

Fort Hunt Oral History
P.O. Box 1142
Interview with Marvin Levinthal by Brandon Bies
Ventnor City, New Jersey
September 5, 2008

INTERVIEWER: Today is September 5th, 2008. This is a National Park Service interview as part of the Fort Hunt Oral History Project. This is Brandon Bies of the National Park Service. I'm joined by Chief Ranger Vincent Santucci and Park Ranger Kevin Butler. We are here at the home of Marvin and Bea [phonetic] Levinthal at their home in Ventnor City, New Jersey. And this is the first in a series of interviews about Mr. Levinthal's service in World War II [00:40]. Mr. Levinthal, if we could just start off with very basic information, such as when and where were you born?

MARVIN LEVINTHAL: Philadelphia [00:45].

INT: Okay. And would you mind telling us your birthday?

ML: Nine 19, '19.

INT: September?

ML: Nineteenth.

INT: Nineteenth? 1919. Lots of 19s, all right [01:00]. And the ninth month, all right. And you were born in Philadelphia [01:05], and could you tell us a little bit about growing up? Did you live in a big family or a small family?

ML: I have a sister.

INT: And what did your parents do in Philadelphia [01:22]?

ML: My father was a lawyer.

INT: Okay. Was your father, by any chance -- had he been in the service? Had he been in World War I [01:35] or anything like that?

ML: No.

INT: No? And then - and you grew up in Philadelphia [01:38]? Went -- did you go to Jewish schools, or did you just go to -- in the regular school system in Philadelphia [01:47]?

ML: Regular school.

BEA LEVINTHAL: He went to both. He went to public school, but in the afternoons, he went to Hebrew school.

INT: Okay.

BL: Which is what most Jewish children did [02:00].

INT: Okay.

ML: See, the synagogues -- well, I did -- you'd have afternoon schools, Hebrew schools.

INT: Okay. And in the home growing up, did your family just speak English the entire time?

ML: Yeah.

BL: Yes, his parents were English -- were American-born.

INT: Were American-born as well. Okay. And you -- but you did no Yiddish through --

ML: [unintelligible]

BL: He doesn't understand you. He's saying that he can a little bit of Jewish.

INT: Okay. So growing up, you understood and learned Yiddish.

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay. And you went to school and you stayed in the Philadelphia [02:54] area, your whole time growing up, and did you [03:00] go to college or anything, or did you go into the service?

ML: I started out at Temple [03:08] and then I transferred to Peirce College [03:11].

INT: And where is Peirce College at?

BL: It's in Philadelphia [03:17].

INT: It's in Philadelphia?

BL: Yeah.

INT: Okay.

BL: It's a business school.

INT: Okay. And what are you studying? Business?

ML: Accounting.

INT: Accounting? Okay and this would have been in the late 1930s still?

BL: I guess so.

ML: Yeah, because I --

BL: Yeah, late 30s.

ML: Because I was drafted in December.

BL: He would have been in the class of 1940.

INT: Okay.

ML: I was drafted --

BL: 1941 or something.

ML: In December. [unintelligible] Franklin Roosevelt [04:00] pulled the number, so I was with the second draft.

INT: So you were drafted into the service.

ML: And then, when I was scheduled to be -- to get out, the Japanese [04:17] bombed Pearl Harbor [04:18].

INT: Okay.

ML: And then, I stayed there for five years.

INT: So in that time period before Pearl Harbor [04:25], what did you do? What was your job

in the Army?

ML: I was in the morning report section. Are you familiar with that?

INT: No, could you explain that for us?

BL: It was office work, I think. Weren't you working in the office [05:00]?

ML: Yeah, worked in the office.

INT: Where were you stationed at that time?

ML: Fort Meade [05:07].

INT: In Fort Meade, okay. Did you go to basic training or boot camp or anything?

ML: Not really.

INT: So you basically -- so you were drafted and essentially went right down to Fort Meade [05:21]?

ML: I was called to the draft board and given a ticket to the B&O station in a letter. I was told not to open the letter until we got to Washington [05:50]. I did that and I asked -- I looked around and found an MP [06:00], and I gave him the letter. All the letter said, "Report to the Grady [06:06] [phonetic] office in Washington, D.C. [06:09]," and nobody knew what that was. So they finally -- they put me up in an apartment, 31-something C Street [06:27] [phonetic] Northwest. Finally I was transferred to Fort Meade [06:42], and they gave me a uniform. I'll never forget it. It was an old -- the pants were right, but the coat, it was one of these from the First World War [07:00].

INT: Oh, really?

ML: And a woolen hat.

INT: Was it one of the -- kind of the round, flat hats or --

ML: No, the --

INT: The oversea, the smaller ones?

BL: Yeah.

ML: Small one.

INT: Okay.

ML: So finally, I went to the supply sergeant, and I got a -- because I wanted to get rid of the coat which --

BL: It had the Mandarin collar like they did in the first war.

INT: I can picture my grandfather wearing that.

BL: My father, I can picture my father in that in the first war.

ML: So they gave me a new coat and a new hat and the first thing I knew, I was ordering fatigues [08:00]. You had old blue fatigues, not the green ones, but the old blue ones.

INT: Kind of denim? Like jean material?

ML: Denim, yeah and I was -- they gave me a job peeling potatoes.
[laughter]

BL: Yeah, we have a picture of that somewhere.

INT: Do you really?

BL: Sitting and peeling potatoes.

ML: You knew General Evans [08:33], did you?

INT: No.

ML: Colonel Kent [08:39]?

INT: Kent [08:40] we definitely are familiar with, but did you know of him?

ML: Oh, I knew him very well.

INT: Did you know of him when you were at Fort Meade [08:50] or not until --

ML: Well, when -- Colonel Kent [09:00] --

BL: Was he from Fort Meade [09:01]?

ML: Fort Belvoir [09:07].

INT: He was from Fort Belvoir? And did you know him prior to being stationed at P.O. Box 1142 [09:15], Colonel Kent [09:18]?

ML: I didn't know the -- the rest of the commanding officers, I didn't know the two next ones, but I knew Colonel Bliss [09:29].

INT: Did you meet all them through the secret operations during the war or did you know, some of them from before when you were at Fort Meade [09:43] working on the morning report section [10:00]?

ML: I knew Caspar Schenk [10:08]. I don't know. When I was transferred to California [10:13], he went with us.

INT: Okay. And what was his name again?

ML: Caspar Schenk [10:20].

INT: Okay, Schenk, S-C-H-E-N-K?

ML: S-C-H-E-N-K.

INT: Okay.

INT: That name is familiar.

INT: Yeah, Schenk [10:31] definitely is. Okay and these were all folks from Fort Hunt [10:35] or from Camp Tracy [10:37]. When -- to finish up Fort Meade [10:42], was there anyone that you worked with at Fort Meade that you later went on to work with at -- either at Fort Hunt [10:55] or at Camp Tracy [10:55] or was that a completely separate thing [11:00]?

ML: The only one was Caspar Schenk [11:00] and then, the -- it was so long ago.

INT: Oh, absolutely. I can't imagine if somebody came in sixty-five years from now and asked me what I had for breakfast this morning or something like that.

BL: He wouldn't know that. He's --

INT: So, don't -- anything you can tell us is extremely helpful, so don't you feel bad about that one bit.

INT: The question is, were you at Fort Meade [11:44] for very long, or was that just a temporary assignment?

ML: It was temporary.

INT: Were you there for a couple of weeks or a couple of months?

ML: It was a short time.

INT: Were you stationed at Fort Meade [12:00] when Pearl Harbor [12:02] happened?

BL: Where were you?

INT: Do you remember where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

ML: I was with [unintelligible]. I was drafted for one year.

BL: Yeah, where were you when Pearl Harbor [12:19] happened? What camp?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Okay.

ML: But anyway, I ended back in California [12:39] and Byron Hot Springs [12:51] was included -- in order to get into the gate, you had [13:00] to go through a -- what's the name --

BL: A sentinel?

ML: Yeah.

BL: A sentinel. Somebody to let --

INT: A guard post?

ML: It'd be the guard post. And it was a temporary thing, really.

INT: Okay. Because it had been a hotel prior to that, right?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay. Well, let's just talk about Byron Hot Springs [13:38] a little bit and then, we might come back a little bit later to talk a little bit about Fort Hunt [13:45], but since you remember --

ML: I was in Fort Hunt [13:51] only a very -- a very short time.

INT: Okay. Well, we'll still probably ask some questions because that's the post that we are [14:00] all stationed and that's what we are -- but we're still very interested about Byron Hot Springs [14:03], as well. And you -- but you were at Fort Hunt [14:12] first, just for a little while.

ML: Just for a little while.

INT: You were there first. How did you find out that you were stationed -- that you were being stationed at Fort Hunt [14:12]? How did you find out you were being transferred there? Do you remember?

BL: Were you at Fort Meade [14:31] and then Fort Hunt [14:33]?

ML: I was at Fort Meade and then, at Fort Hunt.

INT: Okay.

ML: And the idea was to make an interrogation center of -- for German prisoners. It's Fort Hunt [15:00] in Washington [14:58] and Japanese [15:02] prisoners in California. But the Japanese prisoners would -- they were captured. They would commit Hara-Kiri

[15:11]. So finally, they decided to leave Fort Hunt [15:20] was [unintelligible]. They were also making sure a German [15:25] interrogation center in California.

INT: Okay.

ML: And we had offices on the first floor. And the second floor was officer's quarters, and we had a very sophisticated electronic system. We had a big room with a lot of -- electronic equipment [16:00] where they could hear everything that went on in the rooms, and you could transfer the equipment so we could either have one room or to another room or what went in -- one in each.

INT: Do you remember where that equipment -- was that equipment hidden? I mean, were there microphones?

ML: They were in the --

BL: Ceiling.

ML: The false ceiling.

INT: So, there was a false ceiling?

ML: The microphones were in there.

INT: So they had actually -- had they dropped the ceiling and hidden microphones in that space?

ML: I don't know. I don't remember.

INT: But it was a -- you remember it as a false ceiling, though? Okay [17:00].

ML: We could -- you could listen in to it, like another room -- then, in fact, I remember when the war was over, had to get rid of all that equipment and they didn't know what to do with it. So they took it to a river right near there and they dumped it all in the river.

INT: Really? So, all of that recording equipment and all the microphones? It's too bad you

didn't steal one and have it hidden up in the attic or anything.

BL: He was happy enough to come home and happy enough --

INT: I'm sure. Did you listen to these conversations? Did you listen to them?

ML: I didn't listen to them but they had a big room [18:00] with all that equipment in there where people would listen to them and --

INT: And where was that? Do you remember where that room was?

ML: In Byron Hot Springs [18:10]?

INT: Yes.

ML: In the back.

INT: Do you remember -- because it was an old hotel, right? Do you remember what -- more?

Was the listening room towards the bottom or towards the --

ML: The listening room was in the basement.

INT: Okay. And the prisoners, though, they were held in the higher levels?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay. Do you remember if they would put -- would it be one prisoner in a room at a time or what they put a couple of prisoners together?

ML: No, sometimes it was a large cell and other times, were two.

INT: Okay [19:00].

ML: And you could listen in to the conversation down in the basement through the equipment.

INT: Were there wires connecting the microphones in the rooms to the basement?

ML: Yeah.

INT: So there were a group of people there, then, who were listening? Their job was -- was their job to listen into the prisoners?

ML: Yeah.

INT: What was your job there?

ML: Actually, it was clerical. I would --

BL: He was an accountant, so they put him in an office.

ML: I worked in the office. I was in charge of assigning the different prisoners to different rooms, and then when they were done with the prisoners, when they got [20:00] all the information they could get out of them, they were sent to a prisoner of war camp in Texas [20:12] an anti-Nazi [20:15] camp.

INT: Okay.

ML: And I'll never forget somebody made a mistake and sent the prisoners there. They were supposed to go to a Nazi [20:36] camp, an anti-Nazi [20:37], camp but they made a mistake and sent them both to the anti-Nazi camp and the first thing we do, we heard that one of the prisoners killed the other prisoners. And then, we had [21:00] one prisoner who was a tennis champion in Germany [21:09].

INT: Okay.

ML: So they made the excuse, we had to keep them in the Hot Springs [21:21] further interrogation, and all they would do, go out there, and play tennis with them.

INT: And were those in the tennis courts that were right next to the hotel?

ML: Yeah.

INT: And would -- so the Americans would go and play tennis with them?

ML: And they kept this one guy, this Franz Wende [21:45] there for a long time. The excuse was they had to get more information from him, but all they did was play tennis with him.

INT: And could you say [22:00] his name again? You said Franz Wende [22:03]?

ML: Wende.

INT: Do you know how that would have been spelled?

ML: W-E-N-D-E.

INT: Okay.

INT: And the first name is Franz [22:13]?

ML: Franz.

INT: Okay.

INT: The reason we ask is, now that these records have been declassified, we can go to the National Archives and pull his file, and it would be very interesting to look at his file and see what kind of information is in there. And if we find it, we'll send you a copy.

BL: That's interesting.

INT: Well, something that would be helpful now is... there were both Japanese [22:39] and German [22:41] prisoners at Byron Hot Springs [22:42] when you were there?

ML: Well, originally, we would -- the German [22:52] prisoners were at Fort Hunt [22:58], and Japanese [23:00] prisoners were in California [23:05]. But the Japanese [23:07] would commit suicide. So they made both of them German [23:17] prisoners of war camps, and they would interrogate them in the hotel. And I'll never forget they used such things as -- in order to make the German [23:56] prisoners talk, they would have [24:00] - - they would take them along side of the hotel, and there was an ambulance and a prisoner -- or this prisoner had to walk around the hotel. So you couldn't see in the back, but all of a sudden, you would hear a bullet, give them a gunshot wound, and you'd figure out that the prisoner was shot, but actually, what they did, he got into the

ambulance and they'd come back [25:00]. So and other prisoners would see that, and they figured they'll have to talk.

