

# National Park Service (NPS)

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Mariana Islands Wartime Experience through Oral Histories Fellowship  
(WAPA 4170)  
Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship Program



Beatrice Flores Emsley  
January 28, 1992

Interview conducted by Unknown  
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This digitization was made possible through the National Park Service by a grant from the National Park Foundation through generous support from the Mellon Foundation.

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***July 2024, Cultural Reviewer's Note: Researched information - Beatrice Peredo Flores Emsley (DOB) December 12, 1925 - (DOD) August 06, 1995, buried at Guam Veterans Cemetery. Her spouse Pvt Charles E. Emsley (1) Out of respect for Mrs. Emsley, it should be noted that English is her second language. Hence, her sentence structure reflects her thinking in Chamorro and simultaneously translating as she articulates in English. (2) Also important to note that during her whole experience she was speaking in her native Chamorro language thus she interjects some of those Chamorro expressions during her interview. (3) In her response to the first question, with the timeframe and description of her work - further research must be done to clarify the timeframe of her working for a Japanese teacher and the work in Merizo.***

Interviewee: Beatrice **Flores** Emsley - Survivor

Interviewer: Unknown

Guam

Date: January, 28<sup>th</sup> 1992

Q: Today is January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1992 will you please state your name?

Emsley: My name is Beatrice **Flores** Emsley.

Q: Can you explain a little bit, what age you were and the lifestyle on Guam in early December 1941?

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Emsley: Well, in December 1941, I was 12 years old and I worked part of the time **as a** house girl for the Japanese - **a family. He was a teacher.** I get 30 yen and I give it to my parents to buy food. And then I also got into that 100 young Guamanian girls, in a truck to go up to Merizo to plant vegetables for the Japanese. We stayed up there for 30 days and then they decided to send us home, because we started seeing some shiny things way up in the sky, so they decided that they will send us home. When we got down to Agana, and we **unload in** the truck, the air raids started. The air raid **for - it's like a war coming.** And everybody is running. So then I got to my family and my family started running up to **Sablan ranch up in Maite - better known as Maite. Then** we stayed there for two,

three days and then they say there came word that the Japanese got the island - that we must surrender.

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So then, when we all came out to get this piece of **rag** stating your name, and what nationality you are, down in Agana, after we finished with that, my family decided to go up by **Father Duenas (school). My auntie lives there. We got three** families in that ranch. There was **that Meno, my Auntie and my own family. At that time, I have** two brothers and myself and a young four days old baby **because** my mother just delivered. But they made my mother work just to weave coconut. **You know that** coconut leaf for a coconut house. So the Japanese officer came and one of my uncle(s) that works for the Naval hospital as a houseboy, cleaning **their barracks at the Naval Hospital, he didn't come back. He took off with the – some of the Americans.**

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They demand that somebody go after **the Romero T. Peredo** or the three families in that ranch will be all killed. So **about** late in the afternoon, the rest of the family decided that I will go. So my mom put some of that – some of that taro in a burlap sack and I carried it up on the mountain, down, towards **Mangilao** and then when I come to **Mongmong**, before I go the Japanese officer **gave me a pass written all in Japanese** to be allowed in Agana because at that time, nobody is allowed in Agana. But I was allowed to look for my uncle and bring him back because they will kill the three family in the ranch. So I stand by there and I keep bowing **in Mongmong** because there was a big army that are standing – camping there. So I keep bowing and bowing and finally they see me so they say, go! So I started down to this foxhole where I know that my uncle could be hiding in there.

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When I went over there by the ocean in San Antonio, he wasn't there. So then I decided to go by the river, over in **San Nicolas - San Nicolas** area. So when I start coming into the bushes, bushes in toward the foxhole, I hear somebody moaning. You know, moaning like a

human being. So I keep coming closer. When I come closer to the foxhole, there was a piece of rotten plywood, so I pushed through and when I pushed **through**, there was my uncle lying, so skinny, stink, and his foot is all swelled up, gangrene. So I just came in and sat on the ground and I said, **Elu I gotta** take you back. He said, how could you **when** I cannot walk? I said, even if I drag you a little bit and we get tired, we will rest, but we have to get back to the ranch, because the three family over there are involved.

