

## **Meeting Charles Lindbergh, Daily Tasks**

One of the problems we had was, of course, was range. As we stretched out over the islands of the South Pacific and Southwest Pacific, we were running out of range, we couldn't make it. We didn't have enough fuel. So Charles Lindbergh volunteered to come out and show us how to increase our range. And it was a simple formula. We were misled on the use of the engines, on range. So he came over and told us, "now, what they told you at the factory is wrong. You can do more range than you think you can, I'll show ya." And he had tested it, and he knew that it was correct. So he showed us how to extend our range significantly. And he flew over forty combat missions with us. And he flew with several of the fighter units there, showing them how to extend their range. He was an excellent pilot, and of course it was a great thrill to meet him, cause he was my boyhood hero. Cause I was just a kid when he flew across the Atlantic. Which was a big deal, you know, that was a big thing. So, he was an excellent pilot and showed us - really, really helped us a lot by extending our range. And, so, that's a kind of a summary of what we did. Now sometimes we would do a little different things, but basically it was to protect the bombers when they would bomb the various Japanese targets. And then we would escort them and shoot down the enemy airplanes. Then we would also go out and [strafe] facilities - Japanese facilities - and what have you, and we would go bomb boats and ships and things like that. So it was lots of action.