

Tape #31-Side A
Interview With Ralph Boulware

- KF You're headed back to the border had a flat changed the wheel.
- RB Interesting thing at that point was that whatever town we were in that was close to the border the level of civilization is relatively low. They're constantly talking about this road that we're traveling to the border by about people getting killed on it. And I kept thinking well this guy is got me down he's got me worried now he's going to jack up the price. I finally said, you know why don't you keep your eyes on the road and stop telling me about all these people getting killed on this road. I want to know how many people got killed on this road last month. And, he popped back with a number like 38 or 39, and I thought this guy's serious about this. You know just a little exciting point along the trip, I'm saying Jesus.
- KF You've described now a day and a night and another day. So it must in fact have been Wednesday morning when you set off and not Tuesday morning.
- RB Whatever, I'm not sure. I can sit down with a piece of paper and figure it out then. But anyway we get down there the second time and nobody has shown up but we now have other people offering to go take us to where they are. The word is out there's people down here that will pay and that's when [REDACTED] shows up.
Rashid
- KF Now, you had known him because you had been in Iran.
Rashid
- RB Worked with him saw [REDACTED] Monday night at my house to have dinner. So [REDACTED] shows up at the border and there's alot of commotion over there about that because [REDACTED] had been escorted to the border for whatever reason. With a crowd of people xxxxx, or whatever. So then the Turkish people did not want to let me go back over there, because
Rashid

RB they felt there was a mob brewing over here. And there's a lot of confusion, a lot of chaos. So the guy wouldn't let me go back, so I said no I know they've got my word about it, I'm going to back to go to them. He says no their going to shoot you and all this. So what we decided to do was, I'm sure Yieldsman probably paid those poor people some money, was that I would leave my passport on the Turkish side and that I could walk halfway. And if they came and grabbed me because my passport was still on that side and they had the legal right to come and take me back. So I walked out to the center and that's when ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] and I were shouting at each other about yes I'm here, yes it's safe, come on across. And [REDACTED] ^{Rashid's} shouting back, "they're not with me and we'll be back probably in the morning." That's when I went back and I called Ross believe me that is not a real simple task. You go to the post office and you sign up for a phone line. So I called Ross I said we're going back to this hotel and we either called him from there, or the hotel one. I told him I've seen Reza they're up here in the area, they're coming back in the morning. I said their is no way they're going to come in the morning, they're going to come tonight. I can't believe you know that they had gone this distance knowing the total danger that they're going to wait until in the morning to come back, they're going to come back tonight. So we decided that we'd made an agreement again that they would call us if they showed up, but we were expecting them to come back around midnight or as soon as it got dark. I'm going to guess we sat around talking in front of a wood burning stove until 10 or 12 o'clock at night, that's when we decided to go to bed. That was a big decision, you've got to see that it is understandable.

KF This is in this hotel?

RB This is in this hotel, it has a dirt floor it has a hole in the ground under the stairs for the bathroom for everybody. It was just this little thing that looks like a sink with cold water and a broken mirror on the wall. I mean it was ought of, anyway we make this great decision to go to bed. A little guy came in to go build a fire under this pot

RB bellied stove and we went through all this smoke and everything. And that's when Yieldsman came and told me that he thought he had seen other Iranians taking pictures of Reza and of me and Reza talking to each other, and that was going to be a problem. He explained to me that I was on the up and up and was doing something that was supposedly noble, and that if I had a problem later as a result of the pictures or if Reza had a problem with those pictures, that he could solve the problem.

KF Oh, this was Iranians taking pictures?

RB Yea, they loved cameras. What Yieldsman was telling me in effect the way that I interpret the whole thing was that his reach in the ~~war~~ was pretty good, and that if someone needed to disappear or die that he would take care of it and don't sweat it. I still think about that sometimes because I never paid him the other \$4,000.

KF Oh, dear.

RB So anyway, they called of getting these beds eight pounds of cover and I always drink water when I go to bed, and they had a little pitcher of water so I said well I haven't died yet so I'll drink some of this water. So I drink this water and a lump goes by.

KF Oh no.

RB So you say, well there's nothing I can do about that now. Well anyway this describes this hotel, it was something else. We ordered dinner again and they brought us some food wrapped up in newspaper, and we ate it. It's wierd what you'll do when everybody around you is doing it.

KF What was the food?

RB Some kind of meat, they had no idea what it was. Certainly not beef, probably lamb I don't know. We ate this food and we attempted to go

work

RB to bed, as soon as we got into bed we got a phone call that they had crossed the border. Back in the old cars again go down the old famous highway where everybody gets killed have another flat. We get out and go through the flat change routine again, by now the batteries in the flashlights are dead and all this kind of stuff. Change the flat to get down there and we go in and they had just, I don't know how long they had been there hour or two hours whatever. And then the problem came up of whether ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] was going to go with us or not. Plus the money was still in the Land Rovers in the gas can. Or a good portion of the money so then we tried to get Charlie Brown to go with Rashid [REDACTED] to get the gas, we tell him it's gas and we need the gas. But really we're trying to get the money, and that ensued in a big argument about we're across who can go back and who can't go back. So Reza said the hell with it, I don't know if you've met [REDACTED] or not. Rashid

KF No.

RB You know that I was telling you about those people who think they're tough, and prove they're tough, ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] is tough, ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] said the hell with it he went on back got the gas can and brought them back.

KF What time do you think it was that you got to the border, you got to the border in a car, but you then had to get a bus, didn't you.

RB Okay, we got to the border. Oh, when we told Ross that we had seen Rashid [REDACTED] and that they were there. No, we told Ross that he was there then when we went back to the hotel the second time Charlie Brown called ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] and found out that [REDACTED] was on the way with the bus.

KF Oh.

Mr. Fish

RB And what happened was that [REDACTED] and Sculley and the rest of them flew to Van on a charter, got a bus, and then they drove down to the border. We knew they were coming, so I told Bull and them don't sweat the confusion between Yieldsman and Charlie Brown, we're going to clear the border. These guys already know that two of you don't

RB have passports no big deal to get excited about that. Tuna is on the way, there is nothing back in town except this flea ridden hotel. And there's nothing to be accomplished there it's dirtier than where we were are, granted you're sleeping on the floor, no big deal. Plus you've got to go down to the damn road again, where they're stopping people and supposedly it's blood alley whatever. So we stayed there and the [REDACTED] and Sculley and everybody else showed up.