BL: Scare tactic.

INT: Okay.

ML: We've never heard that before. So and that's out in Camp Tracy [25:15] in California.

ML: Yeah.

INT: So they would take -- I just want to repeat it to make sure that we got this right. They would take a prisoner, they kind of walked -- they'd park an ambulance around the side of the building and walk him around?

ML: While they were walking, the ambulance would follow, and you couldn't see in the back of the building, but you were able to hear a gunshot wound -- a gunshot -- and he would get into the ambulance and they would drive back. It was one of the ways that they got the guys to talk.

INT: So they would -- to make the other German [25:57] prisoners think [26:00] that he had been shot --

ML: Yeah.

INT: -- for not talking.

INT: Did this happen only one time, or did this happen regularly?

ML: A few times.

INT: Do you remember if that was effective? Did that seem to work?

ML: Yeah. I know that in the hotel, on the second floor were the interrogation rooms, and you would see -- they would talk to them in the interrogation rooms, and you could listen to what they said downstairs [27:00]. This was so long ago.

INT: But this is -- you've already told us several things we've never heard before. So this is very, very useful. So you remember these interrogation rooms on the second floor, they also had microphones hidden in the ceilings?

ML: Yeah.

INT: And were they not only listening but were they recording, as well?

ML: I don't know. I think they were recording.

INT: Now, you said your time in that hotel was when you were assigning rooms to the prisoners and you were also transferring prisoners out of that fort?

ML: Yeah, I was -- my job was to put the prisoners in different rooms.

INT: Right.

ML: And transfer them from one room to the other.

INT: Would you do that -- would a prisoner be assigned to a room for very long and then, you would [28:00] switch them around?

ML: Yeah.

INT: What happened to those prisoners that were put in the ambulance? Were they taken to another prison camp?

ML: No.

INT: Was there a --

ML: It was a scare tactic.

INT: Yeah, and was it an actual German [28:17] prison or was it an American dressed like a German prisoner?

ML: Well, all prisoners of war some kind of clothing that had PW on the back.

INT: But the person who they pretended to shoot at, that they just -- who they had get into the

back of the ambulance, would that be an actual German [28:41] prisoner?

ML: No, no. It was a scare tactic.

BL: It was a scare tactic.

INT: So, would it be an American dressed in one of the PW outfits?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay.

ML: And you could listen in [29:00] to what they said in that big room with the electronic equipment.

INT: Do you remember about this big room with the electronic equipment, at any given time, about how many Americans would be in there listening?

ML: Quite a few.

INT: Okay. So, like three or four or a couple of dozen?

ML: No, about a dozen.

INT: About a dozen or so? Okay. And that was their job there at Byron Hot Springs [29:37] was just to listen in.

ML: Yeah.

INT: And were these Americans who could speak, who could understand German [29:46], obviously?

ML: We had 11 German [29:54] interrogators and we had two Japanese [30:00] interrogators, but they couldn't -- there were very few people to interrogate because the Japanese [30:15] would commit suicide. So one guy, their main job was to work with the others in and write reports.

INT: But there -- you do recall a few Japanese [30:29] prisoners? There were a few?

ML: What's that?

INT: Were there --

ML: There were Japanese [30:43] prisoners there.

INT: There were a few.

ML: Yeah and Japanese interrogators.

INT: Do you remember the names of the Japanese [30:55] interrogators? Was one that William Day Lee [31:00]? Was he a Japanese interrogator?

ML: Lee, he was a Chinese [31:05].

INT: Okay.

ML: The Japanese [31:09], Maurice Polaris [31:11] and Matthew Adams [31:14].

INT: Matthew Adams, and what was the first name? Reese?

ML: Maurice.

INT: Maurice. Did you remember seeing their names on the -- were their names on the list that we sent you?

INT: If we could just pause for one second.

[End of Tape 1A]

[Beginning of Tape 1B]

INT: Okay, so those were the two Americans who understood Japanese [00:05].

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay.

ML: And we also had Navy personnel.

INT: Okay.

ML: MI-9 [00:21].

INT: Were they American Navy?

ML: No --

INT: Great British Navy?

ML: There was -- because I remember they had -- they called themselves the Wavy Navy [00:34] on the coast. On their sleeves, they had --

INT: Insignia.

INT: And so these were British intelligence folks. And were they permanently stationed at Byron Hot Springs [01:00]?

ML: No.

[unintelligible dialogue]

INT: I found both Maurice Pilares, P-I-L-A-R-E-S [01:16] and [unintelligible].

INT: And were they -- this was officers?

INT: T-5 [01:24]. I'm sorry, they were sergeants, T-5, yeah.

INT: From your recollection, were most of the interrogators, the ones asking the questions, were they officers or were they enlisted?

ML: Officers.

INT: Okay. One other technique we've heard that was used during the war is -- and you had touched upon it a little bit earlier is what they referred to as stool pigeons [01:57]. Are you familiar with [02:00] the term stool pigeon?

ML: I know what a stool pigeon is. What I recall -- I don't recall whether we had any or not.

INT: Okay. And so, that's where somebody would go into a room and try -- maybe somebody who was German [02:20] but was deciding to work for the Americans and was trying to get information for the Americans.

ML: Now, German [02:31] -- the German interrogators were officers. When they were interrogating while in the room they would use a different name.

INT: A pseudonym?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Did you have a pseudonym or was that just the interrogators?

ML: Interrogators.

INT: Okay [03:00]. This is very, very helpful information. I realize it was 60 years ago, but this is -- what you've provided us has been very, very helpful. So don't feel bad at all about not remembering certain details. You're remembering more details than most of the interviews that we've done with veterans. I mean, you're remembering names and details. This is one of our better interviews so far.

BL: Glad to hear that.

INT: No, this is fantastic.

ML: In fact, Matt Adams [03:34] --

BL: We've had problems, so I'm glad to hear that.

ML: -- was an interrogator.

INT: Okay.

ML: I forgot all about him. We were out in California one time, and my uncle was a lawyer out there, and he said -- he knew somebody [04:00] who was at Fort Hunt [04:03], and it turned out to be Matt Adams [04:06].

BL: Was he the man we had dinner with in the Japanese [04:09] restaurant? Is he the one who we had dinner with in the Japanese --

ML: Yeah.

BL: This man new fluent Japanese [04:19]. That's what he was in his unit, and of course, this happened many years later. He was an officer, and he took us to San Francisco and he -- authentic Japanese [04:35] restaurant where they didn't speak English, but we were with him and he translated it to us.

INT: Wow.

INT: So just to clarify, Matthew Adams [04:47] and Maurice Pilares [04:48] were the two primary Japanese [04:53] interrogators. Were there others at times?

ML: They were the only two.

INT: That you were aware of, okay [05:00].

ML: But there were -- we didn't get any Japanese [05:02] prisoners. They would commit suicide, and their job was just to write reports. That's all.

INT: But did you -- do you remember there ever being Japanese [05:19] prisoners at Byron Hot Springs [05:22]?

ML: I know we had them there but they would commit suicide.

INT: Would they commit suicide at Byron Hot Springs [05:29]?

ML: Yeah. They would commit Hara-Kiri [05:36].

INT: There in the hotel?

ML: At the hotel.

INT: At -- [affirmative]

ML: They must have had them because this man was with him and he knew him well and this was his job, with the Japanese. He spoke Japanese [06:00] so fluently.

INT: And Matthew Adams [06:03], did you keep up with him?

BL: No, but this was many years after the war, Marvin called him to say, "We're coming to

California, we'd like to see you," and he did. He met us.

INT: But you don't happen to know if he's still living, do you?

BL: No.

INT: Okay.

INT: Quick question. Did they keep the Japanese [06:25] prisoners, as far as you know, also in the rooms on the top floor, or were they in a separate facility?

ML: I don't remember. No, there were all in the hotel.

INT: Okay, so that some rooms had Germans [06:43], some may have had Japanese [06:45] on occasion? But do you remember any specific incident of a suicide, a Hara-Kiri [06:54]?

ML: No one knew [07:00]. The Japanese [07:07] would commit suicide.

INT: And that was because it was talked about in the camp, how they lost a Japanese prisoner because they kill themselves?

ML: No, as I said, the Japanese [07:21] prisoners would commit suicide rather than the interrogators.

INT: Did you ever assign a room to a Japanese [07:31] prisoner in your duties as room assignments?

ML: No, we -- they didn't last long enough. They would commit suicide.

INT: Right away.

ML: And the one thing they used to do --

BL: That's the policeman [08:00] giving out tickets to those who are parked in the wrong places because the sweeper is coming.

INT: It's nice of them to let the people know.

BL: Yeah, they do. They come through honking and then. Then if you don't move the car,

you get a ticket.

INT: That's nice. I'm sorry, you were about to say something about the Japanese [08:19], I think?

ML: Well, they would commit suicide. And one of the scare tactics in the hotel, you would see a prisoner of war -- he may have been an American -- would pass the hotel and they would follow and we'd turn the corner and then you would hear shot [09:00], and then they didn't kill them. It was just a shot. He would get back in the ambulance and he would go back where he came from, and they figured that he was killed.

INT: And this is sort of gruesome, but do you know how the Japanese would kill themselves at Byron Hot Springs [09:28]?

ML: Must have been with a knife because they didn't give them a gun or anything like that. Probably a knife.

INT: Where did you live when you were -- did you live in the hotel or for their barracks separated from the hotel at Byron Hot Springs [10:00]?

ML: No, I lived in the barracks.

INT: And those were outside of the hotel?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay.

ML: We used to go into the hotel, the bottom to eat.

INT: Into the dining area?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Could you describe the hotel at all? Was it nice? Was it run down? Did it still look like a hotel when you were there?

ML: Well, at one time, it was a really nice hotel. We went to California, took me over to the same hotel and it was really run down, decrepit.

BL: We did see barracks. We did see little houses that were still standing.

INT: So when you went back to California [11:00] --

BL: Dilapidated but standing.

INT: You actually went out to the Byron Hot Springs [11:06], then?

BL: Yes.

INT: Okay.

INT: Do you know what year that was, approximately or what decade even? Was it the 50s or 60s?

BL: I would say in the 70s.

INT: 70s, okay.

BL: We looked at it when we went to California in the 70s.

ML: And in order to get into the hotel, we had a fence around it, and the guard would open the door or the gates, and you would go in and then, he would -- the insides were and you could drive in.

INT: You remember the tennis courts. Was there a swimming pool [12:00]?

ML: I remember the tennis courts only because this one prisoner --

INT: Franz [12:04].

ML: Wende, Franz Wende.

INT: Yeah.

ML: Who was -- the excuse was that we were holding him for further interrogation, but the reason they wanted him there, because they could play tennis with him.

INT: So you never played tennis with him.

BL: You never played tennis.

INT: And there was a golf course nearby, wasn't there? Was there a golf course?

ML: No.

INT: No?

ML: If there was, I didn't -- no, I'm sure there wasn't.

INT: About -- from what you remember, since you were assigning everyone to these rooms, about how long would a prisoner be there at Byron Hot Springs [12:51]? Before, you mentioned they were going to a camp down in Texas. How long would they be at Byron Hot Springs? How long would they be interrogated for before going [13:00] down to Texas?

ML: Well, actually, there was a kid in there, as long as they could get a permission from -- and then, they were sent to Texas. And the funny thing is, when they were sent to Texas, they were sent to a Nazi [13:21] or an anti-Nazi [13:22] camp and somebody made a mistake and they sent him to the wrong camp and he was killed there.

INT: Do you remember how you found out about that? Did you just hear about that?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Do you remember if the people who were killed or had done the killing, were they -- do you remember if they had been at Byron Hot Springs [14:00]?

ML: I don't understand.

INT: Did the people who had killed the other German [14:12], do you remember if they came, if they -- were they there at Byron Hot Springs [14:18], either before or after the murder?

ML: I was at Byron Hot Springs [14:32], I spent very, very little time at 1142 [14:37].

BL: That's not what he's asking.

INT: That's okay.

INT: Did you ever have prisoners that came from 1142 [14:46] and then went to Tracy [14:51]? You did.

ML: Yeah.

INT: And did you ever send prisoners from Tracy [15:00] to 1142 [15:01]?

ML: No.

INT: Did you ever get a prisoner that came back more than once?

ML: No.

INT: Do you remember the name Werner Henke [15:07], a prisoner? Werner Henke.

ML: I remember that every day, we had roll call of the German [15:32] prisoners and [unintelligible] and then, they -- we were sent back to the barracks, so two of these prisoners just took off and went to Baltimore [15:49]. I think it was Baltimore, and walked around, and finally, they turned themselves into the [16:00] -- into a police station, and they said -- they explained that they wanted to get back.

INT: These were prisoners from 1142 [16:13]? Okay. And so did this happen while you were stationed at 1142? I'll make a note to come back to that when we talk about 1142 [16:26]. Was there ever an escape attempt at Camp Tracy [16:30] that you were aware of?

ML: I'm trying to remember. You know, they had the enclosure all around with barbed wire. So one of the prisoners went to escape, and it had [17:00] big sentry boxes where there were guards, and he tried to go over the fence, but he was shot.

INT: Do you know if he -- was he killed?

ML: He was killed.

INT: Was this at 1142 [17:17] or was this at Tracy [17:20]?

ML: Tracy.

INT: And were you there when that happened? Do you remember seeing it, or did you just hear about it happening?

