

Lingayen
 JM: ...afterwards, yes. But when Bonner came down with this big map and all like that - I can remember - he was trying to tell me all about the Lingayen landing that they were planning, you know, the other sweep in the Philippines. But anyhow, I can remember Bonner pointing all of this stuff out to me on the map. We couldn't mark anything, you know, he just was explaining to me what it was and everything.

Bob: So you were well informed in advance.

JM: Yes, I knew exactly.

Bob: ...island hopping...

JM: And I remember that I knew exactly when the General's plane - when the General got on the cruiser and the kamikazes hit it - I can remember I knew about - the General was on it. Was it, no, was the General's plane hit - I mean, the kamikaze hit - I know that some people were killed on that - I don't know whether the General was on that ship or not, but I remember that General Lumsden who was Roosevelt's - not Roosevelt- but Churchill's liaison with my General - was killed by kamikazes. And I think the General may have been on that boat, I've forgotten. But, of course, the General wasn't hurt, but the kamikazes hit some things and, you see, I knew all this was going on, you know.

Bob: During those - that period in Brisbane, did you have Stars and Stripes? Was there any newspaper....

JM: No, uh, huh. All I had was the BBC news and the Australian news.

Bob: ...on radio...

JM: ...on radio...

Bob: So, you heard that every day?

JM: Um, hum. And I remember I said after the war was over - I remember I said to the General, every night I would turn - just before I went to bed - I would turn on the BBC news to get the latest news. I said, I would always go to bed with this - Japanese fleet off the shores -- Japanese fleet being sighted off shore. I go to bed with that. I'd hear that almost every night, you know. But I must tell you, too, that when we were in Brisbane, which was the Bismarck sea battle - and that was the battle - I don't know whether this is Manchester's book - but this is when they first hit the cruisers with the air, the Japanese cruisers. And the General began getting those messages during the night. And I can remember the General pacing back and forth - back and forth and back and forth - he was so delighted. And I can remember he would turn to me and he would say, Billy Mitchell. Billy Mitchell. You

know - that's what they tried him on, don't you remember?

Bob: Yes. I remember that episode.

JM: And the General was the one that was for him on that - the General was on that board, you know, on that inquiry board and he was the one that voted for him, you know, backed him up. But the General kept saying, Billy Mitchell, vindicate Billy Mitchell. The General couldn't think of anything except that, I remember that. Well, life went on pretty much the same in Brisbane. As I said, I would go to church every Sunday.

Bob: Did Arthur go to school at this point?

JM: Yes, I was going to tell you - we got a tutor. You see, there were - oh, yes - I must tell you one. Finally, when we first got up there, I said to Sid, You think that we can find a kindergarten or a school or anything here? But, you see, the Brisbane Line - all children were not in - they were out of the city in the country, more or less. They didn't - they had evacuated city from the standpoint of children. That's right, there were not any children in Brisbane.

Bob: Was there a warlike atmosphere?

JM: Well, Brisbane had already been cut off, you see. There was...

Bob: Did they have blackouts?

JM: Yes, uh, huh, we had blackouts. And there was the Brisbane Line, you understand, that they had drawn - the Australians - to give up northern Australia. They just decided they'd have to give that up. And that didn't take the General long to forget that Brisbane Line and he moved right up. But they - that was the Brisbane Line - they called it.

Bob: There was an atmosphere of war...

JM: Oh, yes, oh, yes....

Bob: I mean did it separate you from Arthur - you were ... I was just wondering if the atmosphere was warlike and...

JM: Oh, yes, we had blackouts - we had blackouts - not in Melbourne, but we had blackouts in Brisbane, oh, yes. We had blackout doors and blackout windows and everything.

Bob: Were they rationing food and things like that?