KF In a bus.

RB In a bus about daybreak. That's when we made the decision to give them the Land Rovers, the hell with it, we'll just go back on the bus. Because they have a charter coming in to pick us up that evening. Then the confusion starts over...

Mr. Fish

KF On that bus there must have been [REDACTED], Schwebach, Sculley, and Davis.

RB Everybody was on the bus.

KF But the two pilots were on?

RB The two pilots were there too.

KF Everybody but Ross.

RB Everybody but Ross, the two stewardesses and the two pilots. So
Mr. Fish [REDACTED], Sculley, I guess just [REDACTED] and Sculley I don't remember I don't think anybody went with them. They went back to the town to do something about papers to get us released, or to get us passage out of this border crossing. Looking back at it all we had to do was walk out of there, because we had already paid them. Because then it became a jocking about who was in charge, 'cause Yieldsman felt like he was in charge, [REDACTED] felt like he was in charge, and some jocking Legionaire. So [REDACTED] went to get these papers or whatever we supposedly we needed that I don't know whether we needed or not. And we stayed

RB there until I guess about noon, and that's when the tension set in, because we were drinking and Sculley had brought more whiskey down there and that was when the big poker game happened, you've got to give \$1,000 a card. But whatever the hell's money, you know, you've got to do something pass time, and so everybody all agreed that they would gamble. Bull started pointing out the fact that we're sitting, one border sits here and one border sits here, it's old flat land but it's kind of like two hills. So Bull starts pointing out the fact that everybody over there has got a rifle they know who we are they probably have the word's gotten up here now that you're up here. And if want to sit up on top of that hill and pick us off one at a time there's not a damn thing we can do. So that increased the tension level a little more. Then Bull gave me the third degree about who is this guy Yieldsman what do you mean you gave him \$4,000, what in the hell is he doing. And I'm saying wait a minute here, if it hadn't been for Yieldsman I wouldn't be here now. And there was not a hassle about that but there was a little under current there of who's in charge, we've lost control. Just confusion is setting in at this point and the people's nerves are getting edgy. I'm just trying to give you a flavor for what's going on at the border. People were getting nervous now, and I'm sure that a hangover's involved, there's fatigue involved. Charlie Brown wants to get the Land Rovers back, Gayden wants to leave them alone. Then Gayden decides that he wants to be in charge, by this time Bull decides that he wants to be in charge. I came to the conclusion that I am not in charge. And it's just alot of little, I don't want to call it anything but there were just alot of little sharp remarks beginning to pick up there. And I can remember Gayden, Charlie Brown went over to at least get the stuff out of the Land Rovers. A Turkish ^{mentality} mental is all I could say he knew there were clothes over there and food, whatever, he felt I've got to do something, I go at least go get this stuff if we're going to leave these cars or trade them car, and he's running down to go get them and Gayden is trying to get him back and I'm trying to get him back. It's just getting to be a boiling pot down there. At this point somebody had to be Charlie Brown again he started to going bananas decided we had to have some food, he gets in one of the cars. These two cars are

RB still sitting there, these two drivers are still sitting out there in the cold. Well they never actually crossed into the border area, but it was fenced off. He went with one of them to go get food, even though we told him not to. By about this time here comes Tuna with the bus and they've got the papers and we go through alot of hassle there. Because by now the big crew from the Turkish border shows up they remember me from the day before, they didn't like all the confusion and chaos going on at their little quiet border. The guy comes back to work and we're all in his office with 8,000 cigarette butts on the floor and whiskey bottles and people have got their feet up on their desks and he is pissed. He starts trying to pick a hard line about papers and passports he and Charlie Brown get into a big hassle. And Bull, that was another time when Bull just cut the ice and said "I'm in charge." So he and this guy go in there, I don't know who interpreted for them, I don't remember that guy speaking English but they went in they settled the whole thing down.

KF Bull spoke Turkish.

RB I don't believe that, I don't know it could be true. But they go back in there and they settle the whole thing down. Because they thought the Bull was on the up and up, you know we don't have passports these people are here with the papers, long story short, we all get on the bus and leave. That's when, seemed we ran into somebody bringing us food back. Now, people are pissing it on about the quality of food, shows you how your little levels change. So then we get to this town, and we have to go to court. So Bull, ████████, ^{Mr. Fish} Paul and Bill Gaylord go to this little school courthouse type affair.

KF How far was it from the town to the border?

RB About 50 or 60 miles I guess.

KF Well it looks as if it was this town called Meric does that ring a bell? Okay I bet that was .

NOTE: Meric is a river as shown on our atlas.

RB No, we've seen a hundred towns, it could be anything. I remember Bingol because we were up on the mountain so high. We go into this little courthouse, the little local politicians were flexing their muscles, it was a situation where that we were the main attraction in the area. And everybody in my opinion wanted to prove that he was in charge and he was making the decision to let us go. So we go through that and we bought some more food I remember, again we get this food in a newspapers. And people are saying they don't like this, and this is hot and this too cold, and I'm saying fool yesterday you were worried about dieing. Then ████████ came to me and says, we're going to take, oh this woman, a man and a kid, or maybe two women get on the bus some Turkish people. And I said, who in the hell are these people.

Mr. Fish ████████ came in and say hey, because nobody wanted these people on the bus, we're back in the segregation of being out again, keep the bus for us, hell. So ████████ ^{Mr. Fish} points out we have still got to cross alot of turf where we're going to run into soldiers, we could run into bandits, and whether that's blown out of proportion, I don't know. That is constantly being brought up, that we are still out here in no man's land and that if we have some local people on the bus, that is going to add to our credibility that we're not here doing something wrong. So they stayed on the bus, and we get to Van. We get to the airport, this is the second charter in a 24 hour period in the last ten years. So there's lots of excitement at the airport well who are these people chartering airplanes into Van, you know. So then we go through various rounds of administrative bickering but in the end we get on the airplane and we go back to, we flew to Ankara. We get off in Ankara and I had pictures of Bull, I had pictures of Bill and Paul so Tuna and Sculley, Bill and Paul take these two pictures and they go to the Embassy in Ankara to get these passports made and cut these gas tanks open to get this money out. We stayed at the airport, Keane had a fortune on him, Bull had a fortune on him, and Sculley had a fortune. We're going through customs to get on the airplane, not customs but the normal checkpoint to get on the airplane. They first get on this, and the guy caught Bull with the money so they pull him out of line. And me and ^{Paul} Bull in the back so we say, whoa, we'll go with him, xxxxxx xxxxxx what are you going to do, I said no we're

