

Fort Hunt Oral History
P.O. Box 1142
Interview with Vader Jim Loomis
Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
January 10, 2008 (by John Chambers)
and January 24, 2008 (by Brandon Bies, Vincent Santucci, Mathew Virta and Dan Gross)

INTERVIEWER: Testing, Testing. This is John Chambers. Today is Thursday, January 10, 2008, 11:00 a.m. I am about to call Dr. Vader Loomis, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, about his service in the OSS [00:23] in World War II [00:24].

FEMALE SPEAKER: Hello?

INT: Hello, Dr. Loomis?

FS: Who's this?

INT: This is Professor [01:00] John Chambers at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

FS: Oh. Just one moment.

INT: Oh, okay. Hello? Hello?

VADER LOOMIS: Hello, yeah.

INT: Is this Dr. Vader Loomis?

VL: Right.

INT: Ah, Dr. Loomis. Hi. This is Professor John Chambers at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

VL: Right.

INT: I'm writing a book for the National Park Service on the OSS [01:43] training in World War II [01:46].

VL: Yes.

INT: And Vincent Santucci down at the Park Service George Washington Parkway --

VL: Yeah.

INT: -- I guess has talked to you about --

VL: That's turned into a park now.

INT: That's correct. The George Washington [02:00] Memorial Parkway. So he -- this is Dr. Loomis from the OSS [02:06] in World War II [02:07]?

VL: Yep.

INT: Oh great. Okay. Thank you. Well he is doing a different program. He is working on the 1142 [02:16] people. I have been hired by the National Park Service to write a history of the training in the National Parks. This would be OSS [02:27] Training Area C and A, which were both down in a park near Quantico [02:33], Virginia, and OSS training area B, which is up in Catoctin Mountain Park [02:38] in Maryland.

VL: I live there now, about four miles from Catoctin.

INT: Oh! You're in Waynesboro, Maryland.

VL: No, it's -- we're right on the state line.

INT: Oh, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

VL: Yes, and we're about a quarter mile from state line.

INT: Oh, okay.

VL: That base was closed. I knew [03:00] some of the history about it. I myself was never there but I lived near where -- of course it's closed now and gone.

INT: You're talking about Catoctin [03:10]?

VL: It was Fort Ritchie [03:14].

INT: Oh, okay. Fort Ritchie. Yes, the military intelligence space. Yes, yes.

VL: Well it is no longer -- it was given away to some housing developers. A sad, sad situation.

INT: Yes. I have been over there and I saw that it was closed and now is for rent to

developers, yes.

VL: It's a total disaster. They put millions and millions of dollars into it to update it and then they gave it away for something like a million and a half.

INT: [laughs] Yes.

VL: Horrible planning.

INT: Fort Ritchie [03:49], Camp Ritchie, had a long history.

VL: Yeah.

INT: Did you -- well, first of all now, were you in the OSS [03:56] in World War II [03:57]?

VL: Yes.

INT: Well can you tell me a little bit about your OSS [04:00] -- how did they recruit you?
Were you already in the Army?

VL: I was shanghaied.

INT: Well [laughs] I've heard that before. Go ahead.

VL: Well the reason I got shanghaied is my first wife died real young of a stroke. She worked in Roosevelt's [04:20] office.

INT: In the president's office?

VL: Yeah, and -- all through the war time.

INT: She worked with Grace Tully [04:29]?

VL: She was -- well, they called her Budget Anne but she was an actuary.

INT: Okay. Got it.

VL: And because she worked there, her kid brother and me, well they just figured we might say something. We didn't know too much but they figured we might so they jammed us into that, so we'd have to, for 60 years, keep our mouths shut.

INT: You were sworn to secrecy.

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: What year are [05:00] we talking about? What year did you recruited by the OSS
[05:04]?

VL: It was probably -- [inaudible] I can't remember.

INT: Well, you remember Pearl Harbor [05:09].

VL: I was ready to get out of the Army when Pearl Harbor came.

INT: You were in the Army?

VL: Oh yeah, and I was ready to get out.

INT: Were you one of the people who was drafted for the --

VL: No, I went in that old story, "Goodbye dear, I'll be back in a year." My year was up and
I was going back to base to get my separation papers and that was on Pearl Harbor
[05:36] day.

INT: [laughs]

VL: Naturally they kept us quite a while longer.

INT: Yes they did; for the duration, yes. So you were in the Army and then the OSS [05:46]
recruited you out of the Army?

VL: I didn't know what they'd done at the time of it. You didn't even know -- we didn't even
know where in there until later.

INT: Were you an officer or an enlisted man?

VL: I was just enlisted.

INT: Okay. And so [06:00] --

VL: From then on I should have known but I was just young and dumb. They never showed

us any papers --

INT: That's right.

VL: -- transfer, promotion, demotions, anything.

INT: Got --

VL: [inaudible] -- yeah.

INT: That's right. It often was done in what they called detached service -- detached service, so you would still show as being in the army but you were actually in the OSS [06:27].

VL: That is right.

INT: What year were you born?

VL: 1919.

INT: 1919. Okay. And so -- all right -- so the OSS [06:37] gets you -- where do they take you? Where do you go once they've gotten you?

VL: Well, I stayed in the States for a lot of the time and I was helping there at Fort Hunt [06:51], is what --

INT: I'm sorry, at Fort -- oh, at Fort Hunt?

VL: Well, I was stationed at Fort Belvoir [06:56] which was only about five miles from Fort Hunt [07:00].

INT: That's right. The engineer's school.

VL: Right. And I was there approximately, oh, three years or more before I went overseas.

INT: Okay.

VL: We were doing an awful lot of training of all kinds then, medical and otherwise.

INT: No, tell me about the training. So they were training you at Fort Belvoir [07:24]?

VL: I was in the combat engineers.

INT: Okay. Combat engineers, yes.

VL: And, well, they almost left me behind --

INT: [affirmative]

VL: -- when the unit shipped out, my original unit, to train around the March of Bataan [07:38]. But anyway --

INT: So you were combat engineer training there at Fort Belvoir [07:44] --

VL: Yep.

INT: -- and then --

VL: We hung around there -- I was --

INT: Three years?

VL: At least three years. I'd have to go back in recs. But what I was -- I was in the veterinary service.

INT: Okay.

VL: I had not finished veterinary college yet [08:00] and I took many, many, many courses in the medical department of Walter Reed Hospital [08:10] where they used to have a veterinary college years ago.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: It took a tremendous amount of training and I was teaching a lot. We raised war dogs, war horses, and we used some of the prisoners [08:27] that were over at Fort Hunt [08:29] -- their uniforms -- to train our dogs for both the Japanese [08:34] and German [08:35] border so they would search out pillboxes and all that kind of stuff.

INT: I got it.

VL: And, this is off the subject right now, but I like to bounce it off of everybody. What

branch of the military service used both horses and dogs?

INT: Well me, I don't -- these would be two different -- I mean, the Canine Corps [08:58] with the dogs but the horses I would assume [09:00] would be the artillery since the Cavalry [09:04] is really --

VL: There was no such thing as a Canine Corps [09:08].

INT: No such thing. Well go ahead -- you tell me.

VL: The Coast Guard [09:13].

INT: Oh, of course. How stupid of me. Of course, the Coast Guard.

VL: We trained horses and we trained dogs and then a man would come. They had to patrol the Eastern Coast all the way from, I guess, Key West up to Canadian, up to Labrador.

INT: Yes, I know. They got the German [09:37] spies there on Long Island [09:39]. Yes.

VL: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. And it was estimated, not my figures, but that two dogs [09:47], one man, one horse [09:49], could patrol the shore more thoroughly than 500 men.

INT: Ah.

VL: See they rode up and down the coast [10:00]. If one of those Germans [10:03] would come ashore -- they'd come in those rubber boats --

INT: Right.

VL: -- they'd sink the boats. Of course they'd escape.

INT: Yes.

VL: The dog [10:11] would smell them out.

INT: That's right. Well that's great! All right. So you were helping to train the dogs for the Coast Guard [10:20]?

VL: Dogs and horses [10:21].

INT: Dogs and horses. And the Coast Guard was riding them. I believe that some of the OSS [10:27] camps had patrol dogs around them, too.

VL: Oh did they ever! Fort Hunt [10:34] had five security fences around it.

INT: And dogs [10:39]?

VL: Dogs at one of them, yes, electric fence, they patrolled it by Jeep, by men on horseback [10:49], and by dogs. But some of those fences were electric fences.

INT: Well now we did not -- the National Park Service, the two training camps, area [11:00] A and C down at Quantico [11:01] -- near Quantico -- and area B up at Catoctin [11:05], they did not have fences. But I believe they did have dogs. Did you ever go to any of the OSS [11:11] training camps that I'm talking about?

VL: Well of course the one there at Fort Hunt [11:17], yes.

INT: I don't think that's OSS at Fort Hunt, is it?

VL: That's where we trained a lot of them.

INT: Oh, trained a lot of what? Of the dogs [11:29]?

VL: OSS [11:29] boys.

INT: Can you tell me a little bit about that? What were you training them, doing what?

VL: Well all sorts of work. That was one of our training centers.

INT: The, what kind of work? I'm sorry.

VL: The OSS [11:43].

INT: Yes, but as you know there are different branches of the OSS: intelligence, special operations, guerillas, communications --

VL: I'm well aware of it.

INT: Yeah. So which ones were you training?

VL: We were training the [12:00] -- I don't know what you call it -- as they call it now in the CIA [12:08] they call them moles. Ever hear what a mole was?

INT: M-O-L-E-S?

VL: A mole. Like a digging -- digs the ground.

INT: Okay. Yeah. Moles. Yes.

VL: Yeah, that's what we trained there.

INT: Can you just apply that just a little bit more -- give me a little more information. Mole meaning?

VL: Well, undercover.

INT: Undercover.

VL: Yeah. That was the code name.

INT: Okay.

VL: Later he became one of my best friends and he passed away young. He had every disease in the book. He lived off the land for two and a half years in China. That -- was he young? [unintelligible] him there, he was a mole [12:49].

INT: Do you have his name?

VL: Very definitely. Jake Segriest [12:52].

INT: Jay Siegers?

VL: Jake.

INT: Jake.

VL: [inaudible] [13:00] from Windsor, Maryland. I'll get it straight in a minute. Oh, my forgetfulness is --

INT: But Seegers? S-E-E-G-E-R-S?

VL: No, no. Just a minute. S-E-G-R-I-E-S-T.

INT: Seigert. Seigert.

VL: Segriest. Anyway I have to go back a little bit.

INT: Yeah.

VL: Back to the Jimmy Doolittle [13:26] story.

INT: Ah, yes. The Doolittle raid [13:29]?

VL: I've got to write that up. I'm the last person who was on the front when the main -- knew what was going on from the time Doolittle [13:40] went to Roosevelt [13:40] until he got a ship until we bombed Tokyo until we had rescued off the China coast. And I was very much aware that all that was going on.

INT: How did you become aware of it?

VL: Well, Jimmy Doolittle [13:56] wasn't right about [unintelligible].

INT: Yes [14:00]?

VL: Jimmy Doolittle came to Roosevelt [14:02]. He had a volunteer bunch of GI pilots volunteer to make the run.

INT: Right.

VL: No ship available thanks to Pearl Harbor [14:12] [unintelligible]. So he went to Roosevelt [14:15] and said, "If I can get a ship, I've got the men -- [unintelligible] we know that our chance of surviving is very, very slim, but we will make a raid of Tokyo." Well, he needed a ship. My wife's uncle was director of the Bureau of Ships [14:40]. He was responsible for the construction and maintenance of the entire Navy fleet. So that was my wife's uncle. So Roosevelt [14:55] had her -- because she went right into the office -- had her take Jimmy Doolittle [15:00] up to Mr. Buckles to find a ship for Jimmy

Doolittle.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: Which he did. Now, that took some time. Well, that set chain of events --

INT: Yes.

VL: -- Act One, we had to train somebody real quick-like, little bit of Chinese.

INT: To speak Chinese, yeah.

VL: Speak. And he was last call, coast to [phonetic] China by submarine and he had radio equipment, see, and the Japanese [15:39] had been occupying China at the time.

INT: Right, right.

VL: And he guided Doolittle [15:47] as they made their raid on Tokyo -- [inaudible] was getting cold, they headed for the China coast, he guided them in. They ditched the planes in the water.

INT: Right.

VL: He called the submarine back up [16:00] and they took Doolittle [16:02] with them. They left him behind. They said they -- what might be, well Jake [16:12], as he's known, later became a first [inaudible] and a classmate at Cornell [16:20], he -- they tried to drop supplies, but they had to quit it because all that would do was alert the Japs [16:27] that they were dropping supplies to somebody and then they would search diligently. He lived off the land, dodging Japs. The Chinese helped protect him.

INT: Right.

VL: They were on our side at the time. Two and a half years later, after the war was over, he came out of there. [unintelligible] He had every disease imaginable. He went from a second lieutenant to a major during that period of time, never [unintelligible] any [17:00]

money.

INT: Right.

VL: And he said to me one day -- my nickname is Jim -- he says, "Jim, you know what? They had the nerve to ask me if I wanted to re-up."

INT: [laughs]

VL: I have an idea, being an old Marine, it was loud and clear what his answer was. It probably wasn't fit to print [laughs].

INT: So he was a Marine?

VL: Yes

INT: Okay. But he was also working for OSS [17:24]?

VL: Oh yes.

INT: Okay.

VL: No, went crazy up there at [unintelligible] trained there at Hunt [17:31].

INT: Well, this is news to me, that the OSS [17:34] was training at Fort Hunt. I didn't know that. Now do you remember what branch of the OSS you were in?

VL: I don't. All I know, I was in it, and the only confirmation I have I was ever in it was I got a letter after 60 years from CIA [17:54] an appreciation band with -- [unintelligible] two of our own [unintelligible] old-timers were still [18:00] around.

INT: Wow. When did you get that -- what year did you get that letter?

VL: Two years ago, after 60 years.

INT: [laughs]

VL: That's the only proof I was ever in there.

INT: A letter of appreciation from CIA [18:12].

VL: Yep.

INT: And they don't say anything in there about what you did during the war?

VL: No, and I did not go -- two or three reasons. I don't like to drive in Washington [18:22], number two it'd bring back memories --

INT: Yes.

VL: -- number three, there'd have been nobody there I'd have known.

INT: Do you remember the name of your supervisor? Who did you report to, or who were you working with?

VL: Well, yes. Colonel Leonard Davis [18:40].

INT: Leonard Davis?

VL: Yes. He's deceased now.

INT: Okay.

VL: His widow is still alive.

INT: I'm sorry, who?

VL: Huh?

INT: Who is still alive?

VL: His widow.

INT: Oh, widow alive.

VL: Still lives in Arlington but he passed away long before he could ever tell her what he was doing.

INT: Oh. And that would be an Army Colonel [19:00]?

VL: Yes.

INT: Not Marine. And he was OSS [19:03]?

VL: Yes.

INT: All right.

VL: They're Armenian. And of course when they got overseas, they had [unintelligible].

INT: Well tell me about -- but before we get overseas, let me again ask you did you ever go over to the OSS [19:20] Area C or A, a training area, which are about 35 miles south of Washington [19:25]. They're near Fort Belvoir [19:27]. It's a National Park, wooded land near Triangle, Dumfries, near Manassas -- well it's right across the road from Quantico [19:36], Virginia, the Marine base. Did you ever go over to that OSS [19:41] training camp?

VL: Yes.

INT: You did?

VL: Yep.

INT: Oh, well tell me about it.

VL: Well I didn't even know it was there. Then the one, it was around [unintelligible] [19:50], it's about 50 miles out of Washington [19:54].

