

Fort Hunt Oral History
P.O. Box 1142
Interview with Walter Schueman by Brandon Bies
Englewood, New Jersey
September 17, 2010

BRANDON BIES: I'll start off asking a lot of the questions.

WALTER SCHUEMAN: Okay.

BB: And this is just a conversation that's being recorded. I don't do this as NBC news interview or anything like that, but Vince is going to certainly be asking some questions as well. At the beginning of each tape I'm going to give a very brief introduction to who we are and what we're doing and we are going to start things off chronologically and just move on up because obviously your background is very important to why you were chosen.

WS: The last few days, what I did, I sat down and I went through my memory bank --

BB: Outstanding.

WS: -- and I made a lot of notes here because I take it you are going to ask me a lot of questions and I'll have some answers for you.

BB: That's terrific. Great. Okay. And it looks like you're recording already?

VINCENT SANTUCCI: Yes.

BB: Okay. Let me go ahead. How long are you going for?

VS: Just for about a minute-and-a-half.

BB: Okay. Okay [01:00]. Today is September 17, 2010. This is an oral history interview with the National Park Service as part of the Fort Hunt, P.O. Box 1142, Oral History Project. We are here in Englewood, New Jersey, interviewing Mr. Walter Schueman; a veteran of MIRS and P.O. Box 1142. This is Brandon Bies, historian with the National Park Service. Also joined by Vincent Santucci, chief ranger with the National Park

Service. With that, Mr. Schueman, we'll go ahead and get started. If you could start off by giving us your most important and basic information which is when and where were you born?

WS: I was born in Germany [01:44], and I came to the United States in 1935.

BB: And what year were you born in?

WS: 1913.

BB: 1913, and just out of curiosity [02:00], when you were born your father, was your father in the First World War?

WS: Yes.

BB: And did he fight for the Germans?

WS: Yes.

BB: And did you have any siblings?

WS: Yes, I had two brothers.

BB: Two brothers, older or younger?

WS: One older, one younger.

BB: Okay. And could you just talk a little bit about growing up? What part of Germany [02:21] were you born in?

WS: Frankfurt [02:23].

BB: Okay. And did you live in Frankfurt your whole life in Germany?

WS: Yes.

BB: Okay. And could you talk a little bit about growing up, about schools? Were the schools -- obviously your family is of -- you're of Jewish decent. Were the schools at that -- were you -- was it integrated? Everyone was going to the same schools at that time?

- WS: No, well Frankfurt [02:48] was at that time a fairly large city of about 500,000 so naturally there were schools in different areas. So I went to high school [03:00].
- BB: Okay. When you were growing up in Germany [03:04], any thoughts of what you wanted to do when you got older, when you grew up, what you wanted to be?
- WS: The only thing I was thinking about was how to make a living.
- BB: [affirmative] And so you went to high school?
- WS: Yes.
- BB: To the equivalent of high school and did you have any jobs when -- you were just doing odd jobs or did you have any jobs through high school?
- WS: No.
- BB: Okay.
- WS: That was not customary at the time.
- BB: Okay.
- WS: After high school I went to work for a company in Frankfurt [03:46], which was -- they were commodity importers. They were importers of wool, of all wool, and I stayed with them for about six or seven years, and I advanced and then [04:00] eventually in 1934, after I listened to all this stuff on the radio, I decided to leave and I applied for permission to leave and in 1935, I got a visa to the United States and I came here.
- BB: Prior to coming to the United States, did you speak any languages other than German?
- WS: Well in high school we learned French and English.
- BB: Okay. So did you consider yourself fluent in English?
- WS: No, I didn't consider myself fluent in anything but German.
- BB: Okay.

WS: I mean, we had maybe three or four years of English and three or four years of French.

BB: And so, can we talk a little bit about that time period in the early 1930s? It may seem obvious, but could you tell us a little bit why it is you decided [05:00] you wanted to leave Germany [05:01]?

WS: Because I decided to leave for several reasons; number one, is I thought a war was coming. Number two was they announced that Jewish people would be kicked out, so I decided to leave before I was kicked out. It's as simple as that.

VS: Did you leave with your family or did you come by yourself?

WS: No, I came by myself and my older brother had been here, and I came in '35, and I got my parents over and my younger brother over in '38.

BB: Okay. Prior to leaving, did you yourself experience any direct discrimination in the early 1930s or was it more rhetoric at that time period?

WS: It was more rhetoric at the time.

BB: Okay. And so you came to the United States. You mentioned your older brother was already here.

WS: Yes [06:00].

BB: Did you have any other family already established in the United States?

WS: I had some relatives that came here after the First World War.

BB: Okay. And what part of the United States did you come to?

WS: New York [06:13].

BB: Okay. Can you describe your trip here? Was it an uneventful trip or I mean, presumably it was your first trip on an ocean liner?

WS: It was my first trip on an ocean liner, so my first long trip, yes.

BB: Did you get seasick?

WS: I don't remember [laughs].

BB: Just curious, it seems like it would be an eventful, certainly an eventful moment.

WS: Very eventful because there were all these rich, young, American college captured coming back or the high class wanted to Chase bank [spelled phonetically] people, the Rock Ferry people, and I was little poor me, and I kept my mouth shut [07:00].

VS: Did you come in to see the Statue of Liberty [07:03] when you came to New York [07:05]?

WS: To be honest with you, I don't remember.

VS: Okay.

BB: Did you come in through Ellis Island [07:12]?

WS: No.

BB: Okay.

WS: At that time Ellis Island was closed.

BB: Oh, okay.

WS: [inaudible]

BB: And so you came here to New York, you spoke a little bit of English.

WS: Yes.

BB: Did you come and live with your brother?

WS: Yes, I lived with my brother for about two or three months and then my sister-in-law thought it was time for me to move, and I rented a room on West 80th Street. I paid \$5 a week and it was winter and it was cold, and I was freezing at night and I went to the landlady and she said, "Oh, the door, the pipes are outside [08:00]."

BB: And what work did you do when you moved here in 1935?

WS: The first job I had was I worked with a wholesaler of Rockson [spelled phonetically] cars on 31st Street, and I made \$15 a week, and I did all kinds of work, everything they want; check the inventory, and sweep carpets, and do the whole bit, and then after about eight or nine months, I got another job with a company which was financed by Chrysler Corporation [08:44] and the idea was -- what they wanted to do was the following: they were afraid of the war and they wanted to do business -- export cars [09:00] and then they couldn't get money. They wanted to import merchandise against it and I stayed with them a few years.

BB: Okay. Were you working with them when the war broke out or did you take another job?

WS: That job evolved into another company, which were -- and -- which -- well, the Foreign Office -- the American office of a company in France [09:30] and they wanted me to work for them. It was an easy transition and eventually the boss came in one day in 1940, and he said, "Find out when the first steam release to South America [09:54] that really want to go, just tell me, the first steamer that goes [10:00]," so I checked with the agency and I found out a steamer was leaving on Friday to Brazil, some for Argentina and another one on Sunday for Chile, so I said, "This is what the situation is." He says, "Okay. Book yourself a ticket on the one for Friday." This was Tuesday. It was Tuesday. "Book yourself, you're going to Brazil [10:29], and the first thing you do is you got to go to Boston. We have an affiliate in Boston [10:34]. We have an affiliate in Boston, Jordan Marshall [10:36] [spelled phonetically], and you have to look and look at all the merchandise that they are selling that is imported from Europe and get yourself some samples of merchandise, but we want you to go to Brazil and find merchandise that

can be imported which is not competitive [11:00] to American merchandise but competitive to European and fulfill -- and America has a lot of European tasks men [spelled phonetically], and I said, "Give me detailed instructions." "By the time you get to Rio, you'll have it." I went to Rio and I had nothing. I went to Rio. Have you been there?

BB: No.

WS: Beautiful place, came to Rio, didn't speak a word of Portuguese.

[laughter]

You know, I felt worse than coming to New York [11:29]. I went to customs and I paid whatever I had to, and I walked down the thing and here I am again, but I don't know anybody. I have no relatives here. I have no family here. I have no friends here, and I don't speak the language. So what I did in Rio were the following, and I didn't get the instructions either what to do, so I decided I have to do something, after all, they're paying [12:00] me and I found out that at that time in Brazil [12:06], all industries, they're organized into groups like unions but they were really manufacturers who were in groups, so I found out where this Department of Commerce [12:22] was, and I went there and they spoke English, and I said, "I came here to find merchandise," and there is a conference of different sections of different industries. I have no pictures. Pictures got lost, but anyway, they gave me a list of different firms that made different merchandise, and I had to check what they were making, whether it was suitable for the American market. Well, I went to a few of these firms and they only spoke Portuguese [13:00], and I didn't speak Portuguese, so I went to the local bank, and I said -- and the manager -- I knew the manager, I got to know the manager and he had a son who was [unintelligible],

spoke English and Portuguese, and I hired him as an interpreter. So I told him what I wanted to do and we went around and he held these [unintelligible] every place and wherever we went with him, no. So I decided after about four weeks of this nonsense, I was paying him, I got nowhere. I can do it myself, because I don't have to pay.

[laughter]

So I started going out to different factories and I came to a factory that said, "Para [spelled phonetically] Ingles?" "No." "Para a francés?" "No." "Para [unintelligible?]" "No," Portuguese only, so I did this for a few weeks and I decided I have to learn a little [14:00] Portuguese, and I listened to the radio, and I went to the movies, and I read the papers, and I learned enough Portuguese to hold very simple speech, one sentence speech, "I came here. I'm looking to -- for merchandise that's suitable for the United States. We have a chain of department stores." Macy's [14:21] was one, Jordan Marshall [14:23], both, one in each city and eventually I found that most of the people that have told me they don't speak English, spoke English. They spoke English. Some of them spoke better English than I did --

[laughter]

-- because some of these guys had been to Harvard or had to be in college and so forth, so I developed a series of manufacturers to make American style merchandise. I found one guy who made gloves in Italian, and [15:00] I had all the instructions, how many stitches to put in the glove, and I found another manufacturer who originally was German who came from Bolivia and he made beautiful silverware like similar to this but different; this is from my parents in Germany [15:19]. So I developed and I went to Sao Paulo [15:25] which was the center of manufacturing in Brazil [15:29] at that time. It was the center of

commerce as you'd say. I get letters from New York [15:41], "We don't want to open an office in Sao Paulo. We want to open offices in Rio because the buyers of the department stores don't like to go to small towns." I said, "That's too bad. I opened an office in Sao Paulo because Sao Paulo [15:55] was a bigger circle of manufacturers." And I [16:00] developed different industries and after a while I hired myself an assistance who spoke German [16:12] and Portuguese and a secretary -- [unintelligible] open office on Rua Marconi 138 [16:20] in Sao Paulo, telephone number 42687, P.O. Box 1445. I remember all this. Now how do you get a post office in Brazil [16:32]? You could not get at the time any mail delivered because they just didn't deliver, so I had to get a post box. So I went to the post office to get a post box. We have none. I took out my wallet, I put it on the counter, I said, "I want a post box."

BB: Oh.

WS: "Maybe we'll find one for you."

[laughter]

So I took [17:00] out a \$10 bill, "Not so fast, post box." He said, "No, we have to fill out forms. It takes a long time. You give me the money and you come back tomorrow for the key." I said, "Goodbye." I called him whatever cuss words I knew in Portuguese by then --

[laughter]

-- which sometimes were horrible, but I didn't know what that meant anyway.

[laughter]

It's like "your mother was" -- you know what I mean? And so forth. So he said, "Okay." So he pulled out a long form and he said to me, "Fill it out." I did not. "For \$10, you fill

it out.”

[laughter]

So he filled it out, I kept my key. So in the evening we used to go to a small American restaurant in Sao Paulo [17:53] where they have represented Ford [17:55], Johnson & Johnson [17:57], mills, and mining [18:00] [spelled phonetically], and single sewing machines came, you know, we had hamburgers and stuff and I said, “Well, did you get post box?” I put up a key.

[laughter]

“How did you get it?” I said, “I bought it.”

[laughter]

These guys were shocked because they had waited for months to get a post box. And the guy from [unintelligible], Marvin Nashville [18:26] [spelled phonetically]; I remember some of these guys’ names. At any rate, I had a really nice time in Brazil [18:32]. I learned Portuguese and met some people. Now, this is a very funny thing. At that time I’m going back, it’s a highly Catholic country. You cannot go out with a girl to the movies at that time without a chaperone because that was no good. So I met [unintelligible] young lady one day at the English [19:00] club [19:01] and I had lunch with her, and I think we went to the movies in the afternoon and at the end of the next week she invited me for dinner on Sunday afternoon and she lived in what [unintelligible] a section she called Mila [spelled phonetically] Americana [19:20]. It was all Americans and English. I bought a bunch of flowers and I went there and we sit down for dinner, they were Germans obviously, they came from Hamburg [19:33] and we sit down at dinner and after dinner the old man said, “I’m very happy to have met you. I would like

you to come back next week and meet my other sons-in-law.”

[laughter]

You know what I did? I never showed up.

[laughter]

That was the end of that. I told you what -- [20:00] I mean, just went on. So anyway, here I am doing some business in Brazil [20:07] and I'm buying samples and sending it to the States and so forth and we got orders back and forth and one day I went -- and I used to go regularly every four weeks to Sao Paulo [20:24] for about three or four days. One day I go to Sao Paulo and I tell my assistant whose name was Ross [20:33], I remembered it, he took me to the airport to pick me up; two days later or three days later, I come back and he's not at the airport, so I took a taxi and went to the office. He's not there and the secretary's not there; the typewriter is gone. He had absconded.

BB: Oh geez.

WS: Here I'm in a strange [21:00] country, so I go to the police and I just say everything and so forth and so on. Anyway, in my report to New York [21:10], they told me, “Who do you think is going to pay for the typewriter? They're going to charge it to your account.” I said, “You can't do that.” Anyway, I can't tell you what I told them because it's not polite. At any rate, a few days later I take a walk and I see in a store, I had gone to a company in the interior which made harmonicas and at the time Sears Roebuck [21:40] was one of our accounts too. Sears Roebuck had brought-- had imported leather harmonicas from Chicago, from Italy, and they couldn't get anymore and they wanted to play them, so I had a harmonica which I had bought. I had a sample and I had a [22:00] consolidation place and a forwarding agency and the guy had gone there and taken the

harmonica and stole it and sold it to the store and it was in the window, and I go into the store and I said, "You have a nice harmonica there. Can I ask you where you got it?"

