

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with
DORAL CLARK
Hospital Ward Master, Wisconsin National Guard, Persian Gulf War
1996

OH
310

**OH
310**

Clark, Doral. Oral History Interview, 1996.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 32 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 32 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder)

Abstract:

Clark, raised in Lodi, Wisconsin, discusses his twenty-seven years of military service with the Wisconsin National Guard, focusing on his wartime service with a hospital corps during the Persian Gulf War. Clark remembers the telephone call notifying him of active duty after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990 and the chemical warfare training he received at Fort McCoy. He also tells of finding physical defects in equipment during training and the difference in weather between Saudi Arabia and Wisconsin. Clark recalls that they stayed at Fort McCoy for six weeks and flew out of Volk Field in a 747. While flying from Europe to Saudi Arabia, they were escorted by fighter jets and landed in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia where they joined approximately 45,000 troops in an eight square-block area. Clark describes living conditions, including warehouses, outdoor plumbing, and waiting for equipment to arrive. He describes the defensive gas equipment they had to wear including suits, gas masks, hoods, rubber gloves, and boots; relating difficulties of wearing this equipment in 100+ degree weather. Clark discusses SCUD missiles attacks, telling how the Patriot missiles worked to counteract the SCUDs. He tells of moving the 400-bed hospital in two separate groups with an advance party setting up the site followed with the rest transported in Chinook helicopters. He further addresses living conditions by illustrating the Temper tents they lived in, using jet fuel-powered generators, and having a pipeline laid for water. He discusses extreme temperature changes, methods for transporting the wounded, and water storage techniques. Clark reports that the food provided by Saudi cooks was not very good. As a Sergeant 1st Class, Clark served as a Ward Master and was responsible for a portion of the hospital. As a triage NCO, Clark decided where the injured went first. Clark relates that the main purpose of the hospital was to stabilize the injured and get them to Europe, but the hospital was fully equipped and they could perform surgeries. He talks about scheduling people on for twelve hours and off for twelve hours so they could get enough rest as the hospital saw about 3,000 patients in a three to four-month period. While in the desert, military police patrolled the hospital and other staff were issued M60 rifles. Clark tells stories of wild animals coming into the base, which was located about eight miles from Iraq. Clark recalls their departure, saying that it took about six weeks to ship out and it was over 100 degrees on the day they left.

Interviewed by Doris Litscher Gasser, 1996.

Transcribed by James W. Erwin, 2008.

Transcript corrected by Channing Welch, 2008.

Abstract written by Christina Ballard, 2008.

Transcribed Interview:

Doris: --- this afternoon to be with Doral Clark:, who is in our series of the VFW Series, in which we are trying to have people understand a little bit about what Memorial Day is all about instead of having barbeques and the day off and so. We are happy to be with Doral Clark: who was a Sergeant, First Class, and he is representing what war was like in the Persian Gulf. Hello.

Clark: Hi, how are you?

Doris: I am fine, and how are you, you are fine. Yes. Let us start off and learn a little bit about who you are. I know you have had quite an experience that nobody else around here had. – Where did you come from?

Clark: I was born in the Township of Mount Ida, just outside of Fennimore, and when I was thirteen, my folks bought a store in Lodi and I was raised from there on.

Doris: Do you want to tell us who your folks are?

Clark: My folks were Wilmer and Velma Clark:. We owned a supermarket in Lodi.

Doris: And for what years what that?

Clark: We built the super – my folks were in it from '46. They bought a store in '46, a small store, and then we built a supermarket in '61. I sold it in '70, 1970.

Doris: Did you have some brothers and sisters?

Clark: I had a brother and a sister. My brother was killed right after he returned from service, in a car accident and my sister live in Madison.

Doris: Do the people around here know them?

Clark: Oh yeah, yeah.

Doris: Do you want to tell us their first names, anyway we usually go by ---

Clark: Lon was my brother and Glenda is my sister.