INT: I'm sorry, what's at 50 miles?

VL: The underground White House [20:00] [phonetic].

INT: You mean the one today? Up near Catocin [20:04]?

VL: No, that is the underground Pentagon [20:08].

INT: Oh, the underground White House [20:10]. Okay. Which one's the underground White House?

VL: They're from separate entities.

INT: Okay.

VL: Altogether.

INT: Are we talking about World War II or World War today? I don't know.

VL: It's still in operation today.

INT: Okay. Well, go back and tell me about going to the training camp there near Quantico [20:33]. When did you go -- why did you go over to the training camp near --

VL: I don't particularly remember the dates or anything. I was there -- I was at Belvoir [20:41] three years before I went overseas. We had a job in the Veterinary Service [20:47] to train, well, you've heard of the horse Marines, the Cavalry [20:52].

INT: Yes.

VL: They changed it then to the Transportation Board [20:56].

INT: Okay, right.

VL: We had to go there [21:00] and train a certain number of those boys. They didn't know where they were going, what they were going to do. And me and Transportation [21:08] had to train them to walk -- because they were pack animals from the Australian Emu, which is like a --

INT: Yeah, I know the emu. Yeah.

VL: They can put a pack saddle on them, they can carry 150 pounds.

INT: So you had some emus?

VL: Oh we had -- from the little bitty Nicaraguan burro up to elephants and camels. Being in the Vet Service [21:38] we had to train some of these special guys -- [unintelligible], maybe, I don't know, but battalion Marines had to have this knowledge. Wherever they may be sent, we had to instruct them on the type of animals that might be available.

INT: So this sounds like [22:00] you went to the Marine base at Quantico [22:02].

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: Okay. Well now this forest is right across the street from the Marine base and it was run by OSS [22:10], so --

VL: These few Marines that we taught -- it was -- I don't remember just where it was. It was not on base itself. It was off a ways.

INT: Can you describe it?

VL: Well, [unintelligible] secure areas like a lot of fences around it.

INT: A lot of what?

VL: Fences.

INT: Oh, fences. [affirmative]

VL: Fences and yards. Just like Fort Hunt [22:34]. Five different fences around it.

INT: Okay.

VL: And that is -- but we never [unintelligible] and I didn't give it a second thought.

INT: And your job was to help train these Marines with the use of the animals?

VL: Right. Treat them, take care of them, and the whole nine yards.

INT: Okay.

VL: Because they never knew what part of the world they were going to, whether the jungle or the arctic [23:00]. I would give them a brief lesson on caring for and procuring beasts of burden.

INT: Okay.

VL: Interesting things.

INT: Absolutely. Now, what about Catoctin [23:15], up there where Camp David is now. Did you ever go up there? That would be OSS [23:21 Training Area B, as in boy. Special

operations -- up on the mountain there.

VL: I know right where it is. When [unintelligible] they call it Camp David was Shangri-La [23:36] --

INT: That's right, for Roosevelt [23:38], yes.

VL: -- when Roosevelt, they took a long time [unintelligible] money [unintelligible] war time --

INT: That's correct.

VL: -- and Roosevelt [23:47] he and [unintelligible] invited me, when they opened it up, invited the entire staff up to a big party.

INT: Oh, you're talking about your wife?

VL: [affirmative] And me.

INT: Yes, okay.

VL: At the very [24:00] beginning of the place. Now we have Site R which is right nearby and right near the [unintelligible] or Ritchie [24:13]. That is the underground Pentagon [24:16].

INT: Oh.

VL: Some folks get them mixed up.

INT: Yes, that's after the war. After the war.

VL: Site R is, yes.

INT: Yeah.

VL: David -- Camp David -- or Shangri-La [24:30] as Roosevelt [24:30] called it -- R, during the war.

INT: That's right. Now do you remember that party? Can you tell me anything about it?

VL: Oh, a lot of VIPs were there. Course I was very used to rubbing elbows with them anyway, just another party. But a lot of folks didn't like Roosevelt [24:50]. I didn't like a lot of his programs but most of it wasn't his fault. When it got down to the state or county to be implemented, they would mangle his well-intended [25:00] projects.

INT: Okay.

VL: But that's nothing new with politics.

INT: Okay, okay. But I meant do you remember anything about the surroundings up there? What the Shangri-La [25:11] looked like?

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: Go ahead.

VL: Well, it just was a -- what you might call a camp site -- a lot of these mountain camps, winding road up there, security tight. At that time, probably only half a dozen buildings as the main mansion, where they lived up there, and [unintelligible]. I don't know what it looks like today.

INT: Oh no, I don't either. [laughs]

VL: I haven't been there in years.

INT: I don't either. I was talking about when Roosevelt [25:45] was there.

VL: Oh, it was [inaudible] old gray buildings and wood buildings and --

INT: Okay.

VL: [inaudible] I haven't been there [unintelligible] Site R [unintelligible] [26:00] mountains.

INT: Well that's [laughs] -- that's after the war. That's right, that's right. I'm only doing this during the OSS [26:08] during the war.

VL: Okay.

INT: There was an OSS training camp right next to Shangri-La [26:14], right? I mean, 100 yards away. I don't know whether you -- as being a member of the OSS -- but of course - - whether a member of the OSS [26:22], you went to that training camp at all.

VL: [inaudible] The only time I was up there was at that welcome party when they opened it up [unintelligible].

INT: Okay. So you were only up there once.

VL: That was all.

INT: All right. Well tell me about going overseas. When did you go? What year do you think you went overseas?

VL: I didn't go overseas until late. [inaudible] Bangkok [inaudible].

INT: Okay.

VL: Mister --

INT: Go ahead.

VL: -- Doolittle [26:51] got his ship. And his men got back and there's a guy that Cornell [26:58] [unintelligible] they left over there [27:00]. That money helped put him through Cornell [27:04].

INT: The Cornell Veterinary School?

VL: Yes.

INT: Okay.

VL: Same class I was in.

INT: What class is that? What year?

VL: 1950.

INT: Okay.

VL: There were all but two were GIs, average age at graduation at the time was 32, most of them married and had families. They were older than some faculty members and that is the weirdest class that Cornell [27:24] ever had.

INT: That's right. The GI bill class. Yes.

VL: Yep. Yep. There are not many of us left. I'm still president of that class.

INT: Oh. Good for you. How old are you now?

VL: Eighty nine.

INT: Eighty nine. Okay.

VL: And we're working at a bench one day and we're talking where we were in the service and all that, and the fellow I was talking with, I mentioned [inaudible] -- of course I figured he wouldn't know anything [inaudible] [28:00]. And Jake Segriest [28:02], the one who rescued Doolittle's [28:03] men [unintelligible] says, "Shut your damn mouth. Don't talk about that place."

INT: [laughs]

VL: Well he blew his cover.

INT: Yeah.

[laughter]

VL: But there wasn't anybody in the class ever caught on to it at the time, but from then on, Jake and I were very close friends. Like the guy that we were able to call, my next door neighbor in the service, Dave Brown [phonetic], and he's [inaudible] now he's 92 or 3. He's the one that put the fuse on the Big Boy.

INT: Oh my -- on the atomic bomb [28:39].

VL: Yep.

INT: Oh my goodness. Well you had some people there. What happened to Jake Segriest [28:44] after the war? After he got his veterinary degree in 1950?

VL: Well he wanted to go back to practice in Westminster, Maryland, but there's an old redneck, and if any young veterinarian come there, he was so mean to him [phonetic] [29:00]. So he went to work for a pharmaceutical company. His career was working in pharmaceuticals and later on we got together several times because I was working for the Food and Drug Administration [29:15] where these pharmaceuticals came to me to help them get the drugs approved.

INT: Okay.

VL: So there we met again. [laughs]

INT: These are pharmaceuticals for animals?

VL: Animals and men both.

INT: Oh, and humans both. Okay.

VL: It has to be tested in animals before it goes to the human department --

INT: Oh, okay.

VL: -- that's why they have so many veterinarians of different specialties: pharmacologists, toxicologists, [unintelligible] and all of those have to be right on the -- up with everything to tell -- and have to know animals to tell whether there's any abnormal [unintelligible] with a guinea pig or a pig or a -- whatever they [unintelligible] are, and that's a long process. But it has to go there before it's even in any field trials [30:00] [inaudible].

INT: I got it. When did you retire from the FDA [30:03]?

VL: Thirty two years ago.

INT: I'm sorry, 32 years ago?

VL: Yep.

INT: Okay.

VL: I've been retired a long time.

INT: [laughs] Yes. Then you were going to tell me about going overseas.

VL: Well, one more step.

INT: Okay.

VL: After my wife signed all the checks -- or not sign them, she wrote them --

INT: Yeah.

VL: Roosevelt's [30:29] signature, they kept doing it with his outfit, and she was their delivery boy or girl.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: Then along came Einstein, Manhattan [Project] [30:40]. And she had the same position. She wrote all the checks for that and delivered. She wrote Roosevelt's [30:52] signature - - when he signed them then she delivered them.

INT: Was she still working in the White House [30:59] then or she was over [31:00] -- the Manhattan Project [31:01]?

VL: What was that?

INT: Was she still working in the White House when she was doing that or was she still working over at the Manhattan Project?

VL: Oh, no. She was right in the White House [31:09].

INT: I just wondered if she were working for General Groves -- Leslie Groves [31:13] -- who was --

VL: No, she was --

INT: Still in the White House.

VL: Oh yeah. She was right there, the Executive Office of the President was where she was.

INT: Okay.

VL: And not until after the war did she transfer to another agency and they needed some budget actuary to set up some new agencies. She worked over those [phonetic]. So then there's a funny story. When I was at Cornell [31:46] [unintelligible], Einstein [31:49] came up to campus and of course it had a big turnout [unintelligible], and we had met him [32:00]. So we went over to say hello to him, and a familiar face, he was very happy to see. And --

INT: Wait, Einstein [32:12] knew your wife?

VL: She delivered the money to him.

INT: Oh.

VL: I'm pretty sure, if I remember [phonetic]. And we went up to say "hi" to him and told the persons there who he had seen [unintelligible], well he insisted that we have dinner with him and [inaudible] he was known around the university [inaudible], board members, they thought they were [inaudible] and his wife shared dinner with him downtown where he was staying [inaudible].

INT: Well that is --

VL: [inaudible] [33:00]

INT: Well that is a story.

VL: Well it was [inaudible] very, very [inaudible] and to see his face [inaudible] that's what he wanted to do.

INT: Wow

VL: That's just one of those oddball things that happen. So anyway, I didn't go overseas until late.

INT: Okay.

VL: And my job was to catch SS [33:30] boys. They were trying to escape at the end of the war before everybody came --

INT: So you're talking about Germany [33:38]?

VL: The Germans, yes.

INT: In 1945? The end of the war?

VL: On toward the end, yep.

INT: Yeah.

VL: I got a book the other day that, if you're inclined, it was excellent. It was the last three weeks of the Germans before they gave [34:00] up.

INT: Okay. So it's April. April of '45.

VL: Yeah, I tried to see [inaudible]. But they surrendered.

INT: Well they surrendered in May, yes.

VL: Yeah, I was right there.

INT: Why would they send you to catch SS [34:20] boys? Did you speak German [34:21] or --

VL: I had a good interpreter [inaudible] anyway. I had a GI that spoke many, many languages and we got most of our [inaudible] SS [34:21] boys worse than we did. They would [inaudible] [35:00]. I had a pass [inaudible] from anywhere [inaudible]. These last three weeks, surrendered, it had all the dates and the towns and the people and everything right there [phonetic] [inaudible].

INT: Is this a recent book?

VL: Yes. [unintelligible].

INT: Oh, okay. But I'm wondering why you as a veterinarian would be sent over to get SS [35:47] soldiers --

VL: A cover, a cover.

INT: A cover, okay. The cover. All right. Were there other people with you besides the interpreter?

VL: I was in a regular veterinary hospital [inaudible] [36:00], but I wasn't there very long. And no communications -- I had to get to communications every day.

INT: Now tell me about that. A communication from where? You were in the field or you in the hospital?

VL: We had radios in the field. It was all teletype at the time. And the young lady who was in charge of the teletype she was [inaudible] eventually, was what used to be National Airport. It's Reagan now. That's where their headquarters were.

INT: The OSS [36:38] communications?

VL: Yes.

INT: Are you talking about the old Hoover airport?

VL: No, no. The National had just opened.

INT: Okay.

VL: No, I was there when the old Hoover was and I remember I was there when they opened up the National. But their office was there [37:00] in the upper level of the National airport. Well this young lady, who actually was my girlfriend at one time, she introduced me, much later, to my wife [laughs]. She was our maid of honor when we got married in Langston [phonetic]. Well she -- we all had -- well when I sent my messages from

overseas, they went to her desk.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: With a phone number, but she knew exactly where it was and we lived in the same apartments. She could tell my family, pinpoint on a map where I was every time I would call in. I didn't know it and I got mail. It took me about, maximum, three days to get the mail.

INT: Over in Germany [37:53]?

VL: No, Italy. North Italy [37:55].

INT: North Italy? Oh, I thought you were in Germany.

VL: No, no, no. North Italy [38:00].

INT: You were looking for SS [38:03] men in North Italy?

VL: Well that's the -- yeah, that was the longest campaign [inaudible] was at the Mediterranean

INT: Yes, I'm familiar with the -- it continues to the end of the war up there in the North Italy but I thought you were in Germany. No, you were in Italy [38:20]?

VL: Italy, up in the Alps.

INT: Where is this veterinary [38:23] hospital that you were working out of?

VL: In Italy?

INT: Yes.

VL: Oh it was in Modena.

INT: In Modena, okay.

VL: Oh yeah. It used to be the West Point of the Italian Army.

INT: [laughs] Okay. Oh, I see. Okay.

VL: -- veterinary hospitals there. We had a lot of animal --

INT: Okay, so you were not in Germany [38:42], you were in North Italy [38:43].

VL: Yes.

INT: Oh, okay. I got it now.

VL: [inaudible] working along the way.

INT: Now you were there just at the end of the war. We're just talking about -- you weren't there very long, right?

VL: That's right.

INT: Did you say [39:00] -- did you say three weeks or something?

VL: Oh, no, no. I went in, I don't know, the winter. I forgot the name of the --

INT: Yeah. But it was cold.

VL: Yeah. And I was there just before we broke through the north Apennines Mountains and down into the Po valley.

INT: Oh, okay, okay.

VL: [laughs] Matter of fact I was -- now as I look over history, I was probably about a quarter of a mile from -- wait a minute, damn forgetfulness is aggravating. The fellow that was - - well his wife is the --

INT: His wife is what?

VL: The senator from South Carolina. He was in charge of building the World War II [39:52] memorial [inaudible]. Who was that guy?

INT: Oh! You mean Bob Dole [40:00].

VL: That's the joker!

INT: Yes. What about Bob Dole?

VL: Well I was probably about less than a quarter of a mile from him when he got hit.

INT: Oh, okay. With the 10th Mountain Division, yes.

VL: Yeah. Well that's where we had -- let me see -- six or eight veterinary [40:18] hospital units taking care of the 10th Mountain Division [40:24] because we had a lot of injured horses [40:27] and I was assigned to one of those for cover. But also I had a lot of medical training in veterinary work, so I was wearing two hats times three. And in order that we could get around, I had to go to -- I forgot the guy's name. He was in light forces headquarters [phonetic]. We were a light force headquarters unit, so we didn't have to put up with any crap from the British Agency up there with the fifth army.

INT: Okay.

VL: We could go back and forth anywhere anytime we wanted to [41:00] which was quite interesting. Anyways --

INT: Do you remember who you were reporting to in Italy [41:06]? Who your supervisor was in Italy?

