

FOLSTER: This is George Thomas Folster speaking from Australia. This morning, here's the typical story of three men who took part in some of the more important phases of the jungle warfare at Gona-Buna ... a type of warfare completely new to our troops. You're going to hear from the actual participants — Captain Claudie Bailey, Captain Hermann Bottcher and Lieutenant Paul Schwartz. They have been decorated by General MacArthur. They received the Distinguished Service Cross. They gave the Japs the jitters on several occasions — But it's their show, so I'll turn you over to them. Captain Bailey, how did the attack on Buna Village get under way?

BAILEY: Well, Mr. Folster, it got under way when we cleared out a Japanese bivouac. I led an attack on a line of huts about 100 yards from Buna Village. We took them by surprise ... a lot of them were still in bed. Our information as to fortifications and dispositions was very scant. Frankly, we just thought Buna would be a push-over. Our map showed a trail leading off to the left of Buna Village, and crossing Buna Creek. Actually the trail led straight into the village. If we had followed the trail, we would have been in a hornet's nest of Japs. The point was to clean out the bivouac so that the other troops could follow up. It took ⁴⁸~~32~~ pounds of dynamite to demolish some of the stronger pillboxes. But Lieutenant Schwartz can tell you all about that, Mr. Folster.

FOLSTER: Okay, Lieutenant Schwartz. What happened next?

SCHWARTZ: Well, when Captain Bailey routed the Japs, they left everything behind ... We salvaged equipment and maps and then demolished all the fortifications, because the Japs kept sneaking back for things they had left behind. On the third day after we had taken the position, we were burning down one of the huts and a Jap came out from under it. He was killed.

BAILEY: Yes, and you blew up a case of whisky too!

BOTTCHER: That's right! One of the boys found a case of Scotch whisky. I told him to keep it quiet, as I thought it might be useful in the hospitals. We had hidden the stuff under one of the Jap huts, but Schwartz came along with his demolition crew and unknowingly blew the whole thing sky high.