ML: No. We could see it.

INT: Did you see the shooting?

ML: Yeah.

INT: You did. And this was a German prisoner?

ML: Yeah.

INT: We'll go for about another 10 or 15 minutes and then we'll take a little break. Is that okay [18:00]?

ML: I have nothing to do.

INT: Okay, fantastic.

BL: I'm going to have to leave here at quarter after 11:00.

INT: Okay.

BL: If you can stay.

INT: Okay, great.

INT: Well, we've got about 10 or 15 minutes left on this tape and then we'll take a quick little break and change our tapes.

BL: Can I give you something to drink, to eat, to --

INT: No, I'm fine for right now.

BL: Would you like something? A cold drink?

INT: Yeah, a cold drink would be great. Thank you.

BL: Iced tea.

INT: That would be fantastic. Thank you very much.

INT: Was there only one shooting that you know of?

ML: Yeah.

INT: And it was an attempt to escape by a prisoner, a German [18:37] prisoner.

ML: I remember, every morning, they would have to get out for roll call, and two of the prisoners just took off, went into Baltimore [19:00]. They didn't know what to do, so they went into a police station, and they said -- [unintelligible] they took them back.

INT: At Byron Hot Springs [19:22], do you remember about how big it was? How many -- about how many Americans were stationed there?

ML: Well, they were mostly all American.

INT: Thank you very much.

BL: Would you like some, also?

ML: Japanese [19:41] would commit suicide.

INT: In terms of the American staff, like yourself, do you remember about how big it was? Were there lots of American soldiers, or was it a small post, or was it a big post [20:00]?

ML: Where, the hotel?

INT: Yes, out at Byron Hot Springs [20:04], were there lots of other Americans there?

ML: There were only two Japanese [20:09] interrogators, and all the rest were German [20:19] interrogators, but the Japanese [20:22] interrogators had nobody to interrogate because they would all commit suicide. So all they did was write reports.

INT: Were there any Japanese-Americans [20:33], Nisei [20:34] or Issei [20:36] that were

working at Tracy [20:37]?

ML: Yeah, Cha cha [phonetic]. William Deh-Lee [20:45] [phonetic].

INT: And what do you remember about him?

ML: He changed his name later from William Deh-Lee [20:58] to William Davis [20:59].

INT: Davis [21:00], yes. Yeah, we actually -- as you know, we've spent some time trying to track you down and other veterans, and he may actually still be living out in California. We haven't been able to actually track telephone number for him, but we've actually found a reference to him living in California. So if we ever find him, we'll definitely let you know. Do you remember what his job was there?

ML: I don't know.

INT: But he was a Chinese -- he was Chinese-American [21:43]?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay. Is there anything else that stands out about Byron Hot Springs [21:59] that you remember [22:00]? Did you enjoy your time there?

ML: I enjoyed it.

BL: Did you enjoy your time in the service?

INT: He was away from you.

[unintelligible dialogue]

INT: He was away from you. I guess he didn't mind being -- did you --

BL: We weren't married yet.

INT: Yeah, that's right.

BL: I didn't know him.

INT: Just a couple names, are there any other names that stick out in your mind? Are there

other friends or other soldiers from Byron Hot Springs [22:40]?

ML: Caspar Schenk [22:42].

INT: Vince might mention just a couple of them to see if their names ring a bell.

INT: Lieutenant Louis Nipkow [23:00]? Joe Akiyama [23:03]?

ML: No.

INT: And you've looked through this list a little bit, correct?

ML: Werner Moritz [23:28].

INT: Do you remember Werner Moritz? We're in contact. We've spoken with Werner Moritz and we've interviewed him.

ML: In fact, he used to use the name, an alias name, he was in interrogator, Captain Boesch [23:46].

INT: Captain Boesch.

INT: He didn't tell us that. What do you remember about Werner Moritz [23:55]? And if you'd like, we can give him [24:00] -- we can give you his phone number. He lives in Charlotte, North Carolina [24:01].

ML: No.

INT: Okay.

[laughter]

INT: I guess he hasn't changed.

INT: We want to hear everything you know about Werner Moritz [24:15]. He's quite a personality today.

ML: What does he do?

INT: He's retired. He's a successful businessman, but he has a very strong personality, but a

very good man. Now, you remember him from 1142 [24:35], from Fort Hunt [24:38] because he was only stationed at Fort Hunt in Virginia, but what's important is that he was there at the beginning of the opening of Fort Hunt [24:52] as you were. So, do you think that's where you met Werner Moritz [24:57]?

ML: Probably. He didn't go to California [25:00].

INT: No, we don't think so. No, he was just at 1142 [25:04] but he was there at the very beginning, just like you were.

ML: Yeah.

INT: Do you remember his name from looking through these lists, or did that just pop into your head?

BL: He may have remembered it from --

INT: From going through? Okay. Did we ask about Richard Kleeman [25:32]?

ML: Richard P. Kleeman.

INT: Exactly.

BL: How do you know him?

ML: Richard Pentraz [phonetic] Kleeman [25:51].

INT: Yes. He was a second lieutenant.

INT: Was he a friend of yours?

ML: No, he wasn't a friend. I knew him.

BL: Well, he was a sergeant [26:00] at that time. See, he didn't become an officer until he joined the reserves.

INT: I see.

INT: Who was your commanding -- who was your direct commanding officer?

ML: Colonel Kent [26:13].

INT: So you reported to Colonel Kent. Did you have an intermediate lieutenant that you worked with?

ML: There was a Lieutenant Gaskins [phonetic] [26:31]?

INT: Well, we're still very much in touch with Dick Kleeman [26:41]. He lives in Washington, D.C. [26:45] like we do, and we've interviewed him, as well. He was also at Camp Tracy [26:53], as well as at Fort Hunt [26:57], at 1142 [26:59] at the end of the war [27:00].

INT: There's still quite a few things we want to talk about regarding Tracy [27:08], like the end of the war, closing down of Tracy and then, going to 1142 [27:14]. Did you want to wait for another tape for that?

INT: No, we might as well go with that for five minutes.

INT: Okay. Do you want to --

INT: Sure. Do you remember -- you would have been at Camp Tracy [27:23] for several years, it sounds like. Do you remember how things came to a close at Camp Tracy [27:33]? Was that -- had the war ended and they started to shut down Camp Tracy? How did that happen?

ML: Yeah, the war was over, and there was a question of what they can do with the older recording equipment. This was all secret. They couldn't sell it. So finally, they took it to the river [28:00] and they dumped it all in the river and get rid of it. Like you dump a car into the river, that's what they did with all that stuff.

BL: That doesn't sound logical.

INT: It actually makes sense.

BL: It doesn't to me. I would think that they would file it away somewhere, [unintelligible].

INT: They actually destroyed a lot of the materials.

BL: They did?

INT: Even if it was secret.

INT: And so, do you remember what happened after that? Were there still prisoners at Camp Byron Hot Springs [28:35] when that happened? Did you transfer prisoners back to the East Coast?

ML: Well, the prisoners were all transferred to Texas [28:51].

INT: But I mean, when you closed Byron Hot Springs [28:57], when it shut down, were there [29:00] any prisoners who were still there? Had they all been sent to Texas [29:05] already?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Did any of those prisoners go back to 1142 [29:14], Fort Hunt [29:15]?

ML: No, but I remember they took the -- Byron Hot Springs [29:25], they took away all the sentry boxes and all that. In fact, when we went out there, it was pretty well run down.

INT: Well, we were out there just this past year, and it's very run down now. The building's still there, but it's not in very good -- there's been a lot of vandalism and a lot of fires.

INT: Do you know, did anybody ever take any photographs of Tracy [30:00]?

ML: Yeah. In fact, I have a bunch of pictures.

BL: Of Tracy [30:11]?

ML: I have them upstairs somewhere.

INT: We'd love to see them, if you have a chance.

INT: That would be incredible.

BL: I'll look for them, yeah. I'd have to look for it. I don't know of any.

ML: They may have been -- they may be upstairs in the bottom drawer, the chifferobe.

BL: Pictures of Tracy [30:38]. All right, I'll go look.

INT: Well, we can -- we're going to -- we've got about a minute or so left and then we are going to take a little break then anyhow. We've got just a little bit of tape left. At Camp Tracy [30:53], do you -- you mentioned your commander was Colonel Kent [30:54]. What do you remember about him? Was he a good guy? A bad guy [31:00]?

ML: He was a very arrogant guy, and then there were two after him, and then Colonel Bliss [31:18]. In fact, Colonel Bliss's picture is in there somewhere.

INT: Yes, I think you're right next to him in that picture. Did you like Colonel Bliss [31:30] better than Kent [31:34]?

ML: They were different types

INT: [affirmative]

[End of Tape 1B]

[Beginning of Tape 2A]

INT: Okay. Let me give another brief introduction. Today is September 5th, 2008. This is the second in a series of interviews by the National Park Service for the Fort Hunt Oral History Project. This is Brandon Bies of the National Park Service joined with Vincent Santucci and Kevin Butler. We are here at the home of Marvin and Bea Levinthal at their home in Ventnor City, New Jersey and interviewing Mr. Leventhal about his experiences at Camp Tracy [00:42] and at P.O. Box 1142 [00:46] in Virginia. And so, with that, Mr. Leventhal, during the break, we were asking a few questions about who some other folks that you might have remembered in your time at the war [01:00].

BL: They're in the pictures, I think.

INT: Okay.

BL: They must be with all our other pictures [unintelligible] would be impossible to get to for me.

INT: Sure. Well, if you have a chance to look for them, you know, after we have gone, and if you do run across them --

BL: Sure.

INT: We'd love to see them or arrange to get copies or even if there's a way to get scans or to send them to us and we can send them right back to you after we -- we'd love to see copies of them.

BL: Okay, I'll have my daughter, when she comes look through them because I can't get in there.

INT: Sure.

BL: To look for them. There's a whole table full of pictures.

INT: Is it really?

BL: Yeah. All kinds.

ML: Do you have Leon Ames [01:42] down there?

BL: What?

INT: What was his name? Leon Ames [01:46]? Ames definitely sounds familiar. Yes, Leonard F. Ames [01:55]. He was a T-5 [02:00] sergeant.

ML: He used to make up the beds in the officers' quarters, clean the rooms.

INT: And this was at Camp Tracy [02:15]?

ML: I spent very little time in 1142 [02:29].

INT: You said you knew two Japanese [02:33] words that you remember. Would you be able to say --

ML: [inaudible] Army Regulation 380-5 [02:45], safeguarding military information.

INT: And do you remember what they would say in that lecture? What some of the key points were [03:00]? Maybe just about keeping things, military secrets and keeping things classified?

ML: Safeguarding military information.

INT: Okay and what was the number again?

ML: Army Regulation 380-5 [03:17].

INT: Okay. During the break, we had -- you mentioned a couple other names of people who you remember. You mentioned Paul Kubala [03:29]. What do you remember about him?

ML: Just that he was an officer.

INT: Okay.

ML: William Kinsley [03:47]?

INT: Kinsley? The name does sound familiar.

INT: Yeah, Kinsley, K-I-N-S-L-E-Y. He was a lieutenant.

ML: He died there.

INT: He died at Byron Hot Springs [03:56]?

ML: We didn't know what to do with the body [04:00], so they dumped it outside the hospital.

INT: Really?

BL: He was an American, wasn't he? Well, why wasn't his family notified?

ML: I don't know.

INT: They actually buried him there?

ML: I don't know what they do with them.

INT: Do you remember how he died?

ML: I think he must have had a heart attack.

INT: Well, we will definitely look into that. We had not heard that before.

ML: And Peter Logathedus [phonetic] [04:38].

ML: That sounds weird because usually the Army would get in touch with you.

INT: You have a remarkable memory of a lot of the people.

BL: Yeah, some may not be --

INT: Well, most that he's mentioned are all on my list. They're all on the list.

INT: And the middle initials are always correct, too [05:00].

INT: Well, what else aren't we asking you about Byron Hot Springs [05:11]?

ML: We talked about the electronic equipment.

INT: [affirmative] How was the food when you were there?

ML: The food was good.

INT: Yeah? Was it made by Army cooks? They didn't have the prisoners doing the cooking, did they?

ML: [negative]

INT: Okay. Something that was interesting when Brandon and myself visited Byron Hot Springs [05:48] was that in the rooms on the top floor where the prisoners were held is that there was a little bathroom area, a little sink area, and above the sink was a window, a little window [06:00], air hole that looked right across to the other prisoner room where there was another air hole, and we found some wiring that went right up to that area,

almost as if these holes were intentionally there to allow prisoners to think that they could talk to each other and not know that they are being monitored. Were you ever up in one of the prisoner rooms?

ML: No. The only rooms we went into were the interrogation rooms. We had two doors.

And if you went in those rooms, you'd go in through the first door and they would close it and then they would open the second door and you'd go in [07:00].

INT: So, was it a set of double doors or would there be an outer door and an inner door?

ML: An outer door and an inner door.

INT: Did you ever sit in on an interrogation? Do you know from talking to people how long the interrogations would last for?

ML: As long as they would get information from them.

INT: Would they be just one day or over the course of several days?

ML: It depends on how much information they could get.

INT: Do you ever remember hearing that they found some really important information?

ML: Oh, yeah.

INT: Do you remember what -- any particular stories of a certain discovery?

BL: [unintelligible] [08:00]

ML: It was such a long time ago.

INT: Oh, sure, that's okay. Well, you've done real well so far, so. Do you have any recall about how the inside of the hotel looked in terms of furnishings? Chairs, sofas, beds?

Did they use the old hotel furniture, or did they bring in government or military furniture?