VL: I don't remember his name. It was Light Force headquarters.

INT: Light Force. [affirmative] So we're not talking about OSS [41:15] anymore?

VL: He was -- well, the Light Force headquarters had a young major, veterinarian [41:25], but he also was an OSS [41:28] major. And I would -- I was in touch with him all the time.

INT: Okay.

VL: The young major, I forgot what his name was.

INT: All right.

VL: Now he was my contact.

INT: It wasn't Al Madrassi [phonetic], was it? Al Madrassi?

VL: It might have been. I don't remember.

INT: Okay.

VL: He was a young [inaudible].

INT: Okay.

VL: Well, after -- I didn't realize it until later -- after the Germans [42:00] gave up, that whole North of Italy [42:04] was quarantined.

INT: The whole Northern Italy was what?

VL: Quarantined.

INT: Oh, quarantined.

VL: Nobody could go in or out.

INT: Why was that?

VL: Because there was a civil war, and thousands and thousands were killed. Every morning when I went out on a mission, there would be six or eight hanging from every telephone possible. The Partisans surfaced after they had Mussolini [42:35] and the Fascists on the run.

INT: Right.

VL: And they were killing them all like mad.

INT: Right, right.

VL: And that's why they didn't put anybody -- we were in there, or we stayed there, and when we were moving out the last few days -- this is the veterinary [42:53] outfit [unintelligible] -- only the CO knew who I was. We had rode [43:00] 40 miles that day. The Germans [43:03] were on the run and I wanted to go into Milan. He said that nobody could go in there because there were a lot of Germans in there, somebody might -

- well, I went in to Milan that night, [unintelligible], just to see them hang Mussolini [43:21] by the heels.

INT: You saw the bodies?

VL: Oh yeah, hanging there, dangling like stuck pigs.

INT: Yeah.

VL: And there was a little kid on the street they just -- the newspaper, we thought the Germans [43:35] would destroy everything but they didn't destroy Milan because they were on the run too fast. And this little kid on the street was hollering, "Finito Benito!" means "Finish Mussolini [43:47]!" Finito means finish.

INT: Yes, right.

VL: "Finito Benito!"

INT: [laughs] "Finito Benito," yes.

VL: Oh yeah. So I picked up a couple papers, took them back -- we were about eight miles south of the town and [44:00] threw one on the old man's -- right in front of him at breakfast time. "Where the hell did you get that?"

INT: [laughs]

VL: "From a street boy selling papers."

[laughter]

VL: I didn't say any more.

INT: [laughs]

VL: He knew damn well I'd been in Milan.

INT: Exactly.

VL: If Mussolini [44:20] -- if he'd have known we were that close, he'd have come and

jumped in our laps. He'd have probably gone to Nuremburg [44:26]. We were supposedly 40 miles south of Milan and he made a run for the Swiss border.

INT: Right, he did.

VL: The Partisans got him [unintelligible]. Well the Germans [44:44] were in a bind. In this small guy -- I'm going to get -- let me -- I've got pens in here, get the -- I know you'd like to read that book since you're an historian.

INT: Right, right. Just give me the title and I'll [45:00] --

VL: [inaudible] around -- we've been doing volunteer work so much our house is a mess [inaudible]. Just finished 20 years [inaudible].

INT: Well let's get you back to the United States. When did you come back to the United States?

VL: What was that?

INT: When did you come back to the United States?

VL: I'm kind of hard of hearing.

INT: Oh, okay. So when did you come back to the United States?

VL: I didn't come back until the last of December. They kept me over there taking care of winding up things, taking care of supplies, and disposing of explosives -- oh, I had more damn jobs than I ever wanted.

INT: So you came back, but were you back in the States by Christmas?

VL: Yes, barely.

INT: Okay. And then did you get [46:00] mustered out of the Army?

VL: Well I stayed in the reserves for a while. I never attended [unintelligible] -- okay! I found the book right here in front of me.

INT: Oh, good! Okay.

VL: It had to wait 60 years, but "The Secret Surrender" [46:21] and it was written by Allen W. Dulles.

INT: [laughs]

VL: He was the chief of the CIA [46:32].

INT: Yes, during World War -- I know the book. This is Operation Sunrise [46:36], the surrender of the German SS [46:40] Major General Wolfe [46:42].

VL: Okay.

INT: Yeah, I know this. And Dulles was the OSS [46:47] Bureau Chief in Bern, Switzerland. Yes.

VL: Yep, yep.

INT: Okay. "The Secret" -- Yes, I know that book. Absolutely.

VL: So you're familiar with it.

INT: I am indeed. Thank you for --

VL: And I was -- I knew half of the people who were in there [47:00] and then, of course, at headquarters in Bolzano, Moab [phonetic] --

INT: Yes.

VL: -- back -- lots and lots of memories.

INT: Did you know Howard Chappell [47:11] [phonetic]?

VL: The name doesn't ring a bell.

INT: Okay. Okay. Okay. He was one of the operational group leaders there that arrived up in Bolzano at the end of the war. Well, listen, this has been wonderful talking to you and I wonder if you'd mind if I taped this recording so I could get my notes correctly.

VL: Oh, yeah, I have no problem.

INT: No problem? Okay.

VL: [unintelligible] My wife is hollering at me. We have a dinner meeting and I haven't even changed clothes yet.

INT: Well, listen, you have been great. I appreciate it very much.

VL: I wanted to get your phone number.

INT: Okay, you have my name? John, J-O --

VL: Whoa, wait until I get a paper.

INT: Okay.

VL: Where was it? Lot of pencils [unintelligible] [48:00].

INT: Okay. Professor John, J-O-H-N, Chambers, C-H-A-M-B-E-R-S.

VL: C-H-A-M --

INT: M as in Mary, B as in boy, E-R-S.

VL: B-E-R-S. Got it.

INT: And I teach at Rutgers University.

VL: Right.

INT: And the phone number is --

[End of Tape 1A]

[Beginning of Tape 2A]

INT: We're ready to get started now. Today is January 24, 2008. This is an oral history interview as part of the Fort Hunt Oral History Project. We are in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania interviewing Mr. Vader Loomis here at his home. This is Brandon Bies of the National Park Service. We're joined today by Vincent Santucci and Matthew Virta

also of the National Park Service and by Dan Gross, a volunteer for the project. So with that, Mr. Loomis, could we just start with you just saying, real briefly --

INT: Dr. Loomis.

INT: Oh, Dr. Loomis. Excuse me. Could you just say briefly when and where you were born and a little bit about growing up?

VL: Well, I was born in a very rural area in Northern New York on September the 19th [01:00], 1919. We were just -- dad was just a poor farmer and then the Depression [01:09] came along and lost everything. I grew up in that Depression year where we always had enough to eat because we were on a farm, but the variety was extremely limited. We'd take our buckwheat, our wheat, to the mill and the miller would process it and make flour and had no money, so he'd take part of the grain in exchange and of course, that's how he made a living. And when the severity of the Depression [01:48], milk went to 90 cents -- 100 pound -- from \$5, eggs went from 10 cents a dozen from a dollar a [02:00] dozen, and that was the beginning of the Great Depression.

INT: And you were going to school through this time?

VL: Oh, I was a kid then. Oh yeah. And we tried -- had only one brother -- and we tried to get in the CCC [02:16] camp later --

INT: Oh, really?

VL: -- because we were not on Welfare -- couldn't do it. Only took the loafers -- Welfare parasites, whatever you want to call them, we could not get in because dad was working and -- hard and the only way able to pay taxes on the old farm was logs and maple syrup. We had a small dairy. And then, finally in '39, I got through high school and got a job. I worked hard to study for it, for the New York State Civil Service [03:00] -- working in a

mental institution. Well there was a kid in our -- in my class at high school that got a very high mark in the Civil Service [03:13]. She thought that -- had a big party because she got it -- I never told anybody, let them know that I got a perfect score of 100. And of course, I got the job after they had had a big party celebrating. She didn't appreciate that much. I went to Binghamton, New York in this mental institution, and I found out right quickly that if you went in training -- it was a nursing school also -- to become a nurse, you were still on the payroll. If you're on the payroll, work half a day, go to school half a day. Now outsiders that came in, they'd have to pay for the same training. Well then, that "goodbye dear, I'll be back in a year" came along. Well I knew they [04:00] were going to get me sooner or later so I signed up for the year. Well I was headed home -- I went home and visited -- I was at Fort Belvoir [04:10] training in the combat engineers, was headed home. I stopped in a little town in Montrose, Pennsylvania to get gas. Well nobody came out, so I went in. It had turned cold so I had a big civilian overcoat over my uniform, and they asked me, was I called back. I said, "What do you mean called back?" I knew it was on the radio then was about Pearl Harbor [04:38] and that's why I heard about it.

INT: And that's how you heard about Pearl Harbor. So you had already been in the military for about a year?

VL: Yep.

INT: Prior to that?

VL: Yep.

INT: And this was just basic U.S. Army? You were trained in infantry?

VL: No, no infantry. Combat engineer.

INT: Combat engineer, excuse me.

VL: We went ahead of the infantry to build the bridges so they could get across.

INT: Got you. So you -- so I [05:00] can clarify -- did you enlist or were you drafted?

VL: Well they were going to draft me anyway. They had that song -- "Goodbye dear, I'll be back in a year," and that would meet your obligation. Of course, the ones that were put on reserve, they called them back anyway. But I decided that my year was up, I decided to go.

INT: Got you. And where -- in this year before the war started, where were -- were you stationed at Fort Belvoir [05:30]?

VL: All the time.

INT: Okay.

VL: It was only -- between Fort Belvoir [05:37] -- and I spent probably a year and a half at Walter Reed Medical Center [05:40], not all at one time but intermittently, both as a student and as a teacher. At one time before I went overseas, I was the only enlisted person, what they call general service, I guess in the whole Eastern part of the Third Command [06:00]. Every time they wanted me, my CO would give somebody else the job I had, and they'd take him. But finally they came with name, rank, and serial, and I didn't pay any attention to the rank. Of course then, that was a different mission. The CO didn't know; I was called by a name, not by a title.

INT: [affirmative] Okay.

VL: And then, of course -- it was on toward the end of the war, but then I went over and we were assigned to this -- you may have heard of the 10th Mountain Division [06:37]?

INT: Sure.

VL: Their slogan was "mud, mountain, and mules." And they needed people in addition to the CIA [06:46] -- or OSS [06:47] rather -- they needed veterinarians [06:52] that had had a minimum of three years' service because this 10th Mountain Division [07:00] was up there with a lot of injured animals. And we needed folks that could go -- so they flew us over. Like, we should have been there weeks ago. They just flew us over. Put us right up there.

INT: And so this was later on in the war, though, correct?

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: Okay. And to try to cover things a little bit chronologically --

VL: Yeah.

INT: -- after Pearl Harbor [07:27] you found out that you were in the military for good -- well, not for good for but a little while [laughs].

VL: For the duration. [laughs]

INT: Exactly. What happened after that? Were you still at Fort Belvoir [07:37] at this time?

VL: I spent all my -- I was never at any other base except Walter Reed [07:42] and Fort Belvoir.

INT: Okay.

VL: Now they -- I got in a fight right after basic training and combat engineers. There was a young lieutenant that knew everything -- unfortunately he was a [08:00] distant cousin of mine, and he had a big grizzly first sergeant. And the boys around the barracks would -- at night, they'd harass him or one thing or another. Well I'd just come out of the farm. I wasn't at Binghamton too long, but I was raised on a farm and in the woods, logging, mostly, background. Well I could lick my weight in wildcats. I was very athletic. No

more since I got my back rolled, but -- and tumbling and just very, very -- and I learned from a French person how to protect yourself, to wipe out several people at one time, because he was a little guy. Well that stood me in good. Well I used some of those tricks on this [09:00] big sergeant -- whipped him -- and this lieutenant, the cousin of mine, he got mad as heck at me and says, "You didn't have those damn bars on. Come down here and I'll take you on." And he did, and of course I tied him up so fast he didn't know what had happened. So naturally, he got mad at me. When they shipped out, he put on my service record, where it remained until I was custodian of records and tampered with it years later, but [laughs] said I was too light for heavy duty. We were in a heavy pontoon outfit, if you know what they are, big boats.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: Anyway, so they shipped out. Left me behind. Then I went to veterinary [09:47] hospital, but he -- they landed in Bataan [09:54]. Most of that unit never made it.

INT: They were almost all captured [10:00]?

VL: Oh yeah. All were captured. Few came home.

INT: So this would have actually been before the war broke. This would have been September of 1941 then, to make it to Bataan [10:09] before the war, I guess.

VL: Yes, before the Japs [10:12] took it.

INT: So --

VL: But he saved me by throwing me out of the outfit.

INT: [laughs] Right. So you then remained at Belvoir [10:24] --

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: -- and that's where you started veterinary [10:26] school?

VL: Well I'm saying I got into this veterinary hospital and I did very well there, because being a farm boy and knowing animals -- we trained horses [10:39] and dogs [10:41] and particularly dogs there, the horse -- but we recruited dogs and horses. The horses were mostly trained up at Front Royal [10:54], Virginia. That's where the horse training center.

INT: Okay.

VL: And they would recruit dogs and horses [11:00], and we'd get the dogs [11:01] and they'd get the horses, and it was quite interesting. There were several kinds of dogs. There was the attack dog, the trail dog, the kamikaze dog, and on and on. Now here's something you guys probably didn't know, and I'll deny I ever told you, but the kamikaze dog [11:23] that we trained was usually little Dachshunds or Cocker Spaniel. And there -- here's where Fort Hunt [11:32] came in as I know it.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: We had Germans [11:35] and we had, later, Japanese [11:37]. And these dogs [11:38] would get oriented to the smell. That was very important.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: And we would -- they saved hundreds and hundreds of our troops. They'd be pinned down, both Germany [11:53] and Japan [11:54], particularly Japan -- well, there'd be a pillbox as we call them, it was fortification. You [12:00] couldn't go in. It was -- these little dogs would weasel under the barbed wire, get right up on top of him near the entrance to that pillbox, and then we'd say, "Dog on!" And that dog would have anywhere from five to 15 pound of TNT on him. We called it a kamikaze dog [12:26].

That was never written up. Wouldn't these animal lovers give you hell today?

INT: [laughs] And so these were actually -- they were trained at Fort Belvoir [12:35]?

VL: Yeah. Yeah.

INT: Now, in terms of the dogs [12:38], though, there were -- obviously those weren't being used at Fort Hunt [12:42]. These were more just traditional guard dogs or what not that you were --

VL: Well we recruited dogs. Folks would give us their dogs. The only condition, we wouldn't accept one if he had heartworm because we had no treatment in those days. Then we'd send him home.

INT: Okay. And so [13:00] you were in this training school, this veterinary school at Fort Belvoir [13:06], and how did you come -- you were never actually stationed permanently at Fort Hunt [13:13]. You just -- you visited there?

VL: I was there often.

INT: Okay. Could you talk about that a little bit?

INT: Just one quick clarification. The difference between what happened at Reed and what that function and training was versus Belvoir. Because it may be Reed [13:27] where they were working with the dogs [13:29] and horses [13:29].

INT: When you were at Walter Reed [13:34], you were mentioning some things on the phone. What went on there and what was your role at Walter Reed?

VL: Well the first half was training and the second half instructor. But we had -- now here's something that's a bit unusual, not getting it quite coordinated, but the -- if you know, the Navy had no [14:00] Veterinary Service [14:01] and the Marine Corps was part of that. We had to go down and train, after we were trained -- they used to call it the Horse

Marine and then they called it the Cavalry [14:18] and then they called it the Transportation Corps [14:21]. It was Marines that used animals.

