

Hotfoot/35 Side A
Interview with Paul Chiapparone
November 12, 1981

KF You knew that he could speak English because you ~~con~~tested it.

PC You could tell, yea. The thing that the prisoners who had been there for awhile would tell us was don't trust anybody. You don't say anything, you know so we had a certain degree of comfort in the fact that alot of them didn't speak English. So the other side is, English, anybody who is educated the chances are excellent they spoke English if not they used some words in English. So you would say you would encourage them, you would say something about the kind of gender of something like that that would get a reaction, no man I don't know how good you are you know the guy's going to react. Who cares, so I forgot what I said but I knew he could speak English, there was no doubt in my mind.

KF You had actually tested in him?

PC I think I had in jail, inside the jail or I'm sure I had and he may have even talked to us. But not alot, just to say hello, how are you? But, I was concerned that he was always there.

KF And who had you spoken to about this, Lloyd Briggs?

PC I think it was Lloyd or Rich Gallagher, one of the people who had come earlier to visit us. But in any case, ^{Majid} [REDACTED] was there talking to the Colonel and this other guy. Jay and I were talking to them ;and Rich and Bill.

KF Bill Gaylord. You must also have noticed Jay's appearance?

PC Yea, he was starting to grow a beard.

KF Which is of course against the rules for EDS employees.

PC Yea, but internationally at that point in time that didn't surprise me. I asked Jay about it, he said that's probable.

KF And he was wearing a down coat.

PC Yes.

KF Was he wearing a little black hat, wool hat?

PC Not that big, he wasn't subsequently. But anyway...

KF What I'm trying to get at did his appearance strike you, did you immediately think something underhanded is happening?

PC No.

KF You didn't.

PC Not until, number one when I saw him there I had a sense of security. But not because I knew this was going on, this is my first impression of Jay. And you know, Jay his hair was combed I think he was starting to grow a beard, can't grow one I don't remember. But anyway as soon as he started when he started asking me questions when we got through the pleasantries of how are you, how are you doing, how's the family, then it was obvious that something was happening.

KF Because of the questions he asked.

PC Well sure.

KF Now try and remember those questions.

PC How often are you in the courtyard, what's your routine during the day, how many guards are there, what do they do, what's the inside look like. Then I came to him and I said Jay there's a fairly elite group of guards that I've seen and they have what I would consider xxxx they have very shiny helmets on. But they disappear during the day. He said will you find out what they do, so it was those types of things. Then he said okay now he said I'll let you know before something happens, he says I'll come back and see you again and get all the answers to these questions and then we'll decide what to do. That's precisely what happened.

KF How did you feel about that?

PC I felt great, I felt super, I'm back on a high again.

KF He didn't mention Simons?

PC Not at that point.

KF And I think you told me the other day that you didn't tell Bill much of this.

PC No I didn't and the reason was that what I was thought was that if something happened if the Iranians got wind of what was going on, you know, and Bill started getting interrogated, you know at least there's only one of us that has to lie. If he could tell the truth that he honestly didn't know what was going on, maybe they'd believe him. So I felt like I mean I was going to tell him but I was going to wait until really till I knew what was going on. But it was interesting though because it was shortly after that that we got the word we were going to move. And Jay hadn't, but it was a very short period of time like a week or so, and I'm waiting for Jay to come back because I've got the answers to the questions. Plus I've got a few questions now. And, they called Negabod at the Ministry, they meaning the guards,

PC speak to them in Farsic they got those orders in they were to move us. They're going to move us. So I'm thinking oh, maybe today's the day, right. At any case Bill says what do you think, I said well I don't know Bill I said maybe they're going to move us, let's just wait and see what happens. Anyway these guys, typical Iran they tell us three hours later, get ready and get packed, we're sitting around and everybody says goodbye. And the old man, the old man, the guy that was in charge of our cell, he had been there awhile, very very nice man, had really, he was just beginning English and we were communicating through this other fellow, really really liked my children and I had pictures, they had brought me pictures of Karen and Marie and I just kind of stuck them up there. And he, he almost was in tears that we were leaving, so I remember giving him the picture of Karen and Marie. So you know, very interesting, I'm going to get off the subject in a second here Ken. One of the things, one of the hardest things was thinking about the family, I never told Ruthie this but you know alot of times I would just forget about them, just kind of put them out of my mind and that also helped, that really helps get me through. If I didn't think about them, I didn't have to worry about them. And really worry's a selfish thing, I wasn't worried about their safety because I knew once they were in the United States, they were there before I went to prison, but Ross, you know. I'd never would have to worry about them having a roof on their head, that Ross would take care of them which wasn't a problem. So worry is from a selfish standpoint, you know you can't see them, you know so you're deprived. That's what I mean when I say worry. Any case, they finally load us onto this bus along with some other prisoners and we start the journey to this prison I gather. But I'm thinking that this is where it's going to happen right. I still hadn't told Bill anything yet 'cause I'm not sure, I mean you know I distinctly saying "I'll be back, you get the answers to these questions then we'll talk about when, where and how." In any case they drove us to this other prison, God it was unbelievable, it was unreal that there was alot of women in shodorahs, shodorahs is a long black you know gown that religious women wear when they are choose they buy that whole complete and it