ML: No, whatever was in there, they used.

INT: So it was sort of elegant, the tables and chairs were sort of fancy, or were they sort of

government surplus-type of furnishings?

ML: There was nothing fancy at all.

INT: Like the dining room, do you think that they use the original dining room tables that were there when it was a hotel [09:00]?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Were you ever in that very big kitchen?

ML: No.

INT: With your role as assigning the prisoners to the rooms, did you ever walk them to their rooms? Would you actually take them to their room?

ML: No, we had -- I'd just get a hold of the guards that would take them.

INT: Yeah, the MPs? The MPs? Can you talk about the MPs a little bit? Do you know -- the MPs, do you remember anything about them? Were there lots of MPs?

ML: In Washington [09:59]? In Baltimore [10:00].

INT: No, at Byron Hot Springs [10:04].

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Do you remember how they were armed? Would they just have a pistol?

ML: They'd have a pistol, and they had MP on their --

INT: On their arms?

INT: How about the guard towers?

INT: Go ahead.

INT: The guard towers, there were guards in all of the towers?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Were there more than one tower?

ML: There was four of them [unintelligible].

INT: And would they have more than a pistol?

ML: They had a revolver, a rifle.

INT: A shotgun or a machine gun?

ML: No machine guns. They'd have a rifle [11:00].

INT: And as far as you remember, there was only one shooting of a prisoner.

ML: Yeah, he tried to escape over the barbed -- over the fence and he was shot dead.

INT: Did they have any alarm systems?

ML: I don't think so.

INT: Or any electric fences or anything?

ML: Not that I know of.

INT: Did they use dogs or --

ML: No dogs.

INT: -- horses? No dogs?

ML: The only horses there were -- was one, two horses. General Edmunds [11:41] [phonetic] had a horse and his orderly had a horse, and every day, every morning, the orderly -- they'd bring the horses around and they'd go for [12:00] a horse ride.

INT: And is that at Byron Hot Springs [12:09] or is that at Fort Hunt [12:14]?

ML: It was California.

INT: And that was General Edmunds [12:16]? Do you remember anything about an elevator at Byron Hot Springs [12:27]?

ML: There could have been one. I don't remember.

INT: Do you remember anything about the old registration desk for Byron Hot Springs

[12:37], telephone communication or anything like that?

ML: No.

INT: And you had mentioned a P.O. Box for Camp Tracy [12:51]. Do you recall what that was?

ML: 651 [12:52].

INT: 651. Is that how you would refer to it just as -- would you call it [13:00] -- when you were there, would you refer to it as Camp Tracy [13:07] or to --

ML: P.O. Box 651 [13:09].

INT: P.O. Box 651. And would you get your mail through that post office box number?

ML: Yeah.

INT: How would you -- would you have the ability to write to your family and get -- send and receive mail?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Did you ever save any of that mail? Do you have copies of any of that?

BL: I really will check.

INT: When you were at 651 [13:37], did you ever -- were you ever given leave? Did you ever have a furlough?

ML: Yeah, we used to go to San Francisco [13:49].

INT: Is that what soldiers would do for entertainment, go on into San Francisco?

ML: Well, you would get a furlough [14:00]. So once in a while, we would go to Los Angeles. I'll never forget, they had a big, long limousine. You know, one of these real long ones? And they couldn't get in the -- they couldn't go down the hill because -- how could I explain it?

BL: It was probably difficult in San Francisco [14:36] because of the hills.

ML: They had to go around, all the way around, so it wouldn't get stuck on the hills.

INT: Were you ever given a furlough long enough to come back to Philadelphia [14:56]?

ML: No [15:00].

INT: So, just a shorter 24-hour pass or something? Were the hours that you were working at 651 [15:12], were they regular Monday through Friday, nine to five hours or were you working seven days a week?

ML: Seven days a week.

INT: So they still would conduct interrogations on Saturdays and Sundays?

ML: No.

INT: But you would still have to work on a lot of Saturdays and Sundays?

ML: Somebody had to man the desk.

INT: Okay. And were you usually -- was that one of your jobs was manning the desk? And, again, your job, you would assign the prisoners to the individual rooms. Would you keep track of the prisoners? Like [16:00] if a prisoner was taken to an interrogation, would you make a notification of that or --

ML: The MP would take them.

INT: What about meals? Were prisoners taken to their meals or -- in the dining area, or did they bring the food to the prisoners?

ML: No, you had benches and chairs and metal trays. You get up there and you walk past the cooks and they slap the food on the tray.

INT: Is that how the prisoners ate, as well, or did the prisoners have to stay in their rooms?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Okay.

INT: And where the prisoners taken outside for exercise periodically [17:00]?

ML: Yeah, but in the enclosure.

INT: Did they impress upon you -- you mentioned how you had -- every week, you had to listen to the 380-5 [17:18]. Did they impress upon you any other rules, say, like the Geneva Convention [17:23] for treatment of prisoners?

ML: No.

INT: Do you ever remember any cases where you heard about a prisoner being physically abused or punched or tied up or anything during an interrogation?

ML: No, the only thing I remember -- after they were done interrogating and they felt they couldn't get any more information out of them, they sent them to Texas [17:55] to an anti-Nazi [18:00] and a Nazi [18:00] camp, and somebody made a mistake and they sent a prisoner to the anti-Nazi [18:12] camp. Then, he was -- they killed him out there. The prisoners killed him.

INT: The camp you are referring to was actually in Arizona. It was called Papago Park [18:30]. Does that ring a bell, Papago Park? The example you mentioned is actually, believe it or not, there was actually a book written about that, as well. There's -- it's a fairly well-known case that you are describing.

ML: Oh.

INT: Yeah, it was called Papago Park [18:54] was where the prisoner was killed. Other than [19:00] the German [19:03] tennis player, were there any other famous or important prisoners that you can recall?

ML: Only that one.

INT: Okay.

ML: And the idea of the excuse was they kept him there to get more information out of him, but they actually kept him there to play tennis with him.

INT: Was he treated better than other prisoners? Did they give him better food or --

ML: No, all prisoners -- the prisoners were all given good food.

INT: Generally treated fairly well?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Did the tennis player speak English? Do you remember any of the prisoners -- did any of the prisoners speak English?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: The prisoners who were there, were most of them enemy officers [20:00]? Were they high-ranking, or were there also lower-ranking enlisted prisoners, as well?

ML: A combination.

INT: Okay. Do you remember anything -- did you ever find out why a prisoner had been chosen to be sent to 651 [20:20]? Why weren't they just sent to a regular prison camp?

ML: Well, it was -- they were interviewed, and the closest they could get -- that they felt could get more information were transferred to the camp. Others were transferred directly out.

INT: Do you remember if people at 651 [20:51] made a request that they wanted a particular prisoner, or did prisoners [21:00], they just showed up and as they showed up, they would be interrogated?

ML: No, they were all together, and those that they felt could get more information out of were sent to Tracy [21:23] and others were gone to the prison camp.

INT: Do you remember, as prisoners would show up, would they come one by just individually

or with a group of prisoners? Thank you very much. Would they bring in a truckload of prisoners?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Okay [22:00].

INT: You were following up with your comments regarding the British, the MI-9 [22:06] program and the British sailors.

ML: The Wavy Navy [22:12].

INT: Do you recall anything else about the MI-9 [22:16] and what their role was at Tracy [22:21]?

ML: Just to get information.

INT: So, did they do interrogations?

ML: Well, they must have. Must have.

INT: Did they stay at the hotel? Did they have a room to stay at the hotel, or did they stay --

ML: They all stayed at the hotel.

INT: They did. And were there just a few more were there many?

ML: Navy men?

INT: Yes.

ML: I think there was [23:00] one officer and two or three enlisted men.

INT: And at the time, MI-9 [23:11], what did that mean to you? What did that -- did you understand what MI-9 meant?

ML: Well, they were military intelligence.

INT: Okay. The kinds of enemy prisoners that were there, did you have prisoners from different branches of the service? Did you have prisoners who were in the Navy?

Prisoners who were in the Air Force [23:38] or Luftwaffe? Prisoners who were artillery or infantry?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: I wonder if he remembers any of the names.

INT: Do you remember the names of the Wavy Navy [23:52] officer? The name of the officer?

ML: Loenholm [23:58].

INT: Okay.

INT: What's his name [24:00]? Coleman [phonetic].

ML: Loenholm.

INT: Loenholm? Do you know how you would spell that?

ML: L-O-E-N-H-O-L-M, I think.

INT: Holm.

INT: Okay. That was the officer? And do you have a first name for Loenholm [24:24]? Yeah, how about Ronald H.? Ronald Loenholm [24:33]?

ML: Officer.

INT: Yeah, the lieutenant colonel.

INT: Why would he be on the Barrick roster if he was British?

INT: Yeah.

INT: Right. What do you remember about Loenholm [24:50]?

ML: I know -- we had a big office [25:00] in the basement, and his desk was near mine.

INT: Do you remember what Loenholm's [25:16] job was?

ML: I guess getting information.

INT: Was he British or American?

ML: He was British.

INT: You know, he could be British descent. He is listed as a lieutenant colonel with an American serial number. We can look up more information. He may just have been of British descent.

INT: But you remember there being folks from MI-9 [25:46] at --

ML: That was Silvio Bedini [25:53].

INT: Okay, do you remember Silvio Bedini at Camp Tracy [25:58] or at Fort Hunt [26:00], at 1142 [26:04]?

ML: No, he was 1142 [26:05].

INT: Okay. And so remember there being some MI-9 [26:08] folks who were working with Silvio Bedini [26:11]?

ML: I'm sure he had some. I don't remember.

INT: But the MI-9 [26:22] were at Tracy [26:23] or at 1142 [26:25]?

ML: I don't recall.

INT: Okay, good. Okay, that's helpful. And the Wavy Navy [26:40], were they at 1142 [26:43] or Tracy [26:44]?

ML: Tracy [26:47].

INT: Okay. And those were definitely British. Do you remember any names of any of the Wavy Navy [26:56]?

ML: No [27:00].

INT: And this is very unlikely but I'll just ask it anyway, there were no women at Tracy [27:09]?

ML: It was men only. In fact, I think that was before they had the WACs [27:13] and the WAVES [27:14].

INT: Can you describe the general area around Camp Tracy [27:21]? What type of country was it?

ML: I don't recall.

INT: Do you remember it as -- I mean, what -- our understanding was it was a fairly agricultural area, lots of farms. There weren't really any towns nearby. Do you remember, was it -- would you consider Camp Tracy [27:51] to be isolated?

ML: No.

INT: Okay [28:00]. A couple more questions. About that big room in the ground floor in the basement, did they have a name for that room?

ML: No.

INT: Did they refer to it? We have a room that, a building actually, at 1142 [28:22], it's -- they refer to as the monitoring room. Would that seem reasonable to you that it was a monitoring room?

ML: With the electronic equipment?

INT: Yeah.

ML: All the -- with equipment in there. There was -- in fact, when somebody entered the building and they went to go into that room, I had to press a button [29:00] and alert them that somebody was coming in there and then, they would allow them to go in.

INT: So it was enclosed, and the door was always closed, and you needed to push a button to get in?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Did you ever go in that room?

ML: No.

INT: Would you have to push a button to get in, or would you just be pushing a button --

ML: You pushed a button to alert.

INT: -- to notify somebody, and that would let the monitor, the people listening know that there was somebody in that room.

ML: Yeah.

INT: And did you have that -- was that at your station, at your desk?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay. So you wouldn't know what inside of that room looked like [30:00].

ML: I forget already.

INT: Okay.

ML: I know it had all the equipment in there.

INT: Just wondering if there were desks and tables and chairs or it was sophisticated electronic equipment that people sat in front of.

ML: Well, there was a chair there because I know they didn't stand in there.

INT: Okay. Did they ever let a prisoner go in that room? Did any of the Nisei [30:26] go in there?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Were there any technicians who would work on the equipment, people whose job it was to work on the recording equipment?

ML: Yeah.

INT: And do you remember anything about them [31:00]?

ML: The fact -- the picture, you've got a couple of --

INT: Some of them are in -- they're in that photo? Some of the technicians? Do you think if we looked at that during a break you could tell us who some of the technicians were?

ML: I might be.

INT: Okay.

INT: When you took a leave or furlough to go out of the camp, did you have a buddy that you went with?

ML: No, they used to have a pickup truck that would go in the towns to get mail, and if we wanted to go into town, we would go in that pickup truck [31:00] and walk around town and arrange that he was going to pick us up at a certain time. That's where you got back in the camp.

INT: Okay.

INT: When you went to San Francisco [32:15], did you have another buddy go along with you or would you go alone?

ML: No, you'd go alone.

INT: And I guess it's worth asking --

[End of Tape 2A]

[Beginning of Tape 2B]

ML: I remember one thing about San Francisco [00:06], you had to walk like a duck.

[laughter]

INT: Really? And why was that?

ML: It was hills.

INT: Yeah. Something Vince had started to ask a second ago was, what were your first

impressions of this place, P.O. Box 651 [00:42]?

ML: Well, when they took us out there. The first time, they took us in a truck.

INT: Okay.

ML: And our [01:00] -- and the basement was the dining area and the upstairs was where we slept.

INT: Did they brief you on the importance of this assignment or did you just suddenly -- do they -- did you just immediately start working on it? Were there any introductory briefings?

ML: Yeah.

INT: When you got there, was the operation already in existence or did you start it off?

ML: No, it was already working.

INT: So, there were already -- when you arrived at 651 [02:00] for the first time, were there already prisoners there?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay. Did they build any facilities while you were there? Did they need to add additional barracks or anything else while you were there?