Doris: What war did he come home from?

Clark: He was in the end of the Korean era.

- Doris: So you grew up packing groceries and scrubbing grocery floors.
- Clark: Right, right.
- Doris: Well, that must have been interesting. Well, do you want to just skip along, say how you got to the Persian Gulf.
- Clark: Well, I had quite a bit of active time in the military, and then about in 1970 or so somebody talked me into trying one in the Guard.
- Doris: Now just a minute. You were in the National Guard?
- Clark: Yeah.
- Doris: Ever since you – you started the military in an early ---
- Clark: When I started in the military I was just a “grunt”, the infantry.
- Doris: Just out of High School?
- Clark: Right.
- Doris: Then you must have hit it right that you liked it, huh?
- Clark: Yeah, I loved the military. In fact, I spent twenty seven years at it.
- Doris: That’s interesting Okay.
- Clark: After I tried one in the Guard, the twenty years went by in a hurry. It’s amazing, and it’s a nice place to retire from. You know they have a lot of benefits upon retirement, even from the Guard and I had enough active time that I appreciate a nice check ---
- Doris: And do you want to put in a pitch for the VFW, how they support each other.
- Clark: Well, the VFW is to me the greatest organization there is amongst veterans, and we have a common bond in as much as we all have been in a Combat Zone.
- Doris: So, then how did you get your calling to the Persian Gulf.?
- Clark: When Saddam invaded Kuwait, I knew long before we were ever called up that we were on our way because I was in a hospital unit. hospital units are kind of a necessary evil as far as the Military is concerned. They

would rather buy a tank and play with that than to maintain a good hospital corps. The Guard and the Reserves are about eighty to ninety percent of the military's hospital force. And we always had a high rating and we were priority one so when he started in I just knew we were on our way and sure enough we were called --

Doris: And how long after that were you called?

Clark: It started -- I think he invaded in August, and about the first of November, we were called up.

Doris: And how do they notify you? They called you on the phone?

Clark: Yep ,Yep.

Doris: Now, do you want to go along and tell what you've done, your ____ (??), and then and if I fell like interjecting, if there's something we want clarified, shall we do that? You left this area and then you went to ---

Clark: We went to McCoy.

Doris: And you didn't have to have any extra preliminary training because it was in your field.

Clark: No, no that was our field. That is what the Guard does. They train all the time. You know, I mean when I hear the folks that say "Well, I didn't realize I'd have to go to War, "I just wonder what they thought they were training for.

Doris: (laughter) Same way What's Memorial Day For.

Clark: -- and why we were being paid. Yeah, it's like Memorial Day. It's not just a vacation. From the time I enlisted in the Guard, I never had any doubt that I might have to go. There was just no question.

Doris: Well, it's rather understood for people from your --- but it sounds like a good deal if you don't ---

Clark: Well, yeah, and you know, a lot of people make a lot of good money, and then when they're called to serve, they think "Oh dear! What did I get into?"

Doris: Okay, you went to Camp McCoy and then you ---

Clark: Yeah, and we were there about six weeks.

- Doris: And how many people were called together up there?
- Clark: About three hundred and fifty of us. Our unit was a hospital of about four hundred beds, and so, we're about three hundred and fifty of us.
- Doris: The whole thing had to be transported, the beds and everything.
- Clark: No, no. That was set - there was quite a lot of debacle. That's what took so long to get over there. We were supposed to have a hospital that was totally packed up and ready to go someplace in Virginia or something like that and when it came time for it, somebody had used it for training, so it wasn't there, so they got one out of England and they sent that over. We sent two or three guys over to check to make sure that it was okay...
- Doris: You didn't have that many nurses here, though, at McCoy.
- Clark: Well, yeah.
- Doris: You did. Was it a one unit of nurses?
- Clark: A whole unit went. We had ---
- Doris: Then you get to know each other.
- Clark: --- more than enough nurses, RNs. The only place we were short of is the "91 Charlies", which is an LPN and we had some "91 Bs", who are basic medics who were trained up to the point where they were performing very well, but the military said well you're going to combat, you're gonna have to have "91 Charlies", and some ---
- Doris: And what are "91 Charlies" ?
- Clark: They're LPNs. They're an advanced medic, I guess, a hospital medics.
- Doris: How about doctors?
- Clark: Oh yeah. - We had quite a few docs, but they filled our unit with the docs that we needed from the regular Army, and they called up a lot of reserve doctors.
- Doris: Okay, so then you all got your notification. You were there six weeks and then you took off. Can you briefly tell me how you got to your location.
- Clark: Well, we went by 747. We flew out of Volk Field.