PC really doesn't show very clear. But it's a very very religious thing. A lot of women outside you know in shodorahs, I remember us, they open this set of doors we went inside they closed that set of doors, they opened another set of steel doors when we were inside they closed that set of steel doors. This place was huge, I mean there were buildings around, you know, there's an awful lot. We got taken into the General's office, the General ran all the prisons in Tehran, and we were taken into his office and at that point I knew Jay wasn't coming. For if he was he was sure making it look good. So you know, we went through the same procedure again, they signed us in to the prison, they had us escorted to what was to be our home again for the rest of three or four weeks. And it was a building that lower floor housed the mental patients. And we were upstairs in that building, the building had a little courtyard even this one had a courtyard. And the security was very very tight, I mean there were people that would walk by, soldiers with guns, there were towers you know guards with machine guns there, it was a very very high security prison. We had a little bit of freedom up to the room that we were in and also down in this courtyard. Because we could walk back whenever we wanted to really, except at night. So that's where we spent the rest of our time. It was at that prison that Ross came to see us.

KF I wonder what date you were moved, I suppose it must have been about the 20th of January?

PC Yes.

KF Maybe the 25th.

PC It was about almost half way through January. I've got to think about that.

KF You must have been a little bit disappointed that you had thought this had been the day?

PC Yea. Well I wasn't sure but I was, I mean it was obvious that when we were put back into this other prison, you know that our people had absolutely nothing to do with this move. One of the things I did before we left the other prison just in case this wasn't the day, I got Negabod to write some instructions to try and bribe the Colonel to call the Embassy to tell them we are being moven. Because the thing that was in my mind is supposed that this is not the time and Jay comes tonight. We won't be here, you know, or whenever he does come. I wanted to make sure that they knew exactly where we were. So they moved us and very shortly thereafter we had a visitor like the next day, and then it was a couple of days later that Ross showed up. That's when, and Jay came also, that's when they told me you know about Colonel Simons and we talked about the fact that you know since we were now moved, it's a whole new ball game. They were going to devise another plan 'cause Jay told me they were getting ready to do a dry run, you know up through the countryside and I probably wouldn't see them for a couple of weeks don't worry about it. Once again try to get the layout, and then Ross talked an awful lot about our families. That was a super visit Ken, that us got back on a high again. I had been a little sick I had or I was on the verge of getting caught that's what it was, I had had a cold in the other prison and gotten over it but I apparently got a relapse. And at that time I smoked and I was coughing I had pains here and I was miserable. My whole experience in that prison, both of them, I think of cold, I was never warm, from the day I went to the day I went out. I was always cold. You know, I'm not, I'm a person that if you open a door from the northeast, I mean I used to cold weather, but for some reason, I was just always cold, I usually remember cold, cold, cold. So...

KF Tell me a bit more about the day Ross had came, you had no warning that he was coming.

PC No, none what so ever.

KF They took you out of your building and out of your little compound, and up the street to something that everybody describes as being a bit like the officer's club.

PC Yea, it is.

KF Was Ross there or did you get first.

PC No, no we were walking down, let's say the building was here our compound is here, General's office under the main entrance is over here, well I was walking like this not knowing that there was a guard between Bill and I and then out of the corner of my eye I seen Ross carrying a bag of groceries. And, you know, I did a double take and I started going like this and he kept, he really didn't hit me but he said no very sternly and to walk that direction. So I'm kind of doing one of these with my eyes, and really trying to get a look at Ross and I just could not believe he was there. He was the last person in the world that I expected to see. And Jay was there, and Jay had the full beard and that's when he had the hat on. So that's when I really found out what was going on and once again they didn't know how they were going to do it, but, they had told me it will happen we just need to figure what we're going to do right now. And Ross brought some notes from people that we had been very close to around here you know one liners things that meant an awful lot to us.

KF Do you remember any of them?