INT: Okay.

VL: We didn't know where in the world they were going so that's --

INT: [inaudible]

VL: I was one of the instructors. We had a variety of animals down at Quantico [14:39] and these Marines were coming, all different classes. We had all the way from the Nicaraguan burro -- mean little rascal. He could kick, bite, and strike all at one time. [laughs] And we had some elephants, camels, we even had the emu [15:00], that big Australian ostrich, as a pack animal. He would pack 150 pounds if he had the right saddle on him.

INT: And this was all at Belvoir [15:10]?

VL: Marines. I was at Walter Reed [15:15] then --

INT: Okay.

VL: -- after I had gone through all the training myself. We had to teach those guys how to take care of all of those animals. They didn't know in the world where they were going and then -- what you going to feed them? We had to teach them feeds and feedings, first aid for those particular animals -- that was part of the veterinarian [15:44] -- to teach these guys. So if they went into the jungle they might have an Australian Emu to carry 150 pounds of ammunition along. Or they could be in Africa and working with camels.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: So we had to cover the whole [16:00] nine yards.

INT: When you were at Walter Reed [16:05], how long were you there, about?

VL: I was about a year and half, two years, off and on.

INT: Okay.

VL: I was permanently stationed at Fort Belvoir [16:14].

INT: Okay.

VL: But I was up there as a student and as an instructor later on.

INT: And was there an area in Walter Reed [16:22] that was just for veterinary [16:24] studies at that time?

VL: Oh, it was all at the medical center. Oh, yes, they had several buildings and the different school buildings and the veterinary section and later the meat inspection section and then finally all of it moved to Chicago.

INT: Oh really.

VL: And then it went down to San Antonio later.

INT: Okay.

VL: While I was there they had at one time a veterinary college [16:53] there.

INT: At Walter Reed [16:55]?

VL: Yes. And also a nurse's college [17:00]. They were both operational but they drifted out and were sent elsewhere.

INT: Okay. I think that's important to differentiate where this veterinary work was being done and at that time there was a veterinary college there. And I think that's how they were tied in. I'm not sure what the role of training animals at Belvoir [17:21] was.

INT: Okay.

INT: And so to be able to differentiate those would be helpful.

VL: To my knowledge there was no training of animals. We did a lot of animal work and had

a large group of animals at Fort Myer [17:35].

INT: Oh, okay.

VL: Had a large -- they still have a few there for certain mammal [phonetic] work for the --

INT: For the Arlington Cemetery [17:44] [phonetic]. Sure.

VL: But at one time there were probably 1,000 horses [17:49] there.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: And we had sick call. Now sick call came from Walter Reed [17:55]. We'd take a truckload of people over, all veterinary [17:59] students [18:00], over to Fort Myer [18:02] for sick call to treat -- because they didn't have any facilities. First aid is all they had at Fort Myer.

INT: Okay. And so of the three places we've been discussing -- Belvoir [18:17], Walter Reed, and Fort Myer -- of those, where were most of the animals that you worked with? Where were most of them at?

VL: Fort Belvoir.

INT: They were at Belvoir?

VL: Yeah.

INT: Okay. Okay.

VL: That was our training center. The animals that were, I'll call it work animals, at Myer [18:33], they were not any particular specialty. We had quite a few mounted troops yet at that time -- Cavalry [18:40] -- but they were -- that was their specific thing. They were not into the research and development. That was at Fort Myer [18:50] and at Front Royal [18:53], Virginia.

INT: Okay. And so Walter Reed [18:57], while it was a training school, a training college

[19:00], you don't remember a great deal of animals being there at Walter Reed?

VL: There were -- to my knowledge, there were a few mounted MPs [19:10] but that was it.

And of course our laboratories were full of experimental laboratory animals. We had a -- this was never written up, either -- a bad accident at Walter Reed [19:25]. We were making encephalitis vaccine and other vaccines --

INT: [affirmative]

VL: -- and most of them are chick embryos, or in eggs. Well, somebody tripped, dropped a tray of eggs. Many of the employees died. They didn't have them under exhaust fans and all of that like they do today. They just had a tray of eggs in an incubator, take them over here and you open them up and make [20:00] the vaccine. That was quite a hush-hush thing, but I think about eight people -- they dropped that tray of -- that was eggs they were going to make vaccine out of, of course.

INT: Were they civilian or military that died?

VL: Military. All military.

INT: And were you physically there when this happened?

VL: I was on another floor, yes.

INT: Oh, okay.

VL: Well that was sealed off in a hurry, wasn't it? Of course, naturally.

INT: Sure, sure.

VL: When we saw what happened.

INT: Sure.

VL: And along with everything else there is humor. They had this veterinary [20:39] clinic there at Walter Reed [20:43] but we didn't have facilities for -- much facilities at all.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: Well they had a certain person would bring his dog [20:53] over there to be wormed every once-in-a-while. Well, those days the worming [21:00] was different. You'd have to -- mostly it was a very strong laxative you gave to the dog and just flushed the worms out. Well old Sarge, head of the lab, he had papers all down. The dog was treated. He went in early in the morning to clean up the mess the dog should have made because it's a high laxative. When he opened the door, the dog went out, and we had these turnstiles on every floor in the hall so you had to have your key to -- security. Well Sarge was bouncing down, "Catch that dog! Catch that dog [21:40]!" and he was jumping right over the turnstiles. Well I was walking up the steps that morning and I saw this little dog -- I'd seen him the night before -- came dashing down, went out on the lawn, and he had to take a crap. Well, when he was through, I put him under my arm and carried him back [22:00]. By that time, there's half a dozen MPs [22:03] and Old Sarge saying, "Catch that dog! Catch that dog!" The dog's name was Fella. FD -- the President's dog.

INT: Oh really?

[laughter]

VL: Yeah.

INT: Was that a little Scottie?

VL: Fella [22:19]. F-E-L-L-A. Fella. Roosevelt's [22:21] personal dog.

INT: Roosevelt had a little Scottie. Was this a Scottie?

VL: Yes, yes. A little Scottie. There's a picture somewhere, probably right around there behind you. I've had a couple of them. [laughs] Anyway. Our favorite dog is Weimaraner. So that was -- I got acquainted, one, with Scotties, and one, the President's

dog [22:40]. Now this is not in chronological order or anything now. My first wife, who died real young of a stroke, she worked eight years in Roosevelt's [22:49] office during -- all through World War II [22:53]. And we got to know the family and all that.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: Now from [23:00] training these Marines -- and we trained the attack dog [23:07] and I told you the demolition dog, we called them the kamikaze dog --

INT: Right.

VL: -- then we had the trail dog. We trained horse [23:19] -- horses were trained at Front Royal [23:23]. They'd bring the horses down from there. Then we would match two dogs and a horse and one man. These --

[dog barking]

Hush! These dogs -- when the man came --

[dog barking]

Look, that's too much noise. I'll have to put her out on the porch I guess. And this is a question that I'll insert here [24:00]. Which branch of the service -- I probably told you -- used the most horses [24:05] and the most dogs [24:06] in World War II [24:08]?

INT: Coast Guard [24:10].

VL: Right. Coast Guard. And they'd come over and we'd always -- hope they'd send us a farm boy but they didn't. They'd have to get acquainted with their two dogs and their horse. And it was estimated that one man, two dogs, could patrol the coast, all up and down the Atlantic coast I guess, from Miami to Newfoundland. It was estimated they were as good as 500 men patrolling. One, the men couldn't smell where the Germans [24:48] came ashore and they would -- those dogs [24:51] would look all in around those

bushes and stones and everywhere. And it just about put a stop to those Germans coming to shore [25:00].

INT: [affirmative] And when you were working in Washington [25:05], were you part of the Veterinary Service [25:08]?

VL: Yep.

INT: Was that -- so you were considered part of the veterinary service.

VL: Veterinary service, exactly.

INT: Did you have a distinctive patch or anything like that for your uniform? Or were you part of, like, the military --

VL: Well, I'm trying to think. Back -- it started in as Third Army. That was just [unintelligible]. It was a blue patch, I think I got some somewhere, with three white [unintelligible]. And then it turned into the Military District of Washington, which still has the same emblem they had back years and years ago. Overseas we had different. We had aftusa, mtusa, and pb [phonetic], prudential-based command.

INT: Okay.

VL: But that was later.

INT: Right. So is Walter Reed [26:02] part of the Military District of Washington [26:03] today? Do you know?

INT: I don't know. I would assume it is.

INT: We could probably find that out, but I'm thinking that this veterinary service [26:08] was part of that Military District of Washington and it's sort of complicated how Belvoir [26:14] fits into this, but he's helping other branches of the service, Marines, Coast Guard [26:20], et cetera, so it's kind of interesting unto itself, that discussion.

INT: And was this -- and does the term "service command" ring a bell with you? Was this part of a certain service command?

VL: Ah, let me think. 1320 --

[dog barking]

Dog, hush. 1320 Service Unit was what Fort Belvoir [26:46] was called at that time.

INT: Oh really? Okay, the group that you were with out of Belvoir.

VL: Well the whole base was that.

INT: Oh, the whole base was the 1320 Service Unit?

VL: Yeah. There were many engineer units there for training [27:00]. We got -- one time at the height of the war our 90-day wonders became six-week wonders. Oh, they just ran them through there like mad. That's another thing that I've had to write up several times. They say that they never used gas in training and every once in a while I'll hear somebody that claims that they had damage from gas -- that they went through the training chambers at Fort Belvoir [27:35]. Well I've written letters and helped them get compensation at the V.A. because I was one of them that put them through those gas chambers [27:45]. All we wanted to do was give them a little sniff so they'd know what mustard, phosgene, or chloropicrin was. And we had Quonset huts and we had windows all along them [28:00]. These guys -- these training were mostly 90-day wonders we called them, these officers, young officers, so that they would know the gas if they could smell it and of course alarm everybody. So they went in there through -- one trip through -- with their gas mask and if they -- we were looking. If somebody in there -- if somebody was having trouble, the mask didn't fit or they got panicky -- we were along these doors -- we'd dash in and grab those individuals and get them out of there in a

hurry. And that was one of my jobs.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: And we got so used to it, we didn't want to put on our masks. We'd just take a deep breath, go in and grab them and bring them out and close the door. And some folks must have been [29:00] more sensitive to it because I got lots of sniffs of mustard, phosgene, -- whole nine yard, little at a time, but as far as I know, it never bothered me. But I guess some folks probably were more sensitive or else they're just trying to get a V.A. benefit because they got a sniff of gas. But they did use it, but that was a no-no and to this day they deny it. But that was part of the basic training.

INT: [affirmative] Now, while you were doing this, did this have anything to do with you being part of the veterinary [29:39] unit, or was this prior to that, or was this just a duty that you had?

VL: It was just sort of -- we were jack of all trades. You had all that engineer training and then chemical warfare training at Walter Reed [29:53] -- that's where we got that -- and then came back to [30:00] duty so to speak. We had -- right after Pearl Harbor [30:07], all gas masks were turned in and shipped out. We had a long period of time we had no gas masks. And then when we got them in, we started training the boys with them.

INT: Did you live on post at Belvoir [30:24]?

VL: Yes, both.

INT: And did you -- what about when you were at Walter Reed [30:30]? Were you living at Belvoir?

VL: Walter Reed. I'd live there.

INT: So you had housing at Walter Reed as well.

VL: Oh yeah. And then later on, after I got married, I lived off base.

INT: Okay. Okay. So during this time period, prior to going overseas, you got married towards the beginning of World War II [30:50].

VL: Yeah.

INT: Okay. All right.

VL: I had to laugh when we wanted -- housing was extremely difficult then [31:00] and they -
- new apartments there in Alexandria not far from -- we apply this -- oh, this landlady --
she was ugly, ugly, ugly. Wanted to know what we did and where we worked. I said,
"Well, I'm there at Belvoir [31:19]," I had a uniform. I said, "My wife works for the
President." "President of what?" Said, "I've got to have a letter." So next day we took
back a letter signed by FDR [31:30] and says, "This is the President of what! Do you
know what the United States is?"

[laughter]

We got the apartment.

[laughter]

INT: Well we're at about a half hour. I'm going to flip this tape real quick here because we're
out and then we'll just keep on going.

[End of Tape 2A]

[Beginning of Tape 2B]

INT: So it was kind of a discussion amongst ourselves, as kind of a side-bar discussion. It's
beyond the scope of 1142 [00:08] --

INT: Sure, sure.

INT: But I wonder if it would be interesting for Dan at some point to see if there are National

Archive records regarding what, actually, Walter Reed [00:16] did during World War II [00:17] because it sounds very multi-faceted.

INT: It certainly does.

INT: Chemical warfare, biological warfare, training of veterinary service [00:25] folks, plus medical corps.

VL: Dentists, surgeons, all categories. And this is aside; it was pitiful. They would come in, these guys in Reserve or Guard, some of them were older men, they didn't know how to put a uniform on, they didn't know how to put the things -- I spent so much time -- [laughs] we got those guys, marching them back and forth to school and showing them how to wear a uniform. There were [01:00] only two of us that were training there in the veterinary service [01:06] -- two enlisted men that is -- that were both in before Pearl Harbor [01:12]. We trained an awful lot of other enlisted people coming through. I ran through a picture -- I've got lots of pictures of that -- names on them and all. I don't have them right now. I happened to find you that one but --

INT: And you were an enlisted man at this point still?

VL: Always was.

INT: Oh. You were always enlisted.

VL: Always was.

INT: Okay.

VL: Of course in the OSS [01:39] we had civilians, enlisted, we had officers, didn't make any difference. It was the individual.

INT: [affirmative] Okay.

VL: Later I was just a tech sergeant. Later I turned down a Lieutenant Colonel's rating and

everybody just said I had rocks in my head [02:00]. [negative] I knew too much about what was going on. They'd have kept me until probably just before my 20 years and then dumped -- had to waive my disability, which I got a pretty heavy disability.

INT: So you ended up staying in the service for 20 years or so?

VL: Yeah.

INT: Wow.

INT: One thing, just so you know. Logistically, it's 10:00. We might shift to 1142 [02:30].

INT: That's where I was headed, yes.

VL: Okay.

INT: Exactly what I was going to do in this other half of the tape.

VL: You [unintelligible] hour.

INT: Super. Just as Vincent suggested, I wanted to go ahead and start talking. Now we've talked for a little bit about your work at Belvoir [02:44] and Walter Reed [02:46]; how did you first come to find out about this military post at Fort Hunt [02:43]?

VL: Well, they had animals. We had to service them. They'd bring them there and they had a sick animal, we'd go over there [03:00].

INT: And what animals did they have there?

VL: Horses [03:04] and dogs [03:05].

INT: Okay. And can you talk a little bit about what you know they might have been used for there?

VL: Oh, yes. Now that is the most secure place I ever saw. Well, I guess some of the Germans [03:17], what's left of them when I saw them. They had five fences around Fort Hunt [03:21]. Always [unintelligible] the number you guys have on it. The outside fence

was being patrolled by jeeps, MPs [03:35] in jeeps, and they were almost -- kept the one in front of them in sight. Then there was a huge electric fence, and I'm trying to get the sequence. I think that was the one that had a whole bunch of rather vicious dogs [04:00].

Then they had -- there were five layers of fences.

INT: And were these -- were they close to one another?

VL: There was a pretty good-sized gap. I would say there probably -- 150 feet between these fences.

INT: Okay.

VL: And then the outer one just patrolled by GIs, by MPs [04:29], just on foot. I always wondered why they had such darn security there. And when you entered it, you went through five different gates, the same gates that, of course, going through those different fences.

