

TAPE #25--SIDE A

KEANE TAYLOR

KTTrees, you know, very well landscaped, good roads, all that kind of stuff. We drive around and we find the head guys house. And as it turned out this was one of the Shah's little sub houses that he had..they had built it for him when he dedicated the dam. And this is generating all the electricity and everything for the whole area.

KF Where there people actually in the compound when you got there?

KT There were people. Now this isn't a compound, this is like a little...

KF Like an estate.

KT Yes. Like a little estate. There are some houses here, you can see houses here and you can see lights on in them, and everything. We finally pull up in front of this little palace, it's beautiful, it was little but it was just beautiful. And they explained to us that this is where the Shah stayed when he dedicated the damn, we walk in and the heat is on, the lights on, there was hot water, and it was empty. I mean, it was just like it was being preserved.

KF Somebody said that the guards were mad when they found the heat was on. You didn't see that.

KT Right, I didn't see that. And they said, well, we need to go to bed. ██████ ^{Rashid} is running around with his head cut off...just ranting and raving about how, you know, we are in trouble, we've got problems, we've got to get out of here, these are bad people, you know, he's really upsetting...well he's upsetting me.

KF Did the Colonel say anything to him?

KT No. They put us in rooms, and the way this thing was, it was down this one end of the hall was this huge bedroom, the Shah's bedroom, and these were like hotel rooms off the side of this one hallway. And I went in, I was dead beat, my head hurt, I washed my face, I walked back out in the hall and I see everyone standing around in the hall, nobody would go into the rooms. I think everyone was just as apprehensive about the thing as I was. I'm trying to stop [REDACTED] in ^{Rashid} talking...have him explain to me what he is so concerned about. And he just ran off. He's trying to talk to one of the guards. I went back into the room, looked around the room, trying to see if there was an escape way out the back, through the bathroom. I found one, I could get out that back window. I came back out into the hall and there is Coburn sitting there teaching this Kurd how to lock and load his A-K47. Coburn's got it in his hand. I said, screw this, I'm going to bed. You know, at that point, I said, we don't have a problem. Because they kept telling us how they were protecting us. I said, I think they are. I went to sleep. And I slept like a log. I don't know what else went on that night, because I was out. Woke up in the morning and we were trying to get everybody up and going. The Kurds were sleeping late. And they weren't anxious to move at all. And the Colonel was saying, let's get this damn show on the road. He was saying, you guys get ready. Everybody is ready, you know, and we're standing there calling and milling around saying, we've got to go, we've got to go, our friends are waiting at the border and this kind of stuff. Finally one of the Kurds, this huge, the big one comes out in one of the Shah's silk dressing gowns. And then they want us to see the Shah's room. Then we go in and we have to see the Shah's room. And then they decided...the Kurds decided that they are going to take a shower. I mean these guys may not have showered in the last year and a half, you know, but they are going to take a shower now. With all this...So it takes them a good while to get ready. And then the suit guy shows up again. Now that was the whole story to begin with, we weren't going anywhere until he showed up. And he...so we all finally got in the vehicles and went back down to the town. He explained to us that these...that's when he explained to us

KT that all this activity, they were fighting a war up in Tabriz and
cont. everything. We went to a religious leader's house. And we never saw
this religious leader for some reason, but we had to get a pass from
him for some reason. And then we went back to the original compound
that they had taken us to.

KF Where your passports were examined.

KT No..

KF The police...

KT This was the police...and in that parking lot they had a white
ambulance that they had knocked all the windows out of the
ambulance. And they had it full of Kurds, and this was an escort, a
guard, an escort that was going to take us up the road to Rezaiyeh.
And they, you know, circled the wagons kind of thing, and everybody
milled around a while, and then we finally hit the road, with these
guards, the ones that had spent the night with us and everything,
plus this escort of guards in the ambulance, leading the way. I mean,
you see this white ambulance with the windows poked out, with rifles
sticking out the back windows, and the side windows, it was a comical
sight. But we headed up the road. And it was a long drive. It was
beautiful.

KF But first you stopped for tea.

KT In the morning did we.

KF It's not clear. Somebody says you stopped and had tea, somebody else
says you stopped, but you talked them out of it.

KT I don't recollect stopping anymore. But I do remember that between
stopping at the gas station that night, and getting dinner, we tried to
make a phone call. I remember that. We stopped at the PPT, at a
telephone exchange, and Jay tried to make a phone call, but he was
unsuccessful at making it.

KF What did you call it PPT?

KT No.

KF That's French.

Europe [Europe]

KT Well, I lived in New York so that's where I...

KF Of course, yes.

KT I don't remember stopping in the morning for tea. I don't even remember if we ate anything. I can't recall us doing that.

KF Okay, what was the next incident?

KT Running into the road block up at Zanjan...I forget the name of it, the next road block we ran into...

KF Rezaiyeh.

KT Razaiyeh. We went up around the lake, and it was beautiful. The lake was up...it was just a beautiful drive. And we're come down a straight piece of highway, and off to the right there is a..I guess it was a gas station....(Phone rang)....At this point there was alot that happened in the city prior to alot of little incidents that happened the city during, you know, that little thing we skipped over....

KF We should go back and you should tell me then. During what period?

KT During the...well, between the time they were put in jail and the time we left. I would say mostly dealing with securing the supplies, securing the gasoline, exchanging money, and...

KF Okay, let's go back...

KT I don't believe that...they may not be german to the whole thing, but...

KF Well, let's go back to the thing about that period, and just tell me anything that comes to mind?