ML: I don't think so.

INT: Did you enjoy working there?

ML: Yeah.

INT: What -- in looking back at your time at Tracy [02:32], what was the favorite thing that you had -- you did while you were there? What was the thing that stands out in your mind as being most the most enjoyable part of your job?

ML: My job?

INT: Yes.

ML: Playing tennis.

[laughter]

INT: So you played tennis while you were there?

ML: Yeah, before my feet went bad [03:00].

INT: Did Franz [03:02] give you any tips? Did Franz give you any tips in tennis?

ML: Yeah.

INT: You spoke with him? Did you ever communicate or talk with any of the prisoners?

ML: No.

INT: Could you? Did you pick up any German [03:26]? Did you ever -- I know you spoke Yiddish [03:29], but did you learn any German when you are in the military?

ML: [unintelligible] sprechen de Deutsche.

INT: So, then, yes. So, then you could speak German [03:43], then, too?

ML: German and Yiddish [03:47].

INT: They're very similar. Could we get him to state the two Japanese words on tape? Did we get that?

INT: Yeah, I believe so.

INT: Yeah, I think so.

INT: Okay [04:00].

INT: Last impressions, close out?

INT: Yeah, we talked a little bit earlier but maybe, we could go over again, when you came to leave Camp Tracy [04:09], do you remember how that came about? How did you find out that you are going back to 1142 [04:17]?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Okay. When you went -- when you were transferred at the end of the war back to 1142

[04:34], was it just you, or did you go back with a group of people?

ML: With a group.

INT: Was it the whole group from everyone from Camp Tracy [04:43]?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Okay.

INT: By train, by bus, what type?

INT: Do you remember how you were transported back to the East Coast [04:56]? Did you take a train?

ML: By train.

INT: Okay [05:00]. Did they ever fly you anywhere when you were in the military?

ML: No.

INT: Okay. Another -- we've talked a little bit about 1142 [05:20] and obviously, we've been asking lots of questions about Camp Tracy [05:26]. Did you ever remember hearing about a place in Pennsylvania named Pine Grove Furnace [05:33]?

ML: No.

INT: What about a military training center in Maryland called Camp Ritchie [05:46]?

ML: I've heard about it. I don't remember anything about it, though.

INT: You were never stationed at Camp Ritchie? Okay [06:00].

ML: We were stationed in Baltimore [06:04]. Where -- I remember walking down Baltimore Street [06:16]. In fact, I remember Baltimore Street is the one that had all the whole houses.

[laughter]

INT: Was this during the war that you remember being stationed in Baltimore [06:37]?

ML: I was there at Fort Mead [06:45].

INT: Okay. Have you heard of a camp in the Baltimore [06:49] area called Camp Holabird
[phonetic] [06:51]?

ML: Camp Holabird [06:53].

INT: Is that we were stationed?

ML: I think [07:00]. There was another, Blackstone [phonetic] [07:12].

INT: Camp Blackstone?

ML: Camp Blackstone was [unintelligible] Camp Lee [07:23] and they brought some people
over from Blackstone [07:24] to Camp Lee.

INT: Okay.

ML: You know, it's so long ago, you can't remember.

INT: Well, you've aced the test so far. You remember a remarkable amount given that it was
60-plus years ago.

ML: I can't remember what happened yesterday, though.

[laughter]

INT: Well, you're -- this -- you are doing a great job. I think will switch gears a little bit and
ask you some -- and we know you weren't at P.O. Box 1142 [08:00] for very long, but
we want to see what you might remember about P.O. Box 1142. You went there first,
correct? Prior to going out to Camp Tracy [08:17].

ML: Yeah.

INT: Just for a little while. Do you remember what your job was at 1142 [08:25]?

ML: Well, I think I was still -- went to the munitions building [09:00].

INT: Is -- were you -- did you go to the munitions building first with a group of people?

ML: No. I think I reported to the munitions building.

INT: Okay.

INT: Maybe we should get this question out of the way. Did you ever hear of the word -- the name Gravelly Point [09:22]?

INT: Back to the munitions building, were -- did you arrive there with a group of other people?

ML: I remember we went to the munitions building before the Pentagon [09:48] was built, and I had to report to Major Schersinger [10:00].

INT: Could -- any idea how that would be spelled?

INT: S-C-H-E-R-S-I-N-G-E-R.

INT: Major Schersinger [10:27], and he was at the munitions building?

ML: And there was --

INT: John Schersinger [10:42]?

ML: Yeah.

INT: What's his middle initial?

ML: Hey?

INT: Do you remember his middle initial? John Schersinger [10:50]? You've done so well. It's amazing you remember these names.

ML: And then, there's a Rauterberg [11:00].

INT: Could you say that name again?

ML: Rauterberg.

INT: Rauterberg?

INT: You know that name is familiar.

INT: Yeah, Carl Rauterberg?

ML: Bullet, nickname was Bullet.

INT: Yeah, Carl B. Rauterberg [11:14].

INT: Bullet.

INT: This is truly amazing.

INT: Maybe if you had him go through the list of the names.

INT: Yeah, I'll think we'll -- yeah, we might do that. Bullet [11:24], Carl.

INT: Do you know why he was called Bullet?

ML: Something to do with his family, some family connection.

INT: And, of course, Rauterberg [11:35] was only at Fort Hunt [11:39] for two weeks but he was at Tracy [11:46].

ML: In fact, I think he died recently. I saw it in the paper.

INT: Oh, really? Well, getting back, you mentioned you went to the munitions building and you reported to Schersinger [12:00]. Were you with a group when you reported to him or just by yourself?

ML: By myself.

INT: And then, what happened from there? Were you then assigned from the munitions building to P.O. Box 1142 [12:19]?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: How did you first find out you were going to this place called 1142 [12:36]?

ML: Well, I was drafted.

INT Did you get a letter or an order or anything?

ML: [laughs] I had to report to the draft board, and they gave me a token at that time to get to the B&O Station [13:00] and a letter marked secret and I wasn't to open the letter until I was -- got to Washington [13:10] and I didn't know what to do. So finally, I saw an MC and I asked him about where I should go. I gave him the letter. He opened it, and all it said was, "Refer to the commanding officer, Washington, D.C. [13:34]." He didn't know what to do. So finally, they put me up in the hotel, and then that's where -- then, they found out where I was supposed to go.

INT: Okay. Is that when you -- did you then go to the munitions building from there [14:00]?

ML: Yeah, well, before the Pentagon [14:04] was built.

INT: Right. And what about Fort Myers [14:08]? Did they ever take you there?

ML: I went to Fort Belvoir [14:22].

INT: You went to Fort Belvoir?

INT: Why?

INT: Was that as part of your assignment to P.O. Box 1142 [14:28]?

ML: I don't recall.

INT: Okay. Do you remember what you did at Fort Belvoir [14:33]?

ML: Yeah, I had an operation.

INT: Okay, you went to the hospital there. When you got to P.O. Box 1142 [15:00] and you -- we mentioned a couple other names. You remembered Werner Moritz [15:07]. He would have been probably in the same group that you were with. Do you remember all -- did you all get -- arrive at 1142 [15:19] at the same time? Kind of in one large group or did you go down as an individual?

ML: An individual.

INT: Okay.

ML: I saw Bollweg [15:34] there.

INT: Bollweg, with a B? Do you remember if he was an officer or was he another enlisted man?

ML: And officer.

INT: I'm sure there is -- you have such a great memory [16:00]. I'm sure he's on here somewhere, but I don't see it. What you remember about him?

INT: Do you remember his first name?

ML: Bollweg [phonetic] [16:18]?

INT: Yes.

ML: Larry or Lawrence.

INT: Do you remember what made his name pop into your head?

ML: I was friendly with him.

INT: Okay. Was he at 1142 [16:46]?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Okay. So when you went to 1142 [17:00], did you go into Alexandria [17:01] or how did you know how to get to 1142? Did somebody pick you up? Did you drive there?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: When you first got to 1142 [17:21], was it -- was there construction going on? Where they still building the post, or was it finished?

ML: They were still building it. I wasn't there very long at all.

INT: When you got to 1142 [17:39], not to Camp Tracy [17:41], but to 1142, what were you assigned to do? What was your job?

ML: I worked in the morning report section, if you know what that is.

INT: The morning report. We've got it right on here [18:00].

INT: And was -- then, that was at 1142 [18:08]?

ML: Then, [unintelligible]. When they went up to 651 [18:16], they needed a message center chief, so somehow, they picked me and I went out to 651 and that's where I spent the rest of the war.

INT: When you were at 1142 [18:38], did you ever deal with prisoners?

ML: No.

INT: No? Do you remember the facilities that the prisoners were kept in?

ML: I remember in California [19:00], the facilities in the top.

INT: That was in the hotel that they were in, but you don't recall at 1142 [19:10] where the prisoners were kept? Did you live on post for the short time you were there?

ML: I always lived on post.

INT: You always lived on post, okay. Do you remember -- we talked a little bit about commanding officers. You mentioned Kent [19:31] and Bliss [19:35].

ML: I don't remember the two in between.

INT: Okay. Does the name Colonel Walker [19:45] ring a bell? No? I think he was one of the ones in between. Do you remember who you reported to at 1142 [20:00]? Did you have any officers?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Okay. Do you remember if any of the people you were with at Camp -- at 651 [20:18] were the same people, you were with at 1142 [20:23]? Was it the same group of people?

ML: Some of them were.

INT: Okay.

ML: Caspar Schenk [20:29] and Paul Darryl Foote [20:36].

INT: Okay. They were both -- they were at both places? Caspar Schenk [20:49] certainly was on here. How do you spell the other name?

ML: Foote [20:54]?

INT: Foote was the other one?

ML: Yeah, F-O-O-T-E.

INT: Yeah, Paul D. Foote [20:59]. He's actually --

INT: Paul D. Foote [21:00], yeah.

INT: He's on this list, as well.

INT: I -- well, first, I guess, any other 1142 [21:10] questions?

INT: Well, before we leave Paul [21:12], does he remember anything about Paul D. Foote?

INT: Yeah, do you remember, what do you remember about Paul Foote?

ML: I don't know.

INT: Okay. Since --

ML: There was a Whiting B. Lee [21:33].

INT: Yeah.

ML: And his job was mimeographing and things like that.

INT: So, he would make copies of reports or interrogations?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay.

ML: And is there a Kenneth Raymond [21:53]?

INT: The name definitely sounds familiar [22:00]. What was the name?

INT: Kenneth Raymond.

INT: We've got a -- we know which picture is his in the photos. Somebody else -- I think it was Rudy Pins [22:12] gave us that name.

INT: Really?

INT: Right here, Kenneth Raymond [22:17].

INT: Yeah, he's on here.

ML: He was like a snogger [22:27].

INT: Oh, a snogger, okay. Since you have such a -- you truly have a remarkable recollection of all of these names. I want to go -- unless there's other pressing 1142 [22:38] questions, since we're on the name subject, I might just go through a few of the names of the initial group of soldiers that you were first assigned with at 1142 [22:52] and many of them were the same soldiers that later went with you to 651 [22:57], but I might just go down [23:00] the list of names and see if you remember their name or not. Is that okay? Wesley Smith [23:09]?

ML: Yeah, I remember the name. Was he from Georgia?

INT: No, but another one who I was going to name, Wayne Spivey [23:27].

ML: Spivey.

INT: He's from Georgia.

ML: And George Bynum [23:33].

INT: George Bynum was also from Georgia, yes. Wayne Spivey [23:38] is still living. We -- Wayne Spivey is one of the first veterans that we found and he still lives in Marietta, Georgia [23:49]. He's -- he -- you would remember him very well because of his thick southern drawl, being from Georgia.

ML: And George Bynum [24:00] was from Georgia.

INT: He was and so was another gentleman named Arthur Welchel [24:04].

ML: Arthur Welchel. I remember him.

INT: What do you remember? Do you remember anything about any of those guys?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Just that they were --

ML: I know them.

INT: We've got a picture of George Bynum [24:18], Arthur Welchel [24:20] and Wayne Spivey [24:24] all together. If I think of it when we get back, I'll send you -- we'll all send you a copy. Do you remember them all being from Georgia?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Yeah, the three of them all came up from Georgia together, so.

ML: And I have a picture somewhere downstairs "chop-chop"

INT: William Bailey [24:50].

ML: William Bailey.

INT: You have a picture of him?

ML: I think he was with a big trashcan. I have a picture of him in the trash.

INT: You have a picture of him [25:00] in the trashcan. All right, so -- do you -- anything -- Wayne Spivey [25:09] and I believe, Arthur Welchel [25:10] and George Bynum [25:11], they were all in a section called the Evaluations Section [25:18]. Does that ring any bells to you? It was kind of like a library where they would sort through a lot of these -- a lot of the interrogations.

ML: Writing reports about them?

INT: Yeah, they would work on the reports. And they were just at 1142 [25:41]. They did not go to 651 [25:43]. So you remember them just from the few weeks, you were there at 1142 [25:48]. We'll keep going through the list. What about Joseph Kiehl [26:00]?

ML: We called him Kim Kiehl.

INT: And his middle initial was K.

ML: He was very friendly with Charles Meckes [26:15].

INT: Really? Okay. He's from down the list.

[laughter]

Really? Well, Joe Kiehl [26:25] or you called him Kim Kiehl, he's passed away but we are in contact with his son. His son is very -- his son never knew his father that well and his son is very interested in any information on his father, but you definitely remember -- he would -- he went by Kim Kiehl because he was at 1142 [26:51] and 651 [26:53], as well. Do you remember what Kiehl [27:00] did?

ML: I don't know.

INT: Okay.