Doris: Is that a military?

Clark: Yeah, well, no. It was a civilian. Pan Am I think, I think it was Pan Am. It was the airline that we – they volunteered to take us. It was quite interesting. We flew above normal ---

Doris: Oh, 36,000, above that?

Clark: Yeah, we flew at 44,000 going from Europe to Saudi.

Doris: To miss everything.

Clark: Yeah, and we traveled at night, with the lights out, ---

Doris: I was gonna, oh my, you didn't ---

Clark: --- we were not conspicuous and we had ---

Doris: You must have ---

Clark: --- escorts ---

Doris: All around you.

Clark: Air escorts around us, fighter pilots.

Doris: How many were in the plane?

Clark: About four hundred.

Doris: And that was all medics.

Clark: Right.

Doris: Then you were to set up ---

Clark: Medics, doctors, and Nurses.

Doris: --- your unit in a center where they could bring ---

Clark: We had our weapons aboard with us and everything.

Doris: Do you want to tell us about the set up and everything.

Clark.: Well, when we got to Saudi, we landed in Daharan and they had

told us that it was summer over there, and it was going to be ninety degrees or better, so we left all of our clothes at Fort McCoy and turned our winter stuff in. We got over there, a first thing that was kind of amazing is that it was raining. You consider that Saudi Arabia has less than an inch a year, and in the five and half months that I was there we had eighteen inches. So it rained a lot. There were forty five thousand troops in about an eight block area, eight block square area.

Doris: Can you explain sort of where you were situated geographically?

Clark: Well, it was just off the Persian Gulf. We were inland. In fact we had troops on the wharf. Where the Scud hit the barracks and killed a bunch of people. We were in the next barracks. It was a big warehouse ---

Doris: Set up of what? They were ---

Clark: They were just big war houses ---

Doris: And then they put beds in 'em ---

Clark: Yeah, or cots or sleeping bags

Doris: And you had facilities, plumbing facilities?

Clark: Ah, yeah, they had outdoor ---

Doris: Outdoor plumbing facilities?

Clark: Right.

Doris: For taking a shower?

Clark: The porta-potty kind of thing

Doris: And showers?

Clark: Ah, yeah ---

Doris: The same ---

Clark: In the --- they set up a portable shower area.

Doris: Then you must have had a place to get water for your medical situation.

Clark: Well, when we got out to the desert, Daharan was about a hundred miles from where I was during the War. When the War started I was still in

Daharan and we had a whole bunch of Scuds in. One thing different about the Saudi war is never before had anybody spent a lot of hours in gas equipment. We wore gas suits which were like a heavy snowmobile suit, about comparable to a snowmobile suit and they were filled with charcoal, and we had gas masks, and hoods that we had on and gloves, and rubber boots. When its a hundred degrees that's a little uncomfortable, to be dressed that warm. Also they ---

Doris: Now, what was the real purpose? That you – were you in such danger?

Clark: Right, right! They were quite sure that Saddam would use gas warfare or biological warfare. And, apparently he did. They've determined since the war that he ---

Doris: Now, how many people did your nursing unit – was it sort of a big center where they brought people in from all over, or were there several centers like yours?