KT Well, I believe when Jay came in he brought in so many thousands of dollars on him. He needed a vehicle, or he needed two vehicles. When Gayden came in, Gayden brought in, oh, I don't know 25, 50 thousand dollars with him. Jay calls me up one day and says, hey, I need 25 thousand dollars worth of Riyals. So I gave him...I said, hell, he gave me the dollars, and I gave him the Riyals out of my catch of Riyals. At that time we hadn't had a flow of Riyals coming in. And we were in the process of trying to start to generate all these Riyals. Sell the cars and all this stuff. We didn't have alot. So then he tells me two days later, he says, hey, I need another 25,000 dollars worth of Riyals. So Gayden gives me 25,000 dollars, and Jay needed the Riyals by the next morning for some damn reason. So I made a deal with a guy to convert dollars to Riyals.

KF Who.

KT A carpet dealer down in the city. Way down in the city, in the bad part. So I was to meet him at 6 o'clock down in the city there. So I told Ahli, my driver, I want you to take me...oh, no, no, I can't go down there now. No, I got to go down there. So I got 25,000 dollars in my jacket pocket. We go down in the city and go to meet this guy, and we had agreed on an exchange rate.

KF By phone.

KT Yes. So I get in there and I'm talking with him, and his friend, the guy that was going to exchange the money comes waltzing in with a strong armed guy, and the exchange rate has changed, it has changed dramatically, the wrong way.

KF In their favor.

KT Yes. And I told them I was insulted, and I would deal with them. He said that this was the best that I could get, and we went through a big haggle and hustle, and they started to tell me how dangerous it was for me to be down in that part of the city. And carrying all that money on me. Then I told them that I wasn't down there by myself. That I had people outside waiting for me. And I drank the last of my tea, and I got up and I walked to the door and got outside, and they said, Ahli get that car, get out of here. Jumped in the car and we beat it, beat it for the upper part of the city. However, it's pouring down raining.

KF And you still didn't have your Riyals.

KT I didn't have my Riyals. So I tell Ahli to take me up to another carpet dealer I know up near the palace. And I walk in, and he's just closing his shop. A lot of EDS people had done business with him. I'd bought a carpet from him, Paul, Bill, Iranian Jewish background. And I said I have to exchange some Riyals, I got to have some Riyals. He says, come on back tomorrow...I said, no, I have to have them tonight. Must have them tonight. He says, how much. I said, 25,000 dollars worth. He says, I don't have anything like that. I said, I got to have them tonight. So he goes and he gets his brother out of the back of the store. Sends his brother out, and we stand there counting Riyals out of his safe. I mean, we've got the counter covered with Riyals, and we are counting Riyals, and stacking them in piles, and he's counting the dollars, you know, recounting all my dollars. And the door would open, and in would come a kid with a handful of Riyals, and he'd hand them to me. Count those, and the door would open, a kid comes up on a motorcycle, gets off, comes in, drenched, another bag of Riyals. He had sent his brother out to the family to bring in these Riyals. In fact, the guy got off his little motor scooter, came in, dumped the bag of Riyals on the counter, and someone stole his motor scooter. And is tearing down the street with it, and he goes out

KT screaming after...tearing down the street after his motor scooter. So
cont. it's stolen. So there we are standing, counting Riyals with these
people just coming in and dropping these huge amounts of Riyals.
Because he knew Paul and Bill, the carpet dealer. And he said, what
do you need it for. And I said, for Paul and Bill, and he said, oh.
And he knew what was going on. I mean, he knew that they were in
prison. I guess he felt that this was the bribe that was going to get
them out. Typical Iranian fashion. So we sat there and counted money
until there was enough Riyals, and he gave me the best exchange rate
possible, you know...And I walked out of there with a sack of
Riyals and gave them to Jay. Then he bought the other Rover.

KF I see.

KT But I imagine there were alot of things like that that I would
remember, or will remember.

KF Well, just any time something like that pops into your mind, even if its
out of sequence.

KT Where are we.

KF We were just on the road to Rezaiyeh.

KT I believe this area was a gas station. It gives you the impression of
being a truck weighing station in the states. You know, swing right
off the edge of the highway. They had machine guns covering the
entire road from the building. And they had the road block so that
you had to swing into this block off. And you were cold turkey in
there, because they had sand bagged the...out toward the road they
had people in there, armed people in there, and then they had the
buildings, sand bagged windows with weapons, it was obviously a
command post, it was a very strong, fortified position that they had
set up on that road. And we come in there and ████████ ^{Rashid} drove all the way
through the driving area and stopped. The guards in the rear vehicle
pulled off before that. You know, like in the parking lot area of the
gas station, and ran right into a barbed wire barricade.

KF The guys in the ambulance.

KT Yes. Hung the ambulance up. They had barbed wire wrapped around the axle and everything. It took them a half an hour to get that untangled. We told them we wanted to go on. The new people, this new road block had other ideas. We were to go into the city and report to the revolutionary control people there in the city. Now, right away it became very apparent that our Kurdish guards, and those Kurds were not friends. I mean this is a different tribe, and those tribes hate each other with a passion. The first thing they wanted them to do was for the Kurds to turn in their weapons, our guards to turn in their weapons, which they would not do. So negotiating went on, they produced some papers and this type of stuff, this pass that the religious leader had written out for them. And we went into the city, and we immediately ran into, in that city we immediately ran into a huge demonstration. They had just overrun the Army guards. And they were running all these troops through the streets. They were all in military uniform. There were a good many of them crying as they were marching...they were in formation, and they were running in formation. And you could see all the revolutionaries were surrounding, and they ran them down...they were running them down the street. And they had just given up the military complex in that city.