RB all together. So you're in this little room and me and Bull and I think Sculley was down there and Schwebach and we had this big roundhouse discussion about this money. He must have had about \$100,000 I guess, no I could tell the sack didn't weigh that much. About \$75,000, \$50,000 or \$75,000 something like that. They wanted to know why we didn't have papers for that money, because I think the limit is \$5,000. You can take any amount of money into Turkey that you want, but you have to declare it and you can't take it out, or you can't take out more than \$5,000. This is a law they've got Catch 22, if you bring any you'll have to spend it. Even though they won't take their own Turkish money at their duty station at the airport, it's crazy. So anyway, this guy says, "you don't have papers saying that you brought this money into the country legally or that you declared it." So we're trying to make the guy understand hey, we're crossed at this little dinky border where there are three or four fools out here that had never even seen this money. They didn't tell us we had to fill out the form, we would have gladly filled out the form but nobody asked us to fill it out and we didn't fill it out, you know, end of story. You want us to fill out a form, we'll fill out a form. Well this guy's getting pretty excited about this money, he didn't know what to do. Airline people they want to take off and we're holding them it up and the whole bit, so finally the guy decided xxxxx so he let us go. So we get on the airplane and we got to Istanbul, we've got the act together now. We get off the airplane they are standing there with the machine guns waiting on us. So me and Bull and Sculley, they want Bull we know who they want, so we don't make any hassle about that. Let Keane, Sculley gave his money to somebody else let Keane and them go head on with all this other money and we go with Bull down to the interrogation booth. Had a big blast Monday the guys are spreading out all this damn money and the whole world is standing at this little window you know nosing us through xxxxx and this hassle going on, so. They don't know what to do with.

KF Meanwhile Keane has gone through with about a quarter of a million dollars.

RB Right they're walking right on through the line, I mean these people are dirty they haven't shaved haven't changed clothes in days and all that stuff, and expect that they have a half million dollars. So we sat and argued with him over whether we had done something illegal or not, and this one guy is an absolute SOB, he's not going to let it go. So we get in various arguments about that so Bull finally says, "hey ain't no big deal I can take care of myself, you guys go head on and get out of here." So we discuss that and finally he says, "get out." Okay, so we go back to the hotel Ross is in... So a decision is made at that point, let's don't screw around anymore we're leaving. Well we said Bull's still in jail, hotel bill hadn't been paid, ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] hadn't been paid, Yieldsman hadn't been given his money, alot of people. Because Yieldsman would get back to the hotel we told we'll have a big party come back in the morning. Of course we got in there it was 4, 5, 6:00 o'clock in the morning. Yieldsman goes away, never see him again. So Ross decided we're going to go, we said fine, me and Sculley were going to stay behind to clean up our bills, clean up the hotel bill and try and make the same airplane if we can. Maybe we would need to fly back on our own so I told Sculley you take care of the hotel and I'm going to get ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] and try to get Bull out of jail. So went to ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] and told him hey, Bull got stopped at the border, got caught with this money and I want to get him out, let's don't play games, let's get him out. So we discussed I don't know 30 minutes or an hour. Again ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] knew somebody that knew somebody and we call this guy, this lawyer. The deal was that we'd give the lawyer \$5,000 to make the xxxx. So we went down to the police station and we went in talked to Bull and said hey we're out here just be cool don't fight the system, just hang in. The deal was the lawyer went and got a judge and the judge was going to get \$2,000 I believe, and the lawyer was going to get \$1,500 and the chief of police of this precinct would get \$1,500. So we didn't tip our hand that we had more money so we told them that's fine we'll buy that. Only problem is that same little guy that had stopped us that night at Tabriz, he didn't want to drop it, but his shift is over but he won't go home. He's the only one xxxxx the deal. So we had to wait till they could force him to go home and the judicial process would continue in his absence, but once he leaves we're going

RB to pay everybody off and split. So we finally told them okay the deal's good we'll willing to wait till this clown goes home that's your problem that's not our problem. But we're trying to catch an airplane that will definitely leave without us and we would like to catch it, so we'll bring the Bull out so you can make him understand what's going on. Well Bull don't want to pay the money, well we both know that when the time comes we're going to pay it because it ain't worth \$5,000. That was one of my, as far as I'm concerned one of my only screwups was that I payed the clown in U.S. money and I should've paid him in Iranian money. I just wasn't thinking. So we pay the guy \$5,000 went back in cheif of police escorted me and ████████ ^{Mr. Fish} and Bull to the airplane. Right through customs, got on the big plane and headed for Germany.

RB Was it during the flight that you learned that the clean team was getting out through Frankfurt?

RB We landed in Frankfurt before they did, and it was funny right about the time we were landing Bull asked has anybody checked on what the extradition treaties are between Germany and Iran, and we said well nobody checked that. We checked the xxxx, they did have a simple agreement and that's when they decided to put Bill and Paul in the peep shows. So they went and hustled them off to the movies and everybody went to rooms because there were some EDS people from England or somewhere that met us in Frankfurt and they had rooms for us. Naturally everybody started drinking again and waiting for this other airplane to land and that was when I ruined it, I finally went to sleep and they wanted me and Sculley, Ron and Schwebach to go down and pull these people out of the line, and they were saying be very discrete and whatever, don't make a big deal out of it. It wasn't Walter Cronkite but it was somebody of that nature I forget who the guy was, some national newsguy was there they've got cameras and everything, and we were to be discrete about this. I was so sleepy and shouted that because I had been up probably nearly about four days, because the night we left we stayed all night waiting for Ross to show up so I hadn't slept that night I hadn't slept all that next day, I

RB probably got a couple of hours the next morning when I start to Bingol and stayed up at the xxxxxx all night going back. I remember just walking around and just literally wondering, wonder where I am, kind of wild. We finally, the plane finally landed reporters took all their pictures and xxxxx them off when we got them. That's when Gallagher went nuts and wouldn't come with us, so we said the hell with him, and we left him. I don't know to this day where they went.