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So he said, I don't know how we could do that. I said, we are gonna try, because that pass that I'm holding, I'm only **authorized there** for 24 hours. So what happened is we hear somebody coming into the foxhole where we were at. When he came in, it was Juan Cabrera. He was running from somebody, we didn't know, but when he came in, he sat down and he took this Japanese newspaper and he took **some Guamanian toasted** tobacco and he rolls it up and he strikes a match. In the meantime, all the Japanese soldiers **that are by Padre Palomo** school, over there by the ocean, are all running in to **San Nicolas - George Washington High School in San Nicolas** so we can hear the tonk, tonk, tonk tonk! So at the same time, the bunch of them came to our hole and they told us to come out, come out!

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So I said, my uncle cannot, we have to carry him out. So they dragged my uncle out. And they started marching us and he was – you know, he could not hardly, but they kept pushing him and pushing him with the bayonet, you know, the end of the bayonet. So we finally came up to this - Juan Cabrera, me and my uncle, we came up to **San Ramon hill** and it was already getting dark, but there was something in the sky that came, **through - a light from an airplane through a flare**. And it started to come down, so the Japanese that took us from that foxhole told us to lay flat on the ground. So when that flare started going out, when it started getting dark again, that is when we all stand up and they send somebody to our left side, into the hole underneath the bishop's house in **San Ramon** And he said for them to bring us in. So they took us in and put us into that first tunnel. Then not even 30 minutes or an hour, there was these three women came in crying. They got a

hold of them too and they put us together.

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Then another while again, there is more men coming in, so they put us all together. So there was 11 of us. There was the one that I know because **Arthur Anderson** was getting mad because he was going after a midwife and he said the Japanese caught him and he accused him of spying and they thought he was **George Tweed** and they got him in there too. But he said, I'm not **Tweed**. But they keep asking us, where is **Tweed**? And at that time, I don't know who is George **Tweed**. And he said, are we waiting for American? We said, no. They said, do you like the Japanese? We said, we love the Japanese. Every time we say that, they hit us or slap us and they stick us into this drum of water and start drowning us, you know, to try to tell the truth.

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And then later on, they started separating the Guamanian boys and that leaves me only with **Diana Matias Guerrero** and her sister Josephine and a woman, **known up to now**, I still only know her as **Antonia "Carabao" (family name)** and myself. We were all left in there. So when we came out, the men were all lined up in front of us and I was the last one. **Tun Anderson**, the reason why he got it so bad is because he looks like a real American. You know? They still had doubt that he was lying, so he was in the front of the line and I was in the back. So they start – it's about, almost 5:00 in the morning, because the moon is still coming down and it's still dark, but we still see the row. So he start, they start marching us down and they took us into this side, into these woods.

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And when we went into these woods, there was already like it's prepared, it's got a bomb hole on it, it's got an officer with a long saber standing there. And it's a bunch of Japanese that are all dressed up in all their uniform and all equipped. So they **marched** us all in there, so these guards **all** came and they start taking all the men. When they got to my uncle, my uncle grabbed me. So I said, **Elu you got** to follow them. And he said, they are

going to hurt us. And I said, **there's nothing we** can do. So they grabbed my uncle and took him to the other side of the bushes. The only thing we hear in the bushes, when they took all the men, was this like, somebody was chopping down the bushes. Like they are chopping. The only thing we are hearing is somebody is moaning and hollering for help.

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And moaning and they say they are dying. And they are all screaming and it's like somebody is just cutting down an area. So when they are finished, they come by us and when they come by us, they were so bloody. They were so, blood all over and they came by us and there was four of us standing with two guards on each of us, line up facing that **hole** and **that** officer. So they call the sister of Josephine up and when they got Diana up, all they did is they took this **side here [referencing the top front part of her blouse]** and they rip it off and that officer – I was that last one, but I can – I don't have any feeling anymore, but I can just see what they do. They took her and they just **sliced her so** slowly, so slowly on the breast and she **started** kicking and all that. And then her sister came loose and **she** started up – [video is out]

Q: **War** in the Pacific, oral history, Mrs. Emsley, 92-8, take 14.