KF Did any of the guards from the road block go with you when you drove in?

KT Yes, some of their guards went with us. The new guards. Now, we had the jeeps off to the side of this road while this was happening. And our guard...all these Kurds got out that were with us, and from the ambulance, and they surrounded both jeeps, I mean, they just made a wall around it. They told us to stay down, not to show ourselves. They were protecting us, no doubt about it. After that all went passed, we tried to get into the hotel, they wouldn't let us go into the hotel until we checked in with the revolutionaries. So they

KT took us back to a villa, which was the revolutionary headquarters.
cont. And they took us in there and what was occurring in there was...when you walked in the gate there were cars sitting around full of bullet holes. What had caused it or when that had happened, I don't know, but these cars were sitting there and just full of bullet holes. Upstairs, it was this two story villa, upstairs, a large one, in the back there were, apparently, was where the revolutionary council was holding its holding sway. They marched us up to the front steps and a guy came down those stairs and he started screaming blue, bloody murder. Pointing to us, and very, you know, jestering wildly all over the place, yelling at these Kurds...And what he was really telling them, was to put down their weapons, our guards.

KF The people from Mahavad?

KT Um-huh. Which they refused to do. They showed them this pass that the religious leader had written out, and they told us to get over against the wall, out of the way. And the guards were with us at that time. Then they told those guards to get away from us. And we were sitting along the wall. And our guards had to stay away from us. Now what they were doing in this compound is they were bringing in groups of men, a mullah was up on a stack of rifle crates, he would go through alot of chanting, and yelling and screaming and everyone would raise their arm and he was inducting them in the revolutionary army. They would go out to the other side of the building and pick up their weapons and they were on their way to Tabriz. They were recruiting in the army right there. And ████████ ^{Rashid} told us that what they wanted to do was send us back to Tehran. They didn't want us to stay, they weren't going to let us go on through. They were going to send us back to Tehran. He kept trying to convince them that he had this permission to take us, and they should call...

KF They wanted to send you back to Tehran.

KT They wanted to send us back to Tehran.

KF Now I suppose at this point, one thing that might be causing you all this trouble is that if they are still at war, they think you might be spies.

KT I would have not come to that conclusion. You know, the general situation as it was...I think they believe we were headed for the border, they didn't know who we were, they didn't know what we were, obviously the Kurds that were now guarding us had told the story that we had been accepted and believed, and so forth. These people were too busy to truck with us. I think they would have just as soon shot us and worried about it later, because they obviously were...as we were there they were bringing in generals and officers, high ranking officers, and these people were being kicked and pushed and shoved into the compound and up into this...up the stairs and so forth. They were being hazed in there by these revolutionary guards that had just overrun the military, and whether these people were going to be taken out and shot, or what, I don't know. But they were obviously being brought in there, some decision was being made about them, which could have been...these people were being taken in there and then taken out and shot for all I know. It was not a very friendly environment. It was a very, very hostile environment. There was open animosity between the Kurds who were in this compound and our guards. I think the presence of our guards saved us from a hell of alot of problems. Because, you know, it's no telling what they would have done to us had these guards not been with us, and had been told they were to protect us, and you know, so forth. They had been awarded to this by thier leaders and so forth, and so on. They would not give up their weapons, and those other...those Kurds wanted those weapons.

KF Eventually the Mahabad people left. The Mahabad guards left.

KT They told us that...finally they said that they were going to take us to a hotel. The decision from upstairs came down. ██████^{Rashid} said that he got them on the phone to friends of his in Tehran, and they were told that these people were alright. I don't know who it was that ██████

Rashid

KT called, but you know, ^{Rashid} [redacted] was connected with those revolutionary cont. people in Tehran. So I'm assuming that he called friends of his, and Christ he could have called ^{the Shah} Ashah ^[the Shah] for all I know. And was assured over the phone that these people were alright, let them go. And so they determined that they were going to take us to a hotel, and decide what to do with us later. So our guards came up to us and said that they were leaving, they were going back, you know, we all shook hands, or you know, the arms around each other kind of thing that's typical of that part of the world, you know, the bowing and nodding of the head and all that stuff. You know, these guys had been really good to us. And we recognized that they had saved us from alot of harrassment. And they as a group withdrew. And these new guards took over. They took us out, took us to a hotel. And put us into this hotel. I mean, we registered in the hotel, just like you do...I mean we signed the register and get our keys, and we got these guards walking with us. And they took us up and put us in these four or five rooms...In three rooms. And they put guards right there in the hallway.

KF About what time of day is this?

KT Pushing noon.

KF Okay.

KT We sat around and talked, the Colonel got us all together, the guards were out in the hall, we were sitting around...The Colonel sent [redacted] off to see if he could convince him to let us go on. Because before we had left [redacted] ^{Rashid} had told them that he would take us to the hotel and then he would come back, there was no sense of us just sitting around. And I think they wanted us out of there because our presence was disturbing to all the things that were going on there. So the Colonel and [redacted] ^{Rashid} talked for a while, then [redacted] ^{Rashid} went off, back to this compound.

KF Now other people have described it as a mosque, do you recall there being a mosque there?

KT No.

KF Okay.

KT I don't recall that being a mosque. I doubt it would be a mosque, because you don't take xxxxxx into a mosque. Even in the middle of a revolution...

KF Okay. ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] phone call to Tehran. Was that made before you went to the hotel?

KT Yes.

KF So why did he have to go back to the compound?

KT Well, he was going back to the compound to try to convince them to let us go on. They had not agreed to let us go on.