PC Oh, I just David Behne who is one of our officers and runs our Texas operation down in Austin sent me a note that his son, I'd known David now for 15 years. He and I had joined about the same time. When I used to come to Dallas I used to stay at his house, his son Tommy who is now married, was ten years ago or 12 years ago when he was growing up he couldn't pronounce my name he used to say Chapanoodle. So David wrote a note that had something to do with Chapanoodle, so that was a big message for me. You know because

PC that told me that Tommy cared and Karen and it was things like that. Ross brought a letter from Ruthie which was very it's the type of thing that you read and read and read everyday you bring home the time. You know, it's like starting all over again, she was looking for houses, you know told me about the kids. You know, seemed to be in excellent spirits, you know, very very positive outlook. So that was very very good, spent an hour, Ross talked alot about what was going on at EDS, Bill had his moustache, I remember he would've given anything for a razor from the time we saw we Ross from the time we came back. But you know Ross laughed and said you ought to keep it on, and you know it was just so nice. He said us he had seen Ramsey Clark and kind of relayed that story to us, it was quite comical. And it was interesting we also met the American woman that was, remember I told you about the American woman that was...

KF Nobody's told me about her, people just keep referring to her.

PC There was an American woman in jail we saw her for the first time that day, she apparently had been in jail 30 days before the Embassy knew about it. We saw her that day.

KF And she was accused of murder.

PC Yes, she was xxxxxx beyond that I'm not sure of the... I tell her when I saw her again. When I was, we were trying to decide when we were leaving on the day of the break. I saw her in a crowd of people making their way toward the Colonel. But, I thought she had gotten killed because it was right at that point in time that a few minutes later that the guy in the tower started shooting at people. I thought I saw her fall but anyway that was the day that Ross was there.

KF Have you still got the letter from Ruthie?

PC No, Bill and I when we left, left everything in the room. Bill kept a diary for every hour for every day of what went on, about my illness plus whatever else he could write. And the day we were leaving he wanted to grab all that and I said, look I said, I think we're probably better off not getting caught with anything on us that shows we're Americans. As much as I love my country I would like for us to just kind of let's see when we get back we'll see what happens. He agreed, he said yea we probably ought to go on and leave this stuff here. So no all that was there I had the opskid there, and you know I had written down things that I was going to do when I got back, I had figured out some finances on housing and those type of things, whatever you do with your time. But anyway, after Ross left and I got sick I mean pretty sick, you know, bronchial condition and you know you try to take care of yourself, but it was obvious that I was getting worse. So I finally had to go to the doctor which was an interesting experience because the doctor didn't speak English. We talked in the universal language, I coughed and he understood. He prescribed some medication and I guess it was their form of penicillin, two or three other types of pills. I was guessing at the frequencies I was to take them because I didn't know. Interesting enough he also gave some cough medicine I don't know if you remember when you were a young child, you may be younger than I am, so I don't know. But anyway when I was a young child I used to take cough medicine that tasted like alcohol, I mean it was purified, not purified it wasn't coated with all the different tastes, and flavors that we have today. It was the rough stuff, whatever they prescribed for me it was like cough medicine tasted exactly like that which my mother used to give me 35 to 40 years ago. It's just amazing that I had that flashback.

KF Did it work?

PC Yes. Well the problem that I had gotten into, my fever had finally broke and I started feeling better, what happened is I had coughed so much, I had apparently ruptured something up here. Boy everytime I breathed in deeply or I would, I slept in a bunkbed, I've had to kind

PC of just pull myself in. I couldn't move these muscles at all, it's unbelievable. I felt that way the day we broke out, I'm not that sure how I got onto that wall. Somehow, that part of me didn't bother me that day. But, anyway yea, I did get better.

KF Do you remember anything in particular in the letter?

PC I remember her telling me that Karen had started a new school. Karen it takes Karen a little bit longer to adapt to change than it does Ann Marie. Ann Marie just kind of, I don't know if you saw her even when we were with your children, Ann Marie and Mary Claire just kind of naturally went to each other. Where Karen and your son, it took a little longer. That's the way Karen is with new things, but she becomes very close to people. In any case, everytime we would change schools, Karen would be sick to her stomach for the first couple of days Ann Marie kept telling me that it was the same adjustment period you know while she was starting school. And Ruthie was telling me that she was timing out on her mother. She had told her mother that I was going to be home, you know that I wouldn't be home for Christmas but I would be home a couple of weeks later, well she kept timing out on the couple of weeks, she was finding it very difficult to keep that up. It wasn't an emotional letter in the sense that we weren't going to see each other anymore because as it turned out she did say that she felt like there was a chance we were never going to see each other anymore. I never felt that way. Even though I saw the gunfire and all that, I don't know why, I always felt that I was going to get back. I may have been very very naive on my part. But I never thought about the fact that I would not see them again, I felt that I was going to figure out a way to get to see them, because I wasn't going to be cheated out of that. So the letter didn't have that type of movement, if you know what I mean, I mean when when you're a very close family relationship, I mean talk about the positive things and what we're going to do. I found out later that when I got back she did quite a few times that she felt that that was going to be it. In fact she bought this house thinking that she was going to live in it by herself.