Clark: We were all put together at McCoy. Our hospital was complete. All the personnel were aboard that were coming aboard. The Docs were all there. We went through, updated gas training, and our weapons and all of our training were brought up to speed at McCoy.

Doris: Did you use those suits all the time?

Clark: We did it for about the first – I think I was in Daharan about fourteen, thirteen days, and we wore them every day then. Some days. We wore them as much as twenty hours a day.

Doris: Did you have to sleep in them?

Clark: Yup, yup.

Doris: Oh boy! That must have been just uncomfortable.

Clark: Well, you didn't sleep much when the Scuds were coming in. You were busy.

Doris: When the Scuds were coming in, what did you have to do then exactly?

Clark: Well, we stayed inside. We were in four story high rises, and we moved down to the second floor. In all the cases, everybody moved from the We had the Patriot missiles that were shooting them down as fast as they came in. So ---

Doris: Now can you describe that missile because I don't understand it.

- Clark: Well, the Patriot picks up the Scud when it is almost to its target. The Scud has to go up and then come down on its target, and the Patriot would pick them off when they went up. It was an anti-missile, and they would fire just in time to get the missile, the Scud when it was going up or coming down.
- Doris: So can you give us an example of a typical day?
- Clark: Well—
- Doris: Did you have a time to go to bed and a time to get up and then
- Clark: Well, kind of, you know in Dhahran, the meals were on a regular schedule and stuff like that. When we went out to the desert we moved out ---
- Doris: How did that – now so you got your regular meals – and how did you happen to go out to the desert, and did the whole outfit move to the desert ---
- Clark: Right.
- Doris: You're whole ---
- Clark: Whole hospital moved out.
- Doris: Can you explain how that all happened ---
- Clark: They went in two different groups. There were about forty I think went out on the advance party and they set up the site where our hospital was going to be.
- Doris: And that first place was just temporary.
- Clark: Right.
- Doris: Until you ---
- Clark: That was just an embarkation.
- Doris: Well it must have been ---
- Clark: We had to wait for equipment to come in and stuff like that..
- Doris: And you were in charge of getting all the equipment that you ---

- Clark: Well, I was in charge of a group of people.
- Doris: To keep them – it was kind of to keep things moving.
- Clark: Right, to keep ‘em moving and that. I was a Ward Master so I had part of the hospital that was my responsibility. Then when we moved up to the desert, we didn’t have anymore Scuds, we went up in ---
- Doris: How did you move up to the desert, and how far was it?
- Clark: We went up in Chinook helicopters.
- Doris: In helicopters? And you just loaded - how many helicopters did it take to move you? Or did they go back and forth?
- Clark: Oh, I think they held about forty people per helicopter. So no, we all went up in one shot. I think there were about ten, eight or ten helicopters, maybe even twelve, because we had a lot of baggage, you know we had our duffel bags and our packs and stuff.
- Doris: Did you have to carry your own gas suits, too or did they issue ---
- Clark: Oh, yeah. No, we carried our own, and when the gas suits get wet, you are supposed to have another one, but we didn’t ‘em so ---
- Doris: They’re no good?
- Clark: No, according to the military protocol, once they’re wet with perspiration, they’re useless, so we were wearing useless gas suits.
- Doris: I should think that they’d be wet with perspiration most of the time.
- Clark: Well, you know, it was like I said. In hundred degree weather, it didn’t take long to get ‘em wet.
- Doris: Tell us exactly how’d you go about setting up. How many people were under you? Did you set up tents? Did you make buildings? How did ---
- Clark: No, we set up, we had tempers, They’re called Tempers. They’re a tent you can set up for the hospital itself, and we set ‘em up in standard wards, so the intensive care area, the emergency area. We had a clinic, a large clinic that we handled the daily needs of the troops for many miles around us, and actually – well, we set up we were like I said eight miles off the Iraqi border and about twenty miles west of the neutral zone, so we were just out there, on an island, all by ourselves.

