

## Transcript of Victor McCoy Audio Clip

Interviewer: So what was your mission in Burma?

Victor: Well, I was Signal Sergeant and we were fighting to take – to regain the village of Myadaung (??) we had to win that [coughs]. The river was so wide and the current was so strong, we had forty boats sent up, rubber boats, and a patrol went out see if there were any Japs over the other side. The trenches were empty but when the forty boats were loaded up with men and sent across the Japs had returned and the current was so strong it turned the boats round. A lot – a lot of them – a lot were shot in the back. We lost seventy-seven in one night. And all the boats were useless, except two. They were absolute ribbons [coughs].

Interviewer: So how did you eventually cross the rivers?

Victor: The old man said – well, the Colonel said he wasn't going to risk anymore men. He'd lose all his battalion. He defied his colonel or the General and we found a way of getting across by walking up to our necks in water, carrying everything above us but clinging on to a three inch rope that the engineers had slung across the river and so we did. In front of me there was a mule loaded down with the panniers with mortars and lost its footing. It was swept away. Nobody could help it and you couldn't even have lift it, it was too heavy and that we drowned – it drowned. We got up on the bank, the other side, immediately there was mortars, gunfire, small arms, everything. I could see the patrol sergeant sailing through the air, just as he was dancing. What a bloody silly time to dance. Then a bomb came straight on us, it was our own guns had dropped short, [unclear] and it killed everybody around me of intelligence and I was wounded in the buttock. And that was my war ended when I was floated across the river on a bamboo raft, put in a plane and then we were hooked all around the inside of the fuselage and we went to a convalescent. Well, we went to a field hospital where somebody came along with a McVities tin, I always remember that, full of wadding and a great big pair of pliers or something and pushed it in my bottom. Right the way up inside and I did remember that. Then that was the end of my war, they sent us back to convalescent camp, where I had a real good time.