KF Left to Paris.

RB We get back on the airplane that's when we had engine trouble so finally we got off and started back to the states. And that's when the airplane started going to pot. The system was running out, tried to dump fuel, couldn't shut the fuel from dumping. We landed in London, that's when we xxxxxx trash cans of whiskey and all that. Well when we landed they gave us a big hassle because we were not a airline flight we didn't have anybody to meet us... Went to the hotel and Ross told me and Sculley to get hold of Dallas and get a hold of whoever necessary and get us flights, get us tickets for that other one. We got them and came back.

KF What do you remember about the flight from Gatwick to Dallas? Did you sleep, did you party?

RB No, I was pissed. Because the movie was Saturday Night Fever and the machine wouldn't work. Sat there and watched them work on that thing for hours. It's crazy because I had already seen that movie. I was sitting with Chiapparone he and I talked about nothing, very two bit small talk. There was drinking but I don't think it was excessive people were settling down, hell we had a ton of whiskey, we didn't want to drink xxxxxx xxxxx. People were I think in various stages of shock, I still say to this day, when I left Jay Coburn in Zurich he was one type of person he had one type of personality. And I remember when I met him again at the border he has been a changed person as I see it. He was a very fun loving clown, actor, cut up all

RB the time, genuinely lot of fun. Once he got back to that border I still say to this day that he is a very withdrawn person, acting so stuff, can be artificial... He was different person, Bull was different in that, I can remember we all went upstairs and we took all this money and laid it out on the floor, a ton of money. And I can remember Bull being worried about how much money we had spent. I thought goddamn that it is so irrelevant at this point it just doesn't make sense

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KF Any changes in any of the others did you feel?

RB I thought Bull changed, I thought Jay definitely changed, Schwebach is ex-Green Beret and I don't care what people are in life whatever, he thought he reverted back into, for lack of a better term more animalistic type behavior. Once the thing got rolling from the very beginning you could just see his mind just really getting into that and he was always sharpening a knife or playing with the clock trying to make a bomb. I can remember when we were in Istanbul me, Sculley, and Schwebach, yea, I remember when you're in Istanbul there is not alot to do nobody speaks English, there is no t.v., there is no radio, you can only read so many books. So we had a chance to really talk with each other alot. I discovered that he was not very comfortable in a business role.

KF This is Schwebach?

RB Yea, he's probably very very comfortable with what he was doing. I can remember he was making us run up and down the stairs in the hotel to stay in shape. He was really into that. I was very content to sit on the balcony and watch the ships go by, I wasn't worried about running a mile. If I can run a mile, I'll run a mile, if I don't I'm not

RB going to worry about, and I'm not going to train for 20 days in case I have to. Schwebach wanted us running up and down the stairs all night. I did it one time and decided to run up 20 flights of stairs was xxxxx xxxxxx xxxx xxxx one time. I thought that he'd drifted back into this Green Beret role which he was very comfortable with. After the thing was over, in my mind I saw him not so much as a business person but more of as this person was caged into the business world xxxxx. You know he was in the war fighting, nobody to kill I think he's probably still unhappy out there, I haven't seen him for a couple of years. Ron, the way Ron Davis got into the deal was when Sculley sat up and talked about things at the very big beginning he said who can we get in on this that we would want in it that would be an asset. Ron was a big karate expert, physical fit part into this physical fitness thing. And Ron was sitting up in Ohio somewhere bored to death, he'd call me every other week, xxxxx xxxxxx xxxxxx, Ron I knew him in Fort Roane see, so I called him I said Ron we're closer than blood, xxxx xxxx xxxxxx xxxxxx before, I said I've got a deal for you. He says what, I said why don't you come to Dallas tomorrow. He says huh, come on to Dallas, so when he got in I finally told him what it was all about. His toughness was challenged and I watched him go throw the role of not playing tough, but having to be tough for a change. Don't misunderstand me Ron is tough I remember one morning he got jumped in Tehran and he whipped about three guys in less than ten seconds. He was truly a karate expert, he'll hurt you, don't play with him. But, he got into this macho role, and I think he's probably still in it. Like xxx xxxx back his brother got killed by a mob or something he got shot in the head. And Ron literally wanted to take off from work and go get them, try to find them. He was, I don't care where you're from somebody shot your brother and it was obviously not some jealous husband but some mob, you would feel a certain amount of anger frustration, but I doubt it seriously that you would go and try and find them to take care of yourself. Ron treated one of these xxxxx xxxxx for itself and I imagine to this day that's probably in his mind that he needs to settle that. He went from this paper macho guy to probably a real one, probably living it. Jackson the guy that xxxxx xxxxx everyday with the newsstand and all that

RB he remained unchanged. Sculley I think grew up a little bit, not alot, Sculley in my opinion he still thinks the world is really kind of nice and sweet and we need to fight for democracy and the flag and mom's apple pie. He's still part of xxxxx xxxxx. He believes as long as you're doing it in the name of right it's okay. But he would probably not lift a cash register rather than short change himself, little xxxx xxxxx, xxxxx xxxx xxxxx as bad, that's the way he is.

KF What about you did this change you?

RB The change with me was that I felt that I spent alot of time in the service and I've often questioned my contribution, you know we was in B52's and went and bomb VietNam and that crap. I didn't every really feel that I was in personal danger, I was in the service about eight years. You know they show the movies of the guy slops food in the morning, I don't want to do that. I never had to do anything other than sit in an airplane and watch bombs off. I've got cousins that have silver stars and all this crap from ground fighting. I was not very comfortable with the fact that I spent all this time and had what I considered so little. When this thing was over I felt well I have done what a man should do in this war, whatever, in defense of something. Not in defense of something, but I felt that to myself I had finally proved that I truly had courage but it was just a case I had never had an opportunity to really put that on my mind where it would be tested. So I felt very good about it from that standpoint. I've told alot of guys about it a hundred times nobody seems to remember it but me. When we were flying back I guess we were coming out of Germany, and I remember Ross had this champagne brought out and he made this toast and he said "this is to the guys or this is to the men that said what they were going to do and then they went out and did it." I really felt good about that, because I thought that's really true, we said what we were going to do and we went out and did it. And it wasn't that less simple, you know it's not as glorious as the xxxxx has made it of breaking down prison walls, tanks, and bazookas I hear there's alot of bullshit going on about that. But regardless of what the some of the public thinks did happen, there were some times

RB there when there was World War II you know, it really was. You know maybe it wasn't firefight of the sands of Iwogima but was xxxxx xxxxx xxxxx getting really hurt, and I felt that I had faced that and that I had not backed off that. Tough a little.