Doris: And was there desert all around you?

Clark: Desert all around us, and ---

Doris: No oasis – palm trees, or anything?

Clark: Nope. No.

Doris: Did it rain then?

Clark: Yep. It rained. The first six weeks I was there. It would be eighteen degrees at night eighteen to twenty degrees at night, and get up to thirty five degrees, in the daytime and rain. And then in between, you'd have sand storms. It was a miserable place to live.

Doris: It must have ----

Clark: It was not nice.

Doris: You must have to have electricity, then a water supply ---

Clark: Yeah, we had our generators and everything was aboard. I mean that'll all part of the hospital equipment.

Doris: I see.

Clark: We had I think eight generators.

Doris: But you had a water supply ?

Clark: They brought our water supply across the desert from a local well.

Doris: In helicopters?

Clark: No. They laid a pipeline. It just took them a couple of days for the engineers to lay the pipe line. It was like forty miles away, and then we had big bladders that we stored the water in., that we kept filled. They held like eighty thousand gallons of water at a time, and were the same type of bladders for fuel for ---

Doris: What type of fuel did you use?

Clark: Jet fuel for the generators.

Doris: And then you had your barracks right there, too.

Clark: Yeah, we slept in tents.

Doris: And then they had outside ---

Clark: Thirty-two man tents.

Doris: plumbing there also?

Clark: Yeah, it was kind of primitive. We didn't have running water, in the showers and that. They hooked up, they set up a portable unit that heated and generated the water that we needed for showers. The first twenty one days I was there we didn't have any showers.

Doris: So you didn't even have any water?

Clark: No. We just lived - we had bottled water, and so you kind of were conservative as to how you used your water. And then during the War, we set up the hospital that came in from I think from England where it came in originally from and it had everything packed in it that we needed.

Doris: So then you were really working in coordination with the United Nations or with just ---

Clark: No. It was ---

Doris: Just you ---

Clark: Right.

Doris: And how about this, England must have been cooperating with you..

Clark: Well, yeah, and I don't know what the set up was. It was not an English hospital. It was a U S hospital

Doris: No other nation ---

Clark: ---- that must have been in storage in England.

Doris: You were the only country there then, we were.

Clark: Yeah, as far as I know.

Doris: Like in Korea --- United Nations ---

- Clark: Well, no, there were other countries involved in Saudi. The Czechs were involved. The English were heavily involved. I guess even the Russians were involved.
- Doris: They committed themselves as we did but on an individual, not as a United Nations group.
- Clark: I don't know what the political set up was. I think it was a United Nations setup.
- Doris: Okay, so you had your barracks. You had a place - did you have regular meals there then?
- Clark: Yeah, when we first got there we ate on, the Saudi government furnished all the meals and provided all the kitchen help and everything else. When we got out in the desert, where we set up our own hospital, then we had our own cooks set up the mess halls and we had our ---
- Doris: And these were in buildings? Constructed or tents?
- Clark: No, they were all in tents.
- Doris: The whole thing was mainly tents.
- Clark: Right.
- Doris: Then you had good food?
- Clark: Ah, no, the food was lousy.
- Doris: They had cooks from Saudi.
- Clark: I don't know whether it was the supply or what it was. We could have eaten better.
- Doris: Maybe the cooks weren't so good.
- Clark: Well ---
- Doris: You don't know --- say that. Are they Americans?
- Clark: Right, yeah. They were Americans.
- Doris: Maybe they didn't like ---
- Clark: They were guys that I'd been in the unit for a long, long time with, so ---