KF Well did she?

PC I think so, you know she wasn't sure at that point in time whether either of us were going to see each other anymore.

KF Any developments between Ross' visit and the 11th of February?

PC Well I got sick, the situation in the country was obviously starting to deteriorate alot more rapidly.

KF Was anybody listening to the radio in the jail, any of the prisoners?

PC There was a t.v., of course it was in Farsic. And there wasn't one man who could translate for us, but you know that gets old so you really miss an awful lot of what's going on. Now I don't remember if this took place prior or subsequent to Ross' visit, but I remember the t.v. was on when Khomeini came back in the country for the first time. It was obvious things were very very emotional at the time. I also remember back in the other jail I distinctly remember the day the Shah left. It reminded me I used to go to Philadelphia for New Year's I used to watch the New Year's Day Parade because it was very jubilant time. People were blowing their horns that day when the Shah left and then they had a religious high. I got a little concerned about why people would be so happy about him leaving, but that wasn't much of that, but I do remember. But Khomeini returned, nothing other than me getting sick, you know, and you look forward to visitors, the food was so so, but we were trying to get them to bring some kind of good food, we had to share everything so we would wind up getting less than half of what we... Oh yea one of the meetings, oh yes, the meeting where I got my money.

KF Oh yes.

PC Keane used to give us, I smoked at that time, Bill didn't. So Keane started out with a situation where he would put money into a cigarette pack give me a cigarette, offer me a cigarette and let me keep the pack but that was only like \$50 or \$100 a shot it couldn't take a whole lot. But there was one day, it was interesting enough it was about a week to ten days before we got out. We were sitting there and Keane was there and the reason he had come is I was the only in the country that could sign a power of attorney. My signature was the only legal one, they were trying to sell some cars, so I had to sign some stuff for them. I said to Keane, do you have any money, he said "yea, how much do you need?" I need alot and the reason is in this particular prison money talks, you could buy your way. You could buy a bath, or get a shower and at the other place, forget it. And what happens is we had only gone to prison with a \$100 once a week they would get us, we could go stand in line and they would give us \$10 or \$15 which is supposed to buy cigarettes and stuff. For whatever reason the guard got up and left for like a minute, and Keane just reached in his pocket took a wad of bills and then just shook them right in my pocket. Interesting enough though the other person that was in prison with us, xxxxx xxxxx he was a lawyer. He also had killed, done something to his mother-in-law. He noticed that we weren't going to get our money on the prescribed times. And he says to me, 'you've got some money?' I said why do you ask. He says you aren't going to get your \$10 on time. And his point was don't make it obvious to the people that you've changed your path which was good advice. So in any case the day we got out we were loaded with money, loaded being \$4,000 or \$5,000. I forget how much he gave me, but he gave me an awful lot of money. Which was nice, Bill and I just kind of split it up. Once again you feel secure, you know money isn't everything, but when you're on your own. At least you can do something. Not you won't have to bribe people just buy things what have you, get a car what have you. So that was another event in my life during the period when Ross was there until the day we broke out.

KF Okay. I want to know all about the day the day of the break from the moment you woke up.

PC Okay. The night before, I've got to have the atmosphere xxxxx. The night, the gunfire prior to then had been sporadic. It would be shots of gunfire and then it would be nothing, then you would hear shots of gunfire. I remember the night before kind of building to a crescendo. I was awake on and off most of that night you know which had nothing to do with the break but I just remember that night the gunfire was getting very intense. Which apparently was when the revolution was about to take place at the jail. And, I slept very well with the exception for the time I was sick. I slept fine, so it was unusual for me to be awake and I do remember being awake that night. I remember the guards of that morning looked very nervous, how they looked nervous they didn't seem to be following their normal pattern after 46 days. Half of that time at one jail with nothing to do you got to observe patterns. I mean, that's all you did was observe patterns, you ate at this time, you did this at that time, they didn't appear to be following their same patterns.

KF In what way?

PC Oh, they were restless, they would in and out of our rooms. During the day they would be downstairs people would move fast, they would be talking they would be huddled off together in like whispers. You know those type of things, just totally uncommon.

KF Okay. But first of all tell me, well tell me about what time you got up?

PC 8:00 o'clock, 7:30 or 8:00 o'clock. Got dressed.

KF Got dressed, shaved, had breakfast.

PC Yes.

KF What did you have for breakfast?

PC Typical breakfast, canned juice, people bring me in can juice, bread, tea, that's about it.

KF Everybody who's been in Iran says tea in that tone of voice.