KF Who met you in Dallas, who was waiting for you?

RB Oh, my wife was. She never left I think somebody took my Brother-in-law's car back, but.

KF When did she learn what you were doing, what you had done.

RB Well when I came back to get those radios, you've got to remember we were getting paid in Tehran and I was sending money to the credit union well paychecks obviously had gotten cut off and screwed up and they were trying to pay people here. And I was out xxxxx and the credit union was giving her a hassle about money because when I left I took \$1,000 out so when she went to take some money out the balances weren't right because I took a \$1,000 along, because I went on cash out of my own pocket, you know it's always good to have more money. So she had problems, not problems but there was some confusion with her about money so when I came back to get the radios she said I'm having problems with money and... I wasn't really interested in that, because she was staying with very good friends of ours and I was not concerned with that at all, about her being taken care of. So she really got to bugging me about money I finally said how much money do you need, because I had \$40,000 cash, she says I need \$100. I said okay. I went into the bedroom because I was transferring this money, Merv gave me the money in this big old box with radios and stuff and she walked in the room and I've got all these damn radios laying on the bed and \$40,000 cash, and I just counted out \$500. I said will that hold you? She said yep, she says I'm not going to even ask, look to the secrets. So she knew at that point, because we had told her that the contract and everything was blowing up. And that what we were doing on all these little trips overseas was that we were sitting in Istanbul and she knew that I was on the list

RB that we were sitting here and that people were going in and out of Iran bringing us documents that being in management me and Sculley we were reviewing this stuff to put together a packet of material that would be necessary to prove our position in court. Probably seeing all that money and radios she probably knew that was Bull, but that was something she could swallow. [Biggest problem to her was when we were doing this training she thought I was going to work every morning. So I get up throw on a suit and go to work, then had to change clothes. We were out in the mud all day and then come back and change clothes and then come back home. And she'd said how was your day? Oh okay, out there shooting all day at targets. So that was a little strange, well what did you do today? Well you know, I called you two or three times and they couldn't find you. It got a little sticky for awhile.]

KF How does she feel about it now?

RB I'm sure she's pleased with it. Why not.

KF Is she proud of you.

RB I'm sure she is she doesn't go around with a big banner or anything. I think, I can say yes she's proud of it, but in the beginning she started cutting out alot of stuff. Supposedly I'm going to say that and as time went by it became less and less important. You tell the story 500 times and it's not very exciting anymore.

KF Well it is if you listen. Let me ask you a few questions and see if we can pick up some highlights. Tell me when you were most frightened?

RB I was frightened in Bingol, I was scared to death over there. That is an area so desolate, I guess that's the right word. I knew number one if we went off the side of that cliff, you've got to remember it's snowing, it's raining, it's sleeting, it's a two bit gravel road. I don't know what the elevation area is but it's high. I mean you can get

RB above a snow storm and see it lightning and raining and it's cold. You know if we have a problem up here, you're going to die. You're not going to get hurt you're going to die. I kept at times thinking man, I'm going to die up here and nobody's even going to know it. I'll just be lost, because nobody knew where I was. To me that was the most frightening point. I wasn't real happy when I pinned him down at that road. Tell me how many people died at that hill last month, trying to put him on the spot. He says I don't know 38 or 39. I thought shit, this guy's not..., he's telling the truth. I wasn't that scared then but I realized that area was as dangerous as everybody had said it was. But ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] had told me a hundred times how dangerous it was he wanted us to go up here to, there's another border crossing up north. There's another border crossing north of the one we used, and he definitely wanted us to use that one, because he felt that that was a more civilized area. And I knew he meant the word civilized. You talk about people living in mud huts under the ground, in this area where we were. You're talking about people who probably make a \$100 a year. You're talking about people that will kill you and it's no big deal. So I found that a little uncomfortable. I just remember how beautiful it was and in fact I promised my wife and my kids that one day, for whatever reason I would like to take that drive again in a decent car. Because it was really pretty, I was impressed.

KF What was the best moment of the whole adventure for you.

RB The best was when Ross made the toast. Well it was good when we got to the border and they were across, I was really happy about that. Because I had to sit at that hotel so long, going through so many fire drills with Tuna, trying to figure out how to get down there. Then when I got there and saw that they were across, that was a good time. They were across but they knew they weren't home yet. Needless to say, they were very happy to see me. That was good. The toast was good, I will probably never forget that.

KF Did you ever screw up?

RB I screwed up when I gave the guy the \$5,000 in American money. And I think I screwed up when I let ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] come to the border and take over. I shouldn't have done that. I probably, even though the hotel was bad I should have moved everybody out. There's debate about it, whether I could've done that or not. We had two cars and I feel to this day that I'd have wanted to push it. We could've piled into those cars and xxxxx not and at least have gotten away from the border, which would have taken the heat off of me from Bull. So I have to question that decision whether that was wise to stay there and wait for, to stay and wait for ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] probably was a good idea. But when Mr. Fish [REDACTED] got there, I should have not let him taken over. I should've said Mr. Fish [REDACTED] cool it, we're all getting on the bus now, and screw this bullshit if the guy wants a \$100,000 give it to him let's go. And we didn't do that, that was a screw up. Instead Sculley and ^{Mr. Fish} [REDACTED] came down there and kind of took over. I guess I knew both of them, I trusted both of them and I was comfortable to let them take over. And they didn't screw up or anything. It left us all sitting all sitting at the border with tension building and these people that had come across...

END OF SIDE A

SIDE B

RB When that tension started building up I was the focal point to be seated. I don't have any bones about it I wasn't disturbed about it then, I'm not disturbed about it now but I put myself in that position to take that heat because I let somebody else take over and I shouldn't have done that. Other than that I didn't screw up. XXXXX would ask that. I don't think.

KF Of the people in the both teams, who were you closest to?