KF Oh, you had been cleared that you were alright...

KT Yes. They weren't going to like us up against that wall and shoot us.

KF But they still haven't been convinced to let you go to the border.

KT That's right. Now they had been doing alot of shooting against that wall. I mean you could see the bullet holes in the wall.

KF Oh really.

KT Oh yes. I imagine there had been some heavy fighting in that building. Those cars that were in there were all shot up. Whether someone had held up in there, whether that had been a police headquarters, I don't know what it was, but it had been attacked and taken. And there were people shot in that building, in that courtyard, there is no doubt about that.

Okay, we're in a hotel. The guards that are with us now were very antagonistic toward us as opposed to the other set of guards. We had one guy in particular who was trying to get our goat, I would call it. He was very antagonistic. Screaming about Carter, and the Americans and the CIA and everything. He was telling us how he had...I forget what his line of work had been, but he had been trained in Russia. I remember us talking about...I bet he did more than learn whatever his trade was supposed to be in Russia, because he kept...for some reason he kept playing with his...he had a gun, you know, he kept playing with that gun. Taking it apart, putting it back together, asking us questions about the gun...I don't think there was a person in there, with the exception of ██████████, ^{Rashid} that wasn't very familiar with an M1, and we all pretended we didn't know a damn thing about it. I suspect he was looking to cause problems. Wanted to trade us a back pack for a pistol. We told him we weren't interested, we didn't have a back pack, and we didn't know what to do with a pistol if we had one. I remember an incident occurred...I went down to the jeeps and brought up everything that had money in it. And Gaylord and I were in one room, and I had the door closed. And I put all the stuff on the floor and I was taking all the money up. Because we were going to jump the border that night. We knew how close we were to the border. And we felt the worse case...we were going to skip the hotel that night and hike it. So I brought up the flash light and everything else that had money in it and I was trying to get it all together. And I remember having it all spread out on the floor, and I can't get the flash light open, I can't get the money out of the flashlight, I'm tearing the flashlight apart, and there is money spread out all over the floor. And Gayden comes storming into the room. I don't know

KT what possessed him to do it at that time, but my God I went through cont. the roof. I'm sitting on the floor with money spread out all over the place. Nerves were just shot to hell by this time. It took me 20 minutes to calm down and get the money packed away.

BG He just did it for a joke?

KT I don't know whether he thought we were sleeping, or taking a nap or whatever, but he just came busting into the room. And it just put me in orbit. We ate lunch, they brought us up chicken for lunch, and we basically milled around all afternoon, waiting for ██████████ ^{Rashid} to come back. ██████████ ^{Rashid} was going to be gone an hour. It's almost dark by this time, and we'd been there since about noon, or shortly thereafter noon, and now it's 5, 6 o'clock. And the Colonel and Jay were doing alot of talking. We went down to dinner, they told us to come down for dinner. The guards sort of got disinterested in us after a while. And I think that's when the Colonel was talking about, you know, we'll sneak out of here late tonight and head to the border. Whether we were going to get the chance to take the Rovers with us or not, I don't know. If we couldn't take them we were going to hike it. We went down to eat. Our enormous concern at that time was television. The guards are all sitting around watching television, and it was coming from Tehran. You know, one flash on the screen of the jail break and the Americans, and we were in deep shit, no doubt about it. We did not know at that time, but an article was in the paper, in the U.S. papers, at that time, that day, that we were proceeding through Turkey, or we were going overland through Turkey to escape. Had we known that we'd all had a heart attack. But as I understand it, it was released that day we were in that hotel. I think luckily what has happened is the revolutionaries has shut down the phone system coming into the country. We were having trouble getting out on the phone, couldn't get our connections made through. But by the same token, that was stopping alot of information from coming into the country. It may or may not have saved our ass from getting caught. But the television had us all worried. There is a high tension level to begin with. They served us

KT dinner, we were the only ones there in the hotel. About the time we
cont. were finishing up eating [REDACTED] ^{Rashid} came in. And in a very dramatic way,
he said, you are eating your last meal. And everybody just...and he
said, we can go to the border. I'd been to the border, I saw
Boulware. I talked to him over the border. There were some road
blocks between here and there, but I got it fixed so that we could go
through the road blocks. What are we waiting for, let's go. He talked
to the guards, he had the pass, he had gotten his pass, showed it to
the guards and we were off. Took us ten minutes to run up, get our
little satchels, check out of the hotel, pay our bill...

KF In cash?

KT In cash. Get into the jeeps, and haul out of there. We started through
the city. It was fairly deserted. There was not any shooting at this
time. All the shooting had died down during the day. And we had
noticed that through those four or five hours, that the shooting had
stopped. We get on a fairly large street. And [REDACTED] ^{Rashid} stops, he was
driving, jumped out of the Range Rover and ran over and grabbed a
hold of a taxi driver, and the Colonel is yelling, ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] ^{Rashid} where
are you going, what are you doing. And he comes back and he finally
explains that he...there is a road block up here manned by alot of
teenagers, and it's very dangerous, because they are young, and they
are kids. And he wants to avoid them. And he asked the taxi driver
to show us a way around that road block. So the taxi takes off
through the back streets, we're following them. We come out right at
the road block. The taxi driver brought us out at the front of the
road block

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SIDE B--TAPE #25

KF ...But they didn't shoot.

KT They didn't shoot at us. They were shooting in the air. But they didn't shoot at us. And they were shooting....went a half a block down the street and we pulled into a gas station. And I said ^{Rashid} [REDACTED], what the hell are you stopping for. Let's get out of here. He said, well, we got to get gas. Well, we've got three quarters of a tank of gas. We got plenty to jump the border on. He said, but when we get in Turkey we may not have any gas. Oh God.