"Yeah, we bought it from some English man." I said, "That's very nice. How much do you want for it?" He said, "Why?" I said, "Because it's really mine, but I don't want to cheat you. I mean, you paid for it," so they told me what they paid for it and I paid them and I took it home, and I sent it to the States.

[laughter]

Another day, I had an office in Sao Paulo [22:46] furnished by the Organization of Manufacturers [22:55] and they had given me also a secretary and [23:00] one day we worked late in the afternoon and all of a sudden it was 6:00 or 7:00, instead of 4:30 or 5:00, and she left, and I kept on working. I had problems getting out of the building and I had to call somebody. The next morning a young man walks in and said, "You have to marry my sister. She worked for you and you worked alone with her since 6:00 or 7:00." I said, "Get your ass out of here. You want me to marry her because we had worked until 6:00 or 7:00 in the evening." That was that.

[laughter]

You have to remember, this was a strictly Catholic country. There were over 300 churches in Sao Paulo [23:58]. It was a beautiful place, but [24:00] anyway, so after a while I decided -- America had gone to war. No, America was going to war.

BB: Okay.

WS: The war in Europe was going to -- and I decided I was going to join the Army [24:28], so I advised them in New York [24:31] that I was going to come back and they sent me a tele-card, "If you come back, you're fired." I said, "Fine." They wouldn't send me the

money for the passage. Those days there were no planes, it was ships, so I borrowed some money, and I got on a ship to New Orleans [24:49]. That was the only ship I could get, and I came to New York [24:53], I walked in the office and the boss said, "Oh, you're here." I said, "Well, I'm fired. Goodbye." He says, "You're not fired. Stay [25:00] here. Stay with us." [laughs] And they sent another man down there to take my place. Anyway, so I worked in New York [25:08] and eventually we also had amongst our clients the Paramount Canal zone [25:15] [phonetically spelled]. Do you know anything about the Paramount Canal zone? It's a building, installation but it's independent and we had done some of the purchases for them and the colonel at the America -- at the Paramount Canal zone [25:29], I said to him one day, Colonel Carter [25:32] [spelled phonetically], "I'd like to join the Army [25:34]." He said, "Don't join, I'll get you commissioned." I said, "Okay." About six months later he tells me, "I can't get you commissioned. You were born in Germany [25:45]." I said, "You found out now?"

[laughter]

Anyway, so I decided I had a deferment, I told the passport, "I don't want to renew the deferment." And I joined the Army in [26:00] December of '42.

BB: Okay. At that point, were you an American citizen or were you still considered an enemy alien?

WS: No, I was an American citizen.

BB: You were?

WS: Yes.

BB: At what point did you get your citizenship?

WS: I got my -- well I can look it up.

BB: Well you don't need to -- that's okay. Do you remember about what year it was? Was it before the war started?

WS: Before the war started.

BB: Okay.

WS: I think in '41. I don't --

BB: Okay.

WS: I can look it up.

BB: No, we can later. It's not critical right now.

WS: Okay.

VS: And so you were in Brazil [26:35] when you learned about Pearl Harbor [26:37]?

WS: Pearl Harbor had not happened yet. No, I was back already.

BB: Okay.

WS: I came back in the early part of '41 or sometime. I don't [27:00] have that information anymore.

VS: So you were in New York [27:04] when you learned about Pearl Harbor [27:05]?

WS: I was in New York when I learned about Pearl Harbor.

VS: Okay.

WS: And anyway, I entered the Army [27:12] on December 7, '42, and they asked me -- they gave me a test first, you know, everybody had a test and then he asked me, "Do you want a cushy job in Washington or do you want to be a tail gunner in a B52?" I said, "I don't give a damn. I enlisted, just send me wherever you want to," and they sent me to Fort Mungus [27:38] [spelled phonetically] where I went to civil court training, and I had my

basic training there and every Friday afternoon after the basic training was over, they called the whole battalion to the assembly hall. In order to keep them awake [28:00] they had a speaker every Friday afternoon because they didn't want people to leave early for the weekend, so one Friday afternoon a Captain Heilman [28:12] [spelled phonetically] came up and he held a speech about Latin America. And in order to keep the audience awake, he keeps on asking questions, and as he asked questions, I was the only one that answered. After about four answers, he says, "Come on up here. You hold the lecture. You know more than I do."

[laughter]

And I held the lecture about Brazil [28:38]. And after the lecture was over he said, "What are you doing here?" I said, "I'm in civil corps." He said, "You don't belong in civil corps. You belong in the intelligence department. You speak any languages?" I said, "Yes, I speak a little Portuguese, a little French, a little German [29:00]." So about two or three weeks later, the staff sergeant comes to my apartment and says, "You, I'm going to send you to the Aleutians [29:09]. You're a wise guy. You want to go to intelligence." I said I didn't want anything. I said, "I was asked the questions, I answered the questions." So had sent me to Washington [29:21] because the Brazilian Mission [29:24] needed an interpreter and with my little Portuguese they thought I would be the interpreter, but in Washington they interviewed me and they asked me, "What languages do you speak?" So I said, "German, French," "Oh, German, okay. You speak German well?" I said, "Perfectly well." "Okay." Back to Ritchie [29:47]. So I was sent to Camp Ritchie. I was sent to the -- assigned to military intelligence and sent to Camp Ritchie, which at that time was a training [30:00] camp for intelligence operations.

- BB: If I can interrupt real briefly with a quick question, through this whole process what rank were you? What rank were you at this point? Were you just a PFC?
- WS: I was a private.
- BB: Private, okay.
- WS: PFC.
- BB: Okay. And -- go ahead.
- VS: The date that you went to Ritchie [30:24], do you remember approximately what date?
- WS: Yes, I came to Ritchie in the spring of '43.
- BB: Okay. So you didn't actually work at the Brazilian Mission [30:41] in Washington [30:42], they just interviewed you for that and sent you --
- WS: They interviewed me in general and they decided that I would be better off -- they would be better off sending me to Ritchie [30:52].
- BB: Okay.
- WS: It was actually -- yes, then once [31:00] I came to Ritchie which was -- well, I would say it was not spring but early summer, but anyway --
- BB: Okay.
- WS: -- I was assigned to IPW [31:08], the interpreter of prisoners of war, and I was sent to the fourth class, the fourth class, and I [unintelligible], and we got the assumed ranks depending on our standing in the class and my assumed rank was Master Sergeant from a Pfc, but only assumed and here I'm hanging around Ritchie [31:39] when one day Major Wonderly [31:41] [spelled phonetically] -- maybe he's on the list, Wonderly. No, he's not on the list [32:00]. Anyway, Major Wonderly [32:04] came to see me and he said, "We are forming here a new thing, order of battle [32:11]. Would you like to join?" I

said, "What are they doing?" He said, "Well, they're working on all the battle plans." I said, "Okay." And that's when I became --

(End of Tape 1A)

(Beginning of Tape 1B)

WS: -- first class of order of battle [00:06] in Ritchie [00:07]. The student body consisted of two colonels, two majors, two captains, a flock of lieutenants, and two privates, him, and me. And the course lasted four weeks. It was six days -- a six-day cycle. It started on a Sunday and all the information had to be learned by heart, all the information, and every afternoon, there was a quiz, and every Friday, afternoon there was a four-hour quiz, and at the end of the course [01:00], after fourth week there was an all-day quiz and the two privates are sitting far apart in each corner and the officers had a chance to communicate. Anyway, so after the quiz was over, about two days later they all took us to Washington [01:21] for a big celebration dinner. It was Colonel Lovell [01:26] [spelled phonetically] who took us to Washington and our pictures were taken for the Pentagon [01:32]. Individual pictures, not a group picture because everything was supposed to be that way. Anyway, a day later they posted who passed the course and who flunked, and I passed it which was a big surprise to me because I was the only non-college graduate in the whole class. I was sure I had flunked, but I hadn't flunked. And now I have an assumed title of Master Sergeant [02:00], but I got nothing on my arms. Eventually in the late summer of '43, I was transferred to 1142 [02:16], and how was I transferred? This was a very big secret operation. I was by myself taken to Washington [02:31], put down in a seat corner where I was to meet a guy in a Boy Scout [02:37] hat who took me wherever it was he was going to take me, and he took me to Fort Hunt [02:43]. Now, I didn't know Fort

Hunt but that was where we went, and I was immediately told that, “Here you have no rank, no titles, you’re all Mister. You’ll get your mail to P.O. [03:00] Box 1142. You can’t tell anybody where you work. You can’t tell anybody what you do and you have to sign up.” And who was the commanding officer? The commanding officer was Horton Smith [03:13] [spelled phonetically], a British officer, a British captain which did not sit too well with the American -- with us. Anyway, and I was assigned and I worked in a single, small, confined room on capture documents, changes in Axis armies, and other pertinent information on planned attacks and we worked on the order of battle [03:42] book. In the fall of ’43, we could not associate with anybody else. I happened to have one friend there, [unintelligible] ultimately a book, but you could not talk to anybody about [04:00] anything except girls or sex. What else? There was nothing else to talk about. You couldn’t talk about what we were doing. We couldn’t tell another guy, we couldn’t ask any Christians, we just had to do our work by ourselves all alone and it was very boring because, you know, you couldn’t even look out because it was enclosed rooms, just about a little bit bigger than the table with a table and paper and that’s all, and a pen.

BB: This is outstanding.

VS: This is great.

BB: Your -- you notice we haven’t had to ask very many questions because you’re answering all of our questions and this is really some outstanding detail.

VS: Your memory is fantastic.

WS: Beg your pardon?

VS: Your memory is fantastic.

- WS: My memory is so good [05:00] because my memory was trained by order of battle [05:04].
- BB: So prior to going on, if we could just go back up and if Vince and I could just ask a couple follow-up questions about your Ritchie [05:15] and then your early 1142 [05:18] experience. Do you want to?
- VS: Sure, a couple of questions. Do you remember who the other enlisted man was in your class at Ritchie?
- WS: Yes, I'll tell you the name. In Ritchie, no. I know some names here but they were not in my class. Do you want me to pick some names here?
- VS: Well I was wondering if that person who was the other enlisted man went to 1142 [05:48] with you.
- WS: He was not in my class. It was Gus Plackard [05:51] [spelled phonetically]. He stayed and he eventually became a colonel in the CIA [05:58]. He was my friend [06:00].
- VS: He did not go to 1142 though?
- WS: He went to 1142 [06:05], yes.
- VS: He did?
- WS: I can [unintelligible]. Here are some of the people that worked at not only in my class at Ritchie [06:15], but who were at Ritchie; there was Gus Plackard, Frank Sternburg [06:21] [spelled phonetically], he died, Ernest Marx [06:24] [spelled phonetically], Henry Hurst [06:27] [spelled phonetically], a fellow called Rodrigo [06:30] [spelled phonetically], Gus Hoffman [06:33] [spelled phonetically], surely Ralph Cook [06:36] [spelled phonetically], and I picked some others, they were not in my class.
- BB: And I'm sorry, these are all folks, did they all end up at 1142 [06:48]? They were all at a

P.O. Box 1142 and also went through Camp Ritchie [06:53] --

WS: Yes.

BB: -- but not at the same time you were at Ritchie?

WS: Maybe at the same time, different classes.

VS: Different classes.

WS: They were in the order of battle [07:00].

BB: Okay.

WS: They had four more classes of IPWs [07:04]. I'll pick some other names here. Walter Behr [07:30], B-E-H-R, Hugh Bennett [07:37] [spelled phonetically].

BB: And if you remember anything about any of these folks that you'd like to share?

WS: I don't remember any because you know, we didn't have that kind of interplay, you know what I mean? Because you couldn't talk to anybody [08:00], just Gus Plackard [08:04], I told you, Martin Bloomfield [08:08] [spelled phonetically], George Boktonov [08:10] [spelled phonetically], Captain Burz [08:15], Major Chunes [08:20] [spelled phonetically], Major Dickson [08:31] [spelled phonetically], Paul Fairbrook [08:38] [spelled phonetically], I remember him very well because his name didn't used to be Fairbrook, and I once asked him, "What the hell was your name?" He said, "Shermbach," [spelled phonetically].

BB: Shermbach, [affirmative], and we've interviewed him.

WS: Beg your pardon?

BB: He's still living in California and we have conducted an interview with Paul [08:55].

WS: He's a really nice guy.

BB: We have some photographs we'll share with you of Paul [09:00].

WS: Captain Hartell [09:13] [spelled phonetically], Fred Hechinger [09:14], Fred Hechinger, he died, he used to work for the New York Times, Henry Hurst [09:20], Gus Hoffman [09:23]. Only [unintelligible] is Kyle [spelled phonetically] died, [unintelligible] died, you know, last week?

VS: Yes.

WS: Robert Kleinman [09:45] [spelled phonetically], did you interview him?

BB: No.

WS: He was a miserable guy. Oh, Warner Kober [spelled phonetically], you might remember.

BB: Yeah, Dieter Kober [09:56], he's still living as well and we've also interviewed him.

WS: He lives [10:00] in New York [10:01] now.

BB: He actually lives in Germany [10:03] but he also lives in Chicago. He was very musical and he is the conductor, still to this day, the conductor of the Chicago Chamber Orchestra [10:16].

WS: I can remember John Krieger [10:18] [spelled phonetically], oh, John Coharic [spelled phonetically], he got the clap in Paris.

[laughter]

Don't put this on the tape. He was a lieutenant. Ajule Avido [10:32] [spelled phonetically], I mentioned, oh, Hank Burke [10:39] [spelled phonetically], Victor Malla [10:47] [spelled phonetically], did you interview him?

BB: No.

WS: He's a bastard.

[laughter]

He cut himself. He didn't want to be in the Army [10:54] and he studied how to get out

of the Army and he worked in London [11:00] and he had a book on his table and he wanted to plead some deficiency, you know what I mean? And I said to the man in charged at the time, Major Chunes [11:13], we were very friendly, “What are you going to do with that guy?” He says, “I let him go. Anybody that doesn’t want to be in the Army [11:23], let him go,” so he got out. He got a medical discharge. He was a bastard. Ernest Marx [11:32], I remember him. Ralph Cook [11:57] [spelled phonetically], Michael Ralph Cook, T3 [12:00], jailbird, oh, Steven Hunt [12:02] [spelled phonetically], he also worked for the New York Times but I think he died too. Walter Schueman [spelled phonetically], Homer Shrepper [12:27] [spelled phonetically], Gordon Smith [12:43] [spelled phonetically], British Captain, William Smith [12:47], he was actually one of our commanding officers, oh, Harold Olson [12:52] [spelled phonetically], I remember him, Frank Sternburg [13:00] [spelled phonetically], Strassmore [13:08] [spelled phonetically], he was British, I knew him, Van Loon, he was an author. His father was a famous author. Ocean, Colonel Ocean [13:29] [spelled phonetically], he was our commanding officer in London [13:32]. Oh, June Hickman [13:58] [spelled phonetically], I don’t know whether he was here [14:00]. No, he was not here. He’s not on the list. There was a Lieutenant Hickman [14:12], but he’s not here, and he was a Mormon [14:14].