RB Ron and Sculley. Probably Schwebach after Istanbul. Ron lived up the street from me and in doing the 10 or 15 days between the evacuation and our leaving, because you see we both came home together for Christmas. You've got to remember here's two guys and just shipped their families out, well Ron's wife had already gone before the evacuation, her aunt died or something. Me and Ron and this guy Art Tyler was in OSI, his wife had gone too. We got very close. Art could carry a gun so we violated curfews stuff and kind of did what we wanted to. And I can remember that one night Art was at a party and he called and asked if I had anything to eat. You've got to be kidding I have eight tons of food in this house. He says well I'm going to come over and have dinner and spend the night, I said okay. I said you've got to remember you've got about 15 minutes to get here, and he was on the other side of town. I said man you're crazy you're going to get caught. And he said we'll I'm coming anyway. I live on this corner, Ron lives on this corner there's a big hill over here. And ten minutes later we could hear this car roaring across this little mountain and the soldiers shooting at it. And I thought shit, that's Art. Art comes screaming up to the gate. So I ran downstairs to open the gate and the landlord who lives downstairs his houseboy was there. And he's confused, what in the hell is going on? Obviously he got in and we spent the night playing cards or something. But there was some tension there with us. I mean we lived under a certain level of tension and frustration and you've got to remember that gunfire in the streets

RB was a day to day, moment to moment thing. When we were supposed to all stay at Chiapparone's during this Asure period you know. For whatever reason I wouldn't do it. I would go play cards and drink all day but at night I would leave. And you weren't supposed to leave the house but I didn't want to stay there. So every night I would slip out and just wait till nobody was looking. I'd go out and get the van and go home, because I want to sleep in my own bed. So I would run the gauntlet every night and didn't worry about it. Stupid, but I didn't want to stay there. And, I wanted to go downtown the day of Ashura and I felt it was half way safe and I didn't do, I'm sorry I didn't now. Because all the pictures later I found all kind of Americans down there, it's something to see.

KF Yea. Was there anything else, was there anything that had nothing to do with the operation that was worrying you at the same time as you were doing all this stuff? Sick relatives or anything like that? You're life is pretty smooth otherwise?

RB As far as I know, I have bills. Everybody's got bills, the only ones that don't have bills, xxxxx xxxxx. You probably don't. I was noticing your watch.

KF You like it?

RB I'm into watches.

KF You're what?

RB I'm into watches.

KF Oh, I see.

RB But I had no monumental problem in the back of my mind that I was worried about then. And I knew my wife was alright so I wasn't worried about her.

KF . Okay. How did you like Iran?

RB Loved it. I'd go back tomorrow.

KF Really?

RB Sure, I had a good time over there, the family wouldn't go back tomorrow, I had a good time over there.

KF Why, what was good about it?

RB Your day was exciting, your day was filled with challenges at all levels, it was a challenge to get to work, a fool could kill you on the highway. The day to day business with the Ministry people was an unsurmountable challenge because of their suspicion, and their lack of trust and ways of doing things. If you wanted a quart of milk that was a major task, if you wanted pork chops that was... I'll give you example of one, I wanted to have a bar-b-que spent a half day looking for charcoal, because you don't know the Farsic word for charcoal and how do you describe a charcoal briquet to a guy that doesn't speak English. So it was exciting and it was fun everyday all day. And it was just exciting, different, enjoyed it had a good time, Didn't like the danger at the end from the violence that was going on, because... You said what was bothering me. Once my family left nothing bothered me because when they were there I was very very concerned that I brought my family over here and these little girls on another damn bored adventure and they may get hurt this time. And I couldn't control that, so I was very preoccupied with that prior to the evacuation. Very uptight about that. You know they were, hell we lived at, in a area three houses down the street there was this monstrous field I don't know if you remember prior to the Shah leaving there was this massive demonstration some stupid holiday of all these people on this big field and it was on the cover of Time of these thousands and thousands of Moslems in this big field. Well that field was two doors from where I lived and the Time photographer that took that picture was standing right beside me when he took it. Because we

RB took it from the roof of my house. I took some of the same pictures and over there to get a roll of film developed is about \$30 or \$40 so what everybody did they put them in the freezer and then when somebody went to the states you'd send your pictures to have them developed. And I left all my film, that was the biggest tragedy, I lost about 12 rolls of film because when I came home for Christmas I just didn't think that I left all that film in the icebox. But it was just alot of exciting things like that.

KF Okay. What was the funniest thing that happened in the whole adventure?

RB The great escape, just Tehran and...

KF No the escape.

RB The funniest thing. Probably Bull out there at Grapevine, I'm sorry I can't remember his little anecdote. He just had alot of little stories to tell you about the dangers. And he was not a very talkative person, he was always making jokes and people were always making jokes about him, I'm sure you've heard about the 100 cigars a day that he smoked. I can remember went, we went somewhere, I guess we were in Paris, somewhere. People were worried about guns and stuff and somebody said "damn the guns, you'd better get some cigars for the Bull because he's about out." So we all stopped and went to look for cigars. It was alot of stupid little things like that. I don't know what the funniest thing, I'll have thing on that.

KF Was there ever a moment when you felt like throwing up and just coming home?

RB No but there was a point when me and Sculley and Schwebach were in Turkey that everything was dragging its feet because nobody would make a move. We felt that Bull, Jay, and Joe and all of them were in sitting in Iran waiting for the situation to develop and bring itself to them. And we were saying hey somebody needs to go over there and

RB get it off the dye. And we called back here and said that we wanted to see Ross in London, because we felt like hey you guys are just talking and planning and planning and nothing's happening. We're probably getting cabin fever sitting in that hotel all the time. So we wanted to take some action. We felt like everybody was sitting around waiting for something to happen. And we felt like we need to go over there and either get somebody in charge or take charge ourselves and make it happen. But to chunk it no that never came up.

KF Okay. Tell me a little bit about yourself, tell me where you born?

RB Rather go to the bathroom.

KF Go ahead.

KF Let me ask you where you were born and when.

RB Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1943 March 23rd.

KF Tell me about your parents what did your father do?

RB My Dad always owned some kind of business, a bar, a grocery store, rent houses.

KF What was his name?

RB Benjamin. Benjamin Russell Boulware. Very independent person. Pretty tough person. His theory was that, there were three boys and five girls, one girl died when she was a baby. My Mother raised the girls he raised the boys his feeling was that if he knew where you were, that he knew what you were doing. So from about age 10 everyday after school I went to work and one of his businesses, the grocery store, the bar whatever. My brothers did to, the object was that we would come after school and clean up and then you would sit there

RB until 9 or 10 o'clock every night. And that was 365 days a year. If you wanted to play sports that was fine and when practice was over you went to work. He did not need the labor persay, but he wanted to know where you were every minute of the day.