- Doris: Maybe they're the guys the privates grumble about.
- Clark: Right, that could be. I know they fed the patients well.
- Doris: Yeah, they did feed the patients well.
- Clark: Right.
- Doris: How many patients would be coming in ? Let's say would you have regular hospital rooms or units, or did you have just bed after bed after bed ---
- Clark: It varied.
- Doris: Depending---
- Clark: You know, it depended - they came in by ambulance. They came in by helicopter, small helicopters and big helicopters.
- Doris: Now I know you don't want to tell all the gory details, but can you give us a little idea of some of the people and where they came from, and what they'd been doing when they came to you, and what your job was, as much as you want to mention.
- Clark: I was the triage NCO so, when people came in, it was my job to decide which area of the hospital they had to go to first and usually, we put 'em in the ER to stabilize their injuries and make ready for whatever OR suite or whatever they had to go to.
- Doris: And you did surgery in your hospital?
- Clark: Oh yeah. We had neurosurgeons, chest surgeons, we had everybody. There was nothing we could not do. The main point of our hospital was to stabilize them and get them in a reasonable condition and then send them back to Europe.
- Doris: Where did you really send them in then?.
- Clark: A lot of them went to Frankfort, Germany.
- Doris: And they had military hospitals?
- Clark: Right. They had big military hospitals there.
- Doris: So then how many patients would you have like at a time ? It varied?

Clark: That varied.. .

Doris: And you always had to be on the alert.

Clark: Yep, and they came in twenty-four hours a day.. War goes on twenty - four hours a day, you know so

Doris: You never had a sleeping time, or did you take turns trying to sleep?

Clark: Well, I scheduled my people to work twelve hours and off twelve hours.

Doris: In other words being in your – position you were more in charge of what other people did, than actually being a nurse, I mean nursing.

Clark: I was both.

Doris: Both wherever you were needed.

Clark: Yep. I was wherever I was needed. I worked, we had a TMC, it's a large clinic. I work as the ward master was of that one too, and I was responsible to see all the supplies were there and the help was there. Ever how I was responsible for its running. I worked there as a clinician too.

Doris: Did you have to sort of ---

Clark: That was open from I think about eight am until like three in the afternoon I saw and treated patients. We saw about three thousand patients there.

Doris: Over how long a period?

Clark: In about four months, three months.

Doris: Quite a few patients.

Clark: Yeah, but they were, you know, just ---

Doris: Did you have to give them special tender loving care or was it all sort of rugged?

Clark: Well, no , We'd like to believe we give 'em tender, loving care.

Doris: You tried.

Clark: You bet, you bet. That's what a medic does. That's what a nurse does. That's what a doc does. You know, that's what we do.

Doris: So then a typical day would be that you tried to get some sleep at night or did you have---

Clark: Yeah. over there I worked twenty hours a day, seven days a week.

Doris: I see.

Clark: But that was my metabolism.

Doris: Did you get awfully tired?

Clark: No, no. At that time I- that was a normal day for me.

Doris: Did the war inspire you to keep going? It must be continuously hard to be inspired when you don't know how low it's gonna last. Is that what inspired you to know that you had to be on duty? I mean, were you nervous about getting rest?

Clark: No, I don't know. It is just part of a day's work.

Doris: It is just the way it went.

Clark: Yeah, just part of a day - it was for me. It was just part of a day's work.

Doris: And did you had to wear those suits yet?

Clark: No, out in the desert we didn't have to wear the suits. We only had to wear the suits if Scuds came in, and, none came in, out in the desert.

Doris: So then the only things you had - were you in a dangerous target situation, where people would be gunning for the hospital?

Clark: Oh Yeah.

Doris: And that was pretty much warded off like you told us.

Clark: Well, we had our own security. When we went up to the desert. they said that we would have an infantry company, or an MP company to provide our security, protection, and they never materialized, so we had to make up our own security units ---

Doris: How did you? --- among ---

Clark: --- guards. Right, we just shorted the hospital units and made the ---.

Doris: Did you have rifles?

Clark: Oh yeah.

Doris: Your own rifles, and did you have your own machine guns or big machine guns?

Clark: No, we had just rifles. We had an M60.

Doris: The only way you had to protect yourself then?