VS: Okay. Very good, I had several other questions regarding Ritchie [14:21]. When we first began talking with you before we were recording you mentioned something about not being allowed to take notes at Ritchie in the class?

WS: In the order of battle [14:31] class.

VS: Could you tell us about that?

WS: Yes, they held lectures and they didn't let you take a lot of notes. Now, some information they gave you like the composition of the German Army [14:52], you could take notes but a lot of the history, a lot of the background, that you couldn't take any notes [15:00]. They told us the entire Axis army, the German Army [15:07], the Italian Army, the Bosnian, Yugoslav, all the Axis powers. We had to assemble and take a part and work on -- now originally the German Army [15:24], the components of an Army, let's say the first division, the component of the infantry and engineers, the ordines, and the civil corps, and so forth, they all carried the number one on the first Army, but Germany [15:42] had been at war and therefore, some of the divisions had been dismembered and had been reorganized so you didn't have any longer in the first division, all the components for the numbers. They made infantry numbers C24, the artillery [16:00] number, 298 and so forth, so you had to have all these things lined up. Anyway, we had to learn this entire structure of the German Army [16:13]. You could take notes only on the numerical things and we had to know, which are the mountain divisions, which are the infantry divisions, and so forth and so on, but that's why I developed a very good memory.

VS: And so you took the IPW [16:31] class first?

WS: Yes.

VS: Then you took the OB [16:34]. Were you allowed to take notes in the IPW training?

WS: Yes.

VS: Do you remember any of the instructors?

WS: Yes, I remember, they were all white Anglo-Saxons. There wasn't an Italian, there wasn't a Jewish one, there wasn't a Polish one; they were all the descendants of what you

called the Blue Bloods of New York [16:57]. They had learned German in their college [17:00] years in Germany [17:01] and they held speeches which were very sketchy in German, but I remember nothing. It was completely white toast, you know what I mean?

VS: Yes, and so, on the phone when we spoke you told me a little more details about what was in the IPW [17:26] training.

WS: Yes.

VS: Can you recall that?

WS: I'd be telling you -- well, how to identify rank and seal numbers and oh, what questions to ask if you catch one. You can give a cigarette but don't hit him. This changed later. In Iraq [17:55] [laughs] and in Vietnam [17:57] and the Korea [17:59], it changed [18:00]. At any rate, to treat them with courtesy and I had to ask him all kinds of questions. What unit do you belong to? Where are you located? Where are you going? Where do you come from? What's the commanding officers and so forth, all the details?

VS: Did you get any practical exercises?

WS: No practical exercises at all.

VS: Did they have anybody dress up in German uniform?

WS: No.

VS: No?

WS: No.

VS: Did they drop you off and have you navigate back to the camp?

WS: Yes [laughs].

VS: Can you tell us about that?

WS: I remember that. They dropped us off; they gave us a map without names, just places,

and to find our way back. How I found my way back, I have no idea. All I know is I was lost, and I came back.

VS: At Ritchie [18:50] do you remember any British at Ritchie, or when did you first have communication with British?

WS: No, the first British I [19:00] encountered was at 1142 [19:02].

VS: Okay.

WS: But in Ritchie we had some Polish officers and some French officers and I beat in that IPW -- in that OB [19:11] class. We had some foreigners there.

VS: And we can talk about Horton Smith --

WS: What?

VS: We can talk about Horton Smith [19:24] when we get to 1142 [19:26].

WS: Yes.

VS: But you didn't see Horton Smith at Ritchie [19:28]?

WS: No.

VS: Okay. Lovell [19:31], did you ever see Lovell before you went to 1142?

WS: Yes, in Ritchie, he was the one who took us --

BB: To Washington.

WS: -- to Washington [19:42], to Washington.

BB: Right.

VS: Did he instruct there or did you see him before you went to Washington?

WS: Yes, we were aware of him and we knew that he was sort of the commanding officer of the class.

VS: Okay.

WS: He was in charge. He was the one that taught order of battle [20:00] to Ritchie [20:01].

VS: That's good.

BB: Okay. So you came to 1142 [20:09], you were taken to this mysterious place.

WS: Yes.

BB: At what point were you told what you were going to be doing? Did somebody sit you down and say, "Here's your job?" Or did you have to figure it out for yourself?

WS: I don't remember.

BB: Okay. That's fine.

WS: I don't remember.

BB: Okay, that's fine. And I should also ask a quick question: were you still a private? At what rank did -- at what point did your rank start to increase?

WS: When I went overseas.

BB: Really?

WS: Yes.

BB: So you said you were -- you had an assumed rank of Master Sergeant?

WS: Yes.

BB: Was that still the case at 1142 [20:52] or were you back to a private at 1142 [21:00]?

WS: I think -- I think I kept it. I don't remember.

BB: Okay.

WS: Anyway, I didn't get paid. I got paid as a pilot. I wasn't even a PFC, I was just a pilot.

BB: So when you arrived at 1142, again, this was the late summer of 1943, I think you mentioned.

WS: Yes.

BB: Who did you report to? Do you recall who your officer was?

WS: Captain Smith [21:33].

BB: It was Captain Smith?

WS: It was not late, it was the summer of '43.

BB: Okay.

WS: Yes.

BB: So Horton Smith [21:41] is who you --

WS: Yes.

BB: And Horton Smith was stationed permanently at 1142 [21:48]?

WS: Yes.

BB: He was not at the Pentagon [21:50]?

WS: No.

BB: Okay.

VS: Did he wear a British uniform or American uniform?

WS: British.

VS: British?

WS: How would we have known otherwise?

[laughter] [22:00]

VS: Accent maybe.

WS: We all had accents.

[laughter]

Accents were not a distinguishing feature. It was a general feature.

BB: And you mentioned one of your tasks there was working on the OB [22:17] book, the

order of battle book?

WS: Yes.

BB: Would you say that was your primary task or did you have a number of other tasks that you worked on?

WS: Probably, I don't -- to be honest with you, I don't remember. I don't want to make it up. I think probably, documents and stuff. I don't know.

BB: Can you talk then for a moment about -- assume we know nothing and we really don't know much more than that --

WS: Then you would have done well at Ritchie [22:47].
[laughter]

BB: You talk about what happened with these documents. What were these documents and what information did you get from them [23:00]?

WS: I don't remember. It's not that I don't want to remember; I don't remember. Probably because they trained us not to remember anything because of the content training we had. I do not -- I am completely blank. It's not that I don't want to tell you.

BB: Sure.

WS: I don't want to manufacture evidence which doesn't exist.

VS: Starting from the simplest, these were documents that were in German language?

WS: Some were in -- yes, a great deal of them were in German language, but some were in English because when we worked on that red book, that Order of Battle [23:46] book, it was all English.

VS: Were they American intelligence reports that were providing information? Okay [24:00].
Were there newspapers --

WS: No.

VS: -- or photographs, or maps?

WS: No, that came later on in London [24:09]. The maps, and I didn't read newspapers, the maps and other stuff, no. At 42, I only remember it was documents and that order of battle [24:22] book and the rest, I don't remember. It was all capture documents, some German documents, and we had developed information on planned activities. Now, I don't remember -- I don't know whether you remember the campaign in Anzio [24:51], which is another site. In Anzio, Mark Clark [24:55] [spelled phonetically] refused to take order of battle [25:00] teams and Anzio [25:03] was a terrific disaster. On the other hand, when we waited in Sicily [25:11], the commanding general took some order of battle people to work on, and not one American soldier was lost in Sicily because they could climb [unintelligible]; they figured out exactly what was going on and the placements. Also I might say, later on we found out Sicily [25:33], one of those guys in New York [25:36] gave them some information too. I don't know whether you remember that. Who was the guy who had the big prostitution racket? You're too young.

VS: I don't know.

WS: I'm too old.

[laughter]

Okay. Next, please?

BB: Could you say in your words, what was the OB [25:56] book, the red book, or the other books, what was that [26:00]?

WS: Since I wrote one, I wrote the Japanese one, I can tell you. The OB book contained information on every division and Army group in corps, in all these -- in the German

Army [26:19], and the Italian Army, and the Bosnian Army, including all the components: the infantry, all the different regiments and components, and names of commanding officers who are available and as we went to other documents, you found names, you put them in. In other words, it became a complete compendium of the German Army [26:48].

BB: Was this something that was updated where there were different versions? What would happen if you found out new information about somebody [27:00]?

WS: It was updated in 1142 [27:05]. Later on I don't think it was updated anymore. I don't really know.

VS: Was there a red book [27:12] --

WS: Yes.

VS: -- before you came to 1142 or did you work on the first red book?

WS: I think I worked on the first red book.

VS: Did you see it completed when it was printed?

WS: Yes.

VS: And what did it look like?

WS: It looked like this size.

VS: That size? Why did they call it a "red book [27:36]"?

WS: Beg your pardon?

VS: Why did they call it "red book?"

WS: It had a red cover.

VS: Red cover, okay.

WS: I think maybe a little bit smaller than this. I would say about this size. I don't remember

anymore.

VS: Do you remember about when it was published or when it was printed?

WS: No, probably in Washington [27:57].

VS: But date, was it [28:00] printed before D-Day [28:02] or after D-Day?

WS: Before D-Day.

BB: We've heard references to other colored books; green book, yellow book, pink book. Do you recall any other colors?

WS: No, no, there were no other books that I know of.

BB: Sure, sure.

VS: Was the Italian order of battle [28:26] information in the red book [28:28] as well?

WS: That I don't remember. I don't really remember. To be honest with you, I don't remember.

BB: Okay. And about the group you were working with, were they known at that time as MIRS [28:45], Military Intelligence Research Section or MIRS? Or do you recall if there was another name?

WS: We were called Order of Battle [28:53].

BB: Just Order of Battle.

WS: This MIRS only came into being in London [28:58].

BB: Okay [29:00].

WS: And I have a picture, but before we go into that I have to tell you a story.

BB: Sure.

WS: I'm full of stories.

BB: And we have about two or three minutes left on our tape.

WS: That's all?

BB: Well, but then what we'll do -- or we could stop right now and put a new one in if you'd like, if the story is more than a two-minute story. Perhaps we can look at the photograph and then we'll change tapes.

WS: This is the picture taken in London [29:36].

VS: Wow.

WS: You see me here. There's Ralph Cook [29:45], and there's Marx [29:46] and some of the other guys I remember.

BB: Could you put it down on the table and point to yourself again?

VS: So that would be the first [30:00] row, the one, two, three, fourth --

WS: Fourth.

VS: -- from the left.

WS: Yeah.

BB: Great.

VS: And did you say that you knew anybody else in this photo?

WS: Oh, yes, I know a lot of guys.

VS: Would it be -- would you be able to go through them?

WS: Well, here's Plackard [30:17], here's Colonel Lovell [30:22], here's Lieutenant Colonel Birley [30:28] [spelled phonetically], a British office, here's Colonel Ocean [30:33], he was military attaché or [unintelligible], here's Coharic [30:43], Lieutenant Coharic --

VS: The clap.

WS: -- Major Chunes [30:47].

BB: Would it be possible for you to -- perhaps we could maybe jot these notes down and we

don't have to be filming when we do that and if we could just jot [31:00] down who some of the folks are in that photograph?

WS: Yeah, but how can I identify them?

BB: Well we'll perhaps, we might see if we can make a --

VS: Photocopy or something.

BB: -- if we could make a copy of that photo or something?

WS: Sure.

BB: And then we'll take some notes on that.

WS: This picture was taken --

VS: Oh, great, 1944, April 26th.

BB: Okay. Great.

WS: Yeah, I can do that. That's no problem.

VS: Okay.

BB: Well why don't we go ahead -- we've only got about a minute left for the tape. Why don't we just go ahead and stop and change tapes?

WS: Okay.

BB: And take a short break.

(End of Tape 1B)

(Beginning of Tape 2A)

BB: It is September 17th, 2010. This is the second in a series of interviews with the National Park Service as part of the Fort Hunt oral history project. We are here interviewing Mr. Walter Schueman at his home in Englewood, New Jersey. This is Park Service historian Brandon Bies, joined with Chief Ranger Vincent Santucci. And with that, we're going to

pick back up with some identification of folks in a photograph of MIRS from the London branch.

WS: This one here's -- that's Captain Hartell [00:41] [spelled phonetically].

VS: Captain Hartell is the first image, seated, on the left, first row. First row.

WS: The third one is Ernest Marx [00:55].

VS: Ernest Marx, okay.

WS: The fourth one is I, Walter [01:00] Schueman. The ninth one is Joe Laredo [01:34] [spelled phonetically].

VS: And to clarify, that's one of the ones sitting behind the two women?

WS: Yeah.

VS: Okay.

WS: The 12th one is Henry Hurst [01:53], and the 13th is Ralph Cook [02:00], Michael Ralph Cook. Let's see who [unintelligible]. In the next row, the first one standing there is Lieutenant Coharic [02:22], the clap [laughs].

VS: Actually, he's in the front standing row --

WS: The front, right.

VS: -- on the left.

WS: The third one is Captain Burz [02:45], B-U-R-Z. The fourth one is Major Chunes [02:49].

VS: Here, let's -- let me see what you're -- so, this is the third?

WS: Yeah. There's the fourth.

VS: This is the third, and this is the fourth.

WS: It's Chunes [03:00].

VS: So this is the third, okay. This is the fourth. Let me just double-check that. Which one would be the third? This is the third?

WS: This was Burz [03:19], yes.

VS: This is Burz.

WS: This is Chunes [03:22].

VS: And this is Chunes. Okay, so this is Chunes --

BB: Okay.

VS: -- and this is Burz.

BB: Okay.

WS: The sixth one is Colonel Lovell [03:33].

VS: Right here.

BB: Yep.

WS: The seventh one is Major Birley, or Lieutenant Colonel Birley [03:44], B-I-R -- B-I-R-L-E-Y.

VS: British?

WS: British. The next one is Colonel Ocean [03:52] [spelled phonetically].