KF What did the Colonel say?

KT He said, ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] we need to go on, we need to go on. Let's go. But ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] was really excited, you know, when he gets excited...So we got...we topped off the cars with gasoline, and ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] settled with the taxi driver. And he's dickering with the taxi driver over how much he's going to pay him. And I'm trying to tell him, ^{Rashid} [REDACTED], just give him a handful of money and let's go. And he's saying, no, no, no, he wants too much. Oh, God. But in any case, the taxi driver got satisfied and drove off. And we proceeded to take off to the border. And we got out in the country very quickly. We were cruising down...the road started to deteriorate, we were one lane asphalt, gravel asphalt kind of road. And very wooded, deep gulleys off the side of the road. And pitch black. As we're coming down this road, and ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] said, there's a..the other big road block is up here somewhere, but I'm not sure where it's at. We come down the bottom of this hill, and he said it was right there today. He says it's not there. Well okay, we kept on going a little bit, and then we saw these two guys standing in the road with weapons, but, you know, they weren't too impressive looking, and a quick debate ensued as to keep on going, or stop. And the Colonel said, we need to stop, so we stopped, and it's a lucky thing we stopped, because there was an ambush like you'd never seen before.

KT cont. There was a cable strapped across the bridge, which would have just torn the jeep apart. There were...lined up on both sides of the road, right off the edge of the road were about 20 Kurds in fixed positions, they were at the other end of the bridge, we didn't see any of this until we physically had stopped. They came out of the woodwork around the cars. We were sitting right next to a very small little bridge house. Little brick hut next to the bridge. The window was right there in the front and a light was shining out from the window and it was hitting Gaylord right in the face, he was on that side. They wanted our passports, we showed them our passports, and I said, Bill change places with me in the car, you know, let me sit on that side. So we tried to make a switch.

KF You must have been sitting in the back.

KT Yes, at that time I was. The guy looked at the pictures on each one of the passports, and he picked Gaylord and said, that isn't him.

KF Was that in English, or was it translated by ^{Rashid} [REDACTED]?

KT It was translated. I mean, we all knew exactly what was being said, that the picture was not him. ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] is going through this whole recital of, you have to understand, he's sick, he's missed his family, you know, he's lost alot of weight, he doesn't look like that anymore, he's been very sick. And this guy isn't buying it at all. And, you know, the vehicles are totally surrounded, and they don't like [REDACTED] at all, and the one guy is pushing him around. ^{Rashid}

KF How do you mean pushing him around? Shoving him?

KT Just pushing him around, yelling at him, shoving him. This goes on for ten, fifteen minutes. These guys are trying to get into the back of the vehicles, trying to open them. And we've got them locked. And we are sitting in the vehicles, and you know, the Colonel said don't move, just stay inside.

KF They are trying to open the tail gates?

KT Yes, and the doors also. We've got the latches down on the doors. You know, they are banging it with the rifle butts and everything. Then we see a jeep coming down, or we see the headlights coming down..or we see the headlights come down the road behind us. And it's a Land Rover. And a guy gets out, you know, long black overcoat, heavy, bulky, thick black overcoat, and two other guys got out. One in travel dress, and they discuss this for a few minutes among themselves, and then ████████ ^{Rashid} comes back, says open up. They ordered us to get out of the vehicles, and some of them...and another vehicle came down at the same time, you know, came down later on, so there were four vehicles. And you guys in the back need to go get in these other vehicles, and we proceed...they put some of their people in our vehicles and we got in their's and we start back up the mountain. And we went up a dirt road and everything, and got into this village. There was one big building in the middle of the village and the rest it's a mud walled, you know, village, except for one building that was built out of brick, like a community center. And ████████ ^{Rashid} is shook bad. I mean they just pushed him around a good bit, he's gone through his, oh, God, you know, we've got to get out of here, we're in trouble, and these people are going to hurt us. Which doesn't do any good for our apprehension level. We come into this village, and we have to turn down hill, and we come into, almost like a courtyard, very narrow, walls on both sides. And they bring their vehicles in behind us, and they got us blocked in. And they are sitting down below us, blocking the front, there are about seven Land Rovers. All government vehicles. And you know they had taken them.

KF So it looks the gutless little village is doing a tidy business in stealing.

KT Well, we didn't know what they were trying to do. They were obviously manning this road block.

KF It must have occurred to you that maybe that's how they got all those cars.

KT The guy in the black coat...we get out of the vehicles and they are going to herd us into this building. And the guy in the black coat is standing there, and he says, in perfect English, you need not be afraid, we just need to talk with you a while, you can go on. And in the same breath ████████ ^{Rashid} is saying, he's lying, he's lying. You know, I mean, you are really torn. I mean, what the hell do we know what's going on, when you can't even understand the language. And the people are all coming from the village and everything, and you know, by now we have 30, 40 armed Kurds surrounding us, pushing us into this hall. Off come the boots, off come the shoes, they were very inquisitive about my cowboy boots. They really had to pick those up and look those over. Line up our shoes, and in we go, same old routine, sit down indian fashion, then in walks the biggest, tallest, ugliest, mullah I've ever seen in my life. I mean, he was so mean looking it was unbelievable, I knew this guy would just cut our throats. I mean we are in an area where a pack of cigarettis is worth a weeks worth of work. These people fight, they grow up killing each other, let alone strangers. Hell, they kill their own neighbors down the highway, let alone these strangers that are here. We're up in the top of these mountains, where, it would take 40 years for anyone to ever find us. So we have the trial again, go through the whole thing all over again. They keep sending people in and out of the room, there's a head man, then the guy with the black coat, and then this mullah sitting here. And we go through the whole explanation again, describing who we are, what we are, why we are, and ████████ ^{Rashid} showed him the pass that he has now. And answering questions. They keep telling us they are going to check, they are going to call back and check. I never could figure out who they were calling back to check. We think they were calling back to check with the original group, the Kurds that had taken us.