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Emsley: [**Crying**] When they came **they were all so bloody. They** went by us, we knew that they killed every one of them because slowly they just **calm** down with their screaming and moaning. Then they start out on **Diana** when they march her up to the high ranking officer and they just stick and they just cut into the dress and rip right in the front down and then they just slowly, back slowly, then all of a sudden the sister got loose to try to help and that is when all the soldiers came after and just do everything they do right up to both sisters and then they start kicking them down in the hole. That leaves me with just **Toni**. We march a little bit up and I follow **Toni**, because it's like I'm walking in air.

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I just followed her up. So they took her and when they took her up, that leaves me only, by myself. When they took her up, all they did is they cut her stomach open and then her arm off and they just start, just like they were – use everything they can with their bayonet. Then they throw them in the hole. Then when it comes to me, they march me up to **the taicho** – the high ranking **[officer]**. **As soon** as they let go of me, I sat right down on the ground. So then this Japanese that is guarding me, happened to be going out with one of the local girls **that's half- caste** - her dad is Japanese and her mom is **Guamanian**. Her name is **Agueda Onedera**. She asked me whether I have seen **Agueda**, **but** I said no, because we lose all communication with the **Guamanian** because they are all scattered all over in the jungle. So then he said, you sure you haven't seen her?

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I said, I haven't seen her. So all I did is, **all** I felt is, somebody pushed my head down and hit me. When he hit me, I feel like somebody threw a bucket of water at me and I just passed out. The next thing I know is I'm struggling for air. I was really hurt –struggling to breathe and I cannot breathe, but this hand, they didn't bury this hand **[referencing her right hand]** so I still struggling, so I start scratching this area here **[referencing her mouth area]**. **When** I **saw** this area here, it was **a glare** up on that hole. I see a man standing up on top of that hill, calling down, who is alive to come? I told him, I am, but I cannot come. He said, hide, hide, here comes the Japanese. I just lay there and I just closed my eyes.

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The next thing I see is I hear them saying "Banzai" three times and they start to run away. When I opened my eyes to look at that man that is calling, to go with him, he's not there any more. So I start scratching the rest, digging the rest of my body and I sat up. I didn't know what happened to me. All I know is my neck is weak and it's got all kinds of **thick stuff** with that dirt and all that, so I stand up and I start crawling up. When I crawl up, I fall down again. Then when I fell back down, I hear somebody saying he wants **to** drink, **that he's** thirsty.

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It was Toni, the lady **nai** that was next to me, she was still alive and she was asking for a drink. So I said, we drink. So we took **this** stuff that was inside that hole and we start drinking that and all of a sudden, we drink so much that I passed out, I went to a deep sleep. And then the sun started **heating** up so **much** inside there and then the flies start coming in, so I wake up and go like this, **Toni, Toni**, and she's dead. She's already stiff. So I **started** I said, I'm going to get up and go away from that hole. So when I started up, climbing up from the hole, I climb over to where I hear them guys are moaning, and when I look around, it's amazing, the only thing I found of my uncle is that leg that is swelling up and it's got that **gangrene** because the reason why I recognize his leg, because it's so dirty, that **pants he got on**, that's the only thing I found.

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But then after I got there, I was so tired and hungry, so I keep going out, away from that bushes. I came to a dump, so I lay down and I went to sleep. The next day I am more hungry and more thirsty so I look up and you know this Townhouse? That is a swamp area. You know, where is the Townhouse now **[Agana Shopping Center area]**? That used to be all swampy, but I can see a ranch up there, **si Perez, [Gregorio] Goro Perez ranch**. So my **aiming** is to go up there to look for medicine because I look at my neck and there is worms – there is already start to have something moving inside my neck, they were already stink and everything and they start moving. So the more I go like this **you know [motions her right hand to the back of her neck]**, it's a lot and the more they move around. So I started out that way **and as** I was going **through** the swamp, on the side of the swamp there was a Guamanian outside oven and before I get to that oven, there was a lot of noise up on that ranch, Japanese.