VS: Okay.

WS: Then there's a woman, I don't remember her [04:00]. The second from the last here is Captain Smith [04:12]. Captain Smith.

VS: Okay. First name?

WS: Sure.

VS: It's not Horton Smith [04:19]?

WS: No. F. J. Smith -- no, wait a minute. F. J. -- no, Bill Smith [04:34]. Another branch.

BB: Okay.

VS: Bill Smith, okay.

WS: Now, let's see. This one is Plackard [04:50].

VS: In the back?

WS: He was best man at my wedding, and I was best man at his wedding.

BB: And so we're talking about the last row [05:00] --

WS: Yes.

BB: -- first person on the left.

WS: That's all I can identify here.

VS: Great. And other than Birley [05:18], are there any other British in this photo?

WS: You asked me before. There must be, but I don't -- I don't see them.

VS: Okay.

WS: Because Strassmore [05:26] was a British sergeant.

VS: Would Birley [05:32] be the liaison with the Americans, would that be his position?

WS: Birley was actually the C.O. of MIRS [05:41] in London [05:41].

VS: Okay.

WS: He was in charge.

VS: And do you recall, this particular photograph, was it taken on a special event, or Lovell [05:53] was visiting so they took a picture because Lovell was there?

WS: Probably. I don't know.

VS: Because Lovell normally was [06:00] at the Pentagon [06:01].

WS: Yes, I know. Probably.

VS: Okay. Because his -- he visited.

WS: I don't remember.

VS: Okay. Thank you. That's a great photo.

BB: It's great.

VS: Okay, so we're back at 1142 [06:20].

BB: Sure. So, if we could -- not to leave 1142 just yet, but so we get an idea, when did you leave P.O. Box 1142?

WS: I'll tell you, in the fall of '43 -- I want you to listen to this. In the fall of '43, I got bored with this work in confined quarters, and I went to Captain Smith, Horton Smith [06:45], and I said, "I'd like to -- I'd like to get an overseas assignment." And at that time, I had heard that they may have assignments in England [07:00], and in Egypt, and I was actually looking to go to Egypt. No such luck. However, I forgot to tell you one story --

VS: Okay.

WS: -- before we get to that.

BB: No, that's fine.

WS: When we arrived in '42 -- wait a minute. No, forget this. Anyway, I asked -- I forget what I was going to say. And when I asked Smith [07:50], what was the assignment, he said, "Oh, I'll see what I can do." I said, "I have a friend here, one friend, Gus Plackard [07:58]. Can he go with me?" He said [08:00], "Send him to see me and I'll let you know." And I went to Gus in the evening, and I said, "Gus, I asked for an overseas assignment. Would you like to go with me?" He said, "Oh, absolutely." I said, "See Horton Smith [08:16] in the morning," so he saw Horton Smith. So, about a week later, Smith called me and said, "I've got an assignment for you." I said, "Where do we go?" "I can't tell you." I said, "Any special equipment we should take along?" He said, "Yes,

a raincoat, lipstick, and nylons.”

[laughter]

From which I knew we were going to England for -- to help. So anyway, then in December, they called us and they gave us sealed orders. Do you know what sealed orders are? An envelope, go to the [09:00] airport in New York [09:02], to go to the airport. You'll fly to Presque Isle, Maine. Presque Isle, Maine; Gander, Newfoundland [09:20]. At Gander, Newfoundland, we all piled out of -- the plane only had two privates, Plackard [09:28] and me, and two or three generals and a few colonels. It was a B-52, unheated, unarmed. They gave us these fur things. We froze our ass off, we flew to Gander, Newfoundland [09:44]. Now, the officers pile out, they clear the building, go to the restaurant. Nobody called us. I went there; “We have no facilities for enlisted personnel.” I said, “I joined [10:00] the Army [10:01], I want three meals a day,” and I started a little fuss. Plackard [10:06] said, “Keep it down.” Out comes an officer and says, “What seems to be the problem?” I said, “They don't want to feed us.” He says, “Come with me.” They put us in the kitchen. I said, “I want the same food you guys are getting: steak and beer.” So, that was that. So we go back to the plane, and now we go to Edinburgh, Scotland [10:31]. And Edinburgh, Scotland, we get off the plane and I -- they opened the envelope, “Take the train to London [10:43]. You will be met at the station in London.” So, we go on the plane to -- on the train to London. The fog is so thick you can't see from here to there. Nobody's there for us, nobody. Here we are again, practically all alone [11:00] [laughs]. But I knew English. So anyway, so Plackard [11:06] says to me, “What do we do now?” I said, “All right, we take a taxi.” I had been to London [11:12] before. We go to the headquarters in Kensington [11:18]. We go to

the headquarters in Kensington and the woman says, "Do you have any orders?" and I said, "Yes, I have orders, but I can't tell you except that we have to report to the military attaché tomorrow." So, they put us up for the night. We took a bath, in the morning had breakfast, and we take a taxi to the embassy. Come to the embassy, soldiers, orders, see Colonel Ocean [11:49]. Then Colonel Ocean comes down -- sends somebody down to get us. We get to his office, they kept his office [unintelligible] Colonel Ocean's [12:00] pittance. He had the First World War, he had the -- he had a whole bunch like you see on television sometimes. "Well, young men, I'm glad you're here. We have a very important mission for you," blah, blah, blah, blah. He held us -- he holds a lecture on sex. Then he says, "Did you bring any nylons and lipsticks?" "Yes." "You are going to be billeted at the Strand Palace Hotel [12:31]. You'll go to the Strand Palace Hotel, you look for the woman with red hair. You give her the lipstick and the nylons, and she gives you your rooms. You're going to be staying here like a civilian. You cannot go to an Army [12:44] mess, you cannot associate with anybody. You go there, and we pay you one pound a day," which at that time was \$50. One pound a day, which rents your room. Ten shillings -- 10 shillings for food. So [13:00], I go to the hotel, I give the girl -- I look for the girl, and she says, "Yes, I have room 439 for you, 441 for Plackard [13:14]." We go upstairs and we check in. Next day, he makes us report to the War Office [13:27] in Hyde Park Gate in Kensington [13:31]. And there, we reported to the Colonel Birley [13:37] and Captain Smith [13:49], the American captain. They put us to work under Captain Smith on captured documents, soldiers' identification [14:00], letters from soldiers, photo intelligence, pictures, and all kinds of other German information, including the order of battle [14:14]. And there we are, in a big room with different

people, different sights, and we do this. And they had newspapers and all kinds of other stuff, and they put us to work going through this paper. This was not super-secret any longer. You could talk. And I did this for a while, and I got bored.

VS: [laughs]

WS: And they were -- and I heard that they were opening an order of battle [14:50] school. Major Chunes [14:55], whom I had known, and he took me on [15:00] to assist in organizing the school, organizing the -- its courses, instruction for intelligence personnel to be -- with all kinds of courses. And I became like what it says here, an adjutant or something. And I worked with him. Then, the people that became our students, they're all former intelligence personnel who were not trained in order of battle [15:40], and they had to be trained in order of battle, and I became the instructor. And there was [unintelligible] and Burz [15:47], and Chunes [15:48], and a few other guys. In the summer of '44 -- in the summer of '44, I [16:00] volunteered to duty in France [16:02]. You know, the troops were advancing towards Paris, and they were looking for a volunteer, and I volunteered for that. And Major Chunes [16:23] said to me, "Why did you do that? What does a nice guy like you do in Paris?" I said, "I eat." [laughs] So anyway, so we were flown to Paris in a plane. Again, with only officers and only me and another guy whom I had -- whom I was supposed to deliver to the 29th division, Walter Buspar [16:47] [spelled phonetically], who's not in -- wait a minute, he's here. Maybe he's here. Maybe he's here, too [17:00]. No, just somebody I had to deliver. So, we get flown into Paris, and the airport is closed, and they had to land on a potato field outside. And the officers get off, they take their long jacket, and we had a musette bag. And Gus [17:31] said, "What are we going to do?" "Just wait." One of the officers come to us,

“You enlisted men, you watch our luggage and see it get to town, and we take off.” I said, “Oh, no. We take off, and you worry about your own luggage.” We took off, and I saw there was streetcar wires, so I said to Gus [17:56], “If there's streetcar wires, there must be a streetcar, so [18:00] if we just walk along, eventually the streetcar's going to come along.” And we walked for about a half an hour, or I don't know, an hour, and a streetcar came along. We get on the streetcar and we go to Paris. So he said, “So, where do we go now?” I had no orders. I had no written orders, nothing, except my mission was to take over the Gestapo [18:22] headquarters. We get to Paris, and he said, “Where are we going to -- where are we going to stay?” I said, “Let's go to the Ritz-Carlton [18:34].” We went to the Ritz-Carlton hotel. They had the guy in his tail suit and all. I said, “I want a suite.” “Who are you?” I said, “I transfer Eisenhower [18:52].”

VS: [laughs]

WS: True. I said, “Let's get the hell upstairs [19:00], take a shower. Let's get cleaned up.” And the German -- there were still German officers in Paris, in American uniforms. They had captured American personnel, took the uniforms and, you know -- throughout that stay, you know, we went around for a couple of days, stayed at the hotel. It was a nice place, nothing wrong. We had no money, nothing, but you could -- you'd go to any French [19:30] restaurant and get a free meal. After three days as I do with this other guy, Walter Buspar [19:36], I thought I'd better go and see what the Gestapo [19:40] headquarters looks like, because after all, I'm supposed to take it over. Since some American troops had come close to Paris, so I take myself -- I don't know whether they had come along or not, I don't remember that. Anyway, I came to this Gestapo headquarters [20:00] on 69 Avenue Foch in a magnificent villa. Do you know Paris? It's

better than anything in Washington [20:09], like an -- like an embassy. And what do I find? Free French [20:14], with their bayonets around the building, all around. I come -- now, I had to be careful, because in French I have also a German accent.

VS: [laughs]

WS: So, they asked me for the -- for the password. I had no password. But in my pocket, I pulled out a bunch of spearmint and passed them out [laughs], and I went to the building. Well, the underwear of the German girlfriends of the Gestapo [20:46] were still hanging on the line; the dishes were still on the table, and there was one room for interrogation which I never opened. This was [21:00], like, [unintelligible], you know what I mean? A room with all kinds of instrumentation. I closed it, I didn't worry. So, we made ourselves to stay in bedrooms with silk sheets, so we stayed. A few days later, American troops come in and the Colonel Elychar [21:26] comes, and he said, "The second floor is my floor." I've got the building; it was -- that was the beginning of the thing about atomic warfare. There was another unit we didn't know about, did not -- was not in 1142 [21:46] either, they were concerned about atomic warfare. They were super-secret, so we -- the second floor was off our limits. But anyway, we -- I had the building.

VS: And what was the name of that colonel again [22:00]?

WS: Elychar [22:01], E-L-Y-C-H-A-R. E-L-Y-C-H-A-R.

VS: Okay.

WS: So, now the troops came in and a headquarters was established, and I was asked to come to the headquarters, which were at the Hotel Majestic [22:31]. That's where the ETOUSA [22:34], Eisenhower [22:34], and there was a Colonel Harper [22:37], full colonel, a very nice man. He interviewed me and he said, "Okay, tomorrow morning at 8:00 we have a

briefing of all intelligence officers, of different components, photo intelligence, engineering intelligence, artillery intelligence, ordnance intelligence, MIS [22:59] and order of battle [23:00] intelligence. Where's your -- where's your major?" I said, "He's in Paris." He says, "Call him, tell him to get his ass over here." I said, "I can't call him, you call him." He said, "Then you come in instead of him tomorrow." And every morning, I came in, and every morning, they'd list all the present people, Colonel So-and-So, Colonel So-and-So, Major So-and-So, Major So-and-So, Captain So-and-So, Sergeant Schueman. I was by now --

VS: You were a sergeant.

WS: -- a master sergeant or a tech sergeant, I forgot. After about a week of this, Harper [23:39] calls me, just, "You know, your major never showed up. Do you mind if I commission you?"

VS: [laughs]

WS: I said, "No." "I'll make you a first lieutenant, because it's the lowest rank we can accept here." So, eventually I shined my buttons. I had a girl shine my buttons [24:00] and shine my shoes, and I go through -- I had to go through a hearing, you know. There were all these colonels, ordnance, engineer, artillery, quartermasters, you know, eight different colonels, and they interviewed me. And they asked me -- they had absolutely no idea of what I was. They didn't know shit. So, one of the colonels said, "Well, what happens if we don't need you anymore for order of battle [24:32]?" "I'll volunteer to infantry." They said, "You're in."

VS: [laughs]

WS: That's what they wanted to hear. However, every morning we came in, and eventually I

was commissioned about a week later, two weeks later, for that. And then the word always go out in the morning. We've got to get out of the map room, because we'd be in the map room. They had to position Eisenhower [25:00], since he doesn't want to see any young officers in headquarters, so we had to go in the other room. There was a naval lieutenant; there were different officers, you know. Anyway, so I came -- so I went every morning to this meeting, and now I was a lieutenant. I was a second lieutenant, and he apologized because "they wouldn't let me make you a first lieutenant. You've got to be a second lieutenant, but in 90 days you'll be a first lieutenant." And 90 days later, I was. Anyway. Now, because we're again -- he says, "We have a problem. We have some order of battle [25:42] teams coming in here, and we've got to send them to divisions, but it takes time. We've got to -- we've got 12 or 18 teams. Each team had four people. Can you take care of them?" I said, "Of course." I was still there at [26:00] Avenue Foch, you know. They come in. The first thing I tell them, "Take all your Jeeps, take it back to the motor pool." "You tell us to give up our Jeeps?" I said, "Yes, give up your Jeeps." They gave up their Jeeps. Then what -- I said, "Here's what we're going to do. We're going to go to that class here, and I'm going to have each one of your officers help me." And I had a plan; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, every hour on the hour, six for five days, and I had subjects which I remembered from the order of battle [26:47], and I said "I want, for each hour, a volunteer officer to hold the lecture." But they didn't know, so I got them [27:00] started, and about two weeks later -- this was all very peaceful -- I have these guys coming every day, they're off the streets, they can't get into trouble, they've got to go to school. About two or three weeks later, this major comes here to inspect what I'm doing [unintelligible]. I've got his name here. But anyway, the

major comes in and he says -- he was flabbergasted. Here I was taking care of all these guys and they didn't even know about it. And then eventually they took these guys and sent them out [28:00] on teams to different divisions. And that -- and that impressed, of course, this Colonel Harper [28:10] and all of these guys, and eventually -- there was a Colonel Danke [28:16] [spelled phonetically], and they were looking for a permanent location for military intelligence, and they asked me to help out. So, the lieutenant colonel from photo intelligence and some other guy and I, we went around, and they had picked a place, a very beautiful place outside of Paris. But when we came in, it smells like hell, so they were all excited because they had a gambling casino and everything that you could think of. And I said, "You cannot come here. You cannot take this place because the stink will never disappear." Because there had been [unintelligible] [29:00] last prisoners shitting on the floor in the big assembly hall. So we found another place near Paris, Le Vesinet [29:09], which I found with them, and we took that place for headquarters. And I was billeted with Major Chunes [29:20] in a private house. All of the officers lived in private houses. The soldiers lived in barracks. That was Le Vesinet [29:31]. And there, I was in Le Vesinet. Do you want to hear more?