KF Mahabad.

KT Yes. We think that that's where they are calling back to, at least that's what I got together in my mind. Because they kept telling us about this mullah who had given us the okay. The room is just packed with these Kurds with their guns. And there is one stringly little light bulb hanging from the ceiling, bare light bulb hanging from the ceiling. It's pitch black outside. So this goes on for 15, 20 minutes and then in comes the tea. No...the way it happened was the mullah gets up, he sat there very quietly during this whole thing, he hadn't said a word. He finally gets up and walks to the middle of the room, and says something, and a couple go dancing out of the room. And he turns around and he says we will have tea, cahi, we'll have chai. And all of a sudden we got the jolly green giant on our hands. I mean, this guy loves everyone, you know, the mullah in his brown outfit, and his white headband, with the little cap inside it, you know, buldging out all over, but like the jolly green giant. And he starts to laugh and shake our hands, and pat us on the back, and the tea comes in and we sit around and everybody is laughing now. I mean the relief with us, we had this constant high-low thing going on. When they brought the tea in, you know, we're home free now. They insisted that we stay, we were going to be their guests for the night, it's too dangerous to go to the border, which we could have probably spit at from here. It's closed, wild country out there, you need to stay with us and be our guests. No, we can't there are people waiting at the border for us. We can't stay. We go through the second round of tea, and I'm talking about tea that is so hot, in little glass cups, and it just burned...Coburn is creating a huge wet spot on the carpet by dumping his tea, just tipping it out on the carpet, the roof of my mouth is scalded already, you know, everybody is trying to get rid of the tea, and we are going to move on. I had taken my instamatic out of the car with me.

KF Why?

KT I don't know. But I had it in my inside jacket pocket. I pull it out and I said...because we are friends now, right. And they said, pictures, pictures...Oh, Jesus. So we got them all at one end of the room with their machine guns over their head, and I spotted this little boy, he had snuck in. And I told them I had a son about that age, and you know, I really missed him, and I was going to go home, I hadn't seen him in months. And could I get a picture of the boy. And, you know, the Iranians love children. They just love children. So they bring this little boy...he was like peeking around the corner kind of thing, they bring him out put him right in the middle of all these 40 guys with their machine guns in the air, and I'm up there taking pictures. Well I only had three pictures left on the roll anyway, and it's pitch black in that place, this one little electric bulb, but none of the three of them came out. But I'm snapping away pictures, and they are posing and all this kind of stuff, probably took about ten shots with nothing in the camera. And they want..oh, be sure...we got their names, the whole bit, how we are going to send them the pictures, you know, this is just super. And we're going to leave. No, the jolly green giant has ordered another round of tea. And it's the third round. So we dispense with the third round of tea, and we start hiking it, we are physically moving...you know, everybody up, the Colonel is saying move it out, come on let's go, let's go, let's go, just keep pushing your way through, because they don't want us to leave. Push your way through, let's go, get your shoes on, come on let's go. So we get out to the jeeps and nobody can find the keys to the jeeps behind us. And we got them started...we got ours started up, we turned them around in this very tight little area, you know, we are revving up the engines, you know, finally they found the keys. And they took one jeep off ahead of us, and we pulled up and they put another one behind us, or these Range Rovers, and they lead us out back down to the bridge, they take down the barricade and we go through, they take down the barricade at the other end, and we go through we go on up around the bend, and we can see the lights, up there at the border. At least ██████████^{Rashid} keeps telling us, that's the lights up there at the border, up in these mountains, all of a sudden you

KT see lights way up there, you know....They stopped us out on the cont. road, the guy in the black coat gets out and he walks back, wind down the window, reaches in and shakes hands with each and every one of us. And he tells me not to forget to send him the pictures. And that's as far as they could go, because, you know, that's as far as their tribe owns. And then we start off again, by ourselves, they turned around and went back.

KF Now then, Gayden remembers the camera incident in a different way. He says, they...the Kurds wanted their picture taken. He said to you, get your camera. You said, I haven't got any film, and he said, get your camera, and so you pretended to take pictures although there was no film in it. Now I wonder..

KT Well, get my camera out...but I had it with me, I'm pretty sure I had it with me. It may have been Bill that did..you know, I don't know what possessed me to start taking it, unless...you know, pull the camera out, unless...It could have been Bill prompting me to...but I don't know whether it was the Kurds that had originally said it...

KF But you are pretty sure you had three frames left.

KT Oh, I had three frames left.

KF So you wouldn't have said I've got no film.

KT Well, yes I would have, you know, three frames...

KF It's next to nothing.

KT I don't have any film left. Probably what I did was pulled it out and saw I only had three, and said I don't have any pictures left, but I knew it wasn't going to come out in that anyway. No, that's quite possible that that's how the camera got in my hands and I started to take pictures, that Bill told me to...you know...

KF You might, I suppose, have said I've got no flash, rather than I've got no film. Because that was the real problem.

KT Yes, well, I would have have got three pictures had it not been for the fact that there was no light. In fact, we sent those pictures to New York and paid...or those negatives to New York and paid an enormous price to have them specially processed to see if anything would come out of those three frames, and it didn't, they couldn't get anything out of them.