PC Yea, that's right. Where we would say coffee here you would just substitute tea. That's just it. So we got dressed and one of the things also that Ross had told me was that he had met General Heiser in Iran and General Heiser had told him that if the situation totally deteriorated he would come and get us. This is kind of in the background, except that I remember that one of the other prisoners it had been in the paper that Heiser had left the country. I said gee that's strange he left without us. Anyway, this was in my mind that day, Heiser had made this promise to Ross and people don't make promises to Ross they don't keep. At any case, we went through the morning pretty much normal. And I say pretty much normal, one thing I did is I said a rosary everyday, I am Catholic and I said a rosary, I said it to myself. Just to make sure I figured I would try everything. I mean you never know what's going to work so you try a little bit of everything. So I did say a rosary that would be nothing more than me kind of sitting down staring out the window. Bill was a little more obvious about it, he's Catholic. We had lunch that day, and I don't remember what we had for lunch because I wasn't really thinking about lunch, I mean it was obvious the other prisoners were the same, you know, something is happening, things don't seem right. In any case, we heard alot of gun shots and we heard alot of commotion shortly after we had finished lunch. And I was downstairs right at the front of the door that was in the courtyard, in other words I was in our compound but I was just standing at the door there. These mental prisoners, one thing about them, you can't help but hear it, they would continually cry and scream. And that was a bad scene, if you will, the guards would also hit them. I'm not sure they were doing anything malicious but maybe that's the way you control them. Anyway, it bothered me.

PC We'd be up there laying in bed and you'd hear these people screaming downstairs. Anyway, I was downstairs in the background I could hear these prisoners screaming. I heard alot of gun shots, there was alot of commotion around the front of the prison. Now by commotion I mean, you hear people chanting and this and that and the next thing. The guards started changing their clothes out of their uniforms into their civilian clothes. I noticed they were very lax in the way they left the gate open to our particular area, they would kind of run back and forth and what have you. While I was standing there a gun shot went literally within inches of my feet, which kind of shook me up a little bit. Nobody shot at me, I think what happened is it was common for people to fire shots in the air I have a feeling one ricocheted off a tree and then came down. I'm almost positive that's what it was. So I naturally went back inside, I told Bill what had happened.

KF Didn't you pick up the bullet?

PC No! No Sir. So I went back upstairs to our area and I was standing out there when Bill was there, and I was thinking well maybe Heiser's going to bring a helicopter. And I remember Ross had said you'll know when it happens, you know, the day he came to visit the jail. But for some reason I wasn't putting two and two together at that particular moment. But I knew something was happening. And I happened to see a motorcycle down there and I was thinking to myself gee, maybe I'll get on that motorcycle if I have to. That's a good way for Bill to leave because I used to ride a motorcycle. I wasn't one of the Hell's Angels I was one of the executive motorcycle riders that you see around. I don't ride them anymore, but anyway I knew how to ride a motorcycle. And then I got to thinking, gee how am I going to get it over the wall, that's a bad idea they're not going to open the doors for me. The bad idea was the motorcycle. I remember looking out at the door saying to myself, boy Gayden, that son-of-a-gun I'm here, because he and I went to Iran. Because he asked me to go to Iran and now he's off doing something else, in a kidding way. I remember

PC telling Bill you know, something to the effect, that SOB Gayden. So anyway, we saw the guards starting to leave and left the doors open to the gates.

KF This is the gate to your compound?

PC The gate to the compound. Now, once again I hear a loud series of noises coming from the front of the actual prison compound itself, not ours, but the whole thing. But you couldn't see anything because you know, there are other buildings and we were quite a distance away from them. And Bill and I were saying well what do you think, because the guards had opened the gates up and said whatever you want. Apparently at this point in time, the guys, the mob had broken into the actual compound itself, and what we were hearing was their chanting and the shots and it may have been that one of those shots was the one of these ones that had ricocheted right next to us when I was standing there. In any case, other prisoners were starting to leave other, their own compounds. And it was an interesting scene because some of these guys apparently Ken had been in jail for 25 years. Think of someone who you know for the first time in 25 years even though he's still in a prison is on his own, he thinks. You know it was singing and the women's prison is right across from us. And there was alot of crying going on, that is you would expect I guess women knew. In any case, we went back down to the doorway and stood in the doorway, and the other prisoner who spoke English said, "let's go." I still wasn't sure yet exactly what was going on. And you know in our computer background says you ought to figure out what's happening before you make the move. So we were still kind of thinking through you know, what we should do, when we should do it, should we even go with them, should we go on our own you know. I don't know if we ever talked these things but this was what was going through our minds. In any case, we saw this groups of prisoners, the whole compound had somewhere between 11,000 and 12,000 so we just saw alot, I don't know how many, alot of people. And I noticed that

PC the guard at the top started shooting at these people. So you know I said, boy, no reason we want to get to know that, there's a chance in three that we were going to get killed. So we just kind of watched a little bit.