BB: This is fine. I know Vince and I both have a lot of follow-up questions that we want to go back and ask.

WS: Okay.

BB: But if you want to continue on just the -- just this whole --

WS: Okay.

BB: -- story, that's fine.

WS: Well --

BB: And just understand, we'll probably come back and ask some more questions [30:00].

WS: That was about the time I got the Bronze Star [30:09]. Then, in the --

BB: Can you -- can you talk about that real quickly, about the Bronze Star and what exactly you did to earn the Bronze Star?

VS: Can you read that, actually, to us?

WS: Can I read it? Sure.

VS: Can you read it?

WS: First Lieutenant Walter G. Schueman, Army serial 01997948 -- I told you that; I remembered that number -- Army [30:36] of the United States for meritorious service in the connection with military operations as adjutant and officer in charge -- oh, yes, Japanese sections [30:47]. Now, here's what happened, because I'm glad you reminded me. I had forgotten that. I didn't even have that here. One day, Chunes [30:58] comes to me, Major Chunes said [31:00], "Look, you're going to have to retrain people to go to the Far East." I said, "Oh, then I volunteer." He said, "Never mind that. We need somebody to organize the school for them. You did very well organizing the school here and the other one, so I would like you to do this, but we need a text." I said, "You need an order of battle [31:29] book." That's when I took that book and I created a Japanese order of battle book [31:36], based on the red book [31:38]. I did not keep a copy, unfortunately, because I never thought of it. I never thought of you guys.

[laughter]

And I wrote a complete manual based on the red book, a Japanese one. And then, that's what happened. And I helped train [32:00] -- it says here, Japanese section order of battle [32:06]. Oh, yes, and I asked for some Nisei [32:08] to come over to help. When they

came over, they couldn't find any fault with my book. This was a big surprise to me.

Military Intelligence Service [32:20], first lieutenant displayed exceptional quality, the leadership, devotion to duty, and --

(End of Tape 2A)

(Beginning of Tape 2B)

BB: Forgive me for asking, and I hope this doesn't sound insulting whatsoever, but did you have any knowledge whatsoever of the Japanese order of battle [00:12]?

WS: The first thing I told them is I don't know Japanese. The second thing I told them is that I don't intend to learn Japanese. The third was, why pick me? I had no idea. I had no -- nothing. They gave me some information, they gave me some paperwork, but I -- it was all in English because I didn't know Japanese, and I was completely like a newborn baby. They didn't have any victims, so they picked me.

VS: So, you knew how to put together the order of battle [00:43] for the European theater [00:45] --

WS: Yes.

VS: -- so they felt that you might be able to do a companion volume for the Japanese?

WS: Right.

VS: Where did you do that? What was the location?

WS: In Paris.

VS: In Paris. At what location, what address?

WS: Well, actually [01:00], Le Vesinet [01:01].

VS: Le Vesinet? That's the name of the --

WS: That was the encampment of the military intelligence. They had first a place in Nerie

[spelled phonetically], which was with Colonel Danke [01:15], but then they -- after we found this big place, because we needed a place for thousands of people -- or, for hundreds of people, I don't know, in Le Vesinet [01:26]. Le Vesinet is a little village outside of Paris, maybe a half an hour, an hour by train. And there I sat down and I worked.

VS: Was it a military camp, or --

WS: Yes.

VS: Okay.

WS: Military camp, and they had the barracks for the enlisted men, and the officers' mess, and -- yes.

VS: And so, essentially, that's where you worked on the Japanese order of battle [01:54]?

WS: Yes.

VS: And what did you use to construct the order of battle? You had documents that you had received [02:00]?

WS: I don't recall. Documents I received, the papers I received. I don't know what they were. I forgot completely.

BB: And again, the whole concept here was to be able to begin to prepare -- was this just for the shift of all of these American troops from the European theater [02:23] to the Pacific theater [02:24]?

WS: Yes.

BB: And that they would have -- so, was there nothing that already -- I mean, obviously, the war was going on in the Pacific theater.

WS: Yes.

BB: Did nobody in the Pacific theater [02:35] already have this information?

WS: Well, eventually, I guess the teams that were then sent from Europe to the Pacific had the information. But originally, MacArthur [02:54] didn't want anything to do with intelligence, either. You know, this order of battle [02:58] really came down from the [03:00] French from the First World War, where we had -- where we could pinpoint exactly what was going on. I don't know where I got my information from, I have no idea.

VS: But there were two parts, to create the Japanese order of battle [03:16] --

WS: Yes.

VS: -- and to develop a training for Americans that would be deployed, is that correct?

WS: Yes.

BB: A training in order of battle?

WS: Yes, training in order of battle [03:26].

VS: So you did the development of the -- of the -- of the red book for the Japanese, and developing a curriculum for training Americans?

WS: Right.

VS: Was it also training for British as well, or just Americans?

WS: Only Americans.

VS: Only Americans. And you said that they brought Nisei [03:43] to help you?

WS: They brought -- because I said to them, "I'm European. I'm not -- I'm a Westerner, I'm not" -- they brought two guys from Washington [03:55], two Nisei, you know, Japanese-Americans, and they went over the paperwork [04:00] and they said, "That's fine." I never saw them again. I don't know what happened to them.

BB: And from the timeline, had the war in Europe ended at this point, or was coming to a close?

WS: The war had not completely ended. The war was still going on, but it was going further west.

VS: Do you know a time frame of when you were given this assignment?

WS: Yes, I would say so. Just a minute. It was in the fall of '44.

VS: Okay. And then, when did you receive this?

WS: In '45, May -- this was May '45, so I got it sometime in '45.

VS: Okay.

WS: At which time [05:00], all of this stuff was done, and in the summer of '45 I wanted to meet up with Plackard [05:10], who had been in a different section, and I arranged to get temporary duty in Germany [05:18]. And I went to a place outside of Frankfurt [05:25], Schwalbach [05:27], which was an MIS [05:28] headquarters in Germany at that time. There was a Captain Finney [05:34], F-I-N-N-E-Y, and a Colonel Madison [05:40] [spelled phonetically]. They're not here in this -- I don't think they're in here. No, they're not. They were not -- they were not order of battle [06:01] people. They were MIS [06:03] -- I don't know where they came from. Anyway, they were in charge of that camp, and I searched and I couldn't find my friend, because he had by that time gone someplace else in Germany [06:21]. And then one day, Colonel Madison [06:24] calls me to his office and he said to me, "We have a problem in Frankfurt [06:30] with documents which we don't know how to -- which we can't translate. Would you help us?" So, I said, "Sure, I'll be glad to, unless you want to send them to Washington [06:44]." No, I went to Frankfurt and I went to G2 headquarters, and I saw Colonel Perry

[06:54], and he gave me a stack of documents. "Can [07:00] you translate them?" I said, "Yes, I'll take them with me to Schwalbach [07:04] and I can translate." Now, I come to Schwalbach with the pile, so I said to Captain Finney [07:10], who was the operations guy, "Can I take the morning call?" In that camp, there were any number of former Ritchie [07:22] graduates, mostly officers, but not order of battle [07:27]. But regular interpreters [unintelligible] and the morning -- I had a morning call, and I had a whole bunch [unintelligible] there. I didn't -- "Now, look, you guys. I've got a job to do, and I need some volunteers. Whoever volunteers, you're going to have to work. If you don't want to work, don't volunteer. I need about 30 or 40 guys." They stepped forward. I said, "Now, you're going to work?" "Yes." I got tables [08:00] lined up, about 10 tables, and I put four guys on each table. The first guy gets a document and he has to read it and translate it. The second guy has to check if the translation's correct. The third guy had to make sure everything is fine, and the fourth guy has to put his closure stamp on it. So, I had these 40 guys doing these documents, and after about four or five days, the stack was done. I got somebody to drive me to Frankfurt [08:38] -- I wasn't driving then -- drive me to Frankfurt, give it to Colonel Perry [08:43], and he gives me another stack. And this goes on for a whole week. And after the end of the week, these were all documents and -- organization documents and weapons [09:00] and all kinds of stuff. After a week, and I come in with the last bunch, he said, "Sit down." He sort of [unintelligible]. And you don't -- look, those guys, you talk [unintelligible]. You know that you didn't impress them. As colonel, you impressed them. What did the colonel want, you know what I mean? This is very, very interesting. I had never experienced it in my life before. He said, "You did all this work?" I said, "I had it done, yes." "Where did you learn

German? You know German pretty well?" I said, "Yes." "Where did you learn German?" I said, "I went to school." "Where did you go to school?" "In Frankfurt [09:48]." "Oh, you're from Frankfurt? Oh, you were born in Germany [09:53]?" I said, "Yes." "Oh, now I want to ask you a question. You did a wonderful job. How long have you been a first lieutenant [10:00]?"

[laughter]

See, I had these hash marks for first lieutenant, but they didn't know that I was brand new, you know what I mean? So I thought, what does the colonel have in mind? Well, no doubt, we had a non-fraternization thing with Germany [10:23]. We cannot talk to Germans, we can't invite them. "But eventually," he says, "things can be loosened, we are going to have social intercourse with them, and we're going to associate with them. And we talk to lots of people, and parties of people have to be -- you know, the have the - the general and I need an interpreter, and how would you -- how would you like to be my adjutant?" I said, "What would I have to do?" "It's to make sure we invite the right people [11:00]." So I looked him in the eye and I said, "The colonel means he wants me to be a pimp." He got up and he starts yelling at me, "How dare you speak like that?" I said, "That's his whole thing, isn't it? You want me to be a pimp and then you make me a captain?" He said, "Outrageous. I'm going to have you transferred here anyway." I said, "You cannot have me transferred because Military Intelligence [11:39] has priority." I go back to Schwalbach [11:43]. I'm not sitting in Schwalbach more than a half an hour than Major Chunes [11:47] calls me from Paris. He said, "What did you do?" [laughs] I said, "What?" "I have a transfer order for you to be -- to work for Colonel Perry [11:57]." "Oh, good. I want to say something [12:00] to you, Major. I'm not going to work for

Colonel Perry. He needs a pimp, and I'm not -- I didn't join the Army [12:06] to be a pimp. Now, here's what you do. You refuse it. Military Intelligence [12:11] has preference.” A half an hour later, I get a call from Colonel Perry [12:17], come. He said to me, “What do you mean, you -- I get -- I'm going to get you released. General Eister [12:25] [spelled phonetically],” he was a general, “he makes sure that you'll be here.” I went back to Schwalbach [12:32] and I called Chunes [12:34]. I said, “Do me a big favor. You'll get another request. Send him one of those pink slips.” You know, the intelligence department had pink transfer orders. “Tell him I'm unavailable.” Well, Colonel Perry [12:51] calls me, “So, you're shackled up in Paris.” I said, “That's beside the point. I don't want to go. I don't want this job [13:00].” So, now, here's what I did. I immediately packed my musette bag, I took my hat out of my pocket, took my bars off, went to the airport in Frankfurt [13:15]. I bought a carton of cigarettes in the PX [13:18], and I went to the airport in Frankfurt, and there were all these planes lined up, and I said, “Which of you guys flies to Paris?” “Do you have orders?” I said, “Here's my orders.” I gave them a carton of cigarettes, “Come on.”

VS: [laughs]

WS: And I come to Paris the same day. Now, what do we do? Major Chunes [13:36] says, “How did you get here? You have no orders.” I said, “I had orders.” I avoided Colonel Perry [13:46].

VS: I hear they're still looking for you [laughs].

WS: But you see, I had to take my bars off so that at the -- at the airport, these guys thought I was just a regular soldier [14:00].

VS: Wow. There has to be more to that story.

WS: Beg your pardon?

VS: There has to be more to that story.

WS: What do you --

VS: What did you do when you got back to Paris, then?

WS: When I got to Paris? Nothing. They never called. Oh, what did I -- what did I do? I went back to work. And, oh, yes. The first thing I did was, I volunteered to be -- to be transferred to the Far East. Didn't do me any good. So then I went -- the order of battle [14:42] section in Le Vesinet [14:46] was disbanded, and we all went to [unintelligible] where there was another school where I worked for a couple of months. And then came to triple-R program, you know, where you could get sent back to the states [15:00]. And they put me onto this, and I got orders to go back to the states. Now, this is a story by itself, because at that time -- see, I had flown over, but you -- now, I had to come back by boat. And the boats came to the coast of France [15:19], and I don't know if whether you ever heard this, there were cigarette camps. There were camps, each one had a name. Did you know that?

VS: Go ahead, tell us what you know.

WS: There were Camp Camel [15:33], Lucky Strike [15:34], one Old Gold [15:35], one [unintelligible], and so forth. There were six camps, and I went there, they were training like hell. And I went to the C.O., and I said, "I want to be assigned a person to go back to the states." He said, "You can't be." "They're your orders [16:00], so yes, you -- we have nothing to do with the order of battle [16:05]." I said, "I want to go back." "Well, the only way to go back is if you take a nigger company, of which we have several here who have no officers." "I'll take one." I took a nigger company. That's what they called it.

VS: Wow.