INT: Were you ever officially briefed as to what was going on at Fort Hunt [04:53]?

VL: Only partially.

INT: And did you figure the rest out yourself or was it only recently [05:00] --

VL: Well, I had a --

[dog barking]

Darn that dog -- a Major Steele [05:07] [phonetic] was the commandant officer of the establishment. He was a distant relative of mine and he was a leftover from World War I. He was getting up in age. He was a crusty old devil. And, to give you an example, I would be on weekend duty at Fort Belvoir [05:33] veterinary [05:34] hospital.

Somebody had to be on duty all the time -- emergency. Well the nights, or the weekends, I was on duty -- I caught it about every three weeks, and it happened to be the same time

that he got weekend duty at Fort Hunt [05:51]. Hell, he was there by himself more or less and he would call me [06:00]. He'd say, "Got a sick horse [06:03], Loomis. Get over here right now." I'd say, "What's wrong with the horse?" Hell, he was a man probably 55, 60 then. I was just a kid. I said, "Some of the veterinarians [06:16] are not going to be back until Monday morning." I says, "Isn't there something?" I said, "You know more about horses than I do." And he would argue and argue with me and then he would finally tell me, "There's not a damn thing wrong with that horse [06:32] except a case of beer, a dozen hamburgers, and a bunch of pretzels wouldn't cure. Now go down to PX, get them, and get your ass over here." [laughs] So I would go get the supplies and he was out already, out at the first gate, and of course being the CO, we just went on in through. And he was lonely. He wanted somebody to talk with. And [07:00] he also wanted his beer and hamburgers. And that's when we had the opportunity to go through and explore the place where the documents were.

INT: Okay.

VL: You see the British flew their Magna Carta [07:17] and other priceless papers over and they were buried there -- or they had a big library underground thing, it was dehumidifiers and all -- we had the Magna Carta [07:30] and we had our Constitution [07:32] and the Bill of Rights [07:33] and all those things were down in there in these dehumidified places. So old Major Steele [07:40] and I, we'd go down in there and explore around and, hell, there is nothing there but us in that section and read the things and, particularly, as I told him, George Washington's diary [07:52]. That'll never be printed.

INT: No.

VL: That was -- so we'd spend the night [08:00] perusing through the things, and there was an education there.

INT: Were there guards outside of where these documents were underground?

VL: No.

[phone ringing]

Is that our phone or his? She'll get it if it's -- oh, there. The --

[dog barking]

No! There were those five layers of security outside. I don't think any of the guards were [unintelligible] getting there. Looking back, as it was now, looking back, I'm sure that none of the guards had top security clearance.

INT: Okay.

VL: They were just GIs out there on the guard.

INT: Do you know if Major Steele [08:50] had top security clearance?

VL: [laughs] I know he had to have or he wouldn't have that position.

INT: [affirmative] So, again [09:00], so you -- was this just on one occasion or on multiple times that you went down -- you went into where these archives were --

VL: Oh, at least half a dozen times.

INT: [affirmative] Can you describe that area? You mentioned that there were dehumidifiers running.

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: Can you remember anything else about it?

VL: We went down some stairs, a lower level, partly it had been excavated and partly it was an old cave or cavern, whatever you want to call it. And it was cleaned up, naturally, and

they had these shelves and tables. These dehumidifiers going like mad because they didn't want any moisture getting on these documents [09:44]. At that time we didn't know -- maybe the Germans [09:47] would make a raid on Washington [09:49].

INT: Sure.

VL: And they were bombing the heck out of England so they sent theirs --

INT: So that was your impression, that they were there to protect the documents?

VL: Oh sure [10:00]! No question on that at all. They were there for storage and protection.

INT: Do you remember if there was just one of these buildings or numerous -- these underground structures that had the documents [10:11].

VL: I don't know. I never went but in that one --

INT: The one, okay.

VL: -- where this archives were. We went down a flight of stairs --

INT: Okay.

VL: -- and we were -- as I say, in that section there were several established activities going on there, but that was the only one that --

INT: Was the entire structure underground or was there an above-ground component?

VL: There were some buildings above ground but these were --

INT: [inaudible] See if that looks familiar.

INT: Sure. Go for it.

INT: Do these photographs look familiar at all?

VL: No. I never had an aerial view [11:00].

INT: Sure. Yeah, that's from the air, obviously.

VL: Yeah. Why it's just -- it's rolled right off -- just before you got to Mount Vernon [11:10],

went up there a little ways, and there was this -- it was all in the woods. And the main gate and where all these fences around it. And where I went in was where -- just the regular building and lots of stuff there. And then the entrance to the things went down stairs where all these dehumidifiers -- where those records were.

INT: Do you remember if the records were -- were they in boxes? Were they just loose, laying around?

VL: Well, there were a lot of big tables down there. It was like a regular library. There were shelves and this big library table -- it wasn't too big, about the size of this carpet -- and [12:00] chairs all around it. That's where we'd put them on there and read them. Study them.

INT: Do you remember if it was just documents or do you remember if there were other things down there?

VL: I never saw anything --

INT: Photographs or film?

VL: I don't recall anything but papers.

INT: Okay. Okay.

INT: Were there multiple rooms or was there one big room?

VL: One big room. There were several side rooms, yes, and I never bothered -- he brought out the good stuff to read [laughs].

INT: Were there windows?

VL: It was underground.

INT: Was there lighting? What type of lighting? Do you remember?

VL: As far as I know it was just ordinary electric lights.

INT: On the ceiling or standing, what, lamps --

VL: No, they were on the ceiling if I recall correctly.

INT: Do you remember, was there anybody else that was ever down there or was it just the two of you?

VL: Just the two of us.

INT: So there was --

VL: We were on weekend duty, reluctantly.

INT: So no [13:00] -- there was no librarian or anybody stationed down there, or anybody from the National Archives.

VL: No, no. Nobody there. And he had week --

INT: Ever have a key to get in?

VL: He had weekend duty and I had weekend duty and entertained ourselves by reading George Washington's [13:23] library.

INT: Did Major Steele [13:27] have a key that allowed him in or do you know if these buildings were even locked? Or could you just walk on in without a key?

VL: I don't recall that part. So he would have had a key. He was the CO of the place and he lived in a big brick home, a nice one, over there at Fort Belvoir [13:44] where his residence was.

INT: Sure.

VL: And there were three people. I guess they rotated -- in charge on weekends and when he got stuck on weekend duty, there were an awful lot of communications [14:00] and telephone stuff all over the place, but --

INT: First name of Steele [14:05]?

INT: First name of Major Steele?

VL: I don't remember now. We just called him Major Steele.

INT: Do you recall -- so he was just a -- he was normally stationed at Belvoir [14:17] and he would just travel up to Fort Hunt [14:19] --

VL: Right.

INT: -- once a month, a couple times a month, something like that --

VL: For what?

INT: -- for the weekends.

VL: Yeah, he was staying at Fort Belvoir and he had another damn Scottie dog [14:33]. He came over to get it vaccinated once a year at the veterinary [14:38] clinic and when we got through with him we threw him out and he'd go home. He knew the base. This one day, he was vaccinated, I was holding him. Old Sergeant Grover Cleveland Boyle [14:55] [phonetic], what a name, gave the dog his rabies vaccine and whatever [15:00]. I put him down. The door was open so he could go home and he turned around, that dog [15:08] looked at me and I says, "I'm not the one that stuck you. He did." And that damn little Scottie went over and grabbed him by the leg and shook him and gave him an awful bite and then took off. [laughs] And Old Sarge accused me of sicking that dog on his leg [laughs].

INT: So when you were at Fort Hunt [15:30] were you ever informed or did you ever figure out what was actually going on --

VL: Nope.

INT: -- besides the National Archives documents [15:40].

VL: Nope.

INT: Did you know what else was happening there?

VL: Well I knew they had some prisoners [15:44] there in one of the other buildings and we would bring them over to our dog [15:51] training or we would have their clothes and one of our fellows would put them on to train the dogs the smell of the Germans [16:00] and the smell of the Japs [16:03]. Sometimes we'd bring the prisoners [16:08] themselves but usually one of our fellows would dress up in their clothes because we had to have that smell for dogs [16:17] that were training for the Coast Guard [16:18].

INT: Would this be done -- this training with the uniforms -- would this be done at Fort Hunt [16:27] or down at Fort Belvoir [16:28]?

VL: Done at Belvoir. That was all done at Belvoir.

INT: But do you know if the uniforms came from Fort Hunt --

VL: Yeah.

INT: -- or could they have come from other prison camps.

VL: They could have, but I know some of them, anyway, came from Hunt.

INT: Okay.

VL: I don't know -- may have gotten them -- we didn't ask any questions. They'd come in in uniform and we'd have to take a -- check and see whether it was a cooperative prisoner [16:52] or one of our guys dressed up in that uniform. We'd rather have one that was one of them [17:00] because they'd be more true, real smell.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: And that was vital for those Coast Guard [17:07] boys -- train their dogs [17:10] for that smell.

INT: When you were at Fort Hunt [17:16] did you ever see prisoners [17:17] there at Fort

Hunt?

VL: I never did. They were in another area.

INT: Another area? Okay.

VL: No, I didn't. No, I never saw them. All it was -- and that's where the headquarters there at Hunt [17:28], and where the main office, and where the commandant officer, which was Major Steele [17:33], and below his office is where these archives [17:37] were kept.

INT: Okay. So these -- so you think these archives -- they were actually quite close, or underneath his office?

VL: Basically.

INT: Okay. So it wasn't another part of the Fort, it was --

VL: Oh, no, no. It was right there.

INT: It was right there near his office.

VL: Right there in that headquarters room, or the main office [18:00].

INT: Okay.

VL: No, I didn't go any further than that main office and down there.

INT: Okay.

INT: You talk about going down the stairs. Were these internal stairs --

VL: Yep.

INT: -- or an external stairs?

VL: Internal.

INT: They were internal.

VL: Yep. Just like going down your basement here from inside --

INT: Oh, really. So almost like -- it was like the basement of a building or something?

VL: Could well have been.

INT: Okay.

VL: Could well have been because dehumidifiers and air conditioners were brand new, just in the experimental stage at that time and it was quite interesting, humming away and pumping water out of that basement.

INT: [affirmative] From what you remember of your times at Fort Hunt [18:40], do you remember -- it was a big post? If it was it small? Do you remember there being lots of buildings or just -- I realize you didn't go all over the entire post.

VL: It was very -- relatively small. And nobody supposedly knew where it was. And it was up [19:00] there in the woods just a short distance from Mount Vernon [19:04].

INT: And can you elaborate on that a bit in terms of the surrounding. You mentioned the woods, so there were woods pretty much all the way around?

VL: Yes. Yes. And well, when you left Fort Belvoir [19:16] going back toward Washington [19:19], went down there and -- unless you had a [unintelligible] bridge to go across, which I played with sometimes -- make a right hand turn, go toward Mount Vernon [19:30], which is probably not very far. Might be not over two miles at most, probably less than that. And just before you got to Mount Vernon, [19:47] there was this little road that went off to the left up there and up there just a little ways is where Fort Hunt [19:54] was.

INT: Okay.

VL: Does that fit the description today? Does that --

INT: Yeah, no, that's very -- your [20:00] distances are just about right on. And do you remember from Fort Hunt [20:05], could you see the river or was there a line of woods

between the Fort and the river?

VL: Woods. Couldn't see anything. You got up in there, you were in the woods.

INT: And so, likewise, from the road, could you see anything from the Fort, or just a road going to the Fort?

VL: No. You made the left hand turn just before you got to Mount Vernon [20:27] and this is just a dirt road then and went up into the woods. You couldn't see nothing from the highway.

INT: [affirmative] If you had to guess, about how many times do you think you went to Fort Hunt [20:40] to go up and meet with Major Steele [20:44]? Just a ballpark idea.

VL: About three was all, but it was very interesting. See I was [unintelligible] around all over myself. I wasn't always there but because he knew me [21:00], and I knew him, why --

INT: Sure.

VL: -- he wanted his beer and his pretzels and his hamburgers because as far as I know there was nothing there in that particular building we were in.

INT: Okay.

VL: He was there until the new relief came in the morning and he was there by himself and he was lonely and he just wanted to share some of those treasures that were --

INT: Sure. When you went to Fort Hunt [21:30] obviously it was under the pretense of, "Oh, come on up. Take care of the animals." Would you ever actually take care of animals there at Fort Hunt or would you just hang --

VL: Both. Both.

INT: Oh, you would take care of them sometimes?

VL: There were -- once in a while for routine treatment. It was just a short distance. They

just -- the mounted troops. These were mounted MPs [21:54]. They'd bring their animals over because they had the large stable of mounted MPs [22:00] were at Fort Belvoir [22:04]. They'd ride these animals back to do the patrol work at Fort Hunt [22:10].

INT: Oh, really.

VL: Yeah.

INT: Now, do you remember if there were stables at Fort Hunt as well?

VL: I never saw any.

INT: Okay.

VL: The horses were going back and forth -- the mounted MP -- all the time.

INT: Okay. If you had to, again, venture a wild guess about how -- you mentioned the dogs [22:34] that were being used to patrol these fence lines. Any idea how many dogs would have been at Fort Hunt [22:42] at any given time? Ten, 100?

VL: I would probably say there were at least 50. And there were Dobermans and real -- they were all attack dogs. The meanest kind.

INT: And so do you know -- were there kennels there [23:00]?

VL: Oh they were -- they stayed there. They --

INT: So the horses [23:05] -- they were going back to Belvoir [23:06] --

VL: They went back to the stables over at Belvoir.

INT: Okay. But the dogs --

VL: And --

INT: -- were permanently --

VL: We didn't have to go out on the road. We had a trail along the road so animals didn't

have to go out on the highway except from -- I'll call it Mount Vernon [23:23], or the driveway that went to Hunt [23:26] -- down there just a ways and then they had a trail where the horses went. But the horses were housed at Fort Belvoir [23:35].

INT: Okay. All right.

VL: On a side thing, it was interesting, they would have buses and people would come in out of Washington [23:47] to go to visit Fort -- Mount Vernon [23:50].

INT: Okay.

VL: And the lady in charge of that -- they'd have traffic checks. And she asked me if by any chance [24:00] that some of these boys -- these mounted MPs [24:04] would like to make a little money by directing traffic on weekends when all the visitors were there. So I asked some of them and I think they gave them -- that was big money then -- \$10 for the weekend. And the Provost Marshall, old Jewish guy, forget his first name -- Vittenbender [phonetic], from up in Hazelton, Pennsylvania -- because in the veterinary [24:36] unit he and I got along real well -- I said, "These guys would like to maybe pick up a few bucks." And he said, "Sure." He let them, gave them the okay to -- weekend if they wanted to go over there and direct traffic. Well this one fellow who was a very good friend of mine, don't know what came of him now, but his name was -- from over there in Lancaster, Pennsylvania [25:00]. His name was Sherk, Jake Sherk [25:02] [phonetic]. Well a lot of the Amish people had not good nutrition; they were bow-legged as all heck. Well Jake was there and with one of the mounted MPs [25:17] and this car unloaded several girls. And during wartime, the females, 21 to one male in the District in Washington [25:28], D.C. Gosh, they're all gone. You [unintelligible] safe to walk through town alone. [laughs] Anyhow. So here he was and he had those riding boots

and his bow-legs were exaggerated and these three or four girls came down the line and says, "Oh, that fella's got to be from Texas. He's been riding horses [25:54]. See how bow-legged he is?" [laughs] And it embarrassed him. He'd never go back again.

[laughs] [26:00] Just one of those side things you bump into.

INT: Sure. We've got maybe three or four minutes of tape left before we're going to have to change out. Any other questions specifically about Fort Hunt [26:16] at this point?