KF Did he shoot, what kind of gun, was it a round...?

PC It seemed like an automatic, it seemed like an automatic he was shooting. I heard alot of shots, now don't forget there were shots coming from the front of the compound too, so it was difficult to say...

KF Did it look as if he killed some of those people?

PC It looked to me like a couple of people fell. Okay, but there were so people around I couldn't tell. It may have been then fell because the person behind them tripped them or the person in front of them tripped them, so I don't know.

KF But he didn't have a machine gun so that he could mow them down.

PC It didn't look to be a machine gun, no. It looked a gun and I heard alot of gunfire, but as I say I couldn't tell whether it was directly coming from up there or it was coming from the front or it's coming from the revolutionaries who had come into the compound at that point in time. So we were just kind of waiting, and observing, and watching and trying to figure the best time for us to make our move. When we started seeing smoke come from some of the buildings and that point we said now look I think we'd ought to take our chances, both of us were saying this, we ought to take our chances and get to know the crowd. The chances of somebody getting us is not too good, we stay here this building's going to go on fire, and as soon as they get here they're going to start burning this building, so we ought to try to get the hell out of here. So we did just that, we mingled with the crowd.

PC Now, there was a in our prison upstairs, upstairs was divided into two areas. One area we were in, and another area where there was a Mexican-American, a Brit, a fellow from New Zealand and there may have even been an Italian-American, I don't remember. We saw them, and we kind of merged in with them as we were going towards the entrance way. Looking over towards some of the wall I saw planks with people walking up those planks, going over. A lot of the prisoners were breaking glass on the cars of the prison officials, they had these sticks, these planks, this was the frenzy that I was describing. As I say, you'd just think of how people would be who had been cooped up for many many years and finally see daylight and just going crazy there. We had gotten to the building where we met Ross and prisoners were breaking windows in that building. So what we did was, we weren't sure where we were going to go, we were kind of walking towards the front of the building, when somebody called us over. Called us, being called the group of prisoners over, because we were thinking about going over the planks but there were so many people on these damn planks that you know, I wasn't sure that we'd ever get over. In any case, I think it was the friend of the fellow from New Zealand called us over and there was a group of prisoners that were knocking a hole in this cement wall. And you know they were just chipping it out down at the bottom, sure enough they got an area out that we were able to get through.

KF And was this in the officer's club or beside it?

PC It was off to, the far building was here, the officer's club was here we had just gotten around the officer's club when we looked over to the side, and the wall ran kind of cross like that. And it was this area here that we did, so in any case, we went over, we crawled through this one cement wall and then we were into I remember a construction area. I remember it being very sandy and I had dungarees on and I had a blue London fog coat on because that's what I had gone to prison in.

KF A blue what?

PC London fog raincoat that had looked like I had been a construction worker after I got done going through the hole because I had to get down on my belly and start down. So anyway we went over...

KF Wait a minute I thought the walls were stone, there must have just been an area of it that was cement.

PC One area was cement, that's exactly right. One area, and it was around this construction area and I think what had happened is that they had probably temporarily you know put brick up, just to seal it off. Well anyway they had knocked this thing out. So we got through that area we climbed up on a little bit of a mound and then we went over to the main wall. This was the one supposedly I guess, it was high Ken I've been told it was 12 feet high, but I didn't measure it, all I can tell you it was high. And, Bill and I we weren't talking we were just kind of moving if you will with the crowd, and went over the wall. And I remember getting up on the wall, going over and as I was coming down I tell myself gee, I wonder where Bill is. I turned around, he's right beside me, I'm with him.

KF So you recall going over this wall?

PC Yea, oh yes very definitely.

KF Now, he recalls, I think he must recall that wrongly because he and I couldn't figure it out. He thought they were in a building, he thought you were in a building under construction.

PC I remember, I remember you see there were two walls that looked alike...

KF Yea, he didn't remember that, and I think that's where he...

PC And I think what had happened is there was construction, it was stone walls like you said is correct. And I think there had been construction in one, because when we got there these guys were knocking it out, right. And it looked to me like freshly laid bricks, if I remember, okay, in this one temporary area. We crawled through that area, went over this mound that was the construction, whatever they were building around there. But there was still the outer wall. Then we went over the outer wall and into the street.

KF Okay, how did you do that?

PC There was a couple of people standing on the wall, okay, and I went ahead and just made a running leap and kind of grabbed the top of the wall if you will, this other guy came over to me, I guess thinking I was Iranian, held out his hand and just kind of jimmied me over the top. And I just did one big flip and landed on my feet, I remember my feet hurting when I hit the ground, and then kind of looking around wondering where Bill was, he's right next to me. Okay. So we're in the streets.