WS: That's what they called it, and I took a company of colored soldiers, and on board ship. Now, these guys all came from Czechoslovakia [16:36]. They all had a lot of money, because they had sold everything that -- their, their guns, every goddamn thing you can think of. And they had been gambling, they had a lot of money. And I had to take all that money and I had a big table on the ship, and a pile about like this [17:00], and I put it all in the top. And I said, "When we debark in Boston [17:05], you'll get your money back." "Okay." When we came back to Boston, I had made notes, the name, the rank and serial number, and the amount of money. You know what I mean? So at the end of this voyage for 10 days -- oh, so I get onboard ship, and I have all this money, so I go to the purser and I said, "I have all that money. Can I put it in a safe?" "No." "What do I do with the money?" "I don't know." I put it under the bunk, but I couldn't leave the bunk because there were three other officers in that place, and you didn't know. So I had a hell of a time getting meals. Anyway, we got back and I came back and I checked back here when I returned, and they looked at my orders and they saw my number, my qualification number. I think it was 015 of 159 [18:00] or something [unintelligible] 160. "We have no assignment for you." I got discharged. I mean, I put on shore leave, and I had some leave coming, and I got out of the Army [18:12] in the early part of '46. And here I am.

VS: And you left the army with the rank of first lieutenant?

WS: Yes.

VS: Not --

WS: No. Unfortunately, I do not have my discharge papers. I'll tell you why. At the time, I

was not married. I lived with my parents, they lived in Hackensack [18:38], and I had a folder with all my papers. And somehow or other, after my parents died and my brother took over the property, the house, it got lost in the shuffle. So I don't have the exact date, and I don't even have my number anymore, my orders [19:00]. That's what happened. Now, this thing I had -- and I gave the medal to my daughter, and she had it, and she sent me the picture.

VS: Terrific. Well, we definitely have some follow-up questions to finish. You mentioned your brother, which reminded me: did either your older or younger brother go into the service?

WS: No -- my younger brother did, and he went -- I think he went to the Far East. I don't know exactly where he went. He's still alive, but I haven't -- we haven't discussed that.

VS: Is he -- so, he wasn't in intelligence or anything?

WS: No, no. No, the intelligence personnel by and large were pulled from the IQ tests [19:50]. Do you know the IQ tests? You know, that -- they gave you an IQ test when you come in the Army [19:57], and there was a whole booklet full of questions and you answered [20:00] them. And I figured out the important thing was not to answer every question, but to get through the shit as quickly as possible. Because if you don't know the answer to one question and you spend 20 minutes working on that, you lose time. So, I came up with a high score, evidently.

BB: So, could you just tell us briefly, you got out of the service. What was your career after the war, when did you meet your wife, and --

WS: Now you want to know?

VS: [laughs]

BB: Just briefly, to tie everything together.

WS: Even though she came from Paris, she was not one of the girls -- because those girls, I could never take them home to Mama.

BB: [laughs]

WS: The first thing I did was, I went back to the job, which was in New York [20:51], that paid me well. And I worked for them for about six or eight months. And then I wanted to be in business for myself [21:00], and I went into business. And eventually I got into the paint business, and I invented -- I can show you what I invented, which made me a lot of money.

VS: Be careful, you've got the microphone still here. Which you can just put in your pocket if you'd like, and carry it around with you.

WS: I'll keep it in my pocket.

BB: So --

[audio break]

WS: -- and I took a yellow pad, and I marked down what I wanted, what I didn't want to manufacture. I wanted to make something -- I wanted to make something that would use itself up, like Kleenex [22:00]. And I put down everything, and after I was finished with this whole thing, there was only one thing left, a wooden pencil. And I went to look at the four pencil makers in this country, Eagle, Wings, Dixon, and Eberhard Faber, and none of these guys made a lot of money, and the installations cost a lot of money. So I decided to make a ball pen in the form of a pencil, and these guys wouldn't sell me, at that time, any wooden casings because they didn't want competition, so I got myself a man who could make me a plastic casing, like a wood case, you know, in yellow plastic.

And I got myself some units, the refills [23:00], to stick in, but it didn't work. And I found somebody who felt that he could inject ink directly into it and just put a tip in front, and we went -- we developed a formula, a chemical, where we dipped this plastic and where the ink would travel. And it was this long, and we called it a Wonder Writer [23:29]. And believe me, it was a wonder when it wrote. It leaked like hell, they cost 39 cents, and I sold them, and I went around selling them in stationery stores in New York [23:42]. And I schlepped up and down Broadway with a display cart with a one dozen on them for 39 cents, Wonder Writer [23:50], and I came back a week later to collect and replace it. And I remembered I decorated a window on 42nd Street that was a real close to [24:00] -- next to Grand Central Station. And then eventually, I went to Woolworth [24:08], and Woolworth said to me, "39 cents is no good. We need something that's 25 cents," so I shortened the thing. And they wanted to see, "Are you sure there's ink in it?" And I went, and I had a plastic bottle made that you could see the ink flow down. Now came the problem. These were hexagon shaped, and I felt that hexagon shape can be duplicated because everybody uses it on pencils. And I had this thing on my finger, and I developed a triangular shape, and I got a patent on this. Because it fits your natural curve of the hand, you understand? And [25:00] we went to work. We had originally seven people working about three days a week. We were in Englewood [25:09]. That's how we came to Englewood. And eventually, we had 130 people. And every Woolworth [25:20] store in the country had it. I don't know whether you know these other chain stores, McCrory and McLellan and Newberry, Kmart, Kresge, they all carried it, a 25 cent pen called -- and we called -- and when it became transparent, and I called it a Vu-riter [25:43]. I don't know whether when you were a boy, whether you had them in

school, the little pens.

VS: [affirmative] Yes. Wow.

WS: That's about the first time I had shirts made without pockets, because --

VS: [laughs]

WS: -- they leaked [26:00].

VS: That was incredible.

WS: And I was making those for about close to 20 years.

BB: Okay.

WS: And eventually, we were nationally known. Ferber Pen -- the name of the company was Ferber Corp [26:21], because I had a partner with the name Ferber who retired early.

And in the mid-60s -- yeah, 60s, in the mid-60s, a lot of consolidation took place, different firms got together, and I was approached. And my children didn't want any part of the business, so I said, the first guy that comes along with cash, we'll sell the business.

And eventually, I sold the business to Esterbrook [26:53]. Do you remember Esterbrook?

VS: [affirmative]

WS: Esterbrook?

VS: Yes, no, I don't know.

WS: They were the ones that made a fountain pen [27:00] for \$2, was one of the first ones. A company in Cherry Hill, and I sold the business to Esterbrook [27:09], and I stayed with them for two years and then I left and retired early.

BB: And so you've been retired for about 40 --

WS: No.

BB: Oh, no, okay.

WS: No, I was retired.

BB: I was going to say.

WS: I wouldn't be alive if I hadn't retired -- if I was retired. I wouldn't -- you know, people that retire early die early. No, then what happened, just really simply, is I retired, and about three months later, some other guy whom I met hired me as a consultant. Three days a week, \$50,000 a year, which in the '60s was a lot of money, free trip to Europe, free trip to Japan every year. I thought, what's wrong with that [28:00]? So I took that job. They had seven little factories, and we wanted to consolidate it. And I helped him do this, and a year later, I took somebody that had worked for me and put him in charge, and I stayed another year to train him, and then I retired. Now, I'm retired. Now, it's '69 -- '68, '69. Now I'm really retired --

VS: [laughs]

WS: -- and I sit around doing nothing. Oh, no, first I buy a new car, go to Canada, go to Europe, you do all kinds of things, until eventually there was a stockbroker here in Englewood [28:46] Cliffs who had my account, I did a little business with him. And he calls me one day and says, "Maybe you can help us." I said, "I'm available." But I said, "There's one condition [29:00]." He says, "Have dinner with us." So I had dinner with him and his partner. They both lived in Englewood Cliffs, and they asked me to help them. I said, "Okay, one condition. You've got to pick me up in the morning and take me home at night." I never liked to drive. I still do, but I don't like -- I didn't like to drive. So, these guys, one partner picked me up in the morning, and the other partner took me home at night. And I'd go down to Wall Street, and they didn't -- they couldn't read a financial statement, Wall Street. It's still the same today. Most brokers don't know

how to read a financial statement. So, they made me read financial statements. What a racket.

[laughter]

And about a month later, they started paying me. I said, "Pay me." They actually paid me \$1,200 or \$1,500 a month, which I didn't mind because I didn't need it [30:00].

Anyway, I do this for a while, six months, and I said, "What the hell? These guys don't know anything I don't know. They don't know any more than I do." So I had to get a license to become a stockbroker.

VS: Oh, boy.

WS: Which in those days, you took a five-day course -- no, you took a three-week course, five days a week for two hours a day in the afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 or from 3:00 to 5:00, whatever, and you learned this -- order of battle [30:34] [laughs] -- you learned all about the stocks. And I passed it, naturally, and I became a stockbroker. Now, I must admit to you, I never understood what makes a stock go up. Remember that, nobody understands it. This is a game which is absolutely now rigged. It was rigged then, but it's better now [31:00]. Do you have 401(k)?

VS: [affirmative]

WS: It's a 201(k) now.

[laughter]

You know what I mean?

[laughter]

So what happened is, I had a lot of friends who had done the same thing I had done, had retired early, sold their businesses, now they had money, they didn't know what to do

with it. So I went into -- I specialized in tax-free bonds. Now, in tax-free bonds -- you know what they are?

VS: [affirmative]

WS: The -- in those days, the commission was very low. But it didn't matter to me because I wasn't looking for commissions, I was looking to help people, and I was trying to help myself, too. So I got into this business, fixed income, because people wanted a check every month; they wanted to know where their money is. And over time, I became a specialist in fixed income, not only in tax-free bonds, but also in corporate bonds, because [32:00] -- and eventually, I worked with different companies, I worked for Rothschild [32:07] for a while, I worked for Paine Webber [32:09]. You ever hear of Paine Webber?

VS: [affirmative] Oh, wow.

WS: Fifteen years with Paine Webber, I got a gold watch.

BB: [laughs]

VS: Wow.

WS: And UBS, they were taken over by UBS.

(End of Tape 2B)

(Beginning of Tape 3A)

WS: Spam ribbon.

BB: Which ribbons?

WS: Spam.

BB: Spam?

WS: I never heard of that.

BB: No.

WS: Only Europeans.

BB: No, I'm not familiar with that.

WS: I know it. Anyway.

BB: Well I'm going to give one more introduction. We just started a third tape. This is the third in a series of interviews on -- for the Fort Hunt oral history project with the National Park Service. Today is September 17th, 2010. This is an oral history interview with Veteran Walter Schueman. This is Brandon Bies with the National Park Service, also joined by Chief Ranger Vincent Santucci of the Park Service. And with that, Mr. Schueman what I think we'll do since we've kind of covered your story from beginning to end is just go back, and Vince and I both would like to ask a number of follow up questions just to eke out a little bit more detail from you if possible [01:00]. We want to talk a little bit more about P.O. Box 1142 [01:04]. Did you know that there were other operations going on --

WS: Yes.

BB: -- at P.O. Box 1142?

WS: Yes, we knew about the locations of the foreign officers.

BB: [affirmative]

WS: As a matter of, fact they heard that one day Italian officers in full uniform were in Washington [01:28] for dinner and we couldn't figure out why, but we heard about it that they were. And we knew they were tents that were -- that were, you know, wired, but we didn't talk to anybody about that.

BB: Did you ever see any prisoners there?

WS: No.

BB: You never saw the prison compound?

WS: No. There were no -- I don't know. I did not. Look, you have to remember we were confined to a certain area [02:00]. We each had a little office. We can't go out. We can't do this. We can't do that.

BB: Did you associate with anyone from the other program or just with the OB [02:13] folks?

WS: You couldn't associate with anybody. They would have -- they didn't permit it. No, we didn't.

BB: Could you describe anything you remember physically about the actual setup of P.O. Box 1142 [02:33]? We ask that question because after the war almost the entire post was bulldozed. There's nothing left, or there's very little left. Did it seem -- was it secluded? Could you see it from the open? Did it strike you as a typical military base? Any ideas you can give us?

WS: It had -- it had these stone pillars. It was Fort Hunt [03:00]. They told us if we went to Washington [03:02], you can't tell anybody where we are stationed. We are stationed at Alexandria [03:06]. When you took a taxi Washington and you want to go to Alexandria, and the guy looked at you and said, "You're going to Fort Hunt."

[laughter]

It was so secretive every taxi driver in Washington knew.

BB: Did the post itself have military police or guards or anything that you remember?

WS: I haven't got the faintest idea.

BB: Okay.

WS: I don't know.

BB: Did you live on post?

WS: Yes.

BB: Typical barracks building or --

WS: Yes.

BB: -- in your own quarters?

WS: Barracks.

BB: But you did go into Washington [03:40] from time to time?

WS: In the evening, yes.

BB: Okay.

WS: The only guy I associated with was Gus Plackard [03:47] because you couldn't make friends with anybody else because you couldn't talk. This guy I had met in Ritchie [03:53] and we became friends.

VS: When you were at 1142 [04:00], did you ever take any trips to the Pentagon [04:02]?

WS: Only -- the only trip to the Pentagon was when you took us out for dinner. They took us to the Pentagon, but I don't remember much about it. It was dark. It was the evening. They took our pictures at -- first they took us to dinner or first they took pictures. I don't remember that and we saw the building, but we -- I don't remember.

BB: You mentioned the Pentagon [04:33] which reminded me of Colonel Lovell [04:35]. Lovell's office was at the Pentagon, correct? Primarily?

WS: I would imagine so.

BB: How -- did he come to P.O. Box 1142 [04:45]? Do you recall?

WS: Yes, yes. He took a picture there.

BB: That photo, yeah, that's -- because that's --

WS: [unintelligible] I don't know.

BB: Okay.

WS: I don't -- I have no -- I have no knowledge of that.

BB: Okay. Do [05:00] you recall at P.O. Box 1142 [05:02] if there were any of the women? There were women in that photograph in London [05:09]. Were there any women who worked at 1142?

WS: No.

BB: And remind me again, you reported directly to Major Birley [05:23], was it, or Captain Birley?

WS: In London.

BB: At --

VS: Horton Smith [05:29].

BB: Oh I'm sorry, Horton. Thank you.

WS: Horton Smith.

BB: Horton Smith at P.O. Box 1142 [05:34].

WS: Yes.

BB: Okay. So again, the American officer that we thought was in charge of the operation was John Kluge [05:42], but you don't recall interacting with him?

WS: He was -- no.

BB: Do you remember even seeing him there?

WS: No, no.

VS: I'm just wondering if there were two MIRS [05:52] operations, one under Smith [05:54] and one under Kluge [05:55] did something different.

WS: I think Kluge was at the interrogation [06:00] war crime and we were order of battle [06:02].

VS: And so -- but you worked with Paul Fairbrook [06:06]?

WS: For Fairbrook, Yeah, but Fairbrook I met -- I didn't meet in 1142 [06:13], I met him in Ritchie [06:14]. Those guys that I motioned to you, the whole line, I had met in Ritchie.