KF Were you the oldest?

RB No, I'm the youngest boy, I have two older brothers. The up side of that was that growing up people would be wondering how will I get the money to go do this, how will I get the money to buy that. My question was always I wonder if my Dad will let me go. Once it was decided that I could go to the football game in Oklahoma City there was no question about the money, I just went to the register I'd just take what I wanted to buy my ticket. Didn't have to ask for money, if you want a new suit you'd say hey Dad I need a new suit, he says fine make a ticket, you'd take the money out and grab a ticket and go do it. There's a good side and a bad side but as a result of that I feel that I did not have a childhood. I've had to be an adult all my life.

KF When did that stop, that sort of thing?

RB When I graduated from high school.

KF Okay. His businesses must have been pretty successful?

RB Well he's got money even today.

KF Okay. What was your mother's name?

RB Her real name was Ruth Tenolia Yates, she liked Tenolia, so she always went by the name of Tenolia. T e n o l i a.

KF What kind of person was she?

RB She was the model image of the whole housewife. My Dad's rule, or his word was law. She was not a weak person but she accepted the role of wife and mother and looking back at it probably never concerned herself about herself as a person. All the women today have ended up being a person, I'm sure that's wonderful, I'm not sure that that isn't creating a little bit of confusion in society. Because people don't seem to know who they are anymore. She knew who she was she knew what her responsibilities were and she never waded from it.

KF Okay. Where did you go to college?

RB I went to college at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri for one year.

KF To study what?

RB Physics.

KF And then?

RB Did not like college.

KF Had you been clever at school?

RB I was at the top of my class. I did not like college because I didn't have the money that I wanted. I was on a budget you know. My Dad was not sending me the luxury money I thought I needed. I was in an environment that I was not comfortable with because I was dealing with children. And I'd grown up in bars. My friends were 30 and 40 year old men. I got to college I'm living in a dormitory now where I can do whatever I want to do, whenever I want to do it. Which I found alot of fun. But the guys that I associated with they were in to parties and drinking and gambling, chasing girls, whatever. Maybe it's abnormal but that wasn't a big thing with me. I grew up in bars hell I knew all about gambling and whores and prostitutions, and my Dad

RB was a bootlegger at the time. So I did not fit in socially very well at school. I had always wanted to fly, so I quit and went to the Air Force. Dumb move but at the time, it was the right thing to do.

KF You were in the Air Force a long time.

RB About eight years, about nine years almost.

KF This would have been what years?

RB I went in in '62 and got out in '71. In the Air Force I probably spent four of those years in electronics schools, which was illogical using it to come work for EDS. I got all 52's and I enjoyed that. The first four years even though I thought I was grown I did alot of maturing I learned more about responsibility and taking care of myself. I should've gotten out I think at the end of four they offered me I don't know \$4,500 and another year's school in electronics and all my friends were getting out they were going back and getting whatever kind of job, some were going to school, some were not. Didn't seem to be doing anything that I thought was worth my time so I re-enlisted went back to school, went to the Air Force school, electronics school. After that I got married and then they pulled me out of B52's which I hated but I couldn't fly anymore. And I went to another school for another year down in Little Rock and went to the B58 program and stayed there for a couple years. Then I went back again for another year of school I went to the FB111 program and then my wife got pregnant and we moved to New Hampshire. And I hated it, the, it was General Dynamics that built the FB111's and they had alot of problems so I was in their program for about a year and there were no airplanes. So there was nothing to do all day. And it was cold up there, I had cold weather. I didn't have any friends I found people to be as snobbish as they are supposed up there, and I just hated it completely. So the option was to Plattesville, New York or go to Germany. And my wife didn't want to go to Germany. So I said I'll go to Programming School on my own time, I had myself switched to nights. I went to Programming School for six months and got out.

KF And what was you first job?

RB Xerox. EDS contacted me about five days before I got of the service and I said well I'm going to Atlanta, so we got all settled, so I talked to them down there and the guy said we're hiring in Dallas, Cinnцинatti, and San Franciso. Well I said I'm not moving I want to be here. He said, well why don't you think about it and call me again sometime. So I went to work for Xerox and I worked for Xerox for six months. But the first five weeks I was in Dallas going to electronics school to learn how to fix Xerox duplicators. And every morning we would pass the old EDS building, wasn't the EDS building, it was the Frito-Lay towers. EDS was on the side of it. So I'm going to school to learn how an electric motor works. Hell I've been dealing with advanced xxxxxxxx radarscope. And it was the most boring thing in the world, you push the switch and the current goes to the light bulb, and the light bulb comes on and the relay clicks. Very elementary so I figured out right quick I don't really like this. I went to what I considered the aggression stage of advancement. Very structural like the military, you had to be a grade 1 for six months, you had to be a grade 2 for a year, I said I don't want this. So I got in touch with EDS again I said hey let's talk about it again. They wanted me xxxxx around, no I said I'm good, you're good, I want to work here all the way from Atlanta. Six weeks later they hired me for Atlanta and I stayed there five years.

KF What was your job there?

RB I was hired as an operator trainee. It was a nice way of saying flunky. And six months I was the Manager. And, at the end of five years I was Regional Manager for what they call EDS Service Corporation, it deals with alot of clerical people and keypunch people and my region was Minneapolis to Puerto Rico. So I lived in the air, I was always gone. You know, I'd leave on Monday and come back on Friday, this went on forever, by then I a second job and I had no homelife. They had a run of mill through the week and I'd come home on the weekends and I would try to take charge, and I was an

RB intruder so it became very obvious hey something's wrong here. So the thing to do was to get out of flying and that's when the city wasn't xxxx I need to come to Corporate and take a staff job and get out of the air.

KF Where we were we? You came to Dallas.

RB Well I came to Dallas and I set up this Central Support Group to provide some support for all of the EDS Services Officers across the states. I did that I guess that for a year and a half maybe two. Became very very bored with that. A friend of mine wanted to know about EDS International and going overseas. And in the process of checking it out for him I was attracted to it, so I cast my lot with International and went overseas.

