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Q. What arrangements did you have to get all those planes off the field in a hurry?

A. We had our air raid signal, a siren mounted on top of the CP, and we had a small pickup truck with a siren mounted on it. On top of the CP there was a mast with a signal halyard and an elbow. They had two large balls - if the air raid alarm sounded and none of those balls were run up there was not enough time for any airplane to take off. In other words, the Japs had come sneaking along the water and were right on top of us. In that case everybody had to man his ground defense station.

If one of those spheres was run up all airplanes could take off.

If two balls went up only the fighters could take off and the bombers remained in their bunkers. Their free guns were put in the pits as protection against strafing.

Q. Did you have enough motor transportation to do that satisfactorily?

A. No, not satisfactorily. People are prone to say, well, Midway is only so long and so wide and you don't need motor transportation. I thought the same thing before I went out there. As far as transportation of pilots is concerned, the little jeeps proved to be the handiest thing, rather than anything that would carry a larger number of pilots. Naturally, the pilots, in going about their squadron jobs, wouldn't be together. A little jeep was easy to get around and normally would hold about four of five people. We could use a larger number of them, and not use any more gasoline or rubber than larger vehicles, and you would handle the crews much more satisfactorily.

When the men went to chow they ate half at a time, the other half stayed in the vicinity of their airplanes or the ready room. Then they switched. When they were at the mess hall transportation was standing by ready to take them to their airplanes in case of an alert.

In connection with passive defense - it doesn't come exactly under camouflage - the hardest thing is to keep people from unnecessarily destroying what little natural cover there is. They think nothing of plowing through the brush or cutting down a tree or making innumerable paths. It is important that all natural cover that exists in any locality be preserved. If there are trees large enough to pull your airplanes back in under them, you don't want people when they build the runways destroying those things with bulldozers. They may not stop much but it feels awful good to have them over your head.

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