VS: Okay and Fairbrook [06:21] also spent some time in London [06:24] as well.

WS: Yes.

VS: I don't know if you would have overlapped with him there.

WS: Yes, of course that's where I identified him from.

VS: Okay.

WS: These guys that I identified, I identified from Ritchie to London, but not 1142.

VS: Okay.

WS: 1142 we were only four or five guys which I mentioned to you.

VS: That's on the small piece of paper you had?

WS: I had --

VS: Yeah, that might be good to go through those names again.

WS: Let me find it.

BB: You didn't put in here, did you [07:00]?

WS: No, it's here someplace. Oh here, I think maybe. In 1142 [07:13], I met Plackard [07:16], Sternburg [07:18], Marx [07:19], Hurst [07:20], Laredo [07:21], and Hoffman [07:23], and Ralph Cook [07:25]. Those guys I identified in 1142.

VS: Okay.

WS: And maybe one or two. The other guys I didn't identify there. I identified them in

London [07:42]. Okay.

BB: Okay. So you worked in one single building at 1142 [07:49]?

WS: I think so.

BB: And were all these men in that same building?

WS: That I wouldn't know.

BB: You said you had your own office. Was it an office where you could close the door?

WS: Yes [08:00].

BB: In that building?

WS: Yes.

BB: And was Horton Smith [08:03] in that same building?

WS: No, he was in another building in the administration building.

BB: Okay. And so how many people, four or five people in that building do you think?

WS: Where we were?

BB: Yeah.

WS: I don't know. I haven't got the faintest clue.

VS: Okay.

WS: Or I don't remember.

BB: Do you remember what that inside of the building looked like? Were there desks or tables or shelves or --

WS: We had a desk and we had nothing.

BB: And do you remember what you did there? I know we've talked about this already, but what you did in that building.

WS: Yes.

BB: Could you just describe that once again?

WS: Sure.

BB: This is at 1142 [08:42].

WS: [09:00] I worked on captured documents, changes in the Axis armies, and other pertinent information on planned activity, planned operations.

VS: I'm sorry and you said planned operations?

WS: Yeah.

VS: Okay.

BB: And so -- and this was being used to develop the red book [09:35]?

WS: The red book already existed.

BB: Okay, okay. Did you go through -- did you receive bundles of captured documents that you sorted through?

WS: No, we got a few pieces at a time.

BB: Okay, so somebody may have organized them or put them in [10:00] stacks and gave them to you?

WS: I don't remember.

BB: Okay.

WS: I simply don't recall. I don't like to make up a story.

BB: No, sure.

WS: See, some of those things I remember. Dates I remember and places I remember --

BB: Yes.

WS: -- but some of the details, 65 years.

BB: Okay. Did it seem unusual at all that you were reporting directly to a British officer

instead of an American officer?

WS: Did I what?

BB: Did you think that it was unusual that you were reporting to a British officer?

WS: We were pissed off.

BB: I'm sorry?

WS: Pissed off.

BB: You did?

WS: Oh, we were all pissed off. We didn't like to report to a British officer. We didn't think it was proper.

BB: And can you tell us anything else about Horton Smith [10:50]?

VS: Was he likeable as a person, but it was just the fact that he was British or --

WS: He was likeable [11:00] [laughs]. I don't know. He was just an officer like all other officers, was cool. There was no special aura to him.

BB: Okay. Was he friendly or was he very serious?

WS: Well I'll tell you, these guys were all fully serious because nobody's supposed to know what you're doing. They themselves didn't know what they were doing. It was the same thing in England at Birley [11:34] too. You couldn't talk to Birley about anything because he had a great hobby, Birley, in England. He collected bus tickets. You know, we took the bus every day from the hotel to Kensington, and bus tickets are numbered, and he tried to figure out how to know the order of battle [11:54] of the bus tickets. There's a number of them, and we had to give him all our tickets. It was his personal [12:00] hobby. We all laughed about it and we got pissed off at him too.

VS: That's all I have.

WS: Any questions?

BB: Anything else about it specific to 1142 [12:13]?

VS: That's all that I have for 1142.

WS: Are you sure?

VS: Yes.

BB: Well we have a few more questions, but that's it. Now we're going to move on to London [12:20]. I know Vince has a few more follow up questions and do you want to go to London now or do you want talk about the spy discussion?

VS: Yeah, the whole discussion about the spies [12:32], did you learn about that at 1142 [12:35] or after 1142?

WS: Actually I learned about spies in England.

VS: Okay.

WS: Because I had a friend who was a major in the British army and he told me about the spies that they were sending to France [12:52]. They had mostly female spies and he was the one, an English officer, Kenmore [13:00] [spelled phonetically] who had to provide the clothing and the documentation for those spies [13:06]. And he talked to me about it, but it was an English operation. It was not an American operation.

VS: So there weren't American spies; these were British spies?

WS: Yes.

VS: That were going over to France [13:17]?

WS: Yes.

VS: What -- did you know anything else about it? Did they speak French and were they --

WS: Yes, they were all -- they were all original French people.

VS: Are they -- were they working with Resistance or --

WS: Some of them were.

VS: Do you know anything else about that?

WS: I don't know anything about it because look, I had a total friendship with this Kenmore [13:44] or Major was it, Kenmore and we didn't discuss business.

VS: So this was just a passing conversation? You had no involvement?

WS: No, none whatever.

VS: And the gentleman, Rothkrug [14:00].

WS: Beg your pardon? Rothkrug?

VS: Yes.

BB: Could you spell his name for us?

WS: I believe he's on the book here. R-O-T-H -- R-O-T-H-K-R-U-G, Rothkrug.

VS: Okay and when did you first meet him?

WS: Here, Michael [14:26].

VS: Okay, when did you first meet him in England?

WS: In London [14:31].

VS: Okay, so it was after 1142 [14:33]?

WS: Yes.

VS: Okay, so can you tell us what you know about him?

WS: Yes, he was a shorty. He was a short guy. He was very quiet. He never talked and one evening I see him leaving on a bicycle in the hotel. I said, "What the hell are you doing?" He goes, "Well I want to get some exercise so I go out every night on my bicycle." Little did I know [15:00] that -- years later I read in the papers that he was a

spy [15:04].

VS: So -- but he was -- who was he spying for?

WS: Russia.

VS: Russia.

BB: So was he at Hyde Park or where was he?

WS: He was at Hyde Park, yes.

BB: With you?

WS: Yes.

BB: Okay.

WS: Yes. Not in our department, he was in some other place.

VS: Because he was at 1142 [15:25].

BB: He was?

VS: I believe so.

BB: Okay.

WS: I didn't hear you.

VS: That -- I believe that this gentleman may have been at 1142 and so that's very interesting.

BB: And you had mentioned earlier that he -- you think he was put in jail because he was caught by the Americans --

WS: Yeah.

BB: -- for spying [15:50].

WS: Yes.

VS: When was he -- now he was caught after the war, correct?

WS: Yes, he was involved -- I read in the paper [16:00]. I forgot now when.

VS: In the '50s I believe.

WS: I beg your pardon?

VS: In the 1950s I believe.

WS: I would say so.

VS: But he was a spy [16:09] during World War II.

WS: That's what I am confused about. I don't know.

VS: And do you remember him personally?

WS: Yes.

VS: Can you tell us what you remember about him personally?

WS: Nice, quiet guy. He taught me about Belgium. Spoke French. Spoke German. We had very little -- I have to see him occasionally; that's one of them in a hotel and then I saw him with a bicycle. This was a big surprise to me. How does the British soldier get a bicycle in London [16:44]?

VS: Did he have any sort of accent when he spoke?

WS: He [unintelligible]. I don't know. I haven't got the faintest clue.

VS: And what do you know about his spy [17:00] -- espionage?

WS: I know nothing.

VS: Nothing?

WS: I know only what I read in the papers.

VS: Okay.

BB: Okay.

WS: If it hadn't been on the list simple.

VS: But where you saw him was in London [17:12]?

WS: Absolutely.

VS: And you didn't see him after London?

WS: I didn't see him after London anyplace.

VS: Okay.

WS: We lost of track of all these guys. Look.

BB: Do you have follow up questions specific to London operation?

VS: Could you again in your own words talk about the differences between the work in -- at 1142 [17:42] versus the work in London [17:45] with MIRS [17:46]?

WS: The difference was only that we in London we were also shown another photo intelligence which we were not shown in 1142. And in London, we were always shown letters from prisoners of war [18:00] which they had taken, letters that they had written to somebody and we got -- we probably got an enormous flood of letters and we translated them or we extracted information from it. There were others under this [unintelligible] in London [18:24], yeah.

VS: Was there anything that stands out in your mind that you remember that was very important information that you gained from looking at documents or photos? Is there an example of something that you remember?

WS: Not [unintelligible].

VS: Anything related to war crimes?

WS: No.

VS: Anything related to say Goering [18:49] or another high ranking German officer?

WS: No, we should never have left Gehlen [18:56] in -- I know I read in this other thing Gehlen [19:00] absolutely fucked up the American intelligence department. They fooled

us on the idea that the Russians were our enemies which was probably at that time interesting because I remember when I went to Germany [19:18] at that time, they were all -- the Germans were talking when are you going to fight the Russians? The Germans were the ones who wanted us to fight the Russians. That's a fact.

BB: That's very interesting that you say that.

WS: That's an absolute fact. Every -- whenever you talked in Germany at that time to a German, they wanted for us to fight the Russians. And you know don't forget a lot of Americans at that time they were also very anti-Russian [20:00], but the Russians were our -- the Russians were our allies.

VS: Do you remember at any point in your military service doing work that led to intelligence work on the Russians, gathering Russian intelligence?

WS: No. I tell you one thing, Gus Plackard [20:19], unfortunately he died a few years ago, he at the end of the war, he had a lousy job in New York [20:26] which we got him; he couldn't find his way out. And he actually, at that time, all the people that had been at 1142 [20:36] got telecoms. If you want to join, you could join the CIA [20:43] and Gus Plackard [20:45] and a few other guys joined, and I know Gus Plackard joined and became -- and had to learn Russian at the CIA and he worked his way up to [21:00] Colonel and retired. And I stayed in touch with him, but he died a few years ago, maybe four or five years ago.

VS: Did you know anything about Gehlen [21:12] during the war? You learned about him after the war?

WS: Well Gehlen during the war -- I don't remember, no.

VS: Do you know anything about a place called Camp King [21:25] in Europe?

WS: No.

VS: Jumping ahead, you had mentioned that while you were in Paris there were OB [21:38]
Teams, order of battle teams?

WS: Teams.

VS: Yeah, what -- could you describe them and what their purpose was? Were they going out
into the field and gathering --

WS: They were going in the -- they were to be assigned from divisions into some regiments
and they consisted, I believe, four people. I think. I could be wrong. I think there was
one [22:00] officer or maybe two and there was one T5 and there probably was a T3
between someplace. And they came fully equipped to be sent to the field, and they didn't
have a place to warehouse in Paris, and I warehoused them.

VS: Were they tied to divisions or were they tied to American units at all?

WS: When I first came to Paris, they were unassigned. They were assigned in Paris to
divisions.

VS: Okay.

WS: And that was under the heading of Colonel Danke, George Danke [22:41].

VS: Could you spell that?

WS: Let me see.

VS: He's listed in there?

WS: I'll tell you in a minute.

VS: Okay.

WS: No.

VS: Okay.

WS: No, he was not on that list.

VS: In addition to these order [23:00] of battle teams, were there other kinds of intelligence teams? Like were there interrogation teams? Were there field document teams or were they all the same?

WS: No, order -- we were only -- we only knew about order of battle teams. We knew that IPWs [23:18] had teams too, but they were separate teams.

VS: And what would these order of battle [23:27] teams do?

WS: They would do exactly in the field what they had been taught to. They would have to look at the maps and have to look at the documents, and they had to advise the commanding officer what was in front of them, what were their intentions, what were their firepower, what were their locations, and what were their personnel, and what were their units.

VS: So this is kind of interesting because this is new territory for us. It seems [24:00] like they could possibly serve two roles and tell me if I'm -- if we are correct or if this is incorrect. They could have copies of the red book [24:10] and they could provide that red book intelligence to the officers in that unit, or they could be out there looking at new intelligence and comparing it to the order of battle [24:25] and adding it to the order of battle.

WS: Both.

VS: They did both.

WS: Both.

VS: You're sure of that, that --

WS: I'm not sure, but I would imagine so.

VS: Okay, because that's very interesting.

WS: I don't know.

VS: You weren't -- you were never part of an order of battle team though?

WS: No.

VS: No. Did you ever work with an order of battle [24:46] team? Did you know anybody in an order of battle team?

WS: We never saw them once I got out of Paris.

VS: Likely Ritchie [24:54] boys, likely trained Ritchie as a field team?

WS: No [25:00].

VS: Okay

BB: To go back and summarize, when you were at 1142 [25:07], what organization did you consider yourself working for?

WS: Look at the pictures. No, I don't know.

BB: But you had made -- let me follow up. You had made a statement earlier that you didn't really consider yourself working for MIRS [25:31] until you were in London [25:33].

WS: That's true. We considered ourselves order of battle [25:36] personnel.

BB: So just order of --

WS: Yes.

BB: -- battle personnel. And then when you were in London, it was military intelligence research section?

WS: Yes.

BB: When you went to Paris --

WS: Yes.

BB: -- what did you consider yourself under at that point?

WS: Order of battle [25:51].

BB: Okay.

VS: And so our -- I guess our previous belief was that [26:00] order of battle was part of MIRS [26:04].

WS: Order -- exactly. Order of battle was part of MIRS or else I wouldn't have gone to Paris. That's right. And I wouldn't have been at the briefings every morning. There was order of battle [26:18].

BB: Speaking of MIRS and especially with your assignment towards the end of the war working with Pacific theater [26:29], are you familiar with the term PAC MIRS [26:34], P-A-C MIRS?

WS: No.

BB: Because we've seen that before and we assume it means something like Pacific area command military intelligence research section.

WS: Right.

BB: But it's PAC MIRS [26:48]. So that's -- you never saw that when you were doing your work?

WS: No.

BB: Okay.

VS: Do you think that the information that was gained by MIRS [26:58] supported decisions [27:00] by commanders in terms of say strategic bombing?

WS: I would say some did and some didn't. It depended on the commanders like when I said in Anzio [27:11] Mark Clark [27:12] wanted no part of it and I think I had heard, and I

could be wrong, that the guy in the Pacific theatre [27:23] didn't like it either, MacArthur [27:25], but I could be wrong.

