

Jeanne Muldoon interviews Doug Case who came to No. 12 Elementary Flying Training School in December 1940.

DOUG CASE (D.C.) - There was a little incident up at Sky Harbour that I think I'll probably remember until my dying day because there was something that I don't think any of us had seen, unfortunately, well, fortunately for him, he got washed out. One of his, one day at noon we just on our way over the mess and we saw this plane come in and he was trying to land but he had no sense of, I'm trying to think of the word any more, distance.

JEANNE MULDOON (J.M.) - Oh all right, I know what you're saying

D.C. - And well, he was up about, oh I'd say about 25 to 30 feet and you know, he was sort of sitting there

J.M. - Going through the process of landing....

D.C. - And you know what was going to happen and he just came down, just mushed up and the wheels and struts came up through the bottom wings. It sat there like a dead duck, you know? And as I say, he got washed out. And we all ran over, you know because we didn't know if he was okay or what.

J.M. - Was he all right?

D.C. - Oh, he was shaken up a little bit.

J.M. - I bet.

D.C. - But...

J.M. - He just couldn't see ... unfortunately that happens.

D.C. - Yeah, he tried his best, you know, to pull strings to stay in but he just couldn't do it.

J.M. - He might have been a very good, well I wouldn't say such a good navigator, because if he didn't have that eye, he wouldn't have been such a good navigator, but he might be an observer or wireless air gunner. It was a lot of them that washed out. I remember boys coming to our house that washed out that dad taught... You know, it was the end of the road [world?].

D.C. - Oh it sure was because you had your heart set on it because at that time it was fun, it wasn't war, really. It wasn't until you got overseas and you got into a few fights that you realized it was for real.