Clark: Right.

Doris: Well, did you find people sneaking around, doing things you didn't expect like were they in the jungle?

Clark: No. There were no jungles, just flat desert.

Doris: But, I mean – the thing – they couldn't sneak around in a flat desert. You'd discover. You'd discover ---

Clark: Oh yeah. They could.

Doris: Oh, they could.

Clark: But the MPs were patrolling all the time and that.

Doris: Did they do that on foot?

Clark: No, on jeeps.

Doris: On jeeps - They had quite a bit of territory to cover. Just continuously driving around it, is that it?

Clark: Right.

Doris: In jeeps, a bunch of them.

Clark: Right. Our biggest problem was the wild dogs. There were just acres of wild dogs over there.

Doris: In your area?

Clark: Yeah.

Doris: Did you shoot them ? You couldn't ---

- Clark: We had to shoot a couple. Some of the dogs were real nice. They were very pleasant. In fact, we made mascots out of several.
- Doris: What was the name of your mascot?
- Clark: Oh, I don't know if we even named 'em – "Dog."
- Doris: Did you have to keep it in confinement?
- Clark: No. They just roamed all over the camp.
- Doris: They don't bite you, but they might have.
- Clark: No, no. A couple of nasty ones were shot, but the rest of them were---
- Doris: They didn't like human beings, huh?
- Clark: No. In fact we had a mule walk into camp one night. He stayed for a day or so.
- Doris: But you said - what area did this cover, your camp?
- Clark: Like I said we were about eight miles from Iraq. We were in the most forward position over there, until the war started. Everybody else was fifteen or twenty miles behind us. We were just sitting out in an island all by ourselves.
- Doris: Okay, but, you had to have more than just medics out there.
- [End of Tape 1, Side A – ca. 29 min.]**
- Clark: No. That was it.
- Doris: That was it. Well, that's interesting ---
- Clark: There was a sister hospital and ours and that were it. We were just sittin' out there in the desert.
- Doris: And you were the only one for that area.
- Clark: Right.
- Doris: Well, how did it happen they would send a hospital unit ahead of everything else?

Clark: They thought that when the war started, it wouldn't take long for 'em to be past us. I don't know. That's true. It didn't take long. I mean the first day they were a hundred miles past us.

Doris: And you didn't get to see any natives at all in any sense?

Clark: Oh yeah.

Doris: Were there any villages you ever got to?

Clark: Yeah, there were some villages that after the war we were able to see, you know.

Doris: But you --- certainly wouldn't during ---

Clark: No, during the war we didn't.

Doris: Did you get to see -- during the war you got to see no one.

Clark: Not much, no.

Doris: Just taking care of the fellows who came in --- ship them out as soon as you could.

Clark: Right.

Doris: --- to be treated and then

Clark: right.

Doris: Did you ship them out by helicopter then?

Clark: Yeah ---

Approx. 20 second

[Note: Break in tape transcription.]

Clark: It was kind of despondent --- a depressing time because we sat in the tents with orders waitin' for orders. To ship out, and it took about six weeks and the weather was like a hundred, eighty to ninety degrees at night. At that time you were sleeping in down sleeping bags because of the tremendous change. The day we left it was one hundred thirty- three, and it was one hundred and sixty six on the tarmac. We boarded the plane about three o'clock and sat in it until about six, before there was a lift enough to get off the ground. So it was kinda of tough.

- Doris: Did you get to taste any of the native food at all? --- restaurants ---
- Clark: Oh yeah. We ate a lot of mutton.
- Doris: In the restaurant? Could you eat ---
- Clark: No, we catered in our food the last four weeks---
- Doris: So they must have had some good restaurants.
- Clark: Right --- catered ---
- Doris: Well, then have we sort of covered most things?
- Clark: I think so.
- Doris: Well, I certainly thank you. This has been very interesting and thanks you very much.
- Clark: Yep.

[End of Interview]