KF Alright, so now you're on the street the first time in...

PC Alot of chanting and people were interested in it. I reminds me of a parade in downtown New York, people were in the windows clapping, okay. And apparently alot of them thought they were political prisoners getting out and you know you understand the situation with political prisoners. Anyway, I remember the people applauding, I remember horns beeping, I remember hearing shots coming from inside the prison and also coming from around the area.

KF You didn't actually see any shooting right there and then?

PC Not right there and then, we did throughout the rest of the day, none directly at us, I don't believe. But see there was also an army compound about a block away and it was to the north. Now, I knew

PC they were staying at the Hyatt, Jay had told me that, Jay or Ross, someone had told me they were staying at the Hyatt. So I knew that was where I wanted to go, I was going to go to the Hyatt. One more event and I'm going to get back in just a second. Between the time Ross was there and the time of the break. Keane brought the Catholic priest in to visit Bill and I. Okay, I'll put it together for you in just a second, anyway that was a very important event for both of us, and he had given us absolution, you know immediately your sins are forgiven, if you ever get a chance go back and tell another priest but if anything happens to you, you're okay, you'll go straight up. So he had come and spent some time with us there, and this is the priest we knew who used to say mass every Sunday at the missionary. In any case, we have to go north, at every street corner there looked to be bunkers set up, sand bags, things like that. It looked like each street was an area that people were guarding. I remember young boys, 13, 14 years old walking down the streets with M1's holding them like this for firing. I remember people, cars, with the person sitting on the passenger's side holding the weapon outside the window. We were in a frenzy, I remember hearing gunshots going you know over my head and apparently these were coming from the army installation that I was just telling you about. We started heading north, and it was obvious that the gunfire was coming to intense. So what we were doing was dodging in and out of streets and places like this. A lot of crowds gathered that we had to go through, and I felt fairly comfortable once again, as long as I don't have to speak, I can pass for an Iranian. And Bill what we did is I kind of went first and Bill went behind me only because of his appearance that he kind of, I remember him having a fur coat, fur being a coat that had a fur collar, that's what it was. He just kind of did one of these and kept his head down, and he was just kind of following me. You know, every now and then we'd ask each other how we're doing, and we'd say we're still alive. So what we did we still tried to go north, knowing we had to go north, and then it was absolutely impossible to penetrate because we were afraid there would be gun fire. We were afraid of getting shot by a stray bullet, we then headed south, which we didn't want to do, because once again

PC the southern part of the city was a party of those of xxxxx who were again afraid of the anti-American sentiment. But we figured that's the only thing we could do. So I would say for about two hours, a good two hours we dodged, went south, we're still walking. Finally we get up...

KF South and what, south and east or south and west?

PC South and west, we went south, I'm sorry south and east and then we came around the north again, alright. So about two hours we finally started making ourselves north, and we were not out of ear shot of the gunshots, but we were out of the visible area of the gunshots. We wound up in area I recognized where the American school is as a matter of fact, so we were tired and we had a long way to go so we start hitchhiking. We got a ride with an individual that spoke English, he wouldn't take us to where we wanted to go, he took us to another area that happened to be very near the Catholic mission, alright. So anyway, the street was called Gatoria, so we...

KF How do you spell that?

PC I have to get it for you, I don't even remember the correct name, I don't know how to spell it. So we started walking on the street, and I remember the Catholic mission was there, Bill says "why don't we go into the mission?" I said well I said my concern about that is that they will remember that the priest was there last week, and that might be an obvious spot for them to look for us. So therefore, I don't think it's a good idea to go to the mission. In any case, we started walking on the street again, alot of gunfire, alot of horns beeping, I see cameramen underneath cars and on top of cars taking pictures, the press I guess, you know not necessarily the Iranian press but all the other press was there. I remember when we were walking up the street I hear somebody say, "Mr. Paul, Mr. Paul." And that's what they used to call me in jail, they called him Mr. Bill they called him Mr. Paul they couldn't speak English but that's how they... And it's one of the

PC guards and he's waving to me, smiling, he's in a car going the other way on the street. And so hi, hi, how are you well we kept going. In any case, we're still hitchhiking and Bill's on the sidewalk and I'm on the street you know hitchhiking thinking once he'll think that I look Iranian he'll stop and they always so this one fellow and it looked like his girlfriend stopped. And Bill jumped in and I think they were probably once they saw Bill and they knew we were Americans they were probably a little afraid then. But in any case we talked to them, they didn't speak English but I showed them some money and told them where we wanted to go, we wanted to go to the Hyatt Hotel. I remember it being a very long ride through different areas through different streets and everything, I remember buildings being on fire and the glass fronts being broken. We drove up near the neighborhood where I lived in the street...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

KF What do you remember as a beautiful area?