KF So let's go back to where we were. The man in the black coat shakes hands, and says, don't forget to send the pictures, and now you are on your own, within sight of the border.

KT We are elated, we've got it made, we are home free. We go flying toward that border. And we were really moving, too fast on that road. And the Colonel is telling ██████^{Rashid} to slow down, and he's saying no, we must hurry. Finally the Colonel said, slow the god damn jeep down I don't want to get killed at this point. Just then out of the corner of my eye, I'm sitting in the back left hand seat. I see a light off the road, and I glance over there, and it was a gas station sitting back off the road. And I can see three guys running toward the road. And they are locking and loading. And I started to yell, ██████^{Rashid} stop, stop. And he said, what, what, and he's trying to go, the Colonel is telling him to slow down, and I'm telling him to stop. And I said stop, stop. One of the guys hits the edge of the road, and throws up his rifle, and by that time ██████^{Rashid} had stopped. He got out...flung the door open, jumped out and the second guy put his rifle right on him. And he is screaming at them in Farsic. Whipped out his pass, and I know he was telling them that we just stopped by this village, and all this type of stuff. Whipped out his pass, showed it to them, put their guns down. I mean, they were really angry that we were going to go through their road block. They had been sleeping in the, you know...then up from this side of the road come two other guys..I don't know they may have been down road off in the boon

Rashid

KT docks someplace. But there was a quick discussion with [REDACTED] and then cont. one of them got in each vehicle with us, and we took off, and he said, they are going to take us to the border, you know, no explaining as to why the anger turned to, well, okay, let's go the border type thing. We go around the bend, and there is a turn down like this, off the road, another little dirt road. And then there is the upward road right to the border post. There is a vehicle coming down from the border post, and the guard makes [REDACTED] stop, and he's telling them to go down that road, and [REDACTED] is saying, no, we go up here. And this jeep comes down. And a young kid, 20, young 20's gets out of the jeep, runs over and pulls out his gun and tells [REDACTED], you know, off the other road. And [REDACTED] is going through his, my God, we can't stay with these people, we have to go. He said these are bad, bad people. And we go up this goat path, and I mean it was a goat path. We were clinging to the side of the mountain, trying to, I mean the vehicles were angled like that on this slippery, ruddy road. We come up to this very, very small mud hut village, into almost like an infantry, there were stone walls across the front of the village, and then down this side, and we come into this L-shaped area, open area. And there were 10 or 12 range rovers sitting around up there. Now we were up in the boonies, they could have pushed us off the mountain and they would have never found us up there. And I thought, Jesus, of all times we run into a bunch of damn outlaws, because that part, that border area up there, that's all they are is outlaws, I mean they are smugglers, and this young kid was, you know, just wild. I mean he is banishing his pistol and everything, he had a black leather jacket on, obviously the kind that Turks wear. An old man in a very large...and they are pushing [REDACTED] around, really pushing him around. An old man in a very large, heavy sheep skin coat, fluffy sheep skin coat.

KF Like an afghan coat?

KT Yes. Comes down, talks to the young one for a while, sends the young one away. Talks with Reza for a while. Comes over, and goes like this at the window, we roll the window down, he reaches in, he shakes each and everyone of our hands. [REDACTED] ^{Rashid} gets in, starts the jeep up, we turn around and head for the border, and it was all over. He sent the two guards with us. Left the two that were in the vehicles and left them in there. We got back out onto the road, up over the rise, down and around the bend, up around to the left again, and we're at the border station. And on the right hand side, as we pull into the border station there's a building. And there were alot of other tribal people standing around up there. And we stop there, and the two guards got out and explained to the rest of them. And we kept on going...Now the border station is a straight piece of road, with some buildings, low slung buildings on the other side, custom houses, it's a very small border, very small border area. Probably as big as the one between, you know, the ones between Holland and Fonser. It's not large at all. It's well lit, you know, there are two lines of big high florescent...or high intensity light. We just keep on driving. They got out, the guards got out, and the Colonel is saying move it, move it, move it. And we kept driving, slowly, we drove, you know, down through this customs area up to the bridge. And there is this big wire rope, cable...stretched across the bridge, pad locked on it. And we stopped and these guards are walking down behind us. So the Colonel says, get a hack saw, cut the damn lock and let's go. So we're...by the time we got the hack saw out of the back, and the guards have walked down, and they say, no, no, you can't cut it. Drive over it...we can't drive over it...it's that far off the ground it's going hang up the frame. And then they proceed to get a board and try to push it up high enough for us to drive under it, and that doesn't go, I mean it only has about 1 or 1 1/2 foot sway in the thing. So now there is a lot of commotion around there. We want to go across, and the guards keep saying, no, you can't go across, it's too late you'll have to wait til morning.

KF They didn't have the key.

KT No they didn't have the key. The Colonel says, okay, let's park the jeep, let's get them back off the edge here, so we backed them right next to the bridge.

KF Was there a bridge there?

KT Yes it was a bridge.

KF Then it must had been a ravine.

KT It was a deep ravine, and that's the border. While this is going on he sends ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] over to the Turkish side. ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] comes back with a group of Turks, the guy in charge of the Turkish border station is assistant... there was a military guy, a Turkish military guy with him, and a couple of guards. The colonel wants Bill and Paul to stay in the jeeps, and for us to stand around the jeeps. The Kurds are trying to get in the jeeps, and they are looking, they are trying to open them and everything. Through ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] we talked to the Turkish border patrol people. They tell us no, you can't come across tonight, you know, your people were here before and they upset everything, and they have gone, and they are not here to meet you.