INT: You say that they had Dobermans at Fort Hunt? They were the more aggressive dogs [26:22]?

VL: They and German Shepherds mostly what we used.

INT: Okay. You trained the dogs but did you have to train the handlers to work with the dogs as well?

VL: Oh, yeah. They were expert trainers that trained the dogs [26:37]. I personally didn't train the dogs. I was with them all the time. I saw what was going on. My job was to patch up the dogs if they got hurt.

INT: Did you ever have to go to 1142 [26:49], or Fort Hunt, for any injured animals?

VL: They brought them over.

INT: They brought them over, okay.

VL: The dogs. If had one they'd bring them over [27:00].

INT: Just a quick follow-up on the building that you went and visited Major Steele [27:04] at, you say that was very near the front of the Camp, it wasn't too far back in. And was it, like, a residence-style building or was it --

VL: No, it was sort of like a store, a commercial, flat-roofed commercial -- it may not even be there anymore as far as I know.

INT: Right. I see they tore down quite a few of the buildings, most of them. There's only a very small number left.

INT: So you say it was kind of like a commercial building?

VL: Yeah. You know, like a flat roof, like a grocery store. I don't think it was even two-story. It could have been. Just a nondescript --

INT: Above the surface, below the surface?

VL: Above the surface and of course this basement was underneath it. If they tore things down and [28:00] changed it, I wouldn't recognize anything probably.

[dog barking]

INT: Yeah, actually they tore down [inaudible].

VL: So I got a mental picture of what it was.

INT: Sure, sure.

VL: You go through all those gates, security, and then here's this building and that was a flat-roofed building. I don't think it was two-story, it was not very high, and then you go into this foyer and then the office that was the headquarters of the place. And then in, behind, go in through that reception room or headquarters room and go down the stairs and that's where the archives [28:50] --

INT: Were there any other offices or activities in that building or was that just where the commanding officer was stationed?

VL: That's basically what it was. Just --

INT: Do you recall, was that his [29:00] office or did he also live and sleep in that building as well?

VL: No, he lived -- he had the home over at Fort Belvoir [29:08].

INT: Okay, so this was just --

VL: He commuted. That was just his office. Commanding Officer's office.

INT: Oh, that was just the office.

VL: Yes.

INT: Okay. Got you. Okay.

VL: And from there, we went down these stairs into the -- call it a basement or whatever it was.

INT: Do you remember, was there just the one entrance to Fort Hunt [29:29]? Do you remember if there were any other entrances or gates?

VL: That I don't know. It could have been if you'd gone further on when you went up that dirt road. That was the first entrance.

INT: Okay.

VL: I doubt if there were others. They may have been -- I think those fences went all the way around the whole complex if I remember.

INT: Okay. And were these fences -- did you go through all of them immediately? They were all right there [30:00] at the main entrance? They were all close together?

VL: There were -- all the gates through each fence, so yeah. To get in there you almost had to have somebody from the inside to come out, like he did, come out, meet you, escort you in and out.

INT: The description of the gate, was there like a --

INT: Was there, like, a guard tower right there at the entrance?

VL: I never saw a guard tower.

INT: Okay. Was there a -- were there guards just standing there or was there a physical gate or

an arm or something that would come down?

VL: These gates were rather complex and keys and [unintelligible] on them, open them.

Now, when you went through these different layers, they had -- hinged gates would let you in because you wouldn't want any of the dogs [30:59], for example, getting out

[31:00]. So those were swung back to close it. It narrowed down so they would close.

And then you'd go through it and they would open up again. That was the type of -- and lots of barbed wire. No end to barbed wire in all those.

INT: Okay.

VL: And the only fence I forgot to mention were the electric fence.

INT: [affirmative] But there was a swing gate that needed to close so the dogs didn't get out.

Were the dogs running free?

VL: Oh, yeah, in their layer of fences.

INT: Between their fences? So there was a row of two fences that the dogs [31:37] patrolled, ran free?

VL: Oh, they were free in there, yeah. But now when you went through, to get through, you'd have to close the gate so the dogs wouldn't get out, then you went through, and then they'd open it up again. There's a whole series of heavy, metal gates.

INT: Okay. We'll have to come back to that because I think [32:00] the tape is out right now.

[End of Tape 2B]

[Beginning of Tape 3A]

INT: Today is January 24th, 2008. This is the second in a series of interviews with Dr. Vader Loomis here at his home in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. This is an interview as part of the Fort Hunt Oral History Project. This is Brandon Bies with the National Park Service,

also joined today by Vincent Santucci and Matthew Virta, also of the National Park Service and by our volunteer, Mr. Daniel Gross. And with that, Dr. Loomis, we'll get just get right back in and I guess I'll just -- to anybody else, any other Fort Hunt [00:45]-specific, related questions before we move on.

INT: Just some clarification. You mentioned that there was a gate that swung open and closed and the reason that it was there is to keep the dogs [00:57] that were guarding between two layers of [01:00] fence from going out of the compound.

VL: [affirmative]

INT: Was there also a gate on the inside fence so that the dogs wouldn't run into the camp and run free?

VL: Oh, yeah. It was a double gate.

INT: Double gate.

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: So there were dogs that were freely running --

VL: All the time.

INT: Were these the aggressive dogs [01:17]? The Dobermans?

VL: Very much so.

INT: Okay.

VL: They're what's called attack dogs.

INT: Okay, all right. And is that typical, say, of a prisoner [01:26] compound, that they would have a layer that the dogs would protect? Okay. And did you observe the dogs working in these --

VL: Sure.

INT: Did they ever use dogs where there was an MP [01:39] that walking with a dog on a leash?

VL: I've seen that, but not too much.

INT: Okay. Did you ever hear rumor of any instance where the dogs [01:49] actually had to be employed to try to restrain a prisoner [01:57] who was trying to get away?

VL: No, I hadn't that [02:00], but we got a lot of reports back from the Coast Guard [02:03] when they had nabbed the ones coming ashore.

INT: Oh, okay. That would be interesting to talk about sometime. Anything else relative to that fence?

INT: No, I think we've covered it fairly well. We just -- anything else related to the Archives [02:20] or anything? So, again, to summarize, you went up to Fort Hunt [02:24] about maybe three times or so, and can you give us a rough idea in terms of timeframe? Any idea what year this might have been? This was before you joined the 10th Mountain Division [02:35]. Before you were away with the 10th Mountain Division.

VL: Oh, yes, yes. These were -- I would say this was probably in '42, I'm just guesstimating now.

INT: Sure. So fairly early on in the war.

VL: Yes, yes.

INT: Okay. Well, with that [03:00], just tell us a little more about your role. You continued your -- we mentioned a little bit before, your work at Belvoir [03:09], Walter Reed [03:10], and Fort Myer [03:11]. Did this pretty much continue, as you explained it already, up until you left the United States to go overseas?

VL: Yeah, pretty much.

INT: Okay. Did you -- and again, you've had these conversations with Vince in the past. You mentioned that you were, in one way or another, you were involved with the OSS

[03:33]?

VL: Oh, yeah. I didn't know it at that time.

INT: Okay.

VL: Oh yeah. They never -- some guys never knew they were in it; they were stuck in it.

INT: And so how so? Did you not know until after World War II [03:46]?

VL: Well, I knew when I was in it. I had a terrific background in it. My [04:00] -- well, we had people in front of our apartment, guards, 24-hours a day because my wife worked in Roosevelt's [04:10] office. And there was an old girlfriend of mine who -- they both -- we knew each other, she was the maid of honor when I got married, and she was head of the teletype down at, what's now at National -- Reagan Airport. That's where the headquarters for communications was. And her husband -- she got married later -- was radio expert, supposedly working for TWA, but he was also one of us. Well, we each had a number [05:00]. When I went overseas, I tried to get to a teletype or a radio, if possible, once a day. And you know how those old -- teletypes come in a strip of paper and then you'd tear them out --

INT: Okay.

VL: -- for your message and then there might be half a dozen more and then your -- would come out. Well, I had to send messages, if possible, every day. Well she, this personal friend of ours, was the one who received them. Well, she could point, let the family know, right on the map, right where that message came from when my message came through.

INT: [affirmative] So these were messages you were sending from overseas.

VL: Yes. And I was receiving them, too, but the ones that were going out, she knew exactly where that station was. And [06:00] another thing that I didn't realize how they were doing it until later; I got my mail usually within two days, and the average mail delivery was six weeks. And I found out later that mine came over in diplomatic pouches. And then it was taken to the nearest place and then a courier sent it out to me. And if somebody had -- and this is a rather informal thing, but it made a man very happy. He didn't know how I got the results so quickly and I wasn't about to tell him, but he was one of our best veterinary [06:54] -- he was sick. And come find out -- I finally found out what was wrong [07:00] with him. He was a snuff dipper and the PX didn't carry snuff. And there he was addicted to the damn stuff. I tried it once and it made me vomit, so I -- that was it. [laughs] Anyway he told me what he wanted and so I sent a message that I wanted a tube of snuff. Came in a round tube of about a dozen tin cans of it. And old boy's name was Dundee [07:30] [phonetic]. Little Irishman. Good worker. I called him into the office. Oh, he was the happiest expression I've ever saw on anybody's face. [laughs] I gave him that, he said, "How'd you get it?" I said, "Well, I just found a place - local store I found some." Of course that was a fib, but they would give me any damn thing I wanted or needed.

INT: Do you know why that was [08:00]? Do you think it was because you were in the OSS [08:02]?

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: And so what sort of roles were you playing? What were you doing that would be classified as part of the OSS?

VL: Well, my job was to capture those SS [08:17] boys, all that we could. That was the mission. First you had to find them. A lot of them got by and would go to Argentina, Uruguay; I guess some of them are still there yet. There's lots of ways of catching them. Most of the ones that we got, their own people turned them in. See, they hated them worse than we did. Any country that Germany [08:43] took over -- the Czechs, the Poles, the Hungarians -- they jammed them in the Army. And then when the SS [08:51] troops first wanted to be pretending to be a regular German, [speaks German], or GI, he'd find a guy that was about his size, kill him, and take [09:00] his uniform. I mean that was SOP with the Germans. I'll give you an example of one case. This Czech came to me. He said his best buddy was missing. This was in a POW [09:18] cage. Along toward the end of the war, we probably had around 500 in there. They had something to eat, they were happy. They weren't going anywhere. We didn't have to pay much attention to them except feed them. And he said that his friend was missing but somebody was claiming to be him. Said, "What do you do?" He'd get behind him in the mess line, and if it was a fellow that he was suspicious of, he'd fumble and drop his mess kit. Well, passing out chow that day, two big husky MPs [09:53] were the one. Of course they didn't have any identity on them, and he dropped his mess [10:00] kit. And that SS [10:02] trooper, he turned around quick-like and was cussing him out, being stupid and all that. Well, while he was doing that, these two MPs went around where -- the buffet or the counter where they're feeding them and they grabbed him. And the first thing he did -- a nightstick went into his mouth, got -- reached, got that cyanide capsule out. Those boys would not be taken alive. They'd bite that cyanide capsule.

INT: And so, again, this you're referring to -- this would have been after the war had ended?

VL: No. The latter part of it.

INT: Latter part of it?

VL: Latter part of it. When they're escaping.

INT: And just to keep with the chronological, there's just a couple of things still in Washington [10:55] we need to talk about before he goes over Italy [10:57]. There's some really interesting things from Italy, but more [11:00] tied to 1142 [11:01].

INT: Okay.

INT: So discussions that we had on the phone, you had talked about this OSS [11:08] communications center and you had said at one point maybe it was the old Hoover airport, but then after you thought about it, it may have been the site which is now part of the Reagan airport. There was an OSS [11:21] communications center there?

VL: It was in the old National airport. It was not -- the Hoover airport at that time had been closed and they were beginning to construct the Pentagon [11:35] building.

INT: Okay.

VL: And this was at National.

INT: Okay. And this was before the airport was built? The old National airport was built?

VL: Oh, no, it had been built.

INT: It had been built.

INT: That airport was there actually before World War II [11:49] even started.

VL: Yes.

INT: So at this locality you're saying that there was a secret OSS [11:55] communications center.

VL: Commuters headquarters were at the National airport [12:00].

INT: Okay.

VL: Upstairs.

INT: That was what Dr. Chambers wanted to clarify. He has a clear recollection of there being a communications for OSS [12:10] at this locality.

VL: That's where they were located.

INT: And then, even though it was unclear, there's no defining moment, that you had made the comment about Donovan [12:23] and you said that you were "shanghaied" into the OSS [12:27].

VL: [affirmative]

INT: What did you mean by that?

VL: I didn't volunteer. There were three kind of people in the OSS [12:36]. They liked -- some gung-ho, wanted to go out there, and win the war all by himself. Oh, they loved those guys. And then there's some that had some special talent. He could take it or leave it. Now the OSS [12:55] didn't discriminate between civilian and military. He could be any grade [13:00] military or any civilian. And then there's the ones that I say got shanghaied. They just put you in it, period. And because my wife was in Roosevelt's [13:17] office and she was working with -- started in the secret stuff working with Operation Shangri-La [13:28]. Why, her kid brother and me, we were shanghaied into the OSS [13:39]. They figure we may know something and so that was sort of a way to forcefully make us keep our mouths shut for 60 years.

INT: So the question, in talking with Dr. Chambers, is that when you left the United States to go to Europe, were you [14:00] going to Europe as part of the U.S. Army, or were you going to Europe as part of the OSS [14:05], and who were you reporting to at that point?

VL: I was in a veterinary unit when the 10th Mountain Division [14:12] -- that was my cover at the time -- had a lot of animals along toward -- in the "mud, mountain, and mules" is the slogan. And they needed more veterinary [14:25] facilities, like, yesterday. And they needed it so badly they flew us over, the whole outfit. And we were moved right up to the front immediately. And that was -- the last one in those veterinary [14:46] units just passed away a couple of months ago, the one that I kept in touch with.

INT: So I'll let Brandon take over from here, but it's confusing because he seemed to have responsibilities both in veterinary [15:00] service and in OSS [15:03] at this time.

VL: Yes, I wore two hats all the time.

INT: So at this time, you were working with the veterinary units with 10th Mountain [15:11] but you were also kind of keeping an eye out for these SS [15:15] men?

VL: I wasn't at the veterinary [15:18] unit very much, only my commanding officer -- that was my cover. Even though I was -- fit in very well, that was my cover. And I wasn't there very often. The guys thought I was goofing off and all of that. Only the CO knew what I was doing, but I would try, when I was gone for a while, try my best to find a post office if possible. And that would make them all happy if I could bring the mail or I would find a PX if possible -- we had -- some of them were on trucks or semis [16:00], PX travel, and I'd get all, probably, 10, 12 or more, all the [unintelligible] you could hold on that 3.2 Hogsfeld [phonetic] better known as 3-2 beer -- that's all we had to drink -- and I'd load it up, take it back; that made the boys happy. So I kept in good friends with them. And did I tell one of you about how we got in trouble with the IG office on cooling our beer? That was funny. Okay. I got back, Jeep -- all the beer in cans -- they took it all out -- the guys there, this veterinary unit [16:43] -- shook it all out on the

pavement, went to their trucks, got the CO2 fire extinguisher, instant cold beer.

[laughter]

Well, somebody wondered why they were running out of [17:00] -- having their fire extinguishers recharged so often. And I had contacts and I said, "We're going to have an IG inspection." So I got the first sergeant and I says -- we had a wrecked truck and we kept it because it was hard to get parts, and this was wrecked, so we needed a part, and it would fit one of them, so we'd go salvage it. I said, "Well, that is about 20 feet or so further from the building. I think we could torch it without worrying about the building." So we did. And when the inspector came, "Why are you using so many fire extinguishers, you?" I said, "Well, we had a fire here. It was kind of close to the building and everybody went to their truck and put that fire out." Okay, that was all right. They bought it [18:00].