ML: There was another one, Taylor [27:12].

INT: Do you remember Taylor's first name?

ML: We used to call him Toy.

INT: Toy? Toy Taylor? He's not on here, but I'm sure that he's -- I have the next --

ML: The reason I remember him so well is that's the first case of anti-Semitism [27:47] that I remember. He said, "I hate all Jews, but I like you. You're a good Jew." So I'm still trying to figure out, what's a good Jew [28:00]?

[laughter]

INT: And he -- was he an officer or he was enlisted? Was he stationed at 1142 [28:08] or at 651 [28:11] or both?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Okay, but called him Toy Taylor [28:22]? I haven't run across the name before, but -- all right, well, we'll -- next on the list is you, so I am sure, I know you remember you. What about Burnell Lyons [28:40]? We've already talked about Caspar Schenk [28:48].

ML: Yeah.

INT: We've already talked about Arthur Welchel [28:53]. He was from Georgia. And we've talked about Charles Meckes [28:58]. I believe we talked about Meckes [29:00], right? Did Charles --

INT: No.

INT: Charles Meckes?

ML: Meckes.

INT: Meckes, M-E-C-K-E-S?

ML: And the funny thing, is there a Bernard Tengood [29:09] in there?

INT: Yeah, there definitely is. I know, I don't have it in front of me.

ML: The funny thing is --

INT: The name is very familiar.

ML: Bernard Tengood [29:22] --

INT: There he is.

ML: I have a client -- I had a client, when I came back to Philadelphia [29:29] by the name of Henry Ten, T-E-N, and his brother was Bernard Tengood [29:36].

INT: And they just had changed the name?

ML: I never knew him, but when we came back, I had this client, Henry Ten who was the brother of Bernard Tengood [29:56].

INT: So you didn't know Bernard Tengood [29:58] during the war, but you knew his brother [30:00] after the war?

INT: That make sense because he was only at Fort Hunt [30:04] for five days.

INT: What about Norman Beres [30:14] or Beres, B-E-R-E-S?

INT: And we have about a minute left.

INT: We talked about Wayne Spivey [30:26].

ML: Do you have a Paul Bensinger [30:30] on there?

INT: Yes, there's definitely a Paul Bensinger. What do you remember about him?

ML: I was friendly with him. I don't remember him.

INT: He was at Tracy [30:43], as well, wasn't he?

INT: Yeah, I know he's on this list somewhere. I just don't see it.

INT: So you don't remember anything else about Bensinger [30:53]? What about -- I think we talked about -- did we talk [31:00] about Thomas Dickerson [31:01]?

ML: Tom Dickerson.

INT: Yeah?

ML: From Roanoke, Virginia [31:07].

INT: He was from Roanoke, Virginia?

ML: Funny thing is, we were friendly in the Army, and this is a few years ago. We were in the -- we were going to the world's fair and I met him going into the building.

INT: Really? Do you know if he's still living?

ML: I often wondered. In fact, I've been meaning to look up in the phone book or somehow.

INT: And last you know, was he living in Roanoke [31:48]?

ML: Yeah.

INT: And that's --

ML: Yeah, the GMC [31:54] agency.

INT: For what agency?

ML: GMC.

INT: He worked for GMC?

INT: At a dealership [32:00]?

INT: For the vehicle company, General Motors or --

ML: No, the GMC [32:11] trucks.

INT: For the -- yeah, for the trucks. That's who he worked for?

ML: No, he had an agency. I met him in New York one time, and he used to send trucks out as far as --

[End of Tape 2B]

[Beginning of Tape 3A]

INT: Are you ready to go? Can we get you more to drink or are you okay?

ML: I've got enough.

INT: Okay, all right. Well, this is the third in a series of interviews for the Fort Hunt Oral History Project and this is Brandon Bies of the National Park Service joined by Vincent Santucci and Kevin Butler of the National Park Service. Today is September 5th, 2008. This is the third in a series of oral history interviews as part of the Fort Hunt oral history project here with Mr. Marvin Levinthal at his home in Ventnor City, New Jersey [00:40]. And with that, we're going to pick up right where we left off which was going through

these -- some of these names of Mr. Levinthal's former colleagues during the war. And what was the name that we just mentioned?

INT: There's Kingsley [01:00]. He told the Kingsley story and --

INT: And who had you just mentioned just now?

ML: Peter Logothedes [phonetic] [01:07].

INT: Logothedes is -- he's not on here.

INT: And what do you remember about him?

ML: In fact, in the barracks, he slept next to my cot. So he went to the bathroom one time, and there was another fellow there, John Ragucci [phonetic] [01:38]. So, John went out -- would follow him to the bathroom, and he said, "I'm going to shoot you." He said, "The gun's" -- he pulled out a revolver [02:00], and he said, "Don't worry, it's not loaded," and, you know, how -- and a revolver, you know, when you load a revolver, the first hole is empty.

INT: Right.

ML: He says, "I'm not going to shoot you, see?" So he pulled it and then, he pulled a second one, twice and he shot him dead.

INT: Peter Logothedes [02:25]?

INT: Was this at 1142 [02:30] or was this at Tracy [02:31]?

ML: Tracy.

INT: And could you try to spell his name?

INT: Peter [02:40].

ML: L-O-G -- it's spelled like it sounds. L-O-G-A-T-H-E-C-S.

INT: Logothesis [phonetic] [02:57]? Peter Logothesis? What was the name of the fellow who

shot him?

ML: John Ragucci [03:00].

INT: Ragucci.

INT: Did he get in trouble?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: What was the first name of Ragucci?

INT: John.

INT: Neither of those names are familiar. They could be MPs.

INT: That could be. I mean, if he has a weapon.

INT: Were they both MPs? Were they guards?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Do you know what they did with the body?

ML: I guess they buried it. I don't know.

INT: Did they have a burial site at Tracy [03:37]?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Okay.

ML: They must have buried it because they couldn't leave a body laying around.

INT: Right, true.

INT: All right. Well, we'll -- if it's okay, do you mind if we keep going through some of these names?

ML: Yeah.

INT: See, this is great fun [04:00]. I think, did we mention Raymond Downing [04:04]? Ray Downing?

ML: I don't remember him.

INT: Okay. How about Alvin Elliott [04:20]?

ML: No.

INT: Here's an Italian name, Alphonse Gioielli [04:31]? It's G-I-O-I-E-L-L-I.

ML: The only Italian name I remember is Silvio Bedini [04:44].

INT: And what do you remember about Silvio Bedini?

ML: Just the name. It seemed like an odd name. He was MIS-X [04:54].

INT: Absolutely, you are absolutely right. Do you know anything MIS-X [05:00]?

ML: No.

INT: What is MIS-X [05:05]?

ML: Military intelligence.

INT: And does the X mean anything?

ML: Just like in the British, MI-9 [05:21] is British intelligence.

INT: Do you remember what MIS-X [05:25] was doing? What their job was?

ML: Something about papers, secret papers or something.

INT: [affirmative] Coded messages?

INT: Did you know that while you were at 1142 [05:50] or did you learn that later?

ML: No. I was there at 1142 [05:56].

INT: So you knew this other program [06:00] was going on? Did you do anything for that program, or was that separate from what you were doing?

ML: No. But we vacated, maybe I told you, when we vacated 651 [06:27], they had to get rid of all the equipment and they didn't know what to do with it. They couldn't sell it because it was all secret equipment and they couldn't just scrap it. So they loaded it in a

truck, they went to the river, and they dumped it all into the river.

INT: So, could we fly back today with you and find that location?

INT: Were you there when they dumped it in the river?

ML: Yeah. I don't know what river. It was --

INT: Was it close to Byron Hot Springs [06:59]?

ML: Yeah [07:00].

INT: There's a drainage there by it. We saw it.

ML: What was -- was there --

INT: I don't know.

INT: I don't recall the name of it, but there is a small river that goes through that general area.

I'm sure we could probably find out. MIS-X [07:14] was only at 1142 [07:17], wasn't it?

Or was it also at Tracy [07:20]?

ML: No, I think it was at Tracy. I think it was at both places.

INT: And why do you think it was at Tracy? Is there anything that makes you think that?

ML: Well, because I remember when they went to get rid of the equipment, they dumped it into the river.

INT: Do you remember if the MIS-X [07:44] program used that equipment?

INT: Do you know --

ML: It was highly secret equipment [08:00], and they couldn't get rid of it. They just dumped it in the river to get rid of it.

INT: Do you ever remember documents being burned?

INT: You were more associated with the interrogation program, though, weren't you?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Did that have a name like MIS-X [08:22]? Was it a different name?

ML: No.

INT: Have you ever heard of MIS-Y [08:29]?

ML: I've heard of it, but I don't know what it was, though.

INT: On that line, the Navy name -- you remembered how there were Navy personnel? The Naval name was OP16-Z [08:48].

ML: Operation -- it was Operation-something-or-other [09:00]. I remember that, and that was the Navy -- the Wavy Navy [09:05].

INT: Okay. But they called it a Special Operations [09:10] name?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: I know it's getting just a little off of what we were doing, but when you were at 1142 [09:21], do you remember there being German [09:24] prisoners there from U-boats [09:27], sailors from German submarines?

ML: I think there were German [09:38] prisoners there. I don't know whether they were from U-boats [09:40] or not.

INT: Okay.

ML: Because we had German [09:51] interrogators there.

INT: Did you -- were you aware of any Italian [10:00] prisoners or interrogators?

ML: No.

INT: But you clearly stated that there were Naval interrogators.

ML: Yeah.

INT: What can you tell us about the Naval interrogators?

ML: Well, I had a desk in the basement of the office there. And the Naval interrogators had a

desk on the opposite side of the room. That's all I remember.

INT: Did you work -- go ahead.

ML: They had an officer and two enlisted men.

INT: Did you work closely with them, or did you kind of work independently?

ML: Independent.

INT: And was this at 651 [11:00]? Do you remember there being Navy person -- was this at or was this still at 1142 [11:07]?

ML: 651.

INT: Okay.

INT: So, then, do you --

ML: I was only in 1142 [11:15] for --

INT: Sure.

ML: A very short time.

INT: Do you remember any Navy personnel at 1142 [11:25]?

ML: No. There could have been. I don't remember them.

INT: Maybe will keep going through some more names, if that's okay.

ML: Yeah.

INT: They seem to bring back some entertaining stories sometimes. I still want to see this picture of William Deh-Lee [11:49] in a trashcan.

ML: [unintelligible].

INT: We've got about an hour.

INT: How about, do you remember Karl Heyden [12:00]?

ML: No.

INT: He would have paled around with Werner Moritz [12:06] and this would have been at 1142 [12:09], Karl Heyden [12:12]? How about Frank Kraus [12:15]? Whiting Lee [12:19]?

ML: Whiting B. Lee.

INT: There's no middle initial given, but I'll trust you.

ML: He was in charge of the mimeograph room.

INT: In charge of the mimeograph room?

INT: Yes.

INT: Okay.

INT: He was a PFC.

INT: Yes.

INT: Do you remember where he was from?

ML: Was it Georgia [12:54]?

INT: It may be. I'm not sure where he was from. Okay [13:00]. We talked about Werner Moritz [13:03] already. How about Lawrence Schuette [13:08].

ML: Schuette [13:12]. I remember him. Was he from Georgia [13:20]?

INT: I'm not sure if he was or not.

INT: He was friends with Spivey [13:21].

INT: Yes.

INT: Along with Ralph Johnson.

INT: Jackson.

INT: Ralph Jackson [13:26].

INT: Lawrence H. Schuette [13:34]. How about Curt Zimansky [13:37]? Charles Lloyd

[13:46]? I'm not sure of the pronunciation of this next one, Stanley Goicz [14:00] or Goicz? John Castore [14:05]?

ML: No.

INT: Theodore Schulz [14:11]? Ernest Loewensberg [14:17]? A number of these names we're getting into now got there just a little bit later. I'm going to -- one of them was a gentleman named Norman Graber [14:31].

ML: G-R-A-B-E-R?

INT: Yes. Norman Graber. He was short, shorter than you, and he would have -- and he was a tailor, and he was originally from Germany [14:49]. He actually escaped from a couple concentration camps.

ML: I may have known him.

INT: Okay. What about George Frenkel [15:00]? Just on an off chance, going through some of the earlier folks. What about a gentleman named Rudy Fellner [15:20]? Rudolph Fellner? And when we got -- when we first got here, we mentioned the name of another veteran who remembered you and his name is Gerald Stoner [15:43]. He would have been at -- just at 1142 [15:45] for a little while at the very beginning, but he remembers you being his sergeant at 1142.

ML: I don't remember him.

INT: Okay [16:00].

INT: I think we should do this for Tracy [16:03], too, because there was --

INT: That's most of the early arrivals for 1142 [16:08].

INT: Can we try some of the names from Tracy [16:14]? John Cordner [phonetic] [16:15], Thomas Davis [16:18], Kenneth Demari [phonetic] [16:23] or Demari, Oscar Dobler

[phonetic] [16:29].

ML: Oscar Dobler.

INT: Dobler.

INT: Anything that stands out about him?

ML: Just that it was an odd name.

INT: Yeah. William Evans [16:47].

ML: No.

INT: Malcolm Frehn [16:51] or Frehn? Newton Holbrook [16:56].

ML: Newton D. Holbrook.

INT: Yes, the III [17:00].

ML: He was an officer.

INT: Yeah. All these names that Vince is listing our officers.

INT: Howard Key [17:10], William Kinsley [17:14].

ML: Well, Kinsley died.

INT: Yes, he was the one that died there and they dumped him at the hospital [unintelligible] story.

INT: Walter Krider [17:22].