KF What was your job at Tamarhan?

RB To start off the data entry over there, the keypunch operators when I got there they had gone from 0 to about 300 and the overall scheme called for that number to get up to about 1,000 to maybe 1,200. The people that were doing it were not as qualified as I was to do it. So they were having all kind of growth problems, technical problems, just plain old day to day administrative problems. So I went over with the understanding that I was to help straighten that out, but obviously if I wanted to be successful then I would have to earn additional responsibilities and grow into bigger and better things. So as it turned after about four months, Colvich was going to transfer to Saudi Arabia and they promoted to Data Center Manager to the maximum promotion.

KF Well like most of the people I've talked to, seemed to have had a pretty good career with EDS.

RB Except mine. XXXX XXXX glass of water.

KF Well tell me your wife's name.

RB Mary.

KF And how many little girls have you got?

RB I have a little girl that's 11 named Stacy, and little girl 7 named Kecia. K e c i a.

KF How did Gaylord give you your interview. *How did they like Iran?*

RB Loved it.

KF He's the same reasons as you.

RB Without reciting it something different. They're pretty flexible and because of the lack of availability of supermarkets and movies and whatever people do everyday, the family unit has the opportunity to become alot closer. Going to the store to do shopping for the week, is a major ordeal. And you do it together. You go to the bread store for bread, you go to chicken store for chicken, you go to the egg store for eggs, you go to the milk store for milk and cheese, you go to the beef store for beef, you go to the pork store for pork. And a supermarket equivalent over there. It's almost the same size almost for a supermarket here but the availability, the variety of goods is more limited down at 7-eleven. So you can spend a major portion of your weekend just shopping for basic necessities. Families become very very close in that you have to entertain each other for the amount of people that share your value system, and is interested in what you're interested in you know it's limited. You know the average ~~lipeman~~ man don't give a damn if the Cowboys win or not. Alot of house parties, and you usually take your kids with you. But I'm sure that if I went home this evening and said I've got a job and we're going to Saudi Arabia, they'd be very excited about that. Alot of families went over there and apparently had major problems from the very beginning with the

Iranian.

RB unavailability of goods and the level of day to day cleanliness. The hassle of the language barrier, the fear of the unknown. The only trauma that we ever experienced was that my little girl, my wife opened up this bottle of ammonia and it exploded in my little girl's face. You just don't pick up the phone and call somebody, well it was late in the day and they were expecting me to be home soon so they rinsed her face out in the shower and they stood at the gate and waited for me to get home and I took her to the American Hospital and the guy gave me a little action there too. You weren't supposed to go to the American Hospital unless it was an absolute emergency. And here I am with my little girl with this ammonia all in her eyes, and the guy's asking me you know who do you work for, how long have you been here, do you have your passport? I would bet that that would be the biggest trauma that they would remember as being a problem. They were nights when the shooting was really heavy that I'm sure they remember that but I don't think they were that afraid. Hell we'd go up on the roof, gunfire was close enough that you'd hear a round walking and you would automatically duck. There were times when there was enough gunfire and riots in the streets that we would sit in the hallway of the apartment so that we could stay away from the windows in case there were fire bombings or something. And I'm sure there was a given level of fear there but hell nobody was walking around basketcase. And those other families were really basketcases.

How long was the shooting and stuff going on before your families evacuated?

RB A couple of months.

Oh really.

RB For example I always try to use to make people understand that. If a 747 went by here with this associated noise, I wouldn't say Ken I'm going to stop talking until this airplane goes by so you could hear me, I would just stop talking and you would automatically understand why I talked talking. There were times at the Ministry when the

RB gunfire would be so heavy in the streets you'd just stop talking when the gunfire would die down then you'd keep talking. Initially you'd run to the window and you'd just look. When you that about 300 times, then you would say they'll be through in a minute.

These were the revolutionaries?

RB I guess that's who it was, probably the soldiers in the beginning because they're the only ones that had guns. Wasn't that frightening because it happened gradually and you didn't worry about it.

Was it a very tight knit American community in Tehran?

RB Pretty much so. Bell had their group, EDS had their group, GTE had their group you know every major company had it's little pocket of whatever. My wife being home all day, met all the other wives from these groups, so the women had more of an interchange between organizations of companies than the men did.

How about with the Iranians was there much interchange?

RB We had alot because my wife she learned a little bit of language, and my kids learned a little bit, I never did. Because the landlord's wife was a school teacher, her name was Suruc, and they helped each other with language, kind of teach each other languages. They would share recipes. My wife became very good friends with an American girl that was married to an Iranian and I guess I don't want to sound pious or whatever. But I understand segregation and misuse of a group people and alot of Americans really looked down at the Iranians just point blank. There's no discussion it is obvious that I'm better than you, we did not share that opinion, I would assume that that came across. So we got along with Iranians, we had, Iranians accepted us as foreigners or they looked at us foreigners more than they looked at us as the Yankee taking the dollar or something. You know people asked me are you from Egypt or are you from Istanbul. They did not view us as foreigners, maybe that's the wrong word, they didn't view us as

RB outsiders so much. And supposedly Keica is an Iranian name, so there were little things like that that kind of smoothed things for us. Alot of the American women were supposedly getting pinched on the butt and the boobs all the time. Some of the ugliest women in America, so I question some of those stories. My wife got pinched maybe once in awhile she did not feel assaulted and injured for life otherwise we wanted to go home that day and all that kind of bull.

KF But other people did.

RB Some did. Not alot of them though. There was always somebody's wife upset about something. Alot of people went overseas to make the money and not to share or participate in the foreign adventure and when they didn't go and find little America some were never able to cope to that and adjust to it because they didn't try or didn't want to. I mean this one guy, still works at EDS, he was over there for about four years I think and he never ate any of the local food he always bought American can goods and all this kind of stuff. You know Iranians were dirty people and their food their food therefore was dirty and they were not to be mingled with too much, whatever. Everybody does their own thing. Who all have you talked to so far?

KF Started with Ross, then Jay, then Merv, John Howell the lawyer, Tom Luce.

RB Who?

KF Tom Luce.

RB Don't know him.

KF He's another lawyer.

RB A liar?

HOTFOOT/#31-35

KF Lawyer.

RB He was a liar man.

KF Why don't we switch this off.

END OF TAPE