KF He was refering Boulware.

KT Yes. Well, apparently what had happend is when ^{Rashid} [REDACTED] and Boulware were yelling at each other across the border, they got people upset. And they had sent our guys away from that side of the...the Turkish side of the border. So we did a little negotiating there, talking and everything like that, and finally convinced them to let us come across and stay there that night. The guards on this side didn't want to let us go. So the Turks went back, and we basically said, well, we'll just stay here and wait. So two guards stayed with us, and the others meandered back to the warm little building they had up at the other end. And it was bitter, bitter cold. We were hoping that finally the other two would go...so we are pretending to settle for the night...

KF These are Turkish or Iranian guards?

KT Iranian guards on our side, that didn't want us to go over...

KF The Turks...

KT Had finally agreed to let us come over. And the Turks had come back across the bridge. So the other two guards decided that they were going to stand inside this little building over here, out of the cold air. And the Colonel decided it was time to take a hike. So we grabbed a few things out of the jeep, and the Colonel started with Paul and Bill across the bridge. And when they got started, then Jay and Gayden and I were talking with the guards in the building, keeping them occupied...

KF Are you sure it wasn't Jay who walked across the border with Paul and Bill?

KT I think it was the Colonel. Then Jay left to start across, and they Gayden and I were coming up with the rear. And I remember as we were crossing the bridge Gayden says, you go ahead, I want to be the last guy out of here. And he was a couple of steps behind me. And we walked across the bridge, just left the guards standing there and just went over and walked across the bridge, and we were in Turkey.

KF Now, wasn't there some discussion...weren't the guards, in fact, bribed with those Range Rovers?

KT We paid...we told the guards, when Gayden and I were getting ready to walk across, we told the guards to watch our Range Rovers and I forget how much we gave them, we gave them a good piece of money to guard those Range Rovers and not let anyone touch them. We did that just before Gayden and I walked away.

KF And of course they knew you weren't coming back.

KT They weren't too anxious to put that rope down in any case to get those damn things...for us to get those across. They were going to take them back up and add them to their collection. So, we walked across. Just as we got across, there had been lights on the Turkish side, just as we got across they shut the power down on the Turkish side for the night. It was just about midnight, as I recall, it was just about midnight when we walked across that bridge. And, of course, our anticipation was, as soon as we are across we are home free, which did not turn out to be the case. They took us to a phone...they took us up to a building on the left hand side to a phone, and ██████^{Rashid} got through, I think it was ██████^{Rashid} and Jay...It was ██████^{Rashid}, Jay and I that went up there, and everyone else stayed in the customs building. And ██████^{Rashid} got through, finally, to Boulware.

KF Now what kind of a phone was it? A pay phone?

KT No, it was an office phone...

KF There was an office out there.

KT Yes. It was the military headquarters of the border patrol.

KF One of the guards got...

KT Yes, and got through to Boulware. Apparently Boulware had given a number to call. I have to find out how the hell we knew what number to call in Turkey. I don't know how. But we got through to Boulware, and he said he was on his way. He was in Van, and he was on his way. They had chased him out of the border, but he would get back. We walked back to the customs building, and there was no heat in there, there was a little pot...there was small room that the commander had, it was no bigger than...well, maybe twice as big as this, full of desks. Had a pot belly stove, little wooden Benjamin Franklin kind. The flew emptied into the room to go through the wall, or if it did it was all clogged up or whatever. We kept throwing wood

KT into that stove, and we had to sit by the windows, and keep the
cont. windows because the smoke was so bad. But it was at least generating
a little bit of heat. It was cold, just ghastly cold. We sat around in
these chairs trying to doze, trying to..waiting for Boulware, finally in
the middle of the....three, four, five hours later, Boulware showed
up, with a couple of Turks....

KF Wait a minute, didn't you play poker that night?

KT Not yet. With a couple of Turks.

KF In what kind of transportation?

KT None. Just a...they came in a car. There were four...there were
Boulware, two people that he had that ran a tourist business there in
Turkey, and had smuggled, and did everything else. And an
equivalent of a Turkish CIA, in his black coat, and 45 revolver and
jacket, never say a word expression. And when I saw Boulware, you
know, I said, okay it's over, we're home free now. And I took one of
the sleeping bags, and right next to the building was a small wooden
hut, small wooden hut where there were benches for people to sit on.
I took a sleeping bag, I went over there, I got up on one of those
benches. I wrapped myself in that sleeping bag, and I tried to go to
sleep. And I must have slept for two hours, three hours, because all
of a sudden there was alot of commotion in the building and I woke up
and three Turks had come in. And they had cheese and a bottle of
wine, and we are going to eat breakfast. And then they asked me if I
would like to come and sit with them and eat breakfast. You know,
and it was goat milk cheese, and really strong wine. So I ate a couple
of pieces, oh, and a loaf of bread. So I had a couple of pieces of
bread, a couple of nibbles of cheese and some wine, and you know
gradually woke up. Went back inside the other building, everyone else
was awake now, and it was getting light. I find out at that time that
[REDACTED] ^{Rashid} had gone back and got the gas and the oil can. It was a gas,
you know, a G.I. gasoline...off the jeep that we had just put oil in

KT it. But the tour bus...they had hired a tour bus to come and pick us
cont. up, you know, a greyhound equivalent, but...we didn't understand at
first what the problem was, why we couldn't leave right away. I mean
the border was only a stone throw away, and what it was, coming
across the bridge....

END SIDE B--TAPE #25