ML: Walter Krider, that name is awfully familiar. Don't remember him, though.

INT: You mentioned Loenholm [17:30]. He is on here. Martenstein [phonetic] [0:17:33], Austin Martenstein.

ML: The name is familiar but I don't remember.

INT: Thomas McCune [17:43], James Morris [17:47], Wentworth Myers [17:49], Carl Rauterberg [17:54].

ML: Carl B. Rauterberg.

INT: Carl B. Rauterberg.

ML: The B stands for Bullet [18:00].

INT: Bullet. Oh, that was Bullet, okay.

INT: That was Bullet.

ML: Yeah. There were -- that name sticks out because there were -- the mainline in Philadelphia [18:13], prominent family.

INT: Okay, yeah.

INT: Gustav Ringwald [18:20].

INT: He went by Gus.

INT: Gus Ringwald.

ML: No.

INT: Edward Russell [18:30], Henry Seibel [18:33], Milton Stanzler [phonetic] [18:36].

ML: No.

INT: Harold Stearns [18:39], David Swift [18:42].

ML: Nope.

INT: William Tate [18:45], Theodore Walser [18:48], Joseph Walsh [18:51], William Wheat [phonetic] [18:54].

ML: William Wheat, the name is familiar.

INT: Thomas Wilson [19:00], Andrew Wolfson [19:02].

ML: Is there a McCosland [phonetic] [19:05] somewhere on the list?

INT: McCosland, that name is familiar. In fact, I picture -- that might be an identified name in our picture.

INT: Real quick, did some other officers who would have -- since we are on the subject of officers who -- some that might have been at 1142 [19:30]. We've already talked about Daniel Kent [19:32]. Do you -- and you mentioned before a Captain Boesch [19:38].

ML: Captain Boesch, he was an interrogator.

INT: Herman W. Boesch [19:43]? You had said that you remembered Werner Moritz [19:49] having a pseudonym, going as his name was Boesch, but there was also a Captain Boesch [19:58].

ML: Well, Captain Boesch [20:00] is the one --

INT: An interrogator, yes. What about Marcel DeMuller [20:08]?

ML: That name is familiar.

INT: Young Neil [20:15]? Not Neil Young, Young Neil. Floyd Parker [20:26]? We already talked about John Schersinger [20:29]. Theodore Morris [20:33]?

ML: Captain Morris?

INT: He was a Captain, yes. He's listed as a very good radio man.

ML: Yeah, he was in charge of the radio room.

INT: He was at Tracy [20:56].

INT: Okay, so what's the radio room? Listening or [21:00] --

INT: Yeah, could you talk about the -- do you remember what he -- by radios, is that --

ML: Radios, that's where all that equipment which could --

INT: Okay, monitoring.

ML: Monitoring.

INT: Listening equipment.

ML: And you could go from one room to the -- in that room, you could switch from one room

to another.

INT: And you mentioned Paul Kubala [21:28]. Anything stand out about him, other than his name?

ML: He was a Captain, I think.

INT: So, you know, he later went on to Germany [21:44], and he actually was one of the chief interrogators of Göring [21:48] at the war crime trials. What about Gerald Duin [21:57]? Edwin Kretzmann [22:00]? Russell Sweet [22:06]?

ML: Russell Sweet, he was a colonel?

INT: He definitely became a full colonel, yes.

ML: I remember Kent was a colonel and they had two following him, which I don't remember and then, Sweet [22:29].

INT: Do you remember anything about Sweet?

ML: Zenas Sweet.

INT: Zenas Bliss [22:40] was another person. This is Russell Sweet [22:45].

INT: But Zenas Bliss and Russell Sweet probably worked together.

INT: For sure. And we're actually in -- we just, as of two weeks ago are in -- Colonel Sweet [23:00] has passed away but his son, Rodrick Sweet, who apparently would spend the summers at 1142 [23:09], he's still living and is going to meet with us. Just a couple more officers before we go into enlisted men. Francis Dwight [23:22]? Carl Rauterberg [23:26]?

ML: Carl B. Rauterberg.

INT: That's Bullet.

INT: Yeah, that's Bullet.

ML: He died recently.

INT: And you said you remember reading his obituary in the paper?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Would that have been the Philadelphia [23:43]?

ML: Must have been.

INT: Okay.

ML: I know he wasn't from Atlantic City [23:46].

INT: Okay. Or was he in Florida [23:48] or would it have been Philadelphia [23:51], probably?

ML: In Philadelphia.

INT: Okay. Eugene Lohrke [23:57]? Samuel McCune [24:00]? And the last one I want to ask is Thomas Van Cleve [24:13].

INT: All right, why don't we do the same for enlisted at Tracy [24:15] because there's some that have been there the whole time. You mentioned you knew Matthew Adams [24:20].

ML: Yeah, Matthew C. Adams.

INT: Leonard Ames [24:25].

ML: Leonard Ames, his job was cleaning up the -- every day, he would go into the officer's quarters and clean up the rooms.

INT: Bernard Appleby [24:41].

ML: Appleby, yeah. I remember him.

INT: Do you remember anything about Appleby, what he did? Paul Bensinger [24:56]?

INT: Bensinger [25:00].

INT: Bensinger, Paul Bensinger?

ML: Paul Bensinger.

INT: Yeah, we talked about him a little earlier, didn't we?

INT: Peter Blamey [25:08]?

INT: Do you remember anything -- what do you remember about Bensinger [25:12]?

ML: I think he was from New York [25:20].

INT: Peter Blamey [25:22] or Blamey?

ML: Peter Blamey, I remember the name.

INT: Lawrence Bowser [25:29]?

ML: Larry Bowser. Lawrence Bowser, he used to work for -- you know, Westmore [25:50], the beauty equipment place? He used to work for them.

INT: For Westmore [26:00] Beauty Equipment? And that was -- that's Bowser [26:03]?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Christopher Craig [26:08]?

ML: Christopher Craig. I remember him because his sister was an author, Craig Veiss [phonetic].

INT: Do you know what she wrote?

ML: I don't remember.

INT: Was Craig [26:31] from Pennsylvania [26:32]?

ML: I don't think so.

INT: Okay.

INT: John Dawkins [26:37]?

ML: John Dawkins? I remember him. He was a -- he used to clean up the rooms, also.

INT: Okay. Would that have been a -- he and the -- who was the other one who cleaned the

rooms? Was that Appleby [26:54]?

INT: Yes.

INT: With these folks that cleaned the rooms [27:00], was that -- that was their whole job was to just kind of be orderlies and clean up things?

ML: Yeah, the bedrooms.

INT: The bedrooms of the prisoners?

ML: No.

INT: Okay, just the officers.

INT: The MP office.

INT: William Deh-Lee [27:16]?

INT: That was William Deh-Lee. That's William Davis [27:19], right?

ML: Yeah, William Davis.

INT: And do you -- about William Deh-Lee [27:24], you mentioned he was Chinese-American [27:26].

ML: They called him Chop-Chop.

INT: Do you know what his job was there?

INT: Kent Dempster [27:43]?

ML: Kent Dempster? I remember him. I don't know what he did though.

INT: Do you remember where he was from?

ML: No.

INT: Okay. John Dio [phonetic] [28:00] or John Deo [phonetic] [28:02]?

ML: Deo?

INT: Yeah, John Deo.

ML: He was like a chauffeur.

INT: He was a chauffeur. A driver?

BL: Hi.

INT: Hi.

BL: I showed back, you're still here.

ML: He was a -- driving the cars around.

INT: So, he would drive and transport people around?

INT: We decided we're going to have to book the room again tonight.

BL: Okay.

INT: He remembers everything.

BL: He does?

INT: This is amazing.

INT: You would be absolutely amazed.

BL: Is it valid?

INT: Yes, we've been going through --

BL: That's amazing.

INT: We've probably gone through --

BL: Because we've had problems mentally.

INT: We've probably gone through about 100 names, and we'll say the name and Mr.

Levinthal will not only remember where the person was from but what their middle initial was.

INT: And where they're from. Where they were from, whether he was friendly [29:00] with them or not.

INT: So we're almost done with that but Thomas Dickerson [29:02]?

ML: Tom Dickerson. In fact --

BL: We go to the doctor, she gives him five words and then, later on, he can't repeat them.

ML: Tom Dickerson [29:16] was from Roanoke, Virginia [29:18].

INT: Right, that's right.

INT: He was from Roanoke, yeah.

INT: We were talking about him.

ML: And I have a file upstairs. We went to the world's fair.

INT: Yeah, you mentioned you ran into him outside the world's fair. Is he the same one, he's the one who works for GMC [29:34]?

ML: The trucking.

INT: Yeah.

ML: He told me they would send trucks as far as 3,000 miles away and tow them back just to get the parts.

INT: Dempster Dirks [phonetic] [29:47]?

ML: Dempster Dirks. I remember him.

INT: And do you remember where he -- where Dempster Dirks was from or what he did?

ML: No [30:00].

INT: You said you remembered Paul Foote [30:01]?

ML: Paul D. -- Paul Dale Foote.

INT: Paul D. Foote.

INT: His middle name was Dale?

BL: I'm amazed.

INT: And do you remember where Paul Foote [30:12] was from?

ML: No.

INT: Robert Fullmer [30:17]?

ML: Yeah, I remember him. He was a heavysset guy.

INT: Anything about Fullmer [30:35]?

INT: What his job was?

ML: No.

INT: Harry Furushima [phonetic] [30:49]. Maybe I'm pronouncing it -- Furushima?

ML: Harry Furushima, he's a Japanese [30:53] interrogator.

INT: Japanese-American [30:55], probably.

INT: Yeah, he was definitely Japanese. Do you remember if he was an interrogator [31:00]?

ML: I think so.

INT: He was a corporal, so he could have been an Issei [31:04] or a Nisei [31:05]. Boris Gutman [phonetic] [31:09]?

ML: Who?

INT: Boris Gutman or Gutman?

ML: Can't remember him.

INT: Joe Hirada [phonetic] [31:21]? That would be another Japanese-American [31:28], Joe Hirada. Howard Higgins [31:33]?

ML: No.

INT: Thomas Imori [31:38] or Imori? George Jacobs [31:41]? Joseph Jenson [31:49]? Or Janson?

INT: It's J-E-N-S-O-N.

INT: Jenson. Irving Joseph [31:55]?

ML: [unintelligible] [32:00]

INT: What do you remember about -- what stands out about Steiner [32:07]?

ML: I was in the hospital one time, and the guy across the ward, across the aisle from me was also named Steiner [32:25].

INT: [affirmative]

[End of Tape 3A]

[Beginning of Tape 3B]

INT: You were stationed with him?

BL: It was his brother in the hospital.

INT: His brother was in the hospital, okay.

ML: Either he was or his brother was a musician.

BL: He had a hernia twice in the same place, and it was declared a service matter.

INT: Really? Good. I mean, not good but he had --

BL: Small one.

INT: Joseph Kiehl [00:37] or Kiehl?

ML: Kim.

INT: That's Kim Kiehl [00:40] we talked about.

INT: Yeah, all right. Do you remember, we talked a little bit earlier, do you remember anything about what Kiehl did?

ML: I think I remember he got engaged while we were up there [01:00].

INT: At Camp Tracy [01:02]? To a local person?

ML: Yeah.

INT: To somebody from around Camp Tracy [01:10]. Leslie Klieforth [01:13], Klieforth?

INT: It's Klieforth.

ML: One thing I remember, I was issued a field jacket, and there was a watermelon patch near there. So I went over -- at night, I went over to steal the watermelon, and my field jacket got watermelon stains on it. So I wanted to trade it in, get another one. So he says, "You can't do that. It has to be torn." So, I tore the thing --

[laughter]

-- and took the field jacket over and said [02:00], "I need a new one. This is all torn." So I got a new one.

INT: James Kusumoto [02:10]? Burnell Lyons [02:15]? Charles Meckes [02:23], you said you mentioned.

INT: Charles Meckes?

ML: Meckes.

INT: Jimmy Morimoto [02:30]?

ML: No.

INT: You would have been another Japanese-American [02:39]. Robert Morris [02:39]. You said you knew him.

ML: I think he was in charge of the electronic room.

INT: Robert Morris [02:51] worked with listening devices and everything? You mentioned you knew Maurice Pilares [03:00].

ML: He was a Japanese [03:05] interrogator.

INT: Okay. Walter Pliz [03:09] [phonetic], Pliz. Kenneth Raymond [03:14].

ML: He was the stenographer.

INT: He was the stenographer? Okay.

INT: I can't read this.

INT: Francis Sasaki [03:24].

INT: Okay, this is a name you might remember. Alexis Schidlovsky [03:37]?

INT: Schidlovsky, Alex Schidlovsky? He would have been a Russian-American [03:41]. He was of Russian [03:45] descent.

INT: He was one of the guys who would dress up [unintelligible].

INT: Yeah, James Schneider [03:52].

INT: Hold on one second.

ML: Do you have McCosland [phonetic] [03:55]?

INT: McCosland? The name rings a bell [04:00]. I don't know if it's -- what do you remember about McCosland [04:05]?

ML: We had uniforms issued, and he wasn't satisfied, so he had gone out and wore real fancy uniforms.

INT: He went and bought his own uniform? James Schneider [04:33], Arthur Schulze [04:34].

ML: That name is familiar.

INT: George Scott [04:41].

ML: George Scott, is he an officer?

INT: Private.

ML: No.

INT: Takeshi Tanaka [04:56], Harry Telcher [phonetic] [05:00]?

ML: Harry Telcher. It wasn't Harry, it was Hurry.

INT: Hurry?

ML: In fact, he wrote a book on psychographology. I have it up there in the bookcase.