VS: When you were working for MIRS [27:31] and order of battle [27:32], did you also look at German naval order of battle --

WS: No.

VS: -- information?

WS: No.

VS: It was largely --

WS: It was on land.

VS: Okay.

BB: I'm done. I don't have anything else.

VS: I think I'm done as well.

BB: But do you -- is there anything that you think we haven't asked about? Anything that we've left out?

WS: I'll think about it.

BB: Okay.

WS: What I hear [28:00], when I did the thing here the last two or three days, I had to rewind.

VS: Did you get through everything on those papers that you wanted to share?

WS: I gave you everything.

VS: I mean these yellow pages. Did you read everything that you wanted to share with us?

WS: Let me look at it once more, what I read from it.

VS: I'll get the camera.

BB: Yeah, that would be great if we could just set some of these out under the light --

VS: Yeah.

BB: -- and just take some still photographs.

WS: I think I told you everything.

VS: Okay. Well, by all means particularly as you -- if you peruse through these materials and you see anything that --

WS: All right, I will because it's probably very informative. I don't know.

VS: Super [29:00]. Well we'll go ahead and stop the recorder.

[end of transcript]

Index

Aleutians, [Tape 1A] 29:09
Alexandria, [Tape 3A] 03:06
Army, [Tape 1A] 24:28, 25:34, 27:12
 [Tape 1B] 10:54, 11:23
 [Tape 2A] 10:01, 12:44, 30:36
 [Tape 2B] 12:06, 18:12, 19:57
Anzio, [Tape 1B] 24:51, 25:03
 [Tape 3A] 27:11
Avido, Ajule, [Tape 1B] 10:32

Behr, Walter, [Tape 1B] 07:30
Bennett, Hugh, [Tape 1B] 07:37
Birley, [Tape 1B] 30:28
 [Tape 2A] 03:44, 05:18, 05:32, 13:37
 [Tape 3A] 05:23, 11:34
Bloomfield, Martin, [Tape 1B] 08:08
Blue Bloods of New York, [Tape 1B] 16:57
Boktonov, George, [Tape 1B] 08:10
Boston, [Tape 1A] 10:34
 [Tape 2B] 17:05
Boy Scout, [Tape 1B] 02:37
Brazil, [Tape 1A] 10:29, 12:06, 15:29, 16:32, 18:32, 20:07, 26:35, 28:38
Brazilian Mission, [Tape 1A] 29:24, 30:41
Bronze Star, [Tape 2A] 30:09
Burke, Hank, [Tape 1B] 10:39
Burz, [Tape 1B] 08:15
 [Tape 2A] 02:45, 03:19, 15:47
Buspar, Walter, [Tape 2A] 16:47, 19:36

Camp King, [Tape 3A] 21:25
Camp Camel, [Tape 2B] 15:33
Camp Ritchie, [Tape 1A] 29:47, 30:24, 30:52, 31:39
 [Tape 1B] 00:07, 05:15, 06:15, 06:53, 14:21, 18:50, 19:28, 20:01, 22:47
 [Tape 2B] 07:22
 [Tape 3A] 03:53, 06:14, 24:54
Carter, [Tape 1A] 25:32
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), [Tape 1B] 05:58
 [Tape 3A] 20:43
Chicago Chamber Orchestra, [Tape 1B] 10:16
Chrysler Corporation, [Tape 1A] 08:44
Chunes, [Tape 1B] 08:20, 11:13, 30:47
 [Tape 2A] 02:49, 03:00, 03:22, 14:55, 15:48, 16:23, 29:20, 30:58
 [Tape 2B] 11:47, 12:34, 13:36
Clark, Mark, [Tape 1B] 24:55

[Tape 3A] 27:12
Coharic, [Tape 1B] 30:43
[Tape 2A] 02:22
Cook, Michael Ralph, [Tape 1B] 06:36, 11:57, 29:45
[Tape 2A] 02:00
[Tape 3A] 07:25, 14:26
Czechoslovakia, [Tape 2B] 16:36

Danke, George, [Tape 2A] 28:16
[Tape 2B] 01:15
[Tape 3A] 22:41
D-Day, [Tape 1B] 28:02
Department of Commerce, [Tape 1A] 12:22
Dickson, [Tape 1B] 08:31

Edinburgh, Scotland, [Tape 2A] 10:31
Eisenhower, Dwight, [Tape 2A] 18:52, 22:34, 25:00
Eister, [Tape 2B] 12:25
Ellis Island, [Tape 1A] 07:12
Elychar, [Tape 2A] 21:26, 22:01
Englewood, [Tape 2B] 25:09, 28:46
English club, [Tape 1A] 19:01
Esterbrook, [Tape 2B] 26:53, 27:09
European Theater of Operations, United States Army (ETOUSA), [Tape 2A] 22:34
[Tape 2B] 00:45, 02:23

Fairbrook, Paul, [Tape 1B] 08:38, 08:55, 09:00
[Tape 3A] 06:06, 06:21
Ferber Corp, [Tape 2B] 26:21
Finney, [Tape 2B] 05:34, 07:10
Ford, [Tape 1A] 17:55
Fort Mungus, [Tape 1A] 27:38
France, [Tape 1A] 09:30
[Tape 2A] 16:02, 19:30
[Tape 2B] 03:00, 15:19
[Tape 3A] 12:52, 13:17
Frankfurt, [Tape 1A] 02:23, 02:48, 03:46
[Tape 2B] 05:25, 06:30, 08:38, 09:48, 13:15
Free French, [Tape 2A] 20:14

Gander, Newfoundland, [Tape 2A] 09:20, 09:44
Gehlen, Reinhard, [Tape 3A] 18:56, 19:00, 21:12
German Army, [Tape 1B] 14:52, 15:07, 15:24, 16:13, 26:19, 26:48
Germany, [Tape 1A] 01:44, 02:21, 03:04, 05:01, 15:19, 16:12, 25:45
[Tape 1B] 10:03, 15:42, 17:01
[Tape 2B] 05:18, 06:21, 09:53, 10:23

[Tape 3A] 19:18
Gestapo, [Tape 2A] 18:22, 19:40, 20:46
Goering, Hermann, [Tape 3A] 18:49

Hackensack, [Tape 2B] 18:38
Hamburg, [Tape 1A] 19:33
Harper, [Tape 2A] 22:37, 23:39, 28:10
Hartell, [Tape 1B] 09:13
 [Tape 2A] 00:41
Hechinger, Fred, [Tape 1B] 09:14
Heilman, [Tape 1A] 28:12
Hickman, June, [Tape 1B] 13:58, 14:12
Hoffman, Gus, [Tape 1B] 06:33, 09:23
 [Tape 3A] 07:23
Hotel Majestic, [Tape 2A] 22:31
Hunt, Steven, [Tape 1B] 12:02
Hurst, Henry, [Tape 1B] 06:27, 09:20
 [Tape 2A] 01:53
 [Tape 3A] 07:20

Interpreter of prisoners of war (IPW), [Tape 1A] 31:08
 [Tape 1B] 07:04, 16:31, 17:26
 [Tape 3A] 23:18
Iraq, [Tape 1B] 17:55
IQ tests, [Tape 2B] 19:50

Japanese section / order of battle book, [Tape 2A] 30:47, 31:36, 32:06
 [Tape 2B] 00:12, 01:54, 03:16
Johnson & Johnson, [Tape 1A] 17:57

Kenmore, [Tape 3A] 13:00, 13:44
Kensington, [Tape 2A] 11:18, 13:31
Kleinman, Robert, [Tape 1B] 09:45
Kluge, John, [Tape 3A] 05:42, 05:55
Kober, Dieter, [Tape 1B] 09:56
Korea, [Tape 1B] 17:59
Krieger, John, [Tape 1B] 10:18

Laredo, Joe, [Tape 2A] 01:34
 [Tape 3A] 07:21
Le Vesinet, [Tape 2A] 29:09, 29:31
 [Tape 2B] 01:01, 01:26, 14:46
London, [Tape 1B] 11:00, 13:32, 24:09, 28:58, 29:36
 [Tape 2A] 05:41, 10:43, 11:12
 [Tape 3A] 05:09, 06:24, 07:42, 12:20, 14:31, 16:44, 17:12, 17:45, 18:24, 25:33
Lovell, [Tape 1B] 01:26, 19:31, 30:22

[Tape 2A] 03:33, 05:53
[Tape 3A] 04:35
Lucky Strike, [Tape 2B] 15:34

Macy's, [Tape 1A] 14:21
Madison, [Tape 2B] 05:40, 06:24
MacArthur, Douglas, [Tape 2B] 02:54
[Tape 3A] 27:25
Malla, Victor, [Tape 1B] 10:47
Marsh, Jordan, [Tape 1A] 10:36, 14:23
Marx, Ernest, [Tape 1B] 06:24, 11:32, 29:46
[Tape 2A] 00:55
[Tape 3A] 07:19
Mila Americana, [Tape 1A] 19:20
Military Intelligence Research Section (MIRS), [Tape 1B] 28:45
[Tape 3A] 05:52, 17:46, 25:31, 26:04, 26:58, 27:31
Military Intelligence Service (MIS), [Tape 2A] 05:41, 22:59, 32:20
[Tape 2B] 05:28, 06:03, 11:39, 12:11
Mormon, [Tape 1B] 14:14

Nashville, Marvin, [Tape 1A] 18:26
New Orleans, [Tape 1A] 24:49
New York, [Tape 1A] 06:13, 07:05, 15:41, 21:10, 24:31, 24:53, 25:08, 27:04
[Tape 1B] 10:01, 25:36
[Tape 2A] 09:02
[Tape 2B] 20:51, 23:42
[Tape 3A] 20:26
Nisei, [Tape 2A] 32:08
[Tape 2B] 03:43

Ocean, [Tape 1B] 13:29, 30:33
[Tape 2A] 03:52, 11:49, 12:00
Old Gold, [Tape 2B] 15:35
Olson, Harold, [Tape 1B] 12:52
Order of battle (OB book / red book), [Tape 1A] 32:11
[Tape 1B] 00:06, 03:42, 05:04, 07:00, 14:31, 16:34, 19:11, 22:17, 25:56, 20:00, 23:46,
24:22, 25:00, 27:36, 28:26, 28:28, 28:53
[Tape 2A] 14:14, 14:50, 15:40, 23:00, 24:32, 25:42, 26:47, 31:29, 31:38
[Tape 2B] 00:43, 02:58, 03:26, 06:01, 07:27, 14:42, 16:05, 30:34
[Tape 3A] 02:13, 06:02, 09:35, 11:54, 21:38, 23:00, 23:27, 24:10, 24:25, 24:46, 25:36,
25:51, 26:18, 27:32
Organization of Manufacturers, [Tape 1A] 22:55

Pacific theater, [Tape 2B] 02:24, 02:35
[Tape 3A] 26:29, 27:23
PAC MIRS, [Tape 3A] 26:34, 26:48

Paramount Canal zone, [Tape 1A] 25:15, 25:29
Pearl Harbor, [Tape 1A] 26:37, 27:05
Pentagon, [Tape 1B] 01:32, 21:50
 [Tape 2A] 06:01
 [Tape 3A] 04:02, 04:33
Perry, [Tape 2B] 06:54, 08:43, 11:57, 12:17, 12:51, 13:46
Plackard, Gus, [Tape 1B] 05:51, 08:04
 [Tape 1B] 30:17s
 [Tape 2A] 04:50, 07:58, 09:28, 10:06, 11:06, 13:14, 17:31, 17:56
 [Tape 2B] 05:10
 [Tape 3A] 03:47, 07:16, 20:19, 20:45
P.O. Box 1142 / Fort Hunt, [Tape 1B] 02:16, 02:43, 03:00, 05:18, 05:48, 06:05, 06:48, 19:02,
 19:26, 20:09, 20:52, 21:00, 21:48, 27:05
 [Tape 2A] 06:20, 21:46
 [Tape 3A] 01:04, 02:33, 03:00, 04:00, 04:45, 05:02, 05:34, 06:13, 07:13, 07:49, 08:42.,
 12:13, 12:35, 14:33, 15:25, 17:42, 20:36, 25:07
Prisoners of war (POW), [Tape 3A] 18:00
PX, [Tape 2B] 13:18

Ritz-Carlton, [Tape 2A] 18:34
Rodrigo, [Tape 1B] 06:30
Ross, [Tape 1A] 20:33
Rothkrug, [Tape 3A] 14:00
Rothschild, [Tape 2B] 32:07
Rua Marconi 138, [Tape 1A] 16:20

Sao Paulo, [Tape 1A] 15:25, 15:55, 17:53, 20:24, 22:46, 23:58
Schwalbach, [Tape 2B] 05:27, 07:04, 11:43, 12:32
Sears Roebuck, [Tape 1A] 21:40
Shrepper, Homer, [Tape 1B] 12:27
Sicily, [Tape 1B] 25:11, 25:33
Smith, Gordon, [Tape 1B] 12:43
Smith, Horton, [Tape 1B] 03:13, 19:24, 21:33, 21:41
 [Tape 2A] 04:19, 06:45, 07:50, 08:16, 13:49
 [Tape 3A] 05:29, 05:54, 08:03, 10:50
Smith, William, [Tape 1B] 12:47
 [Tape 2A] 04:12, 04:34
South America, [Tape 1A] 09:54
Spy, [Tape 3A] 12:32, 13:06, 15:04, 16:09, 17:00, 15:50
Statue of Liberty, [Tape 1A] 07:03
Sternburg, Frank, [Tape 1B] 06:21, 13:00
 [Tape 3A] 07:18
Strand Palace Hotel, [Tape 2A] 12:31
Strassmore, [Tape 1B] 13:08
 [Tape 2A] 05:26

Van Loon, [Tape 1B] 13:21

Vietnam, [Tape 1B] 17:57

Vu-riter, [Tape 2B] 25:43

War Office, [Tape 2A] 13:27

Washington, [Tape 1A] 29:21, 30:42

[Tape 1B] 01:21, 02:31, 19:42, 27:57

[Tape 2A] 20:09

[Tape 2B] 03:55, 06:44

[Tape 3A] 01:28, 03:02, 03:40

Webber, Paine, [Tape 2B] 32:09

Wonderly, [Tape 1A] 31:41, 32:04

Wonder Writer, [Tape 2B] 23:29, 23:50

Woolworth, [Tape 2B] 24:08, 25:20