

of making five flights with John Burns. He was a very fine gentlemen and he had received his training from the seminary. He never swore, drank or smoked. I understand, until after he made the rescue. I was with him when he profaned out his first cuss words. We were towing targets for the destroyers for target practice down around the equator headed for the Fiji Islands from Hawaii. I could see this one gun on the stern of this destroyer pointed much more forward than all the other guns and I saw "baker two block" which is "commence firing." They commenced firing; and before I could reach down and get a varies pistol to fire a red signal to cease fire to the ship, their own gun boss had corrected it. I counted nine tracer bullets coming over the canopy under the float aforeward of the engine. And remember there were two that you didn't see in between them. That was the first time I ever heard Lt. John Burns swear. He said, "What the hell are they doing down there, don't those damn fools know what they are doing." But I never heard him swearing after that.

[Were you ever under the enemy fire?]

Not while I was aboard. We did conduct patrols inter-air patrols in other words, within about a ten mile of the screen, the ships screen for anti-submarine protection. You want to remember in those days the Japanese were sending up two Kalasaki or Emily bombers just outside of our screen which we could have fallen to. Then we had the CAP or the Carrier Air Patrol protecting the force, usually four plane units, for protection above us. I can remember Lt. de Camp asking Captain Fort's permission to take one of the OS2U's up and shoot down one of these bombers and I think that the response was "are you crazy or something?"

[Did they refer to the aviation unit as Airdale.]