he was sitting down and he said that he was waiting to die and that a snake called a creed had bitten him and apparently it's pretty rapid demise after you've been bitten.

343

00:27:38,840 --> 00:27:44,840

And the whole idea about telling me the story was how fatalistic people in India were.

344

00:27:44,840 --> 00:27:49,840

And I don't know, it just intrigued me all the more.

345

00:27:49,840 --> 00:27:51,840

Did he ever visit Russia?

346

00:27:51,840 --> 00:28:00,840

He was in Russia in the 30s with the LEM Lease Program and I assume it had something to do with being with Volte.

347

00:28:00,840 --> 00:28:03,840

He wrote in Russian.

348

00:28:03,840 --> 00:28:07,840

He spoke it, I believe, a little bit.

349

00:28:07,840 --> 00:28:12,840

I know that he flew when he was there.

350

00:28:12,840 --> 00:28:22,840

And I have some feeling that maybe there was an accident or something that wasn't severe but it may have frightened him enough not to fly anymore.

351

00:28:22,840 --> 00:28:26,840

Or my mother had some influence on him about flying.

352

00:28:26,840 --> 00:28:36,840

But I'm like grasping at straws, they're memories that don't really, they're not really firm concrete memories.

353

00:28:36,840 --> 00:28:43,840

Are there any papers among his boxes that are written in Russian?

354

00:28:43,840 --> 00:28:55,840

The photo album has some Russian in it and I have seen as a child notebooks, like little hand notebooks that were in Russian.

355

00:28:55,840 --> 00:28:57,840

And I thought like what is this?

356

00:28:57,840 --> 00:29:02,840

I mean I didn't even recognize the really alphabet.

357

00:29:02,840 --> 00:29:06,840

And he told me it was Russian and I said wow, you speak Russian?

358

00:29:06,840 --> 00:29:10,840

And he said well a little bit and he could write it and read it apparently.

359

00:29:10,840 --> 00:29:14,840

So he was a pretty interesting guy.

360

00:29:14,840 --> 00:29:18,840

I sure sound like it.

361

00:29:18,840 --> 00:29:20,840

Well, let's see.

362

00:29:20,840 --> 00:29:31,840

Let me go through my notes here real quick and see if there's anything that I want to pick up here on this initial phone interview.

363

00:29:31,840 --> 00:29:33,840

Can you spell his middle name for me?

364

00:29:33,840 --> 00:29:39,840

B-O-N-N-E-L-L which was his mother's maiden name.

365

00:29:39,840 --> 00:29:42,840

And he pronounces his name the Armand.

366

00:29:42,840 --> 00:29:51,840

A lot of people, we've only known him as A-B, Derrimand is the way everyone is pronouncing it.

367

00:29:51,840 --> 00:29:53,840

But he pronounces the Armand.

368

00:29:53,840 --> 00:29:57,840

Yes, and that's the way I always heard it pronounced.

369

00:29:57,840 --> 00:29:58,840

Is that a French extraction?

370

00:29:58,840 --> 00:30:00,840

It's French Canadian.

371

00:30:00,840 --> 00:30:04,840

That's interesting.

372

00:30:04,840 --> 00:30:16,840

In looking at this document that I have now which is called, I don't even know, Organization Copy Reserve, not on EAD,

373

00:30:16,840 --> 00:30:21,840

it says something about Brit Airway Ministry accident investigation.

374

00:30:21,840 --> 00:30:24,840

So, I think it's a little bit of a long story.

375

00:30:24,840 --> 00:30:27,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

376

00:30:27,840 --> 00:30:30,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

377

00:30:30,840 --> 00:30:32,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

378

00:30:32,840 --> 00:30:34,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

379

00:30:34,840 --> 00:30:36,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

380

00:30:36,840 --> 00:30:38,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

381

00:30:38,840 --> 00:30:40,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

382

00:30:40,840 --> 00:30:42,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

383

00:30:42,840 --> 00:30:44,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

384

00:30:44,840 --> 00:30:46,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

385

00:30:46,840 --> 00:30:48,840

I think it's a little bit of a long story.

386

00:30:49,840 --> 00:30:51,840

It's typed right on the line.

387

00:30:51,840 --> 00:30:53,840

It looks like 46.

388

00:30:53,840 --> 00:31:00,840

And then it says, Economic Mobile Course, two weeks completed, 1950.

389

00:31:00,840 --> 00:31:04,840

There is one listing here.

390

00:31:04,840 --> 00:31:12,840

It says, G-slash-S-S-T-A Hospital Fort MacArthur, California, October 1947.

391

00:31:12,840 --> 00:31:17,840

I don't know if that means anything, but that's what's written on this.

392

00:31:17,840 --> 00:31:21,840

I'm sure you're going to be able to make more sense of this than I am.

393

00:31:21,840 --> 00:31:23,840

We're going to sure try.

394

00:31:23,840 --> 00:31:27,840

I just want to let you know that we appreciate the initial phone interview.

395

00:31:27,840 --> 00:31:31,840

Like I say, I do look forward to meeting you in person in June.

396

00:31:31,840 --> 00:31:35,840

We'll go out and have a good time and have a good steak dinner and things.

397

00:31:35,840 --> 00:31:36,840

Sounds good to me.

398

00:31:36,840 --> 00:31:38,840

Sounds good to me too.

399

00:31:38,840 --> 00:31:41,840

I appreciate you sending the materials to us.

400

00:31:41,840 --> 00:31:46,840

We will get those duplicated and sent right back to you.

401

00:31:46,840 --> 00:31:53,840

And of course, we will keep you informed of everything that we discover and come up with.

402

00:31:53,840 --> 00:31:56,840

So you'll know everything that's going on step by step.

403

00:31:56,840 --> 00:31:57,840

Okay.

404

00:31:57,840 --> 00:31:58,840

And that.

405

00:31:58,840 --> 00:32:00,840

I really appreciate you talking with me tonight.

406

00:32:00,840 --> 00:32:01,840

No problem.

407

00:32:01,840 --> 00:32:02,840

Okay.

408

00:32:02,840 --> 00:32:05,840

I'm going to stop this now.

409

00:32:05,840 --> 00:32:07,840

And then we'll talk.