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So I don't know what's in my mind, I keep going, but then there was this cat that came out of the bushes and he went around my leg saying, meow, meow and then he jumped into that oven and I went inside the oven with the cat and then about, I don't know how long, they



are all carrying **all** this stuff down on **that** little path. The Japanese are all taking out all the stuff from that ranch and they were carrying it down and me and the cat was inside the oven. So after they disappeared down in **towards Agana**, the cat came out and we went around the back and I hear a racket, the cat took off and there was a man down the hill, under a tree. And I say, hey man! Man! Give me something to eat, I'm so hungry. And he looked up and he said, Bea! And it was **Juan Cabrera** and he said, come and we eat. He had a small coconut, and you know, downhill I start going down and I sat down with him and we chew all this green coconut and we start getting choke, so we turn around and we start sucking the swamp dirty water that is there.

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So he said, that Flores Library, at that time it was a TB ward. It used to be, TB patients stayed there. So in our mind, we were going in there to get some medication for our wounds. So I have to follow Juan, he says, follow me to the swamp **and into that hospital. When we got over there, the only thing we found was some TB patients. When they were running out, they dropped their towel.** So he took one towel and he took a broken glass and he cut it and he shared half to cover, but – to cover, because my goodness, the flies is not this small, it's very large. The flies, they were like – you know? So then he said, let's go over to my mother's house because my mom is hiding some rice **and this pickled salty fish** and he took this Japanese pot and we went down under the cellar.

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We didn't go upstairs to their house and under the cellar; there was an old wood with a dog that have puppies. So he said, he took three rocks and he build it up and he cooked the rice and he said, you watch the rice and I'm going to go over to **Sayama** store and look for medicine. So he went and I was watching the rice and all of a sudden, he was coming, running. He said, hide, hide, because the Japanese is coming after him again. So when he came in, the dog that had puppies, he went after the Japanese. So Juan grabbed hold of my hand, and he drags me down to the San Antonio Chapel and he put me under this concrete slab, he put me in there, he hide me in there and he said, we will stay here until the

Japanese is gone. But we hear for a long time, the **dog** is barking to the Japanese. So then when everything is quiet, we went in the back of the chapel and up to this **Uppi Pelicani's** ranch. My goodness, when we come, when we come up there, there is six drums of rain water, all pouring out. Star apple are all falling down on the tree. Banana are all ripe, falling down.

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My goodness, we sat there and we ate and ate until we got stomachache. Then I only got this one dress that is so – stick and stink and I was with Juan, you know, he said, are you going to **wash** your clothes? I said, I'm just gonna wash it with the rain water. And I keep wearing it, but I had chills and fever. Overnight, I cannot sleep because I was running a high temperature. From there, he took me back to where our ranch, to look for our parents, they were not there. So from there we met my uncle that got **tied** by the Japanese and they run away. They were coming to get some food back to **Manengggon**. So we met them, so he guide us up to **Yona**. When we come up **to** the river in **Yona**, he tried to hide me again because he thought a bunch of Japanese are coming, he hide me under a lemon tree.

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And **then** it was the Marines. So he said, what is wrong with her **and him**. He said, oh, he got hurt by the Japanese. So he said, we cannot help her now because we are – you know. But he said, here is a pack of [unclear], you take it into the camp and show the – [video cuts]

Q: This is Mrs. Emsley, take 15.

Emsley: When we got up to **Uppi Pelicani's** ranch, my goodness, there is six drums overflowing rain water, and a lot of star apple are falling off the tree, overripe. And bananas, so me and Juan sat down, we had a party, we ate so much. We got high fever, we were hurting, it's hard to swallow, but we ate some of that star apple, because we were really starving. But actually what we were aiming is to look for somebody to give us medicine for our wound. So when we **finished**, we got to the back of the ranch and we

were on our way up to look for my family. When I got up to my family, there was nobody, so we went over to **Sayama's** ranch to look for clothes to change my clothes because I have it for seven days, with all that blood and – all stick with me with the dirt.