PC You're talking about something in the mideast but there is beauty to that. We went up past the Shah's palace and in the Shah's palace in the driveway there were tanks, just lined up as far as your eye could see and at top of the antennas on the tanks were white handkerchiefs. Which obviously meant that the army had surrendered, I remember army personnel with corsages in their lapels. So we finally made our way up to the Hyatt Hotel. We gave this couple I think about \$200 and they left. We walked into the Hyatt now at this point I started worrying about looking so scruffy, kind of wishing I looked like a businessman again. And we walked in the Hyatt and I started asking for the rooms of our people, nobody's registered. My first thought was that I had misunderstood the name of the hotel. So I'm going down the list, I'm going down the list, I finally get to John Howell, John Howell is registered. I subsequently find out that all of the hotel rooms are in Keane Taylor's name and I had forgotten Keane. I went through Gayden, Young, I went through all these guys, in any case, they told us what room John Howell was in. We go up to John Howell's room and knock on the door, nobody's there. So Bill says "what do you think we ought to do?" I said Bill I'm going to check in I'm tired, you know why don't we check in, have a meal. We'll call the states tell them we're out, everything will be fine. As we're walking back to the hall to get into the elevator, Rashid comes up to see us, and his pockets are bulging with these, well he's got clips in his pockets. And very emotional, he says "my God, I thought you guys were dead, I couldn't find you." I didn't know what he was talking about then you know he was apparently was getting ready to go back to the prison to look for us again. He brought us in to Bill Gayden's room and I have a tape of us walking in that room by the way. You might want to hear, very, very emotional and Bill and I just kind of hugged each other and there was a number of people in that room.

PC You know, the rest of the story I think you probably know but we just kind of, we had a very emotional time we really did. Tom Walter was on the phone then so I got to talk to Tom ask him how Ruthie was, you know, he told me everything was fine. So I guess shortly thereafter Colonel Simons and Jay came, within moments. We went ahead and they got me a couple...

KF Do you remember anything of what was said during that period? I've been told that you said to Gayden "I've just saved you 12 and 3/4 million dollars, give me a drink."

PC I walked in the door and I said Gayden I said I've just saved you 12 and 1/2 million dollars I think you ought to give me a drink for it. He says, "I'll leave town, I'll leave you here." Gayden came back with some sharp smart ass answer I forgot exactly what it was. Yea I do remember saying that to him that's right when I walked in the door. But you know we all laughed and it was a very very emotional time. We were just happy to be there. Then I you know, then as I said Jay, Colonel Simons, and Joe Poche came in. I got to meet Colonel Simons for the first time and he and I get along very very well. I'm going to tell you about that one later, but he and I developed a... Like we stayed up that whole night and talked through, I don't know why, but I'm told he didn't take to people alot. But he and I we even thought alot alike which is very interesting you know to talk to him. So anyway, we went ahead and we had some dinner, they ordered some dinner for us. I wasn't paying attention to what was going on in the background. I distinctly remember the phone ringing and Colonel Simons picking up the phone and right after that saying we're leaving. And I'm saying you're leaving, I've got my pajamas on, I've just taken a bath, we're leaving baby, get dressed. So...

KF The phone rang in the room that Keane Taylor had got for the two of you on the 12th floor, and Keane had either used a false name or taken them in his own name.

PC Yea, you're right. I don't know how, I don't what name these rooms are in. At that point we were just being led around. I had had a drink with Bill and talked to Tom on the phone and at that point I kind of felt I was probably so cocky, from the weekend. But I figured I had been through the worst and the rest was going to be downhill. But you know it turned out the rest was not downhill but I think both Bill Gaylord will probably tell you and I'm going to tell you that we probably didn't understand the seriousness that we were in from that point forward. Because we thought, relative to what had been in our lives, I mean I was in the service and other than going through infiltration training you know with people shooting over your head. I had never, I mean you know I didn't grow up in a neighborhood where you had street fights and this that and something else. I had never be accustomed to violence if you will. So I felt by getting from the prison to the hotel, you know, you get through that successfully without being scratched. You get a degree of confidence it may be false security but you do that. And I kind of carried us along, and there was only one spot a long way out that I thought we had bought the farm. That's in Rezaiyeh when we were assembled to that little square at xxxxx. I distinctly remember sitting and talking to Gayden saying it's been nice and we appreciate you coming back, it's a shame you did dummy. But up through that, I even you know told you I drove one of the vehicles down because I looked Iranian. And I was just had not problems at all. In any case...

KF Okay. The Chiapparone interview will continue on a later tape.

END OF TAPE