[laughter]

INT: So about long were you overseas for? And was most of your overseas time in Italy [18:08], or was it in other locations?

VL: Well they gave us a quick trip checking on some things. There were five of us. I don't remember who the other guys were. We landed at Casablanca. We went all the way over to Egypt and then we came back to Tunis, and then we went from Tunis -- we flew all the time. We didn't -- we were spoiled. We got our supplies in -- oh, what's the name of the place anyway, just north of the south, just there in Naples, just north of Naples. They had all these supplies that had gotten [19:00] there. I don't know how they got there, whether they flew them. There were these five veterinary units [19:07]. The 10th Mountain [19:09] had their own unit but they were snowed under. So we loaded them in trucks and

we headed north. Immediately. The Rome-Arno [19:21] was still winding it up and then we moved fast on the North Apennines Mountains; that was a -- down to the Po Valley and that was when it was coming to an end in a hurry.

INT: Okay.

VL: It was a -- the Germans [19:42] were giving up like mad. There's a picture of the Germans marching there on that one. But one way we'd identify them was if you saw a bunch of POWs [19:54] coming down the street, they were giving up like mad, and you [20:00] saw one -- none of the SS [20:03] boys would admit they were in there of course. They would have a regular uniform on. If you found one that was real bossy and telling the others off all the time, real arrogant rascal, you had one.

INT: Then he was SS [20:21].

VL: Nine times out of 10 you had one.

INT: So if you found someone from the SS [20:26] what would you do? Would you turn him over to somebody else?

VL: We would have to wait until the time was right to nab him. Just keep an eye on him until the time was right like that instance there in the chow line.

INT: Did anyone speak German [20:44]?

VL: I did a little, not much, but I had an assistant that was multi-linguist. He was an unusual -- he had no accent in German [20:59] or English or [21:00] Italian. He was an expert on language. It was quite interesting. He was a Canadian boy, he was working in the state of Washington [21:11], he was in a German [21:13] lumber camp up in Canada. Canada never did have a draft. He could go on home or come in with our guys. He came in with ours. Don't know -- how it ever came of him but the Germans never knew that he spoke

fluent German. We'd mingle around and we'd hear him chatting and he was -- because I didn't speak that much German [21:39].

INT: But when a Czech or some other person would come over to you to tell you about some SS [21:48] men, you spoke German.

VL: Yeah. What he would -- I saw him catch on one night. It was funny. We saw this hitchhiker along the road, civilian clothes [22:00], and we were camped there for a while. We were headed -- just before we went up Brenner Pass. And he was -- we were asking him, this -- my partner who could -- talking with him and he said no, did he speak different languages -- he spoke fairly good English, and he said, "No." He said, "Well, Italian, some." Pogo Italian [phonetic]. And he got talking with him, talking with him, and -- but he knew no German [22:41]. And finally he got talking fast and he asked him a question and he said, "Nein." [laughs] And he grabbed him [laughs]. He grabbed him.

INT: We've got about seven or eight minutes left before we need to wrap up [23:00]. Any other questions? Vince, you've talked with Dr. Loomis a number of times; if you think there's something that we should definitely hit in these next few minutes.

INT: Less directly related to 1142 [23:15], but you had a complicated situation where you were working Veterinary Services [23:20] but you were also working OSS [23:24]. When you were working OSS, what kind of orders did you get? What kind of jobs did you get? What were you assigned to do?

VL: Well, the main thing was capture those SS [23:36] boys.

INT: Capturing --

VL: That was the big thing. If I could get to a teletype -- I tried to once a day. I didn't always, and I'd get my instructions. They'd be on there.

INT: So your primary role was trying to capture SS [23:54]. Okay. Did you have any involvement [24:00] with Resistance [24:01] fighters?

VL: I don't follow you.

INT: Any sort of, like, the French Resistance, the Italian Resistance [24:10], that were helping escape of anyone?

VL: Well, we wondered sometimes, those damn blokes, they were a pain in the butt. That's why I had to -- this whole veterinary unit [24:28] -- we were a unit of Allied Force and Headquarters so we could go any damn where we wanted. We were on equal echelons of the British Eighth Army. They were a pain in the butt. We used to say they'd fight to the last Canadian, Australian, and South African. And when the clouds was all over, the Brits would show up. We would give the native Italians equipment -- German [24:53] equipment and all -- they needed it for tractors to farm. Damn British would come take it away from them [25:00]. We gave them lend lease and delivered to them gasoline at 2 cents a gallon, which they'd never paid for, and if one of our trucks is over in the British zone, they'd charge us 25 cents a gallon cash on the barrel. Oh, they were the -- they were, in some ways, almost the enemy, those Brits were. But the Canadians, the Australians, the South Africans were British, but they were super people. The reason was those boys and the Americans -- GIs had pretty good pay. And the Brits had no pay. And they were jealous as hell.

INT: When you were -- did you have any interactions with the civilian Italians, and did they seem to be pro-American or pro-Nazi [25:50]?

VL: Well, that was the big civil war when so many people were killed. The Partisans and the Fascists. And that [26:00] book that just came out, [unintelligible], the Partisans were the

ones who got Mussolini [26:06]. They didn't even take the Germans [26:08], a German convoy that Mussolini was in. They didn't want Germans. They wanted Mussolini.

They wanted the fascists.

INT: I bring this up because I think it will help to date this discussion, but you had indicated you had actually seen Mussolini [26:25].

VL: Hanging by the heels in Milan like a stuck hog. He and his girlfriend and a couple others.

INT: Okay. So that could help to date things. Any recollection when you saw him hanging there? Did you go there specifically to see him?

VL: We just happened to be in town that night. They told us not to go in town but I went in town anyway.

INT: Who told you not to go in town?

VL: The CO.

INT: Okay.

VL: See, Mussolini thought we were 40 miles away. If he'd have known we were only about five miles from town, he'd have come [27:00] and jumped in our lap. But we moved 40 miles that day and the CO -- this was Yuna Santo [phonetic] said, "Don't anybody go in Milan. It probably will -- lot of crowds in there yet." Oh, hell, you couldn't keep me out of there. I went in there and saw him hanging there. They brought him in and strung him up in front of the Cathedral there in Milan on the main square and they -- little kid, little Italian kid -- we were afraid the Germans [27:37] were going to destroy the whole city but they didn't. They were moving too fast. The little kid on the street like a paperboy used to be, selling papers, and they already had pictures of him in the local paper of him hanging there, and they were, "Finito Benito [27:53]." Finish Benito Mussolini. And the

kids are hollering, "Finito Benito! Finito Benito [28:00]!" So I tucked two or three papers and went back, and the next morning at breakfast, I tossed one of those papers on the Commanding Officer's -- in front of him. He gave me an ugly look and says, "Where the hell did you get that?" "Oh, paperboy in Milan" [laughs].

INT: Coming to the end of the war, that -- let's see -- you had talked about -- the military was trying to shut down operations in Italy [28:32].

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: They were trying to get rid of ordinance.

VL: Yep.

INT: You had made some comments about some of the things they did.

VL: Oh, that was -- I thought I was never going to get home. They left me over there for damn near a year. Closing up bases. And I'd like to get there with at least one man left. Walk in a place sometimes, there was all their papers. I'd have to pack it up, ship it back -- oh that was -- but I had two or three problems. One [29:00] was what are you going to do with all those explosives, ours, theirs? And there was one wing that had the Ninth Air Force -- or was it Eighth -- I think it was the Ninth -- of the B24s [29:16] and I went over and recruited those guys to take all that explosives -- and they could carry a big load -- they dropped it down in Mt. Vesuvius [29:34], all that red lava bubbling. The natives, they gave me hell because they thought it was going to cause the volcano to erupt. But that's like throwing a cup of water in the ocean thinking you're going to raise it a foot. It would gurgle a little. And I'd tell those guys, be sure enough to get high enough that you're not going to downdraft and get [30:00] sucked into that thing.

INT: So the idea is they wanted to destroy the ordinance --

VL: All of it.

INT: Had to --

VL: Left no explosives behind.

INT: And so the idea -- did they drop it into Vesuvius [30:13] just to be mischievous and thought it was funny just to see what would happen? Or they really thought --

VL: No, no, getting rid of it.

INT: Okay.

VL: Incinerator. Nature's incinerator. That was -- and we dropped a lot of other stuff that we -- one of the saddest things I had to do was we had probably 100 or more P38s, the fastest airplane at that time. And they're in crates and they said it'd take too long to get them to Japan [30:46]. And they said to take the wheels and the radio equipment out of them and then burn them. We left nothing behind [31:00]. What a waste, what a waste, but that was war for you.

INT: All right, it's 11:00. Any other last follow-up questions or anything?

INT: During your time in Europe, did you ever see any American service men, intelligence officers?

VL: Yep. There was -- I can't think of his name right now -- down at Light Force Headquarters -- a young Major who was also a veterinarian [31:37] and he was my local contact. And Colonel Davis [31:43] was here in Washington [31:43], very close friend of mine -- he's passed on now -- he was the Chief of that operation over there.

INT: Because a lot of the intelligence officers were trained at Camp Ritchie [32:00].

VL: Yes, they were.

INT: Americans and Germans [32:02] and Austrians who had come over here.

VL: And a lot of them were trained right there and I didn't get into that. We trained an awful lot of them right there at Fort Hunt [32:10].

INT: That was what I was getting back -- because he mentioned that in passing. He made some comments about OSS [32:19] at Fort Hunt and he talked a little about training military intelligence at Fort Hunt [32:24] --

VL: We had a --

INT: -- so we might want to [unintelligible] that.

VL: They trained a lot of them there. This fellow --

[End of Tape 3A]

[Beginning of Tape 3B]

VL: Well after we're pulling together -- and I want to write them up or get them on tape -- the Manhattan Project [00:13]. Now that's where that Loomis was, I showed you the book. He was in that. Now they -- Shangri-La [00:23]. When Doolittle [00:25] -- he finally got a ship -- Mr. Buckles, my wife's uncle, got him the ship -- had went down through the canal. There were no ships in the Pacific. Well then as it sat in gear, training somebody to be on the China shore to guide Doolittle's [00:46] men in. So that was a crash training course. That was done at Fort Hunt [00:53]. And the fellow was right on down here at Westminster, Maryland. Jake Segriest [01:00]. They put him on the submarine when -- left him there with equipment. He guided Doolittle's [01:09] men in. They ditched their planes in the water. He brought the submarine back up. They rescued Doolittle's men. They left him behind. They tried to drop him supplies but they quit that because that would only identify to the Japanese [01:26] who occupied China then that they were trying to drop. So he lived two and a half years until the war was over before he could

come out. And living off the land as a native Chinaman, he had every disease in the book. He died quite young.

INT: This is Segriest you said?

VL: Segriest. Jake Segriest [01:48].

INT: He was trained at Fort Hunt [01:51]?

VL: Yes.

INT: Did we spell that right?

VL: He and many others.

INT: Could you spell his last name? Is it --

VL: S-E-G-R-I-E-S-T. Jacob Segriest [02:00].

INT: And he was trained at Fort Hunt [02:05] for this mission.

VL: Yes.

INT: How did you find -- how did you know that?

VL: Well he told me.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: Years later.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: And went through the sequence of what it was. That is a very serious but a very vigorous training they went through. How they did it, how they got them there. They thought -- they rode them all night long in a truck with a canvas over it. They thought they were probably 150-200 miles away. They were down at Fort Hunt [02:33].

INT: They drove in circles.

VL: They trained them -- when they took them back they did the same thing. They had all

their clothes left in a hotel in Washington, D.C. [02:45] and they put on jumpsuits they call them now -- coveralls, that was -- everybody had a nickname or a number, and this one fellow -- this is funny [03:00] -- there was an arrogant young Italian [03:06] guy, said he was a cab driver in New York City, which he probably was, and then there was this older gentleman in this class. There were about 30 of them in a class. He was calling this old guy, who was always asking questions, asking questions, calling him a dumb jerk all the time. Well, after the training was over they went back to the hotel, put their clothes on, they had a big dinner for them, then everybody went the right way. Well this dumb jerk was an Admiral in the Navy and [laughs] this little Italian [03:42] guy who was so mouthy -- he was just a deck swabber. [laughs] Which they never knew. Probably never saw each -- they went their way. And Jake's [03:54] assignment was the Chinese one. And I got acquainted [04:00] with him unusual. We were both in veterinary [04:04] college together finishing up. And I was talking -- we were all GI's. Our average age now, I just looked it up, for the class of '50 Cornell [04:14] is 91 years and there were only two kids and the rest were all GIs, from Colonels down to Buck Privates. Well Jake [04:25], one day we were talking with somebody, I was, about different places he had been and I said, well, I said, "There was Fort Hunt [04:33]." Well at that time I couldn't talk about -- he didn't know it. And Jake jumped up and says, "Shut your damn mouth!" Blew his cover.

INT: [affirmative]

VL: But nobody ever caught onto it. Nobody else in that whole class ever -- from then on we were the best of buddies.

INT: So Segriest [04:53], he was trained at Fort Hunt [04:56] for the Doolittle [04:58] -- for his

role in the Doolittle mission [05:00], to guide the planes.

VL: He had that, and there were about 30 in his class, and they all had the same basic training. Now I don't know whether the others were taught Chinese some or not. I can't answer that. I never asked. I don't know.

INT: You probably already made the connection, escape evasion. Doolittle [05:24] escape evasion after the raid. That's why I thought there might be some real viability to that. So we could research and look up the name Segriest [05:34] --

INT: Yeah, I've got a roster in the car.

INT: -- see what we can find.

VL: Segriest. Jacob Segriest.

INT: So I thought that was really worth looking into.

VL: Then I'm trying to think of the other one. He goofed. He blew his cover and they took all of his pictures. I've got my pictures yet. [laughs] He -- Jordan. Jim Jordan [05:58]. He was in the Pacific, [06:00] OSS agent. The two of them may have been in the same class as far as I know. But he -- I've got most of my pictures. I destroyed some. I worked with the Gars [06:18]. Anybody know what the Gars are? You never saw it in print and you never will. Every military unit has them.

INT: Gar as in G-A-R?

VL: G-A-R-S.

INT: No, I don't know what that is.

VL: The military undertaker's -- graves registrations service [06:39].

INT: G-R, [affirmative].

VL: Somebody has to pick those bodies up, identify them, send them home. I worked with

them a lot. I was looking for krauts of course, looking for Germans [06:53] and found some, and I took a lot of pictures of that. But I didn't trust the press then and I don't trust it [07:00] today. I destroyed them because if that was a picture of somebody it might be somebody's husband or son or something. Fortunately I was given a lot of latitude. I could go anywhere and do most any damn thing I wanted to. My wife, she's a retired colonel, Army Nurse Corps. Her story is more important as much as mine. She followed Patton [07:33] up the Rhine, was cut off in the Battle of the Bulge [07:37], and she went - - took her basic training at England, the Queen Mary ship they said was sunk but it wasn't, went unescorted with 14,000 troops on it that had not been trained or even had uniforms yet [08:00]. Now that will never be written up. If that ship went down to train troops, look how much -- so they trained them in England.

INT: Oh, okay.

VL: Economics.

INT: Well, we're unfortunately about -- we're out of time.

VL: Yeah.

INT: So unless there's any other real pressing questions?

INT: You answered this previously. You had no knowledge of any sort of OSS [08:26] activity at a place called Collingwood [08:29]?

VL: There were others but I didn't know where they were, [negative].