BL: You do?

INT: What is psychographology?

BL: Right here in the bookcase?

ML: I think so.

INT: What is that?

INT: And what was the book on?

INT: Psychographology.

INT: Do you know what -- what is that subject?

ML: See if she can find it here. I may have it in Florida [05:39], I don't know.

INT: And this was Telcher [05:42]? What do you remember about Telcher during the war?

ML: He was something for people from the handwriting [06:00].

INT: Handwriting analysis.

INT: And he did that during the war? So, would he look at documents?

ML: Yeah. And by looking at the handwriting, he could tell the character of the people.

INT: That's where the psychographology comes in.

INT: Takoya Tarada [phonetic] [06:31]?

INT: Takoya Tarada. William Trost [06:38]. Trost, Trost?

ML: Wait, Trost. That name's familiar.

INT: He was a private. Calvin Uecke [phonetic] [06:57]?

ML: No [07:00]

INT: All right, so, yeah, the last few are --

INT: Harry Uetake [07:05] or Uetake or --

INT: Uetake?

INT: I think it's Japanese [07:15]. Arthur White [07:18]?

INT: Yeah, I can't read the rest. Any other names we missed? You seem to remember about 75 percent of them?

ML: [unintelligible]

INT: He might be on it. This other list we have is 12 pages long, so it's tough to look through all of them. He doesn't show up on the Camp Tracy [08:00] list, though. Would you mind if we -- unfortunately, we don't have a large one, but if we went through the -- that photo that you found yourself in, the class photo, do you think you'd be able to identify other people in this? And, Vince, if you wanted to go through it, I can -- okay, if we make identifications, I can -- if you can click it and I'll zoom in.

INT: Yeah, maybe we can start in the front row, if there's anybody in the front row going from left to right.

ML: Well, that's the commanding general [09:00], commanding -- he was the Colonel.

INT: Bliss [09:06]?

INT: Was it -- Bliss is in the photo right next to --

INT: Is that Colonel Bliss?

ML: Yeah and that's me.

INT: And that you, right next to Zenas Bliss [09:14]?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay, so you are to the left of Bliss.

ML: And there's Reese Pilares.

INT: That's Maurice Pilares [09:31]?

ML: Yeah.

INT: Okay, so he's first one standing on the right.

ML: Here's Chop-Chop over here.

INT: That's William Deh-Lee [09:42]?

ML: Yeah.

INT: So the first Asian-American [09:48] standing next to the pillar [10:00].

ML: And that's Paul Foote [10:03].

INT: Foote, second top row, third from left. Second top row, third from left. So this will date this to that --

INT: Again, we're still supported being --

BL: Can I give anybody anything?

INT: Late 1945.

INT: I'm just fine. I think we're probably wrapping up pretty soon. We're just going through this picture and seeing who your husband might remember.

INT: He remembers incredible amounts of information.

BL: [laughs] I'm shocked. I hope it's all valid information.

INT: Well, I mean, he's naming the middle initials of these --

INT: He's even giving middle initials.

BL: He names them.

INT: Yeah, so he knows them. He said he knows where they're from.

INT: And he remembers there, nicknames, the one gentleman, his middle initial was B and said it stood for Bullet [11:00].

BL: Okay, good. I'm glad to hear that.

INT: Some pretty wild stories, too.

BL: Really?

INT: Yeah, amazing stuff. How they would, you know, the business about --

BL: We've had so much trouble with him getting confused. He's like [unintelligible].

INT: Well, that's short-term. This is long-term memory.

ML: That's Paul Bensinger [11:23].

INT: Paul Bensinger?

INT: His long-term memory --

INT: That's the gentleman there with the mustache? So, he's two to the right of Zenas Bliss [11:29].

INT: Does he talk about everything that happened in the 1970s?

BL: Yes, although we were --

INT: And how do you spell that last name again?

INT: Bensinger [11:39], B-E-N-S-I-N-G-E-R.

ML: S-I-N-G-E-R.

INT: Okay.

ML: And that's Whiting B. Lee [11:46].

INT: Okay.

INT: Whiting Lee. Could you point to him again?

INT: Yeah, because Carl Rauterberg [11:53] --

INT: So, and to the left is Silvio Bedini [11:56].

INT: That was the guy named Bullet.

INT: One person [12:00] next to left of Silvio Bedini.

INT: And he looks fairly heavysset. Was he a bigger guy? Whiting Lee [12:11]?

ML: Yeah.

INT: He just, in the picture, he looks like a larger.

ML: That's Paul Foote [12:23].

INT: Did we get him already?

INT: Yeah.

ML: I think that's --

INT: Okay, but where do we put him? Second top row -- wait, second from top row --

INT: Second to top row.

INT: Second to top row.

INT: Second to the top row.

INT: Not the top row but the second to the top.

BL: Is that what you've been doing all around in this area? Interviewing?

INT: This is actually the first interview I have actually come on.

INT: Any of these men around here --

INT: She's asking, why are we in Atlantic City [12:56].

BL: No, yeah.

INT: Yeah, we --

BL: Do you have others in Atlantic City [12:59]?

INT: We were here for a conference [13:00], and it just so happened --

BL: That he lives here.

INT: Right down the road. So we've been here since Tuesday. Museum security conference.

Many of us that came -- I'm a curator. Many of us are curators, archivists,

superintendents, department managers. There's a whole -- about 100 people. Very interesting.

BL: Yeah, I bet.

INT: Learned a lot, so very good. And to be able to come to listen to -- I think I picked the best interview to come and listen to because his memory is so phenomenal.

INT: Anyone else?

INT: What we're going to do his we'll mail you a larger version of this, and then what we'll do is we'll put -- we'll give you the key that we've been using to match names, and, you know, we don't know if we're 100 percent right. So if that [14:00] brings back any memories that --

BL: Check it. Yeah.

INT: -- that you either can confirm or refute some of our identification.

INT: That's about it. Anything else?

INT: Does he have any recollections about the closure of 1142 [14:18] and then going out of service?

INT: Yeah, good idea.

INT: Just a few -- we don't have too much more left, just a few more minutes and Vince brings up some really good points. Do you remember -- you went back to 1142 [14:36] after Camp Tracy [14:39] closed. Do you remember anything about your last days asked 1142 [14:47]? Did 1142 close, or were you just discharged from the service at that point?

ML: I was discharged in California [15:00].

INT: You were discharged in California from -- do you remember where from? Did you go from 1142 [15:19] back to California [15:21]?

ML: No, I was in 1142 first.

BL: I don't think he went back to --

ML: And then, I was transferred to California [15:29].

INT: To Camp Tracy [15:30] and then, we went back to 1142 [15:35].

ML: No, I didn't go back.

INT: So you never went back.

BL: He's never went back.

ML: Because some of our records indicate that he may have.

INT: Did this -- the photograph we were just going through was taken in December -- around December of 1945.

ML: That's when I get discharged.

BL: That's when he got discharged.

INT: Was your discharge in December of 1945 [16:00]?

ML: Right before, yeah.

INT: Do you have your discharge papers and --

BL: Yeah, I think you have your discharge papers. I can't put my hands on them.

ML: I think it's upstairs.

INT: Why that would be valuable is we don't know the actual date of this photograph, and if we know he was discharged the 15th of December, then at least that gives us a date that we can say, "This has to be between October 15 and December 15, 1945."

ML: I was supposed to be discharged right before Pearl Harbor [16:35].

BL: No, we're talking about the end of the war.

INT: Yeah, when you actually -- when the war was all over, when were you actually -- when

did you finally leave the service?

ML: I didn't leave.

BL: He never fully left.

INT: Okay.

ML: When I got discharged, I signed up for the --

BL: He was discharged and then, he was told -- by that time, I knew him [17:00], when he was offered a -- being an officer, he was offered that if he would stay in the --

ML: Active reserves.

BL: -- active reserves, and we were engaged and I argued against it but I didn't win, needless to say. He stayed in the active reserves and he was given a lieutenant status.

ML: And I finally got discharged from the service as a Major.

INT: Really? Wow.

BL: Well, that was 25 years later.

INT: Years later.

INT: And so, you were in the reserves until --

INT: '68.

ML: It had been 21 years.

BL: With mental [unintelligible].

INT: Okay.

ML: And then, I got discharged as a Major.

BL: Yeah.

INT: And were you ever called back up to active duty status?

BL: He was very, very lucky.

INT: So even during Korea [17:59].

BL: Nothing.

INT: You were never called up during Korea [18:00].

BL: And I was very lucky because he had a boyfriend who was in the same -- he wasn't in that unit. He was in another unit, and the two of them were sitting there one day and I got the mail, and every time I got the mail, I shook because by that time, we had a child, and the other fellow was called off, went to Korea [18:27] but he was lucky and his unit wasn't called.

ML: He got shot down.

BL: Well, he got shot down because many years later, there was a reunion of his unit in Korea [18:40] and if you remember the Russians [18:43] shot a plane down that the claimed was in their territory. He was on that plane. He and his wife.

INT: Oh, really?

BL: And then, they were shot down.

INT: By the Russians [18:58].

BL: By the Russians [19:00].

INT: Wow.

INT: When and where did you and Mr. Levinthal meet?

BL: We met back in our neighborhood where we grew up.

INT: In Philadelphia [19:14]?

BL: Yeah, right there.

INT: Okay. And so, this was shortly after the war or at the end of the war?

BL: This was after the war.

INT: Okay. And was he still at 1142 [19:24] at that time?

BL: No.

INT: No, he had come home.

BL: No, he was home and he was, you know, private practice.

INT: And you had mentioned to us when we first met with you this morning that Mr. Levinthal kept all this a secret for all of your marriage.

BL: Yeah, until you started to write to him and call him. I didn't -- we never [unintelligible]. I had never heard the term 1142 [19:52] [unintelligible].

INT: Why do you think he didn't share it? Does he --

BL: He says, because it was secret [20:00], and then he just never shared it with any of us.

INT: So what do you think now that you've learned about it?

BL: It's amazing.

INT: Yeah.

BL: It's amazing what he remembers.

INT: As I had mentioned, when we get back, Brandon will make sure that we get a copy of this for you and your family so you'll have that, because it is really an incredible story that has captured the attention of a lot of people, people not only for the National Park Service, but also in the intelligence community because of interrogation being such a controversial topic today; folks in the military, as well; and so -- and in the media. National Geographic [20:51] has been working on a special about 1142 [20:55] and telling the story of these men, but unfortunately [21:00], we didn't locate you at the time that we had the reunion.

BL: Yes, we would have gone.

INT: Yeah.

BL: My daughter said she would have definitely taken us.

INT: If you or any of your family ever have the opportunity to come to the Washington, D.C. [21:13] area, please let us know because we would throw everything aside to take the family members and to take him to that spot, show them where the flagpole is and the marker that we dedicated on October 5th of last year and share what we've learned about this research project.

INT: And did you get the DVDs that we sent over to you?

BL: Yes.

INT: Okay, fantastic. Great, great. And you are very modest about your responsibility, but you did really good work, and you continue to do good work today by helping to share this story, which otherwise would have been lost, because I think you've helped us to understand more about many of the people that were there that we would have never [22:00], ever known anything about. So thank you for everything and thank you for your service.

INT: This has been fantastic. It really has helped us a lot.

ML: You learned something.

INT: We absolutely learned several things. We sure did.

INT: You have some great stories.

INT: And we'd love, if you do -- we understand that they are tucked away now, but if you do run across --

BL: Pictures.

INT: -- any pictures at all relating to your military service --

BL: I never even remember seeing any, only the one we were peeling potatoes. That one I saw.

INT: He's got Chop-Chop in the garbage can.

INT: Yeah, one that he says one of the other -- one of his fellow soldiers standing in a garbage can.

BL: Yes, I remember that, too.

INT: Yeah.

INT: We're working with the National Park Service to develop a whole visitor center to help interpret this story to the public, and so, you know, we want to have pictures of all of the veterans.

BL: Sure. I'll --

INT: If there's [23:00] a better picture that we have --

BL: I will -- we will look them up. They're hidden back here and it takes a lot of --

INT: Sure.

BL: I can't bend easily, but my daughter will pull them out.

INT: Just like even the little snapshots that we have, some of these pictures we've used that are just little snapshots, those are useful, as well.

BL: Yeah, he has some of those, I think.

INT: All right, cool.

INT: Fantastic. Well, we'll go ahead and turn off the recording equipment and get out of your hair. But you have to promise, if you remember anything else, you have to give us a call.

BL: Okay.

INT: And let us know.

ML: Well, the thing I remember best is we had to get rid of the recording devices and they didn't know what to do with them and they took them all to the river and dumped them all in the river.

INT: They may still be there.

INT: In the Potomac River [23:48] at 1142 [23:49].

BL: No, he is talking about California [23:52].

INT: You are talking about -- yeah, that's what we thought, but he was definitely there when they closed 1142 [23:55] or at least began this?

BL: He was there?

INT: Yeah, not necessarily [24:00] because 1142 went on until November of '46.

INT: Yeah, but he remembers them carrying them down.

ML: I didn't spend much time in 1142 [24:11].

BL: Yeah, he says he didn't to --

INT: The recording equipment, got down in the mud and was protected from oxygen, it's still there.

ML: Well, we went back to Byron Hot Springs [24:25]. It's really a mess.

INT: It is, yeah. It really is. It's got a lot of vandalism. Believe it or not, a developer has purchased the property and wants to restore it back into a vibrant hotel in Hot Springs [24:43]. He's got -- his works cut out for him, that's for sure.

BL: Definitely.

ML: Maybe back there someday.

BL: Oh, I don't know.

INT: Well, thanks, again.

[end of transcript]

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