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So I got one blue dress and I took it off and I change my clothes, so we look down in the valley and there was these two men, we thought at first it is Japanese again, but they are coming closer to the ranch and the closer they get, I said, Juan, that is my uncle **with Antonio Meno**. They are on their way from **Manengggon** to Mangilao to get the food that they are hiding back to **Manengggon** but they met the Japanese and they make them carry their stuff up to **Yigo** so they got tied up. So Antonio **Meno** untied himself and said, I don't know about you **Joe**, but I'm going to run. So my uncle untied himself and they run, that's **how come we met him**. My uncle and **Antonio Meno** took us up to **Yona**. **When** we got up to **Yona** by the river, we met – we hear now a bunch of like, a bunch of soldiers are coming **through** and we thought it was Japanese **except that when** they put me under the lemon tree to hide me and Juan and only them two out in the front, it was the United States Marine.

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And **he** say, what's wrong with her? And he said, oh, she got hurt by the Japanese. **He said we cannot help her now**, but we can give you this pack of **Camel [cigarette brand]** and you go **to** your people and tell them that we are very near. So when we left the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division there, boy, it's just like I'm getting lifted up with high hope that I'm going to get better. I started up to my mother's camp because there is three rivers **I have to** pass. When I got up to my mother's camp, they had already prayed - **[thinking]** that I was dead with my uncle. **But** when my mother see me with all that **worms**, they took me over to these two nurse on the other camp that they are staying. **So** she had some alcohol and she put it and oh my God. When she put the alcohol, everything is moving. They are moving.

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So **she took it all out. She** was patient enough to take it all out and put a bandage over it. Then about that time, the American start moving, moving the people out. And I followed. I followed out **until I** go to Agat. Then when I get my treatment in Agat, they put like that – **salt and** they gave me a shower. There was a beautiful American girl on the ship. There was a nice beautiful blue eyes American gave me a nice clean shower and he put **like** this **salt** medicine and tie my head and they send me down to Bradley Hospital right there by the cemetery and I stayed there to try to recover. But my goodness, all the nightmare. I got nightmare, oh the nightmare. Even when I was laying there already know that the American – I'm holding the hand of the American, **they're still** scaring me because sometimes they come into the chow line, because we had this cook that they cooked food and everybody lined up to get their food.

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Even them, the Japanese are lining up to get food, and when I hear that at the hospital, they usually got a nurse by my side, or the doctor said, no, everything will be alright. Because boy, I was – it was – but -

Q: How long did you stay at the hospital?

**Q. 92-9 Mrs. Emsley** Take 16.

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Emsley: From **Agat** hospital, they transferred me down to Bradley. I stayed there for three weeks. They released me from there to my parents and then later on I got infected so I came back to the old Naval hospital and got treated there.

Q: This year on December 10<sup>th</sup> 1991, we had some commemoration activities in recognition of the events that happened on Guam during that time. This was the first time that Japanese veterans came to the island. And you were a participant at the ceremony. Can you talk about that and how you felt about that?

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Emsley: **Well**, when Sergeant Major **Blaz** asked me to be a guest up there, I feel okay. I'm not scared. I figure **you know, that** it's a wartime and I find in my heart to forgive people. So I go up there and I – it's just by feeling that feeling that I got, I feel numb, but I still went up there and meet them, **not** because I hate them. I didn't have any **hatred** among **any** Japanese. I never had that. I always have nightmare or scared, being scared from them, but not hate. I'm scared of them, but I don't hate them.

Q: How do you feel about the Japanese today and **the changes that have taken place with what's going on on Guam?**

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Emsley: Well, these are new generation. They don't know. Just like our new generation. They don't know what went through my age, the older people. So we should give them a chance to try **and** come **and** love and understanding **with** nation. Because it's the young generation that needs this, to know what we went through and I hope and pray that they won't see this happen to any other nation. I hope that we all get together into one great happy nation, with an understanding and trust. **It's** the new generation that should build up this and by doing this oral history, it will give them to understand more.

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More about other people's feeling and how to give. Because you cannot just take, you have to give and take. And that is the way that I feel.

[END OF SESSION]