INT: Okay. And then there was no OSS [08:37] involvement at Fort Hunt [08:38].

VL: The training. That's where Segriest [08:44] got his training.

INT: And Segriest was OSS?

VL: Yes. He's the one that rescued Doolittle's [08:50] men.

INT: He was OSS and not military then.

VL: Both.

INT: Both.

VL: Both. You could be civilian, military, anything.

INT: Just --

INT: How much do we [09:00] know about the training classes at Fort Hunt [09:02]?

INT: Not very much. We're learning --

INT: I'm wondering if there's a confusion between OSS and MIS-X [09:10].

INT: Yeah. Air Ground Aid Service [09:12].

INT: Yeah, MIS-X.

INT: Correct.

INT: Logical.

INT: Did you ever hear the name MIS-X or MIS-Y? Military Intelligence Service Program X or Y?

VL: I don't particular. I may have heard of it. I don't remember.

INT: And one comment you did make that I think it would be interesting to get on tape is the fact that, even though you were brought into the OSS [09:44], that all your military paperwork reflects U.S. Army.

VL: Oh yeah.

INT: Could you just comment on that?

VL: Well, even though I got -- last days of the war, I got careless, I got my back smushed and a crushed [10:00] leg, and was in a body cast for a long time, said I'd never walk again but I fooled them -- I cannot -- couldn't get a purple heart or any awards or anything

because I didn't exist. But I did use some of my weak intelligence. When I got out of the hospital and was going to come home, I knew a lot of tricks of the trade. I got into the hospital files and I borrowed my medical records.

INT: You made copies of them?

VL: Made copies? We didn't have -- I put them in my pocket and run like hell.

[laughter]

INT: Do you still have them?

VL: I don't, but the Veteran's Administration does. And that's how they gave me a rather generous disability on the day I got out of the Army. And the guys that got them and the Veterans Administration [11:00] says -- had my hospital records, who treated me, the name of the doctors and the whole nine yards, that "These are the kind of papers we dream about getting but rarely ever see." Something told me I'd better get in that file room and lift my records. Medical records.

INT: Final note. After the war you went to Cornell Veterinary College [11:25], graduated, what year? 1951?

VL: 1950.

INT: 1950.

VL: 5-0.

INT: And then after you graduated you worked Federal Service, the Food and Health Administration [11:36] --

VL: Well I worked in many jobs.

INT: Okay.

VL: I was in practice in Texas, went broke in a drought [phonetic], I worked for the

Department of Agriculture and then it became extra training -- epidemiology, exotic diseases, travel all over the country, a lot of things were only [unintelligible]. I think I didn't care. I was doing postmortems. I probably [12:00] got careless.

INT: Animal research. Animal research --

VL: Both. Those diseases of animals that caught to man and man never commute to animals. I only worked with a disease that would be both species.

INT: Okay.

VL: Particularly unknown ones. And I got so sensitive where I was working lab -- we developed 750 different strains of tuberculosis. I got so sensitized I just stuck myself with a needle and I'd blow up. Terrible. So I said, "I'm out of here." So I went to Food and Drug [12:40] where I became a paperclip [12:41] commando. [laughs] And I retired from there 32 years ago.

INT: Terrific.

VL: And then I started a consulting business in Dallas -- we still have it -- teaching pharmaceutical companies how to get a [13:00] drug approved in the FDA [13:03] which is a nightmare. But I'm not -- I'm out of that now. I'm just cranking down.

INT: There's nothing wrong with that.

VL: But I wish you guys or somebody would get a hold of David Brown if he's still alive. Lives up here in Rosersberg [phonetic] and he's the one that put the fuse on the Big Boy [13:23] before it went to Hiroshima [13:25].

INT: Really.

VL: And that's a story because he and I compare notes a lot. A lot of folks don't know what happened there. We give a few talks to some of the veterans' organization but, hell, the

young guys, they don't -- first they don't know what the hell we're talking about and third, which is worse, they don't give a damn.

INT: Well I'm going to go ahead and turn off the tape but we can keep on chatting a little bit as we're putting things away but we're going to go ahead and call things quits and we just want to thank you very much for taking the time.

VL: Yeah. Some of you guys ought to look up --

[end of transcript]

Index

10th Mountain Division, [Tape 1A] 40:24
[Tape 2A] 06:37, 07:00
[Tape 3A] 02:35, 14:12, 15:11, 19:09

Air Ground Aid Service, [Tape 3B] 09:12
Arlington Cemetery, [Tape 2A] 17:44
Archives/Documents, [Tape 2B] 09:44, 10:11, 15:40, 17:37, 28:50
[Tape 3A] 02:20
Atomic bomb/Big Boy, [Tape 1A] 28:39
[Tape 3B] 13:23

B24, [Tape 3A] 29:16
Battle of the Bulge, [Tape 3B] 07:37
Bill of Rights, [Tape 2B] 07:33
Boyle, Grover Cleveland, [Tape 2B] 14:55
Bureau of Ships, [Tape 1A] 14:40

Camp Ritchie, [Tape 1A] 03:14, 03:49, 24:13
[Tape 3A] 32:00
Canine Corps, [Tape 1A] 08:58, 09:08
Catoctin Mountain Park, [Tape 1A] 02:38, 03:10, 11:05, 20:04, 23:15
Cavalry, [Tape 1A] 09:04, 20:52
[Tape 2A] 14:18, 18:40
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), [Tape 1A] 12:08, 17:54, 18:12, 46:32
[Tape 2A] 06:46
Chappell, Howard, [Tape 1A] 47:11
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), [Tape 2A] 02:16
Civil Service, [Tape 2A] 03:00, 03:13
Coast Guard, [Tape 1A] 09:13, 10:20
[Tape 2A] 24:10, 26:20
[Tape 2B] 16:18, 17:07
[Tape 3A] 02:03
Collingwood, [Tape 3B] 08:29
Constitution, [Tape 2B] 07:32
Cornell Veterinary College, [Tape 1A] 16:20, 26:58, 27:04, 27:24, 31:46
[Tape 2A] 16:53
[Tape 3B] 04:04, 04:14, 11:25

Davis, Leonard, [Tape 1A] 18:40
[Tape 3A] 31:43
Depression, [Tape 2A] 01:09, 01:48
Dogs, [Tape 1A] 09:47, 10:11, 10:39, 11:29
[Tape 2A] 10:41, 11:01, 11:23, 11:38, 12:26, 12:38, 13:29, 20:53, 21:40, 22:40, 23:07,
24:06, 24:51

[Tape 2B] 03:05, 04:00, 14:33, 15:08, 15:51, 16:17, 17:10, 22:34, 26:22, 26:37, 30:59, 31:37
[Tape 3A] 00:57, 01:17, 01:49
Dole, Bob, [Tape 1A] 40:00
Donovan, [Tape 3A] 12:23
Doolittle, Jimmy (& Doolittle Raid), [Tape 1A] 13:26, 13:29, 13:40, 13:56, 15:00, 15:47, 16:02, 26:51, 28:03
[Tape 3B] 00:25, 00:46, 01:09, 04:58, 05:24, 08:50
Dundee, [Tape 3A] 07:30

Einstein, Albert, [Tape 1A] 31:49, 32:12

Fella, [Tape 2A] 22:19
Food and Drug Administration (FDA), [Tape 1A] 29:15, 30:03
[Tape 3B] 11:36, 12:40, 13:03
Fort Belvoir, [Tape 1A] 06:56, 07:24, 07:44, 19:27, 20:41
[Tape 2A] 04:10, 05:30, 05:37, 07:37, 10:24, 12:35, 13:06, 15:10, 16:14, 17:21, 18:17, 26:14, 26:46, 27:35, 30:24, 31:19
[Tape 2B] 02:44, 05:33, 13:44, 14:17, 16:28, 19:16, 22:04, 23:35, 29:08
[Tape 3A] 03:09
Fort Hunt, [Tape 1A] 06:51, 07:00, 08:29, 10:34, 11:17, 17:31, 22:34
[Tape 2A] 11:32, 12:42, 13:13
[Tape 2B] 02:43, 03:21, 04:53, 05:51, 14:19, 15:30, 16:27, 17:16, 17:28, 18:40, 19:54, 20:05, 20:40, 21:30, 22:10, 22:42, 23:06, 23:26, 26:16, 29:29
[Tape 3A] 00:45, 02:24, 32:10, 32:24
[Tape 3B] 00:53, 01:51, 02:05, 02:33, 04:33, 04:56, 08:38, 09:02
Fort Myer, [Tape 2A] 17:35, 18:02, 18:33, 18:50
[Tape 3A] 03:11
Front Royal, [Tape 2A] 10:54, 18:53, 23:23

Gars/Graves Registrations Service, [Tape 3B] 06:18, 06:39
Gas chambers, [Tape 2A] 27:45
George Washington's Diary, [Tape 2B] 07:52, 13:23
German/Germany, [Tape 1A] 08:35, 09:37, 10:03, 33:38, 34:21, 37:53, 38:42, 42:00, 43:03, 43:35, 44:44
[Tape 2A] 11:35, 11:53, 24:48
[Tape 2B] 03:17, 09:47, 16:00
[Tape 3A] 08:43, 19:42, 20:44, 20:59, 21:13, 21:39, 22:41, 24:53, 26:08, 27:37, 32:02
[Tape 3B] 06:53
Groves, Leslie, [Tape 1A] 31:13

Hiroshima, [Tape 3B] 13:25
Horses, [Tape 1A] 09:49, 10:21, 10:49, 40:27
[Tape 2A] 11:00, 13:29, 17:49, 23:19, 24:05
[Tape 2B] 03:04, 06:03, 06:32, 23:05, 25:54

Italy, [Tape 1A] 37:55, 38:00, 38:20, 38:43, 41:06, 42:04
[Tape 3A] 10:57, 18:08, 28:32
[Tape 3B] 03:06, 03:42

Japanese/Japan, [Tape 1A] 08:34, 15:39, 16:27
[Tape 2A] 10:12, 11:37, 11:54
[Tape 2B] 16:03
[Tape 3A] 30:46
[Tape 3B] 01:26

Jordan, Jim, [Tape 3B] 05:58

Long Island, [Tape 1A] 09:39

Magna Carta, [Tape 2B] 07:17

Manhattan Project, [Tape 1A] 30:40, 31:01
[Tape 3B] 00:13

March of Bataan, [Tape 1A] 07:38
[Tape 2A] 09:54, 10:09

Military Intelligence Service - X (MIS-X), [Tape 3B] 09:10

Military Police (MP), [Tape 2A] 19:10, 22:03
[Tape 2B] 03:35, 04:29, 21:54, 24:04, 25:17
[Tape 3A] 01:39, 09:53

Mole, [Tape 1A] 12:49, 19:50

Mount Vernon, [Tape 2B] 11:10, 19:04, 19:30, 19:47, 20:27, 23:23, 23:50

Mt. Vesuvius, [Tape 3A] 29:34, 30:13

Mussolini, Benito, [Tape 1A] 42:35, 43:21, 43:47, 44:20
[Tape 3A] 26:06, 26:25, 27:53

Nazi, [Tape 3A] 25:50

Nuremburg, [Tape 1A] 44:26

Office of Strategic Services (OSS), [Tape 1A] 00:23, 01:43, 02:06, 02:27, 03:56, 04:00, 05:04,
05:46, 06:27, 06:37, 10:27, 11:11, 11:29, 11:43, 17:24, 17:34, 19:03, 19:20, 19:41, 22:10,
23:21, 26:08, 26:22, 36:38, 41:15, 41:28, 46:47

[Tape 2A] 06:47

[Tape 2B] 01:39

[Tape 3A] 03:33, 08:02, 11:08, 11:21, 11:55, 12:10, 12:27, 12:36, 12:55, 13:39, 14:05,
15:03, 23:24, 32:19

[Tape 3B] 06:00, 08:26, 08:37, 09:44

Operation Paperclip, [Tape 3B] 12:41

Operation Sunrise, [Tape 1A] 46:36

Patton, George, [Tape 3B] 07:33

Pearl Harbor, [Tape 1A] 05:09, 05:36, 14:12
[Tape 2A] 04:38, 07:27, 30:07

[Tape 2B] 01:12

Pentagon, [Tape 3A] 11:35

P.O. Box 1142, [Tape 1A] 02:16

[Tape 2B] 00:08, 02:30, 26:49

[Tape 3A] 11:01, 23:15

Prisoners, [Tape 1A] 08:27

[Tape 2B] 15:44, 16:08, 16:52, 17:17

[Tape 3A] 01:26, 01:57, 09:18, 19:54

Quantico, [Tape 1A] 02:33, 11:01, 19:36, 20:33, 22:02

[Tape 2A] 14:39

Resistance, [Tape 3A] 24:01, 24:10

Rome-Arno, [Tape 3A] 19:21

Roosevelt, Franklin, [Tape 1A] 04:20, 13:40, 14:02, 14:15, 14:55, 23:38, 23:47, 24:30, 24:50,
25:45, 30:29, 30:52

[Tape 2A] 22:21, 22:49, 31:30

[Tape 3A] 04:10, 13:17

Schutzstaffel (SS), [Tape 1A] 33:30, 34:20, 34:21, 35:47, 38:03, 46:40

[Tape 3A] 08:17, 08:51, 10:02, 15:15, 20:03, 20:21, 20:26, 21:48, 23:36, 23:54

"The Secret Surrender," [Tape 1A] 46:21

Segriest, Jake, [Tape 1A] 12:52, 16:12, 28:02, 28:44

[Tape 3B] 01:00, 01:48, 02:00, 03:54, 04:25, 04:53, 05:34, 08:44

Shangri-La, [Tape 1A] 23:36, 24:30, 25:11, 26:14

[Tape 3A] 13:28

[Tape 3B] 00:23

Shirt, Jake, [Tape 2B] 25:02

Steele (Major), [Tape 2B] 05:07, 07:40, 08:50, 13:27, 14:05, 17:33, 20:44, 27:04

Tolley, Grace, [Tape 1A] 04:29

Transportation Corps, [Tape 1A] 20:56, 21:08

[Tape 2A] 14:21

Underground Pentagon, [Tape 1A] 20:08, 24:16

Underground White House, [Tape 1A] 20:00, 20:10

Veterinary Service/Veterinarian, [Tape 1A] 20:47, 21:38, 38:23, 40:18, 41:25, 42:53

[Tape 2A] 06:52, 09:47, 10:26, 14:01, 15:44, 16:24, 17:59, 20:39, 25:08, 26:08, 29:39

[Tape 2B] 00:25, 01:06, 05:34, 06:16, 14:38, 24:36

[Tape 3A] 06:54, 14:25, 14:46, 15:00, 15:18, 16:43, 19:07, 23:20, 24:28, 31:37

Walter Reed Hospital, [Tape 1A] 08:10

[Tape 2A] 05:40, 07:42, 13:27, 13:34,, 15:15, 16:05, 16:22, 16:55, 18:57, 19:25, 20:43,
26:02, 29:53, 30:30

[Tape 2B] 00:16, 02:46

[Tape 3A] 03:10

Washington, D.C., [Tape 1A] 18:22, 19:25, 19:54

[Tape 2A] 25:05, 26:03

[Tape 2B] 09:49, 19:19, 23:47, 25:28

[Tape 3A] 10:55, 21:11, 31:43

[Tape 3B] 02:45

White House, [Tape 1A] 30:59, 31:09

Wolfe (Major General), [Tape 1A] 46:42

World War II, [Tape 1A] 00:24, 01:46, 02:07, 03:57, 39:52

[Tape 2A] 22:53, 24:08, 30:50

[Tape 2B] 00:17

[Tape 3A] 03:46, 11:49