

Read an Oral History!



Carefully read the transcript of the [interview below](#), by former Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum Curator Burl Burlingame.

The Swamp Ghost

“This airplane, uh, the ‘Flying Fortress’, was—went into service just after the Pearl Harbor attack. It passed through Hawai‘i, and served here for a little while, then went on to, uh, Australia and Java, where it flew against the Japanese. And the on February 22, 1942, it was involved in a bombing raid in Rebaul, and even though nine airplanes took off, two made it to the site. Um, this one and one other, they bombed Rebaul and this airplane was involved in a running gun fight on its way back to New Guinea. Dodging through thunder storms, getting shot at by Zeros, they managed to get away because B-17s are tough. Uh, they didn’t have enough fuel to get over the Owen Stanley mountains, however, so the pilot, Freddy Eaton, decided to put down in a field—on New Guinea—and he put it into a field, and it turned out it was a swamp, and the plane settled into the swamp water. Eaton and his crew managed to hike out, uh, it was a long hike, uh, four weeks or so, they had malaria and everything else. But the B-17 was forgotten, and it stayed there for years, and years, and years. And then the Australian Army found it on maneuvers and the gave it the name ‘Swamp Ghost.’”

You are the interviewer! In an oral history interview, you will need to ask “follow-up” questions to get your subject to talk more! Use the worksheet on the next page to ask some follow-up questions to Curator Burl!



Oral histories collect everything! Even “um,” “uh,” “er,” and pauses!

Read an Oral History!

What subjects in the interview are you interested in learning more about? Ask Curator Burl some “follow-up” questions that will encourage him to explain more about that subject.

WHO? WHEN? HOW?
WHAT? WHERE? WHY?

Remember to use who, what, when, where, why, or how when starting your questions.



Ex.	<i>How long did the B-17 stay in the swamp?</i>
#1	
#2	